



# Morning India

An AQI between zero and 50 is considered 'good,' 51 and 100 'satisfactory,' 101 and 200 'moderate,' 201 and 300 'poor,' 301 and 400 'very poor,' and 401 and 500 'severe.' As the temperature dipped, several night shelters in different parts of the national capital were seen with all its beds occupied. The Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board (DUSIB) has also set up 235 pagoda tents to provide shelter to homeless people. Night shelters have been set up in several areas of the national capital, including AIIMS, Lodhi Road, and Nizamuddin flyover.





Members of various Social Organisation lead by social worker and veteran trade union activist, Anuradha Talwar took part in protest against West Bengal BJP state committee and demanding to restart the project of 100 days and 50 days work under Central and State Government in front of BJP Office at Salt Lake in Kolkata.

Subsidised fertiliser eludes farm: Drop in central allocation blamed for shortage

MI News Service, Kolkata: An acute shortage of fertiliser ahead of the sowing of potato and rabi crops has hit farmers in Bengal and the state government is holding the Centre responsible for the situation. “We had submitted a demand for four lakh tons of NPK 10:26:26, which is the most preferred fertiliser of farmers in the state, for the rabi and boro (winter) seasons. But the Centre allotted only about 1.25 lakh tons. Hence, the farmers are in trouble just before the sowing of potato and other rabi crops,” said Pradip Majumdar, Bengal panchayat minister and agriculture adviser to chief minister Mamata Banerjee. Sources in Nabanna said the Union government had gradually reduced the allotment of NPK 10:26:26 in the past few years as the Centre gives handsome subsidies on this particular fertiliser. “The Centre is reducing the allotment and is making the alternatives of NPK 10:26:26 available. But the problem is that the alternatives are costly as the Centre does not sub-

sidise them. The farmers of Bengal are very cost-sensitive and don’t want to use alternative fertilisers,” said a senior bureaucrat. The Centre fixes the allotment of subsidised fertilisers to different states based on several factors like the area of cultivation and the requirement. “Almost all states are facing the problem as they are not getting subsidised fertilisers like NPK 10:26:26 according to their requirements. This is only because the Centre is cutting its expenditure on the subsidies for fertilisers,” said a source. A fertiliser dealer at Singur in Hooghly district explained why the farmers in Bengal preferred NPK 10:26:26 to alternatives that were available in the market. A 50kg bag of NPK 10:26:26 costs 1,470 while alternatives like NPK 14:28:14 or NPK 16:16:16 are sold at 1,740 per a 50kg bag. “As a farmer is required to use four bags of fertiliser to grow crops on each bigha, he/she would have to spend 5,880 on NPK 10:26:26. The ex-

penditure would go up to 6,960 for a bigha if he uses any alternative of NPK 10:26:26. If a farmer has to bear an additional expenditure of nearly 1,100 for a bigha, why would he use the alternative?” asked the dealer adding that he had enough stock of alternative fertilisers but there was no demand. Sources in the agriculture department said the crisis deepened to an extent that a large number of farmers could not sow potatoes yet though the sowing season was nearing an end. “The problem is so critical that many of the farmers told officials in Hooghly and East Burdwan — major potato-producing districts — that they would not cultivate their plots if they weren’t supplied with NPK 10:26:26,” said an official. The prices of fertilisers remain a sensitive issue in rural Bengal and no ruling party would like to face the wrath of the farmers, particularly when the Assembly polls were approaching nearer.



Minister Aroop Biswas participated in the children's drawing competition at Jubilee Park Club in Ward 94 of Tollygunge. Local Municipal Representative Sandeep Nandi Majumdar was present.

New mom dies in Midnapore Medical College and Hospital from 'expired drug'

MI News Service, Midnapore: A woman died shortly after delivering a baby, and four other new mothers fell critically ill on Friday morning at Midnapore Medical College and Hospital after allegedly being administered a banned intravenous injection that was also past its expiry date. The deceased, 30-year-old Mamoni Ruidas of Garbeta in West Midnapore, succumbed after giving birth to a baby boy, while the four other women remain on ventilation in the intensive care unit, battling for their lives. Sources, including several doctors who spoke on condition of anonymity, alleged that the intravenous injection, “lactated ringers” or “ringer lactate”, commonly known as sodium lactate solution. The injections were reportedly supplied by a company based in North Dinajpur’s Chopra that had been blacklisted last year by the Karnataka government for substandard products and the Bengal government had asked medical facilities not to use the drug.

Villagers oppose proposed canal excavation in Daspur

MI News Service, West Midnapore: Tension is escalating in Daspur of West Midnapore as villagers have come together to oppose the state government’s plan to excavate a six-kilometer canal connecting the Chandreshwar Canal in Baikunthapur to the Shilabati river in Suratpur. The project, part of the Ghatal Master Plan aimed at flood mitigation, has sparked outrage among residents who fear the destruction of fertile farmland, homes, and livelihoods. The newly-formed Chandreshwar Canal Excavation Protest Committee, comprising villagers from Daspur-1 and Daspur-2 blocks, has launched a grassroots campaign to resist the project. According to the committee, the proposed excavation would devastate vast stretches of triple-crop farmland and displace numerous families. Protesters have circulated leaflets across villages to raise awareness and garner support. Committee secretary Harekrishna Jana questioned the legality and necessity of the project. “This canal was not mentioned in the Detailed Project Report (DPR) submitted in 2011. We believe the plan

Letter to CM requesting Heritage Status for Pandit Haraprasad Shastri’s House

MI News Service, Kolkata: Naihati MLA Sanat Dey has formally written to Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, urging the declaration of Pandit Haraprasad Shastri’s ancestral home in Shastri Para, Naihati, as a heritage site. Pandit Haraprasad Shastri is credited with discovering Charyapad, the oldest known work in Bengali literature. Although born in Kumira village, Khulna (present-day Bangladesh), his ancestral home is located in Naihati, North 24 Parganas. Pandit Haraprasad Shastri, a renowned Sanskrit scholar, novelist, manuscript collector, and Indologist, played a pivotal role in Bengali literature and culture. He earned the title of “Shastri” after completing his MA in Sanskrit in 1877 and was later honored with the prestigious title of Mahamahopadhyay in 1891. He served as the President of the Asiatic Society twice and led the Bengali Literature Council for 12 years. Despite his significant contributions, his memory seems to have faded in his hometown over time. In response to public sentiment, MLA Sanat Dey wrote to the Chief Minister on Saturday, advocating for the preservation



of Haraprasad Shastri’s residence. Dey remarked, “Naihati has been home to many illustrious figures, including Bankim Chandra Chatterjee, Samarendra Bose, Barrister P. Mitra, Ramkamal Sen, Keshab Chandra Sen, and Shyamal Mitra. Unfortunately, there are no proper memorials to honor these individuals. While Pandit Haraprasad Shastri’s house still stands, its condition is far from satisfactory. To preserve the legacy of our language and culture, his home must be protected.” The house, situated on approximately six catthas of land, contains invaluable manuscripts (punthi) and artifacts used by Haraprasad Shastri. However, maintaining these items has become increasingly challenging, according to MLA Dey. He proposed the establishment of a museum and research center at the site to safeguard Shastri’s legacy for future generations. Sanat Dey expressed hope, saying, “The Chief Minister, understanding the cultural and historical significance of this matter, will accept the demand of Naihati’s residents and take the necessary steps to protect this heritage.”

Panduwa police station got a big success in cracking down on illegal sand smuggling



MI News Service, Hooghly: 11 January (Muhammad Shabib Alam) Daily inspection and searches are conducted against illegal sand smuggling. And through

this we are able to prevent all kinds of unethical activities. At midnight today, sources informed that illegal smuggling of sand is being done from Burdwan to Panduwa police station area. Accordingly, special canal checking was started in Banchi area and a lorry full of sand was caught which was bringing sand illegally, the driver of the vehicle was arrested and legal action was initiated. Investigation is on to find out who else is involved.

Birbhum DM raids illegal sand mines at midnight: Action after Mamata's public rebuke

MI News Service, Birbhum: A team of officials led by Birbhum district magistrate Bidhan Ray raided at least three illegal sand mines on Thursday night, a week after chief minister Mamata Banerjee had publicly rebuked him for the unauthorised extraction of sand from riverbeds. Apart from Ray, the team had Burpur subdivisional police officer Rickey Agrawal and other senior officials. The raids were conducted after the officials received a tip-off that sand was mined illegally from the Ajay river in the Nanoor area after midnight and a larger part of the sand went to Jharkhand. During the raids, the district magistrate witnessed how huge amounts of sand were illegally excavated from the Ajay riverbed and smuggled under the cover of darkness. The police seized seven sand-laden dumpers and two earth-movers used in the illegal mining. “We conducted raids on three points on the Ajay river at midnight in the Nanoor area. We will continue raids in all those pockets from where we have received complaints of sand smuggling,” said Ray. During an administrative review meeting on January 2, Mamata reprimanded Ray, particularly for the rise in sand smuggling in Birbhum district. “What happened suddenly that sand smuggling became the highest in the district? I will not tolerate the government losing its revenue,” Mamata told the district magistrate. “We are not as happy as before. I am giving you seven days to prevent such leaks and take action,” she added at the meeting that was livestreamed. The chief minister’s rebuke of the DM became a topic of discussion in the state’s administrative circles. “Allegations of illegal sand mining are not new in south Bengal districts, but the chief minister’s concern at an open meeting over the issue is significant,” said a senior government official. Allegations of illegal sand smuggling often come from various parts of south Bengal, particularly in districts like Birbhum, East Burdwan, Bankura and Hooghly, which are known suppliers of sand to the entire state. Allegations have surfaced that officials are bribed by illegal sand miners and those who transport the sand. While rebuking the DM, Mamata said she knew under whose direction such smuggling was going on. She claimed that such illegal money had been going to the BJP and asked the DM to ensure that no political party received funds from sand smugglers. “I don’t want that money to go to the funds of any political party — be it Trinamool, BJP or the CPM,” Mamata said. A senior Birbhum district official said although the DM was reprimanded publicly, Mamata told police and administration officials to bust all illegal sand mining rackets, free from any political influence. “There is already huge pressure on the state’s exchequer because of direct benefit schemes like Lakhmir Bhandar,” said the official. “If illegal sand mining and smuggling are stopped, the state’s revenue will subsequently increase,” he added. After Mamata’s warning, the administrations in those districts which are the source of sand became active in raiding the possible pockets of smuggling.

Border Security Force thwarts smuggling attempt by Bangladeshis in Malda

MI News Service, Malda: The Border Security Force (BSF) on Saturday said that its jawans thwarted a smuggling attempt by a group of Bangladeshis in West Bengal’s Malda district. The incident occurred around 2.10 am at Border Outpost Nawada, under the 119th Battalion of the BSF’s South Bengal Frontier. BSF personnel observed a movement of 15-20 armed Bangladeshis approaching the border. Several others were also spotted on the Indian side of the fence, officials said. Despite being challenged by the BSF, the smugglers advanced towards the fence. They used high-beam flashlights to blind the jawans. The BSF initially fired two rounds in the air to disperse the smugglers, but the move proved to be ineffective. “The smugglers then attacked the jawans with sharp weapons and sticks. In response, the BSF personnel fired two rounds at intervals in self-defence to halt the smuggling attempt,” a BSF statement said. Reinforcements soon arrived, causing the smugglers to flee. A subsequent search of the area resulted in the recovery of 572 bottles of a particular brand of cough syrup, a sharp weapon, and a high-beam flashlight. The BSF has not ruled out the possibility of smugglers injured in the firing. In separate incidents in Murshidabad and Malda districts, the BSF foiled more smuggling and infiltration attempts at border outposts Nandanpur, Farjipara, Harinathpur, and Churiyampur. BSF said it used stun grenades, pump action guns (PAG), and other weapons in self-defence to repel cattle smugglers and illegal intruders, leading to the seizure of illicit drugs, five cattle, and other contraband. The incidents and seizures were reported to the local police stations, and the confiscated items handed over to the appropriate authorities. A BSF South Bengal Frontier spokesperson said such attacks are a recurring challenge. While flag meetings are regularly held with Border Guards Bangladesh (BGB) to address the issue of forced infiltration and attacks by Bangladeshi criminals, the BSF claims that no concrete action has been taken by the BGB, which has emboldened.

## SEBAASHRAY

সকলের সুস্বাস্থ্য, আমাদের অঙ্গীকার

Total Registrations since inception

2,44,240

Registrations as on 11/01/2025\*

52,150

\*As of 3.30 pm, 11/01/2025

Sebaashray sets a New BenchmarkSebaashray sets a New Benchmark! Over 2.4 LAKH (2,40,000) people served from a single AC in just 10 days! Today's footfall of 52,150 patients (as of 3:30 PM) is yet another testament to the tremendous impact of this incredible initiative. Kudos to the relentless efforts of every member of the medical fraternity and the dedicated volunteers who made this possible. Here's to achieving many more milestones together. The journey continues and together and the momentum is unstoppable.



"Prantiy Jaiswal Samaj (Milk Camp)" was grandly inaugurated on Thursday at Outram Ghat in Kolkata. In this inauguration ceremony, Mr. Mahendra Jain, Mr. Dinesh Jain, Mr. Pradeep Lohriwal, B. Of. Sanchita, Mahendra Saw, Bajinath Jaiswal, Ramesh Jaiswal, Sanjay Gupta, President Shree Ram Nareish Jaiswal and other dignitaries were also present. From this day, the provision of saffron milk and delicious food and free medical treatment to the pilgrims was started. This camp will run till 17th November. In making the program successful, camp president and women committee chairman Anil Jaiswal 'Sai'yogadaan diya. Convenor Founder Nand Kishore Jaiswal, Founder Sudama Prasad Jaiswal, Patron Mrs. Sadhna Jaiswal Sai, Mrs. Purnima Gupta, Mrs. Deepa Gupta, Mrs. Sushma Jaiswal and other women and men also made important contributions.



On the occasion of "Adivasi Makar Sankarat" Utsav, distribution of clothes to the needy by Minister Becharam Manna. 1000 tribal mothers of Singur Block on the occasion of Makar Sankranti Sankrat Utsav of Adivasis today at Singur Panchayat Samiti Hall. And the sisters were given new clothes.

Police Cancer Camp



Nurul Islam Khan At the initiative of the West Bengal Police Welfare Committee, health awareness camps are being held every month to make police personnel, associate police personnel, retired police personnel and all police family members aware about health. On Saturday, an awareness camp on cancer and chronic diseases was held at the initiative of that camp. Oncologist Dr. Prashant Pandey of BP-Poddar Hospital, Ranjan Samanta, DGM, BP Poddar Hospital and Convener of West Bengal Police Welfare Committee, Bijitash Raut were present. Other leaders of the central committee, officers of various district branches and general members were present.

Webel to open first data centre in Siliguri, north Bengal, with Rs 98 crore investment

MI News Service, Siliguri: Webel (West Bengal Electronics Industry Development Corporation Limited), a state-run undertaking, is all set to open its first data centre in north Bengal, in Siliguri. As of now, it runs two similar centres which act as storages of digital data in Calcutta and Purulia. Sources said that the upcoming data centre, for which a sum of around 98 crore has been spent, was supposed to open in December last year but got delayed due to certain technical issues. However, it is likely to open in a few weeks. “The centre will be fully functional once the internet connectivity is set up. It will have a computing power of 160 petaflops. The state government will allow startups and IT companies to use this infrastructure for free or at a nominal cost,” said Sanjay Kumar Das, who retired as managing director of Webel a few days ago, but was in charge of the project since inception.



Both the United States and...

**From PG 1**  
current post after January 20,(when Donald Trump is sworn in as the next US President).,Garcetti said since he has decided to stay in India for five more months for his daughter to complete her schooling "when I can be a private citizen and travel India. I absolutely intend on coming back to Kolkata," he said, adding that he would always remember Kolkata as an extraordinary city that was as proud a reflection of its past and its culture, but also one that was alive with the dynamism of the future. The envoy, who served as the youngest mayor of Los Angeles in 2013 and was re-elected in 2017 with the widest margin, said any city would be

proud to host a spectacle like Kolkata's Durga Puja. He felt it created strong social ties within communities and was a real example for the world that one did not just have to work on things when there were problems, but one could, actually in a positive way, put forward a vision of what was important to each area, and that this was extended for generations. "I love the civic aspect as much as the artistic and the spiritual aspect of it. I definitely intend to bring friends from America back here for the future during Durga Puja. My daughter hasn't been here yet. My wife came here, so we absolutely would love to come back, he asserted.

Ram Temple in Ayodhya...

**From PG 1**  
pillars and walls of the temple showcase intricately sculpted depictions of Hindu deities, Gods, and Goddesses. In the main sanctum sanctorum on the ground floor, the childhood form of Bhagwan Shri Ram (the idol of Shri

Ramlalla) has been placed. Lakhs of devotees have been flocking to Ayodhya since the Pran Pratishtha ceremony of Lord Ram Lalla. The number of daily visitors to the Hanumangarhi Ram Temple has also been increasing rapidly.

Biden administration...

**From PG 1**  
don't know if it was a press conference or to some journalists where he was like, these guys are killing people. And, and, I don't know, then like all these different agencies and branches of government just like started investigating coming after our company. It was, it was brutal. It was brutal."  
In his attempt to further democratise Facebook to ensure freedom online, Zuckerberg announced earlier that Meta, the parent company of Facebook, was closing its censor-susceptible fact-checking shop in the US and replacing it with a user-fueled "Community Notes" system like that used by X.

Massive Fire at food court near Sealdah causes panic among commuters

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** A devastating fire broke out at a food court near Sealdah on Saturday afternoon, spreading panic among commuters and local shop owners. The blaze, reported around 4 PM, is believed to have originated in the kitchen of a popular Chinese restaurant and quickly spread across the area.  
The fire created chaos during the peak office return hours, with passengers and pedestrians fleeing the area. Local shop owners rushed to save their belongings as thick black smoke engulfed the vicinity. The rapid spread of the flames raised fears of further damage, and businesses around the food court were evacuated as a precautionary measure. Upon receiving the alert, three fire engines arrived at the scene within 30 minutes. Firefighters worked relentlessly to bring the flames under control. "Fireballs" were used in the firefighting efforts, which proved effective in containing the spread of the fire. By 4:45 PM, the blaze was partially subdued, though significant damage had already been done.

HRH Dr. M. A. Ali Invited as Chief Guest for Kolkata Public English School Annual Sports Day

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** HRH Dr. M. A. Ali, a distinguished figure and Director of the World Meet, has been invited to grace the Annual Sports Day of Kolkata Public English School as the Chief Guest. The event, scheduled to be held at the Ad-hunik Sangha Ground, will witness the participation of students, parents, and faculty in a celebration of sportsmanship and teamwork. Asgar Ali, the Founder and Director of Kolkata Public English School, extended the invitation, expressing pride in hosting a global personality known for his contributions to cultural and martial arts initiatives worldwide.HRH Dr. M. A. Ali's presence at the event is expected to inspire students in sports and other extracurricular activities, fostering a spirit of discipline and achievement.



Classical Music Conference 2025 at Nandan



Minister of State Information & Cultural Affairs and Technical Education Training & Skill Development, Indranil Sen, Indian classical musicians Debojyoti Bose and Tarun Bhattacharya during a press conference of Classical Music Conference 2025, held at Nandan IV, Kolkata on Saturday.

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** A press meeting was organized by the Government of West Bengal in connection with the ensuing Classical Music Conference 2025, where Minister Indranil Sen, along with Pandit Debojyoti Bose and Tarun Bhattacharya, officially announced its opening. A unique cultural festival for music lovers,

Classical Music 2025, initiated by Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, will be held from January 15 to January 17, 2025, at Ektra Mukta Mancha in the premises of Rabindra Sadan. The main objective of this conference is to increase the love and enthusiasm for classical music not only among music enthusiasts but also among

the general public. This festival is the brainchild of Mamata Banerjee, who designed the entire event. It aims to promote performers through such platforms. Indranil Sen mentioned, "This entire festival is happening under the supervision of our Chief Minister, who not only ensures the rule and regulations of the state but

also encourages such initiatives. The world acknowledges West Bengal as the Cultural Hub. We are promoting Bishnupur Gharana, the oldest Gharana of India."  
The conference will feature several renowned musicians, including Pandit Hari Prasad Chaurasia, Ustad Shahid Parvez, Ustad Nishat Khan, Pandit Kumar Bose, Pandit Swapna Chowdhury, Pandit Sabir Khan, Pandit Anindya Chatterjee, Pandit Tarun Bhattacharya, Pandit Abhijit Banerjee, Pandit Samer Saha, Ritesh Mishra, Rajesh Mishra, Kabir Suman, and other prominent artists.

There will also be an exhibition on "Bengal Raga Music." Since 2022, the Academy District has been organizing the Classical Music Festival, and this year, the event will be held in six other districts between January and March: Chandannagar (Hooghly), Durgapur (West Burdwan), Siliguri (Darjeeling), Medinipur (West Midnapore), Behrampur (Murshidabad), and Siuri (Birbhum).

57th Garment Buyers & Sellers Meet and B2B Expo



State Minister Shashi Panja along with Minister Sujit Bose inaugurate the ceremony of 57th Garment Buyers & Sellers Association, held at Science City, Kolkata on Saturday.

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** The West Bengal garment industry is buzzing with activity as the 57th Garment Fair and B2B Expo takes place over three days, from January 11 to 13, 2025, at Science City, Kolkata, covering a vast area of 2 lakh sqft. Organized by the West Bengal Garment Manufacturers and Dealers Association (WBGMDA), which has served the industry for 59 years, this event is expected to generate significant business opportunities. Around 900 national and international brands are expected to participate, showcasing a wide range of kids, men's, and women's readymade garments. The expo is projected to generate an estimated Rs. 1000-1200 crore in commercial transactions within the wholesale market.

The importance of this event for the state's economy was underscored by the presence of State Government representatives and leading businessmen. Shashi Panja, Minister in charge of Child and Family Welfare, Government

of West Bengal, and Sujit Bose, Minister of State for Fire, Government of West Bengal, attended the event along with prominent personalities like Hari Kishan Rath, President of WBGMDA, Vijay Kariwala, Senior Vice President of WBGMDA, Pradeep Murarka, Vice President of WBGMDA,

and Devendra Baid, Secretary of WBGMDA, among others. Since its inception, the association has been organizing clothing fairs and B2B exhibitions, helping to position the country as a significant center in the global textile supply chain. The event has supported the expansion of a

Astrology takes center stage on day 1 of AKLF 2025



AKLF Day 1 Witnesses an Affair Written in the Stars as Astrologers Shalini Modi and Dr. Ridhi Bahl take the Stage

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** The Apeejay Kolkata Literary Festival 2025 opened on a fascinating note with a session dedicated to astrology, featuring renowned experts Shalini Modi and Dr. Ridhi Bahl. Moderated by author Shobha Tharoor Srinivasan, the discussion explored the profound impact of astrology on personal and professional lives, captivating a packed audience.

Shalini Modi, an accomplished astrologer and author, shared her personal journey and insights into astrology's practical applications. Reflecting on marriage predictions that had come true with remarkable accuracy, she explained, "The house of marriage or spouse is also the house of partnership. Its strength determines success in both marital and business relationships. When we predict marriage, it can also include living with someone or finding a partner."  
Dr. Ridhi Bahl, hailing from a family of astrologers and with nearly two decades of experience, offered a broader perspective on astrology's role in modern life. She

emphasized, "Astrology is a wonderful guide that provides significant insights into personal, professional, and financial aspects. It is not a script of destiny but a tool to navigate life's complexities."  
The session delved into the perennial debate of destiny versus free will. Both experts highlighted astrology's role as a guiding framework rather than a definitive blueprint. Dr. Bahl elaborated on the importance of adaptability in astrological interpretations, stating, "Classical texts may not address modern concepts like divorce or medical challenges. Today, astrologers help individuals navigate such issues by offering solutions like medical interventions or adoption."  
Dr. Bahl shared examples of how astrological readings have guided individuals through difficult decisions, showcasing its relevance beyond traditional boundaries. Meanwhile, Shalini emphasized astrology's ability to bridge the gap between ancient wisdom and modern challenges, offering solutions that resonate with today's generation.

Water supply to be disrupted in South Kolkata on Jan 18 for maintenance

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** The Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC) has announced a temporary halt in water supply from the Garden Reach water treatment plant. Mayor Firhad Hakim confirmed that water production and distribution will be suspended on January 18 from 9 a.m. to 6 a.m. the following day. The disruption is necessary for urgent repairs at the water production center. The affected areas will include South Kolkata and its adjoining neighborhoods, such as Kalighat, Chetla, Behala, Parnasree, and Kasba. Water supply to critical establishments like PG Hospital and areas beyond PTS will also remain suspended. Normal supply is expected to resume on January 19 morning at 6 a.m.  
According to the KMC water supply department, water from the Ganga is lifted, treated, and then supplied via reservoirs. Unlike Palta, which benefits from its upstream location where water contains less silt, Garden Reach faces challenges with silt accumulation. The untreated water cannot be stored

for long, necessitating regular maintenance of the pipelines, capsule booster stations, and booster pumps. Officials have identified 40 locations requiring urgent repairs. The aim is to ensure uninterrupted water supply during the upcoming summer months. Maintenance work will focus on repairing pipelines and boosting pumping efficiency to meet growing demand.  
Residents of South Kolkata and adjacent suburban areas are advised to store adequate water in advance to manage during the outage. With an extensive network of water supply lines requiring upgrades, the KMC is taking proactive steps to prevent future disruptions.  
While residents may face temporary inconvenience, the KMC assures that these measures are crucial for ensuring reliable and clean water supply in the long term.  
The maintenance work at Garden Reach reflects the KMC's commitment to improving infrastructure and addressing seasonal challenges in water supply.

Reckless driving causes another accident in Kolkata

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** Reckless driving has once again led to an accident in the city. On Saturday morning, a car speeding along the EM Bypass flipped over after hitting a post and a divider near Gate No. 5 of the Salt Lake Stadium. This comes a day after a minibus accident claimed the life of a woman

and injured several others. According to eyewitnesses, the vehicle, heading from Ultadanga, was moving at a high speed. Around Gate No. 5 of the Salt Lake Stadium, the car first hit a roadside post and then collided with a divider before flipping over. The police arrived promptly at the scene and res-

cued two injured occupants from the car, including the driver. Preliminary investigations suggest that the driver was under the influence of alcohol, which likely caused the accident. Police have taken the damaged vehicle into custody and are investigating further.

Despite the installation of speedometers across major roads, reckless driving continues to pose a serious threat to public safety in Kolkata. Over the past two months, three people, including a woman and a child, have lost their lives in accidents caused by over speeding. The police have repeatedly issued

warnings and taken measures to curb speeding. However, such incidents highlight the ongoing challenges of enforcing traffic regulations and ensuring road safety. The latest accident underscores the urgent need for stricter monitoring and greater awareness among drivers.



**Name Change**  
I, Firoja (old name), wife of Mojam-mal Haque Molla, residing at South Kankhuly Para, P.O.- Bidhannagar, Kolkata- 700006, West Bengal, India, shall henceforth be known as Firoza Bibi (new name) vide an affidavit sworn before the notary public at Kolkata on 10/01/2025. Firoza Bibi (new name) and Firoja (old name) both are the same and one identical person.

**Name Change**  
I, Tapos Manna (Old Name), Son Of Nabakumar Manna, Residing At Keshabpur, Domjur, Howrah - 711405, West Bengal, Shall Henceforth Be Known As Tapas Manna (New Name) Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 10/01/20 25. That Tapos Manna (Old Name) And Tapas Manna (New Name) Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.

**Name Change**  
I, Sk Noor Mohammad (Old Name), S/O Late Bajet Sk Ali @ Sk Bajet Ali, Residing At Vill & Po-Buri Khali, Ps-Bauria, Pin-711310, Dist-Howrah, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Sk Nur Mohammad (New Name) As Declared Before The 1st Class Judicial Magistrate At Howrah On 19/12/2024. Sk Noor Mohammad (Old Name) And Sk Nur Mohammad (New Name) Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.

**Name Change**  
I, Nurnihar Begam (Old Name) D/o Motinul Haque Sekh Residing at Dignagar, Dignagar, Ausgram-I, District - Bardhaman, Pin - 713128 West Bengal India shall henceforth be known as Sam-sunehar Begum (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public, Kolkata vide affidavit Dated 10-01-2025. Nurnihar Begam (Old Name) and Samsunehar Begum (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

**Name Change**  
I, Shamsad Begum D/o Late Dost Mohammad Residing at 3/1/H/1, Khalashitala Road, Po+Ps - West-Bengal District - Kolkata, Pin- 700022 West Bengal India shall henceforth be known as Samshad Begum. I declare that Shamsad Begum and Samshad Begum is same and one identical person by virtue of an affidavit sworn before the Notary Public, Kolkata on 10-01-2025.

**Name Change**  
I, Sapna B Shah D/o Ashok Kumar Dagli Residing at 8/1, Sarat Bose Road, Flat-9C, 9th Floor, Po - Elgin Road, P.s - Ballygunge, District - Kolkata, Pin- 700020 West Bengal India shall henceforth be known as Sapna Shah. I declare that Sapna B Shah and Sapna Shah is same and one identical person by virtue of an affidavit sworn before the Notary Public, Kolkata on 10-01-2025.

**Name Change**  
I, Bhavesh M Shah S/o Mahendra Vadilal Shah Residing at 8/1, Sarat Bose Road, Flat-9C, 9th Floor, Po - Elgin Road, P.s - Ballygunge, District - Kolkata, Pin- 700020 West Bengal India shall henceforth be known as Bhavesh Shah. I declare that Bhavesh M Shah and Bhavesh Shah is same and one identical person by virtue of an affidavit sworn before the Notary Public, Kolkata on 10-01-2025.

**Name Change**  
I, Tarun B Shah S/o Bhavesh Shah Residing at 8/1, Sarat Bose Road, Flat-9C, 9th Floor, Po - Elgin Road, P.s - Ballygunge, District - Kolkata, Pin- 700020 West Bengal India shall henceforth be known as Tarun Shah. I declare that Tarun B Shah and Tarun Shah is same and one identical person by virtue of an affidavit sworn before the Notary Public, Kolkata on 10-01-2025.

**Name Change**  
I, Manoj Kumar Rajak (Aadhar No. 4108 0077 9678), S/O, Mahanath Rajak, Age- 44, Resident- M-90, Paharpur Road, Garden Reach, P.S.- Metiabruz, P.O.- Garden Reach, Kolkata - 700024, that my name is wrongly mentioned in LIC Policy (Policy No. 577175018) and S.B.I Bank a/c. (A/C No. 20061 508912) my name has been recorded as Manoj Kumar Baitha & Manoj Baitha respectively instead of Manoj Kumar Rajak. That is my Aadhar Card and Voter ID card my name has been correctly written as Manoh Kumar Rajak. I do hereby declare before the 1st Class Judicial Magistrate vide Affidavit No. 48775 at Alipur That my correct name is Manoj Kumar Rajak, That Manoj Kumar Baitha, Manoj Baitha and Manoj Kumar Rajak are one and the same identical person and they are not different persons.

**Name Change**  
I, Sri Sisir Bhuvan Pratap Tiwari, s/o Late Bhuben Pratap Tiwari, residing at 48/A, G- Road, Anandapuri, Barrackpore, P.O- Nona Chandan Pukur, P.S- Titagarh, District North 24 Parganas, Kolkata-700122, do hereby solemnly affirm and declare that in Aadhar Card, Voter Identity card and Pan card of my wife Krishna Tiwari and Two daughters Anuradha Tiwari and Anusha Tiwari my nien name Sridhar Tiwari is registered instead of my actual and correct name Sisir Bhuvan Pratap Tiwari. That I, Sisir Bhuvan Pratap Tiwari and Sridhar Tiwari is the same and one identical person, Vide an affidavit (05AC 904239) sworn before in the court of Ld Judicial Magistrate 1st class at Barrackpore dated on 20/12/2024.

**Name Change**  
I, MANIKA DUTTA w/o Sujay Dutta residing at vill & po-Fatepur,p.s-Haringhata, Dist-Nadia shall henceforth be known as MONIKA DUTTA as declared before the court of Ld executive magistrate,kalyani,Nadia MANIKA DUTTA and MONIKA DUTTA both are same and identical lady.

## Adani Wilmar share sale receives strong response, firm raises Rs 4300 crore on Day 1

**MI News Service, New Delhi:** The share sale of Adani Wilmar to institutional investors on Friday received a strong response, resulting in the subsidiary of Adani Enterprises Ltd (AEL) raising over ₹4,367 crore. Last month, the conglomerate had said that it will sell its entire 44 per cent stake in Adani Wilmar in a two-step process for \$2 billion. Adani Commodities Ltd (ACL), the AEL arm, will sell around 31.06 per cent of Adani Wilmar to its Singaporean partner Wilmar International for ₹12,314 crore.

It will also divest around 13 per cent shares of its holding in the open market to achieve minimum public shareholding (MPS) norms. For the open market sale, ACL had announced an offer-for-sale (OFS) on January 10 and on January 13 (for retail investors) at a floor price of ₹275 per share. The share sale on Friday was only for non-retail investors. Data available from the stock exchanges showed that against the offer size of 157,910,950 shares, the cumulative bid quantity stood at 175,577,869 shares.

**Name Change**  
I, Rahit Kumar Shaw,S/O Bechan Shaw,R/O 43 N Mukherjee Road,Po Rabindra Nagar,Dum Dum,Barrackpore,North 24 Parganas, 700065, West Bengal,Shall Henceforth Be Known As Rohit Kumar Shaw,Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Ld 1st Class Judicial Magistrate At Kolkata On 09/12/2024. That Rahit Kumar Shaw And Rohit Kumar Shaw All Are The Same And One Identical Person.

**Name Change**  
I, Azizul Sk.S/O Joynal Sk,R/O Vill-Barkalikapur,Po Bakhrabat,Diamond Harbour,So Bh 24 Parganas, 743277,West Bengal, Shall Henceforth Be Known As Ajijul Sk,Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 08/01/2025, That Azizul Sk And Ajijul Sk All Are The Same And One Identical Person.

**Name Change**  
I, Kazi Rafique Islam,S/O Daud Kazi,R/O Haripur,Khalisadi Basir hat,Ps-Harao,Po-Khalisadi,North 24 Parganas, 7434 25,West Bengal,Shall Henceforth Be Known As Kazi Rafik Ali,Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 08/01/20 25,That Kazi Rafique Islam And Kazi Rafik Ali All Are The Same And One Identical Person.

**Name Change**  
I, Mohamed Badruzaman (old name) son of Abdul Rahim, residing at 2/F/3, Ekbalpur Lane, P.S.-Ekbalpore, Kolkata- 700023, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Md Jamshed (new name) as declared before the Notary public at Kolkata, dated 10/01/2025. Md Jamshed (new name) and Mohammed Badruzaman (old name) both are same and identical person.

**Name Change**  
I, Md Irshad Alam (old name), son of Ashfaq Ahmad, residing at Dehmedand Malla, P.O.- Dakshin Gobindapur, P.S.- Baruipe, Pin-700145, West Bengal, India, shall henceforth be known as Irshad Alam (new name) vide an affidavit sworn before the notary public at Kolkata on 10/01/2025. Irshad Alam (new name) and Md Irshad Alam (old name) both are the same and one identical person.

**Name Change**  
I, Vasundhara Dutta Sen (old name), daughter of Vivek Dutta, residing at 74/1, Sancharee Society, East Kolkata Township, Rajdanga Chakraborty Para, Kasba Kolkata- 700107 shall henceforth be known as Vasunddara V Dutaa (new name) vide an affidavit sworn before the notary public at Kolkata on 10/01/2025. That Vasunddara V Dutaa (new name) and Vasundhara Dutta Sen (old name) both are the same and one identical person.

**Name Change**  
I, Vasunddara V Dutaa D/O Vivek Dutta, on behalf of my minor daughter Aurea Sen (old name), residing at 74/1, Sancharee Society, East Kolkata Township Rajdanga Chakraborty Para, Kasba Kolkata- 700107 West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my daughter's name and she shall henceforth be known as Tejjaswini Sen (new name) as declared before the Notary public at Kolkata, dated 10/01/2025. Tejjaswini Sen (new name) and Aurea Sen (old name) both are same and identical person.

**Name Change**  
I, Sarmintha Datta,W/O Animesh Datta,R/O 91,R.B.Sarani,PS-Serampore,Hooghly-712201,West Bengal,Shall Henceforth Be Known As Sarmintha Datta Sinha,Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 08/01/20 25,That Sarmintha Datta Sinha And Sarmintha Datta All Are The Same And One Identical Person.



In this image released by @Bhupendraphip via X, Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel during the inauguration of the 'International Kite Festival 2025', in Ahmedabad.

## Indian economy likely to be 'a little weaker' in 2025: International Monetary Fund MD

**MI News Service, New Delhi:** The Indian economy is expected to be "a little weaker" in 2025 despite steady global growth, IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva has said. Georgieva also said she expects quite a lot of uncertainty in the world this year mainly around the trade policy of the US. In her annual media roundtable with a group of reporters on Friday, she said global growth is expected to be steady in 2025, but with regional divergence.

Georgieva said she expects the Indian economy to be a little weaker in 2025. However, she did not explain it any further. The World Economy Outlook update week will have more details about it. "The US is doing quite a bit better than we expected before, the EU is somewhat stalling, (and) India a little weaker," she said. Brazil was facing somewhat higher inflation, she said. In China, the world's second-largest economy, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) was seeing deflationary pressure and ongoing challenges with domestic demand, she said. "Low-income countries, despite all the efforts they are making, are in a position when any new shock can affect them



quite negatively," Georgieva said. "What we expect in 2025 is to have quite a lot of uncertainty, especially in terms of economic policies. Not surprisingly, given the size and role of the US economy, there is keen interest globally in the policy directions of the incoming administration, in particular on tariffs, taxes, deregulation and government efficiency," Georgieva said. "This uncertainty is particularly high around the path for trade policy going forward, adding to the headwinds facing the global economy, especially for countries and regions that are more integrated in global supply chains, medium-sized economies, (and) Asia as a region," she said. That uncertainty is actually expressed globally through higher long-term interest rates, even

though short-term interest rates have gone down, the IMF Managing Director said. Donald Trump will be sworn in as the 47th President of the United States on January 20, replacing Joe Biden at the White House. Trump, 78, has announced plans to impose additional tariffs on countries like China, Canada and Mexico. He has publicly announced the use of tariffs as a key policy tool. On inflation, the IMF expects global disinflation to continue, Georgieva said. "As we all recognise, the higher interest rates that were necessary to fight inflation did not push the world economy into recession. They have delivered the desired results. Headline inflation is converging back to target sooner in advanced economies than in emerging markets," she said.

### Fire broke out in the Restaurant outside Sealdah Station Building

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** Fire broke out in a part of the restaurant outside Sealdah station building at about 4 p.m. today. The restaurant is at a considerable distance from Sealdah station building or other Railway establishments. Hence there was no effect on train movement or passengers. Three fire brigade engines arrived on the spot and completely extinguished the fire by 4.30 p.m. There was no injury or casualty in this incident.

**Name Change**  
I, Intiaz Qureshi (old name), son of Rahamat Kureshi, residing at Hemchandra Dutta Road, Akra Jagannath Nagar Maheshitala, South 24 Pgs, Pin- 700140, West Bengal, India, shall henceforth be known as Imteyaz Kureshi (new name) vide an affidavit sworn before the notary public at Kolkata on 10/01/2025. Imteyaz Kureshi (new name) and Intiaz Qureshi (old name) both are the same and one identical person.

**Name Change**  
I, Aziz Hossain (old name), son of Chowdhury Asgar Hossain, residing at Vill.- Momrejpur, P.O.- Chotobainan, P.S.- Madhabdih, Dist.- Purba Bardhaman, Pin-713423, India, shall henceforth be known as Chowdhury Aziz Hossain (new name) vide an affidavit sworn before the notary public at Kolkata on 10/01/2025. Chowdhury Aziz Hossain (new name) and Aziz Hossain (old name) both are the same and one identical person.

**Name Change**  
I, Rahamat Qureshi (old name), son of Samiullah Kureshi, residing at Hemchandra Dutta Road, Akra Jagannath Nagar Maheshitala, South 24 Pgs, Pin- 700140, West Bengal, India, shall henceforth be known as Rahamat Kureshi (new name) vide an affidavit sworn before the notary public at Kolkata on 10/01/2025. Rahamat Kureshi (new name) and Rahamat Qureshi (old name) both are the same and one identical person.

## 'Government meddling' cloud on PhD as Maharashtra central university cancels executive council meet

**MI News Service, Mumbai:** A central university in Maharashtra cancelled a crucial meeting of its executive council (EC) on Thursday, plunging the PhD admission process into uncertainty and triggering speculation about interference from the education ministry to shield a former faculty member and a suspended registrar mired in allegations of irregularity from adverse action. The EC at the Mahatma Gandhi Antar-rashtriya Hindi Vishwa Vidyalaya (MGAHV) was supposed to take a decision on re-summing PhD admission, which has been put on hold over allegations of irregularities in the conduct of the entrance test.

The university had set up an inquiry committee under former judge of Bombay High Court Justice M.N. Gilani, which found no evidence of irregularity. The EC would have discussed the committee report and was expected to have given a go-ahead for PhD admission in its meeting. Three MGAHV faculty members said that the education ministry had put pressure on the university to cancel the EC meeting to prevent a discussion on or action against a former faculty member and a suspended registrar.

They said a complaint had been received about the irregularity in the appointment of Piyush Pratap Singh as an assistant professor at the MGAHV in

2007. Singh is currently a member of the EC as the nominee of the Visitor, the President of India. He is also a faculty member at the School of Computer and System Sciences at JNU since 2020. Nikhil Chauhan, a resident of Madhya Pradesh, had filed a complaint with Visitor Droupadi Murmu alleging that Singh was not eligible for the post of lecturer because he had neither cleared the National Eligibility Test nor had a PhD degree as mandated by the UGC at that time. "The education ministry had picked Singh as the Visitor's nominee. The ministry wants to shield Singh from any discussion on the allegations. We feel that the ministry has pressured the university to cancel the EC meeting," said a senior faculty member of the MGAHV.

Singh defended his appointment by saying the NET was not mandatory in 2007 under the rules of the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), a factor that might have worked in his favour. The EC was also supposed to decide on the action against suspended registrar Dharvesh Kathariya in a case of violation of financial norms. An email was sent to the department of higher education for its comment on the allegation of interference in the affairs of the MGAHV. Its response is awaited.

### Regulation of circular Railway Train services for 'Makar Sankranti' holy bath on 14.01.2025

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** As requested by the state administration, Eastern Railway's Sealdah Division has planned to regulate the Circular Railway train services in connection with Holy bath of pilgrims in the river Ganges on the occasion of "Makar Sankranti" on 14.01.2025 (Tuesday) between 04:00 hrs. & 15:00 hrs. This precautionary measure aims to manage the crowd effectively and maintain a secure environment for the devotees participating in the sacred ceremonies. Consequently, following arrangements in train running have been made on those days:

- 04 (Four) nos. of Circular Railway EMU local (30322, 30128, 30324 & 30346) will be short terminated at Kolkata Station and 04 (Four) nos. of Circular Railway EMU local (30145, 30121, 30333 & 30311) will be short originated from Kolkata station.
- 1 (One) nos. of Circular Railway EMU local (30344) will be short terminated at Barasat.
- 1 (One) nos. of Circular Railway EMU local (30142) will be diverted via Kankurgachhi Road Jn-Ballygunge route to Majherhat.
- 1 (One) nos. of Circular Railway EMU locals (30511) will be short terminated at Ballygunge station and 1 (One) nos. of Circular Railway EMU locals (30712) will be short originated from Ballygunge station.
- 1 (One) nos. of Circular Railway EMU locals (30342) will be diverted and short terminated at Ballygunge and 1 (One) nos. of Circular Railway EMU local (30321) will be short originated from Ballygunge Jn. - Kankurgachi Road.

Moreover, 7 (Seven) Nos. of Circular Railway EMU locals (30412, 30411, 30351, 31223, 30113, 30116 and 31242) will remain cancelled.

### 14 Additional services to be available between Noapara and Kavi Subhash during morning and evening peak hours from 13.01.2025 (Monday)

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** Metro authorities have decided to revise the services on Blue Line from Monday to Saturday from 13.01.2025 (Monday) on trial basis. 14 additional services (7 UP and 7 DN) will be operated between Noapara and Kavi Subhash during the morning (9:00 hrs. to 11:00 hrs.) and evening (17:00 hrs. to 20:00 hrs.) peak hours of the day on trial basis. It is expected that this move will benefit the Metro commuters. As a consequence commuters will effectively get Metro services at 6 minutes interval in between DumDum and Kavi Subhash in morning (09:00 hrs to 11:00 hrs) and evening (17:00 hrs to 20:00) peak hours. Metro services will be operated at 6 minutes interval from Kavi Subhash in morning (9:00 hrs. to 11:00 hrs.) and evening (17:00 hrs to 20:00 hrs.) peak hours.

**First Service :-** At 06:50 hrs. from Noapara to Kavi Subhash (No Change) At 06:50 hrs. from Kavi Subhash to Dakshineswar (No Change) At 06:55 hrs. from Dakshineswar to Kavi Subhash (No Change) At 06:55 hrs. from Mahanayak Uttam Kumar to Dakshineswar (No Change)

**Last Service :-** At 21:30 hrs. from Kavi Subhash to Dakshineswar (No Change) At 21:28 hrs. from Dakshineswar to Kavi Subhash (Instead of 21:33 hrs.) At 21:40 hrs. from Kavi Subhash to Dum Dum (No Change) Special night Metro services on Blue Line will be available from Kavi Subhash and DumDum stations at 22:40 hrs. as usual i.e. from Monday to Friday.

## Miscellaneous

## ER'S Asansol Division organises First Aid and CPR training to empower staff for Kumbh Mela 2025



**MI News Service, Kolkata:** In preparation for the grand congregation of pilgrims at Kumbh Mela 2025, Eastern Railway's Asansol Division has initiated intensive training programs on First Aid and Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) for its medical and non-medical staff. This proactive initiative, conducted under the aegis of the Medical Department, aims to ensure the safety and well-being of lakhs of pilgrims attending the event.

The training sessions, held on January 9, 2025, at the Divisional Railway Hospital, Asansol, were spearheaded by Dr. Ranjan Kumar, Additional Chief Medical Superintendent (ACMS) /Surgeon/Asansol, under the guidance of Dr. Bina Mardi, Chief Medical Superintendent/Asansol. Recognising the critical need for preparedness

during such a high-volume event, these sessions are designed to empower frontline railway personnel with essential life-saving skills. Staff members are being trained in multiple batches to ensure maximum participation. The program emphasizes hands-on learning and practical demonstrations of crucial techniques such as CPR, bleeding control, and other vital first aid measures. This initiative reflects Eastern Railway's commitment to providing a safe and secure environment for pilgrims during Kumbh Mela 2025. By equipping staff with life-saving skills, the Asansol Division is ensuring prompt and effective responses to medical emergencies, reinforcing the Railway's readiness to handle the massive influx of passengers during this spiritual gathering.

## ERWWO organises "Health Awareness Camp - 25" for Women Railway Beneficiaries



**MI News Service, Kolkata:** Eastern Railway Women's Welfare Organisation (ERWWO) organised a special health awareness initiative, "Health Awareness Camp - 25," for women beneficiaries at A.P. Ray Institute, Ghoshapur Railway Colony, Behala, on January 11, 2025. The program was inaugurated by Smt. Seema Deouskar, President of ERWWO, with the ceremonial lighting of the lamp.

The event witnessed the presence of Dr. Anirudha Kirtania, Principal Chief Medical Director, Eastern Railway, alongside ERWWO members and a team of doctors from B.R. Singh Hospital and Howrah Divisional Railway Hospital. This health camp catered to 225 women beneficiaries from Ghoshapur Railway Colony, Sealdah and Howrah Divi-

sions, and Liluah Workshop. Comprehensive health screenings were conducted, including blood tests, Bone Mineral Density (BMD) tests, and EEGs. Expert medical consultations were provided by specialists in orthopedics, cardiology, general medicine, ophthalmology, ENT, dentistry, gynecology, and dietetics. Smt. Seema Deouskar, President of ERWWO, honoured the dedicated doctors for their contribution. The voluntary services of the Bharat Scouts & Guides, Ghoshapur unit, played a pivotal role in ensuring the success of the program. This initiative underscores ERWWO's commitment to the health and well-being of railway employees and their families, fostering a culture of preventive healthcare and wellness.

## Breather for online gaming firms, Supreme Court stays showcause notices from GST authorities

**MI News Service, New Delhi:** The Supreme Court on Friday stayed all showcause notices issued by the GST authorities to various online gaming platforms as it restrained the government from acting upon the notices until it resolved the dispute relating to the 28 per cent GST levied on the games. The dispute related to GST tax demand made by the revenue authorities over alleged tax avoidance by the online gaming companies to the tune of over ₹1.20 lakh crore on the basis of the 28 per cent GST sought to be levied by the government. A bench of Justice J. B. Pardiwala and Justice R. Mahadevan passed the order on the batch of petitions filed by the gaming companies before various high courts, which was subsequently transferred by the apex court to itself in January last year on an application filed by the Union government. The Centre had filed the transfer application for transfer of the multiple petitions filed in over nine high courts of the country to the Supreme Court for an authoritative pronouncement and avoiding conflicting judgments by different high courts. When the matter came up for hearing on Friday, the apex court stayed the notices issued by the GST authorities until the matter was adjudicated by the top court. The court posted the matter for further hearing to March 18. Additional Solicitor-General N. Venkataraman who appeared for the government said the total GST demand was around ₹1.2 trillion but some of the notices were due for expiry by February this year. It is the case of the online gaming companies like "Games 24x7", "Play Games 24X7" and others.



## Sealdah Division adorns Kakdwip and Namkhana Stations for Ganga Sagar Mela 2025



**MI News Service, Kolkata:** In an exhaustive preparation for the upcoming Ganga Sagar Mela, Eastern Railway's Sealdah Division has undertaken extensive arrangements at Kakdwip and Namkhana stations. These stations, serving as crucial gateways for millions of pilgrims, have been transformed into welcoming spaces, adorned with vibrant decor and equipped with modern amenities. Under the guidance of Sri Rakesh Ranjan, Sr. DEN & inspiring leadership of Sri Deepak Nigam, DRM/Sealdah, both stations have been meticulously decorated in finest attire. The walls of the stations have been embellished with captivating paintings showcasing the breathtaking beauty of the Sundarbans, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, renowned for its diverse ecosystem and the majestic Royal Bengal Tiger. These artistic representations serve as a visual feast for the pilgrims and highlight the region's natural wonders. To ensure a safe and hygienic pilgrimage, Sealdah Division has constructed a substantial number of modern toilets and bathrooms, equipped with state-of-the-art facilities for both male and female passengers. These

amenities have been strategically placed throughout the stations to cater to the needs of the large crowds expected during the mela. DRM/Sealdah Sri Nigam said that, we are committed to providing world-class facilities to our esteemed commuters, especially during such significant religious events. Our team has worked tirelessly to ensure that Kakdwip and Namkhana stations are not only visually appealing but also fully equipped to handle the influx of pilgrims. Apart, Sri Nigam emphasized that similar arrangements have been made at Sealdah station to facilitate a smooth and hassle-free journey for pilgrims, for which 102 special services will be provided in between Sealdah and Namkhana. Sealdah Division is gearing up to face any challenges that may arise during the mega event and is urging passengers to adhere to cooperate with Railway staff and make the event a memorable one. With these enhanced facilities and Sealdah Division's unwavering commitment to passenger satisfaction, the Ganga Sagar Mela promises to be a spiritually enriching and enchanting experience for all the devotees.

## Sanjay Singh accuses BJP leaders of electoral fraud

**MI News Service, New Delhi:** AAP MP Sanjay Singh launched a scathing attack on the BJP during a press conference on Saturday, accusing Union Ministers, BJP MPs, and other leaders of undermining the Election Commission's reputation by engaging in electoral fraud, including registering false votes. Singh said, "Union Ministers, BJP MPs, and leaders are playing with the reputation of the Election Commission by throwing dust in its eyes; they are committing electoral scams and frauds." Singh began his allegations by accusing BJP

candidate from New Delhi, Parvesh Verma, of occupying an MP bungalow from May to January despite being a former MP. Singh further alleged that Verma had applied to register 33 votes at the bungalow's address. "The BJP candidate from New Delhi, Parvesh Verma, is a former MP, not a sitting MP, yet he has been occupying the MP's bungalow for eight months from May to January. Not only that, he has submitted an application to get 33 votes registered at the address of his bungalow," Singh added. The AAP MP also accused Union Minister of State for Finance, Pankaj Chaudhary, of submitting an application to register 26 votes at his address, as well as Union Minister Kamlesh Paswan for a similar application to register 26 votes at his address. "The second name is Union Minister of State for Finance, Pankaj Chaudhary, of submitting an application to register 26 votes at his address, as well as Union Minister Kamlesh Paswan for a similar application to register 26 votes made at his address..." he said. Meanwhile, during a press conference on Friday, the AAP MP alleged massive corruption by a political party, referring to it as the "Galli Galoch Party." He claimed that the BJP party's leaders distributed Rs 1,100 openly to buy votes. Singh further stated, "We have received information from sources that leaders of the 'Galli-Galoch' party were given Rs 10,000 each by their party to be distributed. Their leaders thought that when there was no chance of winning elections, they should save Rs 9000 and distribute only Rs 1100." He challenged the party to reveal the truth, asking, "Did you give Rs 1,100 to your leaders to distribute among voters or not?"

# DIR-V Program: C-DAC continuous contributions in High-Performance VEGA Microprocessors

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** The Government of India's DIR-V program aims to establish India as a leader in electronics. As part of the DIR-V program, C-DAC has successfully completed the design and development of the VEGA series of microprocessors including India's first indigenous 64-bit multi-core RISC-V based Superscalar Out-of-order Processor. The VEGA series comprise of 32/64-bit Single/Dual/Quad Core superscalar Out-of-Order high performance processor cores based on RISC-V Instruction Set Architecture. One VEGA based SoC ASIC and two DIR V VEGA processor based development boards were launched during the visit of Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw, Honourable - Minister of Railways, Minister of Information and Broadcasting and Minister of Electronics and Information Technology in gracious presence of Shri S. Krishnan, Secretary of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY); Smt Sunita Verma, Group Co-ordinator (R&D), MeitY; Shri E Magesh, Director General, Shri Sanjay Wandhakar, Centre Head Pune and other senior officials. Single Core VEGA Processor based THEJAS64 SoC ASIC in SCL 180nm C-DAC announces the successful fabrication of THEJAS64, a 64-bit Single-core SoC chip at SCL, Chandigarh. This landmark achievement



marks India's advancement in microprocessor technology which is fully indigenous design and fabrication based on the open-standard RISC-V architecture. It is suitable for diverse applications, from embedded systems to industrial use cases which enhances India's technological independence and fosters a robust and secure domestic ecosystem. **ARIES NOVA & ECO Development Boards** C-DAC announces the launch of ARIES NOVA & ECO Development Boards, a new hardware platform for embedded systems development, powered by the indigenous THEJAS32 SoC featuring the VEGA ET1031 Microprocessor. ARIES NOVA is a compact and

breadboard-friendly design, ideal for IoT and wearable applications, affordable robotics and interactive projects that need a small, easy-to-use microcontroller. ARIES ECO is a cost-effective development board for embedded systems enthusiasts. Its versatile features including multiple communication interfaces and GPIOs are added advantages which supports standalone operation with various power options. This cost-effective platform is expected to be favourite among the budding talents in embedded arena. The open-source RISC-V architecture enables flexibility and innovation and fosters hands-on learning and development in embedded systems. The launch of VEGA development



Security and rescue personnel carry the body of one of the workers trapped inside a coal mine at Umrangso area amid the ongoing rescue operations, in Dima Hasao district, Assam.

## Man kills live-in partner, hides body in fridge for months in MP's Dewas

**MI News Service, Dewas:** A man killed his live-in partner as she pressured him to get married and kept the body in a refrigerator for months to conceal the crime in Madhya Pradesh's Dewas district, a police official said. The incident was reported in Vrindavan Dham Colony under BNP (Bank Note Press) police station limits in the district on Friday morning. Upon getting the information about the matter, the police rushed to the spot, inquired about the incident and took the accused into custody to the place he had been identified as Sanjay Patidar, a resident of Ujjain district, the police added. Superintendent of Police (SP, Dewas) Puneet Gehlot said, "We received information that a woman's body was found in a refrigerator in Vrindavan Dham Colony under BNP police station limits in the district. Acting on it, the police team immediately reached the incident site. The house belongs to a person named Dharendra Srivastava, who currently resides in Indore and he rented this house to a person named Balvir Rajput. Rajput has been residing in that house for a long time. Two rooms of the house were locked by previous tenants. On Thursday, Balbir Rajput opened those rooms to clean them. On Friday morning, when he tried to open a refrigerator, the body of a woman was found in it. Following which, Rajput immediately

informed the police." "Upon reaching the spot, the police questioned the neighbours and came to know before Balbir Rajput, a person named Sanjay Patidar, who is a resident of Ujjain, had rented that house. A woman named Pratibha alias Pinky Prajapati was residing with him in that house. According to the neighbours, no one had seen that woman since after March 2024. Sanjay Patidar had then said that the woman had gone to her maternal house," SP Gehlot said. "Based on these initial facts, a team was formed to take Sanjay Patidar into police custody. On Friday noon, the police took Patidar into custody. In the primary interrogation, the accused Sanjay Patidar confessed the crime. Patidar told the police that he had been living in a live-in relationship with Pratibha alias Pinky Prajapati for the last five years. Patidar is a resident of Ujjain and he was with the woman in Ujjain for nearly three years. After that, he rented a house in Dewas and was living here," SP added. "In the preliminary interrogation, the accused told the police that at the beginning of 2024, the woman was constantly making pressure for marriage. As a result of this, the accused Patidar called one of his associates Vinod Dave, who is also a resident of Ujjain and both strangled the woman to death in March 2024.

## Malda Division organises tuberculosis eradication rally under 100-Day TB Elimination Campaign



**MI News Service, Kolkata:** Under the ongoing 100-Day Tuberculosis Eradication Campaign, Divisional Railway Hospital (DRH) of Eastern Railway's Malda Division organised a rally to spread awareness about Tuberculosis (TB) and promote its elimination. Today's rally from Divisional Railway Hospital, Malda is part of India's 100-Day TB Elimination Campaign, a nationwide initiative launched on December 7, 2024, by Hon'ble Union Health Minister Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda. The campaign aims to accelerate the fight against tuberculosis by improving case detection, reducing diagnostic delays, and enhancing treatment outcomes, particularly for vulnerable populations. The rally was flagged off by Shri Manish Kumar Gupta, Divisional Railway Manager, Malda from Malda Railway Hospital. The rally witnessed enthusiastic participation from

various sections of the Railway community. Smt. Anupa Ghosh, Chief Medical Superintendent (CMS), Malda and other branch officials led the event, which symbolised united struggle against TB. The team of Bharat Scouts and Guides, nurses, doctors and other medical staff also played an active role in the rally. The rally started from the premises of Divisional Railway Hospital, Malda and culminated at the office of Divisional Railway Manager, Malda. The participants carried banners and placards to spread awareness about the importance of prevention, early detection and timely treatment of TB. The rally covered the railway colony, Malda and encouraged locals to come forward with minimal symptoms of tuberculosis. This effort is crucial in achieving the campaign's objectives, which include increasing case detection, reducing mortality.

## Assam mining accident: Coal India to deploy pump to aid rescue efforts for trapped miners

**MI News Service, Dima Hasao:** Coal India will deploy pump to aid in the rescue efforts of the trapped miner in the 3 Kilo Umrangso area in Dima Hasao district, an official said. Speaking to ANI, General Manager of Coal India, Kolkata, Sanjay Kumar said, "As soon as we got the news, we were asked to come and give the maximum possible help. We got a new pump from Nagpur. Yesterday we tested the pump. The electrical power generator is ready. In the meantime, small pumps have also started. Water is also decreasing. Today we will try to make a platform and then we will lower the pipe. The preparatory job is ready, we are preparing the platform as soon as the platform is ready, we will load the pipes and try to start the pump. A special rescue team is also on standby." The joint rescue team of the Indian Army and NDRF recovered the third body from the inundated rat-hole coal mine at 3 Kilo Umrangso area in Dima Hasao district today. The second body was recovered this morning. HPS Kandari, Commandant of 1st Battalion, NDRF, said, "Water is being removed from this well and water from other wells is being sucked into this one. These were the bodies which were likely trapped in the rat holes which are now coming into the main well with the water."

### Legal Notice

I, Shri Alok Halder, father- Hirenandra Nath Halder, resident- Chaugaba, post- Chaugaba, Thana- Anandapur, Kolkata- 700105, have purchased 2 (two) Kathas 3 (three) Chhataks of land at Plot No. 316 in Chaugaba (J.L. No.-03) Mouza under Kolkata Block in the year 2024 from Ahmed Ali and Sarwari Khatun by virtue of the sale deed (Deed No.- 2081/2024). The said land was purchased by Ahmed Ali and Sarwari Khatun in the year 2006 from Shri Shushil Halder (Power of Attorney Holder) appointed by Shri Jadunath Sanpui (Deed No.- 03863/2006). Then I have applied for mutation of the said land (Case No.- MN/2025/1630/740), if any person has any claim, then, please report the complaint to the Kolkata B.L.L.R.O. Office (Address- K.M.C. Building, Room No.-328, 5, S.N. Banerjee Road, Kolkata- 700013) or through email (hlro@kolkata@gmail.com) within one month from the date of advertisement..

### e-Tender Notice

E-tender invited vide NIT No. 10/SGP/SFC/2024-25 by the Proddhan, Sagarpura Gram Panchayat, Jalangi, Murshidabad. Last Date of online bid submission is 18/01/2025 up to 10:00 am. Interested bidders may kindly visit wbtenders website for more details. **Sd/- Proddhan Sagarpura Gram Panchayat Jalangi, Murshidabad**

### Itachuna Khanyan Gram Panchayat

VIII.+P.O.- Khanyan, P.S.- Pandua, Dist.- Hooghly, 712147

### Notice Inviting e-Tender

e-Tenders are invited from the resourceful and experienced bidders for execution of different works vide Reference No.- 05/2025, Dated- 06/01/2025 & for Two Numbers Tenders. Tender ID: 2024\_ZPHD\_793021\_1-2. Last date of Bid submission is 24/01/2025 up to 01:30 PM. Intending bidders are requested to visit the website : <https://wbtenders.gov.in> & undersigned GP Office. **Sd/- Proddhan Itachuna Khanyan Gram Panchayat**

### PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that certificates for 4250 shares of face value of Rs. 10/- each bearing Certificate Nos. 8772-8794, 18016, 32564-32586, 61373-61390, distinctive nos3770071 to 3771200, 6193200 to 8194329, 12618677 to 12619806, 15987723 to 15988582 under folio No. 00032 of of Balmer Lawrie & Co Limited standing in the name of Late Mr. Meher Hormazshaw Mehta have been lost or misplaced and the undersigned has applied to the Company to issue duplicate certificates for the said shares. Any person(s) in possession of the said shares certificates or having any claim(s) to the said shares should notify to and lodge such claim(s) with the Share Department of the Company Balmer Lawrie & Co Ltd, 21, Netaji Subhas Road, Kolkata, West Bengal, 700001 OR with its RTA, KFin Technologies Ltd, Karvy Selenium Tower B, Plot 31-32, Gachibowli, Financial District, Narsaraopeta, Hyderabad, Telangana, 500032, within 21 days from the date of publication of this Notice after which period no claims will be entertained and the Company will proceed to issue duplicate share certificates.

Place: Kolkata Applicant name: Date: 11.01.2025 Mrs. Rashna Phiroz Madon

### PUBLICATION

That my client Gobinda Debnath, S/o Jagabandhu Debnath, residing at 1 No. Gov. Colony, Sheoraphuli under the Serampore P.S. in the District of Hooghly. That my said client owner cum possessor in respect of RS plot No. 952 corresponding L.R. Plot Nos. 1522 and 1525 admeasuring more or less .025 Sahasrangsha (Bagan) in the Mouza of Sheoraphuli (J.L. No. 6) under the Serampore Block from Sri Moly Kumar Mukhopadhyay by way of Sale Deed being No. 3183/2010 (A.D.S.R., Serampore, Hooghly) and also said Moly Kumar Mukhopadhyay got Power of Attorney from two sons of Kashinath Mukhopadhyay i.e. Milon Kumar Mukhopadhyay and Manas Kumar Mukhopadhyay by way of two Registered Power of Attorney being No. 120/1994 (A.D.S.R. Chandannagar) and 140/1983 (A.D.S.R. Serampore) in respect of said plots. If any objection will arise in respect of said plots then we will come to the Office of B.L. & L.R.O., Serampore, within 1(One) month from the Date of Publication, otherwise the B.L. & L.R.O., Serampore will be allowed the said case as ex-party in favour of Applicant.

**Lakshinaran Mukherjee Advocate Reg No.-WB-1924/1997**

### নোটিশ

আমার মক্কেল শ্রী দীপক কুমার মুখাৰ্জী, পিতা- সুবোধ মুখাৰ্জী, সাং-নিরতা, হাওড়া, গুড ইং ২০/০৭/২০ তাই ADSR DOMJUR রেজিঃ কৃত ০৫৪৬ নং দলিল মূলে সাং- সাহাচক, গো- বালিসক, আমতা, নিবাসী কৌশিক পাল ও বিনয় পাল এর পক্ষে নিম্নকৃত আমোক্তার শব্দর মাজী পিণ্ডানবাহাল মাজী, সাং-কাটলিয়া-হাওড়া (ADSR DOMJUR রেজিঃ কৃত আমোক্তার নং ০৪৭০/২০১৮) ইহার দিক্ত ইহাে মোজা ডাঙ্গী, জে.এল. ৪৯, হাঃ ১৯৬, ১৯৪ নং খতিয়ান ভূক্ত, সাঃ ৫৬৭, ৫৬৬, ৫৬৭, ৫৬৮, ৫৬৯ হাঃ ৫৬৮, ৫৬৭, ৫৬৮, ৫৬৯, ৬০০ নং দাগে, ৯.২১ শতক সম্পত্তি ক্রয় করেন। উক্ত সম্পত্তি নিজ নামে রেজঃ করিবর জন্য মোমুদ্রিত বি.এল.আর. ও তাে আবেদন করেন, যদি কারো কোনরূপ আপত্তি থাকে তাহা হইলে বিজ্ঞপ্তির ৩০ দিনের মধ্যে উক্ত অফিসে যোগাযোগ করার অনুরোধ রহিল।

**ASIT KUMAR DE, Advocate Mb. no. 9831397904 Judge's Court Howrah**

### NOTICE

My client Partha Kumar Mishra Purchased 2 Kata land from Sundari Mondal vied Registered Deed -7921/2011 mentioned power of Attorney namely Nirmal Karmakar vied Deed NO-412/2011/ A.D.S.R- Behala Mouza -Purba Barisha Dag-2878 R.S Kh-2123.Now Applied Mutation have only objection Contact from B.L & L.R.O Kolkata Block.

**HEMENTA KUMAR MANNA ADVOCATE Alipore judges Court**

### Sapupara Basukati Gram Panchayat

Sapupara, Nischinda, Howrah - 711 227

### Notice Inviting e-Tender

e-Tenders are invited from the resourceful and experienced bidders for execution of 1 no. development work vide Memo No. : 280/NIT/ 15<sup>th</sup> FC TIED/SB/24-25 & e-NIT No. -WB/HOW/BJSBG/NIT23/24-25, Date: 10.01.2025. Documents Download/Sale & Bid Submission Start Date (Online): 11.01.2025 at 03:00 PM. Bid Submission End Date (Online): 15.01.2025 up to 03:00 PM. Date of Opening of Technical Bid (Online): 17.01.2025 at 03:00 PM. For details visit [www.wbtenders.gov.in](http://www.wbtenders.gov.in) & undersigned GP Office.

**Sd/- Proddhan Sapupara Basukati Gram Panchayat**







## US Supreme Court likely to uphold federal law imposing ban on TikTok

MI News Service, Washington, DC: A majority of the judges on the US Supreme Court on Friday seemed inclined to uphold a federal law that would impose a ban on the video-sharing app TikTok in the US after January 19 if the Chinese-owned parent company ByteDance divests from the platform, ABC News reported.

TikTok vs Garland is the legal case that pits the social media platform against all three branches of the US government, which have a similar view that the app poses a serious risk to national security. During arguments, concerns regarding intelligence threats posed by China and potential future weaponization of the app appeared to override concerns about potential restrictions on free speech rights.

During the hearing, "Are we supposed to ignore the fact that the ultimate parent of TikTok is doing intelligence work?" Chief Justice John Roberts asked the company's attorney, Noel Francisco, according to the ABC News report. Justice Brett Kavanaugh stated that concerns regarding foreign data collection on Americans were "very strong" and that there are legitimate fears the data could be used to "turn spies or blackmail people" in the future. Justice Amy Coney Barrett appeared skeptical of the argument that law was silencing people of the US. Barrett said, "The law doesn't say 'shut down' [TikTok]," Barrett said. "It says ByteDance must divest. If it did that we wouldn't be here."

## Bangladesh arrests main accused in Hindu man's murder

MI News Service, Dhaka: Police in Bangladesh on Friday arrested the main accused, Md Subaj Hossain, in connection with the murder of a 60-year-old Hindu man, Tarun Chandra Das in the northern Natore district. Das's body was found tied up and strangled at a cremation ground from Bara Harishpur cremation ground in Natore district on December 21, police said in a statement.

At the time of recovery, the body's hands and feet were tied with rope and the face was tied with a cloth, the statement added. "Initially, it is believed that the victim Tarun Kumar Das tried to scream when he saw the thieves while the unidentified thieves were stealing from the Bhogar inside the cremation ghat and the thieves tied his hands and feet and strangled him to death," the statement said.

"It is initially known that some Kasar plates were stolen from the Bhoghar of the crematorium. It may be noted that the victim was mentally ill for a long time and was staying at the said crematorium for quite some time," the statement added. According to the police, Hossain confessed to the crime, stating that he killed Das with the help of his accomplices while stealing from the crematorium. The police are investigating the matter further. In a statement late Friday, the police said, "On January 9, the Natore police arrested the main accused Md Subaj Hossain (24) from Chittagong in connection with the incident. The accused gave a confessional statement to the court that he killed the victim with the help of his co-accused Hasan Mondal, Sajib Hasan, Tota, Talha and Al-Mutakabbir," the statement said. Meanwhile, the Bangladesh Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) on Thursday called India's allegation of the "mistreatment of Indian fishermen" as "baseless and fabricated."



'Shwet Ashw' personnel of the Corps of Military Police (CMP) perform during a weapons and equipment exhibition 'Know Your Army' ahead the upcoming 77th Indian Army Day, at the Manekshaw Parade Ground, in Bengaluru.

## 22 Palestinians, including a journo killed in Israeli attacks on Gaza

MI News Service, Gaza: Israeli airstrikes claimed the lives of at least 22 Palestinians, including a journalist, as fuel shortages threaten to plunge Gaza into a communications blackout, officials warned. The Civil Defence in Gaza reported eight fatalities and several injuries from an airstrike targeting a group of people and a house in the Shuja'iyya neighbourhood of Gaza City. Later, an airstrike on the Al-Bureij refugee camp in central Gaza killed seven people, Xinhua news agency reported. In southern Gaza's Khan Younis, medical officials at Nasser Hospital said that four bodies were recovered after aerial and artillery attacks struck multiple locations in the city. In Al-Nuseirat, central Gaza, Al-Awda Hospital reported three deaths, including journalist Sa'ed Nabhan of Al-Ghad TV, and six injuries from artillery shelling and drone strikes. With the death of Nabhan, the number of journalists killed since the conflict began on October 7, 2023, has risen to 203, according to the government media office in Gaza.

Meanwhile, Gaza's Minister of Communications and Digital Economy, Abdul Razzaq Al-Natsha, warned that communication services, including internet and landlines, could be cut off by Friday night due to fuel shortages. The lack of fuel, exacerbated by Israel's blockade of humanitarian supplies, threatens to disrupt emergency services and worsen the already dire humanitarian crisis, he said. The ongoing conflict, now surpassing 460 days, began



after a Hamas-led attack on southern Israel on October 7, 2023, which left over 1,200 Israelis dead and roughly 250 hostages taken. Israel's large-scale military response in Gaza has caused over 46,000 Palestinian deaths, according to Gaza health authorities. In another incident, Five people were killed and four others injured on Friday in an Israeli airstrike targeting Tayr Debba, a municipality in southern Lebanon's Tyre district, the Lebanese Health Ministry reported. According to the official National News Agency, an Israeli drone targeted a car in Tayr Debba, killing five and wounding four more, all of whom have been transferred to hospitals in Tyre. Separately, the General Directorate of Civil Defence on Friday announced the recovery of five bodies it said were killed during recent Israeli strikes on the Lebanese town of

Khiam, east of southern Lebanon. Despite a ceasefire agreement with Lebanon, which took effect on November 27, 2024, Israel has conducted intermittent strikes in southern and eastern Lebanon, some of which have caused casualties. Meanwhile, the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) said in a statement on Friday that Israeli aircraft struck a vehicle loaded with weapons belonging to Hezbollah in southern Lebanon. The airstrike was launched after the IDF found several militants loading weapons onto the truck, according to the statement. Earlier in the day, the IDF said in a separate statement that during searching operations in a southern Lebanese village, Israeli soldiers discovered a multi-barrel rocket launcher, hundreds of mortar shells, explosive devices, and RPG rifles inside a structure.

## Australia: Offensive graffiti spray-painted on synagogue, house in Sydney; investigations underway



MI News Service, Sydney: Police have launched an investigation after offensive graffiti was spray-painted on a synagogue and a house in Australia's Sydney, ABC News reported. Police received information on Saturday at about 7:30 am (local time) after graffiti was spray-painted on a synagogue on Georgina Street, Newtown in Sydney. Several red swastikas were painted along the front fence of the synagogue.

The NSW Police has released pictures which show two people, one on a bike, wearing light-coloured shoes, black hoodies and dark clothes outside the building. Earlier on Friday, the Allawah synagogue in southern Sydney was vandalised with several swastikas spray-painted onto exterior walls in what police have termed an "offensive" graffiti, ABC News reported.

On Saturday, officers arrived at a house on Henry Street, Queens Park in Syd-

ney, after it was informed that an anti-Semitic slur had been spray-painted on the front of the property. The words "F\*\*\* Jews" were sprayed outside of the home.

It is the second such incident on the street this week. Earlier on Monday, the same phrase was scrawled on the side of a car. Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese condemned the incident and said, "anti-Semitism is a scourge." Police have started an investigation into each of the incidents.

A police investigation has also started into offensive words written on a poster on Marrickville Road in Marrickville. NSW Jewish Board of Deputies President David Ossip said the targeting of synagogues should "sicken us all." He said, "No one should think that these are just acts of vandalism." He stated, "These hate-filled cretins need to know that they will not succeed."

## Kamruzzaman calls for harmony at Haldia rally



Nurul Islam Khan

At a public rally in Suta-hata, Haldia, Minority Youth Federation State Secretary Muhammad Kamruzzaman responded to Shuvendu's allegation of jihad by giving a speech of harmony. On Saturday, Minority Youth Federation State Secretary Mohammad Kamruzzaman addressed the Waqf Protection and Harmony Rally in Suta-hata on the call of All India Towhidi Janata, while Towhidi Janata President Maulana Hasibur Rahman, Bengal Volunteers' Rajiv Kanti Roy, Big Father Jishu, Nazrul Ali Khan and others delivered speech on the occasion. On this day, Kamruzzaman said that

Muslims cannot be intimidated by calling them Jihadis or Pakistanis. The ancestors of Muslims fought for an independent India. And the current generation is continuing to fight for the development, growth and protection of the secular constitution of the country. In response to journalists' questions about abusing Muslims, Kamruzzaman said that it was the narrowness of Shuvendu's knowledge. He said that the BJP, while busy running the country, is only doing the politics of religious polarization. All India Towhidi Janata President Maulana Hasibur Rahman loudly protested the BJP leader's communal remarks in meaningless language.

## South Korea says black boxes on Jeju Air jet stopped recording four minutes before deadly crash

MI News Service, SEOUL: The black boxes holding the flight data and cockpit voice recorders for the crashed Jeju Air flight that left 179 people dead stopped recording four minutes before the disaster, South Korea's transport ministry says.

The Boeing 737-800 was flying from Thailand to Muan, South Korea, on December 29 carrying 181 passengers and crew when it belly-landed at the Muan airport and exploded in a fireball after slamming into a concrete barrier. "The analysis revealed that both the CVR and FDR data were not recorded during the four minutes leading up to the aircraft's collision with the localizer," the transport min-



istry says in a statement, referring to the two recording devices. The localizer is a barrier at the end of the runway that helps with aircraft landings and was blamed for exacerbating the crash's severity. The damaged flight data recorder had been deemed unrecoverable for data extraction by South Korean authorities,

who sent it to the United States for analysis at the US National Transportation Safety Board laboratory. But it appears that the boxes holding clues to the flight's final moments experienced data loss, leaving authorities trying to find out what happened. South Korean and US investigators are still probing the cause of the crash.

## Anti-terrorism court grants bail to 153 Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf workers in D-Chowk protest case

MI News Service, Islamabad: An anti-terrorism court (ATC) in Islamabad on Friday approved the bail of 153 Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf workers who were arrested on November 26 when law enforcement agencies conducted a crackdown on protesters at D-Chowk in Islamabad, Dawn reported. During the hearing presided over by ATC Judge Abul Hasnat Mohammad Zulqarnain on Friday, the petitions of 177 PTI workers were heard. Subsequently, 153 PTI workers were granted bail while the court rejected the bail pleas of 24 workers. PTI workers were represented by lawyers: Ansar Kayani, Sardar Masroof Khan, Mirza Aslam Baig, Fataullah Burki, and Murtaza Turfi. Of the 48 workers whose cases were lodged at the Karachi Company Police Station, the court granted bail to 43 workers while the case of five were dismissed, according to Dawn report.

The cases of seven PTI workers were lodged at the Tarnol Police Station, of which two were given bail while the cases of five were rejected. 10 cases were lodged at the I-9 Police Station, of which bail of nine workers was approved and the case of one was rejected.

Case no 1033 was lodged at the Kohsar Police Station and 28 of the arrested were issued bail while the applications of five were rejected. The bail of all 25 workers whose cases were lodged at the Secretariat Police Station was approved. Of the 45 cases lodged at the Margalla Police Station, 42 workers were issued bail while the applications of three were rejected.

## China-Taiwan conflict major concern for US: Report



MI News Service, Washington DC: A survey by the US think tank Council on Foreign Relations, released on January 7 for the fifth consecutive year, found a "moderate" likelihood of a cross-strait conflict in 2025 that could have a "high" impact on US interests, according to a report by Focus Taiwan.

The report, published by the Center for Preventive Action (CPA) of the US think tank, identified "increased military and economic pressure by China on Taiwan" as one of the "top conflicts to watch in 2025." It classified the potential conflict as a "Tier I (High Priority)" concern.

In its report, the CPA said, "Intensified military and economic pressure by China toward Taiwan precipitate a severe cross-strait crisis involving the United States and other countries in the region. A highly disruptive cyberattack on US critical infrastructure by a state or nonstate entity." It added, "Aggressive Chinese actions in the South China Sea, especially toward the Philippines, lead to an armed confrontation involving China, the United States, and US allies. Heightened political antagonism in the United States resulting from the reelection of Donald Trump leads to acts of domestic terrorism and political violence."

Meanwhile, "Increase in militant activity and popular unrest in Pakistan, leading to growing political instability and escalating

clashes with the Taliban in Afghanistan" is listed in Tier II under moderate likelihood; moderate impact. The report, titled "Preventive Priorities Survey 2025," is based on 680 survey responses from foreign policy experts collected in November 2024 and "evaluates ongoing and potential conflicts based on their likelihood of occurring in the coming year and their impact on U.S. interests," Focus Taiwan reported. The Taiwan-China issue is a complex and longstanding geopolitical conflict centred on Taiwan's sovereignty. Taiwan, officially known as the Republic of China (ROC), operates its own government, military, and economy, functioning as a de facto independent state. However, China considers Taiwan a break-away province and insists on the "One China" policy, which asserts that there is only one China, with Beijing as its capital. This has fuelled decades of tension, especially since the Chinese Civil War (1945-1949), when the ROC government retreated to Taiwan after the Communist Party, led by Mao Zedong, took control of mainland China. Beijing has consistently expressed its goal of reunification with Taiwan, using diplomatic, economic, and military pressure to isolate Taiwan internationally. Meanwhile, Taiwan, supported by a significant portion of its population, continues to maintain its independence.

## Researcher Najibul Islam Mandal receives Lifetime Achievement Award



Nurul Islam Khan

Sundarbans researcher-writer Najibul Islam Mandal was honored at Krishnachandrapur High School in Mathurapur on Friday. This honor is the result of his extensive research on the Sundarbans over a long 27 years of his life. The honor was given by a social organization called 'Mukti'. The organization has honored the children of the entire Sundarbans. Others are - Amal Nayek of Basanti, Maya Mandal of Mathurapur,

Shashanka Shekhar Niyogi, Bijendra Vaidya and many others. Najibul Islam Mandal said, "My grandfather was the first to show me my literary ideas. From there, I found the resources of literature. I created the publication 'Samkale'r Jy-onkathi'. I have come a long way. Shankar Halder, the leader of Mukti, gave a speech. The entire program was hosted by Bhagirum Halder and Anup Pariya, and sponsored by Krishnachandrapur High School Principal Chandan Maiti and Shankar Halder.



# Wait ends, as Women’s Hockey India League set to begin today

**PC JHA**

**RANCHI** : The anticipation is finally over with the first-ever Women's Hockey India League all-set to unfold here at the Marang Gomke Jaipal Singh Hockey Stadium, which has hosted top world events such as the FIH Olympic Qualifiers and the Women's Asian Champions Trophy. The city of Ranchi is decked up for the festivities of Hockey ka Jashn as fans are expected to throng the stadium to catch their favourites stars live in action. All four teams participating in the coveted League are eager to get on with the league with the first match scheduled for Sunday, 12th January 2025 between Delhi SG Pipers and Odisha Warriors.

Speaking about their excitement to play in front the hockey-crazy Jharkhand fans, Navneet Kaur, Captain of Delhi SG Pipers said, "We are very excited that the Women's HIL is finally starting and we (Delhi SG Pipers) are getting to play the first match. The

entire team is looking forward to a good game tomorrow. Compared to other teams, I believe we are quite a young squad and there will be a lot of learnings from them and they will also have a lot to learn as the league progresses. We have prepared really well and will take it match-by-match."

Addressing the Jharkhand media on the eve of the league, Captain of the Odisha Warriors team Neha Goyal highlighted the financial benefits of the league. "HIL brings great financial stability for players particularly those who are yet to make the Indian team. This league will certainly inspire more youngsters to look at hockey as a career option and make their dreams come true."

Captain of Shrachhi Rath Bengal Tigers, Udit put her weight behind the league by stating that it is an ideal platform for youngsters. She said, "It is the best platform. We are getting to play alongside some of the best players in the world. Previously, we would only play against them but now we have an opportunity



to watch them closely, how they prepare for matches, their mindset and we also get to make friends with them. We are getting to learn a lot from everyone involved in the team. Also, this is a great opportunity for upcoming generation of players to showcase their talent and try to make their way into the national team."

Jharkhand's home-grown prodigy and current Captain of the Indian Women's Hockey Team Salima Tete urged the hockey fans of her state to come and enjoy the thrilling action and back their favourite stars. Salima who will be turning up as Co-Captain of the Soorma Hockey Club along with Savita expressed, "Our target is to inspire more youngsters to come up in the sport by showcasing best hockey on the field during the HIL. Introducing HIL for women is one of the best initiatives by Hockey India and this has garnered a lot of interest in the sport as well. I can see there is a lot of excitement here in Jharkhand to come and watch matches. My family is also coming here to watch the matches

live, we I look forward to a good league and we will do our best. I urge all the hockey fans in the state to come and support us."

Adding to Salima's views, Soorma Hockey Club's co-captain Savita said, "From the success of the men's team over the past decade, we have seen how important HIL can be for us. We want to express our gratitude to Hockey India for this initiative to introduce women's HIL. Top players from top teams are getting to share the dressing room, dining room and sharing our ideas and thoughts on the sport. This helped Men's hockey a lot in terms of taking their game to the next level and I believe it will have a lot of impact on women's team as well."

On Sunday, artists from Jharkhand will showcase their folklore and heritage with cultural performances during the opening ceremony starting at 7.30pm and the occasion will be graced by Kalpana Soren, Member of Legislative Assembly, Govt of Jharkhand and wife of Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren.

## SRI LANKA BEATS NEW ZEALAND BY 140 RUNS IN THE 3RD ODI BUT NEW ZEALAND WINS SERIES 2-1

**AUCKLAND** : Asitha Fernando and Maheesh Theekshana shared six wickets as Sri Lanka bowled out New Zealand for 150 runs in 29.4 overs to win the third one-day international by 140 runs here Saturday.

Fernando took 3-26 and Theekshana 3-35 to jointly knock the top off the New Zealand innings as it chased 291 for victory. Eshan Fernando also contributed 3-35 as Sri Lanka completed a comprehensive victory.

New Zealand won the three-match series 2-1 in its last matches at home before the ICC Champions Trophy begins in Pakistan and the United Arab Emirates next month.

Earlier, Pathum Nissanka made 66 in an innings of two parts as Sri Lanka compiled 290-8 after choosing to bat first. New Zealand then slumped to 21-5 inside seven overs as Fernando helped Sri Lanka unpick the New Zealand top order.

"It's a huge confidence boost for me and for the team as well because we haven't played well in the first two games. It's a pleasure to play like this," Fernando said.

"We identified a few areas to be improved (after the first two games). Now we are going straight back to work to continue improving day by day."

Mark Chapman was the only New Zealand batter to stand against the chaos, making 81 at a run a ball. Chapman's 51-run partnership with Nathan Smith (17) for the eighth wicket was New Zealand's hope of making a game of it. The run rate never got away from New Zealand but it lost too many wickets early to seriously challenge Sri Lanka's total.

Nissanka reached 50 from 31 balls but almost immediately fell to the ground in pain from an apparent groin or hip strain.

He tried to bat on but was clearly impaired while running between wickets and was 50 not out when he was summoned from the field by Sri Lanka coach Sanith Jayasuriya to receive medical treatment.

Matt Henry took 4-55 for New Zealand.



## Alyssa Healy returns for Australia ahead of ODI series against England Women

**MELBOURNE** [AUSTRALIA] : Wicketkeeper-batter Alyssa Healy rejoined the national team as Australia prepares themselves to face England for the first ODI of the Women's Ashes in Sydney Cricket Ground on Sunday.

The Aussie captain injured her right foot during the ICC Women's T20 World Cup match against Pakistan in October, followed by a knee injury during the Women's Big Bash League (WBBL).

As a result, she missed the ODI series against India at home and was restricted to playing only as a batter during the New Zealand tour.

But on the eve of the Women's Ashes, Healy confirmed that she would be ready to take on the wicketkeeping duties.

"Yeah, good to go, probably I'd be lying if I said there wasn't any doubt, in particular off the back of a rough couple of months, but everything's progressed probably just as well as we would have hoped. I'm feeling really good. More importantly, I'm feeling really confident on it to be able to get out there and do that job. I wouldn't be doing it if I felt like I was going to let the team down. I'm really excited to get back out there tomorrow," Healey said as quoted by the ICC official website.

Beth Mooney had taken over wicket-keeping duties in the absence of the Australian skipper. Georgia Voll replaced her as an opener and made her debut for Australia against India and grabbed her opportunity with both hands, scoring 173 runs at an average of 86.50 in the three

ODIs, including a century.

Healy candidly addressed questions about her fitness for the entire tour, expressing confidence in the backup options the team has in place.

"It's a valid question, and I don't know the answer to that just yet. I think it's just going to depend on how I pull up after each and every opportunity. But obviously we know we've got a pretty handy backup that's ready to do the job, and I know that I can run around in the field quite confidently as well, so we'll just play it by ear. From my perspective, I'd love to be out there keeping every game, but we'll just have to see how the body goes," Healy noted. England too have question marks over the fitness of senior seamer Kate Cross, who suffered back spasms during last month's tour of South Africa.

Cross' fitness is being closely monitored and skipper Heather Knight provided the latest update ahead of the series.

"Obviously Cross is struggling a little bit with a back issue, she's going to have a little bowl today and we'll make a final decision once we've had a look at the wicket and seen where everyone's at post-training," Knight said.

In the event of Cross' absence, Lauren Bell and Lauren Filer are ready, according to Knight, but the final decision will be made closer to the match.

The Women's Ashes series will begin on Sunday, starting with a three-match ODI series followed by three T20Is and a one-off Test.



## PAKISTAN ANNOUNCE 15-MEMBER TEST SQUAD FOR UPCOMING WEST INDIES SERIES

**MULTAN (PAKISTAN)** : Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) on Saturday announced the 15-member Test squad for the upcoming West Indies series, which is scheduled to be played in Multan from January 17-21 and January 25-29.

According to a release from PCB, the squad featured seven changes from the 15-member Test team that toured South Africa. Skipper Shan Masood, Saud Shakeel, Babar Azam, Kamran Ghulam, Khurram Shahzad, Mohammad Rizwan, Noman Ali, and Salman Ali Agha, were the only players who were retained for the upcoming series.

To strengthen the spin department, off-spinner Sajid Khan and mystery spinner Abrar Ahmed have been recalled to partner with left-arm spinner Noman Ali. Openers Imam-ul-Haq and Mohammad Hurraira have also been brought back, replacing the injured Saim Ayub and the out-of-form Abdullah Shafique.

As part of workload management, the pace quartet of Aamir Jamal, Mohammad Abbas, Mir Hamza, and Naseem Shah has been rested. In their place, the selectors have retained Khurram Shahzad, recalled Mohammad Ali and included uncapped Kashif Ali.

In the absence of wicketkeeper-batter Haseebullah, who sustained a split in his right-hand webbing during the Cape Town Test, former Pakistan U19 and Shaheens' captain Rohail Nazir has been added to the squad.

Earlier in the two-match Test against the Proteas, Pakistan showcased a quality performance. However, they were unlucky to clinch a win in the series. Shan Masood's side conceded a 2-0 defeat to South Africa in the Test series.

Currently, Pakistan is holding the eighth place in the World Test Championship 2023-25 standings with 35 points. They also have a points percentage of 24.31.

Pakistan squad for the West Indies Tests: Shan Masood (C), Saud Shakeel (VC), Abrar Ahmed, Babar Azam, Imam-ul-Haq, Kamran Ghulam, Kashif Ali, Khurram Shahzad, Mohammad Ali, Mohammad Hurraira, Mohammad Rizwan (WK), Noman Ali, Rohail Nazir (WK), Sajid Khan, Salman Ali Agha.

## U-14 National School Athletics Championship kicks off with a bang

**MI CORRESPONDENT**

**RANCHI** : The Under 14 Boys/Girls Athletics Championship under the 68th National School Athletics Championship got off to a great start at the Birsa Munda Football Stadium, Morhabadi here on Saturday. The opening ceremony started at 2 pm at Bhagwan Birsa Munda Football Stadium in Morhabadi, Ranchi.

Ranchi Deputy Commissioner Manjunath Bhajantri attended the ceremony as the chief guest and Ranchi Sadar Sub-Divisional Officer Utkarsh Kumar as the special guest. Apart from the chief guest and special guest, Jharkhand Education Project Council Administrative Officer Sachidanand Di. Tigga, Jharkhand Olympic Association General Secretary Madhukant Pathak, State Program Officer

Dheersen Soreng, Jharkhand Athletics Association President Chandradev Singh, Jharkhand Athletics Association General Secretary Shiv Kumar Pandey attended the opening ceremony.

Addressing the opening ceremony, Chief Manjunath Bhajantri said that we are all very proud of this event. The work of giving a great platform to sports and art has been done here. Unity and diversity are also seen along with sports in such national events. Sports develop a healthy body, discipline, leadership skills and teamwork. He said that sports are being continuously promoted by the central and state governments. After the address, Deputy Commissioner Mr. Manjunath Bhajantri, Sadar Sub-Divisional Officer Mr. Utkarsh Kumar and other guests formally started the sports programs by playing the drum and flying balloons.



# WA PRESIDENT SEBASTIAN COE ENDORSES NEERAJ CHOPRA-ORGANISED JAVELIN COMPETITION

**MUMBAI** : The star-studded global javelin competition which India is hosting in May with Olympic champion Neeraj Chopra in the tournament's organising team, has received endorsement from World Athletics president Sebastian Coe.

Coe said the event will help showcase India's ability to host gold-level athletics events.

"World Athletics is delighted to support this new event that will allow fans in India to see their heroes on home soil and that will also showcase to the world India's ability to stage gold standard events," said Coe.

Chopra will be among the leading global stars who will compete in the World Athletics-sanctioned Continental Tour javelin-only competition.

While the venue for the marquee event is yet to be finalised, it will see some of the top male and female javelin

throwers from the world compete on Indian soil for the first time.

Neeraj, who along with JSW Sports and Athletics Federation of India (AFI), has been instrumental in getting the competition to the country, said it was his longstanding dream to bringing a top-notch javelin event to India.

"It has been a longstanding dream of mine to organise and bring a world-class javelin competition to India. With the help of JSW Sports and the Athletics Federation of India, we are making this happen," said the two-time Olympic medalist.

"I am sure that my fellow athletes and the fans in India will both create an experience that will be spoken about for a long time. I am excited to see how big we can make this," he said in a statement.

The invitational tournament is not yet mentioned in the



World Athletics Continental Tour calendar but Coe's endorsement means it will be included in a few days.

Chopra and JSW Sports are keen to make the event an annual fixture in the World Athletics calendar "with an eye

on adding more track and field disciplines to the meet".

It would be interesting to see when exactly is the event held in May given that the Diamond League men's javelin throw event is in Doha on May 16. Outgoing AFI president

Adile Sumariwalla had confirmed during the sports body's AGM in Chandigarh recently that India would be hosting a top invitational javelin competition in which the top-10 throwers in the world would compete.

He had said that not only will Neeraj participate in the event, he will also play an active role in its organisation.

World Athletics president Sebastian Coe said the event will help showcase India's ability to host gold-level athletics events.

"World Athletics is delighted to support this new event that will allow fans in India to see their heroes on home soil and that will also showcase to the world India's ability to stage gold standard events," said Coe.

Sumariwalla added that Neeraj was a huge role model for budding athletes and added that it would be an exciting year for athletics.

"We could not have a better role model than Neeraj Chopra to inspire the next generation of Indian athletes and we are pleased to partner with Neeraj and JSW Sports to present the best of our sport to the Indian public. 2025 will be an exciting year for Indian athletics with two Continental Tour meetings being held in our country," he said.

JSW Sports founder Parth Jindal praised the AFI for its effort in bringing top events to the country.

"I would like to thank the Athletics Federation of India and their leadership for giving us this fantastic opportunity of bringing a world class event to India."

"The AFI has been doing some incredible work to raise the profile of track and field sports in the country, and the manner in which they have come forward to support this event is a testament to their endeavours."