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Nation ● Pg 5



Suwendu Bats for Mandatory NCC in All
Schools and Colleges Across Bengal

City ● Pg 3

Rs. 3
KOLKATA
SATURDAY, 29 August, 2026

PG-8, YEAR-13, ISSUE-88
(RNI NO.-WBENG/2014/56803)

WEBSITE:WWW.LIVE7TV.COM

Morning India

Suwendu Adhikari participates in ‘Rakhi Utsav’ to foster social harmony, unity and brotherhood

MI News Service, Kolkata: West Bengal Chief minister Suwendu Adhikari while attending a ‘Rakhi Bandhan Utsav’ (tying of Rakhi) here on Friday , took a dig at Jadavpur University and questioned the rationale behind raising slogans like ‘Red Salute to Kishenji’ and ‘Kashmir Mange Azadi ‘ (Kashmir demands freedom) and writing them on the university walls.

“it pains me to see such slogans on the streets of Kolkata too”, the Chief minister said .

Participating in a number of programmes since this morning on the occasion of Rakhi Bandhan Utsav, Suwendu Adhikari first visited his own assembly constituency at Bhabanipur where he took part in a mass congeation and even played the Kartal (drum) with some people on the street.

Later, he attended another Rakhi Utsav, organized by the state’s Sports and youthy Affairs Department at Nazrul Mancha.

Speaking on the occasion Suwendu , Adhikari emphasized that Rakhi festival is being celebrated to foster “social harmony, unity, brotherhood, and nationalism” beyond religious boundaries. He stated that the government has mobilized over 25 lakh rakhis and aimed to involve over one crore citizens across all municipalities, gram panchayats, and blocks in the state.

From the main stage, he flagged off a special Mobile Rakhi Tableau organized by the Kolkata Municipal Corporation to spread the message of communal harmony across the city.

Speaking in his constituency Suwendu Adhikari said “It hurts when I see chants of ‘Azadi, Azadi’ on the streets of Kolkata. Freedom from what, brother? We must remember the sacrifices of



West Bengal Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari inaugurates Rakhi Bandhan Utsav at Nazrul Mancha in Kolkata on Friday.

PIC :Prabir Bhattacharya

our freedom fighters, Netaji's struggle, and the martyrdom of Matangini Hazra. India attained independence back in 1947.”

He then explicitly named Jadavpur University and remarked, " This University is a Centre of Excellence. Yet, will you write

Kashmir demands freedom on its walls. It is very unfortunate since this is the very Kashmir over which we have fought so many wars with Pakistan? It is distressing. You also write Red Salute to Kishenji on the walls of the Arts Faculty at Jadavpur!

What are you teaching the new generation?”, he emphasised .

Elaborating on the reference to the slain Maoist leader Kishenji, Suwendu Adhikari said “Kishenji used to say, Boycott the polls, do not vote!, burn the Constitution. Divide India from the Gomti to

the Godavari”, and criticised him strongly .

He also questioned the objections raised against the singing of the full version of the National song Vande Mataram . “Vande Mataram was not written by any political leader; it was penned by

the literary giant Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay. What is there to object to?” In this context, he delivered a message about clearing away the ‘garbage.’ He said, “We have demonstrated our strength to our enemies abroad, and we will continue to

do so in the future.” “However, we must also pledge to gradually clear out—much like sweeping away household trash—those within the country who attack patriotism, nationalism, Vande Mataram, and Jana Gana Mana Adhinayaka.”

Suwendu Adhikari also called upon the nation's youth to contribute to strengthening the country alongside fulfilling their family responsibilities. Citing the example of Israel, he remarked, "In Israel, everyone is required to undergo basic military training. India is a liberal Democratic country, and I hope it remains so."

In this connection the Chief Minister spoke about making the NCC training mandatory in every college and school in near future. He noted that NCC training had previously been discontinued in the state in favor of the 'Jai Hind Bahini', a move he deemed incorrect, asserting that there is no substitute for the NCC cadets.

Incidentally, Suwendu Adhikari began the Rakhi Bandhan celebrations from his own residence where Aishwarya Sagar, DC (New Town) of the Bidhannagar Police Commissionerate, tied a rakhi on him. She was accompanied by Baguati IC Sanjay Ghosh and several lady police personnel who also tied ‘rakhis’ on his wrist. Soon afterwards at the Chingrighata crossing he was also tied Raskhi by some other women .

After participating in several other programmes in different parts of the city including at his constituency at Bhabanipur and at Nazrul Manch, the Chief Minister took park in a mass Rakhi Utav, participated by more than 10,000 people.near Jadavpur University and sang Vande Mataram with them in unison.

This is the first time the West Bengal government is officially celebrating Rakhi Bandhan Utsav as a state festival. The initiative spans 4,000 public locations with a dedicated state budget of over Rs nine crores .

Death toll from Nepal-Tibet flash flood climbs to 492

MI News Service, Kathmandu: The death toll from flash floods in central Nepal rose to 492 on Friday, with more bodies being recovered as search and rescue operations continued for the third day following the disaster on Wednesday.

In a statement, Nepal Police said the bodies were recovered from eight affected districts of the Himalayan nation.

According to the police, the maximum 188 bodies have been recovered from Chitwan, followed by 115 from Nawalparasi East, 44 from Gorkha, 37 from Nuwakot and 33 from Dhading districts.

Similarly, 28 bodies have also been recovered from Tanahu, 27 from Nawalparasi West and 12 from Rasuwa.

So far, 1,545 injured and stranded people have been rescued from various affected regions. Among them, 84 are currently undergoing treatment in various hospitals in Kathmandu.

Search and rescue operations continued for the third day of the tragic incident with the mobilisation of 7,451 security personnel, including 2,391 Nepal Army personnel, the statement said.

An ice-rock avalanche triggered by a glacial collapse near the Nepal-Tibet border sent a torrent of water, mud and debris downstream through central Nepal on Wednesday, devastating towns and villages, washing away homes, vehicles, roads and bridges, and damaging several hydropower projects.

Meanwhile, China has warned there is a "high risk" that a lake which formed after the recent landslide may breach its banks, causing a second flood downstream anytime.

As of Friday, an estimated 2.5 million cubic metres of water had accumulated at the barrier lake near the Nepal-Tibet border, according to state broadcaster CCTV.

A barrier lake is a body of water formed when debris dams up a river. This barrier lake, which formed at the confluence of the Chhochen Kho-



Rescue operation continues in Nepal on Friday.

la and Purepu Tsangpo rivers, had started overflowing on Thursday, according to China's Ministry of Water Resources.

Officials say that three million cubic metres of water is expected to flow into the lake between Thursday and the weekend, posing a "high risk of breach".

The Nepalese Army said 14 helicopters and disaster response teams have been deployed for rescue and relief.

The flood surged through the Bhote Koshi River, reportedly coming from the direction of Tibet. Videos of the disaster showed people running before the floodwaters swallowed them up and washed out buildings and bridges.

The sudden rise in water caused widespread destruction in Timure in the Rasuwa district and the nearby Syabrubesi area, the Nepal Army said in a statement. The Prime Minister's Office has said that large number of Nepal Army personnel, Armed Police Force, and Nepal Police personnel have been deployed in Rasuwa and surrounding areas to intensify efforts for rescue and relief activities in view of the devastating flood.

Nepali soldiers battled on Friday

to reach 100 people trapped in a tunnel two days after deadly floods, as the risk of new torrents forced China to halt rescue efforts at its hardest-hit zone in Tibet.

Emergency teams have recovered 472 bodies after a tsunami-like wall of freezing water and mud crashed down on Wednesday, burying homes, smashing bridges and sweeping away vehicles in both Nepal and Tibet.

More than 1,400 people are missing, including trekkers in the Himalayas and scores of Hindu pilgrims to Tibet's sacred snow-capped Mount Kailash.

The US Geological Survey said the disaster -- the deadliest for Nepal since a 2015 earthquake -- was caused by a glacial collapse that triggered a vast flow of icy debris.

Climate change is causing glaciers to melt worldwide, increasing the risks of glacial lake floods and glacial collapses.

Emergency teams were racing to retrieve survivors from affected zones, as the threat of new flooding grew.Nepal does not need foreign assistance for search-and-rescue operations following the devastating flash flood that swept through several towns, its foreign ministry said

on Friday, despite offers of help from several countries with nationals missing in the disaster.

The flood tore through areas including Rasuwa district near the Chinese border, levelling entire towns, damaging hydropower projects and killing close to 500 people. Hundreds of foreign nationals are still missing, including from South Korea, which said it has already sent a response team to Nepal and will also dispatch a disaster relief team.

But Nepal's foreign ministry said on Friday that it was managing the rescue efforts.

"The offer for help is natural. Our security agencies are doing the search and rescue operation. For now we don't require such help," Lok Bahadur Chhetri, spokesperson for the foreign ministry, said without providing further details.

South Korea's foreign ministry said Nepal had indicated it was not yet planning to accept foreign rescue teams.

"South Korea will keep negotiating with Nepal over the matter," the ministry added.

Seoul has pledged \$1 million in humanitarian assistance through international organisations, its foreign minister said on X.

Immediate response mechanism inadequate for scale of devastation in Nepal floods : Experts

MI News Service, New Delhi / Kathmandu: As rescue and relief operations continued in flood-ravaged Nepal, climate experts and activists has stated that the scale of disaster has overwhelmed existing response capacity, with affected families in the worst-hit districts struggling for food, shelter and access to relief.

Binod Prasad Parajuli, Executive Director of the Climate Risk and Resilience Lab in Nepal said on Friday that the government has been responding, but the scale of devastation exceeds the existing response mechanisms and capacities, which aren't able to meet the extent of the damage and loss.

"The government of Nepal and related stakeholders' first priority is saving lives. Within that response window, the government, security forces, local authorities, and other stakeholders are working to locate any citizens who might still be trapped and alive. To do this, drone



A street looks deserted following a flash flood in Devighat village, Nuwakot district, Nepal on Friday.

teams have been deployed from Kathmandu and are in the field trying to locate trapped individuals using thermal and optical cameras," Parajuli, who is currently leading efforts with the Nepal PMO and the National Disaster Risk Reduction

and Management Authority (NDRRM), said.

Incidentally, when a sudden surge of floodwaters roared from China's Tibetan region into Nepal through Rasuwagadhi on Wednesday morning, Nepali authorities were com-

pletely unaware. The high-speed torrent reached Syabrubesi within minutes and spread through the Trishuli River to downstream regions, inflicting catastrophic loss of life and property.

It was only about 16 minutes after the flood crossed the border that the Department of Hydrology and Meteorology received information from the Rasuwa District Administration Office, routed through the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority (NDRRMA). SMS early warnings were dispatched to riverbank communities shortly after, but by then, the flood had already begun its destructive path across upper Rasuwa

A similar transboundary glacial outburst flood caused massive devastation in the Rasuwagadhi area last year. Following that incident, Nepal and China reached an understanding to establish a bilateral mechanism for sharing water-

● Continued to Pg 3

of several private organisations on different floors, when KMC officials, police personnel and labourers arrived around 4 pm to remove the glowshine board.

There was a scuffle between policemen and Abhishek's private security guards, office staff and Trinamool Congress workers, including women, when they prevented civic body officials, police personnel and labourers from going upstairs to reach the rooftop.

Abhishek, Derek and others were seen stopping the police and KMC personnel at the entrance of the building, preventing them from reaching the rooftop. An altercation also broke out between the Trinamool Congress MP, police officers and KMC personnel.

Abhishek alleged that the action was arbitrary and targeted the opposition TMC. He questioned why no action had been initiated against similar private hoardings on nearby buildings.

FIRs filed against Abhishek, Derek, 2 others over scuffle at TMC office, 13 held

MI News Service, Kolkata: Three FIRs were filed against TMC National General Secretary Abhishek Banerjee, Rajya Sabha MP Derek O'Brien and two other party leaders, and 13 people were arrested over a scuffle at its Camac Street office here on Thursday, police said on Friday.

Private guards at Abhishek Banerjee's office, his supporters and some party leaders scuffled with police personnel and Kolkata Municipal Corporation officials yesterday , trying to prevent them from entering the TMC office building on Camac Street and dismantling an "unauthorised" billboard.

The cases were registered at the Shakespeare Sarani Police Station on complaints over allegations of obstructing police personnel and KMC officials from discharging their duties and assaulting them, and unlawful assembly, a senior officer said.

"TMC MP Abhishek Banerjee, Derek O'Brien and Humayun Kabir have been booked. One FIR was lodged based on a complaint by a KMC advertisement department official, while another was filed on the basis of a civic body requisition," the Kolkata Police Officer said.

The third FIR was registered on a complaint by a police sergeant, who alleged that unidentified persons obstructed him and snatched his walkie-talkie issued by the government-violating the norm and his safety, he said.

"The police have so far arrested 13 people in connection with the incident," he said.

However, the identities of those arrested have not been disclosed.

Incidentally on Thursday the Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC) and Kolkata Police dismantled a huge, allegedly unauthorised billboard of the All India Trinamool Congress (AITC) installed on

the rooftop of party MP Abhishek Banerjee's office building at 9 Camac Street under the Shakespeare Sarani police station (PS) area.

The action came after Abhishek Banerjee, along with his private security personnel, office staff and the party's Rajya Sabha MP Derek O'Brien, prevented KMC officials and police personnel from entering the multi-storied building.

KMC workers armed with hammers and gas cutters began dismantling the billboard, which was made of tin sheets mounted on an iron rod structure.

KMC officials said the billboard, bearing the TMC signage and installed atop Abhishek's office in the Camac Street area of central Kolkata, was allegedly illegal and had to be removed.

High drama erupted outside the multi-storied building, which houses the office of former West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's nephew as well as offices



On the occasion of Raksha Bandhan, women police personnel tied rakhis on West Bengal Chief Minister Suvenudh Adhikari's wrist and extended their greetings. The Chief Minister prayed to God for their long life, good health and well-being in Kolkata on Friday.

Task Force Cracks Down at Maligram Market: Expired Food Items Found, Large Quantity of Sugar Seized for Document Verification

MI News Service, Kharagpur : A sudden inspection by a seven-member administrative task force at Maligram Market under Pingla Block in West Medinipur district created a stir among traders and local residents. The action was reportedly taken following complaints regarding the quality, validity and storage of food items being sold in the market.

The inspection team, comprising senior officials including Debashish Biswas, SDPO of Debra, and Jyoti Ghosh, Sub-Divisional Officer of Kharagpur, reached Maligram Market and launched an inspection at a local shop. During the inspection, officials reportedly found several packets of food products whose expiry dates had already passed. The discovery of expired food items inside the shop triggered concern in the area. Officials are now examining how the expired products reached the shop and whether they were being kept for sale to customers or had already been offered for sale. Following the inspection of the shop, the task force also conducted a raid at another warehouse located in the market area. A large quantity of sugar stored in sacks was found inside the warehouse.

After finding the substantial stock of sugar, officials began examining documents related to its procurement, source and storage. The authorities are particularly checking whether the warehouse owner possesses all the necessary and valid documents for storing such a large



quantity of sugar. Officials indicated that the next course of action would become clear only after the document verification process is completed. At present, the authorities are assessing whether the stock complies with the required rules and regulations. The surprise inspection has also prompted traders in Maligram Market to become more cautious. The operation is being viewed as part of the administration's efforts to strengthen monitoring of food quality, expiry dates, storage practices and mandatory documentation. According to administrative sources, similar inspections may continue in markets and shops in the coming days to check the quality and validity of food products and verify relevant documents. The task force's action has raised several questions in Maligram Market, particularly about how expired food products reached the shop and whether the documents related to the large stock of sugar stored in the warehouse are valid. Further action is expected after the authorities complete their inspection and verification of the documents.

'Eso Rakhi Pari' a special prog organised to mark the festival of Raksha Bandhan

MI News Service, North 24 Parganas: To mark the festival of Raksha Bandhan, a special program 'Eso Rakhi Pari' (let us tie rakhi) was organised jointly by Utkarsh Arohan and Madhyamgram Pranab Kanya Sangha on Friday. The Message of harmony, friendship and humanity was given through Song, recitation performed by the residential students of institution. Eminent sculptor Bimal Kundu, elocutionist Debashish Basu and several other distinguished personalities from different fields participated in the event. They tied rakhis on the wrists of the students and encouraged them to take part in drawing, singing and other creative activities. With



the participation of residential students, senior citizens and distinguished personalities, the "Eso Rakhi Pari" programme became a beautiful celebration of harmony, creativity and humanity.

Rakhi on the wrists of blood donors



MI News Service, Guskara: To create a bond of blood, members of an organisation in Guskara tied rakhis on the wrists of blood donors on Friday. Alongside, they also gifted each donor a sapling. On this day, 66 people donated

blood at a camp organised by a local voluntary organization, named Bishan Athletic Club in the Shirish Tala area of Guskara. While the blood donors were donating blood with one hand, a rakhi was tied on the other hand. The organisation's secretary, Saugata Gupta, said that they have been taking this initiative on Rakhi Bandhan Day for the past four years. On this day, Bithi Ganguly, Kakali Ghosh, Kalyani Das, Ankita Mondal and others tied rakhis on blood donors Ismail Sheikh, a resident of Brahmandi in Bhedia and a dumper driver by profession, Qazi Mohammad Shamim, a resident of Panagarh, and Aslam Sheikh of Guskara. Ismail said, 'I donated blood for the first time in my life. After donating blood, I feel good to have a rakhi tied by my sisters in this way'.

Raksha Bandhan: SP Papiya Sultana Emerges as a 'Fear Factor' for Offenders and an 'Icon' Among Students

MI News Service, Kharagpur : West Medinipur Superintendent of Police Papiya Sultana has been drawing attention for her distinctive dual role—maintaining a tough stance against criminals and anti-social elements while simultaneously emerging as an inspiring figure among school and college students and the younger generation. As the district's police chief, maintaining law and order and ensuring the safety and security of citizens remain her primary responsibilities. However, her approach appears to extend beyond conventional policing. Through various social and awareness programmes, she interacts with students and young people and encourages them to build a better future through education, discipline, hard work and a positive outlook. Tough Policing with a Human Face. SP Papiya Sultana has adopted a firm approach against crime and anti-social activities in West Medinipur, sending a clear message that there will be no compromise when it comes to action against offenders in accordance with the law. At the same time, her



more approachable and motivational side is visible during social and educational programmes. By reaching out to young people, she encourages them to make responsible choices, stay away from crime and negative influences, and become responsible citizens. This combination of strict policing and public engagement has given her a distinctive identity. While her presence in uniform conveys a strong message of law enforcement to criminals and anti-social elements, students often display considerable enthusiasm

when they get an opportunity to meet her. Growing Popularity Among Students. Whenever SP Papiya Sultana attends programmes involving students and young people, there is often visible excitement among them. Many students seek opportunities to take photographs with her, while others are eager to receive her autograph or listen to her words of motivation. As a woman IPS officer, her professional journey and approach to duty have also become a source of inspiration, particularly for young girls. Her confidence, determination and

sense of responsibility are encouraging many students to think seriously about their own future and set new goals. More Than a Police Officer—A Role Model. Through various platforms, Papiya Sultana has been seen encouraging young people with the message that success cannot be achieved merely by dreaming; it requires consistent hard work, discipline and dedication towards one's goals. While interacting with students, she stresses the importance of focusing on studies, making proper use of time and understanding one's responsibilities towards society. She also highlights that today's students will shape the direction of society and the country in the future. According to this approach, education alone is not enough. Good values, respect for the law and a sense of social responsibility are equally important in developing responsible citizens. A Message to Strengthen the Next Generation. The working style of SP Papiya Sultana reflects an apparent balance between law enforcement and social awareness. While strict action

against offenders helps reinforce respect for the law, her engagement with young people represents an effort to keep the younger generation away from crime and negative activities by providing them with positive direction. Her message is clear: ensuring a safe society does not depend solely on taking action against crime. It is equally important to build a generation that can contribute to society through education, hard work, discipline and responsibility. Two Roles, One Goal. On one side, SP Papiya Sultana represents firm police action against criminals and anti-social elements; on the other, she is increasingly being seen by students and young people as a source of inspiration and motivation. For offenders, particularly those involved in serious crimes against women, she represents a strict law-enforcement authority. For students, she has emerged as a figure of encouragement and aspiration. Her approach combines the firmness of law enforcement with a broader message of social responsibility and nation-building.

Rakhi brings Dilip Ghosh to Shantipur, football 'snub' ends over a cup of tea

MI News Service, Nadia : A missed engagement, a Rakhi-day visit and an informal tea chat with locals—Panchayat Minister Dilip Ghosh's surprise visit to Shantipur on Rakhi Purnima turned into an unusual public outreach exercise.

Ghosh had been scheduled to attend the inaugural programme of a night football tournament organised by Yuva Mukti Sangha at the godown ground near Shantipur railway station on August 22. However, he could not make it to the event after an important engagement came up at the last moment.

A few days later, on Rakhi Purnima, the minister arrived in Shantipur without much prior notice. He first met members of Yuva Mukti Sangha and exchanged pleasantries with them



before interacting with local residents.

The visit took a festive turn when a group of local women approached the minister and tied

rakhis on his wrist. Ghosh accepted the greetings and interacted with the women, drawing considerable attention from residents gathered in the area.

The informal interaction continued over tea, with Ghosh sitting down with members of the organisation and local residents. Discussions ranged from local issues and residents' experiences to matters concerning the area. Unlike a conventional political meeting, the focus remained largely on direct interaction with people.

Ghosh's Rakhi-day visit has also revived discussion about his absence from the football tournament inauguration on August 22. Some locals described the latest visit as an attempt to make up for the earlier missed engagement.

From receiving rakhis to sharing tea with residents, Ghosh's Shantipur visit offered a glimpse of a more informal style of political outreach, away from the usual stage-managed public meeting.

Police Take to the Streets, Educate Bikers on Traffic Rules; Several Issued Spot Fines

MI News Service, Kharagpur : The Mohanpur Police have once again stepped up efforts to promote road safety by conducting a special traffic awareness and enforcement drive aimed at encouraging motorists to follow traffic rules. During the campaign, Mohanpur Police Station Officer-in-Charge Pradip Pal personally took to the streets along with other police personnel and was seen interacting with motorcycle riders and making them aware of the importance of traffic regulations. As part of the drive, police stopped several bikers and advised them to wear helmets, follow traffic rules and ride responsibly.

Motorists were also reminded that complying with traffic regulations is not merely about avoiding fines or challans, but is essential for protecting their own lives as well as the safety of other road users. At the same time, the police adopted a strict approach towards traffic violations. Several motorcycle riders found violating traffic rules were issued spot fines at the location. The



combination of awareness efforts and enforcement action appeared to increase caution among motorists. Police personnel explained the potential consequences of reckless driving and stressed the need for responsible behaviour on the road. The campaign, conducted under the leadership of Mohanpur Police Station Officer-in-Charge Pradip Pal, received a positive response from local residents and commuters. The police said that similar awareness and enforcement drives would continue in the future as part of efforts to prevent road accidents and ensure a safer traffic environment. The message from the police was clear: Follow traffic rules, wear a helmet and drive responsibly to ensure a safe journey for yourself and others.



A cultural evening dedicated to Rabindranath Tagore's music and poetry was organised by Anandjogya, which featured artist Sudeshna Guha, accompanied by Bappa Bal and Aniket Chakraborty, at Indumati Sabhagriha in Kolkata on Friday.

Rakhi Bandhan Festival

Nurul Islam Khan: On the occasion of the sacred Rakhi Bandhan festival, Mayor-in-Council member Swapan Samaddar extended a warm invitation to everyone. This year, the festival was celebrated in the traditional manner in front of the Trinamool Congress party office in Ward No. 30. He said that, as in the previous 31 years, a "mobile Rakhi Bandhan festival" was organised for the 32nd consecutive year. Despite having all the necessary permissions, the administration did not allow him to hold the mobile Rakhi or Raksha Bandhan festival. He said that in 1905, during the anti-Partition of Bengal movement, poet Rabindranath Tagore had initiated this festival and infused the nationalist movement with renewed spirit. However, he alleged that the present government and administration have repeatedly prevented him from organising this sacred festival and several other programmes. He said this could be described as an infringement of freedom of speech. He added that the festival is not merely about the bond between brothers and sisters; rather, Rabindranath Tagore had enriched relationships between men and women of all ages with a touch of humanity and sacredness. Besides Papiya Ghosh and several other leaders, a large gathering of ordinary people was also noticeable at the event.

Kalyani celebrates Rakhi with message of fraternity, social harmony and nationalism



MI News Service, Nadia : A Rakhi celebration centred on the themes of love, fraternity, social harmony and nationalism was organised at the Kalyani SDO office premises on Friday.

The programme was organised by the Kalyani subdivision administration in association with the Youth Services and Sports Department, Nadia. The event began at 11 am and was attended by Kalyani Sub-Divisional Officer Nilanjan Tarafdar, Sub-Divisional Information and Cultural Officer Mousumi Roy,

Haringhata MLA Asim Kumar Sarkar and Kalyani MLA Anupam Biswas.

The organisers said the celebration was aimed at using Rakhi as a symbol of mutual respect, goodwill and unity, extending the spirit of the festival beyond the traditional bond between brothers and sisters. The programme also highlighted the importance of strengthening fraternity and a sense of national unity among people from different sections of society.

With administrative officials, elected representatives and members of the public participating in the programme, the event sought to underline the broader social significance of Rakhi. The organisers emphasised that festivals such as Rakhi can serve as platforms for promoting social cohesion and harmony.

The Kalyani Sub-Divisional Information and Cultural Department supported the programme. Through the state government-supported initiative, the organisers sought to convey a message of solidarity, brotherhood and national integration on the occasion of Rakhi.

Two minors cycle 15km towards Digha, police stop their 'holiday ride' in Fulia



MI News Service, Nadia : Two minor boys, aged 12 and 14, set out on bicycles for Digha without informing their families, hoping for a holiday they said their families had never taken them on. Their plan, however, came to an abrupt halt after they cycled nearly 15km and were noticed by a local resident in Fulia.

The incident occurred on Thursday when schools were closed. The two boys, residents of the Bhaluka Battala area under Nabadwip police station, had left home with another friend. The three had planned to travel to Digha on two bicycles. After covering some distance, the third boy turned back, while the other two continued towards their destination.

According to police, the boys reached the Prafullanagar area of Fulia after cycling along the national highway for nearly 15km. They reportedly approached a local resident asking for money after feeling hungry. Suspicious of their presence and their account, the resident

alerted a civic volunteer attached to the Fulia police camp.

Police personnel soon reached the spot and questioned the boys. They were subsequently taken to the police camp, where arrangements were made for food and their families were contacted.

The boys reportedly told police that they had decided to travel to Digha because nobody at home took them out for trips. Their families, meanwhile, had become anxious after the children failed to return home.

The families reached the Fulia police camp after receiving a call from police and took the boys home. The rescue operation was carried out with the initiative of Fulia police camp in-charge Sanjay Chatopadhyay and Tanmoy Mondal.

Police officials later advised the families to spend more time with the children and take them on outings, stressing the need to ensure that such travel plans do not turn into risky journeys for minors.

Patton International
Wins Eaton Global
Supplier Excellence
Award 2026

MI News Service, Kolkata: Patton International Limited has received the prestigious Eaton Global Supplier Excellence Award 2026, becoming the only Indian company to earn the honour for excellence in quality, delivery, innovation and operational performance.

A Government Recognised Export House and Star Exporter, Patton operates eight advanced manufacturing facilities in West Bengal and employs over 3,500 people. The company supplies high-precision engineering components to global corporations including ABB, Eaton and Emerson. Its products have approvals from international quality bodies such as Underwriters Laboratories and the Canadian Standards Association.

Patton has also received National Export Awards from the President and Prime Minister of India, besides several honours for manufacturing, productivity and export performance.

Eaton, a global intelligent power management company, has annual revenues of around US\$27 billion, more than 93,000 employees and operations across over 160 countries.

Eaton's Director-Sourcing, Global Energy Infrastructure Solutions Division, congratulated Patton for its consistent service and expressed confidence that its engagement with the new West Bengal government would further improve ease of doing business.

Patton Managing Director Sanjay Budhia said the award recognised the team's commitment to quality, innovation and customer satisfaction, adding that products made in Kolkata were competing globally and supporting India's export growth.

Immediate response

Continued from Pg 1: related risk data in border regions. However, Nepal received no timely warning prior to Wednesday's flood.

Sauharda Joshi, a hydrologist at the Department of Hydrology and Meteorology, stated that the delay in issuing early warnings stemmed from a lack of cross-border information sharing. "The flood crossed into Nepal around 8:40 AM and reached Syabrubesi within 10 minutes," he said. "If we had been informed while the flood was building up in Tibet, human casualties could have been significantly minimized."

The distance from Rasuwagadhi to Syabrubesi is approximately 14 kilometers. Senior Divisional Hydrologist Binod Parajuli confirmed that four monitoring stations—Rasuwa Bhole Koshi, Rasuwa Syabrubesi, Nuwakot Betrawati, and Dhading Malekhu (Furke)—were entirely swept away. The department's initial analysis indicates that a deep-ice glacier collapse on the western side of Langtang in Rasuwa triggered a massive landslide.

Senior hydrological expert Binod Parajuli confirmed that based on details received at 8:56 AM from the Rasuwa District Administration via NDRRMA, SMS flood alerts were dispatched to downstream communities before 9:00 AM.

Authorities issued immediate travel advisories halting movement along the Prithvi Highway in Dhading and Chitwan, the Galkhhi-Nuwakot-Rasuwa-Syabrubesi road, and the Mugling-Narayangadh corridor.

Entering Nepal at around 8:40 AM, the flash flood surged down to the Narayani River at Gaidakot in Nawalparasi (Bardaghat Susta East) by 3:30 PM. Riverbank corridors stretching from Rasuwa to Chitwan were designated as high-risk zones.

Meanwhile, hydrologist Joshi noted that while river levels were gradually receding, expected evening rains in Rasuwa threatened to impede search and rescue efforts.

The flood wreaked immense damage across vulnerable riverbanks. While the exact trigger and full structural assessment remain underway, river corridors along the Bhole Koshi, Trishuli, and Narayani rivers—spanning Rasuwa, Nuwakot, Dhading, Gorkha, Chitwan, and Nawalparasi (Bardaghat Susta East)—have sustained severe impact. Educational institutions, private residences, hydropower projects, roadways, bridges, and critical physical infrastructure suffered extensive destruction.

According to the Nepal Tourism Board, 403 tourists who traveled to Gosainkunda and Kailash Manasarovar through various agencies remain untraceable in the wake of the Bhole Koshi flood, including 341 foreign nationals and 62 Nepalis.



BIP leader Locket Chatterjee ties a rakhi on West Bengal Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari on the occasion of the Raksha Bandhan Utsav at Nazrul Mancha in Kolkata on Friday.

PIC: Prabir Bhattacharya

Suwendu Bats for Mandatory NCC in All
Schools and Colleges Across Bengal

MI News Service, Kolkata: West Bengal Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari has advocated making National Cadet Corps (NCC) training compulsory in all schools and colleges across the state. Speaking at a special Raksha Bandhan programme, Adhikari said NCC should be restored and made available in every college and university as part of the government's responsibilities.

"We should make it our duty to have NCC in every college and university. We will bring back NCC," Adhikari said.

The Chief Minister said the issue had recently been raised with him by Union Home Minister during his visit to north Bengal. According to Adhikari, the Union Home Minister had stressed the



need to ensure NCC facilities in schools and colleges located in border districts.

Referring to the issue, Adhikari criticised the decision to discontinue NCC in Bengal and introduce an alternative arrangement called 'Jai Hind Bahini'. He maintained that there could be no substitute for NCC and stressed the importance of restoring the established cadet programme in educational institutions.

Adhikari also said that he had already taken up the matter with the Centre. He re-

vealed that he wrote to Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh last Sunday, urging the Centre to ensure NCC facilities in all schools and colleges in the state at the earliest.

According to the Chief Minister, such training would play an important role in developing a sense of patriotism among students and strengthening their respect and devotion towards the country.

While speaking about NCC, Adhikari also recalled his own experience as an NSS volunteer during his student days. He said he had participated in the National Service Scheme from Class XI until his third year of college, completing nearly five years of social service activities. Although his college also had NCC, he chose to participate in NSS.

Recalling his experience,

Adhikari said he had served as the head of the NSS unit. During the long Durga Puja vacation, the students would select a village and spend around eight days there. They would stay at a primary school, arrange their accommodation, cook together and work for the welfare of villagers.

He recalled participating in repairing damaged village roads, clearing water hyacinth from ponds, removing parthenium weeds and carrying out cleanliness drives using bleaching powder and phenyl.

Adhikari said such experiences demonstrated the value of organised social service and explained why similar training opportunities should be expanded among students today.

Actor Kharaj Mukherjee
Returns to Kolkata Safely
After Being Stranded in Nepal

MI News Service, Kolkata: Actor Kharaj Mukherjee returned to Kolkata safely from Nepal on Friday after being stranded there amid disruptions caused by floods and an earthquake. His wife, Pratibha Mukherjee, accompanied him. After arriving at Kolkata airport, the actor recorded a video message for his fans and assured them that both he and his wife were safe.

Kharaj had travelled to Nepal to shoot for the Bangladeshi film Shikhar. The shooting was being conducted in Pokhara when the situation deteriorated. Recalling the ordeal, he said they faced several difficulties before travelling to Gorakhpur, from where they finally took a flight back to Kolkata.

The actor thanked fans, friends and well-wishers for their concern and said their love had helped him return safely. He also promised to entertain audiences with more work in the future.

Concern had spread after reports emerged that Kharaj was stranded in Nepal. His son, Bihu Mukherjee, subsequently shared a video on social media assuring everyone that his parents were safe.

Bangladeshi actor Apu Biswas was also in Nepal during the same period and was reportedly safe.

On Wednesday, a flash flood hit the Bhotekoshi river in Nepal's Rasuwa district, near the Tibet border. The disaster caused widespread damage, with several people reportedly killed and many others missing. Rescue operations have continued amid difficult conditions, with damaged roads and bridges hampering access to remote mountainous areas.



West Bengal Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari led a massive patriotic demonstration outside the Jadavpur University campus where over 10,000 people gathered to collectively sing all six stanzas of India's national song, Vande Mataram, in Kolkata on Friday.

State Govt Raises Transfer and Retirement Benefits for Employees

MI News Service, Kolkata: The West Bengal government has announced enhanced financial benefits for state government employees during transfers and after retirement. Replacing the decades-old Transfer Grant and Packing Allowance systems, the state Cabinet has approved a new 'Composite Transfer and Packing

Grant' aimed at simplifying the process and reducing the financial burden on employees.

Under the new system, government employees will be eligible for a one-time grant of up to Rs 50,000 or 80 per cent of their Basic Pay, whichever is applicable. A key feature of the revised system is that employees will not be required to

submit bills, receipts or other documents to prove their expenditure to claim the benefit.

The full Composite Transfer and Packing Grant will be available when an employee is transferred to a location 30 kilometres or more away and shifts residence as a result of the transfer. In cases where the transfer is to a location

less than 30 kilometres away, the employee will receive one-third of the eligible grant.

The state government has also extended the benefit to retired employees. Those who permanently shift their residence to another location after retirement will also be eligible for financial assistance under the new arrangement.

Air India Transports 431
Donated Corneas Across India

MI News Service, Kolkata: Air India transported 431 donated corneas across India between April 2025 and March 2026, helping eye banks move precious tissue quickly to patients awaiting sight-restoring transplants.

The initiative is part of Air India's partnership with the Eye Bank Association of India (EBAI), under which donated corneas are carried across the airline's domestic network free of charge and receive priority handling.

Cornea donation triggers a race against time, with medical teams recovering and preserving the tissue while eye-bank coordinators arrange its transportation to recipients. For donations travelling long distances, air connectivity can play a crucial role in ensuring timely transplantation.

One such route connects

the L V Prasad Eye Institute's Ramayamma International Eye Bank in Hyderabad with the Drushti Daan Eye Bank in Bhubaneswar. The donated tissue is transported in an insulated container, handled carefully by airline, airport and medical teams.

Air India said the initiative helps reduce logistical challenges and allows eye banks to focus on ensuring that donated corneas reach patients on time.

The airline described the effort as a behind-the-scenes chain involving pilots, airport personnel, cargo handlers, medical professionals and eye-bank coordinators.

Each journey represents more than the movement of medical tissue. It connects a family's decision to donate a loved one's corneas with another person's hope of regaining vision.

Mamata Says TMC Will Continue Fight Against Cases



Trinamool Congress Chhatra Parishad Foundation Day celebration at Cathedral Road in Kolkata, attended by former Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and Trinamool Congress National General Secretary Abhishek Banerjee.

MI News Service, Kolkata: Former West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Friday indicated that she could approach an international court if necessary in her fight against what she described as political persecution of the Trinamool Congress (TMC). Addressing the Trinamool Congress Chhatra Parishad's foundation day programme, Banerjee said the party would not be suppressed despite the large number of cases filed against its leaders and workers.

The programme was organised in front of Birla Planetarium after the Kalighat faction of the TMC received permission

to hold the event at the venue. Speaking to students and young party workers, Banerjee urged them to take to the streets and participate in democratic protests.

"If necessary, go to jail and spend a month there, but do not accept BJP's food," Banerjee said, while asking the youth wing to remain committed to the party's political struggle.

She then launched a strong attack on the BJP over the cases filed against TMC leaders. Referring to the approximately 14,000 cases, Banerjee said party leader Kalyan Banerjee was fighting the legal battle in the Supreme Court and that

Park St Row: Sita Gets New Home and Job After Footpath Eviction

MI News Service, Kolkata: Sita, the woman at the centre of the Park Street footpath milk controversy, has finally been provided with a new home and a job, bringing some relief after days of uncertainty over her rehabilitation. The administration had earlier attempted to arrange government accommodation for her and her family, but she was reportedly reluctant to stay at the locations offered.

Following the controversial incident in which Sita was seen heating milk on a city footpath, the Kolkata Municipal Corporation and police had jointly been trying since Tuesday to find a permanent shelter for her and her two younger daughters. Accommodation was initially arranged at government facilities in Belegkata and later on Rammoan Roy Road. However, Sita reportedly did not find the surroundings suitable and chose not to stay there. Her elder daughter, Puja, accepted the civic authorities'

arrangement and continued to stay at the government facility.

Over the past few days, efforts were also made to find a rented house in a suitable and safe locality for Sita and her daughters. However, several options were reportedly rejected as they did not meet her preferences. In the meantime, the family was temporarily accommodated at a hotel in the city.

BJP leader and MLA Sajal Ghosh had earlier said that Sita and her two daughters were staying in a safe environment and receiving protection at the homes of party workers.

After an extensive search, suitable accommodation was finally found in an area of Sita's choice. She is now living at the new residence with her two daughters and grandson.

The administration has also made arrangements to ensure that Sita has a regular source of income. According to sources,

she has been provided with a job at a hotel, where she will work in housekeeping and cleaning services.

On Friday, the BJP released a video featuring Sita, her daughter and grandson, providing details about their current situation and rehabilitation. The party said that Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari and Municipal Affairs Minister Agnimitra Pal had also been keeping track of the family's condition.

According to the BJP, Sita and her family are now safe and doing well, with the government and party continuing to support them.

Sita has reportedly expressed happiness and relief over the sudden change in her circumstances following the assistance extended by the administration and others. She also thanked Suwendu Adhikari for standing by her and her family during what she described as a difficult period.



An auspicious beginning marked the unveiling of Swami Vivekananda's statue

MI News Service, Kolkata: An auspicious beginning marked the unveiling of Swami Vivekananda's statue, with West Bengal Industries Minister Tapas Roy delivering a message of patriotism and service to humanity.

With the ideals, patriotism, spirit of service to human-

ity, and the ethos of youth power embodied by Swami Vivekananda at the forefront, the unveiling of his statue was auspiciously inaugurated on Friday in Kolkata through a solemn and significant ceremony.

The event was organized in an atmosphere of reverence, devotion, and spirituality. This

event commemorates Swamiji's ideals and his message of human welfare.

This grand initiative organized by the Super Bagan Sporting Club and Kankurgachi Milon Mela Samiti was filled with enthusiasm and excitement among the people present.

NAME CHANGE
I, Selim Ali, S/o.- Rajjak Ali, R/o.- Najrul Sarani, North Badra, Dum Dum (M), 24 Pgs., WB-700 079 that, my actual name has also been recorded in my L.I.C. Policy Certificate No. 495809273 as Abdul Salim Mondal in place of Selim Ali for all purpose, vide an Affidavit No. 14014, dtd. 22.07.2026, in the Court of the Ld. 1st Class J.M., Alipore. That, Selim Ali & Abdul Salim Mondal both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Manoj Soni (old name), S/o. Ramnarayan Soni, R/o. 132, Bandel Station Road opp. More Store Banstala More, Chinsurah, Hooghly-712103, W.B., do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Manoj Soni to Manoj Kumar Soni (New Name) and henceforth I shall be known as Manoj Kumar Soni in all purpose, vide an affidavit no. 20297 sworn before Judicial Magistrate, Sadar, Hooghly Court on 27/08/2026. I, Manoj Kumar Soni, Manoj Soni S/o. Ramnarayan Soni & Manoj Kumar Shah, Manoj Kumar Sha, S/o. Ramnarayan Shah, all are the same & one identical person.

Name Change
I RASHIDA KHATOON, ADHAR No. 8186 8072 0574. Wife of abdul majed alias abdul majeed, residing at 12, nil madhab sen lane, P.S. jorasanko, P.O. C. Avenue, kolkata -700073, do hereby solemnly affirm and declare that by an affidavit (no 28963) before the 1st class judicial magistrate at sealahd on 24.07.2026 that RASHIDA KHATOON and RASHIDAH KHATOON is the same and one identical person.

Change of Name
I, Kashinath Bhownick (D.O.B. 27/10/1973), S/o. Late Radha Ballav Bhownick, residing at 22/1, Srimani Bagan Lane, Salkia, Howrah, Dist.-Howrah-711106 do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Kashinath Bhaumik (D.O.B. 01/01/1975), S/o. Radha Ballab Bhaumik of 33, Srimani Bagan Lane, Salkia, Howrah, Dist.-Howrah-711106 to Kashinath Bhownick (D.O.B. 27/10/1973), S/o. Late Radha Ballav Bhownick of 22/1, Srimani Bagan Lane, Salkia, Howrah, Dist.-Howrah-711106 and henceforth I shall be known as Kashinath Bhownick (D.O.B. 27/10/1973), S/o. Late Radha Ballav Bhownick of 22/1, Srimani Bagan Lane, Salkia, Howrah, Dist.-Howrah-711106 in all purpose, vide affidavit SI No. 08, sworn before the Ld. 1st Class Judicial Magistrate at Howrah on 12/08/26. Kashinath Bhownick (D.O.B. 27/10/1973), S/o. Late Radha Ballav Bhownick and Kashinath Bhaumik (D.O.B. 01/01/1975), S/o. Radha Ballab Bhaumik is same and one identical person.

NAME CHANGE
I, SMRITI KUNDU (Old Name), W/O-SUBIR KUNDU, R/o:- VIII.- Basirhat Sainpala Bijay Chandra Das Road, P.O. + P.S.- Basirhat, North 24 Pgs., have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as SMRITIRANI KUNDU (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public Basirhat Court affidavit no. 40103/26 dt. 28-08-26. SMRITI KUNDU (Old Name) and SMRITIRANI KUNDU (New Name) both are same and identical person.

Name Change
I, Snehashis Mandal, S/o.- Sallen Mandal (Old Name), R/o.- G-301/A/9, Ram Nagar Lane, P.S.- Garden Reach, Kolkata- 700024, do hereby declare that I have change my name from Snehashis Mandal, S/o.- Sallen Mandal (Old Name) to Snehashis Mandal, S/o.- Sallen Mandal (New Name) henceforth be known as Snehashis Mandal, S/o.- Sallen Mandal (New Name), vide an Affidavit No. 75589, dt. 25.08.26, in the Court of Ld. 1st Class, J.M. at Alipore. That, Snehashis Mandal, S/o.- Sallen Mandal (Old Name) & Snehashis Mandal, S/o.- Sallen Mandal (New Name) both are same & one identical person.

Name Change
I, Thatamsetty Sreenivasulu S/o late T. Venkata Subbaiah R/o. 10/189 K Street Proddatur Cuddapah Andhra Pradesh 516360 shall henceforth be known as Thatamsetty Srinivasulu as declared before the court of Ld J.M. 1st class Kharagpur, Paschim Medinipur. vide affidavit no 11101 dated 27.08.26. Thatamsetty Sreenivasulu and Thatamsetty Srinivasulu both are same and identical person.

Name Change
I, KISHOR KUMAR DAMANI, S/o.- MADANLAL DAMANI, residing at 505/1, S. K. Deb Road, HDFC Bank, Shreebhumii, Dist.- 24 Pgs. North, Kolkata-700048, West Bengal, do hereby declare that on 27.08.2026 vide an affidavit (no.09766) before 1st Class Magistrate, Calcutta, I affirm that KISHOR KUMAR DAMANI, KISHORE KUMAR DAMANI & KISHORE DAMANI is the same and one identical person, i.e. myself.

Change of Name
I, Rahul Pal, S/o. Mantu Kumar Pal, residing at 15, Bagdi Para Lane, P.S. Shilpur, Dist.-Howrah-711102 do hereby declare that I have changed my father name that I Mantu Pal to Mantu Kumar Pal and henceforth he shall be known as Mantu Kumar Pal in all purpose, vide affidavit no. 24506/28 sworn before the Ld. 1st Class Executive Magistrate at Howrah on 04/08/26. Mantu Kumar Pal and Mantu Pal both are same and one identical person.

Change of Name
I, Kanchan Kumari, W/o. Tanmoy Debnath, D/o. Ram Awadh Upadhyay, residing at 20, 'I' Road, Belgachia, Howrah-711105 do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Kajal Debnath to Kanchan Kumari and henceforth I shall be known as Kanchan Kumari in all purpose, vide affidavit SI No. 11, sworn before the Ld. 1st Class Judicial Magistrate at Howrah on 12/08/26. Kanchan Kumari and Kajal Debnath both are same and one identical person.

Nature is life itself, Uluberia's young students set a precedent by tying Rakhis on trees

MI News Service, Howrah: The Chipko Movement of 1973. In the Chamoli district of Uttar Pradesh, villagers used to stand hugging trees to protest against deforestation, preventing contractors from cutting them down.

It is our duty to instill in the next generation the idea that trees are the best friends, along with the introduction of letters. That is the picture shown by Nunebar Mahakali Primary School in Uluberia. The children celebrated Rakhi Bandhan by tying Rakhi on trees and saplings.

Nunebar is a very remote village in Howrah. The Rakhi Bandhan festival was celebrated with great enthusiasm at Nunebar Mahakali Primary School, under the Shyampur-I Panchayat Samiti, in this manner.

According to the students, in this way we have given the status of brothers to the trees. The teachers and students are happy with this. The teachers said that the students have tied Rakhi on



hundreds of trees. The program began with the students tying Rakhi on the branches of the trees planted by themselves in the school premises. In addition, Rakhi was also tied on the trees around the school grounds. After that, the teachers of the school tied Rakhi on the hands of all the students.

According to the young students, this initiative is to spread the message that we should love trees and not harm them. According to the school's headmaster Anupam Barman, the main objective of this ini-

tiative is not only to plant trees, but also to develop the mentality of loving and caring for trees like a family member among the children. They are also hopeful that this initiative of the students will play a positive role in environmental awareness in the future. Assistant teacher Samit Bhanj said, "The Rakhi thread is actually a symbol of love, responsibility and protection. So, on this Rakhi Bandhan, we wanted to spread that bond of love among our green friends of the school as well."

AI mulls to expand INDIA-BHUTAN flight connectivity

MI News Service, New Delhi: Air India has entered into an interline partnership with Bhutan's flag carrier Drukair-Royal Bhutan Airlines to offer seamless travel across their networks and strengthen air connectivity between India and Bhutan, the airline said on Wednesday.

The Tata group-owned airline said the partnership gives passengers access to single-ticket itineraries combining Air India and Drukair flights, along with coordinated baggage transfer to their final destinations via Air India's hub at Delhi's Indra Gandhi International Airport.

The arrangement also offers competitive interline fares, greater travel flexibility and improved connectivity, Air India said. With the partnership, the airline now provides connectivity to nearly all countries in the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) region through its own or partner network.

Besides India and Bhutan, SAARC comprises Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Afghanistan, Maldives and Sri Lanka.

Under the agreement, Air India passengers can travel to Paro in Bhutan via Delhi from across the airline's international network. They can also access onward Drukair services from Paro to Bumthang, Gelephu and Yonphula.

"Our partnership with Drukair reinforces our commitment to strengthening connectivity across the SAARC region, which we consider our extended home market. Bhutan is a

valued part of this region, and we are happy to enable easy access to Bhutan for our guests and look forward to welcoming Drukair's passengers onto Air India's extensive domestic and global network," said Nipun Aggarwal, Chief Commercial Officer, Air India.

The partnership also gives Drukair passengers access to Air India's extensive domestic network through Delhi, Guwahati and Kolkata. Key destinations include Bengaluru, Mumbai and Kochi.

The arrangement further connects passengers to major international destinations, including Paris Charles de Gaulle, Colombo, Newark, Frankfurt, New York (JFK), London (Heathrow), Melbourne, San Francisco, Sydney, Toronto Pearson and Vancouver, Air India said.

"This partnership marks a significant milestone for Drukair as we continue to strengthen our global connectivity and enhance the travel experience for our passengers," said Tandi Wangchuk, Chief Executive Officer of Drukair.

Through the interline partnership, Drukair-Royal Bhutan Airlines customers will gain access to key international markets and improved connectivity across India and beyond, he added.

An interline agreement allows partner airlines to issue and accept tickets for flights operated by each other. It enables passengers to book connecting flights under a single itinerary, with the operating airlines' flight numbers included on the ticket.

Commercial oil production begins in Ashoknagar, Possibility of a major shift in the industrial landscape

MI News Service, North 24 Parganas: With the commencement of commercial crude oil production in Ashoknagar, the first consignment set off from the Baigachhi oil field towards Haldia on Friday.

On this day, ONGC dispatched 1,200 liters of crude oil in a tanker. Ashoknagar MLA Dr. Sumay Hira inaugurated the tanker's journey by breaking a coconut and waving a green flag. On this occasion ONGC Director of Exploration Om Prakash Sinha and other officials were present.

According to ONGC sources, currently about 20 cubic meters of crude oil is being produced from that well daily. The oil that rises from the well mixed



with water is being sent to the refinery after being purified through separators and ETP. Earlier, production started in one well, but it stopped due to technical problems. After resolving that problem, production started again and new explorations have

also found more oil potential in the area. ONGC Director of Exploration Om Prakash Sinha said, "There is more oil in the Ashoknagar area than we thought earlier. Since the production in the new well is good, it will increase further in the coming days."

India in trade talks with 8-9 more nations: GOYAL

MI News Service, New Delhi: India is negotiating free trade agreements (FTAs) with at least 8-9 more groups of countries and individual nations, which together could add another USD 15 trillion to the economies covered by its trade pacts, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said.

Goyal said India's expanding network of FTAs would eventually cover about 75 per cent of global trade, helping the country become a trusted partner in global value chains.

Addressing business representatives from India and Japan, Goyal said India has a large domestic market and is increasingly opening its economy to the world. The country has signed nine FTAs in the last four years, covering economies with a combined GDP of USD 60 trillion and 38 developed countries, he said.

Earlier trade agreements with countries including Japan and South Korea, as well as the Asean region, have opened access to another USD 10 trillion of GDP, according to Goyal.

"So today India opens up the doors to preferential market access to USD 70 trillion of economy. We are in negotiations with at least 8 or 9 other groups of countries or countries which will add another USD 15 trillion.

"Basically 75 per cent of global trade will be covered through our free trade agreements, opening India to become a part of the global value chain as a trusted partner," he said here.

Goyal is leading a business delegation of more than 200 representatives in Tokyo to strengthen trade and investment ties between India and Japan.

JOCKEY Expands Retail Presence in Odisha with New Flagship Store in Bhubaneswar

MI News Service, Bhubaneswar, 28 August 2026: JOCKEY, India's leading innerwear and apparel brand, has strengthened its retail presence in Odisha with the inauguration of its new Flagship Store at Janpath, Bhubaneswar.

The showroom was inaugurated by Mr. Ankur Sharma, Chief Retail Officer, in the presence of Mr. Tanmay Biswas, DGM – Operations, East.

With this addition, JOCKEY now has 12 stores in Bhubaneswar and 27 stores across Odisha.

The new flagship store showcases JOCKEY's latest collections, including



Bonded Innerwear, NFB POP, Disney and Marvel, along with a wide range of innerwear, athleisure, activewear, sleepwear and everyday apparel for men, women and kids.

The franchise is owned and operated by SGBL Group, a diversified business group with over 20 years of extensive experience in the retail sector. With a strong understand-

ing of the Odisha market and a well-established retail network, SGBL Group continues to expand its presence across leading retail categories.

The store combines JOCKEY's signature comfort, quality and innovation with a modern shopping experience, bringing the brand's latest styles and collections closer to customers.

Bodies of parents and minor daughter recovered from the house! Sensation in Dhaniakhali

MI News Service, Hooghly: Three bodies are hanging in the room, one after another. They are father, mother, and daughter. The girl is a minor. Three bodies were found hanging from a ceiling fan. The wall of the house read, 'Rabindranath is responsible for our death.' The incident took place in Dhaniakhali, Hooghly on Friday. If the family committed suicide, why? There is confusion about it. However, according to the suicide note written, the police have arrested the neighbor Rabindranath Murmu, the owner of the house, Madhumita Singharai, her mother Indrani Singharai alias Tinku and her husband, son-in-law Joy Singharai. The incident has created a huge sensation in the area.

According to police and local sources, the names of the deceased are Uttam Chai, his wife's name is Rupa Chai and his daughter's name is Ankita. About five months ago, the family came as tenants to a house in Somaspur Dulepara,



Dhanekhali. They rented the ground floor of a two-storey house. It is learnt that this family was originally from Dankuni. There is also a question as to why they left Dankuni and started living in Dhanekhali, Hooghly. After receiving the news of the death of her parents and sister, the eldest daughter of the family, Madhumita Pal, identified the body. There had been no contact with this girl for four years.

Locals said that even after a month, this family did not talk much to the locals. There was little inter-

action. On Friday morning, when they did not receive any response for a long time, the door was opened. That's when the three were seen hanging. The police were informed. Officials arrived. The bodies were recovered and sent for autopsy. Police's preliminary assessment suggests a dispute related to the buying and selling of the house. They committed suicide due to mental depression. The police have confiscated several documents. An investigation into the incident has been launched.

Health officials opine that child marriage is the cause of death for 10 children in Malda!

MI News Service, Malda : Gadaichar is a remote area of Malda. The distance from here to Englishbazar city is about 75 kilometers. Jharkhand is on one side of the Ganges in this area and Kaliachak on the other. The minor daughter of Alamuddin Sheikh, a resident of that area, got married in December 2024. This month, she gave birth to a baby girl in a nursing home in Kaliachak with labor pains. After seeing the deterioration of the newborn's physical condition, she was referred to Malda Medical College on August 8. The newborn died on August 10.

Similarly, the granddaughter of Govinda Mandal, a daily wage worker from Maheshpur area of Bamangola block, at least 70 km from Malda, was also married at a young age. Within a year, after giving birth at a local hospital, the newborn was admitted to a medical college



due to critical condition. The newborn died on August 12 due to respiratory failure.

One after another such information has come to the attention of the health department and medical college authorities. Where there have been allegations mainly against child marriage and some nursing homes. After the information about child deaths in the medical college was leaked, a ban has been imposed on entering the medical college with mobile phones. As a result, the relatives of the patients have faced prob-

lems.

The number of child marriages in Malda has reduced comparatively in the financial year 2025-26. At least 11 child marriages have been stopped in the last one year. However, there are allegations that marriages are being arranged at a young age in many areas. And the health department believes that child deaths are occurring due to becoming mothers at this early age. Additional District Magistrate (Health) Aniruddha Nandi said that the administration is conducting all kinds of campaigns to pre-

vent child marriage.

Malda Medical College Vice Principal Prosenjit Bar said, "We have sent a report to the higher authorities about the deaths of 10 children in a single day in August and 30 newborns in the last one month. However, most of the newborns were admitted to the maternity ward of the medical college in critical condition. Out of so many newborns, only four have died after delivery at the medical college. The maternity ward has all the facilities for modern treatment."

Union Minister Sukanta Majumdar expressed deep concern over the deaths of 10 children at Malda Medical College Hospital on the same day. He said, "The incident is very inhumane and the Health Department has started an investigation to find out if there is any negligence behind it." He demanded strict action against the culprits.

Mysterious death of a medical student in Kanksa! Body recovered from hostel room

MI News Service, West Burdwan: Mysterious death of first-year medical student in Kanksa. Body found hanging from hostel room. Classmates came to see his hanging body after offering prayers. No suicide note was found. There is confusion about how he died. Police have recovered the body and sent it for autopsy. The family has been informed. Police are investigating the incident.

According to police and college sources, the deceased student's name is Abhishek Kumar. He is 20 years old. He is a resident of Sitamarhi area of Bihar. He was a first year student of the private medical college hospital in Rajbandh, Kanksa. He was studying while staying in a hostel. On Friday afternoon, his classmate and roommate went to offer prayers. When he returned, he found the door locked from inside. There was no response from Abhishek despite calling him for a long time. The door was broken and entered. Then Abhishek was seen hanging from the ceiling. He was quickly res-



cued and taken to the hospital. There, the doctors declared the student dead.

Assistant General Manager of Medical College Hospital, Subhroshankar Bhattacharyya said, "The student and his classmate were staying in the hostel. The classmate had gone to offer prayers. Upon returning, he called out to him but received no response. But the reason for the young man's death is not known.

Deputy Commissioner of Asansol Durgapur Police Commissioner, Raspreet Singh said, "The body of the student has been recovered from the hostel. The student's family has also been informed. The reason for the death is not yet known. The investigation into the incident is underway." The incident has created a huge sensation among the students.

Drugs worth Rs 400 cr destroyed in Assam in 100 days

MI News Service, Guwahati: Drugs worth Rs 400 crore have been destroyed in Assam within the first 100 days of the present BJP-led regime, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said on Friday.

The contraband was destroyed using the state's first dedicated narcotics incinerator in Nalbari district.

"Tick tick on the clock, the crackdown doesn't stop. 100 days, 100% action," Sarma said in a post on X.

Resolving to "end Assam being used as a transit route for drugs", the Assam government on Sunday kicked off a campaign to destroy seized narcotic substances worth over Rs 400 crore, with Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma flagging it off by driving a road roller over hundreds of seized cough syrup bottles.

According to the Assam Police, seized narcotics worth Rs 472.51 crore are being destroyed in different parts of the state. Of these, drugs worth around Rs 300 crore are being destroyed at the 14th Assam Police Battalion campus in Nalbari district, which has been equipped with an incinerator for the purpose.

The Assam Chief Minister said on Friday that the emergence of a new drug trafficking corridor from Myanmar through Arunachal Pradesh's Changlang district to Tinsukia in Assam has been a matter of grave concern for upper Assam.

Speaking to reports here, Sarma said, "Earlier, drugs had been coming from Myanmar to the Moreh, Manipur route. But now a new route has emerged from Myanmar through Arunachal Pradesh's Changlang district to Tinsukia. The drug peddlers who were recently arrested revealed the new route of drug trade."

Sarma said the development was a "very worrying signal" for



Upper Assam and underlined the need for sustained enforcement along the emerging corridor.

Sarma informed that the state has intensified its crackdown on narcotics and seized significant quantities of drugs in recent weeks.

"We have recently seized around Rs 80 crore worth of drugs which were ready to transport to Punjab. It's one of the big consignments of drugs seized by the department. The drug menace has been increasing on a daily basis," Sarma said.

Sharing on X, Sarma said, "Wary of our relentless crackdown on drugs, the mafia is now attempting a new route from Myanmar through Arunachal Pradesh. Let this be a clear warning: routes

may change, but our resolve will not. We will hunt down every drug network and strike hard wherever they operate."

Myanmar is the world's largest producer of illicit opium and has been a significant cog in the transnational drug trade since World War II.

According to the UNODC, it was estimated that in 2005 opium was cultivated in an area of 430 km² (167 sq mi) in Myanmar. Opium and heroin base produced in north-eastern Myanmar are transported by horse and donkey caravans to refineries along the Thailand-Burma border for conversion to heroin and heroin base.

The Golden Triangle is a remote border region where Thailand, Myanmar, and Laos meet, historically known as one of the world's largest hubs for illicit opium and heroin production.

"The drugs which were produced mostly in the drug factories in Myanmar were trafficked in India through Arunachal Pradesh because it shares a border with Myanmar. Now, Changlang has emerged as one of the routes from where the drugs entered India," said an official.

Recently, the Arunachal Pradesh government started a massive crackdown against illicit drugs and arrested many peddlers who were directly involved in the trade.

The historic Stilwell Road (connecting Assam, Myanmar, and China) has long faced concerns regarding its potential use for unlawful activities, including cross-border drug trafficking and criminal movement, due to the remote, rugged, and porous terrain it traverses. Experts said that that route was earlier used for drug trafficking and other criminal activities

GENERAL POWER OF ATTORNEY
(1) Abdul Hal Sarkar (2) Abdul Halim Sarkar, (3) Nizam Sarkar, (4) Kohinoor Sarkar, all above four are s/o Late Abdul Hafiz Sarkar, **(5) Asmina Sarkar w/o Late Abdul Aijm Sarkar, (6) Md. Nesar Sarkar, S/o Abdul Aijm Sarkar** (1) of 413, Chourasiya colony, Mathpurna, Raipur, Chattisgarh- 492013, (2), (3), (4), (5), (6) of Beta, P.o.-Senet, p.s.-Dadpur, Hooghly - 712305, jointly appointed my client namely **Sazid Hossain S/o Mir Abid Hossain of Babnan Jotkamal, P.O.- Babnan, p.s.-Dadpur, Dist-Hooghly- 712305,** as their Lawful Attorney (General Power of Attorney Deed No. 7242/2022) with regard to the schedule land, and all six principals through their Attorney sold the schedule land to Softrose Powertech Pvt. Ltd. of Flat no. 10D, 25B, Abanindra Nath Thakur Sarani, p.o. & p.s.-Park Street, Dist.-Kolkata, Pin- 700016, **(Sale Deed No. 12949/26).** Anybody, having any claim, demand, right, title or interest in respect of the schedule land or any part thereof, he/she is hereby requested to take necessary steps within next 15 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which it will be presumed that there is no such claim and shall be deemed to have been given up or waived. **Schedule:** Dist.- Hooghly, P.S.-Dadpur, Mouza- Beta, J.L. No.-79, area - 19.2 Satak in D.J. No. 12 (kh. no. 803 & 846) **Subhashis Debsarma (Advocate),** Dist. Judges' Court, Hooghly.

আমমোক্তোরনামা সংক্রান্ত বিজ্ঞপ্তি
এতদ্বারা সকলকে জ্ঞাত করা যাইতেছে যে, শ্রীমতী গীতারানী দাস স্বামী প্রসাদ দাস, সাকিম ত্রিশরিয়া, বড় খেজুরিয়া, এ্যাডকোনাগর, মপরা, হপলী, হাল সাকিম কানাগড়, নলডাঙ্গা, চুড়ুয়া, হপলী, মহাশয় বিপাত ইয়ারজী ১৮/০৮/২০১০ তারিখে ডি.এস.আর.-১, হপলী, চুড়ুয়া, অফিসে রেজিষ্ট্রিকৃত IV-00052/2010 নং আমমোক্তোরনামা দলিল মতে আমার মক্লেদ শ্রী প্রদীপ কুমার দাস পিতা শ্রীমতী প্রসাদ দাস, সাকিম বড় খেজুরিয়া, এ্যাডকোনাগর, মপরা, হপলী, মহাশয়কে ক্ষমতাপ্রাপ্ত আমমোক্তোর নিযুক্ত করেন ও নিম্নবর্ণিত তপশলী সম্পত্তি উক্ত আমমোক্তোরনামা দলিল বলে আমার মক্লেদ উক্ত সম্পত্তির অপর শরীক শ্রীমতী পুষ্প দাস স্বামী প্রসাদ দাস, সাকিম ত্রিশরিয়া, ডি.এস.আর.-১, হপলী, চুড়ুয়া, অফিসে রেজিষ্ট্রিকৃত I-02896/2011 নং বিক্রয় কোবালা দলিলমূলে শ্রী বাসুদেব সামন্ত পিতা জয়দেব সামন্ত, সাকিম পূর্ণগাড়া, ধামসানডু, বোড়কলরাম, রায়না, বর্ধমান, মহাশয়কে ০২ কাঠা ০১ হাটক সম্পত্তি বিক্রয় করিয়াছেন। তপশলী - জেলা হপলী, থানা হপলী, মৌজা কানাগড়, জে.এল. নং ১৩, হাট, আর, ৬৭৭ নং খতিয়ানে, আর.এস. ১৩৩ তথা হাট আর.এল. ১৭৭ নং দাগে বাগান জমি যেরা আনায় ১.৭৮ একর মত্রে ০২ কাঠা ০১ হাটক মত্রে দলিলে আমমোক্তোরনামা বলে বিক্রয়কৃত সম্পত্তি ইহাতেই। এতদ্বারা সকলকে অবগত করা যাইতেছে যে, আমার মক্লেদ শ্রী বাসুদেব সামন্ত পিতা জয়দেব সামন্ত, অতার উক্ত খরিদা সম্পত্তি নিজ নামে নাম পত্তন করিরার জন্য ডি.এল এ্যাড এল.আর.ও., মপরা-চুড়ুয়া রুর অফিসে আবেদন করিয়াছেন/করিতেছেন, ইহাতে কাহারও কোন আইনানুগত আপত্তি থাকিলে বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রচার ইহার ১ মাসের মধ্যে সংশ্লিষ্ট অফিসে আপত্তি জানাইতে পারিলে, অন্যথায় নিম্ন অনুসারে কার্য হইবে।
হুইট- মীর মছদ কলিমুদ্দিন (ডিসকালার), চন্দননগর কোর্ট, হপলী

Sealdah Division Conducts Full-Scale Mock Drill at Kankinara to Strengthen Emergency Preparedness

MI News Service, Kolkata: As part of the Indian Railways' continuous efforts to strengthen disaster preparedness and improve emergency response capabilities, Sealdah Division conducted a full-scale mock drill at Kankinara today. The exercise was designed to test the readiness of railway teams in collaboration with NDRF, State Govt. and other volunteer organisation in responding quickly and effectively to a major train accident.

The mock scenario involved a passenger train no. *00351 Sealdah-Laigola Passenger* arriving on Line No. 1 at Kankinara station. After the train arrived, the On-Duty Station Master failed to secure the Point. Meanwhile, another train approached the station and the Driver failed to obey the Signal and passed at Danger. The approaching train came into conflict with the passenger train standing on Line No. 1, resulting in a simulated collision.

As part of the consequence, one coach of the passenger train derailed while another coach capsized. The situation required



a coordinated rescue operation, with passengers trapped at different locations inside the damaged coaches.

Immediately after the simulated accident, rescue teams of Sealdah Division and National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) swung into action. A total of 20 virtual(Dummy) passengers were evacuated from the affected coaches and provided appropriate medical attention. Those shown as seriously injured during the exercise were shifted to Naihati, Jagaddal State Gen Hospital, and B.N.Bose Hospital, for further treatment. In this collision reported 01 nos of Death and 05 nos of heavy injured and 07 nos minor injured.

A major focus of the exercise was on rescuing passengers trapped inside badly damaged coaches. The teams demonstrated how modern rescue equipment can be used to safely cut

through coach structures and create access points for evacuation. The operation involved the use of advanced equipment such as high-capacity cutters, separators and plasma cutting tools, etc., giving the rescue personnel an opportunity to practice working under conditions similar to an actual emergency.

The joint exercise commenced at 17:00 hrs and continued through different stages of rescue, medical assistance, evacuation and restoration. At 18:26 hrs, the emergency situation was declared under control and the mock drill was formally concluded after the complete restoration of the site.

The exercise witnessed active participation from around 35 NDRF personnel, Divisional Disaster Rescue Team, 23 Civil Defence personnel and 08 Fire Brigade personnel took part in the rescue operation. In addition, 07 doctors, 36 paramedical staff, 29 members of St. John Ambulance Association, 31 Scouts & Guides and 75 RPF personnel actively participated in the exercise.

The drill was conducted under the inspiring leadership of Shri Rajeev Saxena, DRM/Sealdah. Shri Sujit Kumar Sinha, Sr. DSO, along with other concerned Divisional Officers, actively participated in and monitored the exercise.

The main objective of the mock drill was to assess the accident alertness and emergency preparedness of all participating teams, identify possible gaps in the response mechanism and strengthen coordination among the Railway, NDRF and other emergency response teams. The exercise also provided an opportunity to practically test and evaluate the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to be followed during a real disaster.

Division Railway Manager Sri Rajeev Saxena said that, such full-scale exercises are an important part of railway safety preparedness. They help personnel remain ready for unforeseen situations and ensure that, in the event of an actual emergency, rescue, evacuation, medical assistance and restoration can be carried out in a coordinated, timely and effective manner.

Continuation Of Bhagalpur – Katihar – Bhagalpur Unreserved Special Train

MI News Service, Kolkata: To clear the extra rush of passengers during the Shravani Mela & ensuing Puja, Railways has decided to continue the service of train number 03407/03408 Bhagalpur – Katihar – Bhagalpur Unreserved Special up to 30.11.2026. The special train will continue to operate with its existing timings & stoppages to handle the increased passenger volume effectively.

Under the extended service, train number 03407 Bhagalpur – Katihar Unreserved Special will depart from Bhagalpur daily at 07:00 hrs and reach Katihar Junction at 13:00 hrs on the same day. In the return direction, train number 03408 Katihar – Bhagalpur Unreserved Special will depart from Katihar Junction daily at 14:10 hrs and arrive at Bhagalpur at 20:20 hrs on the same day.

Eastern Railway Celebrates Raksha Bandhan And Empowers Women Employees With Inspiring Initiatives At Fairlie Place



pal Heads of Departments (PHODs), who joined together to embrace the spirit of togetherness, cherished bonds, and mutual support.

"Raksha Bandhan represents our shared commitment to care, dignity, and mutual support, values that drive Eastern Railway's dedication to both our commuters and our extended railway family," stated Shri Shibram Majhi, Chief Public Relations Officer, Eastern Railway.

EASTERN RAILWAY
E-Tender Nos. 185_2026-27, 186_2026-27, 187_2026-27 & 204_2026-27, dated 27.08.2026. Following e-Tender is invited online by Divisional Railway Manager, Eastern Railway, Howrah, New DRM Building, near Rail Museum, Howrah-711101 from Tenderers having experience of similar nature of work and offering financial capabilities including those registered with Irrigation/CPWD/SEB/MES or any public sector undertaking for the following work under **Sr.DEN/3/Howrah, SI. No. : 1. E-Tender No. 185_2026-27. Description of work :** Provision of Divyangjan facilities at Miagram, Bazarsau, Kazipara, Chowrigacha, Kanthalia Road, Karnasubarna, Jibanti, Khagrahat Road, Niyalish Para, Lalbagh Court Road, Dahapara Dham, Azimganj Jn., Azimganj Jn., Gossalaigram, Barala, Sagardighi, Moregram, Lohapur & Takipur stations under jurisdiction of AEN/Azimganj. **Approx. Cost :** ₹ 15,29,60,548.95; **Earnest Money :** ₹ 30,59,200.00. **SI. No. : 2. E-Tender No. 186_2026-27. Description of work :** Provision of Divyangjan facilities at Aggradip, Sahabatala Halt, Dainhati, Katwa, Nabagram Kankurhati, Shibuln, Gangatikuri, Jhamatpur Baharan, Salar, Malihati Talibpur Road, Tenya, Sripat Srikhanda, Srikhanda, Bankapasi, Kalchor, Negin and Saota stations under jurisdiction of AEN/Katwa. **Approx. Cost :** ₹ 14,37,12,800.01; **Earnest Money :** ₹ 28,74,300.00. **SI. No. : 3. E-Tender No. 187_2026-27. Description of work :** Provision of Divyangjan facilities at Chowhatta, Gopalpurgram, Labpur, Kirnahr, Daskalgram, Kurmadanga, Jnandas Kandra, Komarpur, Nirol, Pachandi & Ambalgram stations in Ahmadpur - Katwa section under jurisdiction of AEN/Katwa. **Approx. Cost :** ₹ 9,67,33,596.35; **Earnest Money :** ₹ 19,34,700.00. **SI. No. : 4. E-Tender No. 204_2026-27. Description of work :** Provision of Divyangjan facilities at Bansberia, Islampara, Tribeni, Kuntighat, Dumurdaha, Khamargachhi, Jirat, Balaghar, Somra Bazar, Behula, Guptipara, Ambika Kalna, Baghnopara, Dhatrigram, Nandaigram, Samudragarh, Kalinagar, Nabadwip Dham, Bishnupriya, Bhandartikuri, Purbasthali, Mertala Phaleya, Lakshmiapur, Belerhat & Patuli stations under jurisdiction of AEN/Nabadwip Dham. **Approx. Cost :** ₹ 15,54,21,323.42; **Earnest Money :** ₹ 31,08,400.00. **Completion Period :** 10 (Ten) months from the date of issue of acceptance letter for SI. No. 1 to 4. In case the date of closing mentioned in the Notice Inviting Tender is declared a holiday/ bandh/strike on any account, the date of closing tender online will not be changed as the application in the website of IREPS does not permit submission of any offer after closing date and time of the tender. However, opening of tenders online will be done next working day. **Closing date and time of tender : 17.09.2026 at 14:00 hrs.** The details of tender are available at website: www.ireps.gov.in Tenderers are requested to submit their offer online on the above website. **Payment of EMD and TDC** – Payment of Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) & Tender document cost (TDC), in respect of e-tendering, should be accepted through net banking or payment gateway only. **Note:** Fixed Deposit Receipt (FDR) will not be accepted as EMD for tenders invited on IREPS (e-tender portal). No manual offer will be accepted. HWH-309/2026-27 **Tender Notice is also available at websites : www.er.indianrailways.gov.in / www.ireps.gov.in** **Follow us at : [@EasternRailway](https://x.com/EasternRailway) [@easternrailwayheadquarter](https://www.facebook.com/easternrailwayheadquarter)**

MI News Service, Kolkata: Celebrating the beautiful bonds of warmth, care, and togetherness, Eastern Railway today marked the auspicious occasion of Raksha Bandhan in a grand event organized at its Headquarters in Fairlie Place, where Ms. Gitika Pandey, General Manager, Eastern Railway, led the festivities alongside members of the Eastern Railway Bharat Scouts and Guides, sharing threads of affection, joyous moments, and heartfelt festive cheer with the entire Eastern Railway family.

The day's events extended beyond traditional celebrations with a dedicated Interactive Session on Women Empowerment hosted at the Udisa Auditorium Hall, Fairlie Place, which Ms. Gitika Pandey inaugurated by lighting the ceremonial lamp in the presence of Dr. Mahua Verma, Principal Chief Personnel Officer (PCPO), Eastern Railway. During her keynote address to the gathering, the General Manager focused on professional growth, workplace well-being, and encouraging female staff to share their experiences, perspectives, and suggestions in an open dialogue. Demonstrating a strong commitment to supporting talent and encouraging sports excellence, Ms. Gitika Pandey presented a specialized track cycle to Triyasha Paul, an accomplished track cyclist who will represent India at the Asian Games in Japan later this year, and presented arrows to medal-winning archers Soniya Thakur and Laxmi Hembrom in recognition of their outstanding achievements.

Furthering its focus on holistic employee welfare, Eastern Railway announced a series of impactful future initiatives and workshops, including Art of Living sessions for mind-body wellness, targeted wealth and health management programs for employees due to superannuate, specialized wealth management advice paired with practical nutrition tips for women employees, workshops on Sexual Harassment awareness, and sessions dedicated to Mental Health issues. To provide direct support, a specialized Counseling Room is being set up for one-to-one mental health counseling for any employee requiring assistance, while physical workplace amenities are also being upgraded through the augmentation of the Ladies Tiffin Room facilities at Fairlie Place and the active identification of suitable space for a new Ladies Tiffin Room in the New Kollaghat Building.

The joyous celebration and empowering interactive sessions concluded successfully in the presence of all Principals Heads of Departments (PHODs), who joined together to embrace the spirit of togetherness, cherished bonds, and mutual support.

"Raksha Bandhan represents our shared commitment to care, dignity, and mutual support, values that drive Eastern Railway's dedication to both our commuters and our extended railway family," stated Shri Shibram Majhi, Chief Public Relations Officer, Eastern Railway.

Temp Halt of Angul–Puri–Angul MEMU at Janakadeipur PH

MI News Service, Bhubaneswar: In view of the forthcoming Ganesh Puja and Vishwakarma Puja Angul–Puri–Angul MEMU will have an additional stoppage at Janakadeipur PH temporarily, from 28 August to 20 October 2026. Accordingly, Train No. 68421 Angul–Puri MEMU and Train No. 68422 Puri–Angul MEMU will have a temporary stoppage at Janakadeipur PH during this period, providing greater convenience to passengers travelling to and from the area. The temporary stoppage has been permitted to facilitate passenger movement during the upcoming festive occasions. For updated train information, passengers may visit the National Train Enquiry System (NTES) or use official railway enquiry services before commencing their journey.

ICICI Bank
[Branch office: ICICI Bank Ltd., BP-4, Technopolis Building, 4th Floor, Sector V, Salt Lake City, Kolkata West Bengal- 700091, CIN No: L65190G/1994PLC021012, www.icicibank.com]

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

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrowers/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Physical Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs)	Name of Branch
1.	Chiranjit Jana/ Rubi Sharma/ Jena Bhawan, Hariharpur, Pal Para Lichhi Bagan, Barasat 11 No. Railgate Sree Guru Bastralya Bhawan, (N) 24 Ward No. 10 of Madhyamgram Municipality, R.S. Dag Nos. 1299 (P), 1302 (P), 1303 (P), 1304 (P), 1305 (F), 1306 (F), 1307 (F), 1308 (F), 1309 (F), L.R. DAG No. 2107, 2109 And 2110, R.S Khatian No. 264, 259, 497, 537, 502, 536, 541, 11, 262, L.R. Khatian No. 4063, Jessore Road (South), Mouza Udayarajpur And Hariharpur, District 24 Parganas (North), Kolkata- 700127, West Bengal. Admeasuring An Area of Super Built Up Area of 885 Sq. Ft. More or Less Together With Proportionate Share In Land. North: Dag No. 1267, 1268, South: Dag Nos. 999, 1000, 1030, 1034/1598, East: Dag No. 1049, 1048, 1039, 1040, West: Dag No. 1299 (P), 1304 (P), 1303 (P), 1037 (P), 1035 (P), 1036 (P), 1034 (P)/ Date of Physical 25/08/2026	March 22, 2024 Rs. 22,88,276.00/-	Kolkata	

The above-mentioned borrower(s)/guarantor(s) is/are hereby issued a 30 day Notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold after 30 days from the date of publishing this Notice, as per the provisions under Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.
Date: August 29, 2026
Place: Kolkata
Sincerely Authorised Officer,
For ICICI Bank Ltd.

ICICI Bank
[See proviso to Rule 8(6)]
[Notice for sale of immovable asset(s)]
E-Auction Sale Notice for the sale of immovable asset(s) under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. This notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/ charged to the Secured Creditor, the Physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of ICICI Bank Limited will be sold on 'As is where is', 'As is what is' and 'Whatever there is' as per the brief particulars given hereunder;

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrowers/ Guarantors/ Loan Account No.	Details of the Secured asset(s) with known encumbrances, if any	Amount Outstanding	Reserve Price Earnest Money Deposit	Date and Time of Property Inspection	Date & Time of E-Auction
(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)
1.	Mrs. Soma Majumder (Borrower) Susanta Majumder (Co-Borrower) Loan No. LBCAL00004246876	Flat on The Entire 3rd Floor, K.M.C. Premises No. 5, Paschim Putiary (Part) Julia Road, Mouza Paschim Putiary Under 1.No. Gram Panchayat, Dag No. 1221, Khatian No. 297, J.L. No. 26, K.M.C. Ward No. 142, P.S. Formerly Thakurpukur Now Haridevpur, District 24 Parganas (South), Kolkata- 700104, West Bengal. Admeasuring An Area of Measuring More or Less 960 Sft Super Built Up Area Together With Undivided Proportionate Share of Land Along With All Other Common Facilities And Amenities In And Around The Building.	Rs. 23,72,359/- As on August 12, 2026.	Rs. 16,00,000/- As on August 12, 2026.	September 11, 2026 From 11:00 A.M. To 02:00 P.M.	September 19, 2026 From 10:30 A.M. Onwards.
2.	Mr. Biplab Saha (Borrower) Maitrayee Saha (Co-Borrower) Loan No. LBCAL00005932448, LBCAL00005932626, LBCAL00005953678	Genexx Valley, Building No. 3, 3rd Floor, Flat/ Unit No. C, Plot Nos. 797, 792, 800, 796/1050, 801, 812, 665, 666, 668, 669, 689, 690, 691, 692/1017, 694, 695, 696, 703, 704, 705/1014, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 713/1018, 713/1019, 716, 716/1059, 728, 727, 789, 799, 799/1051, 801, 801/1100, 802, 803, Khatian Nos. R.S. 535, 525, 556, 503, 499, 672, 673, 517, 1287/1, Touzi No. 4, J.L. No. 21, Police Station Thakurpukur, Mouza Joka, Joka II Gram Panchayat, Pargana Balia, District 24 Parganas (South), West Bengal. (Admeasuring An Area of Flat/ Unit Admeasuring 837 Sq. Ft. Super Built Up Area (Be The Same A Little More or Less) Together With One Open Car Parking Space As Allotted Slot No. 157 By Admeasuring 135 Sq. Ft. Built Up Area (Be The Same A Little More or Less) Together With The Undivided Proportionate Share In The Land Below And Underneath The Building No. 3 Comprised In The Said Premises Having 20 Ft. Wide Passage And Attributable Thereto.	Rs. 35,39,918/- As on August 17, 2026.	Rs. 31,50,000/- As on August 17, 2026.	September 11, 2026 From 11:00 A.M. To 02:00 P.M.	September 19, 2026 From 10:30 A.M. Onwards.
3.	Mrs. Jyotshna Gayen (Borrower) Pravas Gayen (Co-Borrower) Loan No. LBHOW00005723367	Flat No. C-305, Block C, 3rd Floor, Holding No. 1, Shibtala Ghat Lane, R.S. No. 1764, J.L. No. 9, Mouza Bhadrakal, Parganah Boro In Uttar Para Kotrung Municipality, Thana Uttarpura, Sub-Registration Office Sirampore, District Hooghly, Uttarpura, Hooghly, West Bengal. Admeasuring An Area of 1350 Sq. Ft. Super Built Up Area (1080 Sq. Ft. Built Up Area) Along With One Covered Car Parking Space In The Ground Floor, Together With Undivided Impartibility Proportionate Share of Interest.	Rs. 31,20,703/- as on August 17, 2026	Rs. 35,00,000/- As on August 17, 2026.	September 11, 2026 From 11:00 A.M. To 02:00 P.M.	September 19, 2026 From 10:30 A.M. Onwards.
4.	Mr. Shankar Prasad (Borrower) Bishwanath Ghosh Piyali Ghosh Shampa Ghosh (Co-Borrower) Loan No. LBSGI00005134279, LBSGI00005335884	Plot No. 2425, Khatian No. 2437, J.L. No. 110, Touzi No. 3(J), Mouza Siliguri, Pargana Baikunthapur, P.O. Siliguri Bazar, P.O. Subdivision & Additional District Sub Registry Office Siliguri, Ward No. VII (New), II (Old), Siliguri Municipal Corporation, District Darjeeling, Westbengal. Admeasuring An Area of All That Piece And Parcel of Homestead Landmeasuring About 4.5 Dec. Along With Tin Shed Measuring About 150 Sq. Ft. Standing on The Said Land.	Rs. 63,80,871/- As on August 17, 2026.	Rs. 53,00,000/- As on August 17, 2026.	September 11, 2026 From 11:00 A.M. To 02:00 P.M.	September 19, 2026 From 10:30 A.M. Onwards.

The online auction will take place on the website (URL Link-<https://BidDeal.in>), of e-auction agency ValueTrust Capital Services Private Limited. The Mortgagors/ Notice are given a last chance to pay the total dues with further interest till September 18, 2026 before 05:00 P.M. else this secured asset will be sold as per schedule.

The Prospective Bidder(s) must submit the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) Demand Draft (DD) (Refer Column E) at ICICI BANK LTD, Regional Processing Centre BP-4, Technopolis Building, 13th Floor, Sector V Salt Lake, Kolkata, West Bengal- 700091, on or before September 18, 2026 before 05:00 P.M. and thereafter they need to submit their offer through the above mentioned website only on or before September 18, 2026 before 05:00 P.M. along with scan image of Bank acknowledged DD towards proof of payment of EMD. Kindly note, in case of pre-emptive bidder(s) are unable to submit their offer through the website then signed copy of tender documents may be submitted at ICICI BANK LTD, Regional Processing Centre BP-4, Technopolis Building, 13th Floor, Sector V Salt Lake, Kolkata, West Bengal- 700091, on or before September 18, 2026 before 05:00 P.M. Earnest Money Deposit DD/PO should be from a Nationalised/ Scheduled Bank in favour of "ICICI Bank Limited" payable at "Kolkata".

For any further clarifications with regards to inspection, terms and conditions of the e-auction or submission of tenders, kindly contact ICICI Bank employee on 9168688529/8584874809.s

The Authorized Officer reserves the right to reject any or all the bids without furnishing any further reasons. For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please visit www.icicibank.com/n4p4s

Date: August 29, 2026
Place: West Bengal.

Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

Axis Bank celebrates India’s National Sports Day, proudly supporting 1,100+ athletes, coaches and Sports Professionals

Marking the National Sports Day 2026, Axis Bank, one of the largest private sector banks in India, celebrates India's steady emergence as a sporting power and is proud to contribute to its growth through strategic partnerships with leading sporting institutions of the country. Such partnerships have already supported around 1,100 athletes, para-athletes, coaches, and other professionals within a span of less than 3 years.

Sport has been one of the key focus areas for Axis Bank's CSR strategy, since the launch of its first program under this theme in FY 2024-25. Working with leading institutions in Indian sports, the Bank's initiatives range from supporting athlete training and development, greater integration and adoption of sports science and medicine, to creating world class sports infrastructure that will serve Indian sports for decades to come.

This year's National Sports Day comes in the wake of India's strong performance at the 23rd Commonwealth Games in Glasgow, where the country won 39 medals,

including 13 golds. At the Games, 14 of the 20 athletes supported under the Bank's partnership with OGQ secured medals for India across four sports, including 9 Gold medals. Among the medal winners were Judokas Yamini Mourya (Silver-Women's 57 Kg category) and Unnati Sharma (Bronze - Women's 63 Kg category), who train under the Axis Bank Judo Development Programme in partnership with Inspire Institute of Sport (IIS).

Speaking on the occasion, Vijay Mulbagal, Group Head - Wholesale Bank Coverage, Corporate Salary, Sustainability & CSR, Axis Bank, said, "Sport has the power to inspire, unite and shape the aspirations of an entire nation. It goes beyond just performance or winning medals; it helps build resilience, foster discipline, and develop character especially among children and youth. Through our work with the country's leading sports organizations across various Olympic and Paralympic disciplines, we aim to contribute not only to fostering more opportunities



for both emerging talent as well as India's top athletes, but also creating world class infrastructure that can serve Indian sports for a long time."

Since 2024-25, Axis Bank has been supporting OGQ, one of India's leading high-performance sports development programmes, running in partnership with the Foundation for Promotion of Sports and Games (FPSG). In FY 2025-26 alone, OGQ supported 468 athletes and para-athletes across 11 Olympic

and nine Paralympic disciplines, towards improving access to coaching, sports science, nutrition, physiotherapy, competition exposure and other support services. The programme also helps develop emerging talent at academies supported by OGQ.

The Bank's focus on talent development has also delivered encouraging results in judo. The Axis Bank Judo Development Programme, implemented in partnership with the Inspire Institute of

Sport (IIS), supports female judokas from Manipur, a hotbed for judo talent in India. The Axis Bank Judo Development Programme currently trains 560 young judokas in Manipur, including 47 promising female athletes who receive fully residential scholarships and advanced training at IIS, Karnataka. Structured coaching, competition exposure, sports science and international training opportunities are nurturing the next generation of Indian judo talent. Notably, Judoka Linthoi Chanambam became the first Indian judoka ever to win a medal at the Junior World Championships, held at Lima, Peru in 2025.

The Bank is also committed to building world class sporting infrastructure in India. The Bank has partnered with the Lakshya Shooting Club to establish the 'Axis Bank Lakshya Shooting Club High Performance Centre' in Navi Mumbai. This state-of-the-art facility is dedicated exclusively to shooting and serves as an integrated training hub for talent identification, athlete development, elite performance training and community engagement.

Notably, the Bank has also partnered with the GoSports Foundation to establish the 'Axis Bank-GoSports Foundation The Performance Institute' (AGTPI) at the Centre for Sports Excellence, Bengaluru. The institute shall focus on advancing India's domestic capabilities in sports science, medicine, research, and innovation.

The Bank has recently announced its partnership with the Sanjeeva Singh Archery Institute Trust (SSAIT) to establish the 'Axis Bank Sanjeeva Singh Olympic Archery Centre' at Deoria, eastern Uttar Pradesh. Envisioned as the first fully-integrated Olympic-standard archery centre in rural India, the centre shall bring together world-class training facilities, sports science, residential infrastructure and education on a single campus.

On this National Sports Day, Axis Bank, together with its partners, salutes India's athletes, coaches, mentors and all the professionals in the sporting ecosystem whose passion, perseverance and determination continue to shape the present and future of Indian sports.

Quantum Mutual Fund Launches Quantum Flexi Cap Fund

MUMBAI : Quantum Mutual Fund today announced the launch of Quantum Flexi Cap Fund, an open ended dynamic equity scheme investing across large cap, mid cap, small cap stocks. The New Fund Offer (NFO) opens on August 21, 2026, and closes on September 4, 2026. The scheme will re-open for continuous sale and repurchase on September 11, 2026.

The Quantum Flexi Cap Fund (the Fund) seeks to generate long-term capital appreciation by investing across market capitalisations through a research-driven, bottom-up stock selection process. The Fund combines Quantum's long-standing disciplined investment philosophy with a Growth at a Reasonable Price (GARP) approach, enabling the investment team to dynamically allocate across large, mid and small cap companies based on growth opportunities and relative valuations.

The Fund's investment philosophy is centred on identifying Profit Pool Shifts-structural changes in how value and profits are distributed across an industry's value chain and capturing it through flexibility. Rather than analysing sectors in isolation, Quantum's research framework evaluates how industry economics evolve and where profits are likely to migrate over time. Such shifts may be driven by disruption, consolidation, changing consumer preferences or regulatory developments, creating opportunities for businesses that are well positioned to benefit.

The investment process follows a disciplined bottom-up approach that evaluates business quality, management capability, sustainability of earnings and corporate governance before assessing valuations. The fund managers will seek businesses offering growth potential, sustainable business models and reasonable valuations, while maintaining a diversified portfolio across sectors and market capitalisations.

The Flexi Cap Fund category provides the flexibility to capture these opportunities wherever they emerge across large cap, mid cap or small cap companies. Guided by a Growth at a Reasonable Price (GARP) investment approach, the fund aims to invest in companies at favourable inflection points, backed by strong governance, sustainable earnings growth, healthy balance sheets and reasonable valuations, while reducing exposure when valuations reflect excessive optimism.

The fund will be managed by Mr. Chirag Mehta, Chief Investment Officer, along with Mr. Ketan Gujarathi, Fund Manager - Equity.

Commenting on the launch, Chirag Mehata, CIO & Fund Manager of this fund said, "India is witnessing multiple structural transformations driven by rising aspirations, formalisation of the economy, technological disruption, policy reforms and changing consumer preferences. These trends are continuously reshaping industry profit pools and creating new investment opportunities. The Fund is designed to identify such structural shifts through fundamental research and invest in high-quality businesses available at reasonable valuations. Our objective is to build a diversified portfolio that can compound wealth over the long term while remaining true to Quantum's disciplined investment philosophy."



Ai+ Smartphone Announces Nova 2 Power through Project Open Review 2.0, Unveiling a Bold New Design and Powerful Performance

KOLKATA : Ai+ Smartphone today announced the rollout of Nova 2 Series, through Project Open Review 2.0, revealing the device's design, colourways and chipset ahead of its market debut. The programme invites reviewers, creators, journalists, technology enthusiasts and ethical hackers to independently put Nova 2 Power to the test before it reaches consumers.

Building on the first edition of Project Open Review, which drew more than 700 registrations, Open Review 2.0 expands participation to include ethical hackers for the first time, reflecting Ai+'s commitment to building Trust through Transparency before the product reaches the end consumer.

With Nova 2 Power, Ai+ Smartphone is introducing a smartphone built around two defining ideas - "Design that inspires and Power that outlasts." The design story comes to life through two striking dual Colour Fusion finishes: Golden Blue Fusion, which brings together muted gold and deep navy blue in a fluid gradient that shifts from understated warmth to a deeper, bolder tone; and Blue Fusion, which transitions from cool ocean blue to vivid sunset orange for a younger, more expressive visual identity. Rather than treating colour as a surface-level addition, the design language brings contrasting tones together in a dual flowing finish, giving Nova 2 Power a distinctive and recognisable identity. The approach is designed for consumers who increasingly see their smartphone not just as a technology device, but as an extension of their personal style.

Under the hood, Nova 2 Power runs on the MediaTek Dimensity 7100, built on a 6nm process designed to deliver a balance of sustained

performance and power efficiency.

Madhav Sheth, CEO, Ai+ Smartphone and Founder, NxtQuantum Shift Technologies, said, "Nova 2 Power represents the next evolution of the Nova Series bringing together performance and a design identity that is distinctly its own. The Dimensity 7100 gives it the performance foundation, while our new Colour Fusion finishes allow the device to stand out beyond specifications. But we also believe a product should earn confidence before it asks consumers for it. With Project Open Review 2.0, we are putting the Nova 2 Power to test before it reaches the end consumer"

Under Project Open Review 2.0, participants will get early, independent access to evaluate Nova 2 Power across all the specs and overall user experience. The process is entirely unscripted, with no expectation of a favourable verdict. Nova 2 Power runs on NxtQuantum OS, Ai+ Smartphone's mobile operating system, and extends the Nova Series into a more performance and design-led territory.

Further details on Nova 2 Power, including additional specifications, pricing and availability, will be announced closer to its consumer launch.

About Ai+ Smartphone
Ai+ Smartphone is an Indian technology brand delivering high-performance, accessible mobile experiences powered by NxtQuantum OS - India's first sovereign mobile operating system. By combining clean design, long battery life and privacy-first software across its smartphone and Connected AIoT ecosystem, Ai+ Smartphone is establishing a new standard for trust, performance and user-owned technology.

Ai+ Rolls Out New Software Update for Nova 2 Ultra, Focused on Camera Experience, Performance & Security

KOLKATA : Ai+ Smartphone today announced the rollout of Nova 2 Ultra SW_V10 (b u i l d Nova 2 Ultra SW_V10.20260823) for the Ai+ Nova 2 Ultra, focused on enhancing camera stability, connectivity, and the overall system experience. The update is part of Ai+ Smartphone's ongoing effort to refine the user experience through continuous software optimisation and feedback-led improvements.

Key Updates
Refined Bokeh Algorithm for Natural Portraits - The Nova 2 Ultra's camera algorithm has been optimised for smoother, more natural background blur, helping deliver a more refined portrait photography experience. The update also addresses an intermittent connectivity-loss issue that could occur when trig-



gering the bokeh blur algorithm, making the experience more consistent.

Enhanced Fluidity Across the UI - Optimisations to scrolling, app animations, app switching and system navigation deliver a smoother and more responsive interaction experience across the device.

August Security Patch & Stability Improvements - The update includes the latest August security patch, along with fixes for app crashes, unresponsiveness and other stability issues, supporting a more reliable overall experience.

With this update, Ai+ continues to invest in the soft-

ware experience of its flagship device, refining camera performance, system fluidity and reliability through ongoing updates. The update is rolling out to Nova 2 Ultra users starting today and can be downloaded via Settings > System > Software Update > Check for Updates.

About Ai+ Smartphone
Ai+ Smartphone is an Indian technology brand delivering high-performance, accessible mobile experiences powered by NxtQuantum OS - India's first sovereign mobile operating system. By combining clean design, long battery life and privacy-first software across its smartphone and Connected AIoT ecosystem, Ai+ Smartphone is establishing a new standard for trust, performance and user-owned technology.

Aditya Birla Capital Enters Gold Loan Business; Launches Dedicated Branch in Muzaffarpur

MUZAFFARPUR : The NBFC business of Aditya Birla Capital Limited (ABCL), one of India's leading diversified financial services companies, today announced its entry into the Gold Loan business with the launch of a dedicated branch in Muzaffarpur. The launch marks an important addition to Aditya Birla Capital's comprehensive portfolio of financial solutions and reinforces its commitment to providing customers with transparent, secure and convenient access to organised gold-backed credit.

Bihar is emerging as a high-potential market for organised gold lending. Its large population, increasing

financial inclusion, relatively lower penetration of organised gold loan providers and rising demand for formal secured credit offer considerable headroom for organised lenders. As one of North Bihar's leading commercial and trading centres, Muzaffarpur is an important market for ABCL's initial rollout.

Designed around trust and transparency, Aditya Birla Capital's Gold Loan proposition combines a dedicated branch-led service model with the convenience of digital engagement. The offering provides transparent pricing, secure handling of pledged jewellery and a simplified

borrowing journey for diverse customer segments across urban and semi-urban markets.

Speaking on the launch, Mr. Rakesh Singh, Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer - NBFC, Aditya Birla Capital Limited said, "The launch of our gold loan business marks another important milestone in Aditya Birla Capital's journey of building a comprehensive and customer-centric financial services ecosystem. Muzaffarpur's role as a key commercial centre in North Bihar and its growing demand for organised financial services make it an important market for our

gold loan business. Our planned rollout reflects our commitment to making trusted, transparent and convenient secured lending solutions more accessible through a seamless omnichannel experience, backed by strong governance, operational excellence and the trust associated with Aditya Birla Capital. As we strengthen our presence in Muzaffarpur, we look forward to building long-term customer relationships by addressing the evolving financial needs of customers across the city and neighbouring markets."

Aditya Birla Capital's Gold Loan offering will cater to diverse customer segments

across urban and semi-urban markets in Muzaffarpur, while further strengthening the company's diversified portfolio of financial solutions. ABCL and its subsidiaries/JVs have a nationwide network of over 1,759 branches, and their consolidated lending book crossed Rs. 2.19 Lakh Crore as of June 30, 2026. The phased rollout of the gold loan business will expand access to trusted and convenient secured lending solutions across Bihar.

Aditya Birla Capital-NBFC business serves as a key growth engine and ranks among the top five, AAA rated diversified NBFCs in India. It

offers a comprehensive suite of secured and unsecured lending solutions tailored for retail, SME, and corporates across four core verticals of personal and consumer loans, unsecured business loans, secured business loans, and corporate/mid-market loans. In FY26, the NBFC AUM grew 27% YoY to Rs. 1,59,916 Crore, with retail and SME comprising ~ 68% of AUM, while disbursements grew 25% to Rs. 84,204 Crore and profit before tax grew 20% to Rs. 4,023 Crore. The growth momentum continued in Q1 FY27 with AUM rising 28% YoY to Rs. 1,67,456 Crore, disbursements increasing 34% to Rs. 21,201 Crore, and



DARBHANGA : The NBFC business of Aditya Birla Capital Limited (ABCL), one of India's leading diversified financial services companies, today announced its entry into the Gold Loan business with the launch of a dedicated branch in Darbhanga. The launch marks an important addition to Aditya Birla Capital's comprehensive portfolio of financial solutions and reinforces its commitment to providing customers with transparent, secure and convenient access to organised gold-backed credit.

Bihar is emerging as a high-potential market for organised gold lending. Its large population, increasing financial inclusion, relatively lower penetration of organised gold loan providers and

rising demand for formal secured credit offer considerable headroom for organised lenders. As an important commercial and educational centre of the Mithila region, Darbhanga is a key market for ABCL's initial rollout.

Designed around trust and transparency, Aditya Birla Capital's Gold Loan proposition combines a dedicated branch-led service model with the convenience of digital engagement. The offering provides transparent pricing, secure handling of pledged jewellery and a simplified borrowing journey for diverse customer segments across urban and semi-urban markets.

Speaking on the launch, Mr. Rakesh Singh, Executive Director and Chief Executive



Officer-NBFC, Aditya Birla Capital Limited said, "The launch of our gold loan business marks another impor-

tant milestone in Aditya Birla Capital's journey of building a comprehensive and customer-centric financial serv-

ices ecosystem. Darbhanga's importance as a key commercial and educational centre in the Mithila region, coupled with the growing demand for organised financial services, makes it an important market for our gold loan business. Our planned rollout reflects our commitment to making trusted, transparent and convenient secured lending solutions more accessible through a seamless omnichannel experience, backed by strong governance, operational excellence and the trust associated with Aditya Birla Capital. As we strengthen our presence in Darbhanga, we look forward to building long-term customer relationships by addressing the evolving financial needs of customers across the city and neigh-

bouring markets."

Aditya Birla Capital's Gold Loan offering will cater to diverse customer segments across urban and semi-urban markets in Darbhanga, while further strengthening the company's diversified portfolio of financial solutions. ABCL and its subsidiaries/JVs have a nationwide network of over 1,759 branches, and their consolidated lending book crossed Rs. 2.19 Lakh Crore as of June 30, 2026. The phased rollout of the gold loan business will expand access to trusted and convenient secured lending solutions across Bihar.

Aditya Birla Capital-NBFC business serves as a key growth engine and ranks among the top five, AAA rated diversified NBFCs in India.

Passengers are requested to plan their journey accordingly and check the latest train service information before travelling on 30 August 2026. Sealdah Division has appealed to passengers to cooperate with the temporary changes as the work is being undertaken in the larger interest of safe, reliable and efficient train operations.

Prasidh Krishna wins Impact Player of Series award in 1-0 Test series win over Sri Lanka

COLOMBO : Fast bowler Prasidh Krishna was awarded the 'Impact Player of the Series' following India's 1-0 series win over Sri Lanka. On getting the honour, Krishna lauded the reserve players and support staff for their relentless efforts behind the scenes.

"Thank you very much, guys. Nothing would be possible without each one of you. I think everybody, the ones that are playing obviously worth the credit that they put you but everybody around. I think it takes a lot for everybody during the Test match, we were here for a camp," Prasidh said in a video posted on bccitv. on Friday.

Prasidh played a key role in the series win with the ball



by seven wickets in two games, while battling the intense heat and demanding practice sessions in Galle and Colombo. "We did such long practices every session to see all of you lock up. Thank you so much everybody, even during such hot days, everybody was sitting out there, standing out there, helping out with water.

"All the reserves out there, coming in, running in, helping out all of us. So, this effort is going to take us all a long way. So, this is the way the team has to be run and thank you so much," he added.

Team India's Performance Analyst Hari Prasad Mohan lauded the tall right-arm pacer for his discipline on the field and his analytical mind

off it, as he revealed that Prasidh constantly seeks data to refine his bowling strategies. "So, the impact player of the series goes to someone who had put the hard yards, made the ball talk, kept asking the right question to the batters, even in these adverse conditions, he made an impact with the ball whenever he got the opportunity.

"Ever since we landed in Colombo, he had been on my ears asking for a lot of data and honestly in this team, if there is someone who can have a second job as an analyst, that would be him. For his relentlessness, wickets, impact and way too many questions for me which I enjoy, it's Prasidh Krishna," he added.

Telangana Open: Rashid Khan wins by three-shot margin to end seven-year-long title drought

VIKARABAD : Rashid Khan ended a seven-year wait for victory with a closing five-under 67, winning the Rs 1 crore Telangana Open 2026 by three strokes at Vooty Golf County in Vikarabad.

The 35-year-old Delhi golfer (66-67-65-67) finished at 23-under 265 to secure his 15th professional title and 11th victory on the DP World PGTI.

He collected Rs 15 lakh and moved up to sixth on the 2026 DP World PGTI Order of Merit, taking his season earnings to Rs 44.95,509.

Delhi's Honey Baisoya (72-65-66-65) produced the best final-round score among the leading contenders, making nine birdies and two bogeys in a seven-under 65. He finished runner-up at 20-under 268.

Baisoya, winner of the DP World Players Championship at Qutab Golf Course in February, earned Rs 10 lakh for his runner-up finish. He now occupies third place in the season rankings with total earnings of Rs 51,72,092.

Gurugram's Veer Ahlawat (68-68-68-65), the 2024 DP World PGTI Rankings champion, also closed with a 65 to share third place at 19-under 269 with overnight leader Angad Cheema (70-61-65-73).

Rashid's previous DP World PGTI victory came at the PGTI Players Championship presented by Chandigarh Golf Club in May 2019. After enduring a difficult seven-year spell, the two-time Asian Tour winner and three-time PGTI Order of Merit champion described his return to the winner's circle as an emotional moment.

"I can't describe how I'm feeling right now," said Rashid. "It has been seven years since my last win, and I struggled a lot with my game during that period. I went through many ups and downs, but I also learned a great deal. Once you come through a phase like that, you understand what you need to do."

Rashid began the final round two shots behind Cheema and endured an inauspicious start with bogeys on the opening two holes. He responded emphatically, making three consecutive birdies from the third through the fifth before another birdie on the eighth put him in control.

"I got off to a really poor start," Rashid said. "I made bogey on the opening par five, and the second was playing extremely tough-about 240 yards with a left-to-right wind.

"Even after starting bogey-bogey, I knew that if I stuck to my game plan and continued giving myself birdie opportunities, I could recover. The birdies on the third, fourth and fifth were important turning points."

Cheema, meanwhile, made three bogeys on the front nine. The momentum shift allowed Rashid to take a three-shot advantage into the turn.

"The birdie on the eighth gave me a lead of two or three shots," he said. "From there, my focus was simply to keep creating birdie chances. There were scoring opportunities on the back nine, and I started that stretch very well."

Cheema managed two birdies after the turn, but his one-over 73 dropped him into a share of third place, four strokes behind Rashid.

Windy conditions added to the challenge during the closing stretch, but Rashid remained composed. Despite the intensity of the title battle, he enjoyed sharing the final group with Cheema and Jaiiraj Singh Sandhu.

"I've known Angad and Jaiiraj for a long time, and we had a lot of fun out there," he said.

Rashid also praised the condition of the course, calling the final tee shot a particularly stern test.

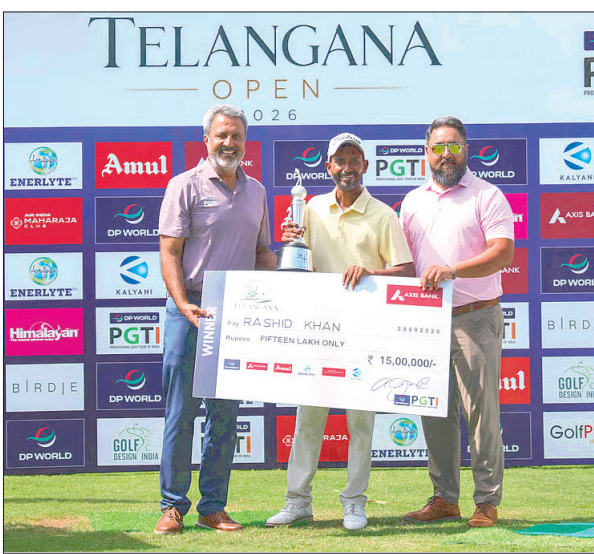
"The 17th was manageable, but the tee shot on the 18th was one of the toughest I have ever faced," he said.

Current DP World PGTI Rankings leader Saptak Talwar (72-68-71-70), who spent the summer competing on the HotelPlanner Tour, finished tied 24th at seven-under 281.

Talwar earned Rs 1,14,450 to extend his advantage at the top of the rankings, taking his season earnings to Rs 87,47,684.

Rashid tightened his grip on the tournament with three consecutive birdies from the 10th through the 12th. After making pars on the next two holes, he produced what he considered the decisive moment on the 15th.

"I had a 12- or 13-foot putt for par, while Angad was inside 10 feet for birdie," Rashid said. "That proved to be the turning point."



IMAM-UL-HAQ SUFFERS CALF STRAIN, PARTICIPATION IN LORD'S TEST DOUBTFUL

LORD'S : Pakistan have been dealt with an injury concern as opening batter Imam-ul-Haq has suffered a calf strain during the ongoing second Test against England at Lord's.

Imam picked up the blow during Day 1 of the match on August 27, which has put his participation in the remainder of the second Test in doubt, the Pakistan Cricket Board confirmed in a statement.

"Pakistan opening batter Imam-ul-Haq sustained a strain to his left calf muscle while fielding on the opening day of the second Test against England at Lord's," PCB confirmed. "Scans later confirmed a low-grade calf strain, and Imam is currently receiving treatment under the supervision of Pakistan's medical team."

"His participation in the remainder of the Test depends on treatment leading to recovery," the board further added.

Imam spent time off the field in the evening session on Day 1 due to his injury and is undergoing treatment. Imam did not turn out to open for Pakistan on Day 2 after the visitors bowled the hosts out for 290 in the first session of the second day. In case Imam fails to recover, Pakistan will be a player down, as replacements for only concussion issues are allowed. Former Test captain Shan Masood came to open along with Azan Awaiz in the absence of Imam.

Pakistan bowlers did a strong job after returning captain Babar Azam won the toss. Mohammad Abbas wreaked havoc on Day 1 and picked up four wickets, while Mohammad Ali also took three and Khurram Shahzad one, as England were kept to 248/9 at the end of the opening day. During his four-wicket haul, Abbas also completed his 900 first-class wickets. England lost their openers - Ben Duckett (17) and Emilio Gay (8) - cheaply, while captain Joe Root (4) and vice-captain Harry Brook (15) could not do much.

No.3 Jordan Cox hit a valiant 55, while Jamie Smith (61), Gus Atkinson (45) and Josh Tongue (30) played strong hands to take the hosts to 290.

AIFF introduces new 8-a-side format for Sub-Junior National Championships

NEW DELHI : The All India Football Federation (AIFF) has introduced a new competition format for the upcoming Sub Junior Boys' and Girls' National Football Championships 2026-27, with the aim of youth development and aligning existing grassroots pathways with global standards.

Based on the FIFA U15 World Cup format guidelines, the revised structure intends to create a more dynamic and development-focused environment in an effort to enhance player growth, technical proficiency and intensity of competition at the youth level.

Under the new format, matches will be played 8 v 8, with two halves of 20 minutes each and a five-minute half-time break. The pitch will measure 68 metres by 50 metres, with a standard goal size of 7.32 metres by 2.44 metres. An offside line will be marked at 23 metres.

Unlimited rolling substitutions will also be permitted, allowing players to leave and re-enter the field multiple times. Substitutions may be made on the fly from the halfway line, while changes involving goalkeepers must be made during a stoppage in play.

The tournament schedule will feature consecutive match days, followed by a mandatory one-day rest period before the knockout stage begins.

For squad selection, the participating teams may register up to 50 players in the AIFF Competition Management System (CMS). From this pool, teams must submit a final list of a minimum of 12 and a maximum of 16 players at least five days prior to the first match of their respective group.

Earlier AIFF announced that the India U17 women's team will continue their preparations for the AFC U17 Women's Asian Cup



2027 Qualifiers with two friendly matches against Philippines in Goa on September 26 and 29, 2026.

The venue for both matches will be confirmed at a later date. It will mark

only the second meeting between India and Philippines at this age level. The Southeast Asians won 2-0 in the AFC U16 Women's Championship 2017 Qualifiers.

'Price worth paying': ECB chair on scheduling issues caused by The Hundred

NEW DELHI : England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) chairman Richard Thompson has said that the scheduling issues caused by The Hundred are "a price worth paying".

The short turnaround between The Hundred and international cricket leaves England players with very little time to regroup and, at times, adjust to the different formats. The Hundred 2026 ended on August 16, just three days before the start of the first Test match against Pakistan on August 19. The scheduling has come under scrutiny from former cricketers; however, the ECB chair looks at the positives the board gets from making those sacrifices.

"Sacrifices have got to be made," he told Sky Sports. "If we can take all of the debt out of the game, which we have, make a generation (of counties) which can reinvent themselves, that is a price worth paying."

Last year, the ECB sold



stakes in the eight franchises, which saw them raise £500m, as the ECB used the funds for

the professional and domestic game.

England fast bowler Josh

Tongue called the turnaround "crazy scheduling". Former England cricketer Nasser Hussain also called out the scheduling. "The schedule for the England players has repercussions," Hussain said, as quoted by Sky Sports.

"You've got bowlers bowling here on a Sunday night who are travelling up to Headingley for a Test match on Wednesday.

"You've got an opening bat trying to tee off on a Sunday evening who could open the batting in a Test match on a Wednesday.

"So the schedule is an absolute nightmare - and this tournament does cause issues - but the one thing you cannot doubt is the quality of players that we've seen over the last three and a half weeks."

The ECB chair took note of the criticism. "We were criticised that The Hundred finished and two days later we were playing a Test match at Headingley," Thompson said. "Imagine if that becomes one day - that can't happen."

DULEEP TROPHY: BRAR JOINS NORTH ZONE TEAM FOR SEMIS, NABI LIKELY TO PLAY COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

NEW DELHI : Tall fast bowler Gurnoor Brar has linked up with the North Zone squad for their upcoming Duleep Trophy semi-final, while fellow pacer Auqib Nabi is likely to head to England for a short-term County Championship stint ahead of India's Test tour of New Zealand in November this year.

Both Brar and Nabi were part of India's squad in the recent 1-0 series win over Sri Lanka, but did not feature in the playing eleven. Brar, who's played six ODIs so far, is set to come in for Jammu & Kashmir pacer Sunil Kumar in the North Zone playing eleven for their clash against South Zone at the

BCCI Centre of Excellence (CoE) ground, starting on Sunday.

"Yes, Gurnoor has joined the North Zone team for the Duleep Trophy semi-final. It's about the Indian team management keen to have him get some red-ball game time, with an eye for him to be ready for the Test series in New Zealand," said a source familiar with the matter to IANS on Friday.

Apart from Gurnoor, off-spin bowling all-rounder Saransh Jain is also set to join the Central Zone team for their semi-final clash against East Zone.

Meanwhile, IANS understands that Nabi, who finished as the leading wicket-

taker in the last Ranji Trophy season with 60 wickets, as Jammu & Kashmir won their maiden championship title, could be sent to England for a short county championship stint before the India 'A' red-ball games against Australia begin in Puducherry in September.

Franchises like Surrey and Hampshire are in contention to get Nabi's services, though the former may have a higher chance to get him on board. Surrey right now has India leg-spinner Rahul Chahar and uncapped batting all-rounder Mahipal Lomror on its roster for the ongoing county championship season.

"Auqib is highly likely to be sent to England to play in

the county championship. The Indian team think-tank and the BCCI want him to get quality practice of bowling with the red Kookaburra ball, which is also used in Tests in New Zealand and was available in the recent tour of Sri Lanka. "Though conditions right now in England are different from what it will be in New Zealand, it's still a good place for Auqib to get quality practice time. His visa application for England has been submitted, though its approval and arrival timing is yet to be known. But as soon as it comes, Auqib will leave for England," further said the source.As of now, Nabi looks set to join a list of Indian cricketers playing in

England's ongoing domestic season. Left-arm spinner Manav Suthar, who picked 16 wickets in Sri Lanka, represented Warwickshire in two games and will rejoin the franchise for the rest of the season.

Left-arm wrist-spinner Kuldeep Yadav, who turned out for Yorkshire in white-ball games before leaving for Sri Lanka, will return to the side for red-ball games. Uncapped batting all-rounder Ashutosh Sharma featured for Middlesex in the One-Day Cup, while left-arm spinner R. Sai Kishore is currently playing for Gloucestershire and leg-spinner Yuzvendra Chahal is turning out for Northamptonshire.

