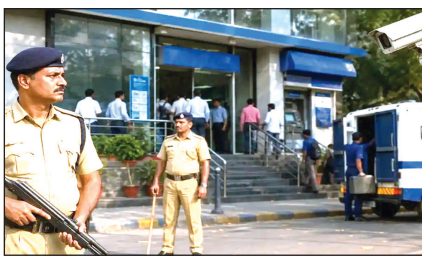




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Morning India

‘India won't be safe till its borders are secure’: Amit Shah

MI News Service, Siliguri : Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday asserted that neither West Bengal nor India will be safe until its frontiers are fully secured and fenced with barbed wire. He also lamented that in spite of repeated requests, previous Chief minister Mamata Banerjee did not provide land required for fencing the India-Bangladesh border in the state. Stating that no previous CMs of the state ever attended programmes of Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) or the BSF, Amit Shah congratulated the present Bengal Chief minister Suwendu Adhikari for ‘breaking the glass ceiling’.

"My desperate pleas to Mamata Banerjee for land to set up border fences by the BSF fell on deaf ears. I had been asking for 1,129 acres of land to strengthen border security since 2014. But, on the contrary, we received that land parcel only after the Suwendu Adhikari government was formed in the state in May this year," Shah said this at a programme for ground breaking and foundation stone laying ceremonies of various SSB projects at its frontier head-



Union Home Minister Amit Shah, West Bengal Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari and others at a programme of Seema Suraksha Bal (SSB) at Siliguri on Friday

quarters in Siliguri. Stating that the SSB is not a political organisation, Amit Shah said that previous CMs repeated staying away from such celebrations of border forces gave out wrong signals. The Home minister said he was saddened by previous dispensations in India not

awarding due recognition to the national song Vande Mataram since the country gained Independence. "The complete version of Vande Mataram was never sung in India until at the Red Fort during the Independence Day celebrations this year. It gives me solace that the nation has

finally recognised the song on the 150th year of its creation by Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay," he added. Earlier, Amit Shah, who reached West Bengal as part of his three-day visit to West Bengal last evening, reached Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) Frontier Headquarters in

Siliguri on Friday morning to attend the inauguration and foundation-laying ceremonies for various infrastructure projects of the SSB and interact with SSB personnel during his visit to the headquarters. The Union Home Minister later participated in a "Bara Khana" with

SSB personnel. The traditional community meal was a part of his interaction with the security force during the Siliguri SSB programme. He was accompanied by Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari all through.

"We have transferred land to BSF and that process is still ongoing. Already 252 kilometers of fencing has been completed. Land has been acquired and we are currently acquiring the rest of the land for the fencing process. Except the riverine borders, the entire West Bengal border will be fenced. Amit Shah comes to the state almost every month to oversee everything from border security issues," Chief minister Suwendu Adhikari said.

Another significant aspect of Shah's three-day Bengal visit is reportedly linked with the review of security arrangements around the strategically important Siliguri Corridor, popularly known as the "Chicken's Neck", people in the know said. The narrow corridor is crucial for connectivity between the rest of the country and the northeastern states. The Home Minister is also expected to chair a border-

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'Anti-national activities' on Jadavpur University campus by some groups : Dilip Ghosh



MI News Service, Kolkata : Expressing his frustration at the repeated violent incidents at Jadavpur University by different students groups at different times, senior West Bengal minister Dilip Ghosh alleged on Friday that some groups continue to indulge in "anti-national activities" on the University campus for long and such things must be stopped and should not be allowed in any educational institution. Speaking to reporters, the state Panchayat minister and the former state BJP President Dilip Ghosh said the Vice-Chancellor of the state-run varsity should take the responsibility for such activities happening on the campus and take immediate steps to stop them for ever. "There are some groups that remain active and frequently raise anti-national slogans and engage in such activities. There have also been past instances of misbehaviour with the honourable Governor during his visit to Jadavpur University," he told reporters.

Dilip Ghosh said even former minister Babul Supriyo was gheraoed for long by these groups and had also been sub-

jected to misbehaviour on the campus. "Such anti-national and anti-social activities should not be allowed within any university of international repute like Jadavpur University. Therefore, these kinds of activities must be stopped," the minister said. He said student politics had historically been marked by tension, and that the police would have to ascertain what transpired during Thursday's violence.

"The Vice-Chancellor of the university will also have to take responsibility. But there must be peace and order within the university," he said. A clash broke out between members of the RSS-affiliated ABVP and Left-leaning student groups at Jadavpur University in the early hours of Thursday, with both sides accusing each other of bringing outsiders onto the campus. Several students were injured in the violence, with some being taken to hospital, while fires were reported at several places on the university's main campus in south Kolkata. The confrontation stemmed from a meeting of the Faculty of Engineering and Technology Students' Union on Wednesday and continued late into the night, a university official said. Vice-Chancellor Chiranjib Bhattacharya also termed the incident "undesirable" and said a committee would soon be constituted to investigate it. He also said entry of outsiders onto the campus after dusk had been restricted.

Bangladesh PM's India visit likely this month

MI News Service, New Delhi / Dhaka : The Rashtrapati Bhavan on Friday indicated that the upcoming visit of Bangladesh Prime Minister Tarique Rahman to India is set to proceed, announcing the cancellation of the weekly Change of Guard ceremony to accommodate full rehearsals for his ceremonial welcome. "The Change of Guard Ceremony at the Forecourt of Rashtrapati Bhavan will not take place on Saturday due to the full rehearsal for the ceremonial welcome of the Prime Minister of Bangladesh," a Rashtrapati communique said.

The announcement comes amid diplomatic uncertainty surrounding Rahman's proposed visit to New Delhi for the upcoming BRICS summit on September 12-13, following



recent tensions between the two neighbours over Dhaka's demand for the extradition of deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina. As diplomatic discussions progressed for the upcoming high-level visit from Bangladesh, Rashtrapati Bhavan regularly coordinates full ceremonial rehearsals—including guard of honor drills and protocol alignments—to prepare for incoming state visits by foreign leaders at the presidential estate, Official sources here today said. Re-

hearsals at the Rashtrapati Bhavan forecourt test the formal Guard of Honour, national anthem play routines by the military bands, and contingent positioning.

During the visit discussions are expected to focus on regional security, cross-border connectivity, trade expansion, and energy cooperation. However, final itineraries and dates are coordinated through diplomatic channels between New Delhi and Dhaka are yet to be announced. Meanwhile, cordoning off Bangladesh daily Daily Star, citing diplomatic sources, the proposed visit is being considered, as both sides have been keen to arrange a bilateral engagement, while scheduling issues have so far remained a hurdle. "Both sides

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Fresh arson, petrol bomb attacks in Meghalaya



MI News Service, Shillong : Fresh incidents of arson and petrol bomb attacks on government properties were reported across Meghalaya during the past 24 hours as violence that erupted during a students' bike rally two days ago in Shillong, spread to other parts of the North-eastern state. In addition a blockade in Assam also disrupted inter-state vehicular movement, officials said on Friday. A petrol bomb was hurled at a police outpost in Shillong, while three government vehicles and a motorcycle were set ablaze in Ri-Bhoi and another petrol bomb was lobbed at a government office in South West Khasi Hills, they said. Though none was hurt in any of the incidents, the attacks have added to tensions in the state following Wednesday's violence, in which at least 31 vehicles, mostly Assam-registered vehicles, were damaged, and several people assaulted.

The violence during the KSU's black-flag bike rally spilled over to fresh parts of

the state, even as Guwahati-based cab operators and transport workers blocked National Highway-27 at Jorabat and Khanapara, stopping Meghalaya-registered vehicles in protest against Wednesday's violence.

The Centre on Friday approved the deployment of five companies of central forces—four of CRPF and one of RAF—in Meghalaya till August 25 to assist state police in maintaining law and order. The situation in the state capital remained tense but largely peaceful barring a sporadic incident at Nongmensong where a petrol bomb was hurled at the Nongmensong police outpost around 9.30 pm on Thursday while CRPF personnel were present. The bomb landed inside the premises and set some furniture on fire. No injuries were reported. Police said a case would be registered and nearby CCTV footage examined. In Ri-Bhoi, around 2 am, unidentified miscreants set ablaze two government vehicles and a

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Poland backs India's right to pursue terrorists anywhere

MI News Service, New Delhi : Poland supports India in its fight against terrorism and backs its right to pursue terrorists wherever they go. This was stated by Polish Ambassador to India Piotr Antoni Switalski, asserting that his country fully supports India on the issue because it too had been a victim of terrorism. Poland is on India's side when it comes to fighting terrorism because "we too are victim" of it, Antony Switalski has said, reiterating that his country supports India's "right to pursue terrorists everywhere they go".

Participating in an event hosted by the Centre for Integrated and Holistic Studies here on Friday, the Polish envoy said his country sees India as a very "effective and reliable partner" and both the countries can do things together, especially when the world has become a very unpredictable place, and there are "many disruptive forces". He said Poland and India could build "an axis of stability, predictability, and good model for global governance" and send a "good signal" to the world by working together. Responding to a question, the ambassador said, "On the question of terrorism, we are on your (India's) side, because we too are victims of terrorists," adding "You cannot compare, because the terrorist acts committed on Indian soil

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Two vessels with 22 Indians hijacked by Yemeni, Somalian pirates

MI News Service, New Delhi : Two commercial vessels carrying a total of 22 Indian nationals have been hijacked by pirates in separate incidents off Yemen and Somalia coasts, a senior shipping ministry official said on Friday. He said that according to the latest information, the Indian crew members are safe. In the first instance an Eritrea-flagged oil products tanker, MT Sibul 1, with 20 crew members -- 16 Indians, one Syrian national, one Sudanese national, one Iraqi national and one seafarer whose nationality is yet to be confirmed -- was hijacked by armed pirates in the Gulf of Aden, around 30 nautical miles off the coast of Yemen on August 20, the official said in a statement.

"The Eritrea-flagged oil products tanker M.T. Sibul 1, carrying 16 Indians among its 20 crew members, was hijacked by six armed pirates in the Gulf of Aden, around 30 nautical miles off the coast of Yemen", the statement said adding "All 20 crew members were reported safe", the statement said. However, according to a Directorate of Maritime



Administration report, the latest status of the vessel and crew was awaited amid huge confusion. The Recruitment and Placement Service Licence agency has been asked to submit an incident report and subsequent periodic updates through the e-Navik online marine casualty reporting system, the report said.

Sumit Kant Singh of SKS Krishiv Marine Services said his company had recruited four of the crew members and provided their details to the Directorate of Maritime Administration. In a similar second incident, pirates seized the Cameroon-flagged cargo vessel MV LUTUF off Somalia's Puntland coast on Wednesday,

carrying six Indian nationals among its 10-member crew, according to a Somali official. The ship was seized around 3.5 nautical miles off Marraya in Puntland's Eyl district and was subsequently taken towards the Nugaal coast, the official said. The crew also included one Turkish national, one Georgian and two Serbian security guards. The vessel, owned by Polar Movement Shipping, was carrying weapons bound for a Turkish military training facility in Mogadishu, as well as communications and satellite equipment, the official said. Eight pirates, believed to be members of a group previously involved in the hijacking of the MV Sward in

April, took the vessel towards the coast near Garmaal in Puntland's Dangoroyo district, he said.

The status of the LUTUF, its crew and its cargo was not immediately clear. Turkish authorities had also not immediately commented on the incident. The Indian crew members aboard both vessels are safe, according to the latest information available, the official said.

The Eritrea-flagged oil products tanker M.T. Sibul 1, carrying 20 crew members, including 16 Indians, was hijacked in the Gulf of Aden on August 20, about 30 nautical miles off the Yemeni coast, the official said. The crew also includes one Syrian, one Sudanese and one Iraqi national, while the nationality of another seafarer has yet to be confirmed. A second vessel, the Cameroon-flagged MV LUTUF, was hijacked on August 17 off Somalia's Puntland coast, according to the official. The vessel has 10 crew members, including six Indians.

The Forward Seamen's Union of India (FSUI) in a post on X raised concerns

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Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir to be next Bangladesh President

MI News Service, Dhaka / New Delhi : Veteran politician Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, who belongs to the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), has been elected as the new President of Bangladesh. He defeated challenger Oli Ahmed of the opposition Jamaat-e-Islami party by 255 votes to 88 to become President. Alamgir's election is unlikely to be a good news for former Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, who is currently in exile in India and plans to return to her country in December this year.

Last month, Mohammed Shahabuddin, who took office during Hasina's rule, resigned as Bangladesh President halfway through his term following years of political turbulence. His resignation meant that Hasina, lost a trusted ally in the establishment at home. Alamgir was a long-time Secretary-General of the BNP and led the political



movement against Hasina's 15-year rule. She fled the country in August 2024 during a mass uprising over allegations of authoritarian rule and corruption in the allocation of government jobs. Her party has been barred from politics since last year. Alamgir has taken a tough stance on India previously. He once called on New Delhi to respect Bangladesh's sovereignty and democratic aspirations while stressing the importance of the two countries' historical ties.

In December 2024, while addressing a BNP rally in London,

Alamgir criticised India over the attack on Bangladesh's Assistant High Commission in Agartala and protests outside Bangladeshi diplomatic missions. He also accused India of supporting Hasina, who fled to India after her government was ousted in 2024.

Alamgir has also taken a tough stand on the Indo-Bangladesh Ganges Water Sharing Treaty, signed in 1996, which is due to expire in December. In May this year, he said that Bangladesh's relations with India would depend on the treaty. He urged the Indian government to implement the treaty in accordance with the needs of the Bangladeshi people. "We want to send a clear message to the Indian government that a treaty must be implemented immediately through discussions according to the expectations and needs of Bangladesh's people," Alamgir said earlier.

Rahul Gandhi sits on dharna at police station



MI News Service, New Delhi : Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Friday sat on a dharna at the Parliament Street police station here seeking the registration of an FIR over pellet injuries suffered by a youth during the BJP-led July 20 protest. Rahul Gandhi, accompanied by the affected youth, Sahil Lochab, first visited the Mandir Marg police station and sought the registration of the FIR. After his demand was not accepted, he went to the Parliament Street police station and met the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP). After the discussions with the DCP failed, the leader of opposition in the Lok Sabha sat on a dharna just outside the police station. Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and other senior party leaders also joined the dharna. Lochab suffered pellet injuries to the eyes and abdomen during the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP)-led protest against the NEET paper leak and alleged examination irregularities, and later underwent surgery at the AIIMS Trauma Centre.

Rahul Gandhi and the Congress party have been attacking the Centre, accusing it of using excessive police force to silence the voice of students while they peacefully protested against paper leaks at Delhi's Jantar Mantar. Meanwhile, Rapid Action Force has been deployed in and around the Parliament Street police station, where Congress leader Rahul Gandhi is sitting on a dharna demanding registration of an FIR over pellet injuries of a youth. A large number of police and RAF personnel have been deployed around the police station, which also houses the New Delhi DCP's office. Additional police personnel have been pressed into service in view of Rahul Gandhi's sit-in, the sources said.



Swachhata Se Swagat! Cabinet Minister Agnimitra Paul takes action on the ground, personally driving the 'Clean and Green' initiative by distributing and placing waste bins at 7 Point Crossing in Park Circus.

Bridge Collapses

MI News Service, Kharagpur: A bridge has collapsed due to the continuous flow of heavy water in Jhargram district , leaving connectivity to around five to six villages almost completely disrupted. The incident occurred at Baddihi village in the Sandapara area under Binpur-II block.Following the collapse, local residents are facing severe difficulties in commuting. According to local sources, the middle portion of the bridge suddenly gave way under the pressure of water rushing down at high speed from the Belpahari side. The approach section connecting the bridge with the concrete road has also suffered extensive erosion and subsidence.With the bridge damaged, the movement of vehicles and pedestrians along the route has been almost completely stopped.It is learnt that a person was attempting to cross the bridge with a bicycle when a section of it suddenly collapsed. The person narrowly escaped and a major accident was averted.The road is extremely important for local residents. Students travelling to schools and colleges use the route every day, while residents of several areas close to the Jharkhand border also depend on it for transportation. The bridge collapse has caused serious problems for villagers travelling to markets, schools and colleges, as well as accessing essential healthcare services.

75 Mobile Phones Recovered from Janshatabdi Express

MI News Service, Kharagpur: The Kharagpur Government Railway Police (GRP) made a major recovery during a search operation aboard the Janshatabdi Express at Kharagpur Railway Station, seizing 75 mobile phones and detaining a 26-year-old youth.According to police, a checking and search operation was underway on the Janshatabdi Express at Kharagpur Railway Station when officers searched the belongings of a young passenger and found a large number of mobile phones.The youth was immediately taken into custody and questioned. Police identified him as Ahad Sheikh, 26.During preliminary questioning, police reportedly learned that the mobile phones had allegedly been collected from the Binjharpur area of Jaipur district in Odisha without valid documents. The phones were allegedly being transported to Beldanga in Murshidabad district of West Bengal for sale.However, police are conducting a detailed investigation to determine the actual source of the mobile phones and why valid documents were not available. All 75 mobile phones, along with the detained youth, were taken to the Kharagpur GRP police station. Investigators are now examining the source of the phones, purchase and sale documents, and whether any larger network is involved in the operation.Police are also trying to determine whether the youth was transporting the phones alone or was working on behalf of an organised group. Investigators are looking into where the phones were purchased and to whom they were supposed to be delivered in Beldanga.Following the incident, security measures and surveillance regarding the transportation of potentially illegal or undocumented goods at railway stations and on trains are expected to be tightened. The Kharagpur GRP's action has also sent a positive message to passengers regarding railway security. Further details about the source of the mobile phones and the involvement of other persons are expected to emerge after the completion of the investigation.

Literature Is the Voice of Society : Sankar Sarkar, Author

MI News Service, Kolkata: Literature is not only an aesthetic expression but also a "mirror of society." It portrays various aspects of human life, including joy and pain, love and hate, despair and hope, protest and resistance, dreams and crises. Therefore, literature can rightly be described as the "voice of society." A writer's ability and achievement lie in expressing through words what ordinary people may find difficult to articulate. Writers convey such emotions and ideas through words, symbols, characters and stories. The literature of every age reflects the realities of its time. Nineteenth-century Bengali literature, for instance, reflects the Bengal Renaissance, the spread of education, women's education, social reform and the realities of colonialism. The contribution of writers to literature goes

beyond artistic expression; they also represent the inner consciousness of society. One of the prominent characteristics of literature is its protest against injustice. Wherever there is exploitation, oppression, discrimination or inequality, literature raises its voice. This protest may take the form of poetry, stories, novels, plays or essays. Literature is not only a mirror of society but also a medium for social change. A writer observes the contradictions and challenges of their time and expresses them through art, encouraging readers to reflect and introspect. Literature creates empathy and connects people with lives and experiences different from their own. In modern society, technology and social media have accelerated communication but have also contributed to isolation. In an age of information

explosion, people receive news every day, but not every piece of news touches their hearts. Literature is different. News tells us what happened; literature makes us understand why it matters. Contemporary issues such as war, migration, environmental crises, identity conflicts, political divisions, gender inequality and loneliness acquire deeper meaning through literature. Literature is not merely a voice of protest; it is also the language of society's dreams. Literature is simultaneously a mirror, memory, consciousness and dream. Society speaks through movements and history, while literature preserves those voices through art. Political and economic history records events, but literature preserves the history of the human heart. Literature is the voice of society, giving language to silence.

Drug-Free India Campaign Held at Vidyasagar University; Over 130 Students Participate

MI News Service, Kharagpur: A 'Drug-Free India Campaign' awareness programme was organised at Vidyasagar University with the aim of raising awareness among young people about the harmful effects of substance abuse and encouraging them to adopt a healthy, drug-free lifestyle.The programme was organised with the cooperation of Vidyasagar University and in association with the Prajapita Brahma Kumaris Ishwariya University at the university's A.P.J. Abdul Kalam Hall.The event was part of the nationwide 100-week-long Drug-Free India Campaign. More than 130 students of Vidyasagar University actively participated in the programme.During the session, students were informed about the physical and psychological effects of substance abuse, as well as the importance of mental health, self-control, positive thinking and maintaining a healthy and drug-free lifestyle. One of the major highlights of the programme was a session on meditation and yoga.



Through these practices, students were introduced to the importance of mental peace, self-control and self-awareness. Speakers said that regular meditation and a positive outlook can help young people stay away from stress and negative tendencies.NSS Programme Coordinator Professor Debduul Bandyopadhyay and Dean of Students' Welfare Dr Ashok Kumar were present at the programme. Representatives of Prajapita Brahma Kumaris Ishwariya University, including Brahma Kumari Kakali Behen, Brahma Kumari Soma Behen and Brahma Kumari Dhananjay

Bhai, also participated.During the programme, representatives of the Brahma Kumaris highlighted the social, mental and personal harm caused by substance abuse. They urged students to stay away from drugs and make self-control and self-awareness an integral part of their lives.Students were also guided on ways to maintain mental calmness through meditation and develop positive thoughts.Speakers emphasised that young people are the future of the country and keeping them away from substance abuse is essential for building a healthy, disciplined and responsible

society. They said educational institutions have an important role to play in this regard. Such awareness programmes in universities and colleges can help educate young people about the harmful consequences of substance abuse while encouraging them to adopt a positive lifestyle. Speakers also stressed that merely warning young people against drugs is not enough; it is equally important to strengthen their mental resilience and develop self-confidence and self-control.Meditation, yoga, positive thinking and self-awareness can serve as effective tools in this direction, they said.At the conclusion of the programme, participating students took a pledge to stay away from substance abuse and spread awareness for the creation of a healthy and drug-free society.The organisers said the initiative at Vidyasagar University would help develop greater social awareness among students against substance abuse and further strengthen the message of the 'Drug-Free India' campaign.

Nakashipara double murder: Sharp shooter among 3 more arrested, toll reaches 10

MI News Service, Nakashipara : Police probing the double murder of Congress leader Anisur Rahman and his son Abu Sufiyan Rahman in Nadia's Nakashipara have made a significant breakthrough, arresting three more suspects, including an alleged sharp shooter. Police have also seized a black Scorpio suspected to have been used by the assailants, taking the total number of arrests in the case to 10. The latest arrests have been identified as Taufiq Sheikh, a resident of Chichuria in Nakashipara, Akhtar Hossain Mondal alias Pintu of Malumgachha and Jewel Rana. According to police, Taufiq is suspected to be a sharp shooter, while Rana allegedly drove the Scorpio believed to have been used in

the crime. Investigators suspect that the accused travelled to the crime scene in the black Scorpio. The vehicle has since been seized and is being examined as part of the investigation. Police are now trying to establish its movements before and after the killings and determine whether it has a direct link with the crime. The seizure of the vehicle and the arrest of an alleged shooter are being viewed as important developments in the probe. Investigators are now focusing on the exact role played by each of the accused, the manner in which the attack was planned and whether others were involved in executing the murder. Seven people had earlier been arrested in connection with the case. With the latest

arrests, the number of accused in custody has risen to 10. Police are also trying to establish the motive behind the killings and identify those who may have planned or facilitated the attack. The three newly arrested accused are scheduled to be produced before a court on Friday. Police are likely to seek their custody for detailed interrogation. Investigators are expected to question them about the alleged conspiracy, the source of the weapons, the identities of other persons involved and the movements of the suspects before and after the attack. Police are also examining the possible links between the accused and the seized vehicle. Investigators are likely to use interrogation and other available evidence to reconstruct the sequence of events leading up to the killings.

Anisur Rahman and his son Abu Sufiyan were attacked while returning home in Nakashipara on Saturday night. The two were shot and subsequently attacked with sharp weapons, according to reports. Both succumbed to their injuries, triggering widespread political reactions and demands for a swift and impartial investigation. While the latest arrests have given the investigation fresh momentum, police are yet to establish the complete conspiracy behind the double murder. The key questions before investigators now are who ordered the killings, what was the exact motive and whether more people were involved in planning or executing the attack.

Ghurni's clay dolls add colour to Jhulan, as GI tag brings fresh hope to a centuries-old craft

MI News Service, Krishnanagar: As Bengal celebrates Jhulan Yatra, the traditional clay dolls of Ghurni in Krishnanagar are once again finding their place in homes, puja mandaps and festive displays. For generations, these finely crafted figurines have been an integral part of Bengal's Vaishnav cultural landscape, bringing alive scenes from the life of Lord Krishna and the social world around him. The timing is significant for Ghurni's artisans. The famed Krishnanagar clay dolls received Geographical Indication (GI) recognition in July this year, giving the centuries-old craft a new identity and potentially opening fresh avenues for its promotion and marketing. Ghurni, a locality in Krishnanagar of Nadia district, is recognised as a major cen-

tre of Bengal's clay modelling tradition. The district administration says generations of artisans have worked here, producing clay images of Hindu deities as well as remarkably detailed human figures and representations of everyday life. The tradition is popularly associated with the patronage of Raja Krishnachandra, under whose rule the settlement of skilled clay artisans in the area is believed to have received encouragement. The craft is distinguished by its realistic treatment of the human form. Unlike conventional dolls made primarily as toys, Ghurni figurines often reproduce people, occupations, costumes and everyday activities in minute detail. The National Crafts Museum notes that Krishnanagar clay figures are known for their realistic appearance and intricate de-

tailing, with costumes and accessories carefully recreated. That artistic vocabulary acquires a distinctly devotional character during Jhulan. Radha and Krishna, their companions, Vaishnav figures and different scenes associated with Krishna's life are recreated in clay and incorporated into festive tableaux. For many families, arranging these miniature figures around the Jhulan is not merely decoration; it is part of a cultural tradition passed down through generations. Nadia itself has a deep association with Vaishnavism and Krishna worship. The district administration lists Jhulan Yatra alongside other major Vaishnav festivals such as Rath Yatra, Dol Yatra, Ras Yatra, Goshtashtami and Janmashtami. The making of a Ghurni doll



is also far removed from mass production. Clay is processed and kneaded before individual components are shaped and assembled. The finished figures are fired and painted, with clothing and accessories added to enhance their lifelike appearance. Official documentation on the Ghurni cluster lists a wide range of products, including handmade human figures, portraits of gods and

Alleged Illegal Sex Trade at Lodge in Keshiary

MI News Service, Kharagpur: Tension reportedly escalated at a lodge in the Keshiary area of West Medinipur district following allegations of illegal sex trade and other immoral activities. Local villagers gathered outside the lodge and staged a strong protest, alleging that such activities had been taking place there for a long time. On receiving information, personnel from the Keshiary Police Station reached the spot and brought the situation under control.Allegations of Activities Continuing for a Long Time. Local residents alleged that women were allegedly be-

receiving information about the incident, Keshiary Police reached the lodge. Even after the police arrived, a large number of villagers remained outside the premises and expressed their anger against the lodge operator.As a large crowd gathered, tension briefly prevailed in the area. Police personnel spoke to the protesters and attempted to restore normalcy before beginning an investigation into the allegations.Three Women Taken to Police Station for Questioning. During the police action, three women were reportedly taken from the lodge to the police station for questioning. Police

continuing for a long period, the operator may have been aware of them.The villagers demanded a fair investigation and strict action against those found responsible. However, the allegations against the lodge owner have also not been officially confirmed. The police investigation will determine whether the lodge management had any role in the alleged activities and whether any illegal activities were actually taking place on the premises.Truth to Emerge After Investigation.Police are currently investigating the matter. Further action may be taken based on questioning of people



ing brought from outside and rooms were being rented out for money to facilitate immoral activities at the lodge. Villagers claimed that they had been suspicious of the activities of some people frequently visiting the lodge for quite some time. The villagers also made the serious allegation that rooms were allegedly being rented to facilitate the involvement of underage persons in such activities. However, these allegations have not yet been independently or officially verified. Police Reach the Spot.After

are questioning them to determine the purpose of their visit and what activities were taking place at the lodge. However, there has been no official confirmation of their arrest or their involvement in any offence so far. Further action will depend on the findings of the police investigation and questioning. Questions Raised Over Lodge Owner's Role Villagers have also raised questions about the role of the lodge owner. They alleged that if such activities had been

present at the lodge, examination of the circumstances and verification of other facts and evidence.It is important to note that the serious allegations made by villagers regarding an alleged sex trade and the involvement of underage persons have not yet been officially established. Following the incident, the matter has sparked considerable discussion in the Keshiary area. Local residents are now awaiting the findings of the police investigation and any subsequent legal action.

Mock drill at Kalyani IOCL plant tests response to LPG disaster scenario

MI News Service, Kalyani: A state-level mock exercise on oil and chemical disaster management was conducted at the Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOCL) LPG Bottling Plant in Kalyani on Friday, testing the preparedness and coordination of multiple agencies to respond to a major industrial emergency. The exercise, coordinated by the Nadia district administration in association with the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), West Bengal State Disaster Management Authority (WBSDMA) and IOCL, simulated a major LPG emergency at the plant.



As part of the scenario, a rupture in Horton Sphere-3 was assumed to have triggered an LPG leak, followed by a fire. The situation was then escalated to a simulated BLEVE (Boiling Liquid Expanding Vapour Explosion) involving an adjoining storage sphere. The exercise was designed to test the response to a rapidly escalating industrial disaster rather than replicate an actual incident. Following the simulated escalation, IOCL's internal emergency response system was activated and Level-I, Level-II and Level-III emergency protocols were demonstrated. The district administration subsequently activated the District Emergency Operation Centre (DEOC) and the Incident Response System (IRS). An Incident Command Post, Staging Area and Forward Command Post were established at the site to test command, communication and coordination among the participating agencies. A major focus of the exercise was the evacuation of people from the vulnerable

zone. Around 500 people were shown as being evacuated to safer locations under the simulated scenario. Teams of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) and Fire and Emergency Services carried out simulated search-and-rescue operations. The exercise also tested casualty management and emergency medical response. A medical aid post, rescue shelter and decontamination centre were set up as part of the scenario. Police personnel demonstrated traffic diversion and access-control measures around the affected area. According to the simulated outcome released by the district administration, 35 people were shown as minor injured, 18 as major injured and 16 as fatalities. No person was shown as missing. The administration clarified that all casualty figures were part of the mock scenario and did not represent an actual industrial accident. The exercise brought together the district administration, Kalyani sub-divisional

administration, IOCL, Fire and Emergency Services, NDRF, SDRF, West Bengal Police, Civil Defence and Apada Mitra volunteers, health officials, animal resources development officials, Indian Red Cross Society volunteers, civic authorities, PHE, WBSEDCL and other stakeholder agencies. Officials assessed the effectiveness of inter-agency communication, mobilisation of manpower and resources, emergency medical response, evacuation procedures and the Incident Response System. The exercise also sought to identify operational gaps that could affect the response to an actual industrial or chemical emergency. A debriefing session was held after the exercise, during which participating agencies shared observations and identified areas requiring further strengthening. Officials said regular exercises of this nature were essential to ensure that emergency response mechanisms remained functional and that different agencies could work together effectively during a real disaster.

Doll Museum in New Delhi. Yet behind the festive attraction lies a more complicated story. The survival of the craft depends heavily on whether younger members of artisan families are willing to continue the painstaking profession. Earlier accounts from the artisan community have pointed to a shortage of young hands and growing pressure on traditional craftsmanship. For the artisans, therefore, the new GI recognition is not simply a certificate of heritage. It could become an important tool to distinguish authentic Ghurni dolls from cheaper imitations, strengthen the brand identity of the craft and help artisans reach wider markets. But that will require sustained support through modern marketing, e-commerce, tourism promotion, design development and

direct market access. Jhulan provides an annual reminder of why the craft matters. In the small clay figures arranged around a decorated swing, Bengal sees more than Radha and Krishna. It sees the hands of generations of artisans, the cultural memory of Nadia and an artistic tradition that has survived changing tastes and markets. This year, however, the little clay figures carry an additional significance. With GI recognition finally adding formal geographical identity to the Ghurni tradition, the question is no longer merely whether the dolls will survive another Jhulan. It is whether the new recognition can help ensure that the artisans who give life to these figures can continue to make them for generations to come.

We need more plastic parks in Bengal : Ashok Dinda

MI News Service, Kolkata: West Bengal needs more industrial parks and state government is moving towards it, Ashok Dinda, Minister of State, department of MSME and Textile, government of West Bengal said it. The minister was speaking to a programme organised by Bureau of Indian Standard (BIS) and Indian Plastic Federation(IPF) in Kolkata regarding MSME

awareness programme for plastic industry. Dinda stressed more importance on quality of products and not in quantity. He also stressed on 'fair' business in the trade and asked not to make any compromise regarding quality. Dinda also assured the industries in Bengal that Bengal government is committed to cater to all cooperation to the industry via single window system.

'India won't be safe till its borders are secure'

► **Continued from page 1**
security review meeting on August 22. Apart from the SSB programme, Shah later attended a series of programmes in Siliguri on Friday including border security and exhibition in regard to awareness about India's new criminal laws. During his stay Amit Shah will also attend an event at Kawakhali Ground in Siliguri—an exhibition on the country's three new criminal laws. The three new criminal laws are the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam (BSA). These laws came into force on July 1, 2024, replacing the Indian Penal Code, the Code of Criminal Procedure and the Indian Evidence Act. The programme also includes an exhibition and public programme focusing on the new legal framework. Union Minister for Education (MoS) Sukanta Majumdar also attended the programme.

Two vessels with 22 Indians hijacked by Yemeni...

► **Continued from page 1**
over "dangers faced by Indian seafarers amid the Iran war." It released footage of what it claimed to be a hijacking of "a vessel carrying 22 crew members, including 21 Indians, in the Strait of Hormuz on April 22." The footage was posted on Friday and it was unclear if the FSUI was talking of a separate hijacking or the latest ones. The shipping ministry official quoted above said, "As reported by Recruitment and Placement Service Licence (RPSL) agency – S K S Krishni Marine Services (Opc) Private Limited, six armed pirates are presently onboard the vessel (M.T. Sibhu-1) and have taken control of the vessel." The RPSL agency has been advised to submit an incident report and subsequent periodic updates through the e-Navik online marine casualty reporting system, the official said. Maritime tracking information indicates the tanker was approached by an unauthorised vessel before control of the ship was lost. The incident occurred as piracy activity off Somalia and in the Gulf of Aden has increased this year. A second vessel, the Cameroon-flagged M/V LUTUF, was hijacked on August 17 off Somalia's Puntland coast, according to the official and maritime security reports. The vessel has 10 crew members, including six Indians. "The vessel is reported to have been boarded by eight pirates, armed with AK-47 type weapons and operating from two skiffs. "The crew initially mustered in the citadel. However, the pirates gained access and subsequently brought them to the bridge. The vessel is currently under pirate control. No injuries have been reported thus far," he said. The vessel was seized about 3½ nautical miles off Marraya in Puntland's Eyl district and was subsequently taken toward Somalia's Nugaal coast, according to a Somali official cited by The Associated Press. The crew includes six Indians, one Turkish national, one Georgian national and two Serbian security guards. Cargo ship M/V LUTUF was carrying Turkish weapons, communications, and satellite equipment and destined for a Turkish military training facility in Mogadishu. The 10-person crew included nationals from India, Turkey, Georgia, and Serbia. The hijackers – eight armed men suspected of involvement in a previous hijacking – steered the ship toward the Nugaal coast. The renewed threat adds to security pressures already facing commercial shipping in the Red Sea, Gulf of Aden and wider Indian Ocean region, where vessels have also had to contend with attacks linked to the conflict in Yemen.

The two hijackings also come as Indian seafarers face heightened security concerns elsewhere in the region, including the Strait of Hormuz, where tensions involving Iran, Israel and the United States have disrupted one of the world's most important shipping corridors. The developments are particularly significant for India, which has become the world's second-largest supplier of seafarers after the Philippines. The 2026 BIMCO-ICS Seafarer Workforce Report estimates that India supplies 311,936 seafarers, underscoring the country's large exposure to risks affecting merchant crews worldwide.

Bangladesh PM's India visit likely this

► **Continued from page 1**
have been interested in a bilateral visit, but the schedule was an issue. After weighing various schedules, the top officials of both countries have come close to a schedule between August 20 and 25," a diplomatic source said. According to newspaper, citing the source, two possible schedules are currently under consideration - August 20-21 and August 21-22. The final dates are expected to be decided after Indian High Commissioner Dinesh Trivedi resumes his duties in Dhaka, the source said. However, there is no official confirmation from the Ministry of External Affairs. The development comes after Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Dinesh Trivedi held a one-to-one meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi on August 11, a day after the High Commissioner met Rahman in Dhaka. If confirmed, the visit would be Tarique Rahman's first trip to India since he assumed office in February.

The proposed visit assumes significance amid recent diplomatic tensions between Dhaka and New Delhi following Sheikh Hasina's public remarks from India, who has been in India since she was ousted from the country after a student-led uprising in 2024. On Monday, Bangladesh expressed "hope" that India will expedite the extradition process of former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, who was ousted in 2024, during a meeting between Trivedi and Rahman. Trivedi, who was appointed as India's High Commissioner to Bangladesh, paid a courtesy call on Tarique Rahman at the Prime Minister's Office in the Cabinet Division at the Bangladesh Secretariat. According to a statement issued by the Bangladesh Prime Minister's Office, "Bangladesh expressed hope that India will expedite the extradition process of Sheikh Hasina." The diplomatic dialogue comes against the backdrop of a virtual press interaction by former Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in New Delhi on August 5, organised by the Foreign Correspondents' Club of South Asia to mark the second anniversary of her ouster following the 2024 student-led uprising, an event that drew strong objections from Dhaka. India had sidelined itself from Hasina's engagement, stating that the government has no involvement in the event related to Hasina in the national capital. Addressing a media briefing, Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal stressed that the event was being organised by a "private media entity" and that New Delhi does not endorse any views that may be expressed there.



Minister of State for Agricultural Marketing and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises & Textiles Ashok Dinda attends the MSME Awareness Programme for the Plastic Industry, organised by the Indian Plastic Federation in collaboration with the Bureau of Indian Standards, in Kolkata on Friday.

Suvendu Says 'Rule of Law' Established in Bengal

MI News Service, Kolkata: West Bengal has witnessed not merely a change of political party or leadership but a fundamental transformation in its system of governance, Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari said at a programme in Siliguri in the presence of Union Home Minister Amit Shah. He claimed that the "rule of law" had replaced the "rule of rulers" in the state, referring to the National Human Rights Commission's observations following the post-poll violence of 2021.

Recalling the initial days of his government, Adhikari said he took oath as Chief Minister on May 9 at Kolkata's Brigade Parade Ground in the presence of Governor. After the weekend, he entered the state secretariat on May 11 and signed three important files on his first day in office. The first related to the transfer of land to the Border Security



Force (BSF) along the state's borders in the interest of national security. The second concerned the immediate resumption of the Census, which he alleged had been stalled by the previous Trinamool Congress government for political reasons. He also directed officials to implement the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) in West Bengal from May 11. The Chief Minister said his government had been functioning over the past 105 days on four key principles — patriotism and nationalism with no compromise on national

security; adherence to constitutional responsibilities; welfare-oriented governance inspired by Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya's philosophy of Integral Humanism; and co-operation between the Centre and state governments to ensure that central schemes reach beneficiaries directly. Describing the BNS as a "revolutionary step", Adhikari said the replacement of the British-era Indian Penal Code and Code of Criminal Procedure would modernise the criminal justice system. He claimed that delays in legal proceedings

had previously prevented timely punishment in several cases involving crimes against women and other serious offences.

According to him, the new legal framework, supported by technology, greater transparency and defined timelines, would help ensure faster investigation and justice. Speaking about the Nyaya Sanhita exhibition organised in Siliguri with the support of the Union Home Ministry, Adhikari said it would help law students, universities and young people understand the country's new legal framework. He expressed hope that the younger generation would play a crucial role in protecting the constitutional rights guaranteed by Dr B.R. Ambedkar. He also thanked Amit Shah for his continued support in his government's efforts to make West Bengal a leading state in the country.

Bharat Sevashram Sangha Steps Up Relief Efforts for Flood-Hit Communities

MI News Service, Kolkata: The Bharat Sevashram Sangha has intensified relief operations in flood-affected areas of West Bengal and Assam following continuous rainfall and widespread inundation. East Medinipur districts, including Haldia, Tamluk and Mahishadal, are among the worst-hit regions, while several areas of West Medinipur have also been affected. Volunteers are distributing dry food, clothes, essential supplies and cooked khichuri to stranded residents, including those in remote villages. General Secretary Swami Biswatmananda Maharaj said disaster relief remains a key priority of the organisation. The Sangha is also conducting rehabilitation initiatives in Assam, focusing on restoring livelihoods and supporting affected families.

India-Australia Education Ties Set for Deeper Collab: Australian Consul General

MI News Service, Kolkata: India and Australia are poised to deepen collaboration in education, skills development, research and higher education, Australian Consul General in Kolkata H.E. Bernard Lynch said at ASSOCHAM's 10th edition of The EduMeet 2026 in Kolkata on Friday.

Speaking at the event themed "Future of Education & Skilling – Vision 2030", Lynch said education and skilling remained key pillars of the growing bilateral relationship. India is Australia's second-largest source of international students, while cooperation extends to universities, research and vocational education.

He said Australia already has nine overseas

branch campuses in India, with more expected to be established. New initiatives, including a Centre of Excellence in Mining Equipment and solar training programmes, would further strengthen India's skills ecosystem, he added.

Education leaders at the event stressed the need to move beyond rote learning and focus on applied competence, creativity, innovation, entrepreneurship and employability. Prof. Dr Satyajit Chakrabarti of the Institute of Engineering & Management said easy access to knowledge through technology and AI had increased the importance of developing human capabilities. ASSOCHAM Higher Education Council-East chairman Manoj Joshi

called for stronger industry-academia partnerships, with companies becoming "co-educators" by providing practical, industry-linked learning opportunities. The event also saw the release of the ASSOCHAM-PwC Knowledge Report, "Unlocking the Next Leap in Education", outlining priorities for preparing learners for future skills and technological change.

Speakers also highlighted inclusivity, curiosity, resilience and short-term industry-linked courses as key to building a future-ready education system. The programme concluded with the ASSOCHAM Excellence Awards recognising contributions across the education sector.

Cal HC Clarifies Teachers' Census Duty and Classroom Responsibilities

MI News Service, Kolkata: The Calcutta High Court on Friday clarified how teachers should be deployed for Census duties, stressing that the arrangement must not disrupt regular school education. Justice Krishna Rao laid down specific guidelines regarding the deployment of teachers for the exercise. According to the court, if the Director of Census requires teachers for Census work, the authorities must inform them in advance about the specific time, date and location of their duty. Schools must make necessary arrangements to ensure that regular teaching continues without disruption. The court further clarified that teachers assigned to Census duty will be required to perform only Census-related work during the designated period, and their Census assignment will be treated as their official duty for that time. At the same time, teachers selected for the exercise cannot refuse the assigned Census work.

Kolkata Police Orders Regular Bank Patrols to Strengthen Security

MI News Service, Kolkata: Kolkata Police has introduced a new security protocol to strengthen the safety of banks and financial institutions across the city. A directive issued by Lalbazar recently transfers responsibility for regular bank patrols from the Detective Department's Anti-Robbery Section to the respective local police stations. Under the new guidelines, police personnel from local stations will conduct regular visits to banks and periodically assess their security arrangements. Officers will check the functioning of security guards, CCTV cameras, alarm systems and other safety measures. Patrols will cover not only banking hours but also the periods when banks open and close. Police have been instructed to maintain regular coordination with bank officials and security personnel. Officers will also



monitor suspicious persons or vehicles in and around bank premises.

Any information suggesting a possible robbery, theft or other crime must immediately be reported to senior officers. The Anti-Robbery Section will focus on gathering and analysing intelligence, identifying criminals and assisting local police stations. The Detective Department will maintain regular information-sharing with police stations regarding known offenders, criminal

gangs and patterns of crimes targeting banks and financial institutions.

Assistant Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners of Police will supervise bank patrols in their respective jurisdictions and ensure compliance. Additional police deployment may be arranged during festivals, major events or periods involving large cash transactions if there is intelligence about a possible threat. The revised system will come into immediate effect.

JU Unrest Unfortunate, Says Swapan Dasgupta

MI News Service, Kolkata: West Bengal Finance Minister Swapan Dasgupta has expressed concern over the recent unrest at Jadavpur University, describing clashes between two student groups as "very unfortunate". He also voiced his displeasure over the alleged damage to the university's historic emblem, designed by renowned artist Nandalal Bose. In a social media post, Dasgupta said Jadavpur University does not fall within his Rashbehari Assembly constituency but lies close to its boundary. According to him, the university's developments inevitably have an impact on the neighbouring Rashbehari area. "Student movements are nothing new in West Bengal. I do not have all the facts, but clashes of this nature between two groups of students are extremely unfortunate," Dasgupta said. He expressed hope that the situation would not affect the university's ac-

ademic environment and development. Dasgupta said everyone wanted Jadavpur University to progress and gain greater recognition across the country. Referring to videos and reels being circulated on social media amid the controversy, he suggested that some of the content had added to the confusion and excitement among students.

The Finance Minister, however, said what disturbed him most was the alleged damage to the university's emblem. He said the emblem might be repairable, but the act amounted to disrespecting a historic symbol associated with the institution. Dasgupta pointed out that the emblem was designed by Nandalal Bose and stressed the importance of understanding Jadavpur University's historical connection with India's freedom movement. He said the institution's legacy should be respected and preserved.

17 More New Market Hotels Served Show-Cause Notices

MI News Service, Kolkata: The Kolkata Fire and Emergency Services has intensified its crackdown on hotels in the New Market area following the devastating fire at a hotel that claimed nine lives. Seven-teen more hotels have been served show-cause notices for alleged lapses in fire safety arrangements, with the authorities seeking replies within 24 hours. Officials have warned that hotels failing to provide satisfactory explanations or demonstrate adequate fire-safety measures could face closure. The latest action comes after 11 hotels in the area were already shut down following inspections. The fire broke out late Tuesday night at a hotel on Mirza Ghalib Street. Nine people died after being trapped in thick smoke, seven of them reportedly Bangladeshi nationals who had travelled to Kolkata for medical treatment. The Kolkata Police Special Investigation Team is probing the incident, and one person has been arrested.

The hotel owner, however, remains absconding. Following the tragedy, the Kolkata Municipal Corporation and Fire and Emergency Services stepped up inspections of hotels, guest houses and restaurants in and around New Market. On Thursday, nine guest houses and four restaurants on Mirza Ghalib Street were served notices and asked to respond within 24 hours. On Friday, another 17 hotels were added to the list. The latest notices include 10 hotels on Marquis Street, five on Mirza Ghalib Street, one on SN Banerjee Road and another on Topsia Road. Hotel owners have been asked to provide details of their existing fire-safety arrangements and explain whether all required measures are in place.

Officials are likely to take immediate action against establishments whose responses are found unsatisfactory. Sources said hotels and restaurants could be closed if they fail to comply with fire-safety requirements.

Poland backs India's right to pursue terrorists

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in the past years, including in Kashmir in 2025, were terrible. Nothing comparable happened in Poland. But we are on your side, and our voice, we said openly, we support your right to pursue terrorists everywhere they go. Because our policy on that is very clear. And we said it openly." Asked about reports that Polish-made drones were used against Pakistani infrastructure during the initial phase of Operation Sindoor, Switalski said there had been reports from both Indian and Pakistani sources. "Some of the drones were Polish drones," he said, adding that he suspected the drones were "simply used as decoys" and were training drones, based on what experts had told him. Switalski said he was "really very surprised" when he heard statements invoking the Pakistani factor to attack Poland. He added that he suspected "sometimes, a kind of foreign agenda behind it". Switalski said Poland was spending billions of euros on defence procurement and viewed India as "a very attractive partner" because of its advanced capabilities in some areas of defence production and its scale. He said Poland was also ready to work with India in agriculture and other sectors, adding that Polish companies were keen to expand their presence in the country. "Some of the Indian companies are investing and operating in Poland. And I'm very glad, because Poland should be considered by your companies, as a friendly gateway to the European Union, to its big market, half a billion consumers," he said. Switalski also highlighted the historical links between the two countries, particularly the role of the then Maharaja of Nawanagar, Sir Digvijaysinhji Ranjitsinhji Jadia, who sheltered Polish children during World War II. He also highlighted a museum coming up in Kolhapur to commemorate the role of the erstwhile royal family of Kolhapur in sheltering Polish women and children displaced during World War II. Between 1942 and 1948, around 5,000 Polish refugees found shelter in Valivade near Kolhapur after being displaced during World War II. The settlement grew into a vibrant "Little Poland", complete with schools, a church and a community life, he said.

Fresh arson, petrol bomb attacks in...

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motorcycle at the Water Resources Department premises in Saldan. Both vehicles were completely gutted. Police have launched an investigation. In South West Khasi Hills, unidentified miscreants lobbed a petrol bomb at the Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Officer's office at Mawlangwir village, about 1 km from Mawkyrwat, around 1 am. The device landed on the roof and the fire extinguished itself without causing damage. South West Khasi Hills SP B. Jyrwa said neighbours heard the blast but saw no one; an FIR is awaited as further inquiry continues. The State Police on Thursday registered 15 FIRs in connection with the Shillong violence. East Khasi Hills SP Vivek Syiem said. The Assam blockade followed reports of disruptions after Wednesday's violence, in which at least 31 vehicles — mostly government SUVs and Assam-registered ones — were damaged and several pedestrians assaulted. Guwahati-based cab operators and members of the Assam State Drivers' Association prevented Meghalaya-registered vehicles from entering Assam at Jorabat and Khanapara. Hundreds of passengers were stranded. Passengers boarded at Jorabat and continued in Assam taxis, while Meghalaya taxis leaving Guwahati were allowed to proceed without customers. Ambulances and essential services were exempted. Guwahati Police said agitators damaged one Meghalaya-registered taxi at Khanapara before the situation was controlled. The vehicle of the Additional SP, West Garo Hills, was stopped by protesters but later allowed to proceed towards Shillong.

Name Change
I, Koli Roy, D/O-Late Ashis Kumar Roy, residing at Purbachal Tetuloka, Lane-18, PO - (R) Gopulpur, PS- Narayanpur, Kolkata - 700136. That after solemnization of my marriage, I have been known in my society as Koli Das. That following the dissolution of my marriage by a decree of divorce on mutual consent dated 13/04/2023. Now I shall henceforth be known as Koli Roy as declared before the Notary Public Seakadh Court vide affidavit no. 253119, dated 17/12/2025 Koli Das and Koli Roy both are the same and identical person.

NAME CHANGE
I, Sarbani Bandyopadhyay, Wife of No. JC-258560F Rank Ex Sub Name Asim Kumar Bandyopadhyay resident of Vill.-Singhapara, P.O.- Sadya, Dist.-Purba Bardhaman (WB), Pin-713407 have change my Name from Sarbani Bandyopadhyay to Sarbani Bandyopadhyay vide Affidavit dated 20.08.2026 before 1st Class, Judicial Magistrate, Purba Bardhaman.

Name Change
I, Md Habibullah (old name), S/o, Abdul Hamid Mondal, R/o, Sudarshan Madihya Majherpara, Sudarsan, Ramnathpur, Polba, Hooghly-712148, W.B., do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Md Habibullah to Md Habibullah Mondal (New Name) and henceforth I shall be known as Md Habibullah Mondal in all purpose, vide an affidavit no. 898 sworn before Notary Public, Sadar, Hooghly Court on 21/08/2026. I, Md Habibullah Mondal & Md Habibullah S/o. Abdul Hamid Mondal, all are the same & one identical person. Md Ahmadullah is my son.

Name Change
I, Md Sarif, S/o. Abdul Rab, R/o. Amra, Dadpur, Hooghly-712149, W.B., do hereby declare that in my L.R. Porcha (Dist. Hooghly, P.S. Polba, J.L. 3, Mouza Amra, Khatian No. 1007, Dag No. 3811) where my name has been recorded as Sariful Islam, and in my Gifted, being registration no. 573 dated 23.02.2000 where my name has been recorded as Sk Sariful Islam and also in my other documents where my name has been recorded as Md Sarif. That I, Md Sarif & Sariful Islam & Sk Sariful Islam, S/o, Abdul Rab all are the same & one identical person, vide an affidavit no. 19869, dated 19/08/2026, sworn before Judicial Magistrate, Sadar Hooghly Court.

NAME CHANGE
I, Maolana Habibur Rahaman (Old Name), S/o.- Lt. Janab Ali Kna, R/o.- Vill. Kanakpur, P.O.- Panskura (R.S.), P.S.-Panskura, Dist. Purba Medinipur-721152, WB, I have change my name from Maolana Habibur Rahaman to Habibur Rahaman Knan (New Name), vide an Affidavit St. No. H/400 dt. 21.08.2026, in the Court of Ld., 1st Class at Howrah. That, Habibur Rahaman Knan (New Name) & Maolana Habibur Rahaman (Old Name) both are same & one identical person.

Name Change
I, Anamika Biswas (Mondal) (Old Name) W/O Sumanta Biswas, D/O - Murarimohan Mondal R/o - VILL- Kabi Bhujangadhar Road, PO+PS- Basirhat, Dist North 24 Pgs Have changed my Name and shall henceforth be known as Anamika Mondal Biswas (New Name) as Declared before the 1st Class Judicial Magistrate affidavit No. 20794 dt 19-08-2026 Anamika Biswas (Mondal) (Old Name) and Anamika Mondal Biswas (New Name) both are same and identical person.

NAME CHANGE
I, Amrita Sarkar (Old Name), W/o.- Sri Subhasis Kundu, D/O.- Lt. Chittaranjan Sarkar, R/o.-Ganapati Enclave, Block-A, Flat-1/K, Shantinagar Main Road, Burmpur, P.O.- Burmpur, P.S.- Hirapur, Dist.- Paschim Bardhaman-713325, WB, I have change my name from Amrita Sarkar to Amrita Sarkar (Kundu) (New Name) & henceforth be known as Amrita Sarkar (Kundu) (New Name), vide an Affidavit St.No. 07, dt. 19.08.2026, before the Notary Public at Asansol Court. That, Amrita Sarkar (Kundu) (New Name) & Amrita Sarkar (Old Name) both are same & one identical person

Change of Name
I, RATIJAN BIBI, W/o ABDUL ZAHIR, residing at - Shanti Nagar, Ward No- 22, P.O-Kharagpur, P.S-Kharagpur (Town), Dist.- Paschim Medinipur, have changed my name from RAFIZAN BIBI to RATIJAN BIBI vide affidavit no.-8091, Dt.- 24/06/2026 sworn In the Court of Ld. Judicial Magistrate (1st Class), Kharagpur, West Bengal, India, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from RATIJAN BIBI and henceforth I shall be known as RATIJAN BIBI instead of RAFIZAN BIBI and all my relevant documents should be corrected accordingly.

Change of Name
I, RAMEY KACHARI, Wife of PRADIP KACHARI, R/o- Vill & PO - Salua, P.S-Kharagpur (Local), Dist.- Paschim Medinipur, 721145, have changed my name from RAMBHA HAZOWARY W/o PRADIP HAZOWARY to RAMEY KACHARI W/o PRADIP KACHARI vide Affidavit No.-9863, Dt.- 20/07/26 sworn In the Court of Ld. Judicial Magistrate (1st Class), Kharagpur, West Bengal, I shall be known as RAMEY KACHARI W/o PRADIP KACHARI instead of RAMBHA HAZOWARY W/o PRADIP HAZOWARY and all my relevant documents should be corrected accordingly.

Name Change
I, Mira Bibi (Old Name), Wife Of Md Anisshaidan Thander, Resident Of V 228/1/A, Karbala Road, Vtc:Bartala S/O, Kolkata-700018, West Bengal Do Herby Declare That I Have Changed My Name From Mira Bibi (Old Name) To Manoyara Bibi (New Name) And Henceforth I Shall Be Known As Manoyara Bibi (New Name) In All Purpose, Vide Affidavit No 24 Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 21/08/2026. Manoyara Bibi (New Name) And Mira Bibi (Old Name) Both Are Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, Papia Sujit Dutta (Old Name), Wife Of Sujit Dutta, Resident Of Flat No-Fresco 3/203 Uniworl City Rajarhat New Town North 24 Parganas - 700156, West Bengal Do Herby Declare That I Have Changed My Name From Papia Sujit Dutta (Old Name) To Papia Dutta (New Name) And Henceforth I Shall Be Known As Papia Dutta (New Name) In All Purpose, Vide Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 20/08/2026. Papia Dutta (New Name) And Papia Sujit Dutta (Old Name) Both Are Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, Sujit Haridas Dutta (Old Name), Son Of Late Haridas Dutta, Resident Of Flat No-Fresco 3/203 Uniworl City Rajarhat New Town North 24 Parganas - 700156, West Bengal Do Herby Declare That I Have Changed My Name From Sujit Haridas Dutta (Old Name) To Sujit Dutta (New Name) And Henceforth I Shall Be Known As Sujit Dutta (New Name) In All Purpose, Vide Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 20/08/2026. Sujit Dutta (New Name) And Sujit Haridas Dutta (Old Name) Both Are Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, Lavanya Mangalpady (Old Name) W/o Deepak P Krishnan Residing at 2201, 22nd Floor, Tower - 14, Elita Vista Garden, Po - Akandakeshari, District - North 24 Parganas, Pin - 700135, West Bengal, India, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Lavanya Mangalpady (Old Name) to Lavanya Deepak (New Name) and henceforth I shall be known as Lavanya Deepak (New Name) in all purpose, vide affidavit no 21/08/26 Sworn before the Notary public at Kolkata on Dated 21-08-2026. Lavanya Deepak (New Name) and Lavanya Mangalpady (Old Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Shaivli Banka (Old Name) W/o Anand Biyani D/o Satish Prasad Banka Residing at Block N Flat 4C Natural City, 43 Shyamnagar Road, Vtc+Po - Bangur Avenue, District - North 25 Parganas, Pin - 700055, West Bengal, India, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Shaivli Banka (Old Name) to Shaivli Banka Biyani (New Name) and henceforth I shall be known as Shaivli Banka Biyani (New Name) in all purpose, vide affidavit no 1356 Sworn before the Ld. Judicial Magistrate (1st Class) at Bidhanagar on Dated 21-08-2026. Shaivli Banka Biyani (New Name) and Shaivli Banka (Old Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Kirti Ranjan Nayak (Old Name) S/o Pratap Chandra Nayak Residing at Surendrajit Apartment, Flat-J-12, 4th floor, T2/4, Garfa Main Road, Santoshpur, Circus Avenue, District - Kolkata, Pin - 700075, West Bengal, India, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Kirti Ranjan Nayak (Old Name) to Kirti Nayak (New Name) and henceforth I shall be known as Kirti Nayak (New Name) in all purpose, vide affidavit Sworn before the Notary public at Kolkata on Dated 21-08-2026. Kirti Nayak (New Name) and Kirti Ranjan Nayak (Old Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Hannan Ali Biswas S/o Late Ansar Ali Biswas Residing at Barachupria, Chupria, Hanskhali, District - Nadia, Pin - 741502, West Bengal, India, that my deceased father who previously known as Anchhar Ali Biswas shall henceforth be known as Ansar Ali Biswas as declared before the Notary public at Kolkata vide affidavit no 21/016 Dated 21-08-2026. I Declare that My deceased father Ansar Ali Biswas and Anchhar Ali Biswas both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Saruthi (Old Name) W/o Ashok Mundari Residing at Bairampur, Po- Kumari Ramnagar, District - Nadia, Pin - 741502, West Bengal, India, do hereby declare that I have Changed my name from Saruthi (Old Name) to Sarathi Mundari (New Name) and henceforth I shall be known as Sarathi Mundari (New Name) in all purpose, vide affidavit no 20/2026 Sworn before the Notary public at Kolkata on Dated 21-08-2026. Sarathi Mundari (New Name) and Saruthi (Old Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Md Ruhul Amin Mandal, Md Ruhul Amin Mondal (Old Name) S/o Saiyad Mondal Residing at Pakhiura Purb Para, Hanskhali, Umarpur, Po- Kumari Ramnagar, District - Nadia, Pin - 741502, West Bengal, India, do hereby declare that I have Changed my name from Md Ruhul Amin Mandal, Md Ruhul Amin Mondal (Old Name) to Md Ruhul Amin Mondal (New Name) and henceforth I shall be known as Ruhul Amin Mondal (New Name) in all purpose, vide affidavit no 19/2026 Sworn before the Notary public at Kolkata on Dated 21-08-2026. Ruhul Amin Mondal (New Name) and Md Ruhul Amin Mandal, Md Ruhul Amin Mondal (Old Name) all are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Md Saiyad Ali Mondal, Md Saiyad Ali Mondal (Old Name) S/o Golam Rahman Mandal Residing at Pakhiura Purb Para, Vtc - Ramnagar, Po- Kumari Ramnagar, District - Nadia, Pin - 741502, West Bengal, India, do hereby declare that I have Changed my name from Md Saiyad Ali Mondal, Md Saiyad Ali Mondal (Old Name) to Saiyad Mondal (New Name) and henceforth I shall be known as Saiyad Mondal (New Name) in all purpose, vide affidavit no 18/2026 Sworn before the Notary public at Kolkata on Dated 21-08-2026. Saiyad Mondal (New Name) and Md Saiyad Ali Mondal, Md Saiyad Ali Mondal (Old Name) all are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Sk Mustakim (Old Name), Son Of Late Sk Md Musha, Resident Of Vill - Biswanathpur, P.O. - Munshirhat, P.S. - Jagat Ballavpur, Dist- Howrah, Pin- 711410, West Bengal, Do Herby Declare That I Have Changed My Name From Sk Mustakim (Old Name) To Sk Md Mostakin (New Name) And Henceforth I Shall Be Known As Sk Md Mostakin (New Name) In All Purpose Vide Affidavit No 38 Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 20/08/2026. Sk Md Mostakin (New Name) And Sk Mustakim (Old Name) Both Are Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, Malay Kumar Mukhopadhyay (Old Name), Son Of Sunil Mukherjee, Resident Of Dubrajpur, Kachari Para, Ps-Dubrajpur, Birbhumi-731123, West Bengal Do Herby Declare That I Have Changed My Name From Malay Kumar Mukhopadhyay (Old Name) To Malay Mukherjee (New Name) And Henceforth I Shall Be Known As Malay Mukherjee (New Name) In All Purpose, Vide Affidavit No 27 Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 27/07/2026. Malay Mukherjee (New Name) And Malay Kumar Mukhopadhyay (Old Name) Both Are Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, Arobinda Das (Old Name), Son Of Late Hiralal Das, Basanti Uttar Para, P.O. & P.S. - Basanti, Dist - South 24 Parganas , Pin - 743312, West Bengal, Do Herby Declare That I Have Changed My Name From Arobinda Das (Old Name) To Arabinda Das (New Name) And Henceforth I Shall Be Known As Arabinda Das (New Name) In All Purpose Vide Affidavit No 31 Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 21/08/2026. Arabinda Das (New Name) And Arobinda Das (Old Name) Both Are Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, Shakh Salma Bibi & Sk Salma Bibi (Old Name), Daughter Of Late Joyndl Dhalli, Resident Of Vill-Balban, Po & S-Baruipur, South 24 Parganas-700144, West Bengal, Do Herby Declare That I Have Changed My Name From Shakh Salma Bibi & Sk Salma Bibi (Old Name) To Shekh Salma Bibi (New Name) And Henceforth I Shall Be Known As Shekh Salma Bibi (New Name) In All Purpose, Vide Affidavit No 3 Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 20/08/2026. Shekh Salma Bibi (New Name) And Shakh Salma Bibi & Sk Salma Bibi (Old Name) Both Are Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, Laxi Kanta Patra (old name), S/O Late Kanai Patra, residing at 138, 1st Floor, Flat - 1, Bidhan Park, P.O.- Nospara, Dist. - South 24 Parganas, Pin- 700090, West Bengal, India, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Laxi Kanta Patra (Old Name) to Lakshmikanta Patra (New Name) and henceforth shall I be known as Lakshmikanta Patra (new name), as declared Before The Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit No 23 dated 21/08/2026. Lakshmikanta Patra (new name) and Laxi Kanta Patra (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Aleya Bibi (old name), D/O Alimuddin Mistry, residing at Shirakole Magrahat-1, Dist. - South 24 Parganas, Pin-743513, West Bengal, India, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Aleya Bibi (Old Name) to Aleya Bibi Haldar (New Name) and henceforth shall I be known as Aleya Bibi Haldar (new name), as declared Before The Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit No 26 dated 21/08/2026. Aleya Bibi Haldar (new name) and Aleya Bibi (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Md Rafique Ansari S/O, Md Salim, Resident of BL B5 03 FR FL 07, 98, Christopher Road, P.O.- Gobinda Khatrick Road, Kolkata- 700046, West Bengal, India, do hereby declare that I have changed my mother's name from (Late) Nazbunnessa (Old Name) to Najbun Nissa (new name) and henceforth she shall be known as Najbun Nissa (New Name) in all purpose, vide affidavit No 25 sworn before the Notary Public at Kolkata on 19/08/2026. Najbun Nissa (new name) and Nazbunnessa (old name) both are same and one identical person (my mother)

Name Change
I, Surender Singh (old name), S/O Late Matuk Dev Singh, residing at 87/9, Maharani Indira Devi Road, Parnasree Pally, Kolkata- 700060, West Bengal, India, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Surender Singh (Old Name) to Surendra Singh (New Name) and henceforth shall I be known as Surendra Singh (new name), as declared Before The Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit No 24 dated 21/08/2026. Surendra Singh (new name) and Surender Singh (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Afshana Praveen (old name), D/O Mohammad Kalimuddin, residing at 55, Pilkhana 2nd Bye Lane, Howrah-711101, West Bengal, India, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Afshana Praveen (Old Name) to Afshan Naaz (New Name) and henceforth shall I be known as Afshan Naaz (new name), as declared Before The Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit No 21 dated 21/08/2026. Afshan Naaz (new name) and Afshana Praveen (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Md Mukhtar Ahmed (old name), S/O Abdul Shakor Nasad, residing at 54/5, Pilkhana 2nd Bye Lane, Salkia, Howrah-711101, West Bengal, India, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Md Mukhtar Ahmed (Old Name) to Mukhtar Ahmed (New Name) and henceforth shall I be known as Mukhtar Ahmed (new name), as declared Before The Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit No 22 dated 21/08/2026. Mukhtar Ahmed (new name) and Md Mukhtar Ahmed (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Ratan Gayen (Old Name), Son Of Harekrishna Gayen, Resident Of Vill-Dakshin Arbans, Po - Menkapur, Ps - Datan, West Medinipur - 721435, West Bengal Do Herby Declare That I Have Changed My Name From Ratan Gayen (Old Name) To Ratan Kumar Gayen (New Name) And Henceforth I Shall Be Known As Ratan Kumar Gayen (New Name) In All Purpose, Vide Affidavit No 6544 Sworn Before The Ld 1st Class Judicial Magistrate At Datan On 10/08/2026. Ratan Kumar Gayen (New Name) And Ratan Gayen (Old Name) Both Are Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, Nudrath Ahmed (Old Name), Wife Of Abul Minhaz, Resident Of Active Acres, Tower - Magnolia, Flat-15a 54/10, D C Dey Road, Kolkata-700015, West Bengal Do Herby Declare That I Have Changed My Name From Nudrath Ahmed (Old Name) To Seema Nudrath Minhaz (New Name) And Henceforth I Shall Be Known As Seema Nudrath Minhaz (New Name) In All Purpose, Vide Affidavit No. 34 Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 21/08/2026. Seema Nudrath Minhaz (New Name) And Nudrath Ahmed (Old Name) Both Are Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, Nazma Begum (Old Name), D/O Abdul Majid, Resident Of 71/1 Tiljala Road, Kolkata-700046, West Bengal Do Herby Declare That I Have Changed My Name From Nazma Begum (Old Name) To Najma Begum (New Name) And Henceforth I Shall Be Known As To Najma Begum (New Name) In All Purpose, Vide Affidavit Sworn Before Notary Public At Kolkata On 20/08/2026. Najma Begum (New Name) And Nazma Begum (Old Name), Both Are Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, Rohit Chowdhury (Old Name), Son Of Mithu Chowdhury, Resident Of 26a/1, Kustia Road, Po Tiljala, Kolkata-700039, West Bengal Do Herby Declare That I Have Changed My Name From Rohit Chowdhury (Old Name) To Md Hamza (New Name) And Henceforth I Shall Be Known As Md Hamza (New Name) In All Purpose, Vide Affidavit Sworn Before The Ld 1st Judicial Magistrate At Alipore On 21/08/2026. Md Hamza (New Name) And Sabiha Parveen (Old Name) Both Are Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, Gayatri Dubey (Old Name), Daughter Of Shivanath Dubey, Resident Of 125/B, Surendra Nath Banerjee Road, Ps-New Market, Kolkata-700013, West Bengal Do Herby Declare That I Have Changed My Name From Gayatri Dubey (Old Name) To Malka (New Name) And Henceforth I Shall Be Known As Malka (New Name) In All Purpose, Vide Affidavit Sworn Before The Ld 1st Judicial Magistrate At Alipore On 21/08/2026. Malka (New Name) And Gayatri Dubey (Old Name) Both Are Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, Sabiha Parveen (Old Name), Daughter Of Nurjahan, Resident Of 33A, Rabindra Sarani, Po Chittaranjan Avenue, Kolkata-700073, West Bengal Do Herby Declare That I Have Changed My Name From Sabiha Parveen (Old Name) To Sabiha Parveen (New Name) And Henceforth I Shall Be Known As Sabiha Parveen (New Name) In All Purpose, Vide Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 21/08/2026. Sabiha Parveen (New Name) And Sabiha Parveen (Old Name) Both Are Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, Md Iftekhar Alam (Old Name), Son Of Md Ashfaq Ahmed, Resident Of 33a, Rabindra Sarani, Po-Chittaranjan Avenue, Kolkata-700073, West Bengal Do Herby Declare That I Have Changed My Name From Md Iftekhar Alam (Old Name) To Md Iftakhar Alam (New Name) And Henceforth I Shall Be Known As Md Iftakhar Alam (New Name) In All Purpose, Vide Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 21/08/2026. Md Iftakhar Alam (New Name) And Md Iftekhar Alam (Old Name) Both Are Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, Premra Singh (Old Name), Daughter Of Late Om Prakash Singh, Resident Of 17b, Dilkusha Street, Po Circus Avenue, Kolkata-700017, West Bengal Do Herby Declare That I Have Changed My Name From Premra Singh (Old Name) To Rafat Begum (New Name) And Henceforth I Shall Be Known As Rafat Begum (New Name) In All Purpose, Vide Affidavit Sworn Before The Ld 1st Judicial Magistrate At Alipore On 21/08/2026. Rafat Begum (New Name) And Premra Singh (Old Name) Both Are Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, Aisha Khatun, W/O Mohammad Yakub, residing at 9/1 Collin Lane, Park Street, Part Street H.O. Kolkata-700016, West Bengal, India, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Aisha Khatun to Asma Begum and henceforth shall I be known as Asma Begum, as declared Before The Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 19/08/2026. Asma Begum and Aisha Khatun both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Jonila Bibi (Old Name), Wife Of Emdadul Mallick, Resident Of Dhola, Dholahat, South 24 Parganas-743399, West Bengal Do Herby Declare That I Have Changed My Name From Jonila Bibi (Old Name) To Jamila Khatun (New Name) And Henceforth I Shall Be Known As Jamila Khatun (New Name) In All Purpose, Vide Affidavit No 18 Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 21/08/2026. Md Atiqul Alam (New Name) And Md Akhter (Old Name) Both Are Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, Anup Roy (S/o), Late Atul Krishna Roy, Resident of Vill- Ganti, P.O. - Thakurnagar, P.S. - Gaighata, Dist. - North 24 Parganas, Pin- 743287, West Bengal, India, do hereby declare that I have changed my father's name from Atul Roy (Old Name) to Atul Krishna Roy (new name) and henceforth he shall be known as Atul Krishna Roy (New Name) in all purpose, vide affidavit sworn before the Notary Public at Kolkata on 21/08/2026. Atul Krishna Roy (new name) and Atul Roy (old name) both are same and one identical person (my father).

CBI files another charge sheet in RCom case

MI News Service, Mumbai:

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) filed a second supplementary charge sheet in the Reliance Communications Limited (RCom) case in a special court here on Friday, accusing Reliance ADA Group Group Managing Director Amitabh Jhunjhunwala of the offences of criminal conspiracy, criminal misappropriation and cheating that caused a loss of over Rs 971 crore to the State Bank of India (SBI).

The supplementary chargesheet, before the Special Judge for CBI Cases, is based on the CBI's investigation, which revealed that Jhunjhunwala, who held a pivotal position in the group, acted in pursuance of a criminal conspiracy to cheat the SBI by dishonestly and fraudulently availing a term loan of Rs 1,200 crore for Reliance



Communications Limited and Reliance Infratel Limited. These companies did not repay the loans, causing a wrongful loss of around Rs 971.25 crore to the bank, according to a CBI statement.

The CBI registered the case based on an SBI complaint. According to the FIR, the total exposure of Indian public sector banks and financial institutions in the case is Rs 19,694.33

crore.

The CBI had earlier filed the first charge sheet on May 29 this year against 16 accused persons, including Reliance Communications Limited, five senior executives of the company, and 10 bank officials. Subsequently, the CBI also filed a supplementary charge sheet against Netizen Engineering P Limited and its directors, Anil Jamma Kalya

and Tunu Sahu. With the second supplementary charge sheet filed against Jhunjhunwala, a total of 20 accused persons have been booked in this case.

The statement said that further investigation continues against other accused persons and into other aspects of the case.

The CBI has registered eight FIRs against Reliance Communications Limited (RCom), Reliance Home Finance Limited (RHFL), Reliance Commercial Finance Limited (RCFL), and Reliance Telecom Limited (RTL) on complaints received from various public sector banks, LIC and the EPFO.

The CBI has, so far, arrested seven accused persons in the Reliance ADA Group cases. All are currently in judicial custody.

The Supreme Court is monitoring the investigation in these cases.

Security forces foil Naxal bid in Gaya; over 4 kg IED defused

MI News Service, Patna:

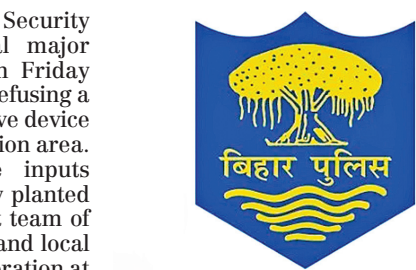
Security forces averted a potential major tragedy in Gaya district on Friday after recovering and safely defusing a powerful improvised explosive device (IED) in the Lutua police station area.

Acting on intelligence inputs about an explosive allegedly planted in the Singhwa area, a joint team of the CRPF's D/215 Battalion and local police launched a search operation at around 5 a.m.

Commandant Vinod Kumar Mohrli directed the operation, with personnel moving from Camp Nagoar through Gulriyatri towards Singhwa.

During the search, security personnel detected a signal on a metal detector and immediately secured the area. After carefully examining the location, they discovered a steel container wrapped in black polythene buried underground.

The container was found to con-



जल विश्वास संकल्प हमारा

tain an IED weighing approximately 4-5 kg, reportedly fitted with a command detonation mechanism. The CRPF's Bomb Detection and Disposal Squad (BDDS) was subsequently called to the site and safely neutralised the explosive.

Security forces then carried out an additional search of the surrounding area to ensure that no other explosives had been planted nearby.

Officials suspect that unidentified

Naxal elements may have planted the explosive with the intention of targeting security forces or police personnel and their vehicles during patrol operations. However, authorities have not yet identified those responsible.

Company Commander Inspector Gaurav Kumar led the operation. Security forces have intensified patrolling and surveillance in the area after the recovery, while further searches continue.

Gaya and adjoining districts like Aurangabad, Nawada, Jamui, Lakhisarai, Rohtas and Kaimur are known as Naxal affected areas in Bihar.

Earlier on Thursday, the Bihar Police discovered weapons abandoned by Naxalites on Langurahi Hill, located within the jurisdiction of the Anjan police station in the Madanpur block of Aurangabad, an area historically heavily affected by Naxal activity.

Name Change
I, Asaraf @ Asraf (old name), S/O Rusatam Sa, residing at Fakir Mohalla, Ward No 3, Rabindrapally, P.O. - Inda, P.S. - Kharagpur Town, Dist. - Paschim Medinipur, Pin- 721305, West Bengal, India, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Asaraf @ Asraf (Old Name) to Asraph Sa (New Name) and henceforth shall I be known as Asraph Sa (new name), as declared Before The Notary Public at Kharagpur, vide an affidavit No. N/24, dated 04/08/2026. Asraph Sa (new name) and Asaraf @ Asraf (old names) all are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Md Shah Nawaz Khan (old name), S/O Md Ekram Khan, residing at H.No.350 Fatma Building, Idgh Mohalla, Panchberia, P.O. - Inda, P.S. - Kharagpur Town, Dist. - Paschim Medinipur, Pin- 721305, West Bengal, India, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Mohammad Shah Nawaz Khan (Old Name) to Md Shah Nawaz Khan (New Name) and henceforth shall I be known as Md Shah Nawaz Khan (new name), as declared Before The Notary Public at Kharagpur, vide an affidavit No. N/24, dated 23/07/2026. Md Shah Nawaz Khan (new name) and Mohammad Shah Nawaz Khan (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Md Shah Nawaz Khan S/o Late Md Ekram Khan, Resident of H.No.350 Fatma Building, Idgh Mohalla, Panchberia, P.O. - Inda, P.S. - Kharagpur Town, Dist. - Paschim Medinipur, Pin-721305, West Bengal, India, do hereby declare that I have changed my father's name from Mohammad Ekram Khan (Old Name) S/o Late Salim Khan to Md Ekram Khan (new name) and henceforth he/she shall be known as Md Ekram Khan (New Name) in all purpose, vide affidavit no. N/23 sworn before the Notary Public at Kharagpur on 23/07/2026. Md Ekram Khan (new name) and Mohammad Ekram Khan (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, SK ABU NASAR MD ANWARULLAH (old name), S/O-SK NIZAMUDDIN AHMED, residing at VILL.- RAMCHAN-DRAPUR, PO-HIRAPUR, PS-KHANAKUL, DIST-HOOGHLY, PIN-712406, West Bengal, India, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from SK ABU NASAR MD ANWARULLAH (Old Name) to SK MD ANWARULLAH (New Name) and henceforth shall be known as SK MD ANWARULLAH (new name), as declared Before The Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 09/06/2026. SK MD ANWARULLAH (new name) and SK ABU NASAR MD ANWARULLAH (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Anup Roy (S/o), Late Atul Krishna Roy, Resident of Vill- Ganti, P.O. - Thakurnagar, P.S. - Gaighata, Dist. - North 24 Parganas, Pin- 743287, West Bengal, India, do hereby declare that I have changed my father's name from Atul Roy (Old Name) to Atul Krishna Roy (new name) and henceforth he shall be known as Atul Krishna Roy (New Name) in all purpose, vide affidavit sworn before the Notary Public at Kolkata on 21/08/2026. Atul Krishna Roy (new name) and Atul Roy (old name) both are same and one identical person (my father).

BENGAL plans fresh incentives for industry

MI News Service, Kolkata: The Suwendu Adhikari government is toying with the idea of repealing the Mamata Banerjee era act that cancelled incentives promised to industry from 1993, in order to introduce fresh fiscal support to attract investment.

The Revocation of West Bengal Incentive Schemes and Obligations in the Nature of Grants & Incentives Act, 2025 was passed by the Bengal Assembly in March 2025, and came to force after getting the governor's nod later that year.

Since the BJP came to power in May, industry has increasingly expected the new government to reverse the previous administration's decision to withdraw incentives, which had disappointed investors.

While the state budget presented in June promised ₹5,000 crore in incentives for industry, the new government is yet to come out with a detailed policy that industry can avail themselves of.

Tapas Roy, minister for commerce and industry, said the initial framework policy is unlikely to have details of the incentives. "We may have to repeal the act that the previous government had passed before that," Roy said in the evening.

The new framework policy, the minister assured, is almost ready, waiting for a green signal from the group of ministers (GoM) on industry and an approval from the state cabinet.

Bengal govt inks deal for 100 AMRIT Pharmacies

MI News Service, Kolkata: The government of West Bengal signs MOU with HLL for 100 AMRIT Pharmacies. HLL Lifecare Limited (HLL), under the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Government of West Bengal to establish 100 AMRIT Pharmacies across the State. Affordable Medicines and Reliable Implants for Treatment (AMRIT) is a flagship initiative of the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India, implemented by HLL since 2015.

The MoU was exchanged at Netaji Indoor Stadium, Kolkata, in the presence of Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari, Union Minister Anupriya Patel and other dignitaries. Representing HLL, Benny Joseph, Director (T&O), exchanged the MoU with Narayan Nigam, IAS, Principal Secretary, Health, Government of West Bengal.

In West Bengal, six AMRIT Pharmacies are currently operational, including outlets at AIIMS Kalyani, Chittaranjan National Cancer Institute, Central Railway Hospital, Kolkata and Haldia Port Hospital. The proposed 100 pharmacies will be established in government-run healthcare facilities under the Department of Health & Family Welfare, Government of West Bengal.

Launched with the objective of making quality

Many Ways to Lose Belly Fat and Live a Healthier Life

Weight Management Watch Your Weight Heart Health Heart-Smart Eating

Maintaining a trim midsection does more than make you look great—it can help you live longer. Larger waistlines are linked to a higher risk of heart disease, diabetes and even cancer. Losing weight, especially belly fat, also improves blood vessel functioning and also improves sleep quality.

A middle aged man eating a watermelon slice in the middle of a field.

It's impossible to target belly fat specifically when you diet. But losing weight overall will help shrink your waistline; more importantly, it will help reduce the dangerous layer of visceral fat, a type of fat within the abdominal cavity that you can't see but that heightens health risks.

Here's how to whittle down where it matters most.

Try curbing carbs instead of fats.

When Johns Hopkins researchers compared the effects on the heart of losing weight through a low-carbohydrate diet versus a low-fat diet for six months—each containing the same amount of calories—those on a low-carb diet lost an average of 10 pounds more than those on a

low-fat diet—28.9 pounds versus 18.7 pounds. An extra benefit of the low-carb diet is that it produced a higher quality of weight loss. With weight loss, fat is reduced, but there is also often a loss of lean tissue (muscle), which is not desirable. On both diets, there was a loss of about 2 to 3 pounds of good lean tissue along with the fat, which means that the fat loss percentage was much higher on the low-carb diet.

Think eating plan, not diet : Ultimately, you need to pick a healthy eating plan you can stick to, Stewart says. The benefit of a low-carb approach is that it simply involves learning better food choices—no calorie-counting is necessary. In general, a low-carb way of eating shifts your intake away from problem foods—those high in carbs and sugar and without much fiber, like bread, bagels and sodas—and toward high-fiber or high-protein choices, like vegetables, beans and healthy meats.

Keep moving : Physical activity helps burn abdominal fat. One of the biggest benefits of exercise is that you get a lot of bang for your buck on body composition. Exercise seems to work off belly fat in particular because it reduces circulating levels of insulin—which would otherwise



signal the body to hang on to fat—and causes the liver to use up fatty acids, especially those nearby visceral fat deposits, he says. The amount of exercise you need for weight loss depends on your goals.

For most people, this can mean 30 to 60 minutes of moderate to vigorous exercise nearly every day.

Lift weights : Adding even moderate strength training to aerobic exercise helps build lean

muscle mass, which causes you to burn more calories throughout the entire day, both at rest and during exercise.

Become a label reader : Compare and contrast brands.

Researchers discover new genetic mutation for congenital thyroid condition

Chicago: A team of researchers discovered a genetic mutation in a non-coding region of DNA that changes thyroid regulation, resulting in a rare type of congenital thyroid abnormality. Findings of the researchers from the University of Chicago, in collaboration with the Free University of Brussels and the University of Washington published in Nature Genetics. The journal also published a News & Views piece on the discovery. One in every 2,000 newborns has a lack or diminished thyroid hormone at birth, which can cause irreparable mental and development damage if left untreated. Thyroid stimulating hormone (TSH), produced by the pituitary gland, regulates the production of thyroid hormone. When thyroid hormone levels fall, TSH levels rise. As a result, TSH is commonly used to screen babies for thyroid hormone insufficiency, allowing for early treatment and prevention of the devastating effects. However, since the institution of TSH based screening in the early 1980s, instances of high TSH in the presence of normal thyroid hormone levels have been encountered. Individuals with this condition are said to have resistance to TSH or RTSH, but do not always have complications because of it. RTSH has both a recessively inherited form and a dominantly inherited form. Prior research has uncovered the genetics behind the recessively inherited form.

This current research identifies for the first time the genetics of the dominantly inherited form.

Study finds techniques to protect neurons from harmful impact of high-fat diet on multiple sclerosis progression

New York [US] : The study, led by PatriziaCasaccia, founding director of the Advanced Science Research Centre at the CUNY Graduate Center's (CUNY ASRC) Neuroscience Initiative and Einstein Professor of Biology and Biochemistry at the CUNY Graduate Centre, investigated how enzymes known as ceramide synthase 5 and 6 are responsible for the toxic effect of a palm oil-rich diet on neurones in the central nervous system, which leads to an increase in the severity of MS symptoms.

MS is an inflammatory autoimmune disease marked by extensive damage to the insulating myelin sheath that protects nerves throughout the body. Current treatments focus on controlling the immune system's response, but the precise mechanisms contributing to neurodegeneration in MS remain poorly understood. Previous work from the Casaccia lab and others had reported on the toxic effect of a high-fat diet on the severity of MS symptoms. In their study, researchers explored potential mechanisms by which a diet rich in palm oil may hijack neuronal health. Using the experimental autoimmune encephalomyelitis (EAE) model of inflammatory demyelination, the research team found that diets high in palm oil led to a more severe disease course in mice.

"We reasoned that inside neuronal cells, palm oil is converted into a toxic substance called C16 ceramide by specific enzymes called CerS5 and CerS6," said principal investigator Casaccia. "This ceramide is responsible for inflicting mitochondrial damage, which deprives neurons of the energy they need to counteract inflammation in the brain. We therefore asked whether inactivation of these enzymes would confer neuroprotection." The researchers found that when they genetically deleted the enzymes CerS6 and CerS5 in neurons they could prevent neurodegeneration in the experimental model of MS. "This held true even when mice were fed a diet rich in palmitic acid," said the paper's co-first author Damien Marechal, a research associate with the Casaccia Lab. "This new information points to a specific metabolic pathway through which dietary fats can worsen MS symptoms." The paper's findings have significant implications for individuals diagnosed with MS as well as



for clinicians treating patients and neuroscientists researching the disease. The work reinforces that lifestyle choices, such as diet, can have a profound impact on the course of the disease. The study's results build on previous concepts about careful dietary choices in managing the symptoms of MS. The findings also identify potential molecules that could help slow diet-induced symptom severity. "Our research provides a molecular explanation for how to protect neurons from the palm-oil-dependent creation of molecules that harm them," said Casaccia. "We hope this information can empower patients to make informed dietary decisions that could positively impact the course of the disease, while identifying strategies to counteract the effect of cerS5 and CerS6 in a neuron-specific fashion."

Researchers find how immune cells prevent lung healing after viral infection

LOS ANGELES : Researchers found a mechanism by which immune cells impede the regeneration of the lungs' defensive barrier following viral infections such as COVID-19.

The results of the multicenter study co-led by Cedars-Sinai, which were published in Nature, could result in novel therapeutic approaches.

The COVID-19 pandemic made clear how viral infections can have long-lasting consequences, a condition known as protracted COVID. Long COVID, sometimes referred to as post-acute sequelae of SARS-CoV-2, has caused a terrible legacy of individuals who remain incapacitated for an extended period of time following infection. Lung scarring, or post-acute sequelae of SARS-CoV-2 pulmonary fibrosis, is one such sign.

Those with long COVID can present with a broad constellation of symptoms, including post-acute sequelae of SARS-CoV-2 pulmonary fibrosis, which can cause severe difficulty breathing that requires oxygen supplementation. Patients with the most severe breathing difficulty may also need a lung transplant. Without additional treatment options, many patients are often left with long-term disability and life-threatening complications. "This study sought to understand the



pathways that led to abnormal repair in the lungs that produced a scar-forming environment," said Peter Chen, MD, co-corresponding

author of the study, the Medallion Chair in Molecular Medicine and the interim chair of the Department of Medicine at Cedars-

Sinai. "Our findings may lead to therapeutic strategies to prevent fibrotic lung disease after viral illnesses."

Investigators established models of post-viral lung disease and used molecular profiling and imaging to identify immune cells called CD8+ T cells as a driving factor in preventing lung healing and repair post-infection. Moreover, the investigators used post-acute sequelae of SARS-CoV-2 pulmonary fibrosis patient cohorts to validate the abnormal immunologic pathways, corroborating the animal model work.

"Although we based the work on post-acute sequelae of SARS-CoV-2 pulmonary fibrosis, other viral pandemics in the past have also revealed that ability to cause lung scarring after infection-like swine flu," said Jie Sun, PhD, co-corresponding author of the study and professor of Medicine at the University of Virginia School of Medicine. "The research and broader medical field must be prepared and better understand how to prevent adverse outcomes stemming from these viruses."

Chen and Sun say these findings--and similar studies--could provide novel information into the pathobiology of other forms of lung fibrosis.

Some yogurts, for example, boast that they're low in fat, but they're higher in carbs and added sugars than others. Foods like gravy, mayonnaise, sauces and salad dressings often contain high amounts of fat and lots of calories.

Move away from processed foods : The ingredients in packaged goods and snack foods are often heavy on trans fats, added sugar and added salt or sodium—three things that make it difficult to lose weight.

Focus on the way your clothes fit more than reading a scale: As you add muscle mass and lose fat, the reading on your bathroom scale may not change much, but your pants will be looser. That's a better mark of progress. Measured around, your waistline should be less than 35 inches if you're a woman or less than 40 inches if you're a man to reduce heart and diabetes risks.

Hang out with health-focused friends.

Research shows that you're more apt to eat better and exercise more if your friends and family are doing the same.

Definitions
Insulin (in-suh-lin): A hormone made by the cells in your pancreas. Insulin helps your body

store the glucose (sugar) from your meals. If you have diabetes and your pancreas is unable to make enough of this hormone, you may be prescribed medicines to help your liver make more or make your muscles more sensitive to the available insulin. If these medicines are not enough, you may be prescribed insulin shots.

Blood vessels (veh-suls): The system of flexible tubes—arteries, capillaries and veins—that carries blood through the body. Oxygen and nutrients are delivered by arteries to tiny, thin-walled capillaries that feed them to cells and pick up waste material, including carbon dioxide. Capillaries pass the waste to veins, which take the blood back to the heart and lungs, where carbon dioxide is let out through your breath as you exhale.

Arteries (are-te-ase): The blood vessels that carry oxygen-rich blood away from your heart for delivery to every part of your body. Arteries look like thin tubes or hoses. The walls are made of a tough outer layer, a middle layer of muscle and a smooth inner wall that helps blood flow easily. The muscle layer expands and contracts to help blood move.

Study finds link between kids sleep problems, psychosis in young adults

BIRMINGHAM [UK] : According to recent study, children who suffer from chronic sleep deprivation from an early age may be more likely to have psychosis in their early adult years.

A large cohort study of children between the ages of six months and seven years old provided data on the duration of sleep at night that researchers from the University of Birmingham analyzed.

Throughout this time, they discovered that children who consistently slept less hours had a roughly four-fold increased risk of experiencing a psychotic episode and a more than two-fold increased risk of developing a psychotic condition in early adulthood.

While previous research has highlighted links between sleep problems and psychosis at specific time points, this is the first study to show that persistent lack of sleep is a strong predictor of psychosis.

Lead author, Dr Isabel Morales-Munoz, said: "It's entirely normal for children to suffer from sleep problems at different points in their childhood, but it's also important to know when it might be time to seek help. Sometimes sleep can become a persistent and chronic problem, and this is where we see links with psychiatric illness in adulthood. "The good news is that we know that it is possible to improve our sleep patterns and behaviours. While persistent lack of sleep may not be the only cause of psychosis in early adulthood, our research suggests that it is a contributing factor, and it is something that parents can address."

The results, published in JAMA Psychiatry, were based on data taken from the Avon Longitudinal Study of Parents and Children (ALSPAC), which includes records of 12,394

children from 6 months to 7 years, and 3,889 at 24 years old.

While the association between lack of sleep in childhood and psychosis in early adulthood was robust in the study, the team have not proven a causal link and other factors associated with both childhood sleep and psychosis need to be explored.

The team looked, for example, at overall immune system health in the children to see whether impairments in the immune system could also account for some of the associations between lack of sleep and psychosis.

This was tested at nine-years-old by measuring levels of inflammation in blood samples. Results showed that a weakened immune system could partially explain the links between lack of sleep and psychosis, but other unknown factors are also likely to be important.

Dr Morales- Munoz' research is part of the Mental Health Mission Midlands Translational Centre, led by the University of Birmingham and funded by the National Institute for Health and Care Research. Its aim is to test and validate treatments in early psychosis and depression among children and young people.

"We know that early intervention is really important in helping young people with mental illness. One of the priorities of the Midlands Mental Health Mission Translational Research Centre of Excellence is to develop and test targeted interventions that could have a real impact on young people who have an illness or who are at risk of developing one. Understanding the role that good sleep hygiene plays in positive mental health could be a really important part of this process."



BLA claims complete control of Sarnan town in Balochistan

MI News Service, Quetta: The Baloch Liberation Army (BLA) has claimed that its fighters took "complete control" of Sarnan town in Balochistan's Pishin district during an operation in which a police station was blown up.

According to a media report, government offices were also set ablaze, and several police personnel were briefly detained.

According to sources, during the attack on Thursday, the BLA fighters seized arms and ammunition from the police station before destroying the building with explosives. They also set fire to several government offices, including the National Database and Registration



Authority (NADRA) office.

In a statement issued after the operation, BLA spokesperson Jeeyand Baloch said, "Today, sarmachars (freedom fighters) of the Baloch Liberation Army gained complete control over Sarnan town in Pishin, taking custody of

the police station, NADRA office, and other government buildings. During the operation, several police personnel were taken into custody and were subsequently released. After seizing a large quantity of arms and ammunition from the police station, the

building was destroyed in an explosion. The Baloch Liberation Army claims responsibility for this operation."

Meanwhile, leading Baloch human rights defender Mir Yar Baloch on Friday claimed that following the Sarnan operation, the Baloch armed fighters have captured the Kahatan Police Station in the Bolan area of Balochistan and set it ablaze after confiscating police records, weapons and ammunition.

Sharing visuals on his social media platform X, Mir said, "After Sarnan, Pishin, another police station is now gone. The Baloch Defense and Security Forces of the Republic of Balochistan have cap-

tured the Kahatan Police Station in the Bolan area. After confiscating the police records, weapons, and ammunition, the building was set on fire. The Pakistani military maintains multiple checkpoints in the area, yet remains confined to its barracks."

"The Baloch forces are steadily expanding their control across the Republic of Balochistan, marking a growing shift in control on the ground," he added.

On Thursday, Baloch armed fighters set up blockades and seized commercial vehicles on major highways across Balochistan, including Kalat, Mastung, Kharan, Chagai and Washuk, local media reported.

California lawmaker Aisha Wahab becomes first Afghan-American elected to US Congress



MI News Service, Sacramento: California state Sen. Aisha Wahab will serve out the rest of former Rep. Eric Swalwell's term after securing victory Thursday in a special election.

Swalwell, a Democrat who was running for California governor, ended his campaign and resigned from Congress in April after he was accused of sexual assault and harassment, which he denies. Wahab will represent the state's 14th Congressional District, which covers parts of Alameda County on the eastern side of the San Francisco Bay, through Swalwell's term ending in January.

She will be the first Afghan American to serve in Congress. The progressive Democrat defeated Bay Area Rapid Transit Director Melissa Hernandez even after a swell of spending by outside groups opposing Wahab in the race's final stretch. She said her victory shows her district "cannot be bought."

"I will fight for this district that raised me," Wahab said in a statement. "From foster care to Congress, this journey shows the possibility of the American Dream."

The conclusion of the race to replace Swalwell comes as criminal investigations continue into the sexual assault allegations he faces. Over the weekend, federal agents seized electronic devices from Swalwell at the San Francisco airport and later searched his home in Washington, D.C., according to a person familiar with the matter who was not authorized to publicly discuss an ongoing investigation and spoke on the condition of anonymity. Swalwell's attorney did not immediately respond to an email and phone message seeking comment.

Wahab became the first Afghan American elected to public office in the U.S. when she won a Hayward City Council seat in 2018.

She has championed

housing affordability and access in her time in the Legislature and throughout her campaign. She also wrote a bill in 2023 to ban caste-based discrimination, which garnered national attention. Democratic Gov. Gavin Newsom vetoed it, saying such discrimination is already outlawed by civil rights protections.

Wahab and Hernandez will face off again in a separate November election determining who will serve the next full two-year term.

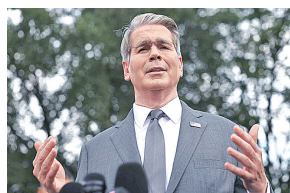
Wahab won the June primary decisively, but outside spending in favor of her rival poured into the race ahead of the general election. Groups affiliated with the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, or AIPAC, spent millions into supporting Hernandez, and thousands into opposing Wahab.

At a candidate forum in April, Wahab answered "yes" when asked if she considered "what is happening to the Palestinian people" to be a genocide.

Hernandez did not give a straight yes or no answer. She said Israel had a right to defend itself following the October 2023 attack by Hamas but that "the destruction into Gaza has gone too far."

Hernandez, a moderate Democrat, said she was proud to put up a competitive fight after Wahab's success in the primary.

US pushes allies, China to back Trump's economic war on Iran



MI News Service, Washington: The United States on Thursday warned allies and china to join President Donald Trump's new campaign to isolate the Iranian economy, vowing that Washington would collapse this regime in Tehran.

US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent's comments underscored how Trump is shifting to economic rather than military pressure on Tehran as the war drags the six month mark.

Iran branded the US threat as 'economic terrorism' and said they would fail. Under fire at home over the impact of the war and with crucial midterm elections looming, Trump had on Wednesday promised the most crushing economic operation ever

against Iran. "It is going to work in Iran and we are going to collapse the regime", Bessent told a US broadcaster.

Neither President Trump nor his Treasury chief has set out the measures they are planning against Iran.

Bessent said he would give more details during a press conference on Monday (August 24, 2026).

But Bessent underlined that Washington expects both allies and rivals to joined in.

This is going to be the greatest coordinated economic isolation in the history of the world. And we are going to them and saying you are either with us or against us, he added in a message to allies.

Asked whether the United States would pressure China, Bessent said that "many conversations are best to have in private" but called on Beijing "to get with the program".

US Justice Department to deploy 1,000 election monitors for mid-term elections

MI News Service, Washington: The US Justice Department plans to deploy about 1,000 federal election monitors to polling stations during the November midterm elections, an unprecedented expansion that has drawn close attention from voting-rights organisations.

The planned deployment would represent "a historic number (of monitors) for a Republican administration," according to Justice Department leadership cited in an election update circulated by APIAVote, a national Asian-American voter engagement organisation.

Federal election monitors are typically assigned to observe polling locations for possible violations of federal laws, including the Voting Rights Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Justice Department staff attorneys have already monitored primary elections this year in Michi-



gan, Arizona and Minnesota. Federal personnel were also deployed during primary elections in Florida and Wyoming on Tuesday, the organisation said.

The department has not yet provided full details about where the monitors will be stationed during the November elections or how the 1,000 personnel will be distributed among states and polling jurisdictions.

The scale of the effort is likely to place the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division at the centre of the debate over election administration, voting access and federal oversight ahead of the midterms.

Election monitoring

can help identify discrimination, accessibility failures and other violations at polling stations. However, voting-rights organisations have also expressed concern that an unusually large federal presence could intimidate voters or disrupt local election administration if monitors operate beyond their established legal role.

Those concerns may be particularly relevant in communities with large numbers of immigrants, naturalised citizens and voters who primarily speak languages other than English.

Asian Americans are among the fastest-growing sections of the US electorate. APIAVote said there are approximately 16 million eligible Asian-American and Pacific Islander voters nationwide, making their participation potentially consequential in closely contested congressional and statewide races.

Regulation Of Trains Due To Heavy Rain And Bank Slip
MI News Service, Kolkata, August 21, 2026 : Due to heavy rain and bank slip between Betnoti and Bhanpur in Rupsa-Bangriposi section of Kharagpur Division, South Eastern Railway, the following trains will be regulated as under:

- Cancellation of Trains on 21.08.2026
- 68179 Baripada-Bangriposi Passenger
- 68178 Bangriposi - Baripada Passenger
- 68183 Baripada - Bangriposi Passenger
- 68182 Bangriposi - Baripada Passenger
- Short Termination and Short Origination of Trains on 21.08.2026
- 68175 Rupsa-Bhanjpur Passenger will short terminate at Betnoti
- 68176 Bhanjpur-Rupsa Passenger will Short originate from Betnoti
- 68177 Rupsa-Baripada Passenger will short terminate at Betnoti
- 68180 Baripada-Baleshwar Passenger will short terminate at Betnoti
- 68181 Baleshwar-Baripada Passenger will short originate from Rupsa and will short terminate at Betnoti
- 68184 Baripada-Rupsa Passenger will Short originate from Betnoti
- 68173 Rupsa-Bhanjpur Passenger will short terminate at Betnoti

Short Termination/Short Origination Of Trains For Track Maintenance Work Over South Eastern Railway

MI News Service, Kolkata, August 21, 2026 : Due to Track maintenance work between Kita & Silli stations in Ranchi Division over South Eastern Railway on 21.08.2026, 13503/13504 Barddhaman - Hatia-Barddhaman MEMU Express (both journey commencing on 21.08.2026) will be short terminated at/short originated from Gomoh and 63598/63597 Asansol - Ranchi - Asansol MEMU passenger (both journey commencing on 21.08.2026) will be short terminated at/short originated from Muri.

Eastern Railway's Sealdah Division Achieves Remarkable Milestone: Nfr Contracts Worth Approx. 100 Crore Finalised In Just 4.5 Months Of Fy 2026-27

MI News Service, Kolkata, August 21, 2026 : In a major financial and operational breakthrough, the Sealdah Division of Eastern Railway has finalized Non-Fare Revenue (NFR) earning contracts worth approximately 100 Crore in the first four and a half months of the current Financial Year 2026-27, up to August 19, 2026. Under the visionary leadership and guidance of Ms. Gitika Pandey, General Manager, Eastern Railway, the division has driven systematic revenue growth, diversified its commercial revenue basket, and created widespread employment opportunities while maximizing the utility of railway assets.

Under the active supervision of Shri Rajeev Saxena, Divisional Railway Manager (DRM), Sealdah Division, a series of proactive and passenger-centric measures have been successfully executed across

the division. A total of 190 earning contracts (excluding Parcel and Pay & Use contracts) have been awarded, generating a total contractual value of 99,56,54,815.06 (incl. GST @ 18%). This comprehensive breakdown includes 11 Catering contracts valued at 3,96,79,304.22, 16 Publicity contracts worth 11,81,72,252.86, 40 Other NFR contracts amounting to 63,63,50,395.28, 21 Multi-Purpose Stall (MPS) contracts worth 8,54,40,380.36, and 102 Parking contracts valued at 11,60,12,482.34. As part of this comprehensive drive, a number of unauthorized parking spaces were formally auctioned and regularized, while new commercial initiatives were rapidly deployed after freeing up key encroached land areas.

These administrative and commercial initiatives directly translate into sub-

stantial benefits for daily train commuters and passengers. The systematic regularization of 102 parking lots effectively eliminates unauthorized operations and overcharging, providing passengers with safe, regulated, and transparent vehicle parking facilities. Reclaiming and freeing encroached spaces expands station approaches and circulating areas, creating significantly wider, safer, and less congested pathways for passengers. Furthermore, the freshly awarded Catering and Multi-Purpose Stall (MPS) contracts guarantee that high-quality food, beverages, and daily essential travel items are readily accessible across platforms. Finally, modern publicity infrastructure enhances station lighting and aesthetics, providing a far more comfortable, secure, and pleasant transit experience overall.

C&W Workshop Liluah Organizes Vibrant Interactive Session For Women Employees In Collaboration With Erwwo Liluah



MI News Service, Kolkata, August 21, 2026 : Under the leadership and guidance of Ms. Gitika Pandey, General Manager, Eastern Railway, the Carriage & Wagon (C&W) Workshop, Liluah, in collaboration with the Eastern Railway Women's Welfare Organization (ERWWO), Liluah, organized a vibrant Interactive Session for lady employees on August 20, 2026, at the Railway Officers' Club, Liluah. The event aimed at fostering employee engagement, mutual sup-

port, and a positive working culture across the workshop facilities.

More than 140 lady employees from the C&W Workshop, Liluah, participated enthusiastically in the event. The interactive session provided an open and encouraging platform for participants to share their feedback, suggestions, workplace concerns, and constructive ideas. Discussions focused heavily on women empowerment, personal dignity, equal opportunity, workplace

safety, and the continuous development of a supportive and inclusive working environment.

The event was further enriched by a dynamic cultural program presented by the lady staff of the C&W Workshop, showcasing their rich talent, creativity, and confidence through various performances. Highlighting the spirit of togetherness, representatives and members joined the employees during the cultural segment, creating an atmosphere of joy, warmth, and camaraderie.

Reflecting the core values of employee welfare, transparency, and participative management, the program concluded with a fellowship lunch for all participating lady employees. The gathering offered a valuable opportunity for informal networking, strengthening communication, and building a deeper sense of belonging among the workforce.

Easter Railway General Manager Inspects Tarakeswar & Goghat-Kamarpukur-Jairambati Sections

MI News Service, Kolkata, August 21, 2026 : Prioritizing passenger safety, convenience, and public welfare, General Manager of Eastern Railway, Ms. Gitika Pandey, conducted a comprehensive inspection of the Tarakeswar and Goghat-Kamarpukur-Jairambati sections alongside Shri Vishal Kapoor, DRM Howrah, and senior headquarters and divisional officers.

At Tarakeswar, GM Ms. Gitika Pandey reviewed the progress of the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme redevelopment.

Ahead of the holy Shrawani Mela, she inspected crowd management, platform lighting, round-the-clock drinking



water, hygienic sanitation, and security to ensure a safe journey for visiting pilgrims. Demonstrating a passenger-first approach, she stepped onto the platforms to interact directly with commuters and pilgrims, gathering feedback on train punctuality, cleanliness, and ticketing services. During the

inspection, General Manager Ms. Gitika Pandey thoroughly reviewed the progress of all redevelopment works at Tarakeswar station under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme.

Continuing along the Goghat-Kamarpukur-Jairambati section, the General Manager evaluated ongoing new line con-

struction progress. At Bhabadighi, she reviewed the project status and took a compassionate stance toward local community needs. She strictly directed officials to address public demands by constructing a dedicated road for local residents and providing essential facilities—including electricity, lights, fans, and clean drinking water—for the local school.

"Eastern Railway is fully dedicated to modernizing infrastructure while keeping passenger safety, convenience, and local community welfare at the very core of all our endeavors," stated Shri Shribram Majhi, Chief Public Relations Officer, Eastern Railway.

'They are not just here to participate': Sumeeth Reddy hails Treesa-Gayatri's historic World Championships run

NEW DELHI : Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand's coach Sumeeth Reddy said the Indian pair's historic entry into the BWF World Championships semifinals was the result of months of careful preparation, patience and resilience, insisting that the assured medal was not the end of their journey.

Treesa and Gayatri pulled off a dramatic comeback against the fourth-seeded pair Jia Yi Fan and Zhang Shu Xian, overcoming a game deficit to win the match 16-21, 21-15, 21-13 in the quarterfinals at the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium in New Delhi on Friday.

India's victory has secured their first women's doubles medal at the World Championships since the bronze medal won by Jwala Gutta and Ashwini Ponnappa in 2011.

Reddy stated that the preparations for the home World Championships had started about 45 to 50 days earlier and gave credit to coach Pullela Gopichand

for having carefully planned the campaign.

"It started around 45-50 days before; obviously, this was a big stage, especially happening in India and since the first day, rather than just thinking about the World Championship, it was one day at a time and also huge credit to Gopi sir that he could plan and I think he is one of the greatest coaches who can plan such things so early and deal with them on a daily basis and it was a huge learning for me also, how to be in that specific area and do the right things at the right time," Reddy told reporters.

The Indians lost the opening game 16-21 after China made a strong start, but Reddy said the team had been waiting for a small lead to release Treesa and Gayatri from the pressure.

"I think we were waiting from the first game that if our girls can get a couple of points lead, I think they would just free up and play their best game and that actually



happened at 10-7 when the opponents were leading 10-7. I think from there when things changed at 11-10 and 13-10 is when they just could play the free game."

"We already had a discussion in the first game that just a two-point lead would change the whole scenario."

Treesa and Gayatri responded by taking the second game 21-15 before dominating the decider 21-13. Reddy said the emotional significance of the victory was evident immediately afterwards.

"Yeah, I mean even once the match finished, Gayatri just came and was seeing Gopi sir, I could see they were very very emotional, especially the hardship they had to go through and they wanted to make a point to prove that they are not just here to participate but go further and try to win the tournament."

Despite the historic medal, Reddy said there would be no major changes to their preparation for the semi-final. "There is

nothing special planning, I think we will do the same thing what we have been doing yesterday or day before, just think about what we need to do, what the opponents would be doing and just stick to that."

The coach also backed the pair to remain focused despite criticism surrounding their partnership.

"I don't think they would be discussing about a third person talking about them which is not fair as well, I think whatever they feel they need to convey each other, not any other person and see, even the best pairing in the world would have some kind of criticism," Reddy said.

"I think the better thing to do is just think if something has gone right, just try to repeat that and if something hasn't gone right, just try to rectify and change it, that's the only thing."

Reddy also highlighted the mental strength Treesa and Gayatri showed while dealing with injuries and difficult periods in

their careers.

"I think one of the thing is they were patient enough to digest all those tough days, that is one thing and secondly they never had a rest day, even if they were injured, they used to just ice or probably just go back and watch some matches so that they are motivated to do better in the next tournament," he said.

"I think it's really tough not being able to play and see your colleagues play on court is a tough thing, but after that how you deal with those things and do the right stuff is very important and I am sure they have done it, that is the reason why they are here, standing here with an assured medal."

With the pair now guaranteed a medal, Reddy acknowledged that some pressure may have been lifted, but stressed that Treesa and Gayatri would not ease off.

"Yeah, I think at least they are assured of something, but it's not done yet, they will go with full force tomorrow as well."

Tanu Sharma wins silver in U20 World Championships, family dives in celebration

NEW DELHI : Young Indian grappler Tanu Sharma clinched a silver medal in the U20 World Wrestling Championships, underlining a significant achievement in her budding career as the family in her village dived in joy. Sharma, a wrestler from Hansi's Bhaklana village in Haryana, achieved the glory during the ongoing Championship in Slovakia in the 72kg category.

She lost to Japan's Chisato Yoshida in the final 5-3, which ended her heroic run and dashed her hopes for a gold medal. Speaking after her win, Sharma dedicated the medal to her village and the country and vowed to bring gold the next time. "I am from a small village of Bhaklana in Haryana. I am extremely pleased that I have won a medal at the U20 World Championships for my nation," she told the media after her win.

She thanked God after her win. "I want to thank God for the achievement first. I am also grateful to my family for having supported me in my journey from the start. I also thank the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) for the faith shown in me. This is not just my medal, but a prize that belongs to my entire nation and my village. I missed winning gold, but I will bag it the next time and make my nation more proud," she added.

In her village in Bhaklana, the family and close ones were also chuffed to bits for the achievement of Sharma. They offered sweets to each



KAJAL SECURES BACK-TO-BACK GOLD TO HEADLINE INDIA'S HAUL AT U20 WRESTLING WORLDS

SLOVAKIA : Indian women's wrestling sensation Kajal Dhochak continued her incredible trajectory on the global stage, striking gold in the 76kg category to lead the Indian contingent's charge at the 2026 U20 Wrestling World Championships in Slovakia.

Alongside Kajal's historic triumph, India secured two crucial Silver medals through Tanu Sharma and Savita on an action-packed day of Women's Wrestling (WW).

18-year-old Kajal, competed in the 76kg championship bout. She delivered a master-class against China's Jingru Sun, registering a flawless 7-0 victory on points (VPO) to lift the world title.

This triumph cements her status as one of India's brightest generational prospects, adding to a phenomenal resume that already includes the 2024 U17 World Championship (69kg) and the 2025 U20 World Championship (72kg) titles.

Kajal also moved up a weight class and competed at 76kg this year after winning gold at 72kg in 2025. The Indian repeated as U20 world champion, only the second wrestler from her country to twice win gold at this level.

The former U17 world champion capped off an incredible tournament, in which she did not concede a single point, by blanking Jingru Sun of China 7-0, in



the final, a repeat of their opening round bout at the U20 Asian Championships that Kajal won. This was her fifth successive gold in 2026, a year which she can with seventh-place finishes at Tirana Ranking Series and Asian Championships.

Since then, Kajal has won

happened at 10-7 when the opponents were leading 10-7. I think from there when things changed at 11-10 and 13-10 is when they just could play the free game."

"We already had a discussion in the first game that just a two-point lead would change the whole scenario."

Treesa and Gayatri responded by taking the second game 21-15 before dominating the decider 21-13. Reddy said the emotional significance of the victory was evident immediately afterwards.

"Yeah, I mean even once the match finished, Gayatri just came and was seeing Gopi sir, I could see they were very very emotional, especially the hardship they had to go through and they wanted to make a point to prove that they are not just here to participate but go further and try to win the tournament."

Despite the historic medal, Reddy said there would be no major changes to their preparation for the semi-final. "There is

nothing special planning, I think we will do the same thing what we have been doing yesterday or day before, just think about what we need to do, what the opponents would be doing and just stick to that."

The coach also backed the pair to remain focused despite criticism surrounding their partnership.

"I don't think they would be discussing about a third person talking about them which is not fair as well, I think whatever they feel they need to convey each other, not any other person and see, even the best pairing in the world would have some kind of criticism," Reddy said.

"I think the better thing to do is just think if something has gone right, just try to repeat that and if something hasn't gone right, just try to rectify and change it, that's the only thing."

Reddy also highlighted the mental strength Treesa and Gayatri showed while dealing with injuries and difficult periods in

their careers.

"I think one of the thing is they were patient enough to digest all those tough days, that is one thing and secondly they never had a rest day, even if they were injured, they used to just ice or probably just go back and watch some matches so that they are motivated to do better in the next tournament," he said.

"I think it's really tough not being able to play and see your colleagues play on court is a tough thing, but after that how you deal with those things and do the right stuff is very important and I am sure they have done it, that is the reason why they are here, standing here with an assured medal."

With the pair now guaranteed a medal, Reddy acknowledged that some pressure may have been lifted, but stressed that Treesa and Gayatri would not ease off.

"Yeah, I think at least they are assured of something, but it's not done yet, they will go with full force tomorrow as well."

EXCLUSION OF NORTHERN VENUES FOR 2027 ASHES 'BIZARRE', SAYS MARK BUTCHER

LEEDS : Former England batter Mark Butcher has labelled the decision to leave iconic grounds Headingley and Old Trafford, based in the northern part of the country, off the schedule for the 2027 men's Ashes series as 'extraordinary' and 'bizarre.'

The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) has assigned the five-match high-profile Test series against Australia to Trent Bridge, Lord's, Edgbaston, the Kia Oval, and Southampton's Utilita Bowl, which will host its maiden men's Ashes Test.

The schedule has drawn sharp criticism from fans and former players over the lack of geographical balance. "I

think anybody but the most partisan Hampshire cricket supporter would recognise that in a sport and particularly in a series like the Ashes, where the interest in the game is at its peak at any point over a four-year cycle, that the game being marketed as a game for everybody needs to have some representation and needs to have a game in the north. "Whether that's here at Headingley or whether it's at Old Trafford, that's a point for the bean counters to decide, or whoever's turn that might be. I find it extraordinary that there'll be no Ashes cricket up in the north of England beyond Trent Bridge next year. It's

bizarre," Butcher told Sky Sports. Both Headingley and Old Trafford are scheduled to host Ashes Tests in 2031, but the gap in 2027 has left many frustrated.

"Of course, I have a certain affinity with this ground [Headingley] and with Old Trafford as a player. I also think that for visiting teams, there are five or six grounds that have an enormous amount of history when it comes to Ashes cricket. Sadly, the Utilita Bowl is not one of them," added Butcher.

Headingley will host a women's Ashes between England and Australia next year as part of a multi-format series, although it is not



scheduled to host another men's Test match after this week's clash with Pakistan until 2029. England batter Harry Brook also expressed

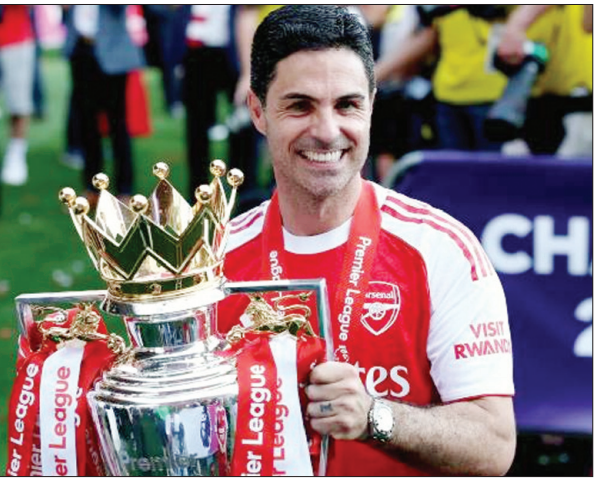
sadness over the 2027 Ashes not being played in northern venues. "Slightly, to be honest. I think we've had a hell of a lot of success here

When and where to watch Premier League 2026 in India, know all details

NEW DELHI : The new Premier League 2026-27 season begins on Saturday with defending champion Arsenal hosting newly promoted Coventry at the Emirates Stadium as a host of clubs enter the campaign with new coaches and renewed ambitions.

As one of the top leagues of European football resumes, there are millions of Indian fans who contribute daily to the league's viewership and will be keen to watch every game of the campaign. Defending champions Arsenal start the 2026-27 season with an aim to retain its title after strengthening an already dominant squad with the signing of Bruno Guimaraes, adding further quality and balance to its midfield.

While last year's run-ups Manchester City faces questions after Enzo Maresca's difficult start as Pep Guardiola's successor. The Italian coach drew criticism following the Community Shield defeat and needs an immediate response when his side hosts Bournemouth. However, the



team has maintained its core players with Erling Haaland again leading from the front.

Liverpool, who are also with a new manager, will start its season with a trip to St James' Park to face Newcastle United on Monday.

Newly promoted Hull City begins its fourth spell in the Premier League at home to Manchester United, who have had a relatively quiet transfer window. Ipswich Town, another promoted side, hosts Sunderland in a match that will offer an early indication

of the newcomers' prospects.

The final match of the opening round sees Fulham host Chelsea on Monday in a meeting filled with intrigue. Alvaro Arbeloa makes his debut as Fulham coach, while Xabi Alonso takes charge of Chelsea for the first time.

The season also features fresh stories from some of English football's most exciting derbies, including the North London Derby between Arsenal and Tottenham, the Manchester Derby between Manchester United and

Manchester City, and the Merseyside Derby between Liverpool and Everton, which will divide the city's fans in two. When and Where to watch Premier League Live in India:

Premier League 2026 can be watched live in India on the Jio Hotstar streaming platform and Star Sports 2 channel on Television.

Premier League 2026 Round 1 schedule

Saturday
Arsenal v Coventry City - 12:30am

Hull City v Manchester United - 5:00pm

Everton v Crystal Palace - 7:30pm

Ipswich Town v Sunderland - 7:30pm

Nottingham Forest v Leeds United - 7:30pm

Brentford v Tottenham Hotspur - 10:00pm

Sunday
Brighton & Hove Albion v Aston Villa - 6:30pm

Manchester City v A.F.C. Bournemouth - 6:30pm

Newcastle United v Liverpool - 9:00pm

Tuesday 25 August
Fulham v Chelsea - 12:30am

Golf: McIlroy shares Championship lead as Indian-origin Akshay Bhatia makes strong start

ST. LOUIS : Rory McIlroy made an emphatic return to form as he opened with a bogey-free six-under 64 to grab a share of the lead at the BMW Championship, while Indian-origin Akshay Bhatia made a solid start to the second FedExCup Playoffs event with a three-under 67 at Bellerive Country Club.

McIlroy was among five players tied at the top at six-under, alongside fellow U.S. Open champions Gary Woodland, Wyndham Clark and J.J. Spaun, as well as Chris Gotterup. The packed leaderboard reflected the quality of the field, with several major champions producing impressive opening rounds on a soft Bellerive layout.

Among the Indian-origin players, Bhatia carded a three-under 67 to tie tied 12th while Aaron Rai was another shot back at two-under 68, tied 21st. Sahith Theegala opened with a one-over 71 and was tied 37th.

Bhatia's 67 was impressive given the intense FedExCup pressure. With only 50 players competing in the BMW Championship, every position carries significance as the field battles for a place among the 30 who will advance to the TOUR Championship. For McIlroy, the round was particularly encouraging after a difficult week in Memphis. Returning from a four-week break following The Open, the four-

time major champion, struggled badly at the FedEx St. Jude Championship, failing to break par in any of the four rounds. He subsequently returned home to Florida and worked with swing coach Michael Bannon on his game.

The response was immediate. McIlroy found the fairways and greens consistently and avoided a single bogey, putting himself firmly in contention for another major playoff title.

Among the strongest performers was Woodland, who produced a memorable 64. The 2019 U.S. Open champion is making a remarkable push to reach the season-ending TOUR Championship after undergoing brain surgery. He began the week 31st in the FedExCup standings, with only the top 30 advancing to East Lake.

Woodland holed out with a sand wedge from 99 yards for eagle on the 11th and later hit a superb 2-iron from 286 yards on the par-five 17th to set up another birdie. His performance provided one of the emotional highlights of the opening day.

The global stars were also prominent. Wyndham Clark, the reigning U.S. Open champion from Shinnecock Hills, made five birdies over his final six holes to join the leaders. J.J. Spaun, the 2024 U.S. Open champion, also finished at six-under after switching back to the putter he used for his Oakmont triumph.

