

## Transfer policy: Bengal govt to count pupil-teacher ratio in govt schools

The state has decided to get the exact count of the teachers working in government schools along with their period of posting. An official said they want an idea of the pupil-teacher ratio in schools before deciding whether some teachers should be transferred. The school education department issued an order. The schools have been asked to state how long the teachers have been working in the respective institutions. An order signed by the commissioner of the school education department said: "It has been decided by the competent authority that the rationalisation of the government school teachers will be done shortly. **PG 3**

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# Morning India



West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee at Lalbagh in Murshidabad on Monday.

## NCW welcomes court verdict in RG Kar rape and murder case

**MI News Service, New Delhi:** The National Commission for Women (NCW) has welcomed the Kolkata court's verdict sentencing the prime accused and later convict in the RG Kar Hospital rape-murder case Sanjay Roy to life imprisonment till death, but also urged legal action against the other accused



individuals currently out on bail. The gruesome crime, committed on August 9, triggered widespread protests across the country. Announcing the verdict on Monday, Additional District and Sessions Judge Anirban Das in Sealdah court declared Sanjay Roy guilty of the rape and murder of a postgraduate trainee doctor at RG Kar Medical College and sentenced him to life imprisonment till death. According to a release, though the Commission had initially advocated for the imposition of the death penalty, it acknowledges the court's decision to impose a sentence of life imprisonment for the convict. "The NCW appreciates the swift proceedings of the case, which have led to a sense of justice being served. The social outcry surrounding this case demanded a strong judgment, and it is reassuring to see that justice has been delivered," the release said. "The Commission believes that this conviction will instill a sense of justice in society and remind everyone that such crimes will not go unpunished. We also call for accountability, urging that the other accused involved in the case, currently out on bail, should face legal action if found guilty," it added. It also mentioned that the Commission commends the statement made by the mother of the convict, which highlights that the law is bigger than emotion in such grave matters.

## Junior doctors hold protest rally outside Sealdah Court, demanding sterner punishment for R G Kar convict

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** Demanding stricter punishment like death sentence for the convict Sanjay Roy in the RG Kar rape-murder case, hundreds of junior doctors held a protest rally outside the Sealdah Court on Monday. Participating in the rally, a protesting doctor asserted that they would approach the higher court with their demand. "We wanted a stricter and exemplary punishment, this punishment of life imprisonment is not enough. We will move to higher courts seeking a stricter judgement," he said. Meanwhile, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has expressed dissatisfaction over Monday's judgement for the convict Sanjay Roy in the RG Kar hospital rape-murder case and said if the case had been with Kolkata Police, they would have ensured a death penalty. "I learned about the sentencing from the media. We have always de-

manded capital punishment and we continue to stand by it. However, this is the court's decision and I can't say much about this. For three other cases, Kolkata police ensured capital punishment through thorough investigations concluded within 54-60 days. This was a serious case. Had it been under our purview, we would have ensured the death penalty long back," CM Mamata said while addressing the media at Malda. However, on the contrary, senior Congress leader Salman Khurshid has welcomed the judgement and said that it would convey a message to those who commit such heinous crime. "The biggest worry that people express in our country is that many sad incidents take place - people keep waiting for the Court and that leads to apathy. But, in this case, a quick investigation was done and the Court has also pronounced its judgement in very little time - and the judgement is also apt, it should

be welcomed. Will it convey a message to those who commit such crimes?" Khurshid said. But Union Minister and BJP state President Sukanta Majumdar also expressed dissatisfaction in the verdict, calling for a deeper investigation. Speaking to reporters after the verdict Majumdar, however, refrained from commenting against the court's decision. "We wanted the highest punishment (for the convict Sanjay Roy). Being an elected representative, I can't say anything against the court verdict. The public of West Bengal does not believe that only one person is involved in the RG Kar rape-murder case. I think there should be more depth in this, as Sanjay is saying that police and other people were also involved," the BJP leader said. The case involves the rape and murder of a trainee doctor whose body was found on August 9 in the hospital's seminar room.

## "Not satisfied, Kolkata Police would've ensured death penalty", says Mamata Banerjee on RG Kar verdict

**MI News Service, Kolkata /Malda:** Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday expressed dissatisfaction over the court verdict of the R G Kar Hospital rape and murder case giving life imprisonment to convict Sanjay Roy, and said if the case had been with Kolkata Police, they would have ensured a death penalty. "I learned about the sentencing from the media. We have always demanded capital punishment and we continue to stand by it. However, this is the court's decision and I can't say much about this. For three other cases, Kolkata police ensured capital punishment through thorough investigations concluded within 54-60 days. This was a serious case. Had it been under

our purview, we would have ensured the death penalty long back," CM Mamata said while addressing the media at Malda. "After taking over the case on August 14, 2024, the CBI took five months to seek the death penalty for the accused in the RG Kar case. This comes in strong contrast with the stringent action taken by West Bengal police that ultimately led to the swift delivery of justice by the courts and the death penalty for culprits in cases such as Joynagar, Farakka, and Hooghly as they were wrapped in 50-60 days," she asserted. Further, questioning the CBI's role in the case and trial, CM Mamata Banerjee said that she is not aware of how the CBI had handled the

case. "The details are theirs (CBI) to explain. Even though we had said that we would hand over the case if needed, the case was deliberately taken away from us. Our primary goal was always to secure the harshest possible punishment for the convict. I am not satisfied with this verdict," Mamata Banerjee added. Praising the state police, the West Bengal CM said that they acted swiftly from nabbing the accused within just 24 hours of the crime on August 9. "During the CBI investigation, many speculated that the central agency delayed the probe deliberately under political pressure, raising serious questions about its effectiveness. In con-

trast, Kolkata Police acted swiftly, nabbing the accused, civic volunteer Sanjay Roy, within just 24 hours of the crime on August 9, 2024. But, despite the clear and early arrest, the case was transferred to the CBI on August 13 following political pressure, leading to delays that would shake the faith of many," Mamata Banerjee said. She also claimed that once the CBI took over the investigation on August 14, 2024, it took two long months for the agency to file a chargesheet on October 7. "This two-month gap raised serious questions, as the Kolkata Police had already identified and arrested the accused and the

## Rahul Gandhi seeks urgent steps over plight of patients near AIIMS, writes to Nadda and Delhi CM

**MI News Service, New Delhi:** Senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has written to Union Health Minister J P Nadda and Delhi Chief Minister Atishi, highlighting the plight of hundreds of patients and their family members huddled on the footpath and subway outside AIIMS here and sought concrete steps to resolve this "humanitarian crisis". The Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha also urged the central government to take concrete steps to strengthen the public healthcare system in the upcoming budget and in-

crease the necessary resources for it. In a post in Hindi on X, on Monday Gandhi said, "I have written letters to the Chief Minister of Delhi and the Union Health Minister to provide better facilities to the patients and their families coming to Delhi AIIMS from all over the country." He said "Recently I saw that in freezing cold these people are forced to sleep in the subway under the metro station, where there is no provision of drinking water or a toilet. There are heaps of garbage lying around. The arrival of such a large

number of patients to Delhi AIIMS also shows that people are not getting affordable and good quality health facilities where they live," Gandhi said. "I hope that taking cognizance of my letter, the Chief Minister of Delhi and the Union Health Minister will take immediate steps to resolve this humanitarian crisis," he said. In his letter to Nadda, Gandhi said he wants to bring to his attention "the distressing situation" outside

## Over 4.4 million devotees took holy dip on 8th day of Maha Kumbh

**MI News Service, Prayagraj (UP) :** Faith and devotion took centre stage at Maha Kumbh, as more than 4.4 million devotees took a holy dip on the eighth day of the Kumbh Mela till on Monday. As of January 20, more than 80 million pilgrims have taken a dip at the Sangam Triveni during the Maha Kumbh 2025. Furthermore, over one million Kalpvasis have embraced the spiritual retreat during the Maha Kumbh, considered to be the largest gathering of people in the world in one place. As the day began on Monday over 2.2 million pilgrims took a

holy dip in the morning till 8 a.m. the official data released by the authorities said.. Meanwhile, Director General (DG) of Fire, Avinash Chandra spoke about the ongoing investigation into the Maha Kumbh fire incident that occurred on Sunday. He stated that the police have the authority to investigate, and local authorities are handling the case and also noted that while rumours are circulating, the exact cause would be determined after a thorough investigation. "The police have the right to investigate this incident.

## A maverick Donald Trump ready to make America Great Again in second term

**MI News Service, New York:** In the weeks between his phenomenal electoral victory and swearing-in as the 47th President of the US, the world got a preview of what a second Donald Trump presidency will entail - both for itself and America. Trump talked about making Canada the 51st state of the US, suggested taking control of Greenland and

the Panama Canal, and floated the idea of changing the name of the Gulf of Mexico to the Gulf of America - all this before he was sworn in as American President on Monday. With Trump set to take the oath of office in the United States Capitol Rotunda on Monday, the world appears to be fastening its seat belt as it gets ready for four more years of a tumultuous and unpredictable Trump presidency.

Trump, the oldest person in the US history as the elected president, has gone from being a businessman, real estate tycoon and reality TV star to becoming the country's first former US President to be declared a convicted felon. And after surviving two assassina-

tion bids during his 2024 campaign, the 78-year-old Trump remained unstoppable with American voters giving him a second term with a resounding victory. In the process, he shattered the dream of the Democratic Party, as well as that of millions of Democratic nominee Kamala Harris' supporters, to finally have the first woman President in the White House. From the time he left

office after his loss in the 2020 presidential election to his nomination as the Republican candidate in the 2024 race, Trump continued to dominate the American news cycle and the country's psyche. He refused to accept the November 2020 result that brought Joe Biden to the White House, and

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** Ending all speculations about the verdict, the Sealdah court in the city on Monday awarded life imprisonment till death, to Sanjoy Roy, the lone convict in the heinous rape and murder case of a lady doctor in RG Kar Medical College and Hospital which had rocked the entire nation.

The court of Additional District and Sessions Judge Anirban Das in Sealdah had on Saturday held Roy guilty of the crime committed against the postgraduate trainee doctor at the hospital on August 9 last year, which sparked off unprecedented and prolonged nationwide protests. Judge Das said the crime did not fall under the "rarest of the rare" category as justification for not giving death penalty to the convict.

The court also directed the state to pay a compensation of Rs 17 lakh to the family of the deceased doctor, which they however refused. "We do not want money we only want an early justice for my poor daughter", said the victim's father in the court. The sentence was passed after the judge heard the final statements of the convict and his counsels placed in self-defence as well as those of the victim's family, and the CBI.

Roy, a former civic volunteer with the Kolkata Police, was held guilty under Sections 64 (rape), 66 (punishment for causing death), and 103(1) (murder) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). During Monday's hearing, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) as well as the lawyers of the victims family strongly advocated for the death penalty, terming the crime as the 'rarest of the rare' and citing Supreme Court guidelines on capital punishment. Emphasizing the gravity of the crime, the CBI stated "Creating such an offence is a rarest of rare crimes." Two sections give death. This

bid to save herself. He also said that till date he had uttered only those words as he was told by his lawyers to say inside the court. However, before announcing the verdict the Sealdah Court adjourned its proceedings until 2:45 pm on Monday after both



case comes under arrest of rare punishment be given so that it sets precedence and brings confidence in society," the CBI argued. Thre same argument was placed by the lawyers of the victim's family, while the defence lawyers refused to agree that this was a rarest of the rare crime and sought the punishment of the convict anything else, but the death penalty. Earlier this morning as the Court resumed its proceedings before announcing the verdict, Sanjay Roy, repeatedly claimed before the judge that he was innocent and had been "wrongly held guilty."

"I am being framed and have not committed any crime. I have not done anything, and still, I have been held guilty," Roy told the court ahead of sentencing in the case. Like on Saturday, he claimed that he wore a Rudraksha necklace on the day of the crime on August 9 and had he been involved in the rape and murder of the 31 year old lady doctor, how come the necklace remained intact and was not tore by the victim in a desperate

the convict and the lawyers of all sides placed their arguments. Earlier on Saturday Roy was convicted of rape and murder by the special court nearly six months after his arrest on August 10, a day after committing the crime inside the hospital premises. The judge Anirban Das hinted at the possibility of a death penalty or life sentence for convict Roy due to the severity of the crime. However, junior doctors at RG Kar Hospital, where the victim was a trainee, expressed dissatisfaction with the verdict. They cited unresolved questions and the absence of action against other potential suspects, demanding a more thorough investigation into the case, including the motive and the involvement of others.

The 31-year-old lady doctor was raped and brutally murdered at the state-run R G Kar hospital on August 9 last year. The victim's body was found in the seminar room of the hospital. The incident led to

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BIP party workers took part in a protest demonstration against the State Government over saline scam and various issues near Swasthya Bhawan in Kolkata on Monday.

## 9-yr-old Altaf Beats Heart Ailment After Crucial Surgery Through Sebaashray; Out Of Danger Now!



**MI Ne2ws Service, Diamond Harbour:** AITC National General Secretary and MP Abhishek Banerjee's SEBAASHRAY initiative facilitated a life-saving open-heart surgery for 9-year-old Altaf Hosen Ghorami, who was battling a 'congenital heart condition'. The timely intervention provided crucial medical treatment to the child, offering a lifeline to his impoverished family, who could not have afforded the surgery otherwise.

Altaf's father brought him

to the Sebaashray camp where routine tests flagged the severity of his condition. The boy was immediately referred to the Model Camp at Diamond Harbour SDO Ground for further assessment, which confirmed a critical cardiac anomaly requiring urgent surgery. On January 18, 2025, a dedicated Pediatric Cardiothoracic and Vascular Surgery (CTVS) team, performed a gruelling 4-hour operation at Jagannath Gupta Institute of Medical Sciences and

Hospital. Comprising 20-25 specialists, including surgeons, perfusionists, anesthesiologists, nurses, and technicians, the team worked tirelessly to save Altaf's life. Due to their expertise and SEBAASHRAY's timely interval, the child is now out of danger and on the path to recovery.

Altaf's father expressed his heartfelt gratitude: "When I brought my son to Sebaashray, he couldn't walk and struggled to breathe. The team acted swiftly, referring us for advanced care. With Abhishek Banerjee's assistance, we did not have to spend a single penny for his treatment. I could never have afforded the treatment for my child. The hospital staff and facilities are excellent and supportive. I wholeheartedly thank Abhishek Banerjee as he made all of this possible. God has sent him to us. My son is stable now and is being able to talk properly."

An official said, "For Altaf's surgery, we brought in a skilled CTVS team, comprising both in-house and external doctors. Dr MD Rashid, a pediatric CTVS surgeon, led the operation."

## Police recover lost mobile phone



**Nurul Islam Khan**

On Monday, the mobile phones of 12 original owners who went missing in Howrah Udaynarayanpur police station were returned. The mobile recovery process has been completed on the directions of SPHRD.

The meeting was attended by ADC Doda Kishori Lal Sharma, CPO Doda Parshotam Kumar, PO ICDS Shahida Parveen, ACR Doda Kaiser Ahmed Bhawani, SDM's besides other district and sectoral officers. All of them thanked the police for recovering their mobile phones.

## JSW MG Motor India showcases its new-age technologies and forward-thinking initiatives

**MI News Service, Bhubaneswar:** JSW MG Motor India showcased its innovative technologies and initiatives at the Bharat Mobility Global Expo 2025. The brand demonstrated expertise in CASE (Connected, Autonomous, Shared, and Electric) technology, focusing on innovation, sustainability & customer-centric solutions. The brand showcased a range of powertrain options, including hybrid electric vehicles, PHEVs, BEVs, and ICE models. CEO Rajeev Chaba emphasized the brand's vision of Drive. Future.

## "AGAAZ- THE BEGINNING", the 2nd Annual School function "AZM - THE ASPIRATION"

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** Like the 1st annual programme "AGAAZ- THE BEGINNING", the 2nd Annual School function "AZM - THE ASPIRATION" was the much awaited event for our students, teachers and the trustees. Extensive planning by the trustees since the last 30 odd days, relentless preparation by the students, meticulous execution of the instructions by the teachers and the blessings of the Almighty - culminated in the hosting of this event on the 19th of January' 2025, at Mahajati Sadan, Kolkata.

By the Grace of Allah! What an event it turned out to be!!! Whether it was the play "ithihass" where the students enacted their scenes with the background voice of Amitabh Bachchan reverberating in the hall; the exuberant dance in the "Rain rain go away" and the "Baby Shark"; the poignant outcry of the mother Earth in the "THE EARTH'S CRY"; or the chubby "Going School is fun" - School children with excitement sparkling in their eyes and bright smiles spread on their faces, mesmerized the audience with their superlative performances. They danced and moved under the kaleidoscopic stage lights, matching with the upbeat music.

However, the high point of the performance, and true to

the theme of the programme "AZM - The Aspiration", was the hindi play "Dadi Amma Maan jao"

It started light-heartedly with the cribbing of "dadi amma" and comical but repitative exhortation of her granddaughter to tie her the hair juda sending peels of laughs in the audiences. But gradually meandered on the one hand, to the underneath burning topic of illiteracy, early marriages and the reluctance of the innumerable families to send their daughter's to school even in this 21st century. While on the other hand, it highlighted the awareness and aspirations of the many to acquire education. The main protagonist of the play, Daadi, who is deeply entrenched in archaic and debilitating belief - exposes the hesitations and fears of many houses who are still not convinced of the power of education and are skeptical in sending their daughters to school. But her own daughter, "Mohammadi's" heartfelt lamentation on being illiterate herself and the sad disclosure of the sufferings of

a newly married neighbour whose husband has recently expired - poignantly presses the importance of education in today's time.

As the bright rays of sunlight gradually lift the gloomy fogginess and unravels the splendour of the crisp and bright winter morning - Dadi's initial reluctance and reservation towards education in general and the female education in particular is removed!

The play beautifully encapsulated the Trust's own "aspirations" in advocating their core social causes amidst the innumerable hurdles. But the thunderous applauses in the auditorium and the appreciation of the audiences outside is a testament that magnificent play managed to impart the core messages successfully. And this will goad us and motivate us to continue with renewed enthusiasm in the future.

Special thanks to donors, patrons and our august audience for taking out their valuable time on Sunday and making this event a grand success!



# Bengal Christian Council's 'Peace Rally' addresses several issues

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** Bengal Christian Council's (BCC) peace rally in Kolkata on Monday addressed several issues. Bengal Christian Council has asked Chief Minister of West Bengal Mamata Banerjee to look into the severe challenges which the Heads of Institutions of The Christian Missionary Schools have been facing for a long time in the DI Office, Kolkata in spite of the said Minority Status and Notification as mentioned above.

According to Bishop Dr. Paritosh Canning, "the Christian schools are fac-

ing continuous harassment and severe non-cooperation from DI office, Kolkata circle."

Bishop Dr. Canning further said "All the Missionary Schools maintain their

own dress code in consonance with the centuries old legacy and traditions of our Schools. Though our Schools have been exempted from following the Government Dress Code, we

have not received the uniform grant till date in spite of several reminders."

To him, if this situation continues, "our Missionary Institutions to apply to the Government of West Bengal



## Kolkata venue for 'Mission 1.5'

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** Lions International District 322B1 hosted a grand and impactful Zonal Conference, themed 'Mission 1.5' recently in Kolkata. The event saw enthusiastic participation from prominent Lions Clubs under Zone IX, including Calcutta Greater, Calcutta Quest, Calcutta Midtown, Kolkata Friends, Kolkata Altruist, and Kolkata

Vivekbani. The theme, 'Mission 1.5,' emphasized innovative strategies for community service, collaboration among clubs, and setting goals for the ongoing Lions Year 2024-25. Speaking on the occasion, Zone Chairperson Ravindra Banthia highlighted the importance of collective efforts in achieving the Lions' mission of service.

## Kolkata hosts 'Black Belt Graduation Ceremony'

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** Kolkata recently witnessed a historic moment as Hanshi Premjit Sen, a renowned karate expert, led one of India's largest black belt graduation ceremonies, where over 500 students showcased their mastery of karate. This momentous event was recently held in Kolkata.

The ceremony stood out for its heartwarming participation of multiple mother-daughter duos, who appeared for their black belt examination together. This unique aspect underscored the role of karate in fostering family bonding and breaking generational barriers, making it a truly special occasion. Adding to the awe, a 60-plus-year-old gentleman successfully undertook

his black belt examination, proving that age is no limit to pursuing one's passion for martial arts.

"Hanshi Premjit Sen's contributions to karate have been immeasurable," said Mallicka Sen, "His passion, expertise, and unwavering commitment have inspired countless students to take up the sport. We were honored to have him at the helm of this historic event."

Speaking about the occasion, Hanshi Premjit Sen shared, "It brings immense joy to see people of all ages, from young children to a 60-year-old gentleman, achieving their black belts. The participation of mother-daughter duos is especially heartwarming, reflecting how karate builds stronger families and communities."

## Bansberia Ganges High School Annual Sports Inauguration by MLA



**MI News Service, Hooghly:** Bansberia Ganges Hindi High School's annual sports was inaugurated on Monday. MLA Tapan Dasgupta inaugurated by cutting the ribbon. Apart from the MLA, school headmaster, SDO Smita Sanyal Shukla, along with other school teachers and sever-

al councilors were present in the event. All the guests talked to the students and told them many important things to get higher education. There, MLA Tapan Dasgupta announced one lakh rupees for sports in the school and three lakh rupees for school maintenance.

## Extra-marital affair: Husband strangles wife to death

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** A suspected extra-marital affair led to the murder of a house wife at the hand of her own husband. The incident happened at Arambagh, Hoogly. After the murder, the husband surrendered at the police station. This incident created a stir in Salepur, Arambagh. The deceased's name is Mithu Das. Accused Ranjit Das surrendered to the police station after smothering her with a pillow and killing her. Allegedly, the deceased was first married 15 years ago in the Ghoghat police station area. Few years later Mithu eloped with Ranjit and

married for the second time. Since then, the family members claim that the daughter has no relationship with her father's family.

Ranjit works as a goldsmith. As per sources, even after her second marriage, Mithu developed a relationship with a young man from Paschim Medinipur. This relationship created a bad blood between the couple and that eventually culminated into this gruesome murder. Police recovered the body and took it to Arambagh Medical College Hospital for autopsy. The police have started investigation the incident.

## India-B'desh border pleads for fence

**MI News Service, Malda:** Underlying tensions continued to prevail in Sukdebpur village in Malda near the India-Bangladesh border on Sunday, a day after Indians here and Bangladeshis of villages in Chapai-Nawabganj district had a face-off.

On Sunday, Sukdebpur villagers in Kaliachak-III block of Malda said that the Border Security Force (BSF) should resume the installation of fences along an unfenced stretch of the border. Earlier, an initiative was taken to put up the fences, but it failed as the Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) raised objections.

Some locals who were engaged in the fencing work alleged that the BGB personnel had threatened to open fire if they did not stop the work.

"We are feeling insecure and apprehend that Bangladeshis might attack us. The BSF should take the initiative to put up the fences. We are there to cooperate with the BSF," said Manoj Mondal, a Sukdebpur resident.

## SEBAASHRAY has always been more than just routine health check-ups and free medical services



**MI Ne2ws Service, Kolkata:** #SEBAASHRAY has always been more than just routine health check-ups and free medical services; it is about TIMELY MEDICAL INTERVENTIONS that are now SAVING LIVES. This was evident in the case of 9-year-old Altaf Hosen Ghorami, whose story is a testament to the initiative's impact.

Altaf's father brought him to a Sebaashray camp, where

routine tests revealed a CRITICAL HEART CONDITION. He was promptly referred to the Model Camp at Diamond Harbour SDO Ground, where further examination confirmed a CONGENITAL CARDIAC ANOMALY that severely impaired his oxygen levels. Acting swiftly, the team referred him to Jagannath Gupta Institute of Medical Sciences and Hospital for advanced care. On 18th January, 2025, a

highly-skilled Pediatric Cardiothoracic and Vascular Surgery (CTVS) team of 20-25 specialists – including surgeons, perfusionists, anesthesiologists, nurses and OT technicians – performed a GRUELLING 4-HOUR SURGERY to correct the anomaly. I am relieved to share that Altaf is NOW OUT OF DANGER. With proper post-operative care, he will soon be back on his feet, ready to EMBRACE LIFE WITH RE-NEWED VIGOUR.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the entire medical team for their expertise, dedication, precision and kindness in handling this mammoth responsibility of saving a child's life.

Altaf's story reinforces our commitment to ensuring that EVERY INDIVIDUAL HAS ACCESS TO LIFE-SAVING HEALTHCARE.

This is the PROMISE OF SEBAASHRAY!

## Olympism 365: Bengal's path-breaking project for intellectually disabled women

**MI Ne2ws Service, Kolkata:** The Current Situation studies reveal that in 98% of cases involving violence against intellectually disabled women and children, victims are unable to provide detailed accounts of what happened to them. In many instances, they don't even realize that they are being subjected to abuse, whether it be domestic violence or forced child marriages.

According to NCRB data (Crime in India 2019-2021), 273 cases of child marriage were registered in West Bengal during this period. The situation worsened during the COVID-19 pandemic, with over 2,607 POCSO (Protection of Children from Sexual Offenses) cases being registered in 2021.

Intellectually disabled girls and women are not only unsafe but are also at a higher risk of mental health issues such as depression, anxiety, PTSD, and phobias. Many remain undiagnosed and untreated, leading to prolonged suffering and, in extreme cases, suicide.

Challenges such as societal stigma, exclusion from education and extracurricular activities, lack of opportunities in sports, and forced early marriages further isolate these individuals.

The Transformative Power of Sports

Eight years ago, Civilian Welfare Foundation (CWF), a non-profit organization, conducted research revealing

that four years of systematic involvement in sports can significantly improve the lives of individuals with disabilities. Positive changes include increased self-confidence, expanded social connections, enhanced physical capabilities, participation alongside able-bodied competitors, and liberation from societal discrimination.

One inspiring example comes from a female international swimmer who shared her story with CWF in 2017:

"Until 2011, my world was confined to the four walls of my kitchen. I never imagined that sports could bring such transformation. In 2012, I began training in my village pond for my first swimming competition. That same pond became my training ground. Gradually, my journey extended beyond my village to cities, states, and even international arenas. Despite losing both legs, I've won numerous medals. While people's stares, pity, and laughter initially bothered me, my achievements have rendered those reactions insignificant."

Similarly, Rima (name changed), a national-level athlete with an intellectual disability, found solace in sports. Her mother recalls:

"My daughter loved playing football. It was her favorite game. I traveled with her to various competitions, but during one event in another state, her male coach physically abused her. She became

terrified and unable to articulate the incident. After counseling, we discovered what had happened. Unfortunately, we couldn't pursue legal action because she couldn't clearly express the details of the abuse."

Such incidents emphasize the need for a structured approach to empower and protect intellectually disabled women and girls.

Introducing Olympism 365 Project

To address these challenges, Bengal is launching the 'Olympism 365' Project, a ground-breaking initiative. Selected from over 3,500 global proposals spanning 44 countries, this project will involve 600 intellectually disabled women and girls in an 18-month sports program. Participants will learn techniques to recognize and combat abuse, alongside receiving monthly physical and mental health evaluations.

The project aims to bring participants from rural, urban, semi-urban, and slum areas across 10 districts: Kolkata, Birbhum, Nadia, East and West Medinipur, Bardhaman, Howrah, Hooghly, North 24 Parganas, and South 24 Parganas.

Partner organizations include Special Olympics Bharat, Tarapur Social Development Society, and Sriha Society. International organizations like the International Olympic Committee, Women Win, and Beyond Sports are also supporting the initiative.

## Not our fault, cry junior doctors at Midnapore Medical College

**MI Ne2ws Service, Midnapore:** Junior doctors at the Midnapore Medical College and Hospital, who began a partial ceasefire on Saturday night after several of their colleagues were suspended, on Sunday asserted that surgeries for pregnant women had been done under the supervision of seniors.

Denying charges of negligence in the wake of the death of a new mother and the critical illness of four others earlier this month, postgraduate trainees (PGTs) attached to the Midnapore hospital claimed they followed the National Medical Commission guidelines and their procedures were free of lapses.

They alleged that the Mamata Banerjee government had made scapegoats out of them, and claimed that the substandard Ringer's lactate administered to the women

was to blame.

The partial ceasefire began at 11pm on Saturday and continued throughout Sunday, drawing participation from many doctors, particularly PGTs from the gynaecology department. Holding placards and posters, they demanded suspension orders be revoked and warned of a full-scale strike if their demands were unmet.

"We work under senior doctors' supervision and have minimal independent roles since patients are admitted under the seniors. In this case too, there was no exception.... We only followed orders of our superiors," said a PGT doctor. "Despite following instructions, why were suspension orders issued against us without any investigation?"

Mamani Ruidas, 30, a resident of Garbeta, West Midnapore, died at the Midnapore hospital on January

10. Three critically ill women who had just delivered babies — Mampi Singh, 23, Nasrin Khatun, 19, and Minara Bibi, 31, — were shifted to SSKM Hospital in Calcutta on January 12.

Rekha Shaw, the other patient to fall seriously ill after her Cesarean section, did not need to be shifted.

On Sunday, junior doctors submitted a letter to the medical college's principal Mousumi Nandi, requesting a review of the suspension of the junior doctors, part of a broader action taken against 12 doctors by the state government following allegations of negligence by way of administering poor quality of Ringer's lactate solution.

The suspended doctors are Soumen Das, residential medical officer (RMO); Dilip Kumar Pal and Himadri Nayek, assistant professors of gynaecology;



Convict Sanjoy Roy sentenced...

**From PG 1**  
nationwide outrage and prolonged protests by junior doctors not only in West Bengal but across the country and even abroad, demanding justice for and stronger security measures in government hospitals. The trial in the rape and murder case commenced in the Special CBI court in Sealdah on November 11, three months after the incident. The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), which took over the probe from the Kolkata Police on the Calcutta High Court's direction, has sought "maximum punishment" for Roy. The trial was completed on January 6 this year.

In the Sealdah courtroom, the Public Prosecutor argued that the death penalty should be reserved for cases where there is no scope for reform, urging a critical examination of the

evidence and questioning its sufficiency. The prosecutor also emphasized the importance of considering mental health and social factors while advocating for alternative punishments. Representing the victim's family, the lawyers contended that the evidence demonstrated the accused's malicious intent and a severe breach of trust as a civic volunteer, calling for the death penalty as the highest form of justice for the victim while the CBI stressed the need to balance the rights of the victim and society in determining an appropriate punishment. They also strongly advocated for the death penalty, citing Supreme Court guidelines on capital punishment. This case comes under arrest of rare punishment be given so that it sets precedence and brings confidence in society," the CBI argued.

"Not satisfied, Kolkata...

**From PG 1**  
CBI could not identify any other accused. The CBI then proceeded to frame charges on November 4, with the trial finally starting on November 11, 2024. The trial culminated on January 9, 2025, nearly five months after the arrest, with the CBI's investigation drawing intense scrutiny for its prolonged pace," she said.

Lashing out at the opposition, Mamata Banerjee said that while the entire nation mourned the tragic death of the doctor, the BJP and CPI(M) exploited the incident for political mileage, "orchestrating malicious misinformation campaigns to mislead the public".

"Every myth they propagated about the crime, its motives, and the accused was systematically debunked through the facts uncovered during the Kolkata Police's initial probe and later corroborated through CBI's findings," the West Bengal CM said.

She emphasized further that the state government responded to the gruesome crime with immediate reforms, enhancing security measures

across medical facilities and ensuring that doctors and staff remain protected.

"On September 3, the Bengal government also introduced the Aparajita Bill, aimed at providing swift and strict punishment for crimes against women. However, the BJP, which frequently uses words like "Beti Bachao", has maintained a strategic silence as the Bill is yet to be cleared at the highest level. This political manoeuvre highlighted their lack of genuine interest in pushing for stronger women's protection laws," CM Banerjee added.

The Sealdah Civil and Criminal Court has given life imprisonment till death to the lone convict Sanjay Roy in the RG Kar rape and murder case on Monday. Along with this, the court has also directed the state government to pay Rs 17 lakh as compensation to the parents of the victim which they, however, flatly denied and refused to accept. .

The case involves the rape and murder of a trainee doctor whose body was found on August 9 in the hospital's seminar room.

Rahul Gandhi seeks urgent...

**From PG 1**  
AIIMS, Delhi and went on to add that during his recent visit to the area he was saddened to see hundreds of patients and their family members huddled on the footpath and in the subway in the bitter winter cold, with only thin blankets to protect them without drinking water or sanitation facilities.

"Many of these patients travel from across the country, spend their life savings, and wait for months on end for medical care at India's premier medical institution. I am sure you will agree that no one should face such hardship, especially while already battling serious medical conditions," he said. While AIIMS Delhi delivers excellent and affordable care, the condition of patients and their families shows that healthcare is still out of reach for crores of Indians, he said in his letter dated January 18. "As public representatives, we must all work together to address these issues. I urge you to take immediate and timely steps to address the situation at AIIMS Delhi. The government of India should work with the AIIMS leadership, the Government of Delhi and charitable organizations to provide heating, bedding, water, and shelter to patients and expand permanent facilities for accommodation," Gandhi

said in his letter to Nadda.

"Crucially, the larger systemic issue is that AIIMS Delhi is overburdened because crores of people do not have access to affordable and high-quality healthcare where they live. I urge you, as Health Minister, to recognise and address this systemic issue," Gandhi said.

As a first step, the new AIIMS facilities across the country should be operationalised at the earliest, he said.

"In addition, the public healthcare infrastructure should be strengthened at all levels, from primary to tertiary, in partnership with state governments. Central healthcare schemes such as Ayushman Bharat should be reviewed to reduce patient out-of-pocket expenses as much as possible, by expanding eligibility, hospitals enrolled, and conditions covered," the former Congress chief said.

"I hope the Government will use the upcoming Budget to review its overall approach, and substantially increase its investment in public healthcare. I request your prompt intervention on this pressing humanitarian issue. You have my full support in any endeavour to reduce the suffering of countless patients and their families," the Congress leader said.

fire engines were at the scene to control the situation. According to sources, inflammable materials inside the factory

KMC starts scraping off top layer of narrow roads for repairs

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** The Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC) has started scraping off the top layer before re-laying it on relatively narrow roads like BB Chatterjee Road in Kasba and Sarat Ghosh Garden Road in Dhakuria after similar work on arterial roads like Park Street and CR Avenue was done earlier.

When a fresh layer used to be laid earlier, the existing top layer was rarely removed or scraped off.

Rainwater from water-logged streets enters ground floor rooms in many houses as the height of roads has become higher than houses on their periphery. Residents across the city complain that roads were much lower when they built their houses.

Uneven and undulating surfaces are another feature of almost all roads in Kolkata. Patchwork on broken roads is done hastily and without care and these end up forming undulated surfaces. Cars and buses move jerkily on the bumpy surface of these roads.

The KMC wants to put an end to this practice and see that road levels do not go above houses along the road.

Scraping off the older layer, as is being done on BB Chatterjee Road, will guarantee that the road's overall height does not rise further, said a senior official of KMC.

"Henceforth, the top layer on all roads that are 5m-wide or more will be removed before laying a fresh top layer. We are now laying a fresh top layer on BB Chatterjee Road after scraping off the old layer. We have plans to take up such projects on a few more roads in the coming months, before the next monsoon," said the official.

The KMC is yet to focus on lanes and by-lanes inside localities, which means many houses along such lanes whose heights have increased will remain vulnerable to flooding during monsoon.

The KMC has four milling machines, three of which have drums that can scrape off 1m width of asphalt from a road. A fourth one has a narrower drum. A wide section of the road is scraped off by running the machine over it multiple times.

"We will procure five more road milling machines so we can take up projects on many roads simultaneously or can finish the work on one road faster by deploying multiple machines," said a KMC official.

The use of milling machines depends on the condition of the roads. Some roads that become battered or whose top layer wears off need a fresh top asphalt layer. The milling machine is used to scrape off the top layer on the entire length of such a road.

On other roads, only the uneven portions are scraped off to flatten the surface because the rest of the surface is still in good condition. "We removed only select portions on Park Street when we flattened the surface recently," said the official.

The work to remove the undulated stretches on Park Street has been completed between the Park Street-Chowringee crossing and the Mullick Bazar crossing. Such undulations on the rest of Park Street, from Mullick bazar to Park Circus, remain.

caused the initial fire. Congested surroundings at the place caused impediments to the fire workers.

Transfer policy: Bengal govt to count pupil-teacher ratio in govt schools

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** The state has decided to get the exact count of the teachers working in government schools along with their period of posting.

An official said they want an idea of the pupil-teacher ratio in schools before deciding whether some teachers should be transferred.

The school education department issued an order.

The schools have been asked to state how long the teachers have been working in the respective institutions.

An order signed by the commissioner of the school education department said: "It has been decided by the competent authority that the rationalisation of the government school teachers will be done shortly. For the purpose of this rationalisation process, posting details of all the teachers are necessary.

A portal has been developed for this purpose. You are therefore requested to enter the posting details of all the teachers posted in your

schools within 20.01. 2025."

A copy of the order has been sent to the heads of all 39 government schools.

Regular teachers of government schools have been asked to send their compliance report by January 17.

An official of the department said they also want to get an idea of the tenure for which a teacher has been posted in a school and then decide on the transfer.

"Some teachers have been teaching in a school for two decades. Such teachers could be transferred to another school. But while transferring a teacher, we will calculate the pupil-teacher ratio so the transfer does not weaken the strength of the teachers in a school. It has to be borne in mind that teaching in a government school is a transferrable job," the official said.

The official said that unlike government-aided schools that are suffering from a poor count of students prompting the department to merge

schools factoring in the pupil-teacher ratio, government schools still have many students.

The teachers of government schools are appointed through the Public Service Commission.

Teachers in government-aided schools are appointed through the school service commission.

Education minister Bratya Basu said on January 6 several government-aided schools did not have enough students and so the government planned to merge some of them.

Saugata Basu, the secretary of the government school teachers' association, said: "The public service commission had last issued an advertisement for recruitment of teachers in government schools in 2014. As there has been no recruitment in the past 11 years, almost half the teaching positions are vacant in several schools. Instead of focusing on transfers, the department should focus on recruiting teachers to correct the teacher-student ratio."



A huge gathering in front of Sealdah Court in Kolkata can be seen on Monday as the verdict came out regarding the rape and murder incident at R G Kar Hospital.

Srijit's 'Padatik' gets award in Dhaka Film Fest

**MI News Service, Kolkata/Dhaka:** An Indian film has won an award at the premiere film festival of Bangladesh.

Padatik, Srijit Mukherji's film based on the life and times of filmmaker Mrinal Sen, won the "Best Audience Award" at the 23rd Dhaka International Film Festival.

"It is a special film. The award stands out because of the current atmosphere. Not a single delegate from our side went to Dhaka for the festival. There were many foreign films in contention. But even then, the audience chose Padatik. It shows the power of cultural ties," said Firdausul Hasan, the producer of the film. Relations between India and Bangladesh have hit a low following the

July-August upheaval in the neighbouring country, which toppled the Sheikh Hasina government and led to the Nobel Peace Prize winner, Muhammad Yunus, taking over as the head of an interim government.

Sheikh Hasina, a five-time Prime Minister of Bangladesh, fled Dhaka and arrived in India on August 5 and has been staying at an undisclosed location since, possibly near Delhi.

The Yunus regime has from the outset been demanding that India send Hasina back so she can be tried for crimes allegedly committed during the protests that deposed her and for alleged misdeeds during her latest, decade-and-a-half stint in power.

The award has come around the time when anti-India rhetoric is at its peak in Bangladesh.

Padatik depicts aspects of Mrinal Sen's marital life, relationship with his peers like Satyajit Ray and Ritwick Ghatak, his bond with his son, his politics of cinema and many more.

The title is borrowed from a film of the same name made by Sen, featuring Dhritiman Chatterjee as a young Communist Party member on the run from police in Calcutta in the 1970s.

The film by Mukherjee was much anticipated in the neighbouring country because it stars Chanchal Chowdhury, regarded as one of Bangladesh's finest actors, as Sen. The auteur-director, who passed away

on December 30, 2018, was born in Faridpur (now in Bangladesh) in undivided Bengal in 1923.

Mukherjee's film was supposed to be released in Bangladesh on August 16, a day after its India release. But it could not get a commercial release in Bangladesh because of the unrest there.

"It was screened in Bangladesh for the first time during the festival," said Hasan.

Chowdhury, the actor, told : "Art is beyond the confines of race, religion and geographical boundaries. Art is universal. Change in political regimes cannot put a lid on creativity. This award proves the universality of art. It is a very positive development."

Research scholars of IICB accuse chief of 'abuse, mismanagement'

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** Research scholars at the Indian Institute of Chemical Biology (IICB) have written to the director general of the Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) accusing the director of the Jadavpur campus of "harassment and abuse", "research and academic mismanagement" and "impeding research progress".

The PhD students have written that the tenure of director Vibha Tandon is marked with persistent verbal abuse, which resulted in a "hostile and demoralising environment" on the campus. They have alleged that Mass Spectrometry and other machines are not being made available to them, impeding research.

The students have accused the director of "curtailment" of their research publications. "These ongoing issues have fostered a climate of distrust, frustration and dissatisfaction, preventing students from focussing on their academic pursuits and damaging the institute's reputation as a premiere research organisation," the students have written

to the CSIR director general, N. Kalaiselvi.

When contacted for her reaction to the students' allegation, IICB director Tandon said in a text message: "Henceforth you please send an official email/letter to CSIR-IICB and administration will provide you a reply".

IICB, a biomedical research centre, was established in 1935 and inducted "under the aegis" of the CSIR in 1956.

A PhD scholar at the institute said they had no option but to write to the CSIR director general as their attempts at approaching the IICB director to convey their grievances to her had met with a rude response.

"She usually does not want to grant any appointment. Even if we manage to meet her, the director behaves rudely and does not pay any attention to what we have to say. Left with no choice, we decided to approach the director general of the CSIR," the scholar said. The students have alleged that the curtailment of their research publications has led to the "worsening research integrity" of the institute.

Woman kills 8-yr old son for 'disturbing her peace'

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** Police have arrested woman for allegedly killing her son at their Narendrapur home.

Police said Tanuja Mandal, a resident of Narendrapur's Khayadaha, on the southern fringes of the city, allegedly throttled her eight-year-old son Debjit with her dupatta and then went to the police station to surrender. She reportedly told the police that she killed her son because he was naughty and disturbed her peace.

"She came to the police station and admitted that she had killed her son. She has been booked for murder," said an officer at Narendrapur police station.

The child was a Class III student.

Tanuja's husband Prasenjit, who runs a business, was at work when she allegedly killed her son.

Prasenjit's mother, who lives in the same neighbourhood, went to her son's house to meet her grandson when she

found him lying unconscious on a bed with a dupatta tied around his neck.

Tanuja was missing and the main door of the house was open, the police said.

"The elderly woman suspected foul play and screamed. Hearing her, and other relatives rushed to the house," said an officer.

The neighbours and relatives learned that Tanuja had gone to the police and confessed her crime.

Debjit was declared dead at a hospital.

According to sources, Tanuja had first gone to Sonarpur police station, from where she was sent to Narendrapur police station, whose area includes the locality where the accused lived.

Neighbours said Tanuja and her husband had another son, who was found dead "under mysterious circumstances" two years ago. The child was then one-and-a-half years old.

Over 4.4 million devotees took..

**From PG 1**  
Local police authorities are at it. There are many rumours but the exact reason will be revealed after the investigation," he said.

Regarding fire safety arrangements, Chandra highlighted the extensive preparations in place at the Kumbh.

"In the entire Kumbh area, fire safety has been taken with great sincerity. 53 fire stations and 20 fire posts have been built and more than 1300 firemen have been deployed. More than 300 vehicles have been deployed. We will strengthen it even further. The magnitude is so big that there are nine fire stations in the entire Prayagraj district, and there are 53 fire stations and 20+ fire posts in Mahakumbh alone. The manpower in Prayagraj is 175 and 1300+ manpower in Mahkumbh. In a big district like Lucknow, there are 11 fire stations and around 200 personnel. Here, there is a manpower of 1400. The area of one fire station is around 800 square meters, which means that it will take less than three to four minutes for the fire vehicle of one fire station to reach the spot," he added.

Chandra reassured that the response time for fire emergencies is three minutes, with vehicles reaching the spot in under three to four minutes.

"Our response time is around three minutes. All the devotees who want to come here should come without any worry; we will provide them with infallible fire and police arrangements," he added.

On Sunday, a fire broke out in Mahakumbh due to an explosion of three cooking gas cylinders. There have been no casualties in the mishap.

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath visited the site of the fire and spoke to officials and fire-fighting teams on the spot.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on Sunday, spoke to Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister and took cognisance of the incident.

The Maha Kumbh began on January 13 and will continue until February 26.

A maverick Donald Trump..

**From PG 1**  
a stunned nation watched his supporters storm the US Capitol on January 6. The riots disrupted a joint session of the US Congress which was in the process of affirming the presidential election results. His third run for the job in 2024 was characterised by a slew of indictments and criminal cases, and a conviction in a New York court -- making him the first former US president to be held guilty of a crime.

A grand jury found him guilty on 34 counts of falsifying business records. The Biden-Harris campaign said at the time that no one is above the law while Trump called the verdict the result of a "rigged" political system.

Just days before his swearing-in, Trump was sentenced to no punishment at all in his hush money case, with Judge Juan Merchan giving him an unconditional discharge.

Throughout all this, his ardent supporters have rallied behind him and his policies, including on the economy and immigration.

The vehement support was on full display in Milwaukee in July last year when Trump, with a bandaged ear after having survived an assassination attempt, arrived for the Republican National Convention and said that he was fully committed to making America Great Again.



**Name Change**  
I, Mousumi Mukherjee D/o Late Binoy Bhushan Dutta Residing at 21/24, M.B Road, Ranibala Aptc, Bl-B, 2nd Floor Kalabagan, P.- Birati, P.S. - Airport, District - 24 Pgs(N), Pin- 700051, West Bengal India that my deceased father who previously known as Binoy Dutta shall henceforth be known as Binoy Bhushan Dutta by virtue of an affidavit sworn before the Notary Public, Kolkata on 20-01-2025. I declare that My deceased Father Binoy Dutta and Binoy Bhushan Dutta both are same and one identical person.

**Name Change**  
I, Babul De (Old Name) Son of Late Suresh De, residing at B12, Srinagar Dhalua Road Narendrapur, Baruiapur, P.S.- Narendrapur, Pin- 700152, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Babul Chandra De (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata, dated 20/01/2025. Babul Chandra De (New Name) and Babul De (Old Name) both are same and identical person.

**Name Change**  
I, Niharendu Mazumder (Old Name) S/o Swarajit Majumder Residing at 232/1, Tiljala Road, BDPS, Gobinda Khatic Road, District - Kolkata, Pin - 700046 West Bengal India shall henceforth be known as Niharendu Majumder (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public, Kolkata vide affidavit Dated 20-01-2025. Niharendu Mazumder (Old Name) and Niharendu Majumder (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

**Name Change**  
I, Gopal Kedia (Old Name) S/o Hariram Kedia Residing at 9 M.K Road, Haora (M.Corp), District - Howrah, Pin - 711101 West Bengal India shall henceforth be known as Gopal Das Kedia (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public, Kolkata vide affidavit Dated 20-01-2025. Gopal Kedia (Old Name) and Gopal Das Kedia (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

**Name Change**  
I, OSMAN GANI MONDAL (Old Name) S/O SAHAJAHAN MONDAL Residing at 99, Sheikh Para Lane, Santragachi, P.S.- Chatterjeehat, District - Howrah, Pin - 711104, West Bengal, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as OSMAN GONI MONDAL (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public govt of India vide affidavit Dated 20-01-2025. OSMAN GANI MONDAL (Old Name) and OSMAN GONI MONDAL (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

**Name Change**  
I, SMITA SUBHAS BISWAS (Old Name) D/O SUBHAS RANJAN BISWAS Residing at 3/1, Biplabi Pulin Das Street, P.O.-Raja Ram Mohan Sarani, P.S.-Amberst Street, District - Kolkata, Pin - 700009, West Bengal, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as SMITA BISWAS (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public govt of India vide affidavit Dated 20-01-2025. SMITA SUBHAS BISWAS (Old Name) and SMITA BISWAS (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

**Name Change**  
I, JUNAID IQBAL S/O ANILU HAQUE aged about 28 yrs, by faith Islam, by occupation Business, residing at R-125/Masjid Taleb, PS & P.O: Garden Reach, Kolkata 700024, do hereby declared vide affidavit no 5038 dated 17/01/2025 before the First Class Judicial Magistrate at Alipore that in my school certificates and record issued by West Bengal Council of Secondary Education and West Bengal Council of Higher Secondary Education my wrong name and date of birth has been recorded as JUNAID IQBAL and date of birth 04/02/1997 in place of my correct and actual name JUNAID IQBAL and date of birth 02/04/ 1997 as mentioned in my Aadhaar Card vide no 0003 3380 9046 and my voter card bearing no. ATR 293102. Actually JUNAID IQBAL and JUJAD IQBAL is the same one and identical person.

**Name Change**  
I, Surendra Prasad Yadava S/O Late Dhaneshwar Ray, Village-Marar, P.O.-Marar, P.S.-Parsa, Dist-Chhapra, Bihar, 841219 declares from Affidavit No-95/2024 vide dated 5.12.2024 before Judicial Magistrate 1st Class Barrack-pore North 24-Pgs. Surendra Pd Yadava and Surendra Prasad Yadav is the same and one identical person.

**Name Change**  
I, Janice Chen, Chen Mew Ling, Chen Mewling Janice (Old Name),D/o Late oichin Chen, residing at 2,Bow Street,P.O & P.S-Bowbazar,Kolkata - 700012,WB, have changed my name and henceforth shall be known as Mew Ling Chen(New Name).That Janice Chen,Chen Mew Ling,Chen Mewling Janice and Mew Ling Chen both are same and one identical person before The Id. 1st class judicial magistrate at Calcutta on 16/01/2025.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I, Rituparna Ghosh, R/O-Golap, 100, Baghajatin Pally, Asansol, Bardhaman, West Bengal, Pin- 713303 have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Rituparna Ghosh Dutta as declared before the Notary Public Sealdah Court, West Bengal vide Affidavit No. 3380 dated 13/01/2025. Rituparna Ghosh and Rituparna Ghosh Dutta both are same and identical person.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I, Munmun Pathak, W/o- Soumendra Pathak, R/o-CE-168, Salt Lake, Sector-1, P.S:- Bidhannagar (North) Kolkata-700064, shall henceforth be known as Samistha Pathak, as declared before the 1st Class Judicial Magistrate, Alipore Court vide affidavit (No. 1063) Dated 17.01.2025. Munmun Pathak & Samistha Pathak both is the same and identical person.

**Name Change**  
I, Ashraf Hussein Ansari (Old Name) Son of Altfat Hussein Ahmed Ansari, residing at Shamin Palace 3rd Floor, Flat-302, 18/1, Hossain Shah Road , P.O.- Khidderpore, KOLKATA - 700023 , West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Ashraf Hussein Altfat Hussein Ansari (New Name) as declared before the 1st Class Judicial Magistrate at Kolkata, dated 20/01/2025. Ashraf Hussein Altfat Hussein Ansari (New Name) and Ashraf Hussein Ansari (Old Name) both are same and identical person.

**Name Change**  
I, Nilima Deb (old name) wife of Late Sukumar Deb, residing at AL-227 Salt Lake, Sector- 2, Sech Bhawan, North 24 Parganas, Pin-700091, West Bengal, India, shall henceforth be known as Nilima Sendeb (new name) vide an affidavit sworn before the notary public at Kolkata on 17/01/2025. Nilima Sendeb (new name) and Nilima Deb (old name) both are the same and one identical person.

**Name Change**  
I, Shama Waqar(Old Name),W/O Waqar Ahmed Residing At 28/H/12, Sir Syed Ahmed Road, Kolkata-700014,West Bengal, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Shama Parveen (New Name) As Declared Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 17/01/2025.Shama Waqar(Old Name) And Shama Parveen (New Name) Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.

**Name Change**  
I, Sk Zamauluddin(Old Name),S/O Late Sk Anwar Ali(Sheikh Anwar Ali@Anwar Ali Sheikh,Residing At 241, R.R.N. Road, Brahmapur, Ps-Bansdroni,Pin-700096,West Bengal Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Sk Jamal Uddin(New Name) As Declared Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 17/01/2025. Sk Zamauluddin (Old Name) And Sk Jamal Uddin (New Name) Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.

**Name Change**  
I, Sk Rafikul (Old Name),S/O Late Sk Rehajul Islam Residing At Vill-Oshmanpur,Po-Gopichak,Ps-Talpara Ghat Coastal,Dist-Purba Medinipur, Pin-721431,West Bengal Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Sk Rafikul Islam(New Name) As Declared Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 20/01/2025. Sk Rafikul (Old Name) And Sk Rafikul Islam(New Name) Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.

**Name Change**  
I, Mohammad Nazar, Son Of Md Ayub,Residing At 6/2A/1/2 Kasai Bastee 1st Lane,Po & Ps - Narkeldanga, Kolkata - 700011,West Bengal,Shall Henceforth Be Known As Md. Nazar Ali Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public Kolkata On 20/01/20 25.That Mohammad Nazar And Md. Nazar Ali All Are The Same And One Identical Person.

**Name Change**  
I, Sayeeda Parveen & Syeda Parveen,Wife Of Md Ekram Khan, Residing At 12/1a Blochmann Street, Ps - Taltala, Kolkata - 700013, West Bengal. Shall Henceforth Be Known As Sayada Parveen Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public Kolkata On 17/01/2025.That Sayeeda Parveen & Syeda Parveen All Are The Same And One Identical Person.

**Name Change**  
I, Harish Biswas(Old Name),Son Of Gopal Chandra Biswas, Residing At Kamdebkati,Ps-Deganga, North 24 Parganas,West Bengal, Pin - 744348,Shall Henceforth Be Known As Harish Chandra Biswas (New Name) Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public Kolkata On 20/01/20 25.That Harish Biswas And Harish Chandra Biswas Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.

**Name Change**  
I, Sheela Gorai W/o. Haradhan Garai R/o. Kendrabona, Gangajalghati, Bankura-722133, W.B. declared that my correct Date of Birth is 31/01/1977 which will be amendments in my son's (Sabyasachi Gorai Army no. 22055224F Rank Sep.) service records in place of Haradhan Gorai vide an affidavit no. 1157 sworn before Notary Public, Sadar, Hooghly Court on 20/01/2025.

**Name Change**  
I, Haradhan Garai S/o. Krishna Chandra Garai R/o. Kendrabona, Gangajalghati, Bankura-722133, W.B. declared that my correct name is Haradhan Garai which will be amendments in my son's (Sabyasachi Gorai Army no. 22055224F Rank Sep.) service records in place of Haradhan Gorai vide an affidavit no. 1158 sworn before Notary Public, Sadar, Hooghly Court on 20/01/2025.

**Name Change**  
About Hossain Molla (old name) son of Mohsin Ali Molla (old name) Address-Bankra Paschim Para, Badam tala PS - Domjur Dist, Howrah-711403 which is recorded in my Passport but my original and correct name Abul Hossain Molla (new name) son of Mahasin Molla (new name) which is recorded in my all documents by the Notary affidavit at Howrah dated on 14/01/2025 assured that all statements are true to the best of knowledge and belief.

**Name Change**  
I, Balaram Kuiti S/o Late Krishna Kanta Kuiti Residing at Vill-Po-Natshal, P.S - Mahishadal, District - East Medinipur, Pin- 721603 West Bengal India shall henceforth be known as Balaram Kuiti. I declare that Balaram Kuiti and Balaram Kuiti is same and one identical person by virtue of an affidavit sworn before the Notary Public, Kolkata on 20-01-2025.

**Name Change**  
I, Arbind Shaw & Arbinda Kumar Shaw (Old Names) Son of Arjun Shaw, residing at 5/21,PREMCHAND NAGAR STHIRPARA ROAD KAKINARA,BHATPARA PIN-743126, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Arbind Kumar Shaw (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata, dated 20/01/2025. Arbind Kumar Shaw (New Name) and Arbind Shaw & Arbinda Kumar Shaw (Old Names) all are same and identical person.

**Name Change**  
I, Jagdish Umashankar Singh,Son Of Uma Shankar Singh, Residing At 60,Jodhpur Park, Kolkata - 700068,West Bengal,Shall Henceforth Be Known As Jagdish Narain Singh Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 02/01/2025.That Jagdish Umashankar Singh And Jagdish Narain Singh Both Are The Same And One Identical Person Person.

**Name Change**  
I, Saurabh Mehta (Old Name) Son of Piyyushkumar Jayantilal Mehta, residing at Sriigopal Apartment, Flat- 2-C, 16, Chakraberia Road (North), Bhawanipore, Kolkata-700020, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Saurabh P Mehta (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata, dated 20/01/2025. Saurabh P Mehta (New Name) and Saurabh Mehta (Old Name) both are same and identical person.

**Name Change**  
I, Piyyush Jayantilal Mehta & Piyyush Mehta (Old Name) Son of Jayantilal Maganlal Mehta, residing at Sriigopal Apartment, Flat-2-C, 16, Chakraberia Road (North), Bhawanipore, Kolkata-700020, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Piyyushkumar Jayantilal Mehta (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata, dated 20/01/2025. Piyyushkumar Jayantilal Mehta (New Name) and Piyyush Jayantilal Mehta & Piyyush Mehta (Old Name) both are same and identical person.

**Name Change**  
I, Shimul Majumder,Simul Kumar Mazumder & Simulkumar Majumder,S/O Late Sudhir Ranjan Majumder,R/O Aa 88,Prafulla Kanan West Kestopur,Rajarhat Gopulpur(M),North 24 Parganas, 700101, West Bengal, Shall Henceforth Be Known As Simul Kumar Majumder,Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 20/01/20 25. That Shimul Majumder,Simul Kumar Mazumder & Simulkumar Majumder And Simul Kumar Majumder All Are The Same And One Identical Person.

**Name Change**  
I, Sakila Bibi (Old Name) wife of Islam Mondal, residing at 211, Road Gopalpur jagardanga, Rajarhat, Gopalpur, North 24 Parganas, Pin-700136, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Sakhila Mondal (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata, dated 20/01/2025. Sakhila Mondal (New Name) and Sakila Bibi (Old Name) both are same and identical person.

**Name Change**  
I, Sumon Karaiya (Old Name) Son of Sanjit Karaiya, residing at 114/17, Chak Ramnagar, P.S.- Haridevpur, Kolkata- 700104, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Suman Karaiya (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata, dated 20/01/2025. Suman Karaiya (Old Name) and Sumon Karaiya (Old Name) both are same and identical person.

**Name Change**  
I, Niaz Mohammad Khan & Md Asif Khan (Old Name) Son of Late Syed Amanullah Khan, residing at 12, Michael Dutta Street, P.O.-Khidderpore, KOLKATA -700023, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Md Asif (New Name) as declared before the 1st Class Judicial Magistrate at Kolkata, dated 06/05/2022. Md Asif (New Name) and Niaz Mohammad Khan & Md Asif Khan (Old Name) both are same and identical person.

**Name Change**  
I, Aminur Rahaman (Old Name) Son of Mamaladdin Sarkar, residing at Telukuri Beroil, Kushi-mandi Dakshin Dinajpur, Pin-733132, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Amenur Rahaman (New Name) as declared before the 1st Class Judicial Magistrate at Kolkata, dated 20/01/2025. Amenur Rahaman (New Name) and Aminur Rahaman (Old Name) both are same and identical person.

**Name Change**  
I, Smriti Mahalanobis (Old Name) Daughter of Subhash Chandra Paul, residing at Fatepur, Uluberia, Dist-Howrah Pin- 711315 , West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Smriti Paul (New Name) as declared before the 1st Class Judicial Magistrate at Kolkata, dated 20/01/20 25. Smriti Paul (New Name) and Smriti Mahalanobis (Old Name) both are same and identical person.

**Name Change**  
I, Yasin Ansari (Old Name) Son of Late Mohammad Shafique Ansari, residing at 462, C.T. Road, P.O.-Shipburi, Howrah-7111 02, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Mohammed Yasin Ansari (New Name) as declared before the Notary at Kolkata, dated 15/01/2025. Mohammed Yasin Ansari (New Name) and Yasin Ansari (Old Name) both are same and identical person.

## The Role of the Railway Protection Force in Combating Black Marketing

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** The persistent issue of ticket touting and black marketing in Indian Railways ticketing system represents a substantial challenge, particularly during peak travel periods. These illicit activities not only compromise the equitable access to tickets for legitimate passengers but also undermine public confidence in the railway system. In response, the Railway Protection Force (RPF) has implemented a comprehensive and multifaceted strategy to address this problem and to ensure fair access to railway services.

**Initiatives by the RPF**  
1. Regular Raids and Crackdowns The RPF's Cyber cells meticulously examine booking patterns to identify anomalies and conduct pinpointed operations targeting ticket counters and cybercafes. These proactive measures have resulted in the confiscation of unauthorized tickets and the apprehension of numerous touts, significantly disrupting their illicit revenue generational sources. 2. Digital Surveillance Utilizing advanced technological tools, the RPF conducts continuous surveillance of online booking platforms. By monitoring suspicious activities, including bulk bookings and irregular transactions, and deploying CCTV at ticket counters, the RPF strengthens its capacity to detect and prevent black marketing effectively. 3. Collaboration with IRCTC The RPF collaborates closely with the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) to identify and deactivate suspicious accounts.

This collaborative initiative seeks to prevent the misuse of both agent and personal user IDs, thereby ensuring a more secure and transparent ticketing system. 4. Awareness Campaigns Acknowledging the importance of public awareness, the RPF conducts educational campaigns across various media platforms. These initiatives inform passengers about reporting unauthorized activities and emphasize the significance of booking tickets through official and authorized channels. 5. Technology Integration The RPF has equipped its Cyber cells with state-of-the-art software and hardware to track and dismantle ticketing syndicates effectively. This technological advancement enables the force to counter increasingly sophisticated touting networks. 6. Legal Recourse Offenders engaged in ticket touting face severe penalties under the Railways Act, including imprisonment. Recent

judicial rulings have highlighted the gravity of the issue by categorizing ticket touting as a "social crime,"

**Impact of the RPF's Efforts**  
The strategic initiatives undertaken by the RPF have yielded significant results. Numerous high-profile ticket touting syndicates have been dismantled, and thousands of offenders have been apprehended. These efforts have led to the recovery of large quantities of illegal tickets, thereby curbing large-scale black marketing and restoring public confidence in the railway system.

**Way forward**  
To further enhance its effectiveness, the RPF plans to integrate advanced technologies and predictive measures into its operations. Key focus areas include: 1. Advanced AI and Machine Learning 1(a) Behavioral Pattern Analysis: AI systems will scrutinize booking behaviors to identify anomalies indicative of touting activities. 1(b) Real-Time Fraud Detection: Machine learning algorithms will detect and halt suspicious transactions in real time. 1 (c) Dynamic IP Monitoring: Systems will identify and block multiple bookings originating from the same IP address or utilizing VPNs.

2. Biometric Verification 2 (a) Facial Recognition: Linking ticket bookings to biometric data will ensure passenger verification during inspections. 2(b)Fingerprint Scanning: Mandatory biometric authentication at booking counters will enhance the authenticity of transactions. 3. Cloud Computing and Big Data Analytics 3(a) Real-Time Data Processing: Cloud-based systems will facilitate the instantaneous analysis of ticketing data to identify suspicious trends. 3(b) Predictive Analysis: Historical data will be utilized to implement targeted preventive measures for routes and travel seasons particularly vulnerable to touting activities.

**Conclusion**  
The Railway Protection Force's robust and comprehensive approach to addressing ticket touting underscores its unwavering commitment to fairness and transparency in railway ticketing operations. By leveraging advanced technologies, fostering collaboration with relevant agencies, and engaging the public, the RPF continues to play a pivotal role in mitigating black marketing. As these strategies evolve, they promise a more secure and equitable railway system, ensuring a seamless and fair travel experience for all passengers.

## RBI grapples with liquidity crunch despite CRR reduction

**MI News Service, New Delhi:** Last month, the central bank decided to cut the cash reserve ratio by 50 basis points to 4 per cent that was aimed at freeing up Rs 1.16

lakh The Reserve Bank of India is struggling to get a grip on the liquidity crunch in the banking system.

Last month, the central bank decided to cut the cash reserve ratio by 50 basis points to 4 per cent that was aimed at freeing up ₹1.16 lakh crore worth of bank funds that had been sequestered through the CRR mechanism. But it seems that the play hasn't worked. A Morgan Stanley report has highlighted just how acute the problem has become. "Despite a CRR reduction of 50 basis points in December 2024, liquidity is tracking in deficit in December and January, after remaining in surplus between March to November 2024," it said. It added: "The trend in inter-bank liquidity reversed as it swung to a deficit in mid-December, with an average of \$ 7.8 billion in December and tracking at ₹15 billion in January (month to date)."

## NSG drill in Metro



**MI News Service, Kolkata:** Commandos of National Security Guard (NSG) conducted a mock drill at Park Street Metro station on the intervening night of 18th - 19th January,2025. In order to protect the Metro premises from any chemical, terrorist or other attacks/threats this mock drill was conducted. In such drills, NSG Commandos simulate any such emergency situation and conduct the drills to tackle it and rescue passengers unhurt in the shortest possible time from Metro stations, tunnels or viaduct.

For conducting this drill, a power block was taken and a Medha rake was used. NSG Commandos reached the station and took the control of it and simulated the drill. This drill started around midnight and continued for hours. It is to be noted that National Security Guard has conducted such drills earlier also in the Metro premises to check their preparedness and sharpen the skills to rescue passengers and nab the perpetrators.

## Train Services controlled in Park Circus – Sir Gurudas Banerjee Halt – Kankurgachhi Chord Line as a safety measure following fire brokeout in adjacent Civil Area

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** Train services in Ballygunge – Park Circus – Sir Gurudas Banerjee Halt – Kankurgachhi Chord line has been controlled since 15:44 hrs. following fire broke out in a workshop/factory in civil area beside UP Chord line. Overhead power supply in the Chord line at Park Circus has been disconnected since 15:44 hrs. as a safety measure.

However, train services in Sealdah South section is continuing as usual. One Canning – Barasat local (33061 UP) which was scheduled to run via Ballygunge – Sir Gurudas Banerjee Halt – Kankurgachhi route has been controlled at Ballygunge Jn.

## Miscellaneous

# 2.115 Kgs of Brown Sugar worth 10 crore recovered at Malda Town Station



**MI News Service, Kolkata:** In a significant breakthrough against the illegal transportation of narcotics, a joint team of RPF/ POST/ Malda Town and GRPS/ Malda intercepted a suspect on 19.01.2025 following a tip-off regarding contraband smuggling on Train No. 13034 DN (Katiar-Howrah Express).

The train arrived at Malda Town station at approximately 18:10 hours, where the suspect was identified in the rear-side general compartment. During a thorough search, 2.115 kilograms of brown sugar, valued at approxi-

mately ₹10 crore, was recovered from the suspect's possession. The contraband was seized on the spot by GRPS officers in the presence of ASI M.K. Ray of RPF/POST/Malda. A case was subsequently registered under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985, by GRPS/Malda for further investigation. Eastern Railway remains steadfast in its efforts to combat illegal activities and to ensure passenger safety through the dedicated and coordinated actions of RPF and GRP teams.

## Mahindra looks to scale up auto business globally

**MI News Service, Mumbai:** Having consolidated its position in the domestic market, Mahindra & Mahindra is now looking at ways to expand its presence across international markets, as per a top company executive.

The Mumbai-based auto major is looking to scale up its automotive business globally in a phased manner with plans to leverage its existing distribution channels in various overseas markets in the first phase. In an interaction, Mahindra & Mahindra (M&M) Executive Director and CEO for auto and farm sectors Rajesh Jejurikar said new products like the under-development lifestyle pickup truck and the new range of electric models would allow it to enter new international markets. He noted that the automaker already has a strong presence in countries like South Africa, Australia, New Zealand, Morocco, and Chile with an established distribution network. "A lot of these geographies started for us as markets where we sold Scorpio pick-up. Now these markets are enabling us to launch models like XUV 700, Scorpio N, and XUV 3XO," Jejurikar said. So, that's phase one, which is existing markets with products the automaker had launched in the last three or four years, he stated. The second part will initiate with the introduction of the global lifestyle pick-up, which would cater to both right-hand and left-hand drive markets, he stated "It will open up newer markets for example, the ASEAN region is a big pickup market where we today don't have a presence at all," Jejurikar said. In 2023, M&M unveiled a "Global Pik Up" concept which is expected to move to the production stage in 2027. The company aims to tap into the international lifestyle pickup market with the model. Jejurikar said the third leg of enhancing global play would see the electric SUVs debuting across various right-hand drive markets.

ICICI Bank						
Branch Office: ICICI BANK LTD, Regional Processing Centre BP-4, Technopolis Building, 13th Floor, Sector V Salt Lake, Kolkata, West Bengal- 700091.						
PUBLIC NOTICE-TENDER CUM E-AUCTION FOR SALE OF SECURED ASSET						
[See proviso to Rule 8(6)] Notice for sale of immovable asset(s)						
E-Auction Sale Notice for the sale of immovable asset(s) under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.						
This notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/ charged to the Secured Creditor, the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of ICICI Bank Limited will be sold on 'As is where is', 'As is what is' and 'Whatever there is' as per the brief particulars given hereunder:						
Sr. No.	Name of Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrowers/ Guarantors/ Loan Account No.	Details of the Secured asset(s) with known encumbrances, if any	Amount Outstanding	Reserve Price Earnest Money Deposit	Date and Time of Property Inspection	Date & Time of E-Auction
(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)
1.	Mrs. Darshana Singh (Borrower) LBCAL00005984057 LBCAL00006045739	Residential Flat Being Flat No. A-4, Fourth Floor, South Orientation, Scheme Plot No. 308, Previously Premises No. 178/45, Parnasree Pally and Now Premises No. 178/45, Parnasree Pally Road No. 1, J.L. No. 2, Khatation No. 66, Part of C.S. Plot No. 354 to 358, Mouza Behala, Police Station Previously Behala and at Present Parnasree, Ward No. 131, District South 24 Parganas, Kolkata, West Bengal -700060. Super built up area 981 sq.ft along with a car parking space on the ground floor measuring more or less135 sq.ft of the building together with undivided proportionate share of land.	Rs. 44,08,475/- As on January 13, 2025	Rs. 37,50, 000/- Rs. 3,75, 000/-	February 20, 2025 From 11:00 A.M. to 02:00 P.M.	February 27, 2025 From 10:30 A.M. onwards.
2.	M/s. Tozammel Enterprise (Applicant) Tozammel Hossain (Guarantor & Mortgagor) 161405001047	Mouza- Kayemba, J.L. No. 171, L.R. Dag No. 610, 613, L.R. Khatian No. 1847, Resa No. 317, Touzi No. 146, Porgana- Anowarpur, Hal Thana-Madhyamgram, P.S.- Barasat, with local limit of Kemta Khamarpura Gram Panchayat, West Bengal. Land admeasuring 1 decimal comprised in LR Dag No. 610 and 1 decimal comprised in Dag no 613, in total admeasuring area 2 decimals together with 2 storied house admeasuring 1000 sq.ft.	Rs. 23,41,363/- As on December 02, 2024	Rs. 13,00, 000/- Rs. 1,30, 000/-	February 19, 2025 From 11:00 A.M. to 02:00 P.M.	February 27, 2025 From 11:00 A.M. onwards.

The online auction will be conducted on the website (URL Link-www.disposalhub.com). of our auction agency M/s NexXen Solutions Private Limited The Mortgagors/ Noticees are given a last chance to pay the total dues with further interest by February 26, 2025 before 05:00 P.M. else the secured asset(s) will be sold as per schedule. The prospective bidder(s) must submit the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) Demand Draft (DD) (Refer Column E) at ICICI BANK LTD, Regional Processing Centre BP-4, Technopolis Building, 13th Floor, Sector V Salt Lake, Kolkata, West Bengal- 700091. on or before February 26, 2025 before 05:00 P.M. Thereafter, they have to submit their offer through the website mentioned above on or before February 26, 2025 before 05:00 P.M. along with the scanned image of the Bank acknowledged DD towards proof of payment of EMD. In case the prospective bidder(s) is/ are unable to submit his/ her offer through the website, then the signed copy of tender documents may be submitted at ICICI BANK LTD, Regional Processing Centre BP-4, Technopolis Building, 13th Floor, Sector V Salt Lake, Kolkata, West Bengal- 700091. on or before February 26, 2025 before 05:00 P.M. Earnest Money Deposit DD/PO should be from a Nationalised/ Scheduled Bank in favour of 'ICICI Bank Limited' payable at Kolkata. For any further clarifications in terms of inspection, Terms and Conditions of the E-Auction or submission of tenders, contact ICICI Bank Employee Phone No. 9163343439. Please note that the Marketing agencies 1. M/s. NexXen Solutions Private Limited, 2. Girsarsoft Pvt Ltd. have also been engaged for facilitating the sale of this property. The Authorised Officer reserves the right to reject any or all the bids without furnishing any further reasons. For detailed Terms and Conditions of the sale, please visit www.icicibank.com/n4p45

Date : January 21, 2025  
Place: Kolkata (West Bengal)

Authorized Officer  
ICICI Bank Limited







# Functioning of biological membranes can be controlled by DNA origami: Study

**Washington [USA]** : Scientists at the University of Stuttgart have succeeded in controlling the structure and function of biological membranes with the help of 'DNA origami'. It will help in facilitating the transportation of large therapeutic loads into cells. It now paves a new way for the targeted administration of medication and other therapeutic inventions.

The team of scientists used DNA origami structures as reconfigurable nanorobots that can reversibly change their shape and thereby influence their immediate environment in the micrometre range.

The researchers found that the transformation of these DNA nanorobots can be coupled with the deformation of the giant unilamellar vesicles (GUVs) and the formation of synthetic channels in the model GUV membranes.

These channels allow large molecules to pass through the membrane and can be revealed if necessary.

It is a very valuable instrument which can be added to the toolbox of synthetic biology. Prof. Laura Na Liu and her team published their findings in the journal Nature Materials.

The shape and morphology of a cell play a key role in its biological function. This corresponds to the principle of "form follows function," which is common in



modern fields of design and architecture. However, the transfer of this principle to artificial cells is a challenge in synthetic

biology. Advances in DNA nanotechnology now offer promising solutions. They allow the creation of novel transport

channels that are large enough to facilitate the passage of therapeutic proteins across cell membranes.

In this emerging field, scientists such as Prof. Laura Na Liu, Director of the 2nd Physics Institute at the University of Stuttgart and Fellow at the Max Planck Institute for Solid State Research (MPI-FKF), have developed an innovative tool for controlling the shape and permeability of lipid membranes in synthetic cells.

These membranes are made up of lipid bilayers that enclose an aqueous compartment and serve as simplified models of biological membranes. They are useful for studying membrane dynamics, protein interactions, and lipid behaviour.

"This work is a milestone in the application of DNA nanotechnology to regulate cell behaviour," Liu says. The team works with giant unilamellar vesicles (GUVs), which are simple, cell-sized structures that mimic living cells. Using DNA nanorobots, the researchers were able to influence the shape and functionality of these synthetic cells. DNA nanotechnology is one of Laura Na Liu's main research areas. She is an expert in DNA origami structures -- DNA strands that are folded by means of specifically designed shorter DNA sequences, so-called staples.



## AI-driven technique analyses heart cells' inner electrical signals from outside: Study

**California [US]** : A team of researchers led by the University of California, San Diego, and Stanford University has discovered a noninvasive approach for monitoring electrical activity inside cardiac muscle cells from the outside, without physically penetrating the cells.

The method is based on capturing electrical signals from outside the cells and using AI to reconstruct the signals within the cells with high precision.

The electrical signals inside heart muscle cells provide insights into how the heart functions, how its cells communicate and how they respond to drugs. However capturing these signals typically involves puncturing the cells with tiny electrodes, which can damage them and make large-scale testing complicated.

Now, researchers have found a way to peer inside the cells without actually going in.

The key lies in extracting the relationship between the signals inside the cells (intracellular signals) and those recorded on their surface (extracellular signals). "We discovered that extracellular signals hold the information we need to unlock the intracellular features that we're interested in," said Zeinab Jahed, a professor in the Aiso Yufeng Li Family Department of Chemical and NanoEngineering at UC San Diego, who is one of the study's senior authors. Keivan Rahmani, a nanoengineering Ph.D. student in Jahed's lab, is the first author of the study.

While extracellular signals can be captured with less invasive methods, they do not provide much detail about the cell's electrical activity. "It is like listening to a conversation through a wall-you can detect that communication is happening, but you miss the specific details," explained Jahed. "In contrast, intracellular signals offer the details, making you feel like you are sitting inside the room hearing every word clearly, but they can only be

captured by invasive and more technically challenging methods." Using AI, Jahed, Rahmani and colleagues developed a method to correlate extracellular signals with specific intracellular signals.

To develop the new method, the team first engineered an array of nanoscale, needle-shaped electrodes. These electrodes, each up to 200 times smaller than a single heart muscle cell, are made of silica-coated with platinum. Heart muscle cells, derived from stem cells, were grown and then placed on the electrode array.

The researchers collected a massive dataset--thousands of pairs of electrical signals--each pair linking an extracellular recording with its corresponding intracellular signal. The data included how the cells responded when exposed to various drugs. This offered a rich library of data on how heart muscle cells behave under different conditions.

When analyzing these pairs, researchers identified patterns between the extracellular and intracellular signals. They then trained a deep learning model to predict what the intracellular signals looked like based solely on the extracellular recordings. In tests, their model created accurate and complete reconstructions of the intracellular signals.

This work has important applications in drug screening, said Jahed. Every new pharmaceutical must undergo rigorous testing to ensure it does not adversely affect the heart--a process known as cardiotoxicity testing. Part of this process involves collecting detailed intracellular data from heart cells. Subtle changes in these electrical signals can provide clues about a drug's effects on the heart, which can help drug developers assess the safety of new medications. "Currently, this is a lengthy and costly process. It typically starts with tests on animal models, which don't always predict human outcomes," said Jahed.

# Nuroscience study results can be better predicted by AI than human experts, say researchers

**England [UK]** : Large language models, a type of AI that analyses text, can anticipate the results of proposed neuroscience studies more correctly than human experts, according to a new study led by UCL (University College London) researchers.

The findings demonstrate that large language models (LLMs) trained on vast datasets of text can distil patterns from scientific literature, enabling them to forecast scientific outcomes with superhuman accuracy.

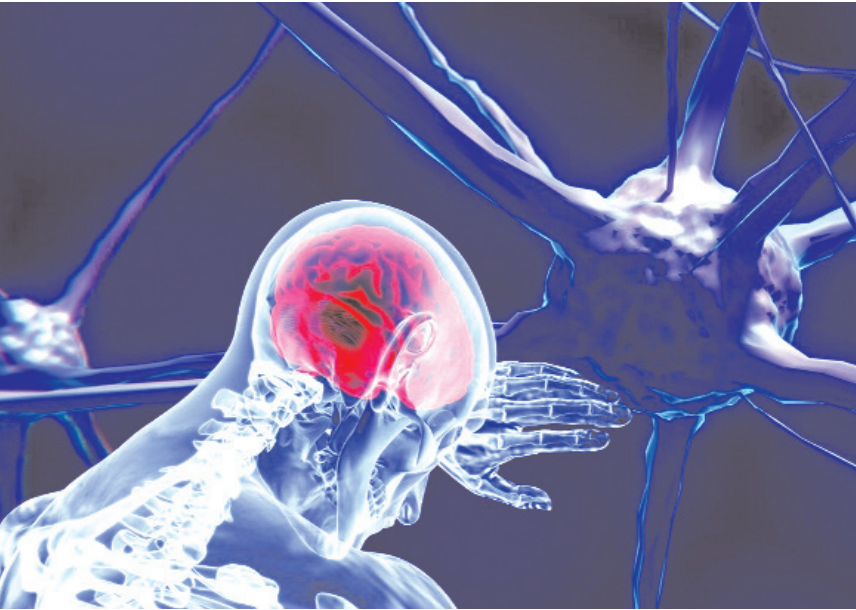
The researchers say this highlights their potential as powerful tools for accelerating research, going far beyond just knowledge retrieval.

Lead author Dr Ken Luo (UCL Psychology & Language Sciences) said, "Since the advent of generative AI like ChatGPT, much research has focused on LLMs' question-answering capabilities, showcasing their remarkable skill in summarising knowledge from extensive training data. However, rather than emphasising their backward-looking ability to retrieve past information, we explored whether LLMs could synthesise knowledge to predict future outcomes.

"Scientific progress often relies on trial and error, but each meticulous experiment demands time and resources. Even the most skilled researchers may overlook critical insights from the literature. Our work investigates whether LLMs can identify patterns across vast scientific texts and forecast outcomes of experiments."

The international research team began their study by developing BrainBench, a tool to evaluate how well large language models (LLMs) can predict neuroscience results.

BrainBench consists of numerous pairs of neuroscience study abstracts. In each



pair, one version is a real study abstract that briefly describes the background of the research, the methods used, and the study results. In the other version, the background and methods are the same, but the results have been modified by experts in the relevant neuroscience domain to a plausible but incorrect outcome.

The researchers tested 15 different general-purpose LLMs and 171 human neuroscience experts (who had all passed a screening test to confirm their expertise) to see whether the AI or the person could correctly determine which of the two paired abstracts was the real one with the actual study results.

All of the LLMs outperformed the neuro-

scientists, with the LLMs averaging 81% accuracy and the humans averaging 63% accuracy. Even when the study team restricted the human responses to only those with the highest degree of expertise for a given domain of neuroscience (based on self-reported expertise), the accuracy of the neuroscientists still fell short of the LLMs, at 66%. Additionally, the researchers found that when LLMs were more confident in their decisions, they were more likely to be correct.\* The researchers say this finding paves the way for a future where human experts could collaborate with well-calibrated models.

The researchers then adapted an existing LLM (a version of Mistral, an open-

source LLM) by training it on neuroscience literature specifically. The new LLM specialising in neuroscience, which they dubbed BrainGPT, was even better at predicting study results, attaining 86% accuracy (an improvement on the general-purpose version of Mistral, which was 83% accurate).

Senior author Professor Bradley Love (UCL Psychology & Language Sciences) said: "In light of our results, we suspect it won't be long before scientists are using AI tools to design the most effective experiment for their question. While our study focused on neuroscience, our approach was universal and should successfully apply across all of science.

"What is remarkable is how well LLMs can predict the neuroscience literature. This success suggests that a great deal of science is not truly novel, but conforms to existing patterns of results in the literature. We wonder whether scientists are being sufficiently innovative and exploratory."

Dr Luo added: "Building on our results, we are developing AI tools to assist researchers. We envision a future where researchers can input their proposed experiment designs and anticipated findings, with AI offering predictions on the likelihood of various outcomes. This would enable faster iteration and more informed decision-making in experiment design."

The study was supported by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC), Microsoft, and a Royal Society Wolfson Fellowship, and involved researchers in UCL, University of Cambridge, University of Oxford, Max Planck Institute for Neurobiology of Behavior (Germany), Bilkent University (Turkey) and other institutions in the UK, US, Switzerland, Russia, Germany, Belgium, Denmark, Canada, Spain and Australia.

## Study finds how gut microbes play role in regulating stress responsiveness throughout day

**Cork [Ireland]** : A groundbreaking study has revealed the critical role of gut bacteria in regulating stress responses through interactions with the body's circadian rhythms.

The findings pave the way for the development of new microbial-based medicines to help people better manage stress-related mental health problems including anxiety and depression, which are frequently connected with changes in circadian and sleep cycles.

This groundbreaking study from University College Cork and APC Microbiome Ireland, a Research Ireland Centre, provides compelling evidence that the trillions of microorganisms in the gut orchestrate the body's hormonal responses to stress in a time-dependent manner, opening the door to new therapeutic approaches targeting the gut-brain axis. Published in Cell Metabolism, this study shines a spotlight on the intricate relationship between the gut microbiota and the hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal (HPA) axis, the body's central stress response system. The research demonstrates that depletion of gut microbiota leads to an hyperactivation of the HPA-axis in a time-of-day specific manner, which alongside with alterations to the brain's stress and circadian responding regions, results in altered stress responsivity across the day. The study further identifies specific gut bacte-



ria, including a Lactobacillus strain (Limosilactobacillus reuteri), as key influencers of this circadian-regulated stress mechanism. L. reuteri emerged as a candidate strain that modulates glucocorticoid secretion (stress hormones), linking the microbiota's natural diurnal oscillations with altered stress responsiveness.

This groundbreaking discovery opens up new possibilities for psychobiotic interventions aimed at improving mental health outcomes by targeting gut bacteria that influence stress regulation.

With modern lifestyles increasingly disrupting circadian rhythms through irregular sleep patterns, high stress, and poor diet, this research underscores the importance of the gut microbiota in maintaining the body's natural stress-regulation processes. Speaking about the findings, Principal Investigator Professor John Cryan said, "Our research has revealed an important link between the gut microbiota and how the brain responds to stress in a time-specific way. The gut

microbiome doesn't just regulate digestion and metabolism; it plays a critical role in how we react to stress, and this regulation follows a precise circadian rhythm. These findings underscore the importance of maintaining a healthy microbiome, particularly for those living in today's stressful and fast-paced environment."

First author Dr Gabriel Tofani added "Our findings underscore the importance of not only the gut microbiota composition, but also how gut microbes change across the day. By showing that gut bacteria influence how the body handles stress throughout the day, we're helping to understand the mechanisms through which the microbiota shapes our responses to the environment around us. Our work also demonstrates that exploring this relationship between the gut microbiota and circadian rhythms will be key in the development of microbiota based therapies for the stress-related disorders in the future".

"This study is a significant leap forward in our understanding of how the microbiome shapes our mental health," said Professor Paul Ross, Director of APC Microbiome Ireland. "At APC, we are committed to unravelling the many ways in which our gut microbiome impact human health, and this research provides crucial insight into how targeting specific bacteria may help manage or even prevent stress-related conditions.

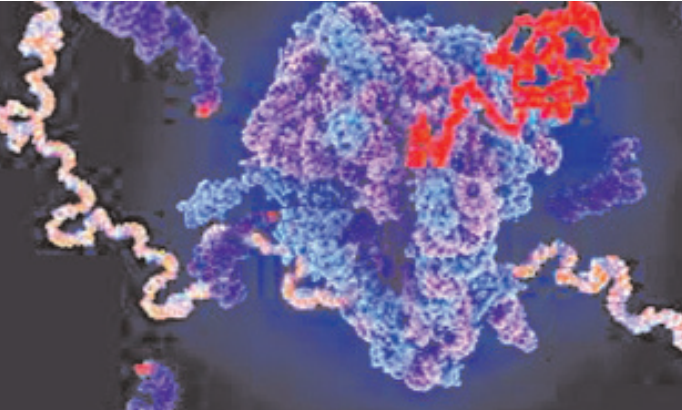
## Study finds breakthrough tool for detecting problems during protein synthesis

**Tokyo [Japan]** : Protein synthesis in eukaryotic cells--found in plants, animals, and fungi--involves more than just the straightforward ribosome assembly of amino acids.

During or shortly after their synthesis, over one-third of all human proteins need to be delivered to the endoplasmic reticulum (ER). These proteins' structure and function depend on the critical folding and changes that take place in the ER, such as the creation of disulphide (S-S) bonds.

To overcome these challenges, a research team including specially appointed Associate Professor Hiroshi Kadokura and Professor Hideki Taguchi from the Institute of Science Tokyo, Japan, developed an innovative 'reporter' molecule that can detect ER-related problems during protein synthesis. Disruptions in protein translocation to the ER or disulfide bond formation underlie several diseases, and understanding the mechanisms that govern these processes is essential in biology and medical science. Unfortunately, the tools available to study them are either quite limited in scope or require exceptionally expensive equipment and carefully repeated measurements.

While designing this reporter, the researchers took a page from a fusion protein called MalF-LacZ, derived from Escherichia coli bacteria. In these microorganisms, the MalF part of the protein helps



with translocating LacZ from the cytoplasm to the cell envelope.

Once transported there, the LacZ enzyme undergoes oxidation through disulfide bond formation, thus deactivating it. Therefore, problems in either transportation or disulfide bond formation would result in an abnormally activated LacZ enzyme.

Inspired by these elegant natural mechanisms, the research team developed a reporter molecule based on firefly luciferase (FLuc) that operates in a similar manner. Luciferase is a bioluminescence producing enzyme of firefly that produces light when it catalyzes the oxidation of D-luciferin in the presence of oxygen, adenosine triphosphate (ATP), and magnesium ions (Mg2+). More specifically, they engineered a FLuc variant that is

rendered inactive by disulfide bond formation in the ER, but remains active in the cytosol or if disulfide bonds do not form. They 'targeted' this compound to the ER by introducing specific modifications, and made it more prone to misfolding (and deactivating) within the ER by strategically replacing amino acids in the FLuc sequence with Cysteine.

Using this reporter, the researchers could easily detect problems in protein translocation to the ER, as well as problems in disulfide bond formation. A bioluminescence producing enzyme of a different type can serve as an internal control and ensures precise measurement.

Furthermore, the reporter protein is equipped with a motif that undergoes a modification (glycosylation) only when the protein is

translocated into the ER. Thus, they could also determine which of the two possibilities were the underlying cause for the activation of the FLuc reporter.

To showcase the power of this method, the team ran experiments in cells where the redox environment of the ER was chemically altered, disrupting disulfide bond formation. Additionally, they showed that the proposed reporter can detect defects in protein translocation induced by a potential anti-HIV drug, signaling the successful inhibition of the virus. "Given that luciferase-based assays are well-suited for high-throughput platforms, we suggest that this approach will facilitate large-scale screening of small molecules that specifically block the biosynthesis of harmful secretory pathway proteins," highlights Kadokura.

Notably, this novel reporter bears several advantages over other available methods, including its simplicity, robustness against environmental fluctuations, and high reproducibility. "Our reporter system will serve as a valuable tool across various fields related to secretory pathway proteins, extending beyond fundamental studies," says Taguchi, hopeful for the future.

With any luck, these efforts will lead to a better understanding of both life processes and diseases, paving the way to new medical advances and treatments.



# Digital Transformation in Railway Protection Force - Adapting to the Evolving Security Landscape

## New Passenger Halt at Sanapadar to Benefit Local Commuters:

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** Indian Railways, the lifeline of the nation, carries millions of passengers across its sprawling 68,000 km network daily. Beyond being a transport giant, it is a symbol of connectivity and progress. However, this grandeur comes with monumental security challenges, from theft and vandalism to sophisticated cyber threats. The Railway Protection Force (RPF) has embraced digital transformation to re-define security, shifting from traditional reactive measures to forward-thinking, technology-driven strategies. This article delves into how cutting-edge digital technologies are revolutionizing railway security, enhancing passenger security, and redefining the travel experience.

The Vast Security Landscape of Indian Railways Unparalleled Scale and Complexity Managing the safety of 23 million daily passengers across thousands of stations is a formidable task. From bustling urban centres to remote rural stations, the RPF ensures vigilance against a spectrum of challenges - monitoring critical infrastructure, addressing emergencies, and safeguarding against evolving threats.

The RPF's responsibilities extend beyond crime prevention. They are the first responders, mediators, and enforcers, protecting lives and property while working closely with the Government Railway Police (GRP) and other Law Enforcement agencies to address multifaceted railway security issues. RPF's tech-based strategies light the way for a secure and thriving railway system. Under the visionary leadership of Shri Manoj Yadava, Director General, the RPF has evolved into a technologically adept organization. With initiatives that combine cutting-edge technology with practical applications, the RPF is setting benchmarks in modern law enforcement.

**Digital Transformation:** Technologies Revolutionizing Railway Security Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Big Data Analytics AI is a



game-changer. Imagine a system that flags high-risk zones before an incident occurs or detects anomalies in passenger behaviour. AI tools have a potential of preventing stampedes at crowded stations by monitoring crowd density and enabling pre-emptive interventions.

**Access Control based Tech Initiative: Queue management System:** Seamless and Secure RPF has utilised Biometric-based seamless coach entry system which have re-defined access control. This system eliminate fraud while making passenger movement smoother and more secure.

**Smart Armoury** The RPF has successfully tested an digital Intruder Alarm System at the Railway Protection Force (RPF) Zonal Armoury in Mahalaxmi, Mumbai as part of its effort to strengthen security at sensitive locations.

**CCTV Surveillance: Eyes Everywhere**

High-definition cameras equipped with facial recognition technology identify and track suspects in real-time. For instance, Western Railway's pilot project of AI-powered FRS enabled surveillance system over certain sections of sub-urban network has improved crime detection rates, setting a benchmark for other stations.

**Mobile Apps:** Empowering Passengers Passenger-centric apps like Rail Madad and Meri Saheli have redefined public security. A recent case in November 2024 highlights how a distress call via Rail Madad helped recover luggage by the RPF within fifteen minutes - an example of technology translating into tangible benefits. The Meri Saheli initiative of the RPF focuses on the safety and empowerment of women passengers. Using a combination of mobile application and on-ground RPF teams, the program ensures a personalized secured travelled experience, from boarding point to destination. The data of the vulnerable passengers are generated to the field units for pin pointed coverage and ensuring safe journey of women passengers across India. RPF Meri Saheli team personnel (often female personnel) are assigned to interact with women passengers enroute, particularly those traveling alone, to understand their concerns and gather travel details. Female passenger is given a brief on safety & security measures.

The "Meri Saheli" initiative underscores the RPF's commitment to creating a safer, more comfortable travel experience for women across India's vast railway network. The essence of "Meri Saheli"

is proactive engagement, real-time support, and a sustained focus on women's Security. Sangyaan (A Legal Repository App) - Developing a future ready Force through anywhere anytime learning initiative The Sangyaan app, developed in-house by the RPF's Technology Team, is a game-changer for law enforcement. This app serves as a comprehensive repository of India's three new criminal laws namely the Bhartiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), Bhartiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSs) and the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam (BSA). It provides officers with instant access to new changes in investigative procedures, including changes in sections, penalties, and case precedents. Designed with an intuitive interface, Sangyaan integrates searchable legal databases with interactive modules, ensuring that personnel across law enforcement agencies can easily access critical legal information from anywhere. This app not only enhances legal acumen but also empowers officers with the knowledge required for effective law enforcement. It is available at both apple app store & google play store

**Cyber Cells:** Proactive Policing through Advanced Analytics The Railway Protection Force (RPF) has established dedicated cyber cells across zonal headquarters, ushering in a new era of technology driven policing. Armed with sophisticated tools for digital forensics, cyber patrolling, and real-time data analytics, these units focus on pre-emptively addressing threats to railway security. RPF cyber cells utilises advanced social media intelligence (SOCMINT) and open-source intelligence (OSINT) techniques to identify potential crime hotspots.

This proactive approach has enabled the RPF to allocate resources strategically, undertake preventive measures, and mitigate risks related to passenger security as well as effectively safeguarding railway infrastructure worth several crores.

- Four Trains to Make Stoppages at Newly Opened Passenger Halt.
- Bhubaneswar-Daspalla-Bhubaneswar Express will stop at Bolagarh Town PH

**MI News Service, Bhubaneswar:** In a significant development aimed at enhancing connectivity and meeting local demand, the Indian Railways has inaugurated a new Passenger Halt at Sanapadar, located on the Khurda Road-Balangir Rail Line. This new station will serve the growing transportation needs of the region and improve accessibility for local commuters.

The decision to open the Sanapadar Passenger Halt was made following a public request during the visit of Hon'ble Railway Minister Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw to Daspalla last year. The Minister had acknowledged the demand from the local populace for better rail access and had assured them that the Passenger Halt at Sanapadar would be established. With this inauguration, Shri Vaishnaw has once again fulfilled his commitment to improving rail infrastructure in the area.

To ensure a comfortable and convenient experience for travelers, Sanapadar Passenger Halt is equipped with modern amenities: The PH has been constructed at a cost of Rs. 55 Lakh having 450 meters of Platform. Amenities provided at the PH include Six numbers of Small Passenger Shelters; Six Benches providing seating for 30 passengers on the platform and 13 passengers in the waiting room. Apart from this, 22 light posts were provided to ensure visibility and safety during night-time travel, 1 hand tube well for water needs, 1 booking counter, Waiting Room with separate toilets for gents and



ladies provided in the waiting room.

**Four Pairs of Trains to Stop at Sanapadar**

As part of the initiative to improve local travel, East Coast Railway has announced that four pairs of trains, including one express train, will now make stoppages at Sanapadar starting from January 20, 2025. The trains scheduled to stop at the new station are as follows:

**18423/18424 Bhubaneswar-Daspalla-Bhubaneswar Express:** The train Bhubaneswar will arrive at Sanapadar at 1948 hrs and will leave at 1950 hrs towards Daspalla. In the return direction, the train from Daspalla will arrive at Sanapadar at 0722 hrs and will leave at 0723 hrs towards Bhubaneswar.

**18423/18424 Bhubaneswar-Daspalla-Bhubaneswar Express:** The train Bhubaneswar will arrive at Sanapadar at 1948 hrs and will leave at 1950 hrs towards Daspalla. In the return direction, the train from Daspalla will arrive at Sanapadar at 0722 hrs and will leave at 0723 hrs towards Bhubaneswar. In addition to the express service, three local MEMU (Mainline Electrical Multiple Unit) trains will also make stoppages at Sanapadar, enhancing the local train connectivity.

**Bhubaneswar-Daspalla-Bhubaneswar MEMU**

The train Bhubaneswar will arrive at Sanapadar at 1052 hrs and will leave at 1053 hrs towards Daspalla. In the return direction, the train from Daspalla will arrive at Sanapadar at 1704 hrs and will leave at 1705 hrs towards Bhubaneswar.

**Bhadrak-Daspalla-Bhadrak MEMU**

The train Bhadrak will arrive at Sanapadar at 0953

hrs and will leave at 0954 hrs towards Daspalla. In the return direction, the train from Daspalla will arrive at Sanapadar at 1744 hrs and will leave at 1745 hrs towards Bhadrak.

**Puri-Daspalla-Puri MEMU**

The train Puri will arrive at Sanapadar at 2015 hrs and will leave at 2016 hrs towards Daspalla. In the return direction, the train from Daspalla will arrive at Sanapadar at 0743 hrs and will leave at 0744 hrs towards Puri.

**Improved Connectivity at Bolagarh Town**

In addition to the Sanapadar Passenger Halt, the Bhubaneswar-Daspalla-Bhubaneswar Express will also begin stopping at Bolagarh Town, starting January 20, 2025. The train will arrive at Bolagarh Town at 2003 hrs and depart at 2004 hrs towards Daspalla. In the return direction, it will arrive at 0708 hrs and depart at 0709 hrs towards Bhubaneswar.

**A Milestone in Local Rail Development**

The opening of the Sanapadar Passenger Halt is seen as a major step towards fulfilling the transportation needs of the local community. The local public representatives, along with the railway authorities, have worked hard to ensure this long-awaited development.

## AN INITIATIVE TOWARDS STRENGTHENING INFRASTRUCTURE CONSTRUCTION WORK OF BALLYGHAT - BALLYHALT ROAD UNDER BRIDGE IN SEALDAH DIVISION TO CONTINUE FOR 100 HOURS FROM 23.01.2025 TILL EARLY MORNING OF 27.01.2025

### Regulation of Train Movements

In connection with construction of Ballyghat-Ballyhalt Road Under Bridge replacing steel girder of Bridge No. 15 CCR at KM 7/58-8/2 by providing RCC boxes, Traffic cum Power Block for 100 hours (from 00:00 hrs. of 23.01.2025 to 04:00 hrs. of 27.01.2025) will be necessary. Consequently, the following trains will be regulated as under:-

• **CANCELLATION OF EMU: On 23.01.2025 (Thursday), 24.01.2025 (Friday), 25.01.2025 (Saturday) and 26.01.2025 (Sunday):** Sealdah-Dankuni: UP 32211, 32213, 32215, 32217, 32219, 32221, 32223, 32225, 32227, 32229, 32231, 32233, 32235, 32237, 32239, 32241, 32243, 32245, 32247, 32249, DN 32212, 32214, 32216, 32218, 32220, 32222, 32224, 32226, 32228, 32230, 32232, 32234, 32236, 32238, 32240, 32242, 32246, 32248, 32250, 32252. Sealdah-Baruipara: UP 32411, 32413, DN 32412, 32414. Sealdah-Kalyani Simanta: UP 31317, 31333, 31339, DN 31318, 31332, 31338. Sealdah-Madhyamgram: UP 33421, DN 33422. Sealdah-Bardhaman: UP 31151, DN 31152. Sealdah-Dum Dum Cantonment: UP 33411, DN 33412. Sealdah-Duttapukur: UP 33621, DN 33628. Naihati-Bandel: UP 37535, 37537, 37545, 37529, 37521, 37523, 37555, 37557, DN 37538, 37540, 37548, 37532, 37522, 37524, 37556, 37558. On 27.01.2025 (Monday): Sealdah-Dankuni: UP 32211, 32213, DN 32212, 32214.

• **CANCELLATION OF MAIL/EXPRESS: On 21.01.2025 (Tuesday):** 12359 Kolkata-Patna Garib Rath Express (JCO 21.01.2025). On 22.01.2025 (Wednesday): 13179 Sealdah-Siuri Express (JCO 22.01.2025), 13161 Kolkata-Balughat Tebhaga Express (JCO 22.01.2025). On 23.01.2025 (Thursday): 13179 Sealdah-Siuri Express (JCO 23.01.2025), 13161 Kolkata-Balughat Tebhaga Express (JCO 23.01.2025), 13180 Siuri-Sealdah Express (JCO 23.01.2025), 13162 Balughat-Kolkata Tebhaga Express (JCO 23.01.2025), 15234 Darbhanga-Kolkata Maithili Express (JCO 22.01.2025), 15233 Kolkata-Darbhanga Maithili Express (JCO 23.01.2025), 13177 Sealdah-Jangipur Road Express (JCO 23.01.2025), 13178 Jangipur Road-Sealdah Express (JCO 23.01.2025), 12359 Kolkata-Patna Garib Rath Express (JCO 23.01.2025), 12360 Patna-Kolkata Garib Rath Express (JCO 22.01.2025), 12363 Kolkata-Haldibari Intercity Express (JCO 23.01.2025), 12383 Sealdah-Asansol Intercity Express (JCO 23.01.2025), 12384 Asansol-Sealdah Intercity Express (JCO 23.01.2025). On 24.01.2025 (Friday): 12383 Sealdah-Asansol Intercity Express (JCO 24.01.2025), 13177 Sealdah-Jangipur Road Express (JCO 24.01.2025), 13179 Sealdah-Siuri Express (JCO 24.01.2025), 13161 Kolkata-Balughat Tebhaga Express (JCO 24.01.2025), 12384 Asansol-Sealdah Intercity Express (JCO 24.01.2025), 13178 Jangipur Road-Sealdah Express (JCO 24.01.2025), 13180 Siuri-Sealdah Express (JCO 24.01.2025), 13162 Balughat-Kolkata Tebhaga Express (JCO 24.01.2025), 12364 Haldibari-Kolkata Intercity Express (JCO 24.01.2025). On 25.01.2025 (Saturday): 12383 Sealdah-Asansol Intercity Express (JCO 25.01.2025), 13177 Sealdah-Jangipur Road Express (JCO 25.01.2025), 13179 Sealdah-Siuri Express (JCO 25.01.2025), 12384 Asansol-Sealdah Intercity Express (JCO 25.01.2025), 13178 Jangipur Road-Sealdah Express (JCO 25.01.2025), 13180 Siuri-Sealdah Express (JCO 25.01.2025), 13162 Balughat-Kolkata Tebhaga Express (JCO 25.01.2025), 12360 Patna-Kolkata Garib Rath Express (JCO 24.01.2025), 12363 Kolkata-Haldibari Intercity Express (JCO 25.01.2025), 12359 Kolkata-Patna Garib Rath Express (JCO 25.01.2025). On 26.01.2025 (Sunday): 13179 Sealdah-Siuri Express (JCO 26.01.2025), 13180 Siuri-Sealdah Express (26.01.2025) 13161 Kolkata-Balughat Tebhaga Express (JCO 26.01.2025) 12364 Haldibari-Kolkata Intercity Express (JCO 26.01.2025). On 27.01.2025 (Monday): 13180 Siuri-

Sealdah Express (JCO 27.01.2025), 12360 Patna-Kolkata Garib Rath Express (JCO 26.01.2025), 13162 Balughat-Kolkata Tebhaga Express (JCO 27.01.2025).

• **DIVERSION OF MAIL/EXPRESS via DUM DUM JN.-NAIHATI: On 23.01.2025 (Thursday):** 13151 Kolkata-Jammu Tawi Express (JCO 23.01.2025), 12259 Sealdah-Bikaner Duronto Express (JCO 23.01.2025), 12315 Kolkata-Udaypur City Ananya Express (JCO 23.01.2025), 13167 Kolkata-Agra Cantonment Weekly Express (JCO 23.01.2025), 22323 Kolkata-Ghaziipur City Shabbhedi Superfast Express (JCO 23.01.2025), 12325 Kolkata-Nangal Dam Gurumukhi Superfast Express (JCO 23.01.2025), 12313 Sealdah-New Delhi Rajdhani Express (JCO 23.01.2025), 12377 Sealdah-New Alipurduar Padatik Express (JCO 23.01.2025), 13173 Sealdah-Agartala Kanchenjunga Express (JCO 23.01.2025), 13149 Sealdah-Alipurduar Kanchankanya Express (JCO 23.01.2025), 12343 Sealdah-Haldibari Darjeeling Mail (JCO 23.01.2025), 12987 Sealdah-Ajmer Superfast Express (JCO 23.01.2025). On 24.01.2025 (Friday): 12313 Sealdah-New Delhi Rajdhani Express (JCO 24.01.2025), 13151 Kolkata-Jammu Tawi Express (24.01.2025), 13173 Sealdah-Agartala Kanchenjunga Express (JCO 24.01.2025), 12377 Sealdah-New Alipurduar Padatik Express (JCO 24.01.2025), 12343 Sealdah-Haldibari Darjeeling Mail (JCO 24.01.2025), 13149 Sealdah-Alipurduar Kanchankanya Express (JCO 24.01.2025), 12987 Sealdah-Ajmer Superfast Express (JCO 24.01.2025), 12496 Kolkata-Bikaner Pratap Express (JCO 24.01.2025), 12379 Sealdah - Amritsar Jallianwala Bagh Express (JCO 24.01.2025). On 25.01.2025 (Saturday): 12313 Sealdah-New Delhi Rajdhani Express (JCO 25.01.2025), 13151 Kolkata-Jammu Tawi Express (JCO 25.01.2025), 12377 Sealdah-New Alipurduar Padatik Express (JCO 25.01.2025), 12343 Sealdah-Haldibari Darjeeling Mail (JCO 25.01.2025), 13149 Sealdah-Alipurduar Kanchankanya Express (JCO 25.01.2025), 12987 Sealdah-Ajmer Superfast Express (JCO 25.01.2025), 13175 Kolkata-Silchar Kanchanjunga Express (JCO 25.01.2025), 13165 Kolkata-Sitamahi Express (JCO 25.01.2025), 19414 Kolkata - Ahmedabad Weekly Express (JCO 25.01.2025). On 26.01.2025 (Sunday): 12313 Sealdah-New Delhi Rajdhani Express (JCO 26.01.2025), 13151 Kolkata-Jammu Tawi Express (JCO 26.01.2025), 12377 Sealdah-New Alipurduar Padatik Express (JCO 26.01.2025), 12343 Sealdah-Haldibari Darjeeling Mail (JCO 26.01.2025), 13149 Sealdah-Alipurduar Kanchankanya Express (JCO 26.01.2025), 12987 Sealdah-Ajmer Superfast Express (JCO 26.01.2025), 12317 Kolkata-Amritsar Akaltakht Express (JCO 26.01.2025), 13121 Kolkata-Ghaziipur City Weekly Express (JCO 26.01.2025), 13173 Sealdah-Agartala Kanchenjunga Express (JCO 26.01.2025), 12259 Sealdah-Bikaner Duronto Express (JCO 26.01.2025).

• **DIVERSION OF MAIL/EXPRESS via NAIHATI-DUM DUM JN.: On 23.01.2025 (Thursday):** 12314 New Delhi-Sealdah Rajdhani Express (JCO 22.01.2025), 13152 Jammu Tawi-Kolkata Express (JCO 21.01.2025), 13176 Silchar-Kolkata Kanchanjunga Express (JCO 22.01.2025), 12378 New Alipurduar-Sealdah Padatik Express (JCO 22.01.2025), 12344 Haldibari-Sealdah Darjeeling Mail (JCO 22.01.2025), 13150 Alipurduar-Sealdah Kanchankanya Express (JCO 22.01.2025), 12988 Ajmer-Sealdah Superfast Express (JCO 22.01.2025), 12330 Anand Vihar Terminal-Sealdah Sampark Kranti Express (JCO 22.01.2025), 22318 Jammu Tawi-Sealdah Humsafar Superfast Express (JCO 22.01.2025). On 24.01.2025 (Friday): 12314 New Delhi-Sealdah Rajdhani Express (JCO 23.01.2025), 19413 Ahmedabad-Kolkata Weekly Express (JCO 22.01.2025), 12260 Bikaner-Sealdah Duronto Express (JCO 23.01.2025), 13152 Jammu Tawi-Kolkata Express (JCO

22.01.2025), 13174 Agartala-Sealdah Kanchenjunga Express (JCO 23.01.2025), 12378 New Alipurduar-Sealdah Padatik Express (JCO 23.01.2025), 12344 Haldibari-Sealdah Darjeeling Mail (JCO 23.01.2025), 13150 Alipurduar-Sealdah Kanchankanya Express (JCO 23.01.2025), 12988 Ajmer-Sealdah Superfast Express (JCO 23.01.2025), 12358 Amritsar-Kolkata Durgiana Express (JCO 23.01.2025), 12320 Gwalior-Kolkata Superfast Express (JCO 23.01.2025), 12495 Bikaner-Kolkata Pratap Express (JCO 23.01.2025). On 25.01.2025 (Saturday): 12314 New Delhi-Sealdah Rajdhani Express (JCO 24.01.2025), 12260 Bikaner-Sealdah Duronto Express (JCO 24.01.2025), 13152 Jammu Tawi-Kolkata Express (JCO 23.01.2025), 13176 Silchar-Kolkata Kanchanjunga Express (JCO 24.01.2025), 12378 New Alipurduar-Sealdah Padatik Express (JCO 24.01.2025), 12344 Haldibari-Sealdah Darjeeling Mail (JCO 24.01.2025), 13150 Alipurduar-Sealdah Kanchankanya Express (JCO 24.01.2025), 12988 Ajmer-Sealdah Superfast Express (JCO 24.01.2025), 22324 Ghaziipur City-Kolkata Shabbhedi Superfast Express (JCO 24.01.2025), 12318 Amritsar-Kolkata Akaltakht Express (JCO 24.01.2025). On 26.01.2025 (Sunday): 12314 New Delhi-Sealdah Rajdhani Express (JCO 25.01.2025), 13168 Agra Cantt.-Kolkata Express (JCO 25.01.2025), 13174 Agartala-Sealdah Kanchenjunga Express (JCO 25.01.2025), 12378 New Alipurduar-Sealdah Padatik Express (JCO 25.01.2025), 12344 Haldibari-Sealdah Darjeeling Mail (JCO 25.01.2025), 13150 Alipurduar-Sealdah Kanchankanya Express (JCO 25.01.2025), 12988 Ajmer-Sealdah Superfast Express (JCO 25.01.2025), 12326 Nangal Dam-Kolkata Gurumukhi Superfast Express (JCO 25.01.2025), 13152 Jammu Tawi-Kolkata Express (JCO 24.01.2025). On 27.01.2025 (Monday): 15234 Darbhanga-Kolkata Maithili Express (JCO 26.01.2025).

• **CHANGE OF TERMINATING/ ORIGINATING STATION TO HOWRAH INSTEAD OF SEALDAH: On 23.01.2025 (Thursday):** 13148 Bamanhat-Sealdah Uttarbanga Express (JCO 22.01.2025) will terminate at Howrah instead of Sealdah, 13147 Sealdah- Bamanhat Uttarbanga Express (JCO 23.01.2025) will originate from Howrah instead of Sealdah. On 24.01.2025 (Friday): 22201 Sealdah - Puri Duronto Express (JCO 24.01.2025) and 13147 Sealdah- Bamanhat Uttarbanga Express (JCO 24.01.2025) will originate from Howrah instead of Sealdah, 22202 Puri- Sealdah Duronto Express (JCO 23.01.2025) and 13148 Bamanhat-Sealdah Uttarbanga Express (JCO 23.01.2025) will terminate at Howrah instead of Sealdah. On 25.01.2025 (Saturday): 13147 Sealdah- Bamanhat Uttarbanga Express (JCO 25.01.2025) will originate from Howrah instead of Sealdah, 13148 Bamanhat-Sealdah Uttarbanga Express (JCO 24.01.2025) will terminate at Howrah instead of Sealdah. On 26.01.2025 (Sunday): 13147 Sealdah- Bamanhat Uttarbanga Express (JCO 26.01.2025) will originate from Howrah instead of Sealdah, 13148 Bamanhat-Sealdah Uttarbanga Express (JCO 25.01.2025) and 22202 Puri- Sealdah Duronto Express (JCO 25.01.2025) will terminate at Howrah instead of Sealdah. On 27.01.2025 (Monday): 22201 Sealdah-Puri Duronto Express (JCO 27.01.2025) will originate from Howrah instead of Sealdah.

**Note: (1)** The following Mail/Express trains will stop at Belgharia station instead of Dakshineswar station of Sealdah division on the days of Diversion: UP: 13175, 13173, 13151 and 13149, DN: 15234, 13150, 13152, 13176 and 13174. (2) The following Mail / Express trains will stop at Naihati station of Sealdah Division instead of Kamarkundu station of Howrah division on the days of Diversion: UP: 13149 & 13151, DN: 13150 & 13152. There may be delayed in train running during this period. Inconvenience is regretted.

Divisional Railway Manager, Sealdah

EASTERN RAILWAY



# India vice-captain Axar Patel hints at flexible middle order, emphasises quick decision-making in T20Is

KOLKATA (WEST BENGAL) : India's vice-captain Axar Patel has suggested that apart from the opening pair, everyone in the batting line-up can have flexible roles in the T20I format. He made the remarks ahead of the five-match series against England.

During India's recent expedition in T20Is, Axar has been effectively used as a floater. The decision led to a massive surge in Axar's performance.

Until the end of 2022, Axar averaged 21.26 and struck at 131.25 in the T20s. Since the beginning of 2023, the southpaw's performances have significantly upped, reflected in a 30.32 average and 145.62 strike rate.

His versatility was up for display, with India, Delhi Capitals and Gujarat using him under different circumstances. Axar has struck six fifties in the last two years while coming in at numbers 3, 4, 6 and 7.

Not only Axar, Hardik Pandya, Tilak Varma, Rinku Singh and captain Suryakumar Yadav, have been effectively used as floaters.



"Batting-wise, it's not just with me, but we spoke in 2023-24 itself that the openers are fixed, but everyone from Nos. 3 to 7 have been told that they can come into bat anytime, in any situation. It is not just that one batter will bat at

a particular position. Our middle order will come to bat depending on the match situation, what kind of bowlers are bowling at the time, which match-up works well," Axar told reporters on Monday, according to

ESPNcricinfo.

"We've spoken about that, how we can all be floaters, be it coming in early or obviously finishing. This is not just for me, but for everyone from No. 3 and below, especially if they are in good touch in the nets. We will adjust accordingly. In T20Is, how you use your batters is so crucial, so this is an important factor in batting," he added.

Axar will step into the stadium to face England with the added responsibility of playing Suryakumar's deputy role. The 31-year-old acknowledged that he would need to learn to take difficult calls.

"It has just been a day, but as part of the leadership group, there is an extra responsibility. The T20I side is settled, so there's not much pressure, but there are small decisions that need making, and during the game, I need to work closely with Suryakumar," Axar said.

"As part of the leadership group, you have to learn to take harsh decisions. We have spoken

about sharing our genuine opinions, and that will help build trust in this group. The T20I format is such that it is so fast that you have to make decisions quickly, so the larger conversations [with the coaches] is about how to do that," he added.

The five-match T20I series will begin on Wednesday at the iconic Eden Gardens. The squad resembles the one that toured South Africa in November last year.

The T20I series will be followed by a three-match ODI series, which will allow India to bolster its preparation and find the perfect combination for next month's Champions Trophy.

India squad for T20I series against England: Suryakumar Yadav (C), Sanju Samson (wk), Abhishek Sharma, Tilak Varma, Hardik Pandya, Rinku Singh, Nitish Kumar Reddy, Axar Patel (vc), Harshit Rana, Arshdeep Singh, Mohammad Shami, Varun Chakaravathy, Ravi Bishnoi, Washington Sundar, Dhruv Jurel (wk).



## Australian Open: Sinner, Shelton move into quarterfinals

MELBOURNE [AUSTRALIA] : Top seed and defending champion Jannik Sinner moved into the Australian Open quarterfinals following a hard-fought win over Holger Rune in the fourth round match on Sunday, during which he struggled with his fitness.

The world number one had skipped practice before the match and taken consultation from the tournament doctor ahead of the match, but managed to secure a win by 6-3, 3-6, 6-3, 6-2.

Struggling in Melbourne's 32-degree heat, Sinner called for a medical timeout during which he received a pulse check in the middle of third set. At the previous change of ends, after a 10-minute game during which he saved three break points, Sinner sat on a bench, with an ice towel on his face with his right hand twitching uncontrollably.

We talked a little bit. It helped me today, and it also shows that this tournament has great organisation," Sinner concluded.

Sinner secured 83 per cent of first-serve points and hit 35 winners and 35 unforced errors as compared to Rune's 31 winners and 54 unforced errors.

Sinner record against Rune improved to three wins and two losses.

Also, on the other hand, Ben Shelton secured a berth in Australian Open quarters as well following Gael Monfils' retirement in the match due to an injury.

The 22-year-old Shelton was leading by 7-6(3), 6-7(3), 7-6(2), 1-0 in a two hour, 56-minute battle, but Monfils called the match as the physical demands of running started to take a toll on his body and hindered his movement.

Speaking after the match, Shelton said, "Obviously he (Monfils) has played a lot of long matches, so I wanted to make it as physical as possible. There is a lot of things he does unbelievably well, counter-punching, making you feel uncomfortable on the court, getting to the net. So, being able to find that balance was tricky because he was serving so well."

"Gael is someone I have watched since a little kid, I always say he has the greatest highlight tape of all time, and you saw some of that tonight. At 38 years old, I hope I am still walking without crutches... To push me the way he did today and entertain everyone in New Zealand and Australia in the way he has the last couple of weeks is so impressive."

"I hope to be able to create some memories like that with my family watching on at that age, because it is really special and unheard of in any other sport," he concluded.

The Italian looked physically drained from the treatment, but as the set progressed, he started to move better. Also, thanks to Rune's 16 unforced errors, Sinner secured the third set and broke early in the fourth set to reach the quarterfinals of the competition for the third time.

Following the match as quoted by ATP's official website, Sinner said, "I think we saw that today I was struggling physically. Came here as late as possible. I knew that it was going to be very, very difficult today. You know, playing against a tough opponent, but also playing against myself a little bit."

"When I am not feeling well on court, sometimes I tend to walk a little bit on the left. But, no, injury-wise I have nothing. Just health-wise a little bit struggling, but I am good with injuries."

"Of course, the time of the court with me and the doctor,

## Australia boosted by positive Steve Smith update ahead of Sri Lanka series, Champions Trophy

MELBOURNE [AUSTRALIA] : In an encouraging update ahead of the Sri Lanka Test series, Cricket Australia revealed that star batter Steve Smith's elbow injury is not as bad as it seemed and has been cleared to join the Test squad.

The Australian squad are preparing for a two-match Test series in Sri Lanka starting from January 29, which will be swiftly followed by the ICC Champions Trophy.

The 35-year-old, who was named Test captain for the Sri Lanka series in the absence of Pat Cummins, picked up a right elbow injury whilst attempting a throw during a Big Bash League fixture on Friday.

But he has been subsequently cleared to play, as revealed in a media release by Cricket Australia.

"Steve Smith has undergone a specialist medical review today following his right elbow injury sustained during the Big Bash League. He has been cleared to rejoin the Test squad and travel to Dubai," said the media release as quoted by ICC.

"Smith is expected to return to batting later in the week to begin his preparation for the first Test against Sri Lanka," added the release.

The news comes as a boost to an Australia side who were already without captain Cummins due to an ankle injury.

Cricket Australia have also confirmed that National Selection Panel is keeping a close observation on Cummins, who has been named as the captain for the upcoming Champions Trophy.

Also in recovery is left-arm spinner Matt Kuhnemann, who sustained a fractured thumb while playing in the Big Bash League earlier this week.

Kuhnemann, who was named in Australia's Test squad for Sri Lanka, is expected to resume bowling this week with a view to joining the squad in Sri Lanka if he continues to progress well.

The tour of Sri Lanka is the final series of the current World Test Championship (WTC) cycle, with Australia guaranteed a place in June's final against South Africa.

Australia tour of Sri Lanka, Schedule:

- 1st Test, January 29-February 2, 2025, Galle
- 2nd Test, February 6-10, 2025, Galle
- 1st ODI, February 12, 2025, Galle
- 2nd ODI, February 14, 2025, TBC.



## IPL 2025: Rishabh Pant appointed as Lucknow Super Giants' captain

MUMBAI (MAHARASHTRA) : Star Indian wicketkeeper-batter Rishabh Pant was announced as the captain of Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) on Tuesday ahead of this year's Indian Premier League (IPL) season.

The announcement was made on Star Sports during the show 'LSG Special Live', which also featured the franchise owner Dr Sanjiv Goenka.

(Photo credits: Star Sports/Hotstar)

Pant became the most expensive player in the history of the IPL, being bought by Lucknow Super Giants for a massive Rs 27 crores during the IPL mega auction at Jeddah held in November last year.

He beat compatriot Shreyas Iyer, who had just become the most expensive player in the league's history, going to Punjab Kings (PBKS) for Rs 26.75 crores a few minutes before his record-breaking bid. Iyer had beat Australia's Mitchell Starc, who marked his return to IPL after years with a record-breaking bid of Rs 24.75 crores.

Initially, there was a bidding war between LSG and Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB), with the latter giving up. Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) entered the bidding war, trying to bolster their explosive batting



attack and Delhi Capitals (DC) tried to use the 'Right To Match' card, but they could not match the value LSG put for Pant, breaking the bank for him and going beyond Iyer's value.

The swashbuckling wicket-keeper-batter is an all-format for India and a livewire on the field. Having proven himself as a man for big stages in Test cricket, Pant's T20 game is just as solid. Though he has scored 1,209 runs in 76 T20Is at an underwhelming average of 23.25, a strike rate of

almost 128 and just three fifties, his overall T20 numbers are way better, having made 5,022 runs in 202 matches at an average of 31.78, a strike rate of over 145, with two centuries and 25 fifties.

Pant represented Delhi Capitals (DC) for his entire IPL career since 2016, scoring 3,284 runs in 110 matches at an average of 35.31, with a century and 18 fifties. He was appointed as the team's captain in 2021 and led them to playoffs in the same season.

# Australia captain Alyssa Healy in doubt for rest of Women's Ashes amid foot injury

SYDNEY [AUSTRALIA] : Australia captain Alyssa Healy's availability in the rest of the Women's Ashes 2025 is in doubt after the 34-year-old developed "mid-foot soreness", as reported by ESPNcricinfo.

Healy had to miss the first T20I match of the series against England at the Sydney Cricket Ground after growing a foot soreness. Earlier during the Women's T20 World Cup 2024, the Aussie skipper sustained an injury on the same place.

In a statement, Cricket Australia stated that Healy is being managed in a boot and will not be available for today's game.

"Alyssa has developed mid-foot soreness on the same side as her previous plantar fascia injury following the ODI series. She is currently being managed in a boot and will not be available for this evening's game," Cricket Australia's statement was quoted by ESPNcricinfo as saying.

It added that the medical team is consulting with specialists to make an appropri-

ate management plan for Healy.

"Cricket Australia's medical team is consulting with specialists to develop an appropriate management plan over the coming days. Her availability for the remainder of the series will be assessed as more information becomes available," it added.

The Aussie captain injured her right foot during the ICC Women's T20 World Cup match against Pakistan in October last year, 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. Meanwhile, Australia has won the ODI series 3-0. With three T20Is and a one-off Test left, Australia is one win away from retaining the Ashes. The hosts have taken a 6-0 points lead over England in the series. England will need to win all three T20Is and then the series-concluding Test match to end their 11-year Ashes drought.



# MOHAMMED SHAMI STARTS TRAINING WITH TEAM INDIA IN KOLKATA AHEAD OF ENGLAND T20IS

KOLKATA (WEST BENGAL) : Seamer Mohammed Shami started training with the India squad at the iconic Eden Gardens ahead of the T20I series against England.

With Jasprit Bumrah out of the squad for the upcoming five-match T20I series, Shami is expected to lead the Men in Blue attack.

Last year, Shami returned to domestic cricket with Bengal after undergoing an ankle surgery that kept him sidelined for nearly a year. Shami had also been a part of Bengal's squad for the Vijay Hazare Trophy.

Shami had made an impressive comeback to competitive cricket, hav-

ing last featured in the ODI World Cup 2023 final. Following ankle surgery and overcoming a series of setbacks, he returned to action for Bengal in a Ranji Trophy match against Madhya Pradesh in November.

Earlier on January 11, Shami was added to the India squad for the upcoming T20I series against England.

Taking to X, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) shared a few glimpses of the 34-year-old getting back on the track with the Men in Blue. Team India bowling coach Morne Morkel was keeping a close eye on Shami during his first practice



session with the Men in Blue after coming back from injury.

Meanwhile, Shami took to his official Instagram handle and said that he is ready to make the citizens proud once again.

"All set Ready to make you all proud once again. keep your love support," Shami wrote on Instagram.

The five-match T20I series will kick off on January 22 in Kolkata. The second and third matches will be held on January 25 and 28 in Chennai and Rajkot, respectively. The fourth game of the series will be played on January 31 in Pune. Mumbai will host the final match of the T20I series on February 2.