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Morning India

Two NCPI MPs meet Suvendu Adhikari

MI News Service, Kolkata : Two NCPI MPs—Abu Taher Khan and Khalilur Rahman – met West Bengal Chief minister Suvendu Adhikari at Nabanna on Saturday and raised their concerns about the alleged problems being faced by the people of Murshidabad since the beginning of the process of Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the voters list in the district, and some other issues facing the minority community there.

Speaking to newsmen after the 30 minute long meeting with the Chief Minister, both the MPs said they also raised the issue of removing loudspeakers from mosques in various parts of the state and appealed for its immediate reversal. Abu Taher Khan, who was elected to the Lok Sabha from Murshidabad in a Trinamool Congress ticket but left the party and joined NCPI after the assembly election like several other party colleagues, said they had apprised the Chief Minister of several problems regarding the ongoing SIR process. “The Chief Minister gave us a patient hearing and assured of assistance”, he said .

The Chief Minister said that 27 lakh names were deleted during the SIR. But of them, only seven lakh people have applied for inclusion of their names , while the remaining 20 lakh have not submitted any applications, Abu Taher said adding ‘but we pointed out that these are rural people; many lack formal education and do not understand the paperwork. Everyone’s name



must be included in the voter list. Legitimate voters are being unnecessarily harassed in this manner. We also requested that the application deadline for these 20 lakh people needs to be extended, and they should be given another opportunity to apply”. The Chief Minister responded positively to our appeal and assured us that the government would take all necessary steps.” Abu Taher and Khalilur Rahman said and further urged the that social benefits be extended to all these 27 lakh individuals. Chief minister Suvendu Adhikari

had on Friday stated that only those who appealed to the Tribunal would receive benefits from government social schemes, not others.About the government’s recent notification regarding the removal of loudspeakers from mosques across the state, the two minority MPs also drew the Chief Minister’s attention to this issue during their meeting. Abu Taher said, “The situation regarding loudspeakers is distressing. We have requested that this practice be stopped. We are willing to comply with government guidelines, but the government

must ensure that there are no disruptions during “Namaz” (prayers). The Chief Minister listened to us patiently.”

Taher alleged that Muslims are being selectively targeted in various parts of the state and expressed dissatisfaction with the conduct of the police. He stated, “Muslims should not be singled out. We have urged that law be applied equally to everyone, Hindus and Muslims alike.” “The police are acting in an overzealous manner. Loudspeakers are being removed without any notice. The Chief Minister has listened to our appeal.” Taher mentioned that he had made the same appeal two days ago during his meeting Union Home Minister Amit Shah in New Delhi. It is worth noting that two MPs—Taher and Khalilur—along with Yusuf Pathan, former Indian cricketer and another TMC MP from Berhampore, Murshidabad, had been expressing dissent for the past few days. They had clarified that they were not aligned with the BJP and had even skipped NDA meetings. This sparked speculation about a potential rift within the party. However, they met Amit Shah alongside Birbhum MPs Satabdi Roy and Asit Mal. On Friday morning, they also attended a breakfast meeting at Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s residence. Now, they have met Suvendu Adhikari to voice their concerns. All three MPs maintained that while they do not align with the BJP on matters

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Ex-TMC MLA arrested in extortion, post-poll violence charges

MI News Service, Kolkata : Proving the state government’s dissolve to maintain zero tolerance against corruption, former TMC MLA Sanat Dey has been arrested from Barrackpore in North 24 Parganas district over allegations of extortion and post-poll violence, police said Dey, the former MLA of Naihati, was arrested on Saturday from Dattapukur area , they said. He is accused of extortion, land grabbing and attacks on BJP workers following the 2021 assembly elections, they added.He was later produced before the Barrackpore Sub-divisional Court later in the day.Following his arrest and subsequent transfer to the Naihati police station, BJP workers staged a protest.

According to police and local sources, Dey has been an influential figure in the politics of the Barrackpore industrial belt. He was known to be a close associate of former state minister Partha Bhowmick and had earlier served as a Council-in-Chairman of the Naihati Municipality. Dey was elected as an MLA from the Naihati constituency on a TMC ticket



in a by-election after Bhowmick resigned his Assembly seat to contest the 2024 Barrackpore Lok Sabha election. However, he was defeated in the 2026 Assembly polls. The BJP has alleged that Dey was involved in multiple criminal activities, including extortion, both before and during his tenure as an MLA. Several complaints were lodged against him at the Naihati police station in recent months.

After the complaints were filed, Dey had reportedly gone into hiding. Police teams had earlier visited his residence to conduct searches, but he was not found at the time. He was eventually arrested from Duttapukur on Saturday. Reacting to the arrest, Noapara MLA and State Transport Minister Arjun Singh said, “Dey is primarily known in Naihati as an extortionist.

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Assam floods toll rises to 98, over 1.55 lakh people affected



MI News Service, Guwahati : The overall flood situation in Assam remained grim for the third consecutive week with the toll rising to 98 on Saturday.However, the number of affected people has dipped to 1.55 lakh in 13 districts from over 3.5 lakhs earlier, an official bulletin said. The bulletin issued by the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA) said the latest death was reported from the Mahmora revenue circle in Charaideo district.

It said so far 13 districts comprising Sivasagar, Golaghat, Nagaon, Hojai, Sonitpur, Dhemaji, Darrang, Biswanath, Kamrup (M), Lakhimpur, Udalguri, Jorhat and Charaideo have remained affected by floodwaters, impacting as many as 464 villages. A total of 1,55,849 people were affected, with Golaghat being the worst-hit district, where 58,750 inhabitants were affected, followed by Sivasagar (48,286)

and Jorhat (25,259), the bulletin said adding till Friday, over 1.68 lakh people in 15 districts remained affected. It said the administration was operating 55 relief camps, sheltering over 10,000 displaced people. Another 18 relief distribution centres were also functional. Meanwhile according to official sources, the Dhansiri River was flowing above the danger level at Golaghat town and Numaligarh, both in Golaghat district, and the Kushiyara in Sribhumi district. A crop area of 10,748.64 hectares have also remained submerged, while over 47,000 animals have been affected. Damage to infrastructure, including roads, bridges and houses, has also been reported from the affected districts, the bulletin said. Floodwaters continued to affect 13 districts, though the number of people impacted declined from more than 1.68 lakh across 15 districts a day earlier. The gov-

ernment is set to begin a detailed assessment of flood damage from Sunday to speed up the release of funds for permanent rehabilitation in the four worst-affected districts of eastern Assam.

According to officials, 1,55,849 people are currently affected by the floods. The administration has set up 55 relief camps where more than 10,000 displaced people are staying, while 18 relief distribution centres are also operational. The floods have submerged 10,748.64 hectares of crop area and affected more than 47,000 animals, officials said. Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said the government will conduct a door-to-door assessment of flood damage in Jorhat, Sivasagar, Golaghat and Charaideo between August 9 and 30.

Sarma said no affected household would be left out of the exercise and that maximum relief permissible under government norms would be provided. He said the initial assessment would subsequently be verified with affected families. The government expects to have an estimate of the funds required for rehabilitation by September 10. “Once we have the estimate of the funds, we can start providing the requisite financial assistance for permanent rehabilitation,” the Assam Chief minister said.



West Bengal Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari pays tribute to Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore on his 85th death anniversary by offering floral tributes to his portrait in the Assembly lobby in Kolkata on Saturday.

CJI Surya Kant emphasises dialogue, dignity, and inclusion essential for effective justice

MI News Service, Indore : Chief Justice of India Surya Kant has emphasised that dialogue, dignity, and inclusion are essential for effective public access to justice, noting that the objective of legal aid is not merely to dispose of cases but also to ensure respectful treatment of people. Addressing the Western Zone Regional Conference of the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) here on Saturday, he said that access to justice

begins with dialogue.”Access to justice begins with dialogue and solutions should be provided according to specific problems faced by people,” CJI Surya Kant said.

The CJI said grievances and suffering of different communities should also be heard in their own languages and in their mother tongues .”Access to justice begins with dialogue and solutions should be provided according to specific prob-



lems faced by people,” CJI Surya Kant said. He added that grievances and suffering of different communities

should be heard in their own languages and that volunteers associated with legal services authorities must help secure justice for victims in a dignified and inclusive manner. Access to justice begins with dialogue and solutions should be provided according to specific problems faced by people, he said. Also addressing the event, Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav said the justice system has undergone significant trans-

formations driven by modern technology.

“The judicial framework is being revamped through systems such as e-filing, digital records, the ‘One Data-One Case’ approach, virtual hearings, and modern judicial management,” he said. The CM said that under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, new laws have been enacted to replace centuries-old colonial-era legislation.

Abhishek Banerjee moves SC against HC order denying him to travel abroad

MI News Service, New Delhi / Kolkata: In what seems to be in a desperate move to avoid the legal noose, Trinamool Congress MP Abhishek Banerjee has moved the Supreme Court challenging a Calcutta High Court order denying him permission to travel abroad for eye treatment. In a landmark judgement with a possible long term political effects, the Calcutta High court on August 5 once again dismissed Abhishek Banerjee’s plea seeking nod to travel abroad, questioning why the Diamond Harbour MP was not willing to appear before the state-run SSKM Hospital the next day for an assessment of his medical condition. “In view of submission made on behalf of the applicant (Ab-

hishek Banerjee) that applicant will not appear before the medical board at SSKM Hospital, Kolkata, this court finds the issue which is agitated before this court by filing application... ought not to be kept pending further,” the high court had said while dismissing his application. In view of this repeated rejection of his plea, the TMC MP on Friday moved the Supreme Court challenging the Calcutta High Court order rejecting his request to travel to the US for eye treatment. The apex court is likely to hear the matter next week.

Incidentally, the Calcutta High Court had directed Abhishek Banerjee to undergo treatment at the state-run SSKM Hospital and the Institute of Post Graduate Medical

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US role in West Asia could be reduced because of new defence pact

MI News Service, Washington (DC) / New Delhi : The trilateral defence pact signed by Pakistan, Türkiye and Saudi Arabia could significantly reduce the United States’ strategic role in West Asia, according to some global defence analysts.

The three countries on Friday signed a joint defence agreement under which an attack against one of them will be treated as an attack against all of them, amid increasing security concerns in the wake of escalating tensions in West Asia.Defence analyst Abdullah Hameed Gul, son of a former ISI chief, said the pact has emerged against the backdrop of growing doubts in the Gulf region about the United States’ ability to provide security guarantees to regional allies. The three

countries on Friday signed a joint defence agreement under which an attack against one of them will be treated as an attack against all of them, amid increasing security concerns in the wake of escalating tensions in West Asia. The US had 27 military bases in the Gulf countries, and 17 of them were destroyed by Iran during the recent US-Iran war. This led people in the region to question whether the Americans could actually protect them. That created the need for such an agreement,” Gul said. With this pact, said Gul, America’s “role in the region has been minimised or is effectively over.” “Qatar and Kuwait will soon also join similar agreements with Pakistan,” said Gul, adding that Gulf countries had realised that



Israel, rather than Iran, posed a greater security challenge to them.

Foreign affairs expert Muhammad Mehdi said the pact has altered perceptions of Pakistan’s position in the international arena.

“Pakistan’s standing in the world has changed. The world now sees Pakistan as

having a major role to play in the Middle East and Central Asia. With Türkiye joining the three-nation arrangement, Pakistan will also be viewed differently in Europe,” he said.

According to another defence expert , the provision treating an attack on one member as an attack on

all three could constitute a “deterrent” against any future conflict of Pakistan with India. But the Mecca Joint Defence Pact, as the agreement is known, has raised questions about the shifting power dynamics in the Middle East region.

Experts have speculated that the deal may mark the beginning of a wider regional alliance that sits between Israel and Iran, wary of both.While the signatories seek to project a message of strength and unity in the face of regional threats, they have also been cautious about framing the pact as a deterrent. Analysts note that the three countries have been cautious not to antagonise regional adversaries. It remains unclear the extent to which the pact would force its members to defend

their alliance partners.

“We haven’t seen the Mecca declaration yet. We believe it says an attack on one should be considered a attack on all — and ‘should be’ is the operative phrase because that does not mean ‘necessarily’,” Harlan Ullman, the chairman of the Killowen Group advisory firm remarks. The threats are not distant. Pakistan has been engaged in a border conflict with Afghanistan since February, and it exchanged fire for several days with fellow nuclear power India in May 2025. Saudi Arabia, meanwhile, has repeatedly come under attack from Iran and its allies since the outbreak of the United States-Israeli war against Iran in late February.

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State Cabinet Minister Agnimitra Paul listens to people's grievances during a "Mukho-mukhi" public interaction programme at the BJP office in Salt Lake, Kolkata on Saturday.

Tagore's early music mentor Bishnu Chakraborty remembered in Nadia village



MI News Service, Nadia : As Bengal observed Rabinranath Tagore's death anniversary on Saturday, residents of Anulia in Nadia's Ranaghat area remembered a lesser-known figure linked to the poet's early musical education-Bishnu Chakraborty, a music teacher associated with the Tagore household.

Chakraborty, a native of Anulia, is remembered locally as one of Tagore's early music mentors. Historical accounts describe him as a music teacher of the Tagore family who introduced the young members of the household to Bengali folk songs. His role assumes significance given the central place music later occupied in Tagore's literary and cultural legacy.

Tagore's musical development, however, was not shaped by a single teacher. His elder brother Jyotirindranath Tagore also played an important role, while the poet was exposed to several Indian musical traditions during his formative years. Researchers have therefore described Chakraborty as part of the wider musical environment that influenced Tagore rather than as his sole music teacher.

According to local records, Chakraborty was trained in classical music and later became associated with the Jorasanko Tagore household. A West Bengal government school website identifies him as a native of Anulia and describes him as Tagore's first music teacher.

His memory continues to survive in Anulia. The local Anulia Kedarnath Smriti Pathagar and residents have preserved photographs, a wooden statue and a memorial plaque associated with the musician. Cultural programmes are organised on May 25 and August 8 to commemorate Tagore and recall Chakraborty's contribution.

Residents have now sought government intervention to formally document and conserve sites associated with Chakraborty. They want a permanent memorial or information centre highlighting his life, musical career and association with the Tagore household.

For Anulia, the demand is not merely about commemorating an individual musician. It is an attempt to preserve a lesser-known chapter of Tagore's musical journey and the network of teachers and artists who shaped his early exposure to music.

While Tagore's songs went on to acquire a global audience, residents say the contribution of figures such as Chakraborty should not disappear from the history behind that musical legacy.

Kalna-Santipur bridge project gains momentum, 99% land acquisition completed

MI News Service, Nadia : The long-pending proposed bridge connecting Kalna and Santipur has moved closer to the execution stage, with around 99% of the required land acquisition completed, officials said during an inspection of the project site on Friday.

Santipur BJP MLA Swapn Kumar Das inspected the proposed bridge site by water along with Nabanna Superintending Engineer Anil Singh, District Executive Engineer Pinaki Bhattacharya and other officials. The team reviewed the status of land acquisition, the proposed construction plan and the Detailed Project Report (DPR).

According to Das, only a small portion of the land acquisition remains pending and is expected to be completed shortly. He said the project could move into the construction phase once the remaining land-related formalities are completed.

The proposed bridge is expected to be around 500 metres long and is planned as a suspension-type structure supported by two pillars. It is also being designed to handle movement of goods vehicles weighing between 20 and 25 tonnes, making structural safety and engineering design key considerations.

"The project involves complex engineering and safety will be given priority



at every stage. If the remaining processes proceed smoothly, the target is to complete the bridge within three years," Das said.

Nabanna Superintending Engineer Anil Singh said preparation of the DPR was at the final stage. Soil testing had already been completed, while the

land procurement process was progressing rapidly. "There is no major hurdle at present," Singh said.

The final DPR will determine the precise length, design specifications and estimated cost of the project. Once the DPR and land-related formalities are completed, the authorities are expected to invite

tenders. Construction of the main bridge will begin after the tendering process is completed.

The proposed bridge is expected to significantly improve connectivity between Kalna and Santipur across the Bhagirathi. For residents and traders on both sides of the river, the project could reduce dependence on existing, longer routes and improve movement of goods and people.

For years, the bridge has remained a much-awaited connectivity project for the two regions. Its implementation is now being closely watched as the project moves through the final stages of planning and land acquisition.

Blood Donation Camp Held on 9th Death Anniversary of Late Gyan Singh Sohanpal, 57 Units Collected



MI News Service, Kharagpur : A voluntary blood donation camp was organised by the Kharagpur Town Youth Congress at Premhari Bhawan on Saturday to mark the ninth death anniversary of former MLA and senior Congress leader, the late Gyan Singh Sohanpal.

A large number of Congress workers, supporters and local residents enthusiastically participated in the camp and donated blood. A total of 57 units of blood were collected during the programme. The organisers said the blood donation camp was organised to commemorate the memory of late Gyan Singh Sohanpal by connecting his legacy with public service. Leaders present at the programme described blood donation as an important form of humanitarian service and appealed to more people to come forward and donate blood regularly. Among those present were District Congress President Debashish Ghosh, District Youth Congress President Ujjwal Mukherjee, Kharagpur Town Congress President Amit Sharma, Anil Sikaria, Councillor Madhu Kami, Paramita Ghosh, Aparna Ghosh, Rita Sharma, Joydeep Bose, Anushree Bera, Dhiraaj Yadav, Chairperson Kalyani Ghosh, Rahul Sharma, Kharagpur Town Congress President Arumay Sarkar, District INTUC President Kamal Kishore Khanna, Sachin and Sumit Sharma, along with several other Congress leaders and workers. The enthusiasm among the blood donors was evident throughout the camp. The organisers expressed their gratitude to all the donors and said that a single unit of blood can play a crucial role in saving the life of a person in need. The blood donation initiative, held on the death anniversary of late Gyan Singh Sohanpal, was described as an effort to carry forward his spirit of public service and social commitment.

Egg attack no reason for virtual appearance, SC tells Mahua

MI News Service, Nadia : Trinamool Congress MP Mahua Moitra will have to appear in person before Nadia's Hogleberia police station on August 14 in connection with a case alleging religious insult, after the Supreme Court on Friday declined to entertain her plea seeking virtual appearance.

A bench of Justices Dipankar Datta and Sheel Nagu heard the plea challenging a Calcutta High Court direction requiring Moitra to appear physically before the investigating officer and cooperate with the probe.

Appearing for Moitra, advocate Gopal Sankaranarayanan said his client had no objection to appearing before the police but sought permission to do so virtually, citing security concerns. He referred to an alleged incident in which eggs were thrown at Moitra during a protest in Nadia.

The argument prompted the bench to question whether Moitra was seeking a special concession because she was an MP.

"Why? Because she is an MP?" Justice Datta asked orally. When counsel referred again to the egg-throwing incident and apprehended that a similar situation could arise during her police appearance, Justice Datta invoked the example of freedom fighters.

"When you have entered politics, why are you afraid of eggs? Our freedom fighters took bullets on their chests," he



observed.

Following the court's observations, Moitra's counsel sought permission to withdraw the petition. The bench allowed the withdrawal, leaving the Calcutta High Court's earlier directions intact.

The High Court, on July 21, had granted Moitra protection from arrest till October while directing her to cooperate with the investigation. It had also ordered her to appear before Hogleberia police station on August 14.

The FIR against the Krishnanagar MP was registered following allegations linked to remarks she made on wearing the burqa. The controversy escalated after protests in Nadia on July 1, when eggs and stones were allegedly thrown at Moitra.

The incident has since acquired a political dimension. Trinamool leaders have alleged that such attacks are being carried out under the guise of public anger, while the BJP has described some such incidents as expressions of local resentment. BJP state president Samik Bhattacharya, however, has publicly opposed egg-throwing, saying such behaviour is not part of Bengal's political culture and denying BJP workers' involvement.

For now, the legal position remains unchanged: Moitra continues to enjoy the protection granted by the High Court, but must cooperate with the investigation and appear personally before the Nadia police on August 14.

Awareness Camp Against Child Marriage and Cyber Fraud: Police Urge Schoolgirls to Become Self-Reliant

MI News Service, Kharagpur : Manish Ramtaka (Kharagpur, West Medinipur): The West Medinipur District Police organised a special awareness camp in Chandrakona to educate students about preventing child marriage, protecting themselves from cyber fraud and ensuring women's safety. The programme was held at Chandrakona Town Hall, where schoolgirls from several schools participated. During the camp, the students were given detailed information about the harmful consequences of child marriage, the growing threat of cybercrime and various aspects of women's safety. Police officials explained that child marriage not only affects a girl's education and future opportunities but can also become a major obstacle to her social and personal development. The students were urged to speak up against underage mar-



riage and seek help from their families, teachers or the police if they face any kind of pressure. The students were also cautioned about the increasing threat of cybercrime. Police officials explained ways to stay safe from social media scams, suspicious online links, fraudulent calls, OTP-related fraud, banking scams and other forms of cybercrime. They clearly advised students never to share OTPs, passwords, banking details or personal documents with unknown persons and to immediately seek police

assistance if they notice any suspicious activity. Various issues related to women's safety were also discussed during the programme. The students were encouraged not to remain silent if they face harassment, intimidation or feel unsafe, and instead immediately approach a trusted person or the police. West Medinipur District Police Superintendent Papiya Sultana, several police officials and Chandrakona MLA Sukanta Dolai, along with other dignitaries, were present at the programme. Addressing the

students, SP Papiya Sultana encouraged them to strengthen their future through education and become financially and socially independent. She urged the girls to understand their rights, become self-reliant and face difficult situations with courage and confidence. Police officials said awareness is one of the most effective tools to combat social challenges such as child marriage and cybercrime. The students were also encouraged not only to remain alert themselves but to spread awareness about these issues among their families and communities. The initiative by the West Medinipur District Police received an encouraging response from the participating students. The opportunity to interact directly with police officials and gain important information about child marriage, cybercrime and women's safety proved beneficial for the students.

278 grams of brown sugar seized in Siliguri, one arrested

MI News Service, Siliguri: Matigara Police arrested a man in connection with the alleged smuggling of brown sugar and recovered 278 grams of brown sugar and an Android mobile phone from his possession. The arrested accused has been identified as 38-year-old Mohammad Raju, alias 'Bullet'.

According to police, based on information received, a Matigara Police team conducted a raid in the Paribahan Nagar area of Siliguri on Friday evening. During the operation, the accused was apprehended while allegedly moving around in suspicious circumstances.

A search of his possession led to the recovery of 278 grams of brown sugar and an Android mobile phone. Matigara Police subsequently registered a case against him under the NDPS Act and arrested him.

The accused was produced before the Siliguri court on Saturday. Police are currently investigating the case.

America's Tony Taylor Congratulates Erum Seraj

Kolkata/New York: Tony Taylor Vice President of World meet Thailand Indonesia UK has Congratulated Rising Indian star Erum Seraj who has represented India 5 times and has won 5 Gold for the country in World Open Karate Championships.

Tony Taylor is from New York City he is a very famous figure at World Meet, Hollywood prize winner an actor, Composer, Singer, Author has travelled all around the world in promoting Peace and Humanity.

Erum Seraj is a Makeup Artist, Karate instructor at Indian Karate Association and influencer.

Erum is a CEO of Erum Makeup Academy at Kolkata.

Shahzadi Sultan of Manchester (UK) said Erum Seraj is a very good makeup artist as She made me more beautiful through her Makeup.

His Majesty the King Sany Wijaya Natakusuma of Padjadrang Kingdom Indonesia has honoured Erum Seraj with Award in 2025 at King Palace in Indonesia.

Erum Defeated Pakistan in the Final at World Meet in 2022 at Bangkok Thailand.



Teacher shot at point-blank range in Islampur; dies in hospital!

MI News Service, North Dinajpur: A teacher from Islampur was killed on his way to school in the morning. It is learned that Popular teacher Nazrul Islam was shot at point blank range. Nazrul Babu was a very popular teacher in the area.

Allegedly, miscreants stopped his bike on his way to school. He was shot at close range; even after collapsing onto the road from his bike, the teacher called his wife.

Although he was subsequently taken to the hospital, he could not be saved.

His family remains uncertain about who killed the universally liked Nazrul Islam, or for what motive. The incident has created a sensation in the area.

Minister Shankar Ghosh inspects drainage and dengue preparedness in Siliguri

MI News Service, Siliguri: West Bengal Tourism Minister and Siliguri MLA Shankar Ghosh inspected several areas of the city on Saturday morning to assess the municipal corporation's preparedness for dengue prevention and the condition of drainage systems during the monsoon.

Accompanied by the Siliguri Municipal Corporation Commissioner and other officials, the minister first visited Bidhan Road and adjoining areas. He inspected locations prone to waterlogging, reviewed arrangements for the prompt removal of stagnant water and took stock of measures being undertaken by the civic body to prevent dengue.

Kabiguru Smaran' Celebrates Tagore's Legacy Among Special Children in Nimpura

MI News Service, Kharagpur : A special programme titled 'Kabiguru Smaran' was organised at the Pratibandhi Rehabilitation Centre in Nimpura, Kharagpur, on Saturday to mark the 85th death anniversary of Nobel laureate Rabinranath Tagore. The programme was organised by the Sub-Divisional Information and Cultural Affairs Department, Kharagpur, as part of the West Bengal Government's initiative to commemorate Tagore's contribution, literary works, values and philosophy across various districts and subdivisions of the state. The Kharagpur subdivision chose the Nimpura-based rehabilitation centre, which works for the education and rehabilitation of children with dis-



abilities and special needs, as the venue for the programme. Kharagpur Sub-Divisional Magistrate Jyoti Ghosh was present as the chief guest. Students of the institution presented a colourful cultural programme featuring dance, music and poetry recitation. Their performances won appreciation from the audience and created an atmosphere filled with

memories and special needs, as the venue for the programme. Kharagpur Sub-Divisional Magistrate Jyoti Ghosh was present as the chief guest. Students of the institution presented a colourful cultural programme featuring dance, music and poetry recitation. Their performances won appreciation from the audience and created an atmosphere filled with

Students who performed exceptionally well in the competition were presented with prizes by SDM Jyoti Ghosh, who encouraged them for their efforts and talent.

Officials and organisers praised the students' creativity and talent, highlighting the importance of cultural and creative activities in providing children with special needs a platform to express their abilities and emotions. The 'Kabiguru Smaran' programme not only paid tribute to Rabinranath Tagore's literature, philosophy and enduring legacy but also conveyed a broader message of encouraging the talents of children with special needs and helping integrate them into mainstream society.

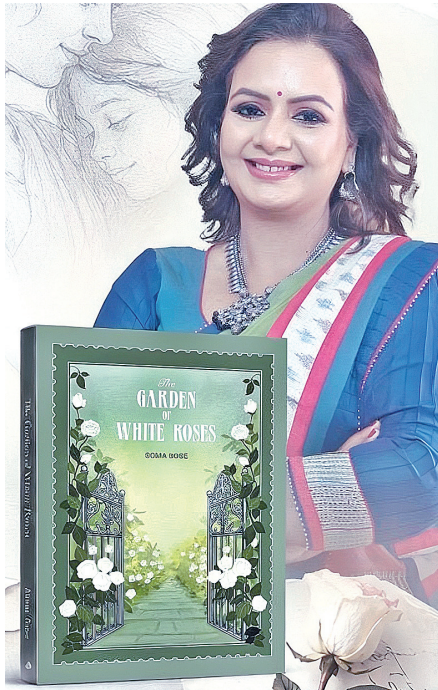
Soma Bose's The Garden of White Roses blooms as a Moving Tribute to Love and Memory

MI News Service, Kolkata : Author and visual storyteller Soma Bose returns with her third book, The Garden of White Roses, a deeply personal work that marks a departure from the fictional narratives of her earlier books. Scheduled for release on August 8, 2026, at the Kolkata Centre for Creativity, the book is a lyrical collection of 18 letters written by a daughter to her late mother, reflecting on grief, gratitude and the enduring bond they shared.

Written in evocative blank verse, The Garden of White Roses transforms everyday memories—shared journeys, family traditions and quiet conversations—into timeless expressions of love. Rather than dwelling solely on loss following her mother's passing in 2025, Bose celebrates remembrance as a source of strength, healing and hope.

Following the critically appreciated Frenny and Other Women You Have Met and I Hv' Had Enough of You, this latest work is widely regarded as Bose's most intimate and emotionally resonant book. In her foreword, Nandita Puri describes it as a poignant exploration of "the inexplicable bond that only mothers and daughters share."

The launch promises to be a memorable literary evening, featuring dramatic readings by acclaimed actors Sohini Sen-



gupta and Sujoy Prasad Chatterjee, followed by a conversation with Nandita Puri, Tanusree Shankar, Sreenanda Shankar, Joy Sengupta and Sanjukta Dasgupta.

Tapas Roy Calls for Stronger Govt-Industry Partnership to Boost Bengal's Growth

MI News Service, Kolkata: West Bengal is looking to strengthen government-industry cooperation to accelerate investment, employment and industrial development in the state, Industry, Commerce & Enterprises Minister Tapas Roy said at an interactive session organised by the Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC) in Kolkata on Saturday. The session brought together industry representatives and ICC members to discuss ways to improve the investment climate, infrastructure, employment opportunities and long-term industrial expansion in Bengal.

In a significant development, Roy accepted the position of Mentor of the Indian Chamber of Commerce, which is expected to further deepen coordination between the state government and the business community. ICC Director General Dr Rajeev Singh said the changes taking place in the state were being welcomed by the wider industrial community



West Bengal Minister for Industry, Commerce & Enterprises Tapas Roy addresses a session on "West Bengal Poised for New Industrial Growth: Stronger Government-Industry Partnership", organised by the Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC), in Kolkata on Saturday.

and called for closer cooperation between the government and businesses to build a "Viksit Bengal". ICC President Brij Bhushan Agarwal highlighted Bengal's strategic location, established industrial base, skilled manpower and diverse economy. He said better ease of

doing business, improved infrastructure, stronger logistics and a favourable investment environment could help the state achieve higher economic growth. Roy said the government was working towards a modern industrial promotion policy featuring clear incentives,

time-bound approvals and dedicated support for investors. He stressed that industrialists should be viewed as partners in Bengal's development rather than as employers or employees. The minister called for greater respect and cooperation between the govern-

ment and industry and urged investors to explore opportunities in the state. He said the government, Chief Minister and his department would extend necessary support to businesses. Roy also highlighted proposals including the revival of industrial incentives, creation of an industrial land bank and the utilisation of unused land in industrial parks. He called for strengthening the single-window clearance system with greater accountability and fixed service timelines.

During the session, ICC Senior Vice President Parthiv Neotia said a successful industrial policy should ensure three key principles—liberty, opportunity and continuity. He said greater freedom for private entrepreneurs could help unleash Bengal's entrepreneurial potential. Neotia reaffirmed the ICC's commitment to facilitating investments in Bengal and contributing to the state's economic development through greater industry participation and collaboration.



Minister Purnima Chakraborty pays tribute to Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore at Nimtala Crematorium on his death anniversary in Kolkata on Saturday.

Bengal Plans Evening OPDs at Govt Hosps Under Revenue-Sharing Model

MI News Service, Kolkata: The West Bengal government is planning to introduce evening outpatient departments (OPDs) at government hospitals under a revenue-sharing model, according to sources in the state Health Department. Under the proposed system, 60 per cent of the total revenue generated through the evening paid clinics would go to doctors, 20 per cent to nurses and 10 per cent to Group D employees, while the remaining 10 per cent would be deposited into the state exchequer.

The proposal was discussed recently at a meeting at Swasthya Bhavan, where state Health Minister Dr Sharadwat Mukhopadhyay sought the views of doctors on the proposed model. The minister reportedly said that the plan was under consideration and would require the Cabinet's approval before implementation. The move is aimed at addressing difficulties faced by patients seeking specialist consultations at government hospitals after regular OPD hours. Currently, large numbers of patients depend on the free morning OPDs, often resulting in overcrowding and long queues, particularly when they require admission or specialist attention. According to Health Department sources, some specialist doctors leave government hospitals after their regular OPD hours for private practice or nursing homes. As a result, when complicated cases arrive at government hospitals in the afternoon or evening, securing specialist medical assistance on call can sometimes become difficult.

The proposed evening paid clinics are expected to help retain specialist doctors within the government healthcare system during both morning and evening slots, thereby improving access to specialised treatment and strengthening emergency and inpatient services. Meanwhile, the Health Department has issued another circular aimed at increasing the availability of specialist doctors in the state. Under the new provision, 662 officers under the West Bengal Health Service, West Bengal Public Health-cum-Administrative Service and West Bengal Medical Education Service may now be kept under the trainee reserve system. The number is significantly higher than the approximately 400 doctors who could previously be accommodated under the trainee reserve. The decision has been welcomed by the West Bengal Doctors Forum. Dr Rajib Pandey of the forum said the increase would enable more doctors to pursue higher medical education. Earlier, once the trainee reserve limit was reached, eligible doctors could be denied leave to pursue MD or MS courses despite qualifying for admission.

With the revised limit, more doctors are expected to get opportunities for postgraduate and higher medical education. The move is also likely to reduce the possibility of postgraduate seats going vacant and, in the long term, increase the number of specialist doctors in Bengal, improving the quality of healthcare services across the state.

Agnimitra Paul Warns Against Road Encroachment, Illegal Parking

MI News Service, Kolkata: BJP leader Agnimitra Paul has issued a stern warning against road encroachment, illegal parking, construction materials being dumped on roads and the unsafe practice of leaving electrical and cable wires hanging over public spaces.

Speaking in support of BJP state president Shamik Bhattacharya, Paul said the party's leadership, including the state president and the Chief Minister, had made it clear that practices allegedly prevalent during the Trinamool Congress government would not be allowed to continue. Paul also

issued a strong message to people who joined the BJP from the TMC after the fourth, saying that those who entered the party by carrying flags and celebrating their induction would not receive any special treatment. She said no one would be spared if they operated syndicates or accepted bribes, whether inside or outside the party. She urged people to report any such incidents through the party's toll-free number. Paul said she had recently learnt about a similar problem in Asansol through social media. After informing the police, she

was told that an arrest had already been made in connection with the matter. She also stressed that the existing police force would continue to handle such complaints and that no new police force had been appointed for the purpose. She also raised concerns over buses being parked on roads, particularly at night. Claiming that some buses were being left in the middle of roads overnight, Paul advised bus owners to park their vehicles in designated private spaces instead of obstructing public roads. She further objected to vehicles

being parked on roads in front of houses in Salt Lake. According to Paul, a penalty system for such parking would be introduced soon. She said motorists would have to pay a separate fee for overnight parking and that the revenue would go to the state government. Paul also highlighted the issue of exposed electrical wires and open electrical boxes, particularly during the monsoon. She said steps would be taken to ensure that cables and wires do not remain dangerously suspended over roads and public spaces.

Two NCPI MPs meet Suwendu Adhikari

► **Continued from page 1**
of principle, they would cooperate with both the central and state governments for the benefit of the people in their constituencies. Meanwhile, Kalyan Banerjee, a Trinamool Congress MP known for his close ties to the Kalighat leadership, took a dig at Khalilur and the others for meeting Suwendu Adhikari. He remarked, "They won the election by campaigning against PM Modi. I fail to understand why they have to go to PM Modi now. Yesterday, they had breakfast with the Prime Minister. Today, two of them had lunch with the Chief Minister. Perhaps next, they will meet Trump for dinner." On Friday, a 13 member delegation including the Leader of the Opposition in the state Ritabrata Banerjee, and several other rebel TMC MLAs met Suwendu Adhikari to discuss issues regarding the removal of loudspeakers. They also submitted a formal representation. On Thursday, Suwendu Adhikari had announced from Nabanna that 5,299 loudspeakers had been removed from various religious sites across the state. Of these, 4,203 loudspeakers were removed from mosques and 1,096 from temples. The Chief Minister stated that the state government took this step in compliance with the High Court's 2020 ruling regarding noise pollution regulations.

Ex-TMC MLA arrested in extortion, post-poll violence

► **Continued from page 1**
After becoming an MLA, his 'zero-investment business' expanded further. The administration deserves thanks for arresting him. We want a thorough investigation into all his alleged crimes." BJP leader Debarghya Ghosh claimed that Dey operated an extortion network across Naihati even before becoming an MLA and that such activities intensified during his tenure. He further alleged that opposition workers were harassed and falsely implicated in cases. BJP Mahila Morcha leader Jinia Chakraborty also levelled serious allegations, stating that her house was vandalised multiple times after the 2021 Assembly elections due to her political affiliation. She claimed that several BJP workers in the area had faced similar attacks.

'In rapidly changing world, those who learn win'

► **Continued from page 1**
the speed of technology", PM Modi said adding some new initiatives related to artificial intelligence have also been launched at IIT Delhi. "I extend my very best wishes to all of you for this as well," he said. Referring to the semiconductor sector, he said when the government took steps in this direction, some people questioned whether India would be able to do it. "But today, production has begun at the first semiconductor unit. I firmly believe that from chips to ships, everything will be made here by your hands," the PM said. Over 3,000 graduating students, including 587 PhD scholars, were conferred their degrees at the convocation ceremony

US role in West Asia could be reduced because

► **Continued from page 1**
And Turkiye has fought Kurdish armed groups both inside and outside of the country for years. Tensions with Israel have also increased. Experts like Ullman say it is as yet unclear how the Mecca Joint Defence Pact might pull its three signatories into any of those conflicts. The Middle East has experienced significant upheaval in recent years, most notably since the Hamas attack on Israel on October 7, 2023, and the subsequent Israeli genocide in Gaza. Decades of threats between Iran and Israel have also culminated in a regional war that has yet to end. Countries across the Middle East and further afield are now trying to figure out how to deal with the chaos and prepare for the next phase. Many of the states appear to be putting past differences behind them and deciding that pragmatism is the best path forward in the face of mutual threats. Turkiye and Saudi Arabia are good examples. The 2018 murder of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi in his country's Istanbul consulate led to a deep rift between the two countries that lasted for years. But by 2022, Riyadh and Ankara were seen to put aside their past differences, with the former pursuing a region-wide deescalation strategy, and the latter looking to strengthen its economy. In the time since, Israel and Iran have exerted pressure on the Middle East, pursuing different visions for the region. That pressure, however, is understood to have helped to push countries like Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Turkiye together.

Two Patients Go Missing from RG Kar, Police Launch Probe

MI News Service, Kolkata: Two patients have reportedly gone missing from RG Kar Medical College and Hospital in separate incidents, triggering concern among their families and prompting police investigations. Bimal Ghosh, a 51-year-old resident of Baranagar, was admitted to Baranagar State General Hospital on Thursday before being referred to RG Kar Hospital. He was admitted to Bed No. 22 on the sixth floor of the Medicine ward on Thursday afternoon.

According to his family, when they visited the hospital around 11 am the following day, they found

that Ghosh was missing from his bed. The family approached hospital staff for information. A nurse reportedly told them that Ghosh had been taken to the hospital laboratory for tests, while a ward boy allegedly said that he had gone to the bathroom. A patient in the adjacent bed claimed to have last seen Ghosh around 8 am.

Despite searching for him throughout the day, the family could not locate him. Hospital authorities reportedly informed them at night that Ghosh could not be found. The Tala police have begun an investigation into the incident. In

another case, 23-year-old Dipanwita Ray, a resident of Chitpur, has also gone missing from RG Kar Hospital. She was undergoing treatment in Bed No. 1 of the TPU ward on the fourth floor. Her family reportedly lost contact with her on Friday night.

Hospital authorities informed the family later that night, following which a missing-person diary was lodged at Chitpur police station. Police have launched an investigation into both cases and are examining hospital records and other available information to determine how the two patients went missing.

Bengal Govt to Adopt 'Zero Tolerance' Policy Against Extortion During Admissions

MI News Service, Kolkata: West Bengal Higher Education Minister Jagannath Chattopadhyay on Saturday said the state government would adopt a strict "zero tolerance" approach towards extortion, intimidation and other forms of misconduct during the admission process in colleges and universities. Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of a programme, Chattopadhyay said the government was committed to preventing corruption and ensuring that students could complete the admission process without facing pressure or harassment. "Mark

my words. We are pursuing zero tolerance towards any attempt to bully, intimidate, rag and also extort from students during the admission process," the minister said.

He stressed that students should not be subjected to any form of coercion or undue influence while seeking admission to higher educational institutions. The government, he said, would take necessary steps to ensure transparency and discipline throughout the process. Chattopadhyay also said college principals had been instructed to maintain regular coordina-

tion with the state education headquarters at Bikash Bhawan on matters related to admissions and any complaints arising during the process.

The minister's remarks come amid concerns over alleged irregularities and pressure tactics during college admissions. The state government is seeking to ensure that students and their families are able to complete the process in a fair and transparent manner. Officials have also been asked to remain vigilant and promptly report any incidents involving intimidation, ragging, extortion or other unlawful activities.

Ayushman Bharat to Offer Cashless Treatment Up to Rs 5 Lakh at Nursing Homes

MI News Service, Kolkata: Around 2,500 small and medium-sized nursing homes across West Bengal are set to provide cashless treatment of up to Rs 5 lakh to eligible beneficiaries under the Ayushman Bharat scheme, in a major move aimed at improving access to healthcare for economically disadvantaged sections.

State Health Minister Dr Sharadwat Mukhopadhyay held a meeting on Friday with the Association of Private Hospitals and Nursing Homes, an organisation representing small and medium-sized nursing homes. The meeting was attended by association president Abhijit Mondal and secretary Dr Rajib Pandey. Several nursing home owners also participated in the



meeting online. After the meeting, the Health Minister said the Ayushman Bharat services would be officially launched in West Bengal on August 16. Under the scheme, more than 1,000 surgical and medical procedures will be covered free of cost, with fixed rates prescribed for the various treatments.

Small and medium-sized nursing homes having NABH accreditation will receive an additional 10 per cent payment for the relevant procedures, according to the plan. The government also intends to ensure that Ayushman Bharat card facilities are available at participating small and medium-sized nurs-

ing homes, enabling eligible patients to avail themselves of cashless treatment.

The meeting also discussed measures to encourage greater private investment in West Bengal's healthcare sector. Nursing home operators reportedly raised concerns over the complicated process of obtaining multiple licences required to establish and operate healthcare facilities. At present, separate permissions are required for different services. For instance, a Clinical Establishment licence is required to operate a day-care centre, while ultrasound facilities require approval under the Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (PCPNDT) Act.

Abhishek Banerjee moves SC against HC order denying him

► **Continued from page 1**
Education & Research (IPGME&R) before considering his plea on the basis of their opinion. Justice Saugata Bhattacharyya said the court, not being a medical expert, required an independent medical opinion before deciding whether treatment abroad was necessary. The court also directed the formation of a special medical board headed by an ophthalmologist at SSKM Hospital to examine the MP and submit a report directly to the court on whether overseas treatment was required. The court said it would decide on his request to travel abroad after examining the medical report. Rebecca John, senior advocate appearing for Abhishek Banerjee, argued that her client wanted to continue treatment with the same specialist who had earlier operated on him in the United States. She said Banerjee was unwilling to undergo treatment at SSKM Hospital. Justice Bhattacharyya also observed that several petitions and FIRs against Abhishek Banerjee were pending before the court and his presence might be sought in connection with that during his possible absence.

The state opposed the TMC leader's plea, arguing that there was no medical emergency requiring treatment abroad and that allowing him to travel could affect ongoing investigations in cases against him. During the hearing, the court repeatedly observed that if treatment could be provided in India, there was no need to travel overseas. "It is important for him to get treatment but if it can be done in Kolkata or anywhere in India then there is no need to go abroad.....whether it is abroad is immaterial. It is ensured that he will get appropriate treatment," the court observed.

But Abhishek Banerjee's counsel argued that the pending criminal cases against him carried a maximum punishment of three years and were mostly bailable offences. The counsel also said Banerjee had earlier been allowed to travel abroad for treatment during Enforcement Directorate proceedings and had returned to India after travelling overseas in 2023 and 2025. Incidentally, on August 3, the Supreme Court directed the Calcutta High Court to decide on Abhishek Banerjee's plea within a week. Following the direction, the High Court heard the matter on Wednesday and rejected his request. Banerjee had earlier approached the Supreme Court seeking permission to travel abroad for treatment. He suffered eye injuries in a road accident on the Durgapur Expressway in Hooghly district in 2016.



A Kumartuli artisan meticulously puts the finishing touches on a beautifully crafted Lord Ganesha idol ahead of the upcoming Ganesh Chaturthi festival in Kolkata on Saturday.

Name Change
I, Sri Krishna Mali (Old Name), Son Of Arjun Mali, Resident Of Vill & Po-Dwarikanagar, Ps-Namkhana, South 24 Parganas-743357, West Bengal Do Herby Declare That I Have Changed My Name From Sri Krishna Mali (Old Name) To Shrikishna Mali (New Name) And Henceforth I Shall Be Known As Shrikishna Mali (New Name) In All Purpose, Vide Affidavit No 11180 Sworn Before The Ld 1st Class Judicial Magistrate At Kakkvidi On 27/07/2026. Shrikishna Mali (New Name) And Sri Krishna Mali (Old Name) Both Are Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, Arjun Kumar Mali (Old Name), Son Of Late Gangadhar Mali, Resident Of Vill & Po-Dwarikanagar, Ps-Namkhana, South 24 Parganas-743357, West Bengal Do Herby Declare That I Have Changed My Name From Arjun Kumar Mali (Old Name) To Arjun Mali (New Name) And Henceforth I Shall Be Known As Arjun Mali (New Name) In All Purpose, Vide Affidavit No 11180 Sworn Before The Ld 1st Class Judicial Magistrate At Kakkvidi On 27/07/2026. Arjun Mali (New Name) And Arjun Kumar Mali (Old Name) Both Are Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, Geeta Mali (Old Name), Wife Of Arjun Mali, Resident Of Vill & Po-Dwarikanagar, Ps-Namkhana, South 24 Parganas-743357, West Bengal Do Herby Declare That I Have Changed My Name From Geeta Mali (Old Name) To Gita Mali (New Name) And Henceforth I Shall Be Known As Gita Mali (New Name) In All Purpose, Vide Affidavit No 11180 Sworn Before The Ld 1st Class Judicial Magistrate At Kakkvidi On 27/07/2026. Gita Mali (New Name) And Geeta Mali (Old Name) Both Are Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, Minati Pal (Old Name), Wife Of Minal Kanti Paul, Resident Of 11/4, Picnic Garden Road, Po-Tiljala, Ps-Tiljala, Kolkata-700039, West Bengal Do Herby Declare That I Have Changed My Name From Minati Pal (Old Name) To Minati Paul (New Name) And Henceforth I Shall Be Known As Minati Paul (New Name) In All Purpose, Vide Affidavit No 2 Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kalkata On 07/08/2026. Minati Paul (New Name) And Minati Pal (Old Name) Both Are Same And One Identical Person.

Change of Name
I, SK. MUBARAK S/O SK. SUBULLA, R/O - VIII- Jafala, Barkola, P.O. - Jakpur, P.S. - KGP(L), Dist.- Paschim Medinipur, W.B, PIN-721301 hereby solemnly affirm and declared that after divorced on dated 24/01/2018 from my first wife i.e. SARJIT KAUR, I married to KABERIDASA @ AMRIN BEGAM on 20/12/2018. Now I want to left out SARJIT KAUR name from my NPS before PRAN No. -11014137169 and insert the name of AMRIN BEGAM vide affidavit No. -R-30 dated 30/7/2026 before the Notary Public, Kharagpur.

NAME CHANGE
I, Manjura Bibi, W/O-A.K.M. Ikbai Hasan, residing at Vill+ P/O- Gobila, P/S-Matta, Dist-24pgs (N). That in the voter list of 2002 my & my father's (Abdul Khali Mondal) names were recorded as Monjura Khatun, D/O-A-Sali Mandal and in my educational documents my name as Manjura Khatun which are incorrect. So vide Affidavit before the Ld 1st class J.M. at Barasat at 31/03/2026 (No. 175(3)/2026) that Manjura Bibi & Monjura Khatun & Manjura Khatun is same and one identical person and Abdul Khali Mondal & A. Sali Mandal is same and one identical person.

NAME CHANGE
I, Dalila Wadhwa, D/o. Rabindra Nath Chatterjee, R/O. P-406, Fortune City, 155, Old Jessore Road, Gangaganagar, Madhyamgram (M), Dist.- 24 Pgs. (N)-700132, WB, I have changed my name from Dalila Wadhwa to Dalila Chatterjee and henceforth I shall know as Dalila Chatterjee in all purposes, vide an affidavit no. 14408, 22.07.2026, in the Court of the J.M., 1st class at Alipore, That, Dalila Chatterjee and Dalila Wadhwa both are same and identical person

NAME CHANGE
I, PRODIP KUMAR ROY (Old Name), S/O- PRANAB KUMAR ROY, R/O: VIII.- Choto Jirakpur Shonepukur road, (P.O.- Anandamarg School), near Basirhat R.S., P.S.- Basirhat, Dist.- 24 Parganas, PIN- 743414, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as PRODIP ROY (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public Basirhat Court affidavit no. 113 at 03-08-2026. PRODIP KUMAR ROY (Old Name) and PRODIP ROY (New Name) both are same and identical person.

Name Change
I, Shripada Kumar Maji, Sripada Maji (Old Name) S/O- Late Nandamali Maji Resident Of Vill- Kiyakhali, P.O.- Radhaballopur, PS.-Tamluk, Dist- Purba Medinipur, Do Herby Declare That I Have Changed My Name From Shripada Kumar Maji, Sripada Maji (Old Name) To Shripada Maji (New/Correct Name) And Henceforth I Shall Be Known As Shripada Maji (New/Correct Name) In All Purpose, Vide Affidavit No- 12438 Sworn Before The First Class Ld Judicial Magistrate At Tamluk Court On 13.07.26. Shripada Maji (New/Correct Name) And Shripada Kumar Maji, Sripada Maji (Old Name) Both Are Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, Smt. Sarmitsha Mazumder, D/o Sri Ganesh Mazumder, residing at 79, Raj Peary Mohan Road, Flat No. 302, Rajashi Nibas, Uttarpura, Hooghly-721258, hereby notify that my name appears as "SARMISTHA MAZUMDER" in my Aadhaar Card, EPIC, PAN Card, Passport and other records, whereas it appears as "SARMISTHA BANERJEE" in my son Manish Banerjee's Birth Certificate (Regn. No. 2003/01669) and Passport No. N9280109. I hereby declare that SARMISTHA MAZUMDER and SARMISTHA BANERJEE are one and the same person. This declaration is made pursuant to Affidavit No. 12802 dated 23.07.2026, affirmed before the Learned Executive Magistrate, Serampore Court. Hooghly

Name Change
I, Md Jamaluddin Biswas (Old Name), Son Of Abdul Haman Biswas, Resident Of Shyamnagar Biswas Para, P.O.-Shyamnagar, P.S.-, Polerhat, Kolkata-700135, West Bengal, Do Herby Declare That I Have Changed My Name From Md Jamaluddin Biswas (Old Name) To Jamaluddin Biswas (New Name) And Henceforth I Shall Be Known As Jamaluddin Biswas (New Name) In All Purpose Vide Affidavit No 41 Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 07/08/2026. Jamaluddin Biswas (New Name) And Md Jamaluddin Biswas (Old Name) Both Are Same And One Identical Person.

NAME CHANGE
I,MD SHAFIQUE AHMED S/O-ABDUL MAJID HUSSAIN, R/O- P-30/B, Garden Reach Road, Garden Reach, P.S.- Metiabruz, Kolkata -700024, My Father Correct real name Abdul Majid Hussain, My International passport (No-M4138763) inadvertently misspelled Abdul Majid Hossain. Do hereby declare that MD SHAFIQUE AHMED S/O-ABDUL MAJID HUSSAIN is the same and one identical person vide affidavit (No- 69787) Sworn before the 1st Class Judicial Magistrate at Alipore on 06-08-2026.

Name Change
I, (Old Name) NILRATAN PAUL S/O- HARENDRA PAL, Residing at -Barabaria, Dhanatal, Dist- Nadia, Pin-741501, West Bengal. Do hereby declare that I have Changed my name from NILRATAN PAUL To NILRATAN PAL (New Name) and henceforth I Shall be Known as (New Name) NILRATAN PAL in all purpose vide an affidavit No-2133 On Date 07 August 2026 Sworn before the Notary Public at Behampore Murshidabad, NILRATAN PAL and NILRATAN PAUL both are Same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, (Old Name) SANJAY KR PAUL S/O- NILRATAN PAL, Residing at -Barabaria, Dhanatal, Dist- Nadia, Pin-741501, West Bengal. Do hereby declare that I have Changed my name from SANJAY KR PAUL To SANJAY KUMAR PAL (New Name) and henceforth I Shall be Known as (New Name) SANJAY KUMAR PAL in all purpose vide an affidavit No-21711 On Date 10 June 2026 Sworn before the Judicial Magistrate 1 Class at Ranaghat Nadia, SANJAY KUMAR PAL and SANJAY KR PAUL both are Same and one identical person.

NAME CHANGE
I, SHIREEN NAAZ (OLD NAME), WIFE OF ASFAK BEG, RESIDENT OF D50/98, KAJIPURA KALA, NAI SADAK, DIST.- BARANASIK, PIN-221001, UTTAR PRADESH. DO HEREBY DECLARE THAT I HAVE CHANGED MY NAME FROM SHIREEN NAAZ (OLD NAME) TO SHIREEN NAZ (NEW NAME) AND HENCEFORTH I SHALL BE KNOWN AS SHIREEN NAZ (NEW NAME) IN ALL PURPOSE VIDE AFFIDAVIT SWORN BEFORE THE NOTARY PUBLIC AT KOLKATA ON 07/08/2026. SHIREEN NAZ (NEW NAME) AND SHIREEN NAAZ (OLD NAME) BOTH ARE SAME AND ONE IDENTICAL PERSON.

NAME CHANGE
I, ASHFUQA BEG (OLD NAME), SON OF MUSTFAA BEG, RESIDENT OF D50/98, KAJIPURA KALA, NAI SADAK, DIST.- BARANASIK, PIN-221001, UTTAR PRADESH. DO HEREBY DECLARE THAT I HAVE CHANGED MY NAME FROM ASHFUQA BEG (OLD NAME) TO ASFAK BEG (NEW NAME) AND HENCEFORTH I SHALL BE KNOWN AS ASFAK BEG (NEW NAME) IN ALL PURPOSE VIDE AFFIDAVIT SWORN BEFORE THE NOTARY PUBLIC AT KOLKATA ON 07/08/2026. ASFAK BEG (NEW NAME) AND ASHFUQA BEG (OLD NAME) BOTH ARE SAME AND ONE IDENTICAL PERSON.

Name Change
I, Rajesh Jaiswal (Old Name), Son Of Jiban Prasad Shaw, Resident Of 186/3, G.T.Road, Po-Salkia, Howrah-711106, West Bengal Do Herby Declare That I Have Changed My Name From Rajesh Jaiswal (Old Name) To Rajesh Shaw (New Name) And Henceforth I Shall Be Known As Rajesh Shaw (New Name) In All Purpose, Vide Affidavit No 30 Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 07/08/2026. Rajesh Shaw (New Name) And Rajesh Jaiswal (Old Name) Both Are Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, Tanusree Sengupta Chakraborty (Old Name), Daughter Of Late Rajat Sengupta, Resident Of 87/1 Shastri, N.N Ganguly Road, Po-Santragachi, Howrah-711104, West Bengal Do Herby Declare That I Have Changed My Name From Tanusree Sengupta Chakraborty (Old Name) To Tanusree Sengupta (New Name) And Henceforth I Shall Be Known As Tanusree Sengupta (New Name) In All Purpose, Vide Affidavit No 26 Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 07/08/2026. Tanusree Sengupta (New Name) And Tanusree Sengupta Chakraborty (Old Name) Both Are Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, Anup Kumar Biswas (Old Name), Son Of Late Balai Biswas, Resident Of Vill-Kumra, Po-Kumra Kashipur, Ps-Habra, North 24 Parganas-743271, West Bengal Do Herby Declare That I Have Changed My Name From Anup Kumar Biswas (Old Name) To Anup Biswas (New Name) And Henceforth I Shall Be Known As Anup Biswas (New Name) In All Purpose, Vide Affidavit No 14021 Sworn Before The Ld 1st Class Judicial Magistrate At Barasat On 13/07/2026. Anup Biswas (New Name) And Anup Kumar Biswas (Old Name) Both Are Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, Dilip Pal (Old Name), Son Of Late Nimal Chandra Pal, Resident Of Mahdyab Hans, Rajpur Sonarpur, South 24 Parganas-700084, West Bengal Do Herby Declare That I Have Changed My Name From Dilip Pal (Old Name) To Dilip Kumar Pal (New Name) And Henceforth I Shall Be Known As Dilip Kumar Pal (New Name) In All Purpose, Vide Affidavit No 1 Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 07/08/2026. Dilip Kumar Pal (New Name) And Dilip Pal (Old Name) Both Are Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, Binod Kumar Bothra (Old Name), Son Of Late Nemichand Bothra, Resident Of 28/1/2, Dobson Road, PO-Howrah, Howrah-711101, West Bengal Do Herby Declare That I Have Changed My Name From Binod Kumar Bothra (Old Name) To Binod Bothra (New Name) And Henceforth I Shall Be Known As Binod Bothra (New Name) In All Purpose, Vide Affidavit No 81 Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 07/08/2026. Binod Bothra (New Name) And Binod Kumar Bothra (Old Name) Both Are Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, Soyel Amin Sekh (Old Name), S/O Selim SK, Resident of Katara Manoharpur, P.O.- Shyambasurachak, P.S.- Kulpi, Dist.- South 24 Parganas, Pin- 743351, West Bengal, India, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Soyel Amin Sekh (Old Name) to Soyel Amin SK (new name) and henceforth I shall be known as Soyel Amin SK (New Name) in all purpose, vide affidavit sworn before the Notary Public at Kolkata on 07/08/2026. Soyel Amin SK (new name) and Soyel Amin Sekh (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Chandhi Golder (Old Name), S/O Sushil Kumar Golder, Resident of Joyrup, P.O.- Motiganj, Bongaon, Dist.- North 24 Parganas, Pin- 743235, West Bengal, India, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Chandhi Golder (Old Name) to Chandhi Das Golder (new name) and henceforth I shall be known as Chandhi Das Golder (New Name) in all purpose, vide affidavit sworn before the Notary Public at Kolkata on 07/08/2026. Chandhi Golder (new name) and Chandhi Golder (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Dipak Kumar Pradhan (Old Name), S/O Narendra Pradhan, Resident of Vill-Nachinda, P.O.- Nachinda Bazar, PS.-Marishda, Dist.- Purba Medinipur, Pin-721444, West Bengal, India, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Dipak Kumar Pradhan (Old Name) to Dipak Pradhan (new name) and henceforth I shall be known as Dipak Pradhan (New Name) in all purpose, vide affidavit sworn before the Notary Public at Kolkata on 07/08/2026. Dipak Pradhan (new name) and Dipak Kumar Pradhan (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Nikhil Saha (Old Name), S/O Late Khashnath Saha, Resident of 43, Dakshindari Road, Rishi Arabinda Colony Sreebhumi, Dist.- North 24 Parganas, Pin- 700048, West Bengal, India, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Nikhil Saha (Old Name) to Lala Saha (new name) and henceforth I shall be known as Lala Saha (New Name) in all purpose, vide affidavit sworn before the Notary Public at Kolkata on 07/08/2026. Lala Saha (new name) and Nikhil Saha (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Joydeb Majhi (Old Name), Son Of Late Bibhuti Maji, Resident Of Jadabpur/Kamdepur, P.S.- Polba, Dist -Hooghly, Pin - 712102, West Bengal, Do hereby declare that I have Changed My Name From Joydeb Majhi (Old Name) To Joydeb Maji (New Name) And Henceforth I Shall Be Known As Joydeb Maji (New Name) In All Purpose Vide Affidavit No 83 Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 07/08/2026. Joydeb Maji (New Name) And Joydeb Majhi (Old Name) Both Are Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, Anisha Kumari Shaw (Old Name), Daughter Of Sanjay Shaw, Resident Of 50, Nazir Lane, Watgunge, Kabritirtho Park, Khidderpore, Kolkata- 700023, West Bengal, Do Herby Declare That I Have Changed My Name From Anisha Kumari Shaw (Old Name) To Anisha Shaw (New Name) And Henceforth I Shall Be Known As Anisha Shaw (New Name) In All Purpose, Vide Affidavit No 30 Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 07/08/2026. Anisha Shaw (New Name) And Anisha Kumari Shaw (Old Name) Both Are Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, Jay Kumar Singh Son Of Late Ashraf Ali Singh, H/o No. 63/13, Sundia Village Road, Bhatpara, P.O.- Kankinara, Dist-North 24 Parganas, Pin-743126, West Bengal, Do Herby Declare That I Have Changed My Name From Jay Kumar Singh (Old Name) To Ashraf Ali Singh (New Name), And Henceforth Shall Be Known As Ashraf Ali Singh (New Name) In All Purpose, Vide Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 07/08/2026. Ashraf Ali Singh (New Name) And Ashraf Ali Singh (Old Name) Both Are Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, Jahangir Ali Mufti (Old Name), Son Of Sajahan Mufti, Resident Of Raghudebbati, P.S.- Sankrail, Dist-Howrah, Pin- 711310, West Bengal, Do Herby Declare That I Have Changed My Name From Jahangir Ali Mufti (Old Name) To Jahangir Mufti (New Name) And Henceforth I Shall Be Known As Jahangir Mufti (New Name) In All Purpose, Vide Affidavit No 49 Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 07/08/2026. Jahangir Mufti (New Name) And Jahangir Ali Mufti (Old Name) Both Are Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, Mapara (Old Name), Wife Of Md Sanaulah, Resident Of 18/D, Linton Street, Entally, P.S.- Beniapukur, Kolkata - 700014, West Bengal, Do Herby Declare That I Have Changed My Name From Mapara (Old Name) To Mahe Para Begum (New Name) And Henceforth I Shall Be Known As Mahe Para Begum (New Name) In All Purpose, Vide Affidavit No 48 Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 07/08/2026. Mahe Para Begum (New Name) And Mapara (Old Name) Both Are Same And One Identical Person.

Three Arrested For Allegedly Stealing 20 Apple Cartons

MI News Service, Siliguri: Pradhan Nagar Police have arrested three people in connection with the alleged theft of 20 cartons of apples from a truck at knife point in Siliguri's Regulated Market. The accused have been identified as Mithun Roy, ShivamSahani and Harsh Paswan.

According to police, the incident occurred late on August 6 when a truck carrying a consignment of apples was parked outside a fruit trader's shop at the Regulated Market. The accused allegedly began removing cartons from the vehicle while the driver and his assistant were initially unaware of the theft.

The two later noticed that several cartons were missing and became suspicious. They reportedly began monitoring the truck and allegedly saw a group of youths taking apple cartons from the vehicle one after another.

When the driver and assistant attempted to intervene, the youths allegedly brandished sharp weapons and threatened to kill them. Fearing for their safety, the two refrained from confronting the accused further and subsequently approached Pradhan Nagar Police Station to lodge a complaint.

Following the complaint, police launched an investigation and questioned people who were present in the market at the time of the incident. Investigators also examined CCTV footage from the area to identify those allegedly involved in the theft.

Based on the CCTV footage and information gathered during the investigation, police identified the three accused. A team subsequently conducted a raid in the Dhaknataka area and arrested Mithun Roy, ShivamSahani and Harsh Paswan. Police have registered a case against the three accused under relevant sections of law. They were produced before a Siliguri court on Saturday, where investigators sought their custody for further questioning.

Police said they are examining the circumstances surrounding the alleged theft and are trying to ascertain whether more people were involved. Investigators are also looking into the sequence of events, the alleged use of weapons and whether the accused had previously been involved in similar incidents.

Name Change
I, Suresh Poddar (Old Name), Son Of Sitaram Poddar, Resident Of Siddha Pines Sl - 701, Rajarhat Main Road, Silver Block 2, Siddha Pines Rajarhat, Po-Rajarhat Gopalpur, North 24 Parganas - 700136, West Bengal Do Herby Declare That I Have Changed My Name From Suresh Poddar (Old Name) To Suresh Kumar Poddar (New Name) And Henceforth I Shall Be Known As Suresh Kumar Poddar (New Name) In All Purpose, Vide Affidavit No 99 Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 07/08/2026. Suresh Kumar Poddar (New Name) And Suresh Poddar (Old Name) Both Are Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, Man Bahadur Biswa (Old Name), Son Of Bhim Bahadur Gadal, Resident Of Ward No 3 Thana Line Mirik 734214 Darjeeling, West Bengal Do Herby Declare That I Have Changed My Name From Man Bahadur Biswa (Old Name) To Joseph Gadal (New Name) And Henceforth I Shall Be Known As Joseph Gadal (New Name) In All Purpose, Vide Affidavit No 96 Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 06/08/2026. Joseph Gadal (New Name) And Man Bahadur Biswa (Old Name) Both Are Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, Shanaj Neyazi (Old Name), Wife Of Niyaz Ahmed Niyazi, Resident Of 12, Toretta Bazar Street, Kolkata-700073a, West Bengal Do Herby Declare That I Have Changed My Name From Shanaj Neyazi (Old Name) To Shanaz Begum Niyazi (New Name) And Henceforth I Shall Be Known As Shanaz Begum Niyazi (New Name) In All Purpose, Vide Affidavit No 99 Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 07/08/2026. Shanaz Begum Niyazi (New Name) And Shanaj Neyazi (Old Name) Both Are Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, Abbas Ali (Old Name), Son Of Niyaz Ahmed Niyazi, Resident Of 12, Toretta Bazar Street, Kolkata-700073, West Bengal Do Herby Declare That I Have Changed My Name From Abbas Ali (Old Name) To Abbas Ali Niyazi (New Name) And Henceforth I Shall Be Known As Abbas Ali Niyazi (New Name) In All Purpose, Vide Affidavit No 80 Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 07/08/2026. Abbas Ali Niyazi (New Name) And Abbas Ali (Old Name) Both Are Same And One Identical Person.

General Manager/ Eastern Railway Conducts Comprehensive Inspection of Sealdah Division, Reviews Safety, Passenger Amenities, and Amrit Bharat Development Works

MI News Service, Kolkata, August 8, 2026 : Eastern Railway General Manager Ms. Gitika Pandey today conducted an extensive inspection of Sealdah Station, Kalyani Station, and the Sealdah-Kalyani section to ensure top-tier passenger amenities, enhanced safety protocols, and the timely execution of station redevelopment projects. She was accompanied throughout the visit by Additional General Manager Shri Sheelendra Pratap Singh, Divisional Railway Manager of Sealdah Division Shri Rajeev Saxena, and a team of senior officers from both Eastern Railway Headquarters and the division.

During her visit to Sealdah Station, Ms. Pandey personally evaluated the passenger amenities, safety arrangements, and security measures across the premises. She also inspected the Crew Lobby, where she thoroughly examined the booking management system for Loco Pilot



lots and Assistant Loco Pilots to maintain operational efficiency. Demonstrating her commitment to workplace safety, the General Manager spent time interacting directly with frontline safety staff to discuss

operational field conditions and reinforce strict safety adherence.

Following the station review, Ms. Pandey conducted a meticulous window-trailing inspection along the Sealdah-Kalyani section to assess track conditions, signaling integrity, and overall route safety. Upon reaching Kalyani, she inspected the ongoing transformation works under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme. Her review encompassed the Foot Over Bridge construction, car parking expansion, passenger amenities, updated station facades, and passenger interaction zones.

Commenting on the inspection drive, Chief Public Relations Officer of Eastern Railway, Shri Shibram Majhi, stated, "Eastern Railway remains dedicated to modernizing infrastructure while prioritizing safety and passenger comfort. Regular inspections ensure high operational standards and prompt action on passenger feedback."

CPI(M) Raises Concerns Over Civic Services, Demands Early Municipal Polls

MI News Service, Kolkata: The CPI(M) Area Committee No. III submitted a memorandum to the Borough Committee No. III of office of the Siliguri Municipal Corporation on Saturday, raising concerns over what it described as the deteriorating quality of civic services in the city.

A group of CPI(M) workers and supporters visited the municipal office and submitted the memorandum to the concerned official. Through the document, the party highlighted several issues that it claimed were affecting residents and demanded immediate steps to improve civic administration.

The CPI(M) alleged that the Siliguri Municipal Corporation is currently effectively under the control of the BJP and claimed that civic services have suffered under the present arrangement. The party demanded that elections to the municipal corporation be conducted at the earliest so that an elected board representative the people can take charge of civic affairs.

Party representatives further alleged that BJP nominees have been placed in different municipal wards and are exercising control over the functioning of the civic body. Despite this arrangement, they claimed, residents are not receiving adequate municipal services.

The CPI(M) also raised concerns over difficulties faced by residents while obtaining various certificates and documents from the municipal corporation. According to the party, people are frequently required to make repeated visits to civic offices to complete procedures and obtain essential certificates, causing inconvenience and delays.

Another major issue highlighted in the memorandum was the condition of roads across Siliguri. The party alleged that several roads in different parts of the city are in poor condition and require urgent repairs and maintenance.

CPI(M) workers said the civic administration should prioritise basic public services and en-

sure that residents are not forced to make repeated trips to municipal offices for routine work. They also called for greater accountability and transparency in the functioning of the corporation.

The party maintained that regular municipal elections are necessary to ensure that elected representatives are directly accountable to citizens. It urged the authorities to take steps towards holding the polls without further delay and restoring an elected civic body.

The memorandum is part of the CPI(M)'s ongoing campaign highlighting civic issues in Siliguri. Party leaders said they would continue to raise matters affecting residents and press the civic administration to address shortcomings in essential services.

The party also indicated that further programmes could be organised if its demands are not addressed. Meanwhile, the civic authorities are yet to respond publicly to the allegations raised in the memorandum.

Punjab and Haryana HC Upholds Liberalised Family Pension for Air Force Pilot's Widow



MI News Service, Kolkata: The Punjab and Haryana High Court has rejected an appeal filed by the Government of India against an Armed Forces Tribunal (AFT) order granting Liberalised Family Pension (LFP) to Shammli Malhotra, widow of an Indian Air Force transport pilot who died in a crash in the Himalayas 58 years ago.

The AFT, in its August 27, 2024 order, had directed that Malhotra be paid the enhanced pension with effect from January 1, 1996. The Centre challenged the decision, arguing that arrears should be limited to three years before the filing of her original application and that the benefit should begin from 2016 instead of 1996.

The Centre relied on communications issued by the Deputy Secretary (Pension) in 2014 and the Department of Pension and Pensioners' Welfare to support its argument.

The case relates to an Indian Air Force AN-12 aircraft that disappeared while flying from Chandigarh to Leh in 1968. The aircraft, carrying 102 personnel deployed near the Line of Actual Control with China, lost contact over the Rohtang Pass and crashed at Dhaka Glacier in Himachal Pradesh. Human remains from the crash were first found in 2003 by trekkers from the Himalayan Mountaineering Institute at an altitude of around 18,000 feet.

Malhotra was the wife

CHANGE OF RELIGION

I, Putul Digar, Daughter Of Sukumar Digar, Resident Of Shankarpur, Po-Thakuranichak, Ps-Khanakul, Hooghly-712613, West Bengal Do Herby Declare That I Have Changed My Religion And Converted From Christian To Islam Vide Affidavit No 69406 Sworn Before The Ld 1st Class Judicial Magistrate At Alipore On 06/08/2026.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is to inform to all that my client Smt. Priyanka Kumar Yadav, wife of Ajay Yadav residing at P. K. Biswas Road, P.O. - Titagarh, P.S. - Titagarh, Dist. - North 24 Parganas, Kolkata-700 119, West Bengal. My client purchased land measuring 1 Cottah 4 Chittacks, 27 Sq.ft. including road share respectively of Mouza-Rahara, J.L. NO. 3, Re. Su. No. 61, Touzi No. 184-190, L.R. Dag No.598 and L.R. Khatian No.2952 registered Attorney, SK. Ali Hussain son of Late SK Ayub Ali, vide Deed No-2363/2024, of true owner 1) Smt. Sukla Biswas, wife of Late Shyama Prasad Biswas, 2) Sri Souvik Biswas & 3) Sri Sohan Biswas, No. 2 & 3 son of Late Shyama Prasad Biswas, Vide Deed No-02851/2025, respectively and General Power and said Deed were duly registered at A. D. S. R. O. Sodepur, now my client is going to mutate her name before BL&RO, BKP-II, Sodepur. If any objection or claim regarding this matter respective person may apply before the BL&RO Bkp-II, Sodepur, North 24 Parganas, with corroborating, supporting document within one month from today.

Prabir Kumar Ghosh
Advocate.
Barrackpore Court
EN NO.- WB-343/1995

NOTICE

It is being informed that I, Siraj Middey S/o. Late Lalchand Middey has been appointed Attorney by Saiful Middey S/o. Late Abdul Khalek Middey and Safika Middey of R. S. Dag No. 3347, L. R. Dag No. 2792 under L.R. Khatian No. 670, 2988, 1989, 4730 & 4731 Area 16.50 decimal in Dhalugori Mouza Dist. Howrah vide Registered Power of Attorney being Number 122 Dated 14/03/2016 registered at the office of A.D.S.R. - Ranihat, Howrah. If anyone has any kind of objection, kindly contact BL&RO, Sankrail Howrah.

NOTICE

It is being informed that I, Auwal Munshi S/o. Mokles Munshi has been appointed Attorney by Kutubuddin Laskar, Giyasuddin Laskar & Najimuddin Laskar all son of Late Hasem Ali Laskar. R. S. Dag No. 3345, L. R. Dag No. 2790 under L.R. Khatian No. 1038, 1639, 3313, 3377 & 4343 Area 16 decimal in Dhalugori Mouza Dist. Howrah vide Registered Power of Attorney being Number 4804 Dated 14/12/2021 registered at the office of A.D.S.R. - Ranihat, Howrah. If anyone has any kind of objection, kindly contact BL&RO, Sankrail, Howrah.

NOTICE

It is being informed that I, Azharuddin Munshi S/o. Auwal Munshi has been appointed Attorney by Anarul Mondal S/o. Rahaman Mondal of R. S. Dag No. 3347, L. R. Dag No. 2792 under L.R. Khatian No. 2988 Area 3.30 decimal in Dhalugori Mouza Dist. Howrah vide Registered Power of Attorney being Number 4779 Dated 13/12/2021 registered at the office of A.D.S.R. - Ranihat, Howrah. If anyone has any kind of objection, kindly contact BL&RO, Sankrail, Howrah.

বিস্তৃতি

আমি শ্রী রিজ রাজ দেব, পিতা-শ্রী প্রবীর কুমার দেব মহাশয় গৃহ ইং-28/11/2022 তারিখে হাওড়া A.D.S.R অফিসে রেজিস্ট্রিকৃত বুক নং-1, ভূমি নং-0502-2022, পাতা নং-465536 to 465552 বিরিং নং-050213194 নং আমোজ নামা দলিল দ্বারা 1) শ্রী বাবুল পাণ্ডা, 2) তারক পাণ্ডা, উভয়ের পিতা-শ্রী পূর্ণ পাণ্ডা মহাশয় নিউ ইয়েটে আমোজগার গ্রহণ করেন। মৌজা-চকপাড়া, জে.এল.নং-111, হাল দাগ-1-6689, হাল খতিয়ান নং-6689 মোট ৪ কঠা শালি জমি বিক্রয় করা কর্তব্য করা প্রাপ্ত হয়। উক্ত বিষয়ে দাখলপত্রের কারণে কোনো আপত্তি থাকলে তিনি ৩০ দিনের মধ্যে বালি জগাখা বি.এল.এড. এল.আর. ও অফিসে যোগাযোগ করবেন।

বিস্তৃতি

আমি শ্রী পূর্ণিমল দাস, পিতা-শ্রী হরিপদ দাস, নং- আদ্যনন্দার সুকার পল্লী, পোষ্ট-উজদপুর, থানা- লিঙ্গায়, জেলা হাওড়া- ৭১১২০০, আদ্য ইংরিজি-১৮/৮/২০২৩ হাওড়া ডি.এস.আর-1 রেজিস্ট্রিকৃত অফিসে রেজিস্ট্রিকৃত দলিল নং-০৫০১০৪৪৪০ বুক নং-১, ভূমি নং-০৫০১-২০২৩, পাতা নং- 1-১১৬১৪০ ইয়েটে 1-১১৬১৪০ আমোজনামা দলিল দ্বারা শ্রী প্রদীপ কুমার গুপ্ত, পিতা-শ্রী দিলীপ কিশোর গুপ্ত মহাশয় নিউ ইয়েটে আমোজগার গ্রহণ করেন। মৌজা-চকপাড়া, জে.এল.নং-১১১, হাল দাগ নং-১১৬১৪০ ইয়েটে 1-১১৬১৪০ মোট ৩ কঠা-০.০৩০০ একর শালি জমি বিক্রয় করিবার জন্য ক্ষমতা প্রাপ্ত হয়। উক্ত বিষয়ে দাখলপত্রের কারণে কোনো আপত্তি থাকলে ৩০ দিনের মধ্যে তিনি বালি জগাখা বি.এল.এড.এল.আর. ও অফিসে যোগাযোগ করবেন।

বিস্তৃতি

Bengal Transport Dept Asks Police to Crack Down on Unauthorised Totos on Highways

MI News Service, Kolkata: The West Bengal Transport Department has asked the state police to take strict action against the movement of unauthorised e-rickshaws, commonly known as totos, on national highways, state highways and other major roads.

The department has written to the Director General of Police, seeking effective implementation of an earlier directive aimed at restricting toto movement on important roads. Transport Department Principal Secretary Rabindar Singh sent the letter to the state police chief on August 7. The move follows repeated complaints from bus operators and drivers, who have alleged that the increasing presence of totos on major roads is causing traffic problems and creating difficulties for buses and other large vehicles. At one point, bus operators had even stopped services in protest over the issue. According to the Transport Department, instructions had been issued about a week earlier to prevent unauthorised e-rickshaws from operating on national



and state highways. The latest communication asks the police to ensure that the directive is implemented strictly across the state. The department referred to the guidelines issued by the Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways under G.S.R. 709(E), which specify that e-rickshaws are primarily intended for "last-mile connectivity". It also pointed to a 2016 directive of the West Bengal gov-

ernment, under which totos are prohibited from operating on national highways, state highways and other major roads, except on specified local roads. Exceptions may be permitted where there is specific approval from the competent authority. The Transport Department said several complaints had indicated that unauthorised totos continue to ply on different national and

state highways despite the existing restrictions. Their operation on busy roads, officials said, has contributed to traffic congestion and raised concerns over road safety. In view of the situation, the police have been asked to take firm steps to prevent unauthorised e-rickshaws from operating on highways and other important roads. The department has also directed senior police officers to issue necessary instructions to personnel at the lower levels to ensure proper enforcement. The communication further states that those violating the restrictions may face action under the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, and other applicable rules.

The Transport Department's latest move is expected to intensify enforcement against unauthorised toto operations on major roads. Officials said the objective is to reduce congestion, improve traffic movement and strengthen road safety while ensuring that e-rickshaws continue to serve their intended purpose of providing last-mile connectivity on permitted routes.

Minor Girl Rescued from Sonagachi, Two Arrested for Alleged Trafficking

MI News Service, Kolkata:

A 16-year-old girl was rescued from Kolkata's Sonagachi area within an hour after police received information that she had allegedly been brought to the city on the pretext of love and later sold to a man. The incident came to light after a complaint was made to the Kolkata Police through Dial 100 on Friday. An email was also sent to the police by the Child Helpline. Acting on the complaint, personnel of the Burtolla police station launched an operation in the Sonagachi area and rescued the minor from a house on Durga Charan Mitra Street. Police sources said the girl had allegedly been brought from North 24 Parganas to Kolkata by her boyfriend, identified as Shafikul Molla alias Bablu.

According to investigators, Bablu allegedly lured the girl into coming to Kolkata and subsequently handed her over to another youth, identified as Shah Rukh, whose real name is Shah Rul Laskar. Police suspect that the girl was allegedly sold to Shah Rukh, who was keeping her under his supervision in Son-

agachi. Both Bablu and Shah Rukh have been arrested in connection with the case. Police are investigating whether Bablu acted as a middleman in the alleged trafficking network and are also examining Shah Rukh's exact role.

After receiving the Dial 100 complaint, Burtolla police immediately conducted searches at several houses in the Sonagachi area. During the operation, the girl was found inside a room at a house on Durga Charan Mitra Street. Police verified her identity and other details before taking her to safety. Investigators are now trying to determine the extent of the alleged trafficking network and whether other people were involved. They are also examining whether the accused had targeted or exploited other minors.

Cases have been registered against the two arrested youths under several sections, including criminal conspiracy, rape and kidnapping of a child. Police are questioning the accused to establish the sequence of events and identify any other members of the suspected network.

10 Children Die in Two Days at North Bengal Med College, Referral System Under Scanner

MI News Service, Kolkata:

Ten children died at North Bengal Medical College and Hospital over two consecutive days, triggering concern and prompting the hospital authorities to launch a detailed review to determine whether any lapse or deficiency in treatment contributed to the deaths. Doctors overseeing the cases have primarily pointed to irregular referral practices and delays in transferring critically ill children, rather than deficiencies in the hospital's own infrastructure, as major factors behind the situation.

Given the seriousness of the incident, a high-level review meeting was held on Friday under the leadership of Medical College principal Sujoy Mistry. Hospital superintendent Kaushik Ishore, additional superintendent Nandan Bandyopadhyay, assistant superintendents, paediatric specialists and nursing staff attended the meeting. The medical team examined the circumstances surrounding each of the 10 deaths. According to the principal, only one of the de-

ceased children had been born at North Bengal Medical College and Hospital. The remaining nine had been referred in extremely critical condition from government hospitals and private nursing homes in Bihar and neighbouring districts. Most of the children were reportedly premature and were suffering from multiple health complications. The principal also raised concerns over the manner in which critically ill patients are being transferred. He alleged that children are sometimes sent directly to the medical college without checking in advance whether beds or ventilators are available.

More seriously, he claimed that some private nursing homes continue treating critically ill children for eight to 10 days and refer them to the medical college only after their conditions deteriorate sharply. By that stage, doctors at the government hospital may have very little time to undertake life-saving interventions.

Parking Facility Work Begins at Kanchenjunga Stadium Fairground in Siliguri

MI News Service, Siliguri:

Work has commenced to develop a parking facility at the fairground of Kanchenjunga Stadium in Siliguri as part of efforts to ease the city's growing parking pressure. The initiative follows a proposal by Siliguri MLA and state minister Shankar Ghosh to utilise the stadium fairground as a designated parking area. The proposed facility is expected to provide additional space for vehicles and help reduce congestion caused by roadside parking in different parts of the city. On Saturday, workers began dismantling a portion of the

boundary wall to create a wider and more convenient access point for vehicles. The modification is aimed at ensuring smoother entry and exit and facilitating better movement within the proposed parking area. A trial operation is also scheduled to begin on Saturday. During the trial, officials will examine the arrangements for vehicle entry, parking and exit. The exercise is expected to help authorities identify possible problems related to traffic movement, vehicle management and space utilisation before the facility becomes fully operational.

Abhishek Banerjee's Aide Appears Before CID in Land Fraud Case

MI News Service, Kolkata:

Sumit Roy, an aide of TMC leader Abhishek Banerjee, appeared before the West Bengal CID on Saturday in connection with an alleged land fraud case in Paschim Medinipur's Salboni, officials said. Roy appeared at the CID headquarters at Bhawani Bhawan after the Supreme Court granted him interim protection from arrest until August 14, subject to his cooperation with the investigation.

The court has directed Roy to remain available for questioning between 10 am and 6 pm whenever required and ordered that no lawyer or other person accompany him during interrogation.

A senior CID officer said the agency was examining the allegations and collecting relevant documents. All claims would be verified against available



evidence before further legal action is taken, the officer said. The CID had been searching for Roy following the arrest of former TMC MLA Sujoy Hazra in the Salboni land case. Roy had approached the courts seeking anticipatory bail after his plea was rejected by the Calcutta High Court.

Police had earlier searched Abhishek Banerjee's Diamond Harbour residence in June while looking for Roy, but he was not found there. He is also named in a separate job-for-money case registered in Debra.

18-Year-Old Swept Away in Delhi Drain Amid Heavy Rain, Search Operation Underway

MI News Service, Delhi:

An 18-year-old youth went missing after being swept away by a strong current in a rainwater-filled drain near Priyanka Camp in Delhi's Aali Village on Friday night. The incident occurred within the jurisdiction of Sarita Vihar police station as heavy rainfall lashed Delhi-NCR.

According to police, the youth, identified as Ankit, was returning home from Noida when he reportedly lost his footing on a water-logged road and fell into the drain. The heavy downpour had caused the water level to rise sharply, creating a powerful current that swept him away. Delhi Police said they received information about the incident at Sarita Vihar police station on August 7. The matter was assigned to Sub-Inspector Roshan Lal, who immediately reached the spot along with his team. They found the complainant, Manish, son of Raj Kishore and a resident of Bhim Colony in Aali Vihar. During questioning,

Manish told police that his friend Ankit, son of Sunil and also a resident of Bhim Colony, was returning from Noida when he slipped because of the accumulated rainwater. Police said Ankit was swept into the Priyanka Camp drain after losing his balance near the water-logged stretch. The rapid flow made it difficult for him to regain control or reach safety. Local residents who witnessed the incident reportedly attempted to rescue the youth and raised an alarm, seeking assistance from people nearby. However, the force of the water prevented them from reaching him.

Following the alert, Sarita Vihar police launched a search operation at the site. Rescue personnel from the DDMA East Rescue Team and the Delhi Fire Service were also deployed to locate the missing youth. Teams continued their search through the night and into the following day but failed to find Ankit.

Kolkata Traffic Advisory Issued Ahead of Monday's 'Har Ghar Tiranga' Rally

MI News Service, Kolkata:

Kolkata Police have issued a traffic advisory ahead of a mega rally scheduled for Monday as part of the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign, with nearly 50,000 people expected to participate. The rally will begin from the foot of the Netaji Statue at Esplanade, prompting authorities to anticipate traffic disruptions across central Kolkata.

Traffic movement around the Maidan, Red Road and adjoining areas is likely to be affected significantly during the rally. Parking will also be prohibited along several important stretches, including Kingsway, Auckland Road, Strand Road and R R Avenue.

In view of the expected gathering, Kolkata Police have advised com-



muters to check traffic conditions and plan their routes accordingly before travelling on Monday.

Movement of vehicles approaching or passing through the Maidan area may be restricted along Kingsway, R R Avenue, Plassey Gate Road, Mayo Road, Jawaharlal Nehru Road, Cathedral Road, Queensway, Red Road, Khidirpur Road, Lovers Lane and Casuarina Avenue. Police said vehicles

could be diverted from major roads as well as connecting lanes depending on the movement and size of the crowd. Such diversions may result in considerable congestion in central Kolkata and areas surrounding the Maidan.

Restrictions will also be imposed on the movement of commercial goods vehicles on several major routes. These include Vidyasagar Setu, also

known as the Second Hooghly Bridge; A J C Bose Road between the Lenin Sarani/Moulai crossing and Hastings; St George's Gate Road; and Strand Road up to Raja Woodmunt Street.

Commercial goods vehicles will also face restrictions on C R Avenue in the southbound direction from the G C Avenue crossing, Jawaharlal Nehru Road and S P Mukherjee Road between the Rashbehari Avenue crossing and Exide crossing. The police have advised motorists to avoid the affected stretches wherever possible and use alternative routes to minimise delays. Commuters travelling through central Kolkata have also been urged to allow additional time for their journeys.

Fresh Low-Pressure System Likely Over BoB, Heavy Rain Forecast in Bengal

MI News Service, Kolkata:

A fresh low-pressure area is likely to develop over the Bay of Bengal and adjoining Gangetic West Bengal within the next 24 hours, triggering spells of heavy rain in several districts of south Bengal. The sea is also expected to remain rough, prompting authorities to advise fishermen against venturing into the sea until Saturday. According to the weather department, the system is likely to form over the northwest Bay of Bengal on Saturday under the influence of a cyclonic circulation over Bangladesh and Gangetic West Bengal. The low-pressure area is expected to extend over Gangetic West Bengal and move towards north Odisha, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh within the following 48 hours. The monsoon trough remains active along the south Bengal coast and extends from the region near Kanthi towards the east-central Bay



of Bengal. Another low-pressure area has developed over Uttar Pradesh, while cyclonic circulations are present over Jharkhand and Assam.

The Met office has warned of rough sea conditions along the West Bengal coast. Winds over the north Bay of Bengal may reach speeds of up to 55 kmph. Fishermen have therefore been advised to remain away from the sea along the north Bay and adjoining West Bengal and Odisha coasts. South Bengal is expected to experience generally cloudy skies

with scattered rain and thunderstorms. A yellow warning for heavy rain has been issued for six districts on Saturday — Bankura, Purulia, Paschim Medinipur, Jhargram, Paschim Bardhaman and Birbhum. Kolkata and the remaining districts are likely to receive scattered showers accompanied by lightning. Gusts of 30-40 kmph may also occur in some areas. On Sunday, a yellow warning for thunderstorms and rain has been issued for South 24 Parganas, Purba Medinipur, Purba and

Paschim Bardhaman, Birbhum and Murshidabad. Gusty winds of 30-40 kmph are also likely.

Rainfall activity is expected to decrease gradually across south Bengal on Sunday and Monday. However, another spell of heavy rain is forecast from Tuesday to Thursday, when a yellow alert has been issued for North 24 Parganas, South 24 Parganas, Purba Medinipur and Paschim Medinipur. Meanwhile, rainfall activity is expected to increase in north Bengal from Sunday. A yellow warning for heavy rain will remain in force in several northern districts until Monday. The intensity and spread of rainfall are likely to decline from Tuesday.

The weather department has advised residents and fishermen to remain alert as the developing system could lead to strong winds, heavy showers and rough sea conditions over the coming days.

Delhi Police Detain Seven African Nationals Over Alleged Visa Overstay

MI News Service, Delhi:

Delhi Police have detained seven African nationals, including five Nigerians and two Ghanaians, during an intelligence-led verification drive targeting foreign nationals suspected of overstaying in India, an officer said on Saturday. Teams from Panday Nagar Police Station carried out discreet inquiries, collected local information and checked available records before tracing the foreign nationals whose immigration status required further verification. Four of the individuals were detained on August 4. They were identified as Nigerian nationals Osinia Nkemen, 54, Ngota Cynthia, 38, James, 25, and Livy Otughana, 27. During the verification process, police found that Cynthia had previously been named in a

criminal case registered by the Narcotics Control Bureau in Bengaluru in 2021. Court proceedings in connection with that case are reportedly still pending.

In a separate operation, another police team detained three more Nigerian nationals from the Smapur area of Patparganj. They were identified as Kelechi Cornelius, 32, Okechukwu Solomon, 36, and Chukwudi Alison, 43.

According to police, the names of Cornelius and Solomon were listed among foreign nationals reported to have overstayed their permitted period of stay in India. Their immigration records were subsequently examined as part of the verification process. After completing the required formalities and documentation, all seven detained for-

eign nationals were produced before the Foreigners Regional Registration Office (FRRO) in Delhi. The FRRO subsequently issued restriction orders against them under applicable provisions of the Immigration and Foreigners Act, 2025. Under the orders, their movement has been restricted to Sewa Sadan at Lampur in Narela until further proceedings are completed. Police said the action was taken as part of an ongoing effort to identify foreign nationals whose immigration or visa status requires verification and to ensure compliance with applicable laws. Following the FRRO's directions, deportation proceedings against all seven individuals have been initiated in coordination with the concerned authorities.

LPG Consumers Must Complete e-KYC by August 15 to Continue Regular Cylinder Bookings

MI News Service, Kolkata: LPG consumers have been asked to complete their e-KYC by August 15 to continue booking domestic cooking gas cylinders through the regular process. Consumers who fail to complete the verification may have to purchase LPG from the open market, where prices are significantly higher.

Customers can complete e-KYC online through the respective apps of the three major oil companies — Indian Oil One, HelloBPCL and HP Pay. After downloading the relevant app, consumers need to select the e-KYC option and complete the process through facial recognition. Those unable to complete the verification online can visit their LPG distributor's office. E-KYC can be completed there through facial recognition or retina scanning. For elderly consumers and those with mobility



difficulties, LPG distributors may arrange for personnel to visit their homes for biometric verification. Consumers seeking a change of name must complete the required formalities before e-KYC. If the heir is a child, the necessary documents have to be submitted at

the distributor's office. If another relative applies, the consumer's consent will also be required.

For a change of address, consumers must obtain a Termination and Transfer Voucher from the existing distributor and submit it to the new distributor. The e-KYC

should be completed after the name or address is updated. Without e-KYC, consumers may have to buy cylinders from the open market. In Kolkata, a 14.2-kg domestic cylinder currently costs around Rs 968, while a commercial cylinder costs about Rs 1,873. Ujjwala beneficiaries receive a subsidy of Rs 300, which may also be unavailable without e-KYC.

Oil companies have reportedly asked distributors to speed up the verification process. Around 93-95 per cent of consumers have already completed e-KYC. According to the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, the verification is intended to prevent subsidised domestic LPG cylinders from being diverted to hotels, restaurants and industries. Authorities believe such misuse contributes to artificial shortages and delays in cylinder supplies to genuine household consumers.

Study finds out link between nighttime heart rhythm, stroke

Bern [Switzerland] : New research has uncovered a powerful link between nighttime heart rhythm and future health conditions, even in people with no obvious sleep problems.

The study, conducted at the Department of Neurology, Inselspital, the University Hospital of Bern, examined 4,170 people over a 13-year period and discovered that heart rate variability (HRV) during sleep can be a powerful early warning sign of future health conditions such as stroke, depression, and cognitive dysfunction.

HRV reflects the fluctuation of time intervals between heartbeats.2 HRV adjusts constantly in response to the physical and emotional demands of the body. During the day, HRV is physiologically high, corresponding to high levels of activity. At night, and especially during deep sleep, HRV typically reduces, reflecting a shift into a rest and repair mode, where the body focuses on recovery and recharging for the next day.

The research found that certain HRV patterns were linked to future health conditions. Participants who later developed stroke often showed unusually high and erratic HRV. In contrast, low HRV was common in those who further developed depression. High HRV with altered frequency patterns were also observed in individuals who later developed metabolic diseases. Similarly, cardiovascular and endocrine diseases were also associated with high HRV. "HRV matters for brain and overall health because it reflects how well the body regulates itself - primarily through the activity of the autonomic nervous system", explained the lead author of the study, Irina Filchenko, MD, PhD. "This sys-



The findings of the study also raise the possibility of using wearable technology to monitor HRV patterns over time. While current consumer devices vary in accuracy and interpretability, experts believe future improvements could allow people to track changes in HRV as part of regular health monitoring. The research adds to growing evidence that sleep is a critical pillar of long-term health, and that subtle patterns could offer a window of opportunity to prevent serious disease. "The broader message is that sleep is not just a passive state of rest -- it is an active, dynamic process that plays a vital role in maintaining long-term health, especially brain health. Our findings reinforce the idea that primary prevention matters, and that health problems start long before the clinical symptoms appear", concluded Dr Filchenko.

tem controls vital unconscious processes such as breathing, digestion and muscle tone, helping the body maintain balance and adapt to internal and external demands."

"While many people are familiar with tracking sleep stages or total sleep time, nocturnal HRV provides a

unique window into how the body functions during sleep. This is especially important because sleep is a critical time for many physiological processes underlying long-term health, such as cellular repair, memory consolidation, and the clearance of metabolic waste from the brain."

Importantly, researchers believe that HRV could act as an early physiological marker, demonstrating subtle changes in body functioning before traditional symptoms or diagnoses appear. This could open the door to prevention and early intervention for diseases like Alzheimer's or stroke, where timely action can improve patient outcomes. Dr Filchenko noted, "Some participants had 'normal' sleep according to traditional criteria, with little sleep fragmentation and the expected balance of sleep stages. However, HRV told a different story, picking up risks that the common sleep metrics missed. This suggests we need to rethink how we define and measure optimal sleep."

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Hypertension guidelines do not include potassium-enriched salt : Study

NEW SOUTH WALES [AUSTRALIA] : An international panel of experts published a suggestion in the scientific journal Hypertension published by the American Heart Association, calling for the inclusion of low-sodium potassium-enriched salt in hypertension therapy guidelines. High levels of sodium intake and low levels of potassium intake are widespread, and both are linked to high blood pressure (hypertension) and a greater risk of stroke, heart disease and premature death. Using a salt substitute where part of the sodium chloride is replaced with potassium chloride addresses both problems at once. Professor Alta Schutte at The George Institute for Global Health and UNSW Sydney said that despite data from randomised controlled trials demonstrating the health benefits of potassium-enriched, sodium-reduced salt substitutes, they are rarely used. "We found current clinical guidelines offer incomplete and inconsistent recommendations about the use of these salt substitutes," she said.

"Given the wealth of evidence available, we feel it's time to include salt substitutes in treatment guidelines to help address spiralling rates of uncontrolled high blood pressure around the world and reduce preventable deaths." Potassium-enriched salt can be used as a direct replacement for regular salt (sodium chloride) when seasoning, preserving or manufacturing foods. Importantly, while other salt reduction strategies make foods taste less salty, switching to potassium-enriched salt is undetectable by most people.

"Unwanted taste effects are the main reason why efforts to reduce salt intake have failed for more than two decades. The willingness of patients to keep using potassium-enriched salt removes that barrier, which is why it can be a game-changer," Prof Schutte added.

A global collaboration of researchers



from the US, Australia, Japan, South Africa and India reviewed 32 separate hypertension treatment guidelines - two from global organisations, five from regional organisations and 25 from country organisations - published between 1 January 2013 and 21 June 2023. They found all guidelines referred to sodium reduction, with most recommending reducing salt intake. Many also recommended increasing dietary potassium intake, but only two - the Chinese and European guidelines - made a specific recommendation for using potassium-enriched salt. Dr Tom Frieden, President and CEO of Resolve to Save Lives, a global public health organisation focused on preventing 100 million deaths from cardiovascular disease, said that the number of people living with hypertension had doubled in the past 30 years to about 1.3 billion.

"High blood pressure kills more than ten million people every year - almost 20 people every minute. Twenty percent of these deaths can be linked to a single culprit: eating too much salt," he said. "Based on the evidence, there is little doubt that most patients with hypertension and their families should reduce their overall salt intake and, when choosing to consume salt, should switch from regular salt to potassium-enriched salt. This will help reduce blood pressure and protect against serious complications such as stroke and premature death."

Depression symptoms are lessened by social media interventions: Study

ENGLAND [UK] : According to a recent study by UCL researchers, receiving therapy for problematic social media use can be effective in improving the mental well-being of people with depression.

The research, published in the Journal of Medical Internet Research, found that social media use interventions could help adults for whom social media use has become problematic or interferes with their mental health.

Problematic use occurs when a person's preoccupation with social media diverts them from important duties and causes them to overlook obligations in other areas of their life.

According to prior research, social media use can become problematic when it begins to negatively impact a person's everyday life and results in mental health problems like sadness, anxiety, tension, and loneliness.

To address these issues, and improve users' mental health, social media use interventions have been developed and evaluated by researchers. Such techniques include abstaining from or limiting the use of social media, alongside therapy-based techniques such as Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT).

The researchers analysed 23 studies which featured participants from across the globe, between 2004 and 2022. They found that in more than a third of studies (39 per cent), social media use interventions improved mental well-being.

Improvements were particularly notable in depression (low mood), as 70 per cent of studies saw a significant improvement in depression following the intervention. Therapy-based interventions were most effective - improving mental wellbeing in 83 per cent of studies, compared to 20 per cent of studies finding an improvement where social media use was limited and 25 per cent where

social media was given up entirely.

Lead author, Dr Ruth Plackett (UCL Institute of Epidemiology & Health), said, "Mental health issues are on the rise, as is the number of people who use social media.

"Health and care professionals should be aware that reducing time spent on social media is unlikely to benefit mental well-being on its own.

"Instead, taking a more therapy-based approach and reflecting on how and why we are interacting with social media and managing those behaviours could help improve mental health."

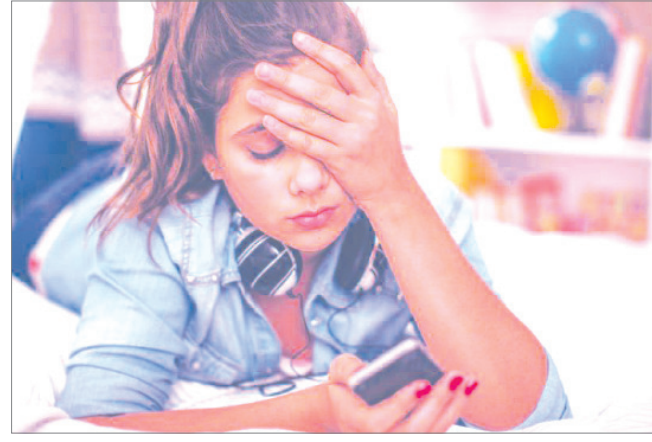
Study author and GP Dr Patricia Schartau (UCL Institute of Epidemiology & Health), added, "As primary care physicians, we should proactively explore social media use and its effects on mental health in patients who present with anxiety and/or low mood in order to give those patients the opportunity to benefit from treatment including some of the more effective interventions outlined in our review."

In 2022 it was estimated that 4.59 billion people globally used at least one form of social media and the sites have dramatically changed how people communicate, form relationships and perceive each other.

While some studies report that social media can be beneficial to users and provide them with increased social support, other evidence links social media with depression, anxiety and other psychological problems - particularly in young people.

The researchers hope that their findings will help to develop guidance and recommendations for policymakers and clinicians on how best to manage problematic social media use.

However, further research is needed in order to investigate who may benefit most from social media use interventions.



Study finds how body's invisible scalpel removes brain cancer

LA JOLLA (CALIFORNIA) : Glioblastoma, the most prevalent and lethal type of brain cancer, spreads quickly, invading and destroying healthy brain tissue. The tumour shoots malignant tendrils into the brain, making surgical removal of the tumour extremely difficult or impossible.

Salk researchers have discovered that the immunotherapy drug anti-CTLA-4 significantly improves survival in mice with glioblastoma. Furthermore, they observed that this therapy was dependent on immune cells known as CD4+ T cells invading the brain and activating the tumor-destructive actions of other immune cells known as microglia, which live in the brain permanently.

The findings, which were published in Immunity, demonstrate the benefit of using the body's own immune cells to attack brain cancer and could lead to more successful immunotherapies for treating brain cancer in humans.

"There are currently no effective treatments for glioblastoma-a diagnosis today is basically a death sentence," says Professor Susan Kaech, senior author and director of the NOMIS Center for Immunobiology and Microbial Pathogenesis. "We're extremely excited to find an immunotherapy regimen that uses the mouse's own immune cells to fight the brain cancer and leads to considerable shrinkage, and in some cases elimination, of the tumor."

When standard cancer treatments like surgery, chemotherapy, and radiation cease to be effective, doctors increasingly turn to immunotherapy. Immunotherapy encour-



ages the body's own immune cells to seek and destroy cancer cells. Though not universal, immunotherapy works on many tumors and has provided many patients with strong, long lasting anti-cancer responses. Kaech wanted to find new ways of harnessing the immune system to develop more safe and durable treatments for brain cancer.

Her team found three cancer-fighting tools that have been somewhat overlooked in brain cancer research that may cooperate and effectively attack glioblastoma: an immunotherapy drug called anti-CTLA-4 and specialized immune cells called CD4+ T cells and microglia.

Anti-CTLA-4 immunotherapy works by blocking cells from making the CTLA-4 protein, which, if not blocked, inhibits T cell activity. It was the first immunotherapy drug designed to stimulate our immune system to fight cancer, but it was quickly followed by



another, anti-PD-1, that was less toxic and became more widely used. Whether anti-CTLA-4 is an effective treatment for glioblastoma remains unknown since anti-PD-1 took precedence in clinical trials. Unfortunately, anti-PD-1 was found to be ineffective in multiple clinical trials for glioblastoma-a failure that inspired Kaech to see whether anti-CTLA-4 would be any different. As for the specialized immune cells, CD4+ T cells are often overlooked in cancer research in favor of a similar immune cell, the CD8+ T cell, because CD8+ T cells are known to directly kill cancer cells. Microglia live in the brain full time, where they patrol for invaders and respond to damage-whether they play any role in tumor death was not clear. First, the researchers compared the life spans of mice with glioblastoma when treated with anti-CTLA-4 versus anti-PD-1. After discovering that blocking CTLA-4 prolonged their life

spans considerably, but blocking PD-1 did not, the team moved on to figure out what made that outcome possible. They found that after anti-CTLA-4 treatment, CD4+ T cells secreted a protein called interferon gamma that caused the tumor to throw up "stress flags" while simultaneously alerting microglia to start eating up those stressed tumor cells. As they gobbled up the tumor cells, the microglia would present scraps of tumor on their surface to keep the CD4+ T cells attentive and producing more interferon gamma-creating a cycle that repeats until the tumor is destroyed.

"Our study demonstrates the promise of anti-CTLA-4 and outlines a novel process where CD4+ T cells and other brain-resident immune cells team up to kill cancerous cells," says co-first author Dan Chen, a postdoctoral researcher in Kaech's lab.

To understand the role of microglia in this cycle, the researchers collaborated with co-author and Salk Professor Greg Lemke, holder of the Franoise Giot-Salk Chair. For decades, Lemke has investigated critical molecules, called TAM receptors, used by microglia to send and receive crucial messages. The researchers found that TAM receptors told microglia to gobble up cancer cells in this novel cycle.

"We were stunned by this novel codependency between microglia and CD4+ T cells," says co-first author Siva Karthik Varanasi, a postdoctoral researcher in Kaech's lab. "We are already excited about so many new biological questions and therapeutic solutions that could radically change treatment for deadly cancers like glioblastoma."

Study reveals how intake of ultra-processed foods associated with increased risk of death

CHICAGO : Older persons who reported consuming more ultra-processed foods were nearly 10 per cent more likely to die after a median follow-up of 23 years than older adults who reported consuming less processed food, according to a recent study.

The results are drawn from a sizable study that followed more than 500,000 persons in the United States for about thirty years. The findings showed that consuming more ultra-processed foods was linked to slight increases in deaths from heart disease and diabetes, as well as deaths from all causes. However, there was no correlation observed in deaths from cancer.

"Our study results support a larger body of literature, including both observational and experimental studies, which indicate that ultra-processed food intake adversely impacts health and longevity," said Eriikka Loftfield, PhD, Stadtman Investigator at the National Cancer Institute. "However, there is still a lot that we don't know, including what aspects of ultra-processed foods pose potential health risks."

Loftfield will present the findings at NUTRITION 2024, the flagship annual meeting of the American Society for Nutrition held June 29 to July 2 in Chicago.

The research drew data from more than 540,000 people who provided information



about their eating habits and health in the mid-1990s, when they were between 50 and 71 years of age. Over half of the participants have since died. The researchers analyzed overall rates of death among those who were in the 90th percentile for consumption of ultra-processed foods at baseline versus those in the 10th percentile, and also looked at associations

with specific foods and specific diseases.

"We observed that highly processed meat and soft drinks were a couple of the subgroups of ultra-processed food most strongly associated with mortality risk and eating a diet low in these foods is already recommended for disease prevention and health promotion," said Loftfield. The Dietary Guidelines for Americans recom-

mend limiting sugar-sweetened beverages and processed meats such as hot dogs, sausages and deli meat. For this study, researchers used multiple strategies to classify the level of processing for various food items. This included breaking down food frequency questionnaire data into particular food and ingredient types in addition to incorporating expert consensus to categorize dietary components according to a rubric known as the NOVA classification system.

The researchers also accounted for other factors that can increase a person's risk of death, such as smoking and obesity. They found that people who consumed more ultra-processed foods also tended to have higher body mass index and a lower Healthy Eating Index score (a measure of diet quality based on how closely a person's diet aligns with the Dietary Guidelines for Americans). However, the analysis showed that the associations between ultra-processed food consumption and increased mortality were not explained by these variables, as the associations between higher ultra-processed food intake and mortality risk persisted among people categorized as having better or worse diet quality as well as among those classified as normal weight or obese.

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US Senate passes sanctions bill that may penalise countries, including India



MI News Service, Washington: The Senate overwhelmingly approved a punishing Russian sanctions package Friday, the result of a yearlong campaign by the late Sen. Lindsey Graham to reinforce U.S. support for Ukraine and try to force President Vladimir Putin's hand as the grinding war drags on.

The bipartisan legislation, which passed 86-11, would penalize countries that continue to buy Russian oil, gas and other exports seeking to deprive Putin of revenues fueling the war. It comes after Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy visited the Capitol last week following Graham's funeral, met with senators from both parties and watched from the gallery as the Senate took the first procedural votes.

"Today, President Zelenskyy is watching from Ukraine — and Putin is watching from Moscow," said Sen. Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn., who had worked with the late South Carolina senator on the package.

"I would like to think Lindsey Graham is watching, too," he said. "Today we say to the people of Ukraine: You are not alone. And today we say to Vladimir Putin: You will not conquer Ukraine."

The sweeping show of force from the Senate is the most substantial move yet during President Donald Trump's second

term to shift the dynamic of the four-year war, which has now churned longer than World War I. Congress has struggled to ensure the flow of U.S. funding and munitions to Ukraine, but Trump has given a nod to the package, which includes his push for sanctions on Iran, pressuring the House to pass and send it for his signature.

Graham and Blumenthal had announced a deal with the White House on the sanctions legislation on July 10 after more than a year of negotiations with the White House. Graham, who had just returned from Ukraine, died suddenly the next day, likely from an aortic tear.

The bipartisan package allows the president to impose tariffs on the world's top five purchasers of Russian oil or natural gas, including China and India. It provides exceptions for countries that import less than 15% of their natural gas from Russia and are taking steps to reduce those imports.

The legislation also includes sanctions on Putin, senior Russian political and military leaders, Russian financial institutions and Russian energy projects. It would expand U.S. sanctions to target older, re-flagged oil tankers that Russia uses to circumvent existing U.S. sanctions on Russian oil and energy revenues. The bill also allows the White House to waive sanctions or restrictions if the president certifies to Congress that it's in the national interest.

Democrats and some Republicans have been wary of giving Trump broad authority to slap tariffs on imports that have spiked prices for goods, worried about inflationary costs for Americans. Those voting against the final package were mostly progressive Democrats.

Sen. Darline Graham, R-S.C., who was appointed by the state's governor to fill her brother's seat, said she was honored to carry on his work. "This legislation hits Putin where it hurts," she said.

Unknown drone explodes near major gas pipeline in Bulgaria



MI News Service, Sofia: Bulgarian Prime Minister Rumen Radev on Saturday confirmed that an unidentified drone exploded not too far from a Trans-Balkan gas pipeline near the former Kardam border checkpoint close to Romania, local media reported.

According to Radev, the drone exploded just one kilometre away from a compressor station of the Trans-Balkan gas pipeline, near the former Kardam border checkpoint, after entering Bulgarian Airspace from Romania.

"Noise made by the drone was detected by Romanian border police, and a loud explosion was subsequently heard by the 'General Toshevo' border police patrol," Radev told reporters.

He also noted that both Bulgarian and Romanian authorities had failed to detect the drone as it made its way through the airspaces of two countries. He added that increased surveillance operations will be put in place in the region from now on.

To identify the type of drone involved in the explosion, an investigation has been launched into the incident.

In July, three drones that

entered Romanian airspace without authorisation were shot down in three separate incidents.

According to the Ministry of National Defence of Romania, the third drone was shot down 12 km northeast of Sulina, within Romania's territorial waters.

According to the investigation conducted by the General Prosecutor's Office, one of the drones shot down is of the Shahed type, used by Russia against Ukraine.

After the incident, Romania's Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) declared a member of the Russian Embassy in Bucharest undesirable (persona non grata) and ordered the member to leave the country.

The Foreign Ministry also summoned the Ambassador of Russia to its headquarters upon the instructions of Romanian Foreign Minister Oana-Silvia Tuiu.

During the meeting, the Romanian side expressed its firm protest against these "illegal and irresponsible" actions and emphasised the clear attribution of responsibility.

"The summoning came as a firm response to the repeated violations of Romania's airspace between 24 and 26 July 2026, during which the Romanian Armed Forces downed three drones that entered national territory without authorisation. The Russian diplomat was presented with fragments of a drone destroyed on Romanian territory, components which official prosecutor investigations have confirmed to be of Russian origin," the ministry stated on X.

Iran targets Abu Dhabi National Oil Company tanker with missiles in Strait of Hormuz

MI News Service, Abu Dhabi: The United Arab Emirates (UAE) on Saturday condemned the Iranian attack on an Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) tanker as it transited the Strait of Hormuz.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the UAE, in a statement, noted that this attack constitutes a flagrant violation of UN Security Council Resolution 2817, which emphasises freedom of navigation and rejects targeting commercial vessels or disrupting international maritime routes.

ADNOC is the state-owned oil company of Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates and one of the largest oil companies in the world by production.

"The Ministry stressed that targeting commercial shipping and using the Strait of Hormuz as a tool for economic pressure or blackmail constitutes an 'act of piracy' by the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) and poses a direct threat to the stability of the region and its people, as well as to global energy security," read a statement.

According to it, the UAE also emphasised the necessity for Iran to cease these 'aggressive attacks,' ensuring its full commitment to halting all hostile acts and the complete and unconditional reopening of the Strait.

Meanwhile, Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian has reaffirmed the country's commitment to pursuing dialogue to safeguard its rights, while emphasising that Tehran will not be forced to surrender.

Russia strikes Ukrainian capital, four killed

MI News Service, Kyiv: Four people, including a child, were killed in Russian attacks on the Ukrainian capital, Kyiv, and the surrounding region, local officials said Saturday, as Ukraine hit another oil refinery in Russia.

Residents endure regular drone and missile barrages that Kyiv's depleted air defenses are struggling to counter amid Moscow's 4-year-old full-scale invasion, while repeated Ukrainian strikes on oil facilities have caused fuel shortages and rattled Russians.

Two grandparents and their 3-year-old grandson were killed after multiple Russian drones destroyed their home in the Brovary district of Kyiv region, northeast of the Ukrainian capital, Kyiv, early Saturday.

Three other members of the same family and a neighbor who came to their aid were hospitalized, local authorities said. The attack reduced the house to rubble and wrecked out buildings and cars.

In the city of Kyiv, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said at least one other person died in a "strike involving six ballistic missiles against civilian infrastructure."

In its daily report, Ukraine's air



force said it had downed or intercepted 135 of 151 drones launched by Russia overnight. The attack also involved six ballistic missiles and other guided missiles.

Russia has relentlessly pounded civilian areas of Ukraine, even though Moscow insists its forces target only military facilities.

Moscow is exploiting Ukraine's critical shortage of interceptors for the U.S.-made Patriot systems, the sole air defense weapon in its arsenal able to shoot down ballistic missiles.

Zelenskyy has pleaded with other countries, especially the

U.S., to send more of the ammunition made scarcer by the Iran war. Failing that, he wants to make Patriot ammunition in Ukraine or win permission from Elon Musk to use his Starlink satellite communications system to guide strikes inside Russia that can hit its missile launchers.

Following the latest attacks, Zelenskyy appealed on X for more sanctions to "prevent the production of these ballistic missiles," along with "anti-ballistic capabilities" and "interceptor missiles."

Ukraine's air defenses shot down around 5,300 drones and missiles last month, Ukraine's de-

fense ministry said Friday, just under 60% of the around 9,000 attack drones and missiles Russia fired in the same period.

In Russia, five people were wounded when a fire broke out at the Ilsky Oil Refinery in the southern Krasnodar region due to debris from a falling drone, local officials said.

Ukraine's almost daily long-range drone and missile strikes using domestically developed weapons have battered Russian oil facilities for months. The operation has brought a fuel crisis that is embarrassing the Kremlin.

The latest attacks came hours after Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy arrived Friday for his first official visit to Serbia, one of the few European countries that have maintained friendly relations with Russia despite its invasion of Ukraine.

"Important talks are scheduled for today and tomorrow," Zelenskyy said Friday. He added that he will meet with Vucic and Serbia's Prime Minister Djuro Macut.

"We will discuss expanding economic ties between our countries, relations with the European Union, and other areas where we can find practical opportunities that benefit our peoples, as well as security issues," Zelenskyy said.

Colombia's new president pledged to revive the country's oil and gas sector

MI News Service, Bogota:

Colombian President Abelardo de la Espiella on Friday pledged to revive the country's oil and gas sector, restore state-owned energy company Ecopetrol and strengthen the electricity system, arguing that energy security would be a cornerstone of his administration.

Speaking during his inauguration, de la Espiella said Colombia would pursue an energy transition — a shift away from oil, gas and coal toward cleaner energy sources such as wind and solar power — but insisted it must not come at the expense of the country's oil and gas industry.

"I believe in the energy transition," he said. "But that transition must be built from strength, not from weakness, from self-sufficiency and not from dependence."

The remarks reinforce a sharp shift from former President Gustavo Petro, who stopped awarding new oil and gas exploration contracts while pushing Colombia toward renewable energy and making protection of the Amazon a centerpiece of his environmental agenda. Just four months ago, Petro's government hosted an international summit in the Caribbean city of Santa Marta aimed at building.

The commitments echo promises de la Espiella made throughout his presidential campaign, when he repeatedly vowed to expand oil and gas production and reverse key elements of Petro's energy policy.

Calling energy security "a matter of national sovereignty," de la Espiella said Colombia could not expect long-term prosperity by leaving its natural resources undeveloped.

He said rebuilding Ecopetrol, Colombia's majority state-owned oil company and one of the country's largest sources of government revenue and export earnings, would be "a definitive and absolute priority" after accusing the previous administration of weakening the company.



Iran's supreme leader Mojtaba Khamenei in critical condition, claims Israeli media

MI News Service, Tel Aviv: Reports have surfaced in Israeli media claiming that Iranian Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei is in critical condition and has been rushed to a hospital.

According to media reports, rumours that Khamenei is in an "extremely critical condition" are circulating widely at the highest levels of the regime.

Khamenei assumed the position of Supreme Leader shortly after his father was killed in joint US-Israeli military strikes on February 28, 2026. Since taking office, he has not made any public appearances and has communicated exclusively through written statements.

Reports indicate he was injured and potentially disfigured in the initial strikes that targeted his father's compound, forcing him into hiding and compelling him to communicate with senior regime figures through a slow network of intermediaries to avoid targeting.

Adding to the speculation surrounding his status, President Masoud Pezeshkian acknowledged in a state TV interview that direct interaction with Khamenei is currently "very difficult."

International and regional reports have repeatedly questioned his physical location and capacity. In July, a Saudi news outlet, citing an Israeli security source, claimed that Khamenei was "not in Iran."

Around the same time, US President Donald Trump asserted in an interview that Iran's top military leadership had been eliminated, claiming that Khamenei was "90% gone" and incapacitated following the military campaign.



Iranian state officials have previously downplayed the severity of his initial injuries, but the persistent lack of live appearances or direct public addresses continues to fuel intense regional and international speculation regarding his health and leadership stability.

While Western and opposition intelligence sources have frequently suggested that he sustained severe or disfiguring injuries, leading to his total absence from live public appearances and reliance solely on written statements, Iranian state officials have offered contrasting accounts.

Representatives from Iran's Health Ministry previously characterised his initial injuries as superficial, and senior officials have maintained that he continues to provide strategic oversight and operational directives for the country.

Regulation Of Trains Due To Developmental Works In Adra Division

MI News Service, Kolkata, August 8, 2026 : In view of developmental works in Adra Division, the following trains will be regulated as under:

Cancellation of Trains:
(1) 68046/68045 Asansol-Adra-Asansol MEMU on 10.08.2026, 13.08.2026, 14.08.2026 and 16.08.2026.
(2) 68090/68089 Adra-Midnapore-Adra MEMU on 11.08.2026, 14.08.2026 and 16.08.2026.
(3) 68077/68078 Adra-Bhaga-Adra MEMU on 16.08.2026.
(4) 63594/63593 Asansol-Purulia-Asansol MEMU on 10.08.2026, 12.08.2026 and 13.08.2026.
(5) 68023/68024 Jhargram-Purulia-Jhargram MEMU on 11.08.2026 and 13.08.2026.

(6) 68056 Tatanagar-Asansol MEMU on 16.08.2026.
Short Termination/Short Origination of Trains:
(1) 63594/63593 Asansol-Purulia-Asansol MEMU journey commencing on 11.08.2026, 14.08.2026 and 16.08.2026 will be short terminated at/short originated from Adra.
(2) 18116/18115 Chakradharpur-NSCB Gomoh-Chakradharpur MEMU Express journey commencing on 11.08.2026, 14.08.2026 and 16.08.2026 will be short terminated at/short originated from Mahuda.
(3) 68055/68056 Asansol-Tatanagar-Asansol MEMU journey commencing on 10.08.2026, 11.08.2026, 12.08.2026 and

13.08.2026 will be short terminated at/short originated from Adra.
(4) 68056 Tatanagar-Asansol MEMU journey commencing on 14.08.2026 will be short terminated at Adra.
(5) 68055 Asansol-Tatanagar MEMU journey commencing on 16.08.2026 will be short terminated at Adra.
(6) 68060 Asansol-Barabhum MEMU journey commencing on 14.08.2026 and 16.08.2026 will be short originated from Adra.
(7) 18035/18036 Kharagpur-Hatia-Kharagpur Express journey commencing on 10.08.2026, 12.08.2026 and 16.08.2026 will be short terminated at/short originated from Adra.

● **ECOR Records 81.40 Million Tonnes Freight Loading in First Four Months**
● **Khurda Road Division Contributes 59.02 MT, Rayagada 13.71 MT and Sambalpur 8.67 MT**
● **Newly Formed Rayagada Division Makes Strong Contribution to ECoR's Freight Performance**
MI News Service, Kolkata, August 8, 2026 : East Coast Railway has maintained a strong performance in freight transportation during the first four months of the financial year 2026-27. During the period from April to July 2026, ECoR recorded originating freight loading of 81.40 million tonnes (MT). The achievement reflects the sustained focus



of East Coast Railway on efficient freight operations, optimal utilisation of railway infrastructure and timely movement of freight traffic across its jurisdiction.

The performance assumes significance in the backdrop of the recent reorganisation of the railway network and the

formation of the new Rayagada Railway Division.

Among the divisions, Khurda Road Division handled 59.02 MT, while Rayagada Division recorded 13.71 MT and Sambalpur Division handled 8.67 MT during April-July 2026.

Makes Strong Contribution.

The newly formed Rayagada Railway Division has made a significant contribution to the freight performance of East Coast Railway. During April-July 2026, the division handled 13.71 MT of originating freight, reflecting its growing role in freight transportation within the reorganised railway network.

In July 2026 alone, Rayagada Division handled 3.14 MT of freight. Iron ore continued to be one of the major commodities handled by the division, with 2.28 MT loaded during the month. Bauxite loading stood at 0.19 MT.

Strong Freight Performance Across ECoR
During April-July 2026, East Coast Railway's freight loading comprised

59.02 MT by Khurda Road Division, 13.71 MT by Rayagada Division and 8.67 MT by Sambalpur Division, taking the Zone's total originating freight loading to 81.40 MT.

The performance highlights the coordinated efforts of the Operating, Commercial, Engineering, Mechanical, Electrical and other departments of East Coast Railway in ensuring smooth and efficient freight operations.

The General Manager, East Coast Railway, appreciated the dedicated efforts of officers and staff across the Zone and called upon all concerned to sustain the momentum in freight transportation, further improve operational efficiency and strengthen customer-oriented freight services.

Ashmita Chaliha storms into final of Korea Masters Super 300

NEW DELHI : India's Ashmita Chaliha showcased brilliant resilience to book her spot in the women's singles final of the Korea Masters Super 300, beating compatriot Rakshmitha Ramraj in the semifinal played at the Asan Yi Sun-sin Gymnasium in Asan, Korea, on Saturday.

In a thrilling all-Indian semifinal, Ashmita overcame compatriot Rakshitha 21-13, 16-21, 21-13.

After dropping a tight second game, Chaliha bounced back aggressively to dictate the decider, continuing the Indian contingent's stellar run at the tournament. She will now battle China's Han Qianxi for the title in the summit clash. The experienced

Ashmita had on Friday packed off top seed Hina Akechi of Japan 20-22, 21-15, 21-19. In the other quarterfinal match, Rakshitha got the better of Chinese Taipei Open champion Tanvi Sharma 18-21, 21-19, 21-18 in another gruelling quarterfinal clash.

Ashmita, the 26-year-old from Guwahati, Assam, and Rakshitha, who both ended up playing for over an hour in the quarterfinals, were the only Indian players still in the fray at the end of the quarterfinals. Ashmita will now face the winner of the clash between fourth seed Han Qian Xi of China and the unseeded Kim Ga Ram of South Korea. The men's doubles combination of Pruthvi K



Roy and Krishna Prasad G went down 21-7, 21-8 against Malaysia's Man Wei Chong and Soh Wooi Yik in the quarterfinals.

The BWF World Tour Super 300 Series event, which ends on Sunday, has a total prize fund of USD 250,000. The tournament was founded in 2007 and was held as an International Challenge-level tournament, the fourth level of international badminton tournaments, till 2010 before being converted into a BWF Grand Prix Gold event in 2011.

The Grand Prix Gold event ceased in 2017, and the Korea Masters became a part of the BWF World Tour Super 300.

Liverpool set to sign Barcelona defender Ronald Araujo on loan: Reports



LIVERPOOL : Liverpool have reached an agreement to sign Barcelona defender Ronald Araujo on a season-long loan, according to reports, as the Premier League club look to strengthen their options at centre-back ahead of the new season.

The 27-year-old Uruguay international is set to join Liverpool on a straight loan deal, with no permanent transfer option understood to be included in the agreement, according to Sky Sports.

Araujo, who joined Barcelona from Uruguay in 2018, progressed through the club's reserve side before making his senior debut in 2019. He has since made more than 200 appearances for the Catalan club and was also named among Barcelona's captains following the departure of Marc-Andre ter Stegen.

The move comes at a time when Liverpool are facing a shortage of experienced options in central defence. Ibrahima Konate has left the club to join Real Madrid, while new signing Jeremy

Jacquet is yet to feature in pre-season after recovering from shoulder surgery.

Jacquet, who arrived from Rennes this summer, is only 21 and has fewer than 100 senior appearances to his name. His lack of match fitness has added to Liverpool's concerns at the back.

Liverpool endured a challenging 2025-26 campaign, finishing 5th in the Premier League with 60 points from 38 matches (17 wins, 9 draws, 12 losses) to narrowly clinch Champions League qualification. They will also be without their talisman Mohammad Salah, who has left the club after nine successful years. Salah has joined Turkish club Trabzonspor.

Liverpool have also suffered an injury setback involving Joe Gomez, who picked up a muscle problem in the club's opening pre-season fixture. Teenage centre-back Giovanni Leoni remains sidelined while recovering from an ACL injury. The situation has left captain Virgil van Dijk as Liverpool's only fully fit senior centre-back, increasing the need for additional defensive cover.

Araujo featured in only 11 LaLiga matches for Barcelona last season after taking an extended break from football in November 2025. The defender later revealed that he had been recovering from depression during that period.

'SUPER PROUD OF YOU': NEERAJ CHOPRA CONGRATULATES ASHISH YADAV ON WINNING U20 WORLDS SILVER

NEW DELHI : Olympic medallist Neeraj Chopra has congratulated fellow Indian javelin thrower Ashish Yadav after his silver-medal finish at the World U20 Athletics Championships, calling the achievement particularly special from the perspective of a javelin thrower. Ashish secured the second spot in the men's javelin final with a best effort of 74.09 metres, which came in his third attempt. His performance earned India a podium finish at the global junior event. Chopra, who recently won a silver medal at the Commonwealth Games, took to X to applaud the teenager and backed him to achieve greater success in the future.

"Always a great feeling to see Indian athletes competing and winning at the International level; this one is a little more special for me as a javelin thrower. Super proud of you, Ashish, on your Silver at the U-20 Worlds; this is just the start!" Chopra wrote on X. South Africa's Heymans claimed the gold medal after producing a winning throw of 80.50 metres, while Dominica's James finished third with 73.89 metres. India had another representative in the javelin competition, with T. Dharanidharan ending the event in sixth position. His best effort measured 72.35 metres. Ashish's silver adds to India's growing presence in javelin at the junior level, a discipline that has been transformed by Chopra's achievements over the past decade. Chopra himself created history at the 2016 World U20 Championships by winning the javelin gold with a then-world junior record of 86.48 metres. He has since gone on to become India's most decorated track and field athlete, winning Olympic gold at Tokyo 2020 and silver at Paris 2024. He will now compete at the Lausanne Diamond League later this year. Neeraj will face stern competition from Sri Lanka's Ramesh Tharanga Pathirage, who won the gold medal in the men's javelin throw at the Commonwealth Games 2026 in Glasgow, Scotland, with a throw of 89.75 meters.



Hamstring injury rules Jemimah out of The Hundred, casts doubt over Asia Cup participation

LONDON : India batter Jemimah Rodrigues has been ruled out of the remainder of The Hundred due to a hamstring injury, which also places her participation in the upcoming Women's T20 Asia Cup in serious jeopardy.

Playing for Southern Brave in the 100-ball competition, Jemimah made 143 runs in six innings at an average of 35.75 and a strike rate of 131.19, before the hamstring injury cut short her time in the competition. The franchise has now signed Australian all-rounder Charli Knott as her replacement for the rest of the tournament.

"We can confirm that due to an injury suffered by Jemimah Rodrigues, we've signed Charli Knott as our injury replacement for the remainder of The Hundred. Wishing you a speedy recovery, Jemi," the franchise

announced in an official statement on Saturday.

The side is in second spot in the competition with 20 points and just behind table-toppers Trent Rockets. With the Women's T20 Asia Cup set to happen from August 28 to September 13 in Dubai, Jemimah's availability for the continental event will depend entirely on how quickly she responds to treatment for her hamstring.

Over the years, Jemimah, who has played an important role in India's victory in the ICC Women's ODI World Cup in 2025, has been a vital cog in India's batting order with her ability to manipulate pace and spin and accelerate during the middle overs. India will get its Women's T20 Asia Cup Group A campaign underway on August 30 against Thailand, before taking on Hong Kong and arch-rivals



Pakistan on September 3 and 5 respectively. All matches of the competition will be played at the Dubai International Stadium. India have been the most successful team in the competition's history with four ODI and three T20I format triumphs. If Jemimah is not fit in time, then wicketkeeper-batter Yastika Bhatia might get a call-up to the Indian team as her replacement.

Arsenal sign Brazil midfielder Bruno Guimaraes from Newcastle on long-term deal



LONDON : North London club Arsenal have signed Brazil international Bruno Guimaraes from Newcastle United on a long-term contract, the Premier League club announced on Saturday.

The 28-year-old midfielder joins Arsenal after spending four-and-a-half seasons at Newcastle, where he made nearly 200 appearances and established himself as one of the influential midfielders in the Premier League.

Guimaraes began his professional career with Sao Paulo-based Audax in 2015 before moving to

Athletico Paranaense two years later. He helped the Brazilian club win four major trophies before earning a move to French side Lyon in January 2020.

After two seasons in Ligue 1, Guimaraes joined Newcastle in January 2022 and quickly became an important figure in the club's midfield. He played a key role in Newcastle's Carabao Cup triumph in 2025 and helped the club secure UEFA Champions League qualification across two seasons.

At international level, Guimaraes has earned 48 caps for

Brazil. He was part of the country's squad at the FIFA World Cup and has also represented Brazil at the Copa America. He won a gold medal with Brazil at the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games.

Arsenal Sporting Director Andrea Berta welcomed the midfielder and said Guimaraes would add leadership and quality to the squad. "Bruno is a player with a great mentality and great quality, who will bring strong leadership to our squad," Berta said.

"With Bruno joining us, we are further strengthening the heart of our team. As we have all seen, Bruno can play as a defensive midfielder and as a box-to-box player. He combines quality with quantity, and has provided goals and assists for his team every year."

Berta added that Guimaraes' versatility would give Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta greater options in developing the team's style of play.

"Bruno will allow Mikel to further develop our playing style and will also increase our internal competitiveness, which is essential for maintaining the standards required when we are aiming to win major trophies," he said.

Guimaraes will wear the No. 39 shirt at Arsenal and will join his new teammates immediately.

'THIS MEDAL MEANS A LOT TO ME': ARIHA AFTER WINNING INDIA'S FIRST-EVER ASIAN GOLD IN AEROBIC GYMNASTICS

MANILA : Indian aerobic gymnast Ariha Pangambam said her historic gold medal at the Asian Aerobic Gymnastics Championships was the result of her determination to make amends after narrowly missing out on a podium finish at the previous edition, revealing that she trained for around six hours every day in preparation for the competition.

Ariha created history by becoming the first Indian to win a gold medal in the Senior Women's Individual category at the Asian Championships. She scored 19,100 points in the final held in the Philippines, including 8,650 in artistry, 7,600 in execution and 2,850 in difficulty.

"At that moment I was totally overwhelmed. This medal means a lot to me because I really wanted to have a medal not just for myself but for our whole country," Ariha told IANS.

The 19-year-old had finished fourth at the previous Asian Championships, missing out on a medal by a narrow margin. That disappointment became a major source of motivation as she prepared for the latest edition.

"In the previous Asian Championship, I was in fourth position just by some few points. I regretted a lot. So, I always thought that next time I need to take a medal," she said.

"Rather than taking a medal, what I used to think is that being a performer, I always wanted the people, whether the judges or the audience, to understand what I am trying to tell with my performance. I tried to bring it on the stage, and I would say that's how I got the medal," she added.

The road to the historic achievement involved an intense training routine, with Ariha putting in around six hours of work every day across morning and evening sessions.

"I train for like six hours daily, morning and evening sessions. And not just that, I would say it is because of my coach and my parents as well, because without them I won't be able to achieve this much," Ariha said.



Her gold medal marked a landmark moment for Indian aerobic gymnastics, with the country winning its first-ever Asian Championships gold in the discipline after 10 editions of the continental competition.

Inderjeet Singh Rathour, Head of the Indian delegation, which included 50 athletes, described the achievement as a major breakthrough for the sport in India.

"It is a very big achievement because this is the 10th Asian Championship. In gymnastics, it had never happened that our national anthem has been played, so we have got the gold."

This was a very big achievement for us," Rathour told IANS.

Rathour believes the historic success could also help increase awareness and participation in aerobic gymnastics, which remains relatively less known in India compared to several other sports.

"After this, we will find that in gymnastics there will be a lot of improvements. It is not so much a known sport, but after we get something like this, a gold

and big achievements, different children and different parents are always interested to adopt that game. So, we find a great future ahead for that," he said.

Rathour also highlighted the sustained efforts behind Ariha's development, saying the team had been working towards such a breakthrough for nearly a decade.

"As I said, we are working on this for the last 10 years. After COVID, we were also working very hard. When she was a youth, she used to play, and now she has come to the senior level. The performance and everything was up to the mark, and we have received the gold," Rathour added.

India's campaign in the championship also included a bronze medal in the Senior Aero Step category, giving the country a gold and a bronze from the continental event.

For Ariha, however, the gold represents more than a personal milestone. It is the culmination of the disappointment of finishing fourth at the previous edition, years of preparation, and a desire to make her performance meaningful on the biggest stage.

Ipswich Town sign Serbia midfielder Sasa Lukic from Fulham

IPSWICH : Ipswich Town have announced the signing of Serbia international midfielder Sasa Lukic from Fulham on a long-term deal running until the summer of 2030.

The 29-year-old joins Ipswich for an undisclosed fee and becomes the club's eighth new arrival of the summer transfer window. His move is subject to a visa application.

Lukic brings considerable experience to Ipswich, having made nearly 100 Premier League appearances during his time with Fulham. He joined the London club in January 2023 and made 106 appearances across all competitions, including 13 in the remainder of the 2022-23 campaign.

Before moving to England, Lukic spent seven years with Italian club Torino, making 168 appearances and scoring 14 goals. He also had a brief spell with Spanish side Levante during the 2017-18 season.

At international level, Lukic has earned 62 senior



THE 29-YEAR-OLD JOINS IPSWICH FOR AN UNDISCLOSED FEE AND BECOMES THE CLUB'S EIGHTH NEW ARRIVAL OF THE SUMMER TRANSFER WINDOW. HIS MOVE IS SUBJECT TO A VISA APPLICATION.

brilliant supporters so I can't wait to get started," Lukic said after completing the move. "I have played at Portman Road before in the Premier League and the atmosphere was one of the best I have experienced. I can't wait to play here as a home player."

"I am a box-to-box player who gives my all every time I am on the pitch and I'm excited to meet everyone and get started."

Ipswich manager Gary

O'Neil welcomed the arrival, saying Lukic's Premier League experience would strengthen an important area of the squad.

"Sasa is a player who brings real experience to the squad heading into the new season. Having played nearly 100 games in the Premier League, he knows what it takes to compete in the division and has been a consistent performer throughout his time at Fulham," O'Neil said. "We are delighted to have him with us and further strengthen an important area of the pitch."

Born in Sabac, Serbia, Lukic began his professional career with Partizan Belgrade, signing his first professional contract at the age of 17 in 2013. He subsequently spent two seasons on loan at Teleoptik before returning to Partizan and making his senior debut in 2015. He played an important role in Partizan's Serbian SuperLiga title-winning campaign in 2015-16 before joining Torino in 2016.