



Nadia's 'Independence Day' came on August 18, three days after India's freedom

Bengal • Pg 2



Central Forces Doubled in Bengal as Centre Steps Up Post-Poll Security

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Morning India

Nine die in Kolkata hotel fire, Bangladeshis among those killed

MI News Service, Kolkata : At least nine people, including a four-year-old child and two women, died and six others were injured on Wednesday in a massive fire at a dingy five-storied building here that houses several hotels, police said. The incident took place in less than a week after a similar fire that broke out in a five storied hotel at the temple town of Tarapith in Birbhum district on Saturday claiming nine more lives of pilgrims from Alipurduar in North Bengal and neighbouring Meghalaya state. Among the deceased were two children. Several others also suffered injuries. In today's incident five fire tenders were pressed into service to douse the blaze that erupted around 1.45 am at night in the building on Mirza Galib Street in central Kolkata, a senior officer said. Police, Fire Brigade and Disaster Management Department personnel were carrying out the rescue operation till late in the evening, he said.

According to a senior official, 80 people have been rescued from the five-storey



Nine people including some Bangladeshi nationals were killed and six others injured after a massive fire broke out at a hotel in Kolkata in the early hours of Wednesday.

building. According to state Fire and Emergency Services Minister Kaushik Chowdhury, the deceased include some Bangladeshis too

who had come to the city as tourists. "We are trying to establish their identities. The situation inside this building is very bad. There are sev-

eral hotels inside this building. I am shocked to see what was going on here," Chowdhury said after visiting the site. "Dense smoke

made it difficult for firefighters to climb the staircase and reach the upper floors. Nine people have died so far, and six were injured," a po-

lice officer. The deceased include six men, two women and a four-year-old child, he said, adding that the injured have been sent to a hospital. "Our priority is to rescue those trapped and determine the reasons for the fire. The flames have been doused, but the building is very hot. The cooling process is underway," the officer added. The minister said the cause of death could be suffocation. "People could not escape, and several rooms had no windows. We could bring out a couple from a room which had a window," he said. Asked about the cause of the fire, the minister said that an electrical short circuit might be the reason. A team of forensic experts reached the spot and was collecting evidence, he said, adding that strict action would be taken against the hotel authorities. "We have not filed any FIR but will do so. I'm amazed how the former administration gave permissions to such hotels to operate. We are not shrugging responsibilities but want

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Suvendu Adhikari blames TMC govt's 'legacy of negligence' for hotel fire



MI News Service, Kolkata : West Bengal Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari on Wednesday expressed shock and anguish over the fire at a multi-storied hotel, and blamed the previous TMC regime's "legacy of negligence" for the tragedy. The Chief minister also said a five-member Special Investigation Team (SIT) had been formed to conduct a comprehensive inquiry into the incident. A massive fire broke out at the hotel on Mirza Galib Street in central part of the city, killing nine people, including eight Bangladeshi nationals and a four-year-old child, and injuring six others. "While we remain focused on the rescue and relief operations and conduct investigation regarding what went wrong, it is impossible to ignore the reality we are facing today. This tragedy is a grim reminder of the legacy of negligence left be-

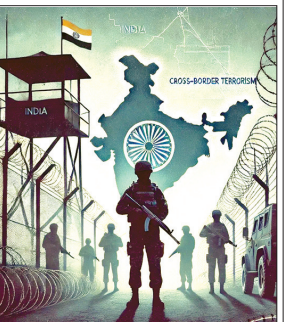
hind by the previous regime," Suvendu Adhikari posted on X. "For years, the City's and the State's fire fighting infrastructure was allowed to grow unchecked, with structures being permitted to be built and operate as hotels and other businesses while completely ignoring mandatory fire safety norms. The previous administration systematically looked the other way, failing to enforce basic compliance audits and allowing these unsafe conditions to fester. We are now working tirelessly to undo the damage of that era and to enforce the safety standards that should have been in place all along," the Chief minister said. He also extended his condolences to the families of those who lost their loved ones in the tragedy, and instructed his administration to ensure that the injured receive the "best medical attention."

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India vows to continue fight against cross-border terrorism

MI News Service, New Delhi : India has once again reaffirmed its resolve to counter all forms of terrorist activities, particularly cross-border terrorism after Pakistan sought to dismiss the busting of an ISI-backed terror network as merely a distraction from internal security challenges. Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday said over 200 operatives of the ISI-backed terror group, Shahzad Bhatti Network, were arrested during coordinated operations in 14 states ahead of Independence Day, thwarting plans of the organisation to launch subversive attacks. In its reaction, Pakistan's foreign ministry rejected Shah's allegations linking Pakistan to the arrests.

"Terrorism is taken very seriously by India", External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said at his bi-weekly media briefing here on Wednesday. He was responding to a question on cross-border terrorism emanating from Pakistan. "India has been hit hard by terrorism. We have over the last several years taken a lot of effort to galvanise and strengthen global action to fight terrorism, including cross-border terrorism, and our fight to deal with terrorism will continue further," he said. "Whatever action is required to be taken on that account to defeat the scourge of terrorism, we will continue to take," he added. The Indian government has put forth its position, and that is where it stands, Jaiswal said in the context of the busting of the Shahzad Bhatti Network. Earlier, Amit Shah had said security forces seized several Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs), grenades, pistols, ammunition and CCTV cameras used for espionage from different areas. Responding to Shah's statement, Pak-



istan Foreign Office spokesperson Tahir Andrabi described the remarks as "baseless". He accused India of using Pakistan-related assertions to "divert attention from its domestic security challenges". To a separate question, Jaiswal said the situation in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir is serious and that the people there need the sympathy and solidarity of the international community. Many people were killed and several others injured in the region because of a crack-down by Pakistani security forces, he said, adding that restrictions have been imposed on the supply of essential commodities. "The situation is such that the people there need the sympathy and solidarity of the international community and they should get that," he said.

On a recent report by a UN Security Council body pointing to al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent (AQIS) attempting to set up cells in Bangladesh, Jaiswal said terrorism and security matters are a "common scourge". Randhir said, "Terrorism and security matters are something that should concern everybody because it is a common scourge for all of us, and we want to fight this problem together. You saw the report of the Monitoring Committee which came out recently. They specifically mentioned the group that was behind the Red Fort terror attack as well."

'It was like a horror movie scene', guests recount Kolkata hotel fire

MI News Service, Kolkata: Horrified guests who were rescued from a devastating blaze in a congested central Kolkata hotel that claimed nine lives and injuring six others in the early hours of Wednesday, recounted a night of terror, as dark smoke engulfed the second and third floors of the dilapidated building with no hope of escape in sight in dark night. Many claimed that there were no fire alarm or safety equipment in place at the establishment. Nine people, including a four-year-old child and two women, were killed in the fire at the cramped central Kolkata building housing several hotels. Prompt action by fire brigade personnel, however, saved around 80 lives, asserted West Bengal Fire and Emergency Services Department Minister Kaushik Chowdhury. A resident from Bangladesh, who was staying at the hotel, claimed that he had approached the staff who were fast asleep when the blaze broke out in the dead of the night around 2

am. "Dark smoke engulfed the second and third floors of the building, and it was hard to escape, as the fire was raging near the staircase," said the man, clad in a vest and lungi that he wore when he retired for the night. The Bangladeshi national who has come to the city as a tourist, said he could not salvage any of his belongings as he had to scramble to safety. Ejaz Ahmed, a Birbhum resident, who checked into the hotel on Tuesday evening, thanked the fire brigade personnel for saving his life. "I was helped by two fire brigade officials in coming down from the upper floors and out of the building to safety, as I was trying to find my way out in the darkness," Ahmed said. A local resident said the situation was horrific as people stuck inside the building kept crying for help amid the blaze. "It was like a scene from a horror movie," he said. He claimed there was only one entrance and exit point to the hotel leading to the staircase, which

made the matters worse. Meena Devi, a resident of a flat on an upper floor of the affected building, alleged that there was no fire safety arrangement on the premises. "We were brought out by the fire brigade personnel and the staff of one of the several hotels operating from the building, amid dense smoke," she said. Incidentally, what began as a faint smell of something burning turned into a night of horror for dozens of guests at the hotel before claiming nine lives including two women and a child. The fire was spotted around 2 PM quickly engulfed the six-storey budget hotel with 88 occupants in 42 rooms. Within minutes, thick smoke spread through the corridors, blinding and choking guests who scrambled to escape. "I was on the second floor when the power went out. I opened the door and noticed smoke coming in. People were shouting and running. I tried to knock on other doors," said Abdul Karim, a trader from Mur-

shidabad. Some guests were seen leaning out of windows and screaming for help. A boy reportedly cried out for his mother before vanishing in the blaze, and one man jumped from the fourth floor to escape, fracturing his leg, the locals said. Firefighters rescued several people from the upper floors, but many could not be saved, an official said. A Special Investigation Team (SIT) has been formed to ascertain the cause of the fire. "The building has been sealed. Our forensic team will examine it thoroughly," the officer said. The entire area with shops and warehouses, remaining cordoned off on Wednesday morning, as charred belongings and burnt window frames bore silent witness to the tragedy. The hotel blaze on Wednesday came days after another fire in a hotel at Tarapith in Birbhum district, which also claimed the lives of nine people. Preliminary suspicions point to an air conditioner unit bursting or short-circuiting.

PM Modi expresses grief over Kolkata hotel fire, condoles the death

MI News Service, New Delhi / Kolkata : Prime Minister Narendra Modi has expressed his grief at the deaths of nine people at a devastating fire at a central Kolkata hotel on early Wednesday and said his "thoughts are with those who have lost their loved ones in this tragedy". At least nine guests were killed and six received burn injuries when a fire broke out at a budget hotel on Mirza Ghalib Street around 2 AM on Wednesday. The deceased include six men, two women, and a child. Expressing grief over the tragedy Prime Minister Modi in a message on X said his "thoughts are with those who have lost their loved ones in this tragedy". The post from the PMO further read, "Anguished by the loss of lives due to a fire in Kolkata. My thoughts are with those who have lost their loved ones in this tragedy. May the injured recover soon. The local administration is providing assistance to the affected." At least four hotels were operating simultaneously across the floors of the five-



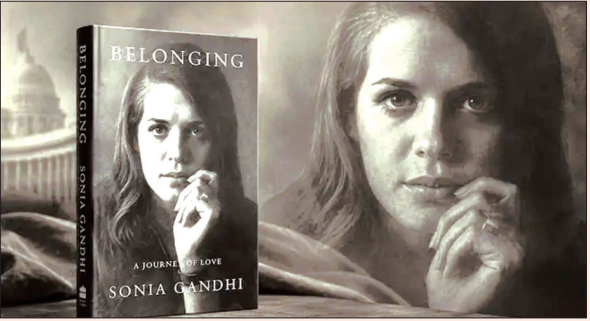
storied building, yet even basic safety norms were ignored. The hotel entrance was extremely narrow, and the fire escape staircase was made of iron; consequently, as the stairs heated up during the blaze, residents were unable to escape the inferno using the iron staircase. A Special Investigation Team (SIT) has already been formed to investigate the cause of the fire. The five-member team is headed by an officer of the rank of Deputy Commissioner (Detective Department). According to Additional CP (Crime) Kunal Agarwal, alongside the formation of the SIT, a "suo motu" case has been registered by the Fire Department. The Additional CP added that the Director General (Fire) and senior officers are examining the cause of the fire, the death toll, and whether any criminal activity

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'Writing about my life did not come easily': Sonia Gandhi on her upcoming memoir

MI News Service, New Delhi : Referring to the publication of her 544-page memoir in November, Congress leader Sonia Gandhi, has said writing about her life means opening herself up and sharing experiences she had kept deep inside, as she reflected on the heartbreak and loss that drew her into politics. "It was heartbreak and loss that threw me into the public world of politics. Up till then I had guarded my privacy fiercely," Sonia Gandhi said in a statement issued on Wednesday by publisher Alfred A Knopf. "Writing about my life did not come easily to me. It meant opening myself up, sharing moments and experiences I had always held deep inside," the senior Congress leader said. "Much has been written about my family, but few narratives were able to reach into the truth of their

motivations, their actions and even their very human failings," Sonia Gandhi said in her statement, adding "In many ways, this book is a homage to their humanness. My story also offers readers a unique perspective of the social and political changes I have witnessed for six decades in this beautiful country of my belonging," Sonia Gandhi, 79, is a native of Italy who was studying in Cambridge, England, when she met fellow student and future husband Rajiv Gandhi, grandson of India's first Prime minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, and son of India's first female Prime minister, Indira Gandhi. In Belonging, she writes of her life being upended when her mother-in-law Indira Gandhi was assassinated in 1984 and succeeded by Rajiv Gandhi as India's next Prime minis-



ter, who, however, seven years later was also murdered at Perambudur in Tamil Nadu. She too would eventually enter politics and become the longest-serving president of the Indian National Congress Party while also turning down her party's offer to become Prime minister. Her party lost power to current Prime Minister Narendra Modi's party BJP in 2014. "It was heartbreak and loss that threw me into the public

world of politics. Up till then I had guarded my privacy fiercely," she said in her statement. "Writing about my life did not come easily to me. It meant opening myself up, sharing moments and experiences I had always held deep inside," she said. "Yet as I gradually removed myself from the political sphere and looked back at all I had seen, the thread of love and loyalty that wove through my story began to define itself, from the simplicity of

my childhood in small-town Italy, to the complexity of my years in India as the wife of Rajiv Gandhi and the daughter-in-law of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi." The Nehru-Gandhi dynasty remains active in politics. Both of Sonia Gandhi's children, Opposition leader Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, are members of the Lok Sabha from the Congress party. Titled 'Belonging: A Journey of Love', the memoir will be released in hardcover and e-book by Knopf on November 10, with an audio edition to be published by Penguin Random House. The publisher said an announced first printing of 100,000 copies has been set. Sonia Gandhi said she wanted the book to be a "testament of my heart's journey through the tender joys and dark despair" that marked her life. "Much has

been written about my family, but few narratives were able to reach into the truth of their motivations, their actions and even their very human failings," she said, adding that the book was "in many ways" a homage to their "humanness". The memoir also traces Sonia Gandhi's journey from her childhood in post-war Italy to her life in India. The book begins in Cambridge, England, in 1965, where Sonia Maino, then a 19-year-old student, falls in love at first sight with Rajiv Gandhi, whom she would later marry. It recounts her introduction to Indira Gandhi, her efforts to learn Hindi, wear saris and relish Indian cuisine, as well as the tragedies that struck the Gandhi family. Rajiv Gandhi's younger brother Sanjay Gandhi died in a plane crash.

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11 Cattle Seized in Chandrakona for Lack of Valid Documents, One Arrested



MI News Service, Kharagpur : Police in West Medinipur district's Chandrakona police station area seized a four-wheeler allegedly transporting cattle without valid documents and recovered 11 cattle from the vehicle. One person has been arrested in connection with the incident. According to police sources, a naka checking operation was underway in the Bakshi Bagan area along the Ghatal-Chandrakona State Highway. During the operation, police stopped a four-wheeler carrying cattle on suspicion and conducted a search. The search revealed 11 cattle inside the vehicle. Police asked the person accompanying the cattle to produce valid documents related to their transportation from one place to another. However, no valid documents could be produced. Police subsequently seized the vehicle and took the cattle into their custody. Police suspect that the cattle were being transported without following the required rules

and are also investigating the possibility of cattle smuggling. However, the police have not yet confirmed whether the animals were being transported for smuggling purposes. The exact circumstances are expected to become clear after completion of the investigation. A person identified as Sheikh Mantajul has been arrested in connection with the incident. According to police sources, the accused is being produced before the Ghatal court on Tuesday. Investigators are questioning him to determine where the cattle were brought from and where they were being taken. All 11 recovered cattle are currently being kept at Chandrakona Police Station. Police are also examining the vehicle-related documents and investigating the role of other people who may be connected to the case. The police have launched a detailed investigation and are also trying to determine whether an organised gang or cattle-smuggling network is operating behind the incident.

CPM Opens Direct Digital Channel for Public Grievances

MI News Service, Domkal: In a significant organisational and political initiative aimed at strengthening its connect with ordinary citizens, the CPI(M) has launched a dedicated online grievance platform in Domkal, Murshidabad, allowing residents to communicate directly with the constituency's Left MLA and place their demands before him.

Named 'Amar Domkal Portal', the platform was inaugurated by CPI(M) state secretary Mohammad Salim in Domkal on Tuesday. The initiative is designed to create a direct digital channel between residents and MLA Mostafizur Rahman, popularly known as Rana, enabling people to report civic problems, raise local demands and seek intervention on issues affecting their daily lives. According to Salim, residents can access the portal by scanning a QR code on their mobile phones. The facility will remain open to everyone in Domkal, irrespective of political affiliation. Complaints relating to roads and other local infrastructure, civic amenities and administrative issues can be brought to the MLA's notice through the platform. The CPM has also sought to introduce an element of accountability into the mechanism. Salim said that once a complaint is received, the MLA will take it up with the administration wherever necessary. The action taken on individual grievances will subsequently be communicated through the portal, allowing complainants to track the response. The party, he said, would review the functioning of the system every week. The move assumes particular significance for the Left in Bengal. After failing to secure an Assembly seat in the 2021 elections, the CPM has retained Domkal as its lone foothold in the state legislature through Mostafizur Rahman's victory. The constituency has consequently acquired strategic importance for the party's efforts to rebuild its organisational presence and regain public confidence. By creating a constituency-specific digital grievance redressal system, the CPM is seeking to project Domkal as a model of direct political engagement. The initiative also reflects an attempt to move beyond conventional party structures and establish a more accessible interface between an elected representative and citizens. Whether the Amar Domkal Portal can translate digital accessibility into tangible administrative action remains to be seen. For the CPM, however, the experiment marks a calculated effort to turn its lone Assembly foothold into a platform for wider political recovery in Bengal. Months ahead will test its political impact.

323-year-old Mansa Puja in Nadia's Khedaitala keeps centuries-old tradition alive

MI News Service, Nadia : A centuries-old tradition came alive at Khedaitala in Nadia's Chakdahala on Wednesday as the annual Mansa Puja entered its 323rd year. The festival, deeply rooted in local folklore and popular belief, continues to draw devotees from Nadia and adjoining areas, while its accompanying fair remains an important part of the locality's cultural life. According to local tradition, the puja dates back around 323 years and is linked to a group of merchants who are believed to have arrived in the area by river for trade. Local folklore says an outbreak of disease subsequently struck the settlement, leaving several members of the group seriously ill. The head of the merchant group is said to have received a divine instruction in a dream to worship Goddess Mansa, after which the crisis allegedly



subsided. The worship is believed to have continued since then. However, there is no independent documentary evidence available to establish every detail of this origin story. The 323-year claim is therefore largely based on local tradition, oral history and the continuity of the worship over generations. Despite the

Nadia's 'Independence Day' came on August 18, three days after India's freedom

MI News Service, Nadia : For most Indians, August 15 marks the country's Independence Day. But in parts of Nadia, another date carries a distinct historical significance. On Monday, residents of Gabar Char and Char Saragarh in Shantipur observed 'Bharat Bhukti Diwas' on the Bhagirathi, commemorating the day in 1947 when the region was finally incorporated into India.

The observance is rooted in the uncertainty that followed Independence. Although India became independent on August 15, 1947, the final demarcation of Bengal's borders under the Radcliffe Award left several parts of Nadia, including areas around Shantipur, Krishnanagar, Ranaghat and Krishnaganj, initially on the Pakistan side.

According to local historical accounts, residents in these areas remained under the Pakistani flag be-



tween August 15 and 17, as the final boundary announcement had not yet settled their status. The delay created considerable uncertainty among people who had expected to become part of independent India.

Local leaders subsequently pressed for Nadia's inclusion in India. A delegation led by Krishnanagar's Rani Jyotirmoyee Devi and Shantipur's Pandit Laksh-

mikanta Maitra reportedly travelled to Delhi to raise the issue. The matter also received attention through the intervention of Dr Syama Prasad Mukherjee.

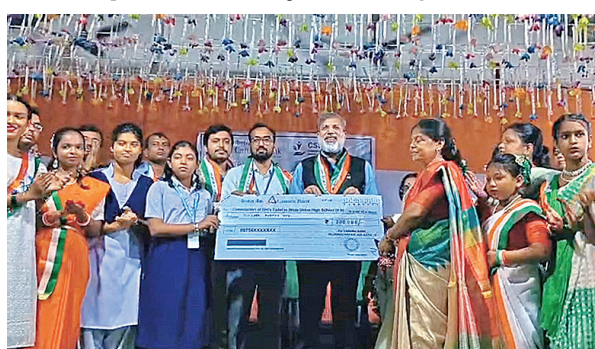
The subsequent revision of the boundary brought the concerned parts of Nadia into India on August 18. The date has since remained embedded in the collective memory of several communities in the district.

Canara Bank Marks 80th Independence Day with Major CSR Push

MI News Service, Bashirhat: Canara Bank, Bashirhat Branch, Kolkata Regional Office II, celebrated the 80th Independence Day with a strong focus on social responsibility and inclusive development. The programme was graced by Shri Sovon Roy TIC.

As part of the celebrations, the bank undertook key CSR initiatives in education, girl-child welfare and rural development. Scholarship assistance of Rs. 12.97 lakh was extended to 325 deserving students from economically disadvantaged sections under the Vidyajyothi Scholarship scheme. Support was also provided to Dr. Srimanta Sikaniketan.

On Independence Day, Canara Bank handed over a cheque of Rs. 2 lakh to Itinda Union High School in border-area Basirhat for the construction of girls' toilets to ensure hygienic learning environments. Present at the school function were Divisional Manager Kumar Dixit, Senior Manager Phalguni Ghosh, Officer Ankit Das, and branch officials Buddhadeb Sarkar



and Santu Mondal. Teachers and students welcomed the initiative. Further, the bank adopted a village with a dedicated sum of Rs. 10 lakh to support basic amenities and overall rural development. These steps reaffirm Canara Bank's commitment to education, empowerment, inclusive growth and nation-building.

Human rights activist Hossain Gazi demands government support to fulfil Selima's dream

Nurul islam khan: Human Rights Worker Hossain Gazi, gave a reception to Salima Molla of Amazhara village 11 in Salima's dream of Salima's dream. Secretary Gazi said the reception with the north and trophy on Salima on the day and also financial aid. At the good independence Day, Selima went to Delhi on the invitation of the country's Prime Minister on the right Independence Day. He was studying in writing 'developed India' articles. On Wednesday Selima said he would be iPS. But 'Panta Furray to bring Nun'. Hossain Gazi has appealed to various volunteers and governmental assistance to the dream of the tragedy, financial hopes. Their hopes are the topic of the Prime



Minister. He is sincere in the study of Salima's studies, hopefully, many people are hopeful. Salimer's father Dinabjur He said it is very difficult to run the spending of the girl's studies in the lack of daughter. Gazi has applied to the representatives of this area to come forwarded

CAG Flags Lapses as Diamond Harbour Project Remains Grounded

MI News Service, South 24 Parganas: A riverside beautification project in Diamond Harbour has come under renewed scrutiny after a complaint citing findings of the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) audit alleged serious lapses in planning and execution. The project, conceived in 2017, was intended to transform the stretch from the Diamond Harbour jetty to the historic fort grounds. However, despite substantial public expenditure, the

proposed development ultimately failed to move forward. According to the complaint, the project was initially estimated to cost Rs 7.17 crore, with the Public Works Department (PWD) entrusted with its execution. The plan, associated with Diamond Harbour MP Abhishek Banerjee, encountered a major setback on August 1, 2019, when a substantial section of the river embankment beside National Highway 117 collapsed into the river.

Himachal Pradesh Visit Not Just About Tourism, but an Effort to Understand Rural Life and Developmental Activities: DGEZ PIB

Kolkata, August 19 (Md Shabbir Alam): The proposed visit to Himachal Pradesh is not merely aimed at tourism but also at gaining a closer understanding of the state's rural areas, the lives of its people, their daily activities, research work and various developmental initiatives, and sharing these experiences with people here. According to the organisers, the visit is expected to yield positive outcomes.

They said the visit would provide an opportunity to observe and understand rural areas and the way of life in Himachal Pradesh from close quarters. Himachal Pradesh is an important region, and creating awareness among people in other areas about its people, their work, research and various activities could prove to be a useful initiative.

They further said that such programmes could be replicated in other regions in the future, enabling people from different states to understand each other's experiences, developmental activities and opportunities. This could also benefit local communities. The exchange of experiences and information regarding research and work being carried out in various fields could prove ben-

Court issues arrest warrant against Mahua Moitra over repeated non-appearance



MI News Service, Nadia : A Krishnanagar court on Wednesday issued an arrest warrant against Trinamool Congress MP Mahua Moitra in connection with a complaint alleging objectionable remarks, hate speech and comments that allegedly hurt religious sentiments. The warrant was issued after the Krishnanagar court noted that the MP had repeatedly failed to appear before it despite summons.

The 3rd Judicial Magistrate at the Krishnanagar court directed that the warrant be issued immediately and ordered that a report on its execution be submitted before the court on August 28. The court took a serious view of Moitra's repeated absence and observed that her conduct showed a "lackadaisical approach" towards complying with its orders.

The complaint was filed by Krishnanagar resident Chayan Nandi. According to the complainant's lawyer, Shirsendu Das, the allegations relate to remarks concerning women, the armed forces, Union home minister Amit Shah and religious symbols, including comments allegedly relating to tulsi malas, burqas and hijabs.

The case invokes several provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), including Section 79 relating to insulting the modesty of a woman, Section 196 concerning promotion of enmity between groups, Section 299 relating to deliberate acts intended to outrage religious feelings, Section 351 concerning criminal intimidation and Section 353(2) relating to statements amounting to hate speech.

The court had repeatedly directed Moitra to appear in person. Her counsel expressed apprehension that she could be

heckled or face protests if she appeared at the court premises. The court, however, made it clear that her plea for exemption from personal appearance could be considered only after she appeared before it in person.

The proceedings are linked to controversy over remarks made by Moitra following an incident in Nadia on July 1, when she faced protests. Allegations were made that eggs and stones were hurled during the protest. A subsequent video message by the MP, including remarks concerning women wearing burqas while throwing eggs, became the subject of a separate legal controversy. The matter subsequently reached the Calcutta High Court and the Supreme Court.

The latest warrant is separate from another case in which Moitra appeared before the police in Nadia following a court direction. Earlier this month, the Supreme Court declined to entertain her plea challenging the Calcutta High Court's direction that she appear before police in connection with another alleged hate-speech case.

The development comes amid another controversy involving Moitra and Nadia district authorities. The MP had alleged that she was asked to vacate her room at the Krishnanagar Circuit House late at night on August 14. She subsequently submitted a privilege notice to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla against three Nadia officials, alleging violation of parliamentary norms.

The arrest warrant, however, does not amount to a finding of guilt. The allegations against Moitra in the Krishnanagar complaint remain pending adjudication, and no final verdict has been delivered on the merits of the case.



eficial for both regions.

Focus on Developmental Activities and National Integration

It was stated that people generally remain focused on their own states or regions and pay greater attention to developmental activities and issues within their respective areas. The objective of such a programme is to create awareness among people about developmental initiatives, challenges and opportunities in other regions as well.

According to the organisers, the initiative can also be viewed as an important step towards promoting National Integration. If the government has introduced any policies or programmes to promote tourism in Himachal Pradesh and attract more tourists, these will also be examined during the visit.

The visit will also focus on gathering information about various developmen-

tal works and projects undertaken by the Government of India in Himachal Pradesh, so that people here can be better informed about the development taking place in the state and the opportunities available there.

Hydropower is another important sector in Himachal Pradesh. Along with this sector, there is also a need to gather information and conduct research on other important subjects. According to the concerned officials, various subjects and details will be finally verified after reaching the state.

The organisers said the primary objective of the visit is to bring people from different regions closer by facilitating an exchange of experiences, information and developmental opportunities, while also providing a better understanding of the ground realities, rural life and developmental activities of Himachal Pradesh.

Cultural Workers Hold Press Conference on Recent Cultural Issues

MI News Service, Kolkata: Cultural workers in Kolkata held a press conference to discuss several recent issues concerning the state's cultural and artistic community. A cultural programme was earlier scheduled at Ranu Chaya Mancha on August 19, from noon to 8 pm. However, according to the organisers, the programme had to be postponed as police permission was not received. The press conference was subsequently held at the Kolkata Press Club.

Several noted theatre personalities, including ShamikBandyopadhyay, Ashok Mukhopadhyay, Sabyasachi Chakraborty, Meghnad Bhattacharya, BiplobBandyopadhyay and PoulomiChattopadhyay, attended the event.

The organisers raised concerns over recent incidents involving theatre workers, cultural institutions and public figures. They called for greater protection of freedom of expression and a respectful environment for artistic and cultural activities.

They said the objective of the press conference was to discuss the concerns of the cultural community and explore constructive ways to safeguard Bengal's rich cultural heritage and democratic values.

Nine die in Kolkata hotel fire, Bangladeshis among

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to assure you that all those behind this mishap will face stringent actions," he said. The building management did not comply with any basic safety and construction norms, the minister said. It is alleged that there were several irregularities in the functioning of the hotel, he said, adding that a fire audit will be carried out at hotels across the state. Incidentally, West Bengal Fire and Emergency Services Department headquarters is located close to the hotel building.

Another police officer said the building owner is currently absconding. "A case is being registered at the New Market Police Station, with police initiating proceedings against the owner," he said, adding that police have begun raids at the owner's residence as part of efforts to trace him," he said. An investigation is underway to determine the circumstances that led to the fire and whether safety regulations were violated, he said. Chief minister Suwendu Adhikari also visited the site of the fire and promised stern action against all those responsible. He also deeply condoled the death of so many innocent people. Incidentally, the state has been witnessing a number of fire of such intensity during the past few days claiming several lives. In one of the latest such incident nine more people were killed in a similar inferno at a five-storied hotel at the temple town of Tarapith in Birbhum District on Saturday where several other pilgrims from Meghalaya and North Bengal also sustained injuries. In that case the hotel owner and his on were arrested and a case has been registered. The state government also ordered closure of at least 15 such hotels in and around Tarapith on charge of violating fire and safety norms.

SuwenduAdhikari blames TMC govt's 'legacy of negligence'

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A five-member Special Investigation Team (SIT) has been formed to conduct a comprehensive inquiry into this incident, he added. The fire at the hotel in central Kolkata late on Tuesday night spread to adjoining areas, leaving at least nine people, including a child, dead and several others injured. The blaze was reported from the third floor of the budget hotel shortly before 2 am. Thick smoke quickly engulfed the rooms, trapping several guests who were asleep at the time. Panic spread among the residents as they tried to flee the building through its narrow exit. Firefighters, along with personnel from the New Market police station and the disaster management team, rushed to the spot. The hotel and neighbouring establishments are located inside a narrow lane, making it difficult for fire engines to enter deep into the area. Firefighters initially attempted to douse the flames from outside before entering the buildings to carry out rescue operations. Around 80 residents were reportedly rescued. Several of them had become unconscious after inhaling smoke and were taken to nearby hospitals. According to hospital sources, many of those who died did not have significant burn injuries. Doctors suspect that suffocation caused by smoke inhalation may have led to the deaths, although the exact cause will be established after post-mortem examinations.

'Writing about my life did not come easily': Sonia Gandhi

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followed by the assassination of Indira Gandhi in 1984. In the wake of his mother's death, Rajiv Gandhi became Prime minister and was himself assassinated seven years later while on the campaign trail. The memoir also covers Sonia Gandhi's eventual entry into politics after years of resisting pressure to do so, and her decision in 2004 to decline the Prime minister's post after the Congress-led alliance won the election. She said her story also offers readers a unique perspective on the social and political changes she had witnessed over six decades in India, describing it as "the beautiful country of my belonging". Knopf described "Belonging" as an intimate account of Sonia Gandhi's life and a story of love, family and India, offering a perspective on the country's "tumultuous post-independence history and its present political struggles". The publisher said the memoir also offers an insider's perspective on India's economic and social changes over six decades, while Sonia Gandhi reflects on identity, duty and the meaning of home. Knopf Executive Vice President, Publisher and Editor-in-Chief Jordan Pavlin said the publishing house was "honoured" to publish the memoir, describing it as an account of Gandhi's life, resilience, family and history.



The 2022 Primary TET-qualified D.El.Ed candidates hold a rally demanding an immediate start to the interview process for primary teacher recruitment and an increase in the number of vacancies in Kolkata on Wednesday. pic Prabir Bhattacharya

BOPT-ER to Accelerate NATS Adoption Among MSMEs

MI News Service, Kolkata: The Board of Practical Training (Eastern Region) (BOPT-ER), under the Ministry of Education, will organise Regional Apprenticeship Day (RAD) 2026 on September 5, focusing on expanding the National Apprenticeship Training Scheme (NATS) among MSMEs.

Themed "Empowering MSMEs through NATS," the event aims to bridge the industry-academia gap, improve youth employability and support regional industrial growth. BOPT-ER Director Dr S.M. Ejaz Ahmad said simplified registration and cluster-based apprenticeship models would help MSMEs overcome operational barriers. The initiative will also promote apprenticeship-embedded degree and diploma programmes, AI-enabled training and digital workflows. The event will be live streamed to over 60,000 stakeholders, connecting industrial clusters, educational institutions and students. BOPT-ER trained more than 1.45 lakh apprentices in 2025-26 and is working towards training over 15 lakh students.

Fake Cops Steal Gold Jewellery Worth Lakhs

MI News Service, Kolkata: Two men posing as Kolkata Police officers allegedly duped a resident of Shakuntala Park and fled with gold jewellery worth several lakh rupees in Parnasree, police said. A complaint has been lodged at Parnasree Police Station and an investigation is underway. According to police, the victim was riding his scooter to purchase medicines when the two accused, travelling on a motorcycle, intercepted him on Biren Roy Road. Claiming to be officers of the Lalbazar Detective Department, they told him they were conducting patrols to prevent crime in the area. The duo allegedly warned the man that robbers had recently killed a person identified as Ghosh Babu and claimed that wearing expensive jewellery could make him a target. They advised him to remove three rings and a gold chain. The accused then handed him a plastic bag and asked him to place the jewellery and his mobile phone inside it. They allegedly took the bag, claiming they would help him keep it safely inside his scooter's storage compartment, and instructed him to return home.

Central Forces Doubled in Bengal as Centre Steps Up Post-Poll Security

MI News Service, Kolkata: Central forces are usually deployed in large numbers in West Bengal ahead of elections to ensure free, fair and peaceful polling. However, in an unusual move this year, the Union Home Ministry has decided to increase the deployment of central armed forces in the state even after the 2026 Assembly elections.

As per the latest decision, another 50 companies of central paramilitary forces will be deployed across West Bengal, taking the total number of companies stationed in the state to 100. The move comes after 50 companies were retained in Bengal following the elections to monitor the post-poll situation and assist the state

administration in maintaining law and order. The additional deployment will comprise personnel from the Border Security Force (BSF), SashastraSeema Bal (SSB) and Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF). The forces will work in coordination with the state administration and local police, particularly in sensitive and strategically important areas.

According to officials, the central forces will intensify patrolling and support local law enforcement agencies in preventing incidents that could disturb peace and public order. Their presence is also aimed at strengthening security arrangements and reassuring residents in areas considered vulnera-



ble or sensitive. The decision comes after the initial post-election deployment plan envisaged the gradual withdrawal of central forces from the state. Following the withdrawal process, 50 companies remained deployed across Bengal. The Centre has now decided to send another 50 companies

any untoward incident. The development has also raised questions about why such a large deployment has been ordered after the elections, particularly when central forces are generally associated with election-related security arrangements.

However, a source in the state administration said there was no separate or specific reason behind the decision. According to the source, the additional deployment has been made solely to strengthen law and order and maintain peace across West Bengal. The Centre's move therefore marks a significant post-poll security arrangement, with 100 companies of central forces now set to remain deployed across the state.

Justice Recuses Herself from Sujit Bose Bail Plea over Alleged Chamber Visit

MI News Service, Kolkata: Calcutta High Court Justice Suvara Ghosh has recused herself from hearing the bail petition of former West Bengal minister Sujit Bose, who had challenged his arrest in connection with the municipal recruitment case, alleging that it was illegal. Justice Ghosh had reserved her order after completing the hearing of Bose's bail plea. However, on Wednesday, she withdrew from the case, citing a serious incident involving a lawyer associated with the petitioner. While explaining her decision in court, Justice Ghosh said that despite the hearing having concluded, a lawyer representing Bose allegedly visited her chamber on Tuesday, August 18, when she was not present. The lawyer, she said, asked her personal secretary to bring out the case file kept inside the chamber. The judge described the incident as unfortunate and said she had informed the Acting Chief Justice about it. Following the communication, she decided to recuse herself from the matter. The case will now be placed before the Acting Chief Justice, who will decide which judge will hear Bose's bail petition next. The development has added another complication for the former minister.



West Bengal Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari chairs a Cabinet meeting at state secretariat Nabanna on Wednesday.

New Market Hotel Fire Exposes Alleged Safety Violations, Audit Ordered

MI News Service, Kolkata: The deadly fire at a hotel complex near Kolkata's New Market, which claimed nine lives in the early hours of Wednesday, has brought several alleged violations of civic and fire safety norms to light. Preliminary findings suggest that multiple rules and directives issued by the Kolkata Municipal Corporation and the Fire and Emergency Services Department may not have been followed.

State Urban Development and Municipal Affairs Minister Agnimitra Paul visited the site on Wednesday morning along with Industries Minister Tapas Roy and

Fire and Emergency Services Minister Kaushik Chowdhury. After inspecting the building, Pal expressed serious concern over the alleged irregularities and questioned how several hotels were allowed to operate inside the same multi-storey building. The structure reportedly contained a large number of cramped rooms, while several air-conditioning units were operating simultaneously. The hotels were reportedly frequently used by visitors from other states and Bangladesh. The conditions inside the building have raised questions about fire safety arrange-

ments and whether adequate emergency exits and other mandatory facilities were available. Pal also questioned the role of the power utility CESC, asking how permission was granted for the large number of air-conditioning units operating inside the building. She further questioned how the Kolkata Municipal Corporation issued trade licences for hotels operating within the premises. The minister alleged that irregularities and corruption during the previous Trinamool Congress government needed to be examined and questioned how such establishments ob-

tained fire clearances. She said hotels functioning under the Kolkata Municipal Corporation's jurisdiction would be subjected to safety audits to determine whether they comply with the required regulations.

Fire and Emergency Services Minister Kaushik Chowdhury also visited the site and said a detailed investigation would be conducted into how permission was granted for the hotels to operate. He alleged that the current administration was having to deal with the consequences of irregularities from the previous regime and assured that those re-

sponsible would face action.

Meanwhile, Kolkata Police have begun a detailed investigation into the incident. Given the seriousness of the tragedy, police have reportedly initiated a suo-motu case. A special investigation team headed by the Deputy Commissioner of the Detective Department has already been formed to probe the circumstances leading to the fire. The Fire and Emergency Services Department has also lodged a complaint. Investigators are now conducting searches to trace the owners of the building and the hotels operating inside it.

Rain Fury Eases across South Bengal as Low-Pressure System Weakens

MI News Service, Kolkata: After several days of persistent rain across Kolkata and other parts of South Bengal, the region is likely to get some relief as the low-pressure system weakens and shifts towards Jharkhand. The Alipore Regional Meteorological Centre said severe weather conditions are not expected across most of South Bengal over the next few days.

The weather turned noticeably brighter on Wednesday morning, with clear skies and sunshine reported in Kolkata and several other districts. The change comes after moderate to heavy rainfall affected multiple parts of

South Bengal until Tuesday, causing water logging in several areas of Kolkata and Howrah.

According to the weather office, the low-pressure area that had formed over the Gangetic plains of South Bengal has moved slightly west-north-westwards and is currently positioned near Jharkhand. The system has also weakened considerably over the past few hours.

Under the influence of the active monsoon system, most districts in South Bengal received moderate rainfall during the last 24 hours, while some areas recorded heavy to very heavy showers. However,



the intensity of the rainfall is expected to decline from Wednesday.

The weather department has issued a warning of heavy rain in Purulia, Bankura, West Burdwan and Birbhum on Wednesday,

particularly because these districts are located close to Jharkhand. Gusty winds reaching speeds of around 30 to 40 kmph may also accompany the rain in these areas. For the rest of South Bengal, however,

conditions are expected to remain comparatively comfortable. From Wednesday through Friday, there is no forecast of widespread heavy or extremely heavy rainfall in Kolkata or the other districts. Light to moderate rain may still occur at isolated places in Kolkata, North and South 24 Parganas, Howrah, Hooghly, Jhargram, East and West Midnapore, Murshidabad and Nadia. The showers are expected to remain relatively limited compared with the rainfall witnessed over the past few days. The improvement in weather is likely to bring relief to residents of Kolkata and

Howrah, where several localities were affected by water logging following repeated heavy showers. With the low-pressure system losing strength and moving away from South Bengal, authorities and residents are hopeful that accumulated rainwater will gradually recede. Weather officials, however, have advised residents to remain alert in the districts where heavy rain and gusty winds have been forecast, particularly those bordering Jharkhand. Overall, the immediate threat of widespread severe weather appears to have eased across South Bengal.

PM Modi expresses grief over Kolkata hotel fire

► Continued from page 1

was involved. The Detective Department's Homicide Wing has taken over the investigation. People from other states and even from neighbouring Bangladesh, Nepal and Bhutan used to stay at this hotel. Police sources claim that eight of the deceased were residents of Bangladesh. Additionally, a hotel employee—reportedly a resident of Jharkhand—also lost his life in the fire. State Municipal Affairs Minister Agnimitra Pal raised a series of questions regarding why the electricity provider, CESC, granted clearance despite non-compliance with fire safety regulations, and who issued the trade licenses. Without explicitly naming anybody, she targeted Firhad Hakim—the former Mayor of Kolkata and Municipal Affairs Minister during the Trinamool regime—over the fire incident in the city. Agnimitra Pal alleged that illegal hotel businesses have mushroomed across the state over the last 15 years without undergoing any audits during the Trinamool Congress's tenure. She said "The new government has been in office for only 100 days; it is not possible to identify everything within this timeframe. What did my predecessor do? Who issued the trade licenses? How did CESC grant permission? Ten air conditioners were operated using a permit meant for just one." When asked if action would be taken against the former Municipal Affairs Minister, she replied, "We will submit a report to the Chief Minister regarding whether action should be taken against the former Mayor and Municipal Affairs Minister."

NAME CHANGE

I, Sekh Wasim Firoz, S/O- Sekh Abdur Rahim, residing at Vill- Pato, P/B- Khanakul, Dist- Hooghly do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Sekh Wasim Firoz to Sekh Wasim Firoz and henceforth I shall be known as Sekh Wasim Firoz in all Purpose, vide Affidavit no- 5509 sworn before the Ld.1st class J.M. at Arambagh on 18/08/2026 Sekh Wasim Firoz, S/O- Sekh Abdur Rahim and Sekh Wasim Firoz, S/O- Sekh Abdur Rahim both are same and one identical person.

NAME CHANGE

I, No.15369640A, Rank Ex NK, Name Pronob Hati, resident of Vill- Sukantanagar, P.O.- Snipally, Dist.-Purba Bardhaman (WB), Pin- 713103 have change my Name from Pronob Hati to Pranab Hati vide Affidavit dated 18/08/26 before the Judicial Magistrate, 1st Class, Purba Bardhaman.

NAME CHANGE

I,Monika Biswas (Old name),W/o-Nripen Biswas resident of Vill-Uttar Brahmapur, P.O.- Nimitla Bazar, P.S.-Harinagata, Dist.- Nadia, Pin-741257 do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Monika Biswas to Manika Biswas (new/correct name) and henceforth I shall be known as Manika Biswas (new/correct name) in all purpose, vide affidavit no-50, sworn before the court of Ld.J.M.(1st class)Kalyani,Nadia on 12/08/2026. Manika Biswas and Monika Biswas both are same and one identical person.

NAME CHANGE

I, Rajab Ali Mandal S/o Anar Ali Mandal R/o Jagannathnagar Halidibagan, P.S.- Maheshtala, P.O.- Jagannathnagar, Dist.- 24Pgs(S), Kolkata-700140 have changed my Surname and Father's name, from Rajab Ali Mandal(Old name) to Rajab Ali Mandal(New name) and Anerali Mandal(Old name) to Anar Ali Mandal(New name) as declared before the 1st class J.M. at Alipore Court vide affidavit no.56222 dated 01.07.26. Rajab Ali Mandal(Old name) to Rajab Ali Mandal(New name) and Anerali Mandal(Old name) to Anar Ali Mandal(New name) all are same & one identical person.

NOTICE

I, Smt. Yugagni Sett Pal, wife of Sri Soumak Pal, resident of G.T. Road, Tematha Shibtala, P.O. & P.S. Chandannagar, District Hooghly, PIN - 712136, and presently residing at Nilkantha Sarkar Street, Bagbazar, P.O. & P.S. Chandannagar, District Hooghly, PIN-712136, do hereby declare that, by virtue of Affidavit No. 6739 dated 07.08.2026, sworn before the Judicial Magistrate, First Class, Chandannagar, Hooghly, I have changed/assumed my name from Smt. Yugagni Sett to Smt. Yugagni Sett Pal.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Soma poddar, w/o Mriganka Sankar Poddar, resident of 2 no k k pally, P.O. Italgachha, P.S. DUMDUM, Dist. North 24 parganas, Kolkata - 700079, hereby declare that I have changed my name from Soma Poddar to Soma Poddar Kar and henceforth I shall be known as Soma Poddar Kar in all purpose, vide affidavit no.30AC282787 sworn before the Notary public at Barrackpore on 18.08.2026 that Soma Poddar and Soma Poddar Kar are same and one identical person.

Name Change

I, ARJINA MANDAL W/O Soumik Kundu R/A - Dhalua Nabapally, Rajpur - Sonarpur Municipality, P.S. - Narendrapur, Dist - 24 PGS (South), Pin - 700152 and Ganrapota, Ganrapota Bongaiga North 24 Parganas, West Bengal 743251 have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as SONALI KUNDU as declared before the Ld. Judicial Magistrate First Class at Alipore Court (WB) vide Affidavit No. - 70317 dated 18.11.2025. ARJINA MANDAL & SONALI KUNDU both are same and one identical person.

Name Change

I, Kritika Khetawat, W/o- Devashish Khetawat, D/o- Manish Jhunjhunwala R/O- Paramount Apartment 7th Floor, Flat-7A, 25, Ballygunge Circular Road, P.O. & P.S. Ballygunge, Kol- 700 019, I have change my name from Kritika Jhunjhunwala (before marriage) (Driving license.WB 0120130999290) to Kritika Khetawat and shall henceforth be known as Kritika Khetawat in all purposes, W/o- Devashish Khetawat (after marriage- certificate no. WB342001000101000028-2026-123687, dt. 04.08.2026 & Voter Card No.- NSR1540152), vide an Affidavit No. 29161, dt. 18.08.2026, in the Court of the Ld. 1st Class, J.M., Alipore, That Kritika Jhunjhunwala & Kritika Khetawat both are same & one identical person.

CHANGE OF NAME

I SHARMILA BANERJEE W/O-T.I. SOURABH BANERJEE residing at Kodalia Sonarpur S 24 PGS, Kol-146 Husband's Aadhaar No -231757860110 state that the name 'Sourabh Banerjee' was adopted via Affidavit No. 147 executed at the Baruipur S.M. Court on 19/05/2026. SOURABH BANERJEE & SOURAV BANERJEE is the same and one identical person .

Name Change

I, DILIP KUMAR MUKHOPADHYAY, son of Late Phanihushan Mukherjee, residing at Akash Gangha Housing Society, Flat No. B/9, 2nd Floor, 208/1, B.T. Road, P.O. & P.S. Baranagar, District North 24 Parganas, Kolkata - 700036, do hereby declare by an Affidavit sworn before the Ld. Judicial Magistrate, 1st Class, Barrackpore, that my correct and actual name is DILIP KUMAR MUKHOPADHYAY. My name has been incorrectly recorded as DILIP KUMAR MUKHERJEE in certain documents/records. DILIP KUMAR MUKHOPADHYAY and DILIP KUMAR MUKHERJEE, son of Late Phanihushan Mukherjee, refer to one and the same person, i.e. myself, and no body else. Henceforth, I shall be known and identified as DILIP KUMAR MUKHOPADHYAY for all purposes.

Name Change

I, Edward Suklesh Dcosta (actual name), S/O/Lt. Moti Dcosta. Residing at Vill- Raghobpur, P.O.- Panpara, P.S.- Ranaghat, Nadia. Declare that my daughter's name is Agnes Dcosta (actual name). My name wrongly recorded as Edward D'Costa in her birth certificate & all her Educational documents. That I Edward Suklesh Dcosta & Edward D'Costa & Edward Shukalesh Dcosta & Edward Shukalesha Dcosta is the same and one identical person. Vide affidavit before the court of J.M. 1st class at Ranaghat on 18/8/26.

Name Change

I, Asim Halder S/o. Late Adhir Halder, R/o. Rabindranagar Paschim Para, Rabindranagar, Chinsurah, Hooghly- 712103, do hereby declare that in my Passport where my name has been recorded as Asim Halder S/o. Adhir Halder (Father) & Ranjita Halder (Mother) instead of correct & actual name Asim Halder S/o. Adhir Halder (Father) & Ranjita Halder (Mother), which I want to rectify in my Passport as Asim Halder S/o. Adhir Halder (Father) & Ranjita Halder (Mother) when & where necessary against this affidavit. I, Asim Halder S/o. Adhir Halder (Father) & Ranjita Halder (Mother) and Asim Halder S/o. Adhir Halder (Father) & Ranjita Halder (Mother), both are the same & one identical person vide an affidavit no. 19908, dated 19/08/2026, sworn before Judicial Magistrate, Sadar Hooghly Court.

Name Change

I, Arafat Mondal, S/o. Md Hossain Mondal, R/o. Harit, Dadpur, Hooghly- 712305, do hereby declare that in my Birth Certificate (Being Regn. No. 35/2012, dated 23.07.2012) where my Father's name has been recorded as Mohammed Hossain Mondal instead of his correct & actual name Md Hossain Mondal and also my Mother's name has been recorded as Shakila Begam instead of Sakila Begam, which I want to rectify in my Birth Certificate when & where necessary against this affidavit. That my father, Md Hossain Mondal & Mohammed Hossain Mondal and my mother Sakila Begam & Shakila Begam both are the same & one identical person vide an affidavit no. 19809, dated 18.08.2026, sworn before Judicial Magistrate, Sadar Hooghly Court.

Name Change

I, MOULANA MOHAMMAD ZAKIR HOSAIN, S/o.Late MOHAMMAD AKBAR ALI aged about 63 yrs., resident of Vill- Mollapur, P.O. Mondutari, P.S. Pingla, Dist.-Pachim Medinipur, Pin 721140 (WB) do hereby solemnly affirm and declare that my deceased father's actual and real name is MOHAMMAD AKBAR ALI as recorded in my Voter Id. vide no.YMD1752195 issued by ECI and in my Aadhaar card being no.5058 5736 5965 which is wrongly recorded AKBAR ALI in my passport vide no.N6878812, and JUMMAN MANSURI in the Voter List of 2003 of Bihar, Pat no.259, S.I.no.579 instead of MOHAMMAD AKBAR ALI as recorded in above mentioned my Voter Id Card and my Aadhaar Card. By an affidavit no.21814 dt.18/08/2026, before the 1st Class Ld.Judicial Magistrate at Paschim Medinipur that MOHAMMAD AKBAR ALI and AKBAR ALI and JUMMAN MANSURI are the same and one identical person.

Name Change

I, HACHINA BIBI, D/O- Soyeb Ali Mandal, W/O- Baburali, R/O- -Vill & P.O.- Chahta, P.S.- Matia, Dist - North 24 Pgs, PIN - 743445, do hereby declare that in my voter card my name has been recorded as MARJINA KHATUN. On 18.04.2026 vide affidavit no. 8576 submitted before that Court of 1st class Judicial Magistrate, Barasat, I affirm that myself, HACHINA BIBI & MARJINA KHATUN is the same & one identical person.

Name Change

I, AJGAR MONDAL, S/O- KACHEM ALI MONDAL, R/O- Vill- Kripalpur, P.O.- Gourbihaj, P.S.- Matia, Dist- North 24 Pgs. do hereby declare that in my school certificate my name has been recorded as MD. AJGAR ALI, S/O- MD. KASEM MONDAL & in 2002 voter list, 95 Basirhat AC, Part No.- 35, S.L.No -218 my father's name has been recorded as কাম আল মন্ডল & in my father's epic, aadhaar & PAN card it is recorded as KACHEM ALI MONDAL. On 18.04.2026 vide affidavit no. 9878 submitted before the Court of 1st class Judicial Magistrate, Barasat, I affirm that myself, AJGAR MONDAL & MD. AJGAR ALI and KACHEM ALI MONDAL, MD. KASEM MONDAL, কাম আল মন্ডল & KACHEM ALI MONDAL all are same & one identical person i.e. my father.

NAME CHANGE

I, Md. Mukhtar Ahmed (Old Name), S/o- Lt. Anwar Ali, R/O- 26, G.C.R.C. Ghat Road, P.S.- Shibpur, Dist.-Howrah, I have change my name from Md. Mukhtar Ahmed (Old Name) to Mukhtar Ahmed (New Name) and henceforth I shall be known as Mukhtar Ahmed (New Name), vide an Affidavit No. S.I.-3, dt. 14.08.2026, in the Court of the J.M. 1st Class at Howrah. That, Md. Mukhtar Ahmed (Old Name) & Mukhtar Ahmed (New Name) both are same & one identical person.

নাম পরিবর্তন

আমি শেখ সারিফুল (SK SARIFUL), পিতা- শেখ শাহিদুল ইসলাম, সাং- কালিপুর, পো- বি-রত্ননাথপুর, থানা- কালিপুর, জেলা- দক্ষিণ ২৪ পরগনা, জাতি- ছি যে আমার ছেলে শেখ কবিরুল (SK KABIRUL) এর জন্ম সার্টিফিকেটে আমার নাম SK SARIFUL ISLAM ও স্বামীর নাম KULCHUM KHATUN ভুল লেখা হয়েছে, বাকসইর আদালতে ০৫/০৮/২০২৬ তারিখে হুজুর এফিডেভিট লওয়া। আমারদের সঠিক নাম হলো 'SK SARIFUL' ও 'KULSUM KHATUN'.

Name Change

I, Prasanta Kumar Dey (old name), S/O Kanailal De, residing at Block-5, Flat- 11A, Merlin Maximus, 618 B.T Road, Sukchar, North 24 Parganas, Pin- 700115, West Bengal, India, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Prasanta Kumar Dey (Old Name) to Prasanta Kumar Dey (New Name)and henceforth shall be known as Prasanta Kumar Dey (new name), as declared Before The Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 19/08/2026. Prasanta Kumar Dey (new name) and Prasanta Kumar Dey (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change

I, Md Muzaffar Alam (Old Name) S/o Abdul Latif Residing at 66, Srinath Porel Lane, District - Howrah, Pin- 711101, West Bengal, India, do hereby declare that I have Changed my name from Md Muzaffar Alam (Old Name) to Muzaffar Arif (New Name) and henceforth I shall be known as Muzaffar Arif (New Name) in all purpose, vide affidavit Sworn before the Notary public at Kolkata on Dated 19-08-2026. Muzaffar Arif (New Name) and Md Muzaffar Alam (Old Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change

I, Abhiram Giri (Old Name) S/o Dhiren Chandra Giri Residing at Ghol, Chaulkhola, District - East Midnapore, Pin - 721455, West Bengal, India, do hereby declare that I have Changed my name from Abhiram Giri (Old Name) to Aviram Giri (New Name) and henceforth I shall be known as Aviram Giri (New Name) in all purpose, vide affidavit no 16/2026 Sworn before the Notary public at Kolkata on Dated 19-08-2026. Aviram Giri (New Name) and Abhiram Giri (Old Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change

I, Riailul Mukti (Old Name) S/o Mannan Mukti Residing at Vill - Meshera, P.O.- Kalachara, P.S. - Haripal, District - Hooghly, Pin - 712405, West Bengal, India, do hereby declare that I have Changed my name from Riailul Mukti (Old Name) to Riayilul Islam Mukti (New Name) and henceforth I shall be known as Riayilul Islam Mukti (New Name) in all purpose, vide affidavit no 16/2026 Sworn before the Notary public at Kolkata on Dated 19-08-2026. Riayilul Islam Mukti (New Name) and Riailul Mukti (Old Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change

I, Rasida Rahaman, Mst Rasida Khatun, Sk Rashida Rahaman (Old Name) W/o Sk Amminur Rahaman D/o Golam Rahaman Mullick Residing at Vill - Ghorabera, P.O - Bhatora, P.S - Joyrupur, District - Howrah, Pin - 711303, West Bengal, India, do hereby declare that I have Changed my name from Rasida Rahaman, Mst Rasida Khatun, Sk Rashida Rahaman (Old Name) to Rashida Khatun (New Name) and henceforth I shall be known as Rashida Khatun (New Name) in all purpose, vide affidavit Sworn before the Notary public at Kolkata on Dated 19-08-2026. Rashida Khatun (New Name) and Rasida Rahaman, Mst Rasida Khatun, Sk Rashida Rahaman (Old Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change

I, Amminur Rahaman (Old Name) S/o Sk Md Yunus Residing at Vill - Ghorabera, P.O - Bhatora, P.S - Joyrupur, District - Howrah, Pin - 711303, West Bengal, India, do hereby declare that I have Changed my name from Amminur Rahaman (Old Name) to Sk Amminur Rahaman (New Name) and henceforth I shall be known as Sk Amminur Rahaman (New Name) in all purpose, vide affidavit Sworn before the Notary public at Kolkata on Dated 19-08-2026. Sk Amminur Rahaman (New Name) and Amminur Rahaman (Old Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change

I, Ranajit Kumar Roy (Old Name) S/o Rajendra Nath Roy Residing at Chotto Jirakpur, P.O.- Basirhat District - North 24 Parganas, Pin - 743412, West Bengal, India, do hereby declare that I have Changed my name from Ranajit Kumar Roy (Old Name) to Ranajit Roy (New Name) and henceforth I shall be known as Ranajit Roy (New Name) in all purpose, vide affidavit no. 12 Sworn before the Notary public at Kolkata on Dated 11-08-2026. Ranajit Roy (New Name) and Ranajit Kumar Roy (Old Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change

I, Manju Ball (Old Name) W/o Late Mukunda Baul Residing at 5 No Pananjih, Sreepally, P.O- Noapara, District - North 24 Parganas, Pin - 700125, West Bengal, India, do hereby declare that I have Changed my name from Manju Ball (Old Name) to Manju Baul (New Name) and henceforth I shall be known as Manju Baul (New Name) in all purpose, vide affidavit no 10 Sworn before the Notary public at Kolkata on Dated 18-08-2026. Manju Baul (New Name) and Manju Ball (Old Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change

I, (Old Name) PRATI SARKAR S/O BHADU SARKAR Residing at - Bidhan Colony, Dahapara, Jagaji, Dist- Murshidabad, Pin- 742152, West Bengal. Do hereby declare that I have Changed my name from PRATI SARKAR to PATI SARKAR (New name) and henceforth I shall be Known as (New name) PATI SARKAR in all purpose Vide an affidavit No- 2167 On Date 07 August 2026 Sworn before the Notary Public at Berhampore Murshidabad, PATI SARKAR and PRATI SARKAR both are Same and one identical person.

Name Change

I, Edward Suklesh Dcosta (actual name), S/O/Lt. Moti Dcosta. Residing at Vill- Raghobpur, P.O.- Panpara, P.S.- Ranaghat, Nadia. Declare that my son's name is Sonu Alex Dcosta (actual name). That his name is wrongly recorded as Sanu Dcosta in his epic Card Vide no NEY 2456812, also my name is wrongly recorded as Edward Shukalesha Dcosta in my epic card no MTM 2522167 & as Edward D'Costa in my Son's birth Certificate & all Educational documents. That I Edward Suklesh Dcosta & Edward Shukalesha Dcosta & Edward D'Costa is the same and one identical person. Also Sonu Alex Dcosta & Sanu Dcosta is the same and one identical person. Vide affidavit before the 1st class J.M. court at Ranaghat

Name Change

I, Sekh Noor Boksh (Old Name), Son Of Sekh Dana Molla, Resident Of Aida Kismat, Po-Guptionara, Hooghly- 712512, West Bengal Do Hereby Declare That I Have Changed My Name From Sekh Noor Boksh (Old Name) To Sk Nurbox (New Name) And Henceforth I Shall Be Known As Sk Nurbox (New Name) In All Purpose, Vide Affidavit No 32 Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 19/08/2026. Sk Nurbox (New Name) And Sekh Noor Boksh (Old Name) Both Are Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change

I, Jahanara Begum (Old Name), Wife Of Sk Abdul Kalam, Resident Of 70d/H/3 Tiljala Road Kolkata-700046, West Bengal Do Hereby Declare That I Have Changed My Name From Jahanara Begum (Old Name) To Jaha Ara Begum (New Name) And Henceforth I Shall Be Known As Jaha Ara Begum (New Name) In All Purpose, Vide Affidavit No 26 Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 19/08/2026. Jaha Ara Begum (New Name) And Jahanara Begum (Old Name) Both Are Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change

I, Rameshwar Prasad Srivastava S/o Brinda Lal Srivastav, resident of 358, Rabindra Sarani, Kol-6 do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Rameshwar Prasad Srivastava to Rameshwar Prasad Srivastav and henceforth I shall be known as Rameshwar Prasad Srivastav in all purpose, vide affidavit no 11 sworn before the Notary Public at Kolkata on 22/07/2026, Rameshwar Prasad Srivastav and Rameshwar Prasad Srivastava both are same and one identical person.

Name Change

I, Rita Srivastava W/o Rameshwar Prasad Srivastav, resident of 94 RBC Rd Extn, N24 Prgs, WB-28 do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Rita Srivastava to Reeta Srivastav and henceforth I shall be known as Reeta Srivastav in all purpose, vide affidavit no 10 sworn before the Notary Public at Kolkata on 22/07/2026, Reeta Srivastav and Rita Srivastava both are same and one identical person.

Name Change

I, Billal Ali Mondal (Old Name), Son Of Nurbox Mondal, Resident Of Modyahat, Mendia, P.S.-Gopalnagar, North 24 Parganas-743262, West Bengal Do Hereby Declare That I Have Changed My Name From Billal Ali Mondal (Old Name) To Billal Mondal (New Name) And Henceforth I Shall Be Known As Billal Mondal (New Name) In All Purpose, Vide Affidavit No 10917 Sworn Before The Ld Executive Magistrate At Bongaon On 30/07/2026. Billal Mondal (New Name) And Billal Ali Mondal (Old Name) Both Are Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change

I, Asrafu Ali Mondal (Old Name), Son Of Bilal Mondal, Resident Of Vill-Naoda, Po-Madiahat, P.S.-Gopalnagar, North 24 Parganas-743262, West Bengal Do Hereby Declare That I Have Changed My Name From Asrafu Ali Mondal (Old Name) To Ashafu Mondal (New Name) And Henceforth I Shall Be Known As Ashafu Mondal (New Name) In All Purpose, Vide Affidavit No 10917 Sworn Before The Ld Executive Magistrate At Bongaon On 30/07/2026. Ashafu Mondal (New Name) And Asrafu Ali Mondal (Old Name) Both Are Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change

I, Amjad Molla (Old Name), Son Of Late Akbar Molla, Resident Of Darbesh Mollarchak, Po-Madhabnagar, P.S.-Harwood Point Coastal, South 24 Parganas-743374, West Bengal Do Hereby Declare That I Have Changed My Name From Amjad Molla (Old Name) To Amjed Molla (New Name) And Henceforth I Shall Be Known As Amjed Molla (New Name) In All Purpose, Vide Affidavit No 27 Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 19/08/2026. Amjed Molla (New Name) And Amjad Molla (Old Name) Both Are Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change

I, Raksana Bibi (Old Name), Daughter Of Aasmt Sekh, Resident Of Dakshin Padirhati, Po-Bidhangarh, P.S.-Rabindranagar, South 24 Parganas-700066, West Bengal Do Hereby Declare That I Have Changed My Name From Raksana Bibi (Old Name) To Ruksana Begum (New Name) And Henceforth I Shall Be Known As Ruksana Begum (New Name) In All Purpose, Vide Affidavit No 28 Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 19/08/2026. Ruksana Begum (New Name) And Raksana Bibi (Old Name) Both Are Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change

I, Suresh Howader (Old Name), Son Of Suren Howader, Resident Of 8b, Saruna Sonamukhi Main Road, Santi Pally, P.O. & P.S. - Saruna, Kolkata-700061, Do Hereby Declare That I Have Changed My Name From Suresh Howader (Old Name) To Suresh Howader (New Name) And Henceforth I Shall Be Known As Suresh Howader (New Name) In All Purpose Vide Affidavit No. 66208 Sworn Before The 1st Class Judicial Magistrate At Alipore On 28/07/2026. Suresh Howader (New Name) And Suresh Howader (Old Name) Both Are Same And One Identical Person. My Actual Date Of Birth Is 01/01/1965 Which Is Entered In My Pan Card, Voter Id Card And Adhar Card But Inadvertently My Date Of Birth Is 12/02/1975 Wrongly Entered In My Passport Being Passport No. N7871323 Instead Of 01/01/1965.

Name Change

I, Sanjay Kumar Gupta (old name), S/O Debi Prasad Gupta, residing at 70/1A Diamond Harbour Road, Watgune, P.O.- Khidirpore, Kolkata- 700023, West Bengal, India, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Sanjay Kumar Gupta (Old Name) to Sanjay Gupta (New Name)and henceforth shall be known as Sanjay Gupta (new name), as declared Before The Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 19/08/2026. Sanjay Gupta (new name) and Sanjay Kumar Gupta (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change

I, Mohammad Zafar Shaikh (old name), S/O Mohammad Budu Shaikh, residing at VILL- SAHAAPUR, P.O.- SAHAAPUR, BHARATPUR, MURSHIDABAD, WEST BENGAL, PIN- 742301, West Bengal, India, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Mohammad Zafar Shaikh (Old Name) to Md Zafar Shaikh (New Name)and henceforth shall I be known as Md Zafar Shaikh (new name), as declared Before The Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 18/08/2026. Md Zafar Shaikh (new name) and Mohammad Zafar Shaikh (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change

I, Hitesh Bhagchandani S/O, Baldev Bhagchandani Alias Baldev Harumal Resident Of 134b, Beliaghata Main Road, Po-Tangra, P.S.-Narkeldanga, Kolkata-700015, Do Hereby Declare That I Have My Father's Name In My Birth Certificate Recorded Baldev Bagh Chandani, Pan Card, Aadhar Card & Passport Recorded Baldev Bhagchandani, Henceforth I Shall Be Know As In All Purpose Vide Affidavit No. 11615 Shown Before 1st Class Magistrate At Sealdah Court On 10 Th June 2026. Baldev Harumal, Baldev Bhagchandani, Baldev Bagh Chandani All Are Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change

I, Baldev Harumal, Son Of Late Harumal Shyamdass, Resident Of 134b, Beliaghata Main Rd, Po-Tangra, P.S.-Narkeldanga, Kolkata-700015, West Bengal Do Hereby Declare That I Have All Documents My Name Are Correct, But My Sons Documents Father's Name Written Baldev Bagh Chandani, Baldev Bhag Chandani, And Henceforth I Shall Be Known As Baldev Harumal, Baldev Bhagchandani And Baldev Bagh Chandani In All Purpose, Vide Affidavit No 11616 Sworn Before The 1st Class Magistrate At Sealdah Court On 10/06/2026. Baldev Harumal And Baldev Bhagchandani And Baldev Bagh Chandani All Are Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change

I, Assadur Zaman (old name), S/O Shaikh Mohit Bok, residing at 57, Diamond Harbour Road, Ideal Towers Flat-3B, Block-C, Kolkata- 700023, West Bengal, India, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Assadur Zaman (Old Name) to Shaikh Assadur Zaman (New Name)and henceforth shall I be known as Shaikh Assadur Zaman (new name), as declared Before The Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 19/08/2026. Shaikh Assadur Zaman (new name) and Assadur Zaman (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change

I, Md Nazrul Islam (Old Name) Son Of Late Juran Dhan Resident At Vill-Swaruppur, P.O.- Kholopota, P.S.-Matia, Dist-North 24 Parganas, Pin - 743428, West Bengal, Do Hereby Declare That I Have Changed My Name From Md Nazrul Islam (Old Name) To Nazrul Islam Dhali (New Name) Henceforth I Shall Be Known As Nazrul Islam Dhali (New Name) In All Purpose, Vide Affidavit No 21480 Sworn Before The Ld. Judicial Magistrate 1st Class At Kolkata On 19.06.2026 Nazrul Islam Dhali (New Name) And Md Nazrul Islam(Old Name) Both Are Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change

I, Mohammad Hossain Mallick (Old Name), Son Of Abdul Rahaman Mallick, Resident Of Vill+Po-Bhuta, P.S.-Daspur, West Medinipur, 721211, West Bengal Do Hereby Declare That I Have Changed My Name From Mohammad Hossain Mallick (Old Name) To Mahammad Hossain Mallick(New Name) And Henceforth I Shall Be Known As Mahammad Hossain Mallick (New Name) In All Purpose, Vide Affidavit No 14 Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 19/08/2026. Mahammad Hossain Mallick (New Name) And Mohammad Hossain Mallick (Old Name) Both Are Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change

I, Puja Bibi (Old Name), Wife Of Sk Mobarak Hossain, Resident Of Vill & Po Chak Kashipur/Ps-Nodakhali, South 24 Parganas-743318, West Bengal Do Hereby Declare That I Have Changed My Name From Puja Bibi (Old Name) To Kohinur Bibi(New Name) And Henceforth I Shall Be Known As Kohinur Bibi (New Name) In All Purpose, Vide Affidavit No 66801 Sworn Before The Ld 1st Class Judicial Magistrate At Alipore On 29/07/2026. Kohinur Bibi (New Name) And Puja Bibi (Old Name) Both Are Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change

I, Mamta Das (Old Name), Wife Of Kamal Kumar Das, Resident Of 173, Maharaja Nanda Kumar Road North, Kolkata- 700035, West Bengal, Do Hereby Declare That I Have Changed My Name From Mamta Das (Old Name) To Mamata Das (New Name) And Henceforth I Shall Be Known As Mamata Das (New Name) In All Purpose Vide Affidavit No. 987 Sworn Before The 1st Class Judicial Magistrate At Kolkata On 14/07/2026. Mamata Das (New Name) And Mamta Das (Old Name) Both Are Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change

I, Pimpi Dhar (Old Name), Wife Of Abhijit Bala, Resident Of 9, Park Avenue, Modern Park, Santoshpur, P.S.- Survey Park, Kolkata-700075, Do Hereby Declare That I Have Changed My Name From Pimpi Dhar (Old Name) To Pimpi Bala (New Name) And Henceforth I Shall Be Known As Pimpi Bala (New Name) In All Purpose Vide Affidavit No 19 Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 19/08/2026. Pimpi Bala (New Name) And Pimpi Dhar (Old Name) Both Are Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change

I, Tilak Choudhury (Old Name), Son Of Late Tulsi Choudhury And Tulshi Choudhury, Resident Of Krishnapur Samar Sarani, Krishnapur Main Road, Po- Krishnapur, P.S.- Baguati, Dist - 24 North Parganas, Pin -700102, West Bengal Do Hereby Declare That I Have Changed My Name From Tilak Choudhury (Old Name) To Tilak Choudhury (New Name) And Henceforth I Shall Be Known As Tilak Choudhury (New Name) In All Purpose Vide Affidavit No 18 Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 19/08/2026. Tilak Choudhury (New Name) And Tilak Choudhury (Old Name) Both Are Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change

I, Sabina Khatun (old name), D/O Md Keramat Ali, residing at Vill- Narayanpur, P.O.- Soladana, P.S.- Basirhat, Dist.- North 24 Parganas, Pin- 743429, West Bengal, India, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Sabina Khatun (Old Name) to Sabina Bibi (New Name)and henceforth shall I be known as Sabina Bibi (new name), as declared Before The Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 19/08/2026. Sabina Bibi (new name) and Sabina Khatun (old name) both are same and one identical person.

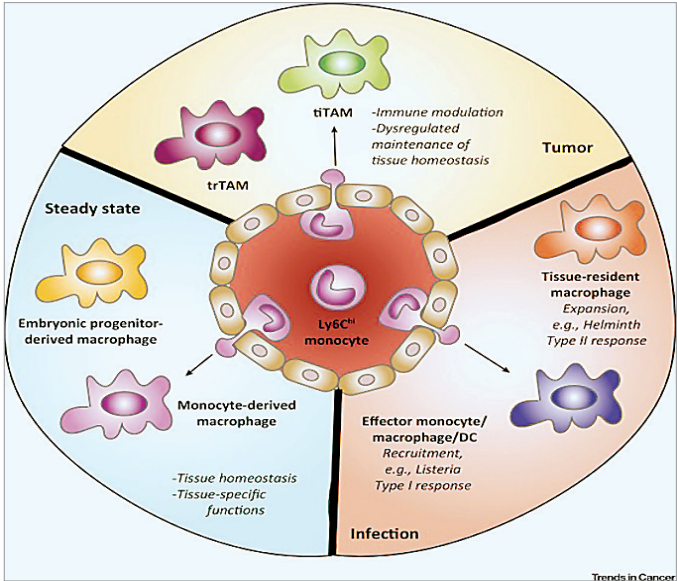
Name Change

I, Tej Narayan Prasad (Old Name), Son Of Jamuna Ram, Resident Of 45, 3rd Bye Lane Thanamakua Uttar Podrah, Sankrail, Howrah-711109, West Bengal Do Hereby Declare That I Have Changed My Name From Tej Narayan Prasad (Old Name) To Tej Narayan Prasad Ram (New Name) And Henceforth I Shall Be Known As Tej Narayan Prasad Ram (New Name) In All Purpose, Vide Affidavit No 34 Sworn Before Theld 1st Class Judicial Magistrate At Howrah On 05/08/2026. Tej Narayan Prasad Ram (New Name) And Tej Narayan Prasad (Old Name) Both Are Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change

I, Sk Robieal & Sk Robiel Hossain (old names), S/O Late Sk Abdul Rab, residing at VILL-Chhatimpur, PO-Huria, PS--Khandoghosh, District - Purba Bardhaman, Pin- 713424, West Bengal

Study finds how macrophages play critical role in immune system



WASHINGTON : Macrophages are essential to the immune system because they combat infections and help heal damaged tissue. It's critical to comprehend how these cells are triggered in various contexts in order to design novel medical interventions. The complexity of these cells and their reactions has made it difficult to identify and research macrophage activation.

The protein known as colony stimulating factor 1 receptor (CSF1R) was discovered by the study team to be a dependable marker for macrophages in tissues and monocytes and dendritic cells in blood, enabling the distinct identification and separation of various sample types. People of

all ages and genders can dependably use the new method. Dr Fernando Martinez Estrada, who led the research project and is Senior Lecturer in Innate Immunology in the School of Biosciences at the University of Surrey, said, "We have developed a method using CSF1R that can identify all types of Mononuclear phagocyte system cells in the body. This marker is incredibly useful for studying these cells in both health and disease, and it unlocks exciting new possibilities for cell isolation and quantification for diagnosing and monitoring various conditions with a single cell marker."

The study developed a set of tools to understand and check how these immune cells respond when

they are activated. These tools focus on signals in the body, including IL-4 (involved in healing and fibrosis), steroids (deactivation), IFN γ (fights infections), and LPS (a bacterial product that causes inflammation). The research team also described a novel concept that they call Macrophage Activation Mosaicism. This means that macrophages do not simply switch between the canonical two states previously described; instead, they can exhibit a mix of activation characteristics, reflecting the complexity of real tissue environments. Dr Federica Orsenigo, co-author of the study, explains further, "This discovery is significant because it changes how we perceive macrophage activation." "Recognising that macrophages can have mixed activation status helps us better understand their roles in different diseases and could lead to more targeted and effective treatments."

Emeritus Professor Siamon Gordon, co-author of the study from the University of Oxford, said:

"Therapies that seek to re-educate macrophages are widely sought. However, the tools to measure activation are underdeveloped. Having a robust multi-gene tool to study macrophage activation can help in drug screening, identify drugs that revert macrophage activation, and eventually help with patient characterisation and personalised medicine."

Study reveals how protein-rich breakfast can increase satiety, improve concentration



AARHUS, DENMARK : A new Danish study investigated the relationship between diet and cognitive function, and the findings show that a protein-rich breakfast can boost satiety and concentration.

This is important knowledge in a society with increasing obesity rates and lifestyle-related diseases, said researcher.

"Breakfast is the most important meal of the day." This is a well-worn platitude that has never had much basis in scientific evidence.

But a new Danish study has explored how different types of breakfast affect satiety and concentration and it has added new fuel to the old cliché.

The study followed 30 obese women aged 18 to 30 for three days, during which the women consumed a protein-rich breakfast, a carbohydrate-rich breakfast or no breakfast at all. The women's sense of satiety, hormone levels and energy intake were measured at lunchtime. Their total daily energy intake was measured as well.

The participants also had to complete a cognitive concentration test during the study.

"We found that a protein-rich breakfast with skyr (a sour-milk product) and oats increased satiety and concentration in the participants, but it did not reduce the overall energy intake compared to skipping breakfast or eating a carbohydrate-rich breakfast," says Mette Hansen, associate professor and PhD at the Department of Public Health, and one of the authors of the study.

The number of overweight people is increasing both in Denmark and across the globe. Obesity is often accompanied by lifestyle-related diseases such as type 2 diabetes. Previous studies have shown that people who eat breakfast have a lower BMI than people who do not eat breakfast, and protein-rich foods have generally been shown to have an increased satiety effect compared to carbohydrate-rich and high-fat foods with the same calorie content. The idea was

therefore to test whether a protein-rich breakfast could be a good strategy to achieving greater satiety during the day and thus reducing daily calorie intake.

However, the solution is not that simple, said Mette Hansen: "The results confirm that protein-rich meals increase a sense of satiety, which is positive with regard to preventing weight gain. However, the results also suggest that for this nutritional strategy to be effective, it's not enough to just eat a protein-rich breakfast."

The potential of replacing a carbohydrate-rich diet with a protein-rich diet can clearly be seen in the satiating effects measured in the study. Several of the subjects had difficulty consuming the entire protein-rich breakfast consisting of skyr and oats.

"It's intriguing that there can be such a big difference in the satiety effect of two different meals with the same calorie content. Had the women in the project been allowed to choose the size of the meal themselves, it's likely that they'd have consumed more food and thereby more calories on the day they were served bread and jam than on the day they were given skyr and oats," explained Mette Hansen. According to the researcher, although the study has provided important insights, it also has its limitations because only overweight young women participated in the study. The study is also based on relatively short-term observations, leaving open the question of how long-term dietary changes can affect health and weight. Mette Hansen therefore points out that the study underlines the need for further research to understand how different types of food affect health over time.

"We already have new data incoming from a trial where participants received either a high-protein breakfast or a low-protein breakfast. The objective was to study how the different types of breakfast affect body composition and other parameters such as microbiota and cholesterol levels," said Mette Hansen.

Research reveals brain processes speech, its echo separately

WASHINGTON DC : Echoes can make speech difficult to understand, and getting rid of echoes in an audio recording is a very difficult engineering task. According to a study published in the open-access journal PLOS Biology by Jiaxin Gao of Zhejiang University in China and colleagues, the human brain appears to successfully handle the challenge by splitting the sound into direct speech and its echo.

The audio signals in online meetings and auditoriums that are not properly designed often have an echo lagging at least 100 milliseconds from the original speech. These echoes heavily distort speech, interfering with slowly varying sound features most important for understanding conversations, yet people still reliably understand echoic speech. To better understand how the brain enables this, the authors used magnetoencephalography (MEG) to record neural activity while human participants listened to a story with and without an echo. They compared the neural signals to two computational models: one simulating the brain adapting to the echo, and another simulating the brain separating the echo from the original speech.

Participants understood the story with over 95% accuracy, regardless of echo. The researchers observed that cortical activity tracks energy changes related to direct speech, despite the strong interference of the echo. Simulating neural adaptation only partially captured the brain response they observed—neural activity was better explained by a model that split original speech and its echo into separate processing streams. This remained true even when participants were told to direct their attention toward a silent film and ignore the story, suggesting that top-down attention isn't required to mentally separate direct speech and its echo. The researchers state that auditory stream segregation may be important both for singling out a specific speaker in a crowded environment, and for clearly understanding an individual speaker in a reverberant space.

The authors add, "Echoes strongly distort the sound features of speech and create a challenge for automatic speech recognition. The human brain, however, can segregate speech from its echo and achieve reliable recognition of echoic speech."

Men have greater risk of fractures from falls than women: Study

MASSACHUSETTS : A recent study titled "A meta-analysis of previous falls and subsequent fracture risk in cohort studies" found links between self-reported falls and increased fracture risk, as well as a slightly greater risk of fracture in men than in women. Published in Osteoporosis International, this international meta-analysis of data pooled from 46 prospective cohorts comprising over 900,000 individuals also recommended that previous falls are a factor that should be included in patients' histories used by fracture risk assessment tools like the FRAX (Fracture Risk Assessment) Tool to calculate a person's likelihood of getting a fracture over the next decade. FRAX is the most commonly used assessment to predict fracture risk.

"FRAX was developed using longitudinal data from studies around the world. Although previous falls have long been recognized as a significant risk factor for fractures, until now, they have not been factored into the FRAX algorithm," said Douglas P. Kiel, M.D., MPH, director of the Musculoskeletal Research Center and senior scientist at the Hinda and Arthur Marcus Institute for Aging Research at Hebrew SeniorLife, a nonprofit, Harvard Medical School affiliated institution. "In this newly updated FRAX dataset, previous falls were included as a risk factor and were found to increase the risk for fracture. These findings underscore that falls are an important contributor to fracture in both men and women, but interestingly, slightly more in men."

Key findings of the meta-analysis include

Increased Fracture Risk: Individuals with a history of falls within the past year were found to have a significantly higher risk of any clinical fracture, osteoporotic fracture, major osteoporotic fracture, and hip fracture. One or more previous falls were significantly associated with an increased risk of death among women and men. Sex Disparities: The association between previous falls and fracture risk was observed to vary by sex, with men exhibiting higher predictive values compared to women.

Does physical activity alleviate pain in cancer survivors?

WASHINGTON DC : People who have had cancer commonly experience prolonged pain, but a new study suggests that being physically active may help to minimize its severity.

Wiley published the study in the American Cancer Society's peer-reviewed publication, CANCER.

Although physical activity has been demonstrated to alleviate a variety of pains, its impact on cancer-related discomfort is unknown.

To investigate, a team led by senior author Erika Rees-Punia, PhD, MPH, of the American Cancer Society, and first author Christopher T.V. Swain, PhD, of the University of Melbourne, in Australia, analyzed information about 51,439 adults without a history of cancer and 10,651 adults with a past cancer diagnosis.

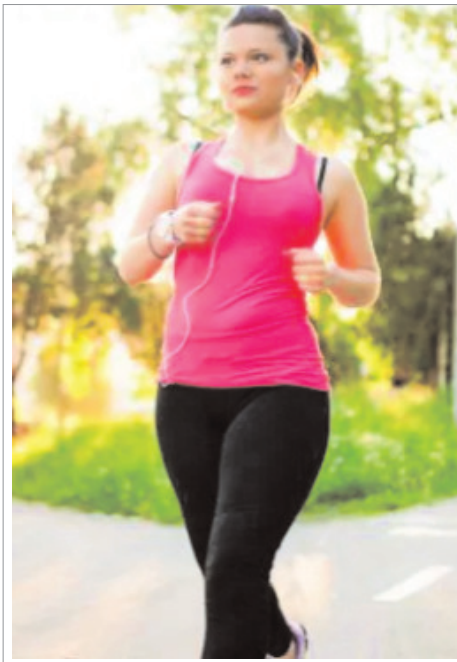
Participants were asked, "How would you rate your pain on average," with responses ranging from 0 (no pain) to 10 (worst pain imaginable). Participants were also asked about their usual physical activity.

US guidelines recommend 150 minutes (2 hours 30 minutes) to 300 minutes (5 hours) a week of moderate-intensity, or 75 minutes (1 hour 15 minutes) to 150 minutes (2 hours 30 minutes) a week of vigorous-intensity aerobic physical activity.

Based on participants' responses, the investigators found that, for individuals who had cancer in the past as well as for those without a history of cancer, more physical activity was linked with lower pain intensity.

The extent of the association was similar for both groups of individuals, indicating that exercise may reduce cancer-related pain just as it does for other types of pain that have been studied in the past.

Among participants with a past cancer diagnosis, those exceeding physical activity



guidelines were 16 per cent less likely to report moderate-to-severe pain compared to those who failed to meet physical activity guidelines.

Also, compared with people who remained inactive, those who were consistently active or became active in older adulthood reported less pain.

"It may feel counterintuitive to some, but physical activity is an effective, non-pharmacologic option for reducing many types of pain. As our study suggests, this may include pain associated with cancer and its treatments," said Dr. Rees-Punia.

Rare fat molecule helps drive cell death: Study

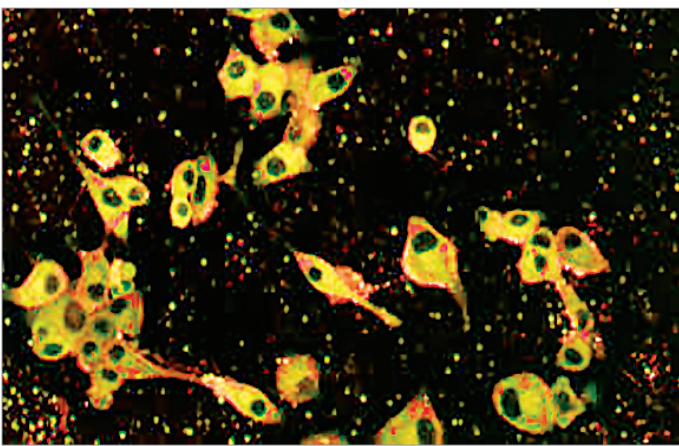
LOS ANGELES [US] : Researchers revealed that a rare sort of lipid plays a vital role in ferroptosis, a type of cell death described by Columbia professor Brent Stockwell.

The findings shed new light on how cells die during ferroptosis, potentially improving understanding of how to prevent ferroptosis in contexts where it is harmful, such as neurodegenerative diseases, or induce it in contexts where it could be beneficial, such as using it to kill dangerous cancer cells.

The study discovered that a diPUFA phospholipid, an uncommon type of lipid with two polyunsaturated fatty acyl tails, was present in a variety of situations where ferroptosis occurred, including aged brains and Huntington disease-affected brain tissue.

The finding indicated that the lipid is efficient at promoting ferroptosis.

The research was conducted by professors in Columbia's Department of Biological Sciences, Department of



The study discovered that a diPUFA phospholipid, an uncommon type of lipid with two polyunsaturated fatty acyl tails, was present in a variety of situations where ferroptosis occurred, including aged brains and Huntington disease-affected brain tissue.

Chemistry, and the Columbia University Irving Medical Center.

Stockwell first discovered ferroptosis in 2012, when he found that certain cells were dying because their lipid layers were collapsing—an unusual form of cell

investigate ferroptosis, discovering that it can occur naturally in ageing cells, in pathological contexts, and can be induced to treat disease. Another paper out this month with several co-authors found that a gene named PHLA2 can sometimes promote ferroptosis by attacking a different lipid and that this gene can block some tumours from forming. Together, these papers show that specific lipids promote ferroptosis, so defining the driver lipids in specific cancers is important.

"The discovery that these diPUFA lipids are important drivers of ferroptosis deepens our understanding of this form of cell death, and these lipids' role in controlling a cell's homeostasis in general," Stockwell said.

"Harnessing these lipids may eventually help us identify where ferroptosis has occurred and deliberately manipulate them to either induce cell death or stop it. This can begin to give us both understanding and the power to control cell death."

Language, culture can influence how our brain processes emotional faces: Research

WASHINGTON : Understanding body language is an important aspect of communication. Humans are frequently considered to be able to perceive other people's emotions innately, but there is rising evidence that this ability is impacted by people's culturally shared knowledge of emotions.

A team of scientists in the US decided to investigate how cultural upbringing and access to emotion category words, which categorize and facilitate access to a complex set of emotional ideas, experiences, and responses stored in our memory, impact how we perceive others' emotional facial expressions.

"Here we show that access to emotion category words like 'disgust' differentially alters how brain regions interact with one another when people perceive emotions on others' faces. Importantly, this effect depends on one's cultural upbringing," said Dr Joseph Leshin, a researcher at Northeastern University and the study's first author. "Our findings contribute to growing evidence that emotional facial expressions are not universally produced and understood," added senior author Dr Kristen Lindquist, a neuroscientist at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, where the data for the Frontiers in Psychology study was collected.

A trigger for emotion recognition

Two participant groups - Chinese individuals, born and raised in mainland China, but now



living in the US, and non-Hispanic White Americans who were born and raised in the US - were recruited for the study. While undergoing fMRI, both groups viewed actors pose expressions for 'disgust' and 'anger' as they are typically displayed by White North Americans. Over four blocks, the participants viewed expressions which were either preceded by the relevant emotion category word or a non-word control text. "When primed with the word 'disgust' before viewing the corresponding facial expression, immigrants from mainland China showed decreased functional connectivity in brain regions related to semantic processing, visual perception, and social cognition," Leshin said. "Whereas White American participants tend to perceive wrinkling of noses and

scowls as evidence that someone else is disgusted, Chinese participants are less likely to clearly associate those facial muscle movements with disgust. Thus, their brains were likely working harder to disambiguate the meaning of posed disgusted facial muscle movements," explained Lindquist. Critically, presenting Chinese participants with the English language cue 'disgust' prior to viewing wrinkled noses and scowls changed how their brains processed those expressions. White American participants did not show the same differences in brain connectivity in the emotion word v. control text conditions, likely because the facial expressions are familiar to them. These findings suggest that seeing an English emotion category word before seeing the cor-

responding facial expression may help Chinese participants to understand the meaning behind the culturally-relative expression better. This also seems to apply even when the emotion is not central to a culture, as is the case with the notion of 'disgust' in Chinese culture, the researchers added. Understanding how people wear their hearts on their sleeves

The researchers said that their findings should be interpreted in light of some limitations, for example the modest sample size and the fact that the participant groups and the emotion category words used in this study do not represent the full spectrum of cultural or emotional diversity. A starting point for future research could be investigating if similar differences can be found amongst cultures that are more similar to one another than China and the US. Even subtle cultural differences could lead to variations in neural processing of emotions, the researchers said. To date, there is relatively little work that focuses on subcultures within the same country, for example within the US or China.

A further field of application of the team's findings lies in artificial intelligence. "Our study suggests that AI tools designed to read emotions from faces must account for cultural variation to avoid misinterpretation of people's expressions and highlights the need for culturally informed AI," Leshin concluded.

Baloch leader urges Trump to intervene over Pakistan airstrikes in Balochistan

MI News Service, Washington: The Baloch American Congress president, Tara Chand, has written to US President Donald Trump seeking urgent intervention over recent Pakistani military airstrikes in Balochistan's Surab district that reportedly killed more than 30 civilians, including women and children.

In his letter addressed to Trump, Chand wrote, "We respectfully urge your administration to investigate these serious allegations and determine whether any US-origin aircraft, weapons, drones, technology, components, or other military equipment were used in the reported operation."

On behalf of the Baloch community, he also urged the American administration to investigate the reported airstrikes and civilian casualties in Surab, determine whether US-origin military equipment or technology was involved, and conduct appropriate end-use and compliance



reviews of relevant US defence equipment supplied to Pakistan.

Chand further called on the American authorities to support an independent investigation and accountability for any violations of US law, arms-transfer conditions, or international humanitarian law as well as review relevant US military assistance or transfers if credible evidence establishes that such equipment was misused against Baloch civilians.

"Mr. President, a Baloch child's life is as pre-

cious as the life of any child anywhere in the world. We are not asking the United States to prejudge the evidence—we are asking your Administration to establish the truth, protect civilians, and ensure accountability. We would welcome the opportunity to provide available documentation and meet with appropriate US officials regarding this urgent matter," the letter mentioned.

The incident took place in the early hours of August 12 when the Pakistani Air Force reportedly car-

ried out indiscriminate bombardment in residential areas in the Gidar area of Surab, killing civilians and causing significant damage to properties.

Last week, several Baloch activists and human rights bodies strongly rejected the statement issued by Pakistan's Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR)- the official media and public relations wing for Pakistan's Armed Forces, following the Pakistani airstrikes in Surab, describing it as "false and fabricated".

The criticism came after the Director General of Inter-Services Public Relations (DG ISPR) attempted to downplay the Surab attack by attributing it to the premature detonation of a Vehicle-Borne Improvised Explosive Device (VBIED) allegedly linked to a militant group.

Slamming Pakistan's official remarks, a leading Baloch human rights defender, Mir Yar Baloch, took to X and posted: "DG-

ISPR, which serves as the official spokesperson for the Pakistani military, has long faced severe criticism over its misleading and fabricated statements and official positions regarding controversial military operations."

"The Surab massacre was a planned act of collective punishment, and local residents of Surab stand as witnesses to the fact that the Pakistan Air Force deliberately targeted a civilian population under the cover of darkness, severely affecting an entire village and leaving its residents to bear the devastating consequences," he added.

Human rights body Baloch Voice for Justice (BVJ) alleged that the DG-ISPR resorted to "extreme exaggeration" and made a failed attempt to construct a "so-called narrative" that contradicted the facts, apparently to conceal the ongoing "war crimes" in Balochistan by Pakistani forces.

Russian drone attack in Ukraine's Kherson, four killed

MI News Service, Kyiv: A Russian drone attack on a minibus in the frontline city of Kherson killed four people on Wednesday, Kyiv said, slamming the attack as part of a "safari"-style hunt against Ukrainian civilians.

Russian forces regularly strike the southern Ukrainian city -- under Moscow's control from March to November 2022 -- with drones in what Ukraine says is purposeful targeting of civilians.

"Russian military forces attacked a bus travelling down a street in Kherson with a drone. As a result of the attack, according to preliminary information, four civilian passengers were killed," the prosecutor's office said in a statement.

"The vicious Russian 'safari' against our people in Kherson has long gone beyond anything a normal person could imagine," Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said on social media.

He added that five people were wounded in the



attack on an "ordinary minibus".

Ukraine's police posted images showing the floor of the vehicle stained with blood, its windows shattered and a damaged roof.

"These are the realities of everyday life in Ukraine's frontline regions. While partners hesitate over additional supplies of defense equipment, the Russians have long run wild," Zelensky said.

Ukraine earlier this month accused Russia of chasing a civilian on a street market in Kherson with a remotely piloted FPV drone before detonating its explosive charge.

Kyiv denounced it as a

deliberate "hunt" against the man who survived the blast but sustained blast trauma and shrapnel wounds.

Kherson has a population of around 280,000 before the war.

Russian forces, repelled from the city by a Ukrainian counter-offensive in the autumn of 2022, are now positioned on the opposite bank of the Dnieper river which flows past the city.

There has been an uptick in civilian deaths in the conflict throughout 2026, the United Nations has reported, as the four-and-a-half-year war grinds on with no sign of a peace deal.

Cabinet Clears 410km Multitrack Boost; Rs 9,450cr for 4 Projects

MI News Service, Kolkata: The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, today has approved Four projects of Ministry of Railways with total cost of Rs. 9,450 crore approximately. These projects include:

Kharagpur – Bhadrak (Ranital) 4th Line – 173 km (West Bengal and Odisha)

Bhadrak – Haridaspur 4th Line – 75 km (Odisha)

Gummidipundi – Gudur 3rd and 4th Line – 90 km (Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu)

Cuttack – Paradeep (Badabandha) 3rd and 4th Line – 72 km (Odisha)

The increased line capacity will significantly enhance mobility, resulting in improved operational efficiency and service reliability for Indian Railways. These multi-tracking proposals are poised to streamline operations and alleviate congestion. The projects are in line with the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's Vision of a New India which will make people of the region "Atmanirbhar" by way of comprehensive development in the area which will enhance their employment/ self-employment opportunities.

The projects are planned on PM-Gati Shakti National Master Plan with focus on enhancing multi-modal connectivity & logistic efficiency through integrated planning and stakeholder consultations. These projects will provide seamless connectivity for movement of people, goods, and services.

The 04 (Four) projects

covering 08 Districts across the states of West Bengal, Odisha, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh, will increase the existing network of Indian Railways by about 410 Kms. The proposed multi-tracking projects will enhance connectivity to approximately 6,448 villages, which are having a population of about 60 lakhs.

The proposed capacity enhancement will improve rail connectivity to several prominent tourist destinations across the country, including Kuldiha Wildlife Sanctuary, Bhitarkanika National Park, Maa Bhadrakali temple, Maa Dhamarai temple, Panchalingeswar Temple, Talsari-Udaypur and Chandipur Beach, Pulicat Lake, Nelaipattu Bird Sanctuary, Lord Veeraraghava Perumal Temple, Gada Kujanga Jagannath Temple, Sarala Temple, Dhableswar Temple, Lalitgiri (a Buddhist site), etc.

The proposed projects are essential routes for transportation of commodities such as coal, iron ore, cement, iron and steel, container, automobile, food grains, etc. The capacity augmentation works will result in additional freight traffic of magnitude 76 MTPA (Million Tonnes Per Annum). The Railways being environment friendly and energy efficient mode of transportation, will help both in achieving climate goals and minimizing logistics cost of the country, reduce oil import (~13 Crore Litres) and lower CO2 emissions (~65 Crore Kg) which is equivalent to plantation of 2.60 crore trees.

Eastern Railway's Asansol Division Records Over 1.29 Lakh Passengers on Day 20 of Shrivani Mela '26



MI News Service, Kolkata: On Day 20 of Shrivani Mela '26, dated August 18, 2026 (Tuesday), Eastern Railway recorded a total approximate footfall of 1,29,626 passengers across key stations under the leadership and guidance of Gitika Pandey, General Manager, Eastern Railway. The station-wise approximate footfall included 81,665 passengers at Jasidih, 20,851 at Deoghar, 20,068 at Basukinath, and 7,042 at

Baidyanathdam. Under the direct supervision of Sanagrah Maurya, Divisional Railway Manager, Asansol Division, smooth train operations were ensured across all routes to manage the huge rush. A total of 137 trains (107 Regular and 30 Special) were operated at Jasidih (JSME), 48 trains (26 Regular and 22 Special) at Deoghar, 24 trains (12 Regular and 12 Special) at Basukinath, and 26 trains (20 Regular and 06 Special) at

Baidyanathdam. Key highlights of the day include a total revenue of 68.15 Lakh generated from ticket sales. To support passenger welfare, medical assistance was provided to 1,493 individuals, along with wheelchair assistance for 6 passenger movements. Shribram Majhi, Chief Public Relations Officer, Eastern Railway, stated, "Eastern Railway remains committed to serving the devotees with safety, comfort & dedication."

Railways To Run Amrit Bharat Weekly Express Train Between Bhagalpur And Ahmedabad

MI News Service, Kolkata: Bhagalpur, renowned as the "Silk City of India" and a key commercial centre of Bihar, is set to gain enhanced rail connectivity with Ahmedabad, a major industrial and economic hub in Gujarat. To clear the extra rush of passengers and strengthen ties between the eastern and

western regions of the country, Railways has decided to run 19423/19424 Ahmedabad – Bhagalpur – Ahmedabad Weekly Amrit Bharat Express by regularizing 09447/09448 Ahmedabad – Patna – Ahmedabad Clone special train (weekly).

19423 Ahmedabad – Bhagalpur Weekly Amrit

Bharat Express will depart from Ahmedabad every Wednesday at 18:30 hrs w.e.f. 26.8.2026 to reach Bhagalpur at 06:40 hrs on the third day. In the return direction, 19424 Bhagalpur – Ahmedabad Weekly Amrit Bharat Express will leave Bhagalpur every Friday at 16:45 hrs w.e.f. 28.8.2026 to reach

Ahmedabad at 05:25 hrs on the third day. The train will stop at Abhaipur, Jamalpur and Sultanganj stations over Eastern Railway jurisdiction in both directions enroute. The date for booking tickets for 19424 Bhagalpur – Ahmedabad Weekly Amrit Bharat Express will be notified shortly.

Railways Meet Regional Powerhouses: Inside the High-Octane 2nd Rail Synergy & Bengal MSME Summit 2026

MI News Service, Kolkata: On August 19, 2026, the grand ballroom of the ITC Sonar in Kolkata hosted the 2nd Rail Synergy & Bengal Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Vendor Connect Summit 2026, focusing on the theme "From Modernisation to Scale: Wagon to Track, Safety & Sustainable Supply-Chain Depth in Indian Railways". Organised under the leadership of Gitika Pandey, General Manager (GM) of Eastern Railway, and guided by Dr. Uday Shankar Jha, Principal Chief Commercial Manager (PCCM) of Eastern Railway, the event brought together decision-makers and local industry leaders. The summit highlighted why 2026 serves as a step-change year for Indian Railways, backed by impressive benchmarks: approximately 98% of the Broad Gauge (BG) network is now electrified across India, ₹1.17 Lakh Crore is committed to Safety Capital Expenditure (Capex) for Financial Year 2025-26 (FY26), Dedicated Freight Corridors (DFCs) handle 381 daily train operations as of Financial Year 2024-25 (FY25), and total Capital Outlay has reached ₹2.65 Lakh Crore for Financial Year 2025-26 (FY26).

To achieve these ambitious targets, the summit gathered key railway leadership across Eastern Railway, South Eastern Railway, Metro Railway Kolkata, and Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of



India Limited (DFCCIL). Key departments represented included Commercial, Materials Management, Operations & Maintenance, Electrical, and Signaling & Telecommunication. They were joined by officials from the MSME Development Facilitation Office, industry bodies, Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs), Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs), rolling stock and fast-track manufacturers, and local MSME innovators. The day featured an opening symposium on strategic execution followed by three plenary sessions on rolling stock localization, KAVACH signaling deployment, and con-

verting Dedicated Freight Corridor (DFC) and Gati Shakti Cargo Terminal (GCT) capacity into long-term freight contracts. Highlights included Business-to-Business (B2B) and Business-to-Government (B2G) vendor connects, over 200 targeted meetings with Pre-Qualification (PQ) guidance, a live Government e-Marketplace (GeM) helpdesk, and an exhibitor walkthrough displaying Artificial Intelligence / Internet of Things (AI/IoT), inspection drones, and digital twins. The summit saw prominent attendance across both public and private sectors. Key leadership present included the General Manager of Eastern

Railway, General Manager of Metro Railway Kolkata, Director of MSME Development Facilitation Office, Chief General Manager of Operations & Business Development at DFCCIL, Secretary General of Chartered Institute of Logistics & Transport, and Principal Chief Commercial Manager of Eastern Railway. Emphasizing the vital importance of domestic collaboration during her address, Gitika Pandey stated, "Our goal is not just to build modern railway assets, but to scale them up rapidly through strong domestic partnerships. By empowering MSMEs and integrating local vendors into our supply chain, we can ensure safer, faster, and world-class rail operations for the entire country." Sharing his commercial vision at the event, Dr. Uday Shankar Jha added, "Creating seamless commercial frameworks and robust terminal connectivity is essential to converting our expanded capacity into long-term business partnerships. We are committed to simplifying vendor integration and driving freight growth through commercial transparency and operational efficiency." Reinforcing this collaborative drive, Shribram Majhi, Chief Public Relations Officer (CPRO) of Eastern Railway, concluded, "This summit acts as a vital bridge connecting Eastern Railway with industry expertise to accelerate a modernized, self-reliant rail network."

Cabinet Nod: 410km New Multitracks Linking Eight Districts

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The proposed capacity enhancement will improve rail connectivity to several prominent tourist destinations across the country, including Kuldiha Wildlife Sanctuary, Bhitarkanika National Park, Maa Bhadrakali temple, Maa Dhamarai temple, Panchalingeswar Temple, Talsari-Udaypur and Chandipur Beach, Pulicat Lake, Nelaipattu Bird Sanctuary, Lord Veeraraghava Perumal Temple, Gada Kujanga Jagannath Temple, Sarala Temple, Dhableswar Temple, Lalitgiri (a Buddhist site), etc.

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1st Test: Suthar’s ten-for helps India seal 165-run victory over Sri Lanka in Galle

GALLE : Powered by a scintillating spell of 6-55 from young left-arm spinner Manav Suthar, India sealed a commanding 165-run victory over Sri Lanka on day five of the opening Test at the Galle International Stadium on Wednesday.

In only his second Test appearance, Suthar ripped through the opposition's batting order in the second innings to finish with match figures of 10-101, as Sri Lanka were bowled out for 206 in 77.4 overs, despite stiff resistance from Dhananjaya de Silva and Sonal Dinusha, in what was also Galle's landmark 50th Test match.

The emphatic win coming on a sluggish, low-bounce pitch gave India an early 1-0 lead in the two-match series and get 12 vital World Test Championship (WTC) points in what was their milestone

600th Test match, as Suthar ensured his second five-wicket haul in as many Tests and his first-ever ten-for had rendered the second new ball completely redundant.

In the morning, resuming on a pitch offering variable bounce, de Silva and Dinusha fought valiantly through the opening 90 minutes. After bringing up the fifty of their partnership, de Silva got his fifty by cutting Ravindra Jadeja through point for four, while Dinusha launched Kuldeep Yadav over deep midwicket for a maximum to reach his half-century in style.

However, India broke the frustrating 95-run stand off 202 through Ravindra Jadeja, who extracted sharp turn and bounce on a fuller ball angled at stumps to catch de Silva's top edge on an attempted sweep and gave a comfort-



able catch to Manav Suthar at short fine leg to fall for 59. One brought two scalps for India as Prasidh Krishna, operating with sustained heat, removed wicketkeeper-batter Dickwella for 10. Dickwella never looked comfortable at the crease and even had a quirky exchange with Yashvi Jaiswal, who was stationed at square leg.

On the last ball of the 60th over, Dickwella shuffled across his stumps to a back-of-a-length delivery outside the leg stump, but could only give a feather edge off Krishna behind to Rishabh Pant.

Keshara Nuwantha then joined a resolute Dinusha to safely navigate the remaining overs before the lunch break arrived.

Resuming after lunch, Dinusha, who batted flawlessly after scoring a century in the first innings, advanced to 84 and appeared on course for getting his second hundred of the game.

But a crafty and effective Suthar turned the match decisively in India's favour with a devastating triple-wicket maiden in the 76th over. Suthar broke the partnership when he got an extra bit of bounce off a flighted ball outside leg-stump and forced Dinusha to glove to Dhruv Jurel at leg gully.

On the very next delivery, Suthar castled Prabath Jayasuriya for a golden duck with a in-drifter that gripped off the pitch to clip the top of off stump.

Lahiru Kumara safely negotiated the hat-trick ball, but Suthar switched to round the wicket two balls later to find his outside edge that was caught behind by Rishabh Pant, as he completed his second five-wicket haul in as many Tests.

Ravindra Jadeja and India's slip cordon maintained high pressure from the other end, though Sri Lanka's last pair of Nuwantha and Asitha Fernando briefly delayed the inevitable. Nuwantha showed defiance by paddle-sweeping Suthar for a boundary to take Sri Lanka past the 200-run mark.

But Suthar finished off the game in the 78th over when his quicker arm ball skidded off the pitch and breached Nuwantha's defence to castle him for 20 and spark jubilant scenes in the Indian dressing room.

India's victory was also anchored by Devdutt Padikkal's magnificent first-innings knock of 167, which gave India a massive 178-run cushion. Rishabh Pant's calculative 66 in second innings further allowed Suthar and the Indian bowling attack to exploit the turning surface and seal a comprehensive triumph.

Brief scores: India 462 and 193 beat Sri Lanka 284 and 206 in 77.4 overs (Sonal Dinusha 84, Dhananjaya de Silva 59; Manav Suthar 6-55, Prasidh Krishna 2-16) by 165 runs

BWF World C'ships: Sindhu holds nerve against Zhang to set up Wang Zi Yi clash

NEW DELHI : Ace Indian shuttler P.V. Sindhu moved into the women's singles pre-quarterfinals at the BWF World Championships in New Delhi with a composed 21-16, 21-17 victory over Canada's Zhang Wen Yu on Wednesday, overcoming a spirited challenge to keep her campaign on course at the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium.

The ninth-seeded Indian made an assured start, racing to four consecutive points before Zhang settled into the contest. The Canadian managed to stay within touching distance, but Sindhu maintained control through the opening phase and entered the interval with a narrow 11-9 advantage.



Zhang continued to test Sindhu after the break, yet the Indian veteran remained composed as the opening game reached its decisive stages. Sindhu created a

dictate the exchanges and overturned the early momentum to move level at 9-9. The Canadian then carried a 11-9 lead into the interval, leaving Sindhu with work to do.

The Indian responded with the experience that has defined her career at the biggest stages. A five-point burst after the interval shifted the momentum back in her favour, allowing Sindhu to regain the lead and put herself within sight of victory.

Zhang continued to fight, but Sindhu held firm when the finish came into view. She converted her advantage to take the second game 21-17 and completed the contest in 34 minutes.

The win sends Sindhu into the last 16, where she will face a substantially tougher assignment in third seed Wang Zi Yi of China. Wang advanced earlier on Wednesday with a 21-16, 21-9 win over Malaysia's Karuaothevan Letshanaa.

Sindhu's progress came on a day when India also celebrated Ayush Shetty's advancement in the men's singles. The Indian needed only 26 minutes to dispatch Sri Lanka's Dumindu Abeywickrama 21-8, 21-10 and book his place in the pre-quarterfinals.

For Sindhu, however, the focus now shifts to Thursday and a high-profile meeting with Wang, with a place in the quarterfinals at stake.

135th Durand Cup: Defending champs NorthEast United meet Mohun Bagan in high-stakes semifinal



SHILLONG : Defending champions NorthEast United FC will look to qualify for their third straight final when they take on 17-time winners Mohun Bagan Super Giant in the second semifinal of the 135th Durand Cup, which will be played at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Shillong on Thursday.

NEUFC have been relentless in their title defense. The Highlanders stormed into their fourth consecutive Durand Cup semifinal following a breathtaking quarterfinal victory over home favourites Shillong Lajong FC. Overcoming a 2-1 half-time deficit, they turned the tide with a spectacular four-goal blitz in the second half to seal a 5-2 triumph.

Meanwhile, Mohun Bagan, the most successful club in the tournament's history with 17 titles, have built their campaign on defensive solidity and clinical execution. After a flawless group stage without conceding a single goal, the Mariners held their nerve in a gripping quarterfinal. Following a 1-1 regulation-time draw against Jamshedpur FC, they survived a marathon sudden-death penalty shootout (9-8), courtesy of goalkeeper Vishal Kaith's heroics.

For the Highlanders, this encounter carries the weight of history. They are chasing a third consecutive Durand Cup crown, eyeing an unprecedented "three-peat" to firmly stamp their authority on the Indian football landscape.

Acknowledging the magnitude of the task ahead, NorthEast United head coach Juan Pedro Benali emphasised the challenge posed by their star-studded opponents. "It's the semi-final of the Durand Cup, a very important game for us, and also for Mohun Bagan," said Benali. "It will not be easy for either team. We're talking about an opponent where nearly all their domestic players are national team regulars, combined with highly talented foreign players and a great coach."

On the flip side, MBSG's newly-appointed head coach Panagiotis Dilmeris will be desperate to secure his maiden silverware with the club ahead of the ISL 2026-27 campaign. Benali also touched upon his familiarity with his opposite number, adding, "Panos is a friend, but inside the field, there are no friends. He is a great coach leading a very good team."

Adding to the pre-match intrigue is the all-time head-to-head record, which heavily favours the Kolkata outfit -- in 13 past meetings, Mohun Bagan have emerged victorious 10 times, compared to NEUFC's two wins and a solitary draw. Both camps head into the fixture boasting fully fit rosters.

For the Mariners, Sahal Abdul Samad has been in sublime touch under Dilmeris.

The attacking midfielder has already netted five goals, putting him firmly in the Golden Boot race-while continuing to orchestrate the team's creative play. At the back, their defensive rigidity heavily relies on the structural discipline of the back four led by Subhashish Bose.

NEUFC's quarterfinal resurgence was fueled by a sensational hat-trick from Moroccan forward Alaeddine Ajaraie. However, their defensive anchor, Spanish centre-back Eneko Satrustegui, will be equally

crucial. Still adapting to Indian conditions, his vast LaLiga experience against European juggernauts like Real Madrid and Atletico Madrid will be vital to neutralize Mohun Bagan's lethal attacking trio of Jamie Maclaren, Dejan Drazic, and Liston Colaco.

Behind Satrustegui, goalkeeper Gurmeet Singh remains a vital line of defense. The 2025 Golden Glove winner stressed the importance of psychological readiness heading into the blockbuster tie. "My expectation is to start the game with the right mentality, stay focused from the first minute, and give everything for the team," Gurmeet said. "We've worked hard in training, and now it's about executing our plan on the pitch. Hopefully, we can put in a strong performance and get the result we want."

Echoing his manager's respect for the opposition, Gurmeet outlined the tactical approach required to blunt the Mariners' attack. "They are a good side, and we know they will give us a tough game. They have quality players and will look to put us under pressure, so we have to be disciplined and focused throughout the 90 minutes. For us, the key will be to stay compact, win our individual battles, and take our chances when they come. We respect them, but we are confident in our own ability as well."

With both Kolkata powerhouses advancing deep into their respective sides of the bracket, Thursday's high-octane battle could finalize a dream scenario. The tantalising prospect of a historic Mohun Bagan vs East Bengal derby final is just 90 minutes away.

Badminton WC: Ayush Shetty storms into third round with dominant win

NEW DELHI : India's Ayush Shetty advanced to the third round of the BWF World Championships 2026 with a commanding straight-games victory over Sri Lanka's Dumindu Abeywickrama at the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium in New Delhi on Wednesday.

It took Shetty only 26 minutes to beat Abeywickrama with scores of 21-8 and 21-10 in the second round, following up his earlier convincing win against world No. 1 Shi Yu Qi with another confident performance.

The Indian player began strongly and soon established an 8-0 lead, extending it to 11-3 by the break of play. Abeywickrama had great difficulty countering Shetty's accurate shots and quick movements, as the Indian player controlled the rallies right from the beginning.

Shetty soon reached the game point at 20-8 and clinched the first game 21-8 in just 11 minutes.

In the second game, the 20-year-old stuck to the same approach, remaining calm as he kept his Sri Lankan opponent under constant pressure. Shetty reached 11 points while Abeywickrama had trouble keeping up with his speed and accuracy.

As the game went on, the Sri Lankan player showed more resistance and did manage to get up to 10 points, but Shetty still kept firm control of the proceedings. He finished the second game 21 to 10 within 15 minutes and thus secured his spot in the last 16.

This win has left Shetty as the sole Indian men's singles player still in the competition since Lakshya Sen suffered an unexpected defeat in the second round earlier that day.

Lakshya, who was the 14th seed and had won a bronze medal at the 2021 World Championships, lost the match after having led by one game against Garret Tan of the USA, the score being 19-21, 21-19, 21-17, and the game lasting 73 minutes.

The 18-year-old Tan mounted a strong comeback after losing the first game and kept bothering Lakshya with his reliable net play and aggressive smashes.

In the decider, Lakshya launched a late fightback and reduced a seven-point deficit to only two points, the score being 10-12, but his momentum was disrupted when Tan received a medical stoppage at 17-15. The American then won four of the next six points and thus achieved a memorable comeback.

With Lakshya's campaign now completed, Shetty carries India's hopes in the men's singles section as he aims to continue his remarkable series of successes on home soil.

Asian Junior Chess: Vivaan wins Rapid crown with late surge; Shohradova bags Girls' title

MUMBAI : Vivaan Vishal and Shohradova Lala emerged champions in the Open and Girls' sections as India and Turkmenistan shared the top honours in the Asian Junior Rapid Chess Championship 2026 at the ITC Maratha Sheraton, Mumbai, on Wednesday.

The Open Championship witnessed a dramatic turnaround on the final day, with halfway leaders, Akhilbay Imangali of Kazakhstan and Madhavendra Pratap Sharma of India, suffering crucial defeats in the concluding rounds, throwing the title race wide open.

Capitalising on the opportunity was India's Vivaan Vishal, who registered a hat-trick of victories in the final three rounds to clinch the Asian Junior Open Rapid Championship title outright with an impressive score of 6 points from 7 rounds.

The triumph was particularly noteworthy as Vivaan, rated 2149, finished ahead of a strong field that included several International Masters, underlining his immense potential and establishing him as a force to reckon with in the future.

International Masters (IM) Akshay Borgaonkar and Apoorv Kamble also finished strongly, both scoring 5 points from seven rounds. However, superior tie-break scores enabled Akshay to secure the silver medal, while Apoorv had to settle for the bronze medal.

In the Girls' Rapid Championship, the battle for the title ultimately came down to a thrilling contest between Shohradova Lala of Turkmenistan and Pratitee Bordoloi of India. Both players produced consistent performances throughout the tournament and finished with identical scores of 6 points from 7 rounds.

With scores level, the championship was decided on tie-breaks, where Shohradova edged ahead to claim the coveted Asian Junior Girls Rapid Championship crown. Pratitee Bordoloi earned the silver medal after a commendable performance, while India's Prishita Gupta secured the bronze medal.

The prizes were distributed by Dr. Parinay Fuke, President of the Maharashtra Chess Association, who congratulated the winners and participants for their spirited performances.

The focus now shifts to the Classical Championship, which commences tomorrow and is expected to witness another exciting battle among Asia's leading junior chess talents.

The championship is being organised by the Maharashtra Chess Association at the ITC Maratha Sheraton, Mumbai, under the aegis of the All India Chess Federation and the Asian Chess Federation.



AMSTELVEEN : The Indian women's team will look to seal the top spot in Pool D when it takes on England in their concluding fixture in the first phase of the FIH Hockey World Cup 2026 in Amstelveen, the Netherlands, on Thursday, with the battle to stay in the race to the semi-finals finely poised.

With only the top two teams from each of the four pools staying in that race, every moment of the final round of matches carries added significance.

India currently occupy the top spot in Pool D with four points from two matches, level on points with China but ahead on goal difference. The two sides played out a 2-2 draw in their opening encounter, before the Salima Tete-led side produced an emphatic 6-1 victory over South Africa.

China, meanwhile, bounced back from the draw against India to defeat England 4-2 and sit second with a goal difference of +2, compared to India's +5.

England are third with three points, earned through a convincing 4-0 win over South Africa, and remain in contention. With India facing England and China taking on South Africa in the final round, the results of both matches will determine the top two positions in the pool.



While England represent a tougher challenge than South Africa, India will enter the contest with growing confidence. Their campaign began on a promising note against Paris Olympics silver medalists China, where they showed composure and resilience to earn a hard-

fought draw. They then built on that performance with a dominant display against South Africa, finding the net six times.

"It will be an exciting match," said India's chief coach Sjoerd Marijne. "Last time we lost against them (in FIH World Cup qualifiers), and it's now to see the progress we have made and if we have come closer to them."

One of the biggest positives from the victory over South Africa was the spread of goal-scoring responsibility, with six different Indian players getting on the scoresheet. It underlined the attacking depth available to chief coach Marijne and offered further encouragement as India prepare for a high-pressure encounter against England.

The emergence of India's younger players has also been a feature of their campaign. Teenagers Sakshi Rana and Sunelita Toppo were among the scorers