

## At least 30 pilgrims dead and nearly 100 injured in stampede at Maha Kumbh during 'Mauni Amavasya'

**MI News Service, Prayagraj :** At least 30 pilgrims were crushed to death and nearly 100 injured, many of them seriously, in a huge stampede which took place at the Maha Kumbh mela site near here in the early hours of Wednesday ahead of the 'Amrit Snan' on 'Mauni Amavasya' day.

Informing this official sources said over 70 million pilgrims were reportedly turned up for a holy dip at the Maha Sangam on the occasion of a very auspicious day of Mauni Amavasya on Wednesday. They said the stampede broke out when several thousand pilgrims reportedly in a bid to move towards the Maha Sangam area for the holy dip, ran over several hundred other pilgrims and devotees who were sleeping near the Sangam site causing the stampede, followed by death and injury to many.

According to preliminary reports, at least 100 women were reportedly injured in the stampede and taken to the central hospital established in the Mela ground for treatment.

Though there was no official con-

firmation as yet either about the exact number of deaths or the injured, according to informed sources, at least 30 people or many more had lost their lives in the tragic incident. Security personnel and rescue workers were seen carrying many of the injured on stretchers. People's belongings, including blankets and bags, lay strewn around.

Later, addressing the media Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said the situation was now under control, but admitted that the crowd pressure at the Mela ground still remained. In view of the tragedy he urged the other devotees to take a dip at their closest ghats instead of trying to move towards the prime Maha Sangam ghat. The Chief Minister also urged the devotees and other people not to listen to the rumour mongers. He said "The incident took place between 1 a.m. and 2 a.m. when some devotees climbed over the barricades at Akhara marg.

Amrit snan, the traditional bathing ritual of akharas that was deferred due to the stampede at Maha Kumbh, however, resumed on

Wednesday afternoon. Led by Mahant Ravindra Puri, head of the Akhil Bhartiya Akhara Parishad, the procession of akharas made its way on foot towards the Sangam for the snan. The procession, notably less grand than usual, was led by Mahant Ravindra Puri, head of the Akhil Bhartiya Akhara Parishad

Meanwhile, President Droupadi Murmu, Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah, Defence minister Rajnath Singh, West Bengal Chief minister Mamata Banerjee and many others including Opposition leaders across parties offered their condolences to the victims and their families. The Uttar Pradesh government expected at least 10 crore pilgrims to the Maha Kumbh in just one day and had stepped up security in preparation for the 'Amrit Snan' The holy snan was originally scheduled in the early hours of the day but was postponed following the stampede. To help people of Uttarakhand visiting the Maha Kumbh

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## Cong failed to stop BJP nationally, remarks Mamata Banerjee

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** West Bengal Chief Minister and Trinamool Congress supremo Mamata Banerjee has sharply criticized the Congress for its 'failure' to prevent BJP from regaining power at the center.

In her latest book which was released at the Kolkata International Book Fair on Tuesday, she directly pointed her fingers to the Congress' shortcomings as the prime reason why the INDIA alliance could not succeed. Mamata's remarks came during the inauguration of the 48th Kolkata Book Fair by her, where three of her books were launched.

In her book "Banglar Nirbachan O Amra" (We and the Bengal Election), Mamata explains that despite Trinamool Congress' sincere efforts, the INDIA alliance did not achieve its goals, primarily due to Congress' ineffectiveness. "We genuinely wanted to form a strong national alliance against the BJP, bringing together all opposition parties to defeat them. From the beginning, I said we needed a clear alternative face, a manifesto, and a common minimum programme. The name 'INDIA' for the alliance was my suggestion. To ensure that Congress did not feel marginal-



of genuine popular support but due to manipulation. "We have nearly eradicated this sinister force from Bengal. Now, it is becoming clear that the seats BJP won were not due to the people's vote, but through manipulation. Allegations of a sudden increase in voters numbers, if true, would indicate BJP's defeat in the Lok Sabha elections," she wrote.

Regarding Congress, Mamata was critical of its overall strength, asserting, "They have no real strength. The few seats they have won are entirely due to their alliances with other parties. In Bengal, they were part of a coalition with BJP and CPI-M, a 'Ram-Bam-Shyam' alliance. In Trinamool's success in the Lok Sabha elections, the people's support and the party's developmental work were crucial", she said.

Mamata's remarks underline her discontent with Congress' role in the opposition alliance and emphasize the need for unity and proper planning to effectively challenge BJP. Her candid evaluation paints a clear picture of her frustration with the Congress and her belief that a more strategic approach was needed to defeat the BJP in national politics.



Members of the Chinese community take part in traditional dragon and lion dances on the first day of the Lunar New Year of the Snake, in Kolkata on Wednesday.

## Mahamandaleshwar blames Yogi Government for negligence in crowd management in Maha Kumbh

Suman Ganguly

**Kolkata :** Mahamandaleshwar Swami Paramatmananda Ji Maharaj of Shri Panchayati Mahanirvani Akhara held the Uttar Pradesh government responsible for its failure to ensure safety of large number of devotees at the Maha Kumbh mela site leading to the tragic incident of stampede during the Shahi Snan on Wednesday killing at least 30 pilgrims and causing injury to nearly 100 others.

He said despite extensive promotions of the Kumbh Mela, the government of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath did not take adequate precautions to manage the massive crowd, leading to this tragic loss of lives.

Swami Paramatmananda Ji stated that "The deaths of devotees have exposed the lack of proper safety arrangements. We had warned about the enormous gathering, yet the administration did not act responsibly," he remarked.

Drawing a comparison with Gangasagar Mela, he praised the West Bengal government for its effective crowd management, which had prevented such disasters despite hosting millions of pilgrims. Swami Paramatmananda Ji made these statements at an event in Simla Street, Kolkata, while launching his book "Shree Vidya, Sarvavidhi" at Swami Vivekananda's ancestral home.

Expressing deep concern over the tragedy, Swami Paramatmananda Ji urged the Uttar Pradesh administration to take immediate steps to support the families of the deceased and injured pilgrims. "The government must release the official list of the dead, injured, and missing pilgrims immediately. Many families are unable to contact their loved ones, and immediate action is needed to assist them," he said. He also criticized the lack of proper crowd management at the bathing ghats.

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## Mamata Banerjee lashes out at BJP for resorting to falsehood in 2024 Lok Sabha elections

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has stated that the 2024 Lok Sabha elections were the most challenging in terms of facing defamatory campaigns. In her newly released book, "Banglar Nirbachan O Amra" (We and the Bengal Election), Mamata Banerjee writes that BJP's Suvendu Adhikari, along with the party, resorted to falsehoods regarding the Sandeshkhali incident to win votes. She claims that despite these false-

hoods, she emerged victorious, thanks to the support of the people.

Mamata highlighted that the success of her party in the Lok Sabha elections was due to public backing and her developmental work. She also addressed BJP's electoral defeat in Bengal, stating, "We have nearly wiped out this sinister force from the state. It is becoming clear that the votes BJP won were not a reflection of the people's support, but were won through manipulation. If the allegations of a

sudden increase in voter numbers are true, it would mean BJP's certain defeat in the Lok Sabha elections." As per reports, Mamata specifically condemned BJP's alleged false narrative surrounding the Sandeshkhali incident, directly blaming Leader of Opposition Shuvendu Adhikari. She wrote, "The entire accusation of rape was fabricated. Women were lured for a few thousand rupees. And the

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## Stampede at Mahakumbh is extremely sad, say President Murmu, PM Modi and CM Mamata Banerjee



local administration is engaged in helping the victims in every possible way. In this regard, I have spoken to Chief Minister Yogi ji and I am constantly in touch with the state government," PM Modi said on X.

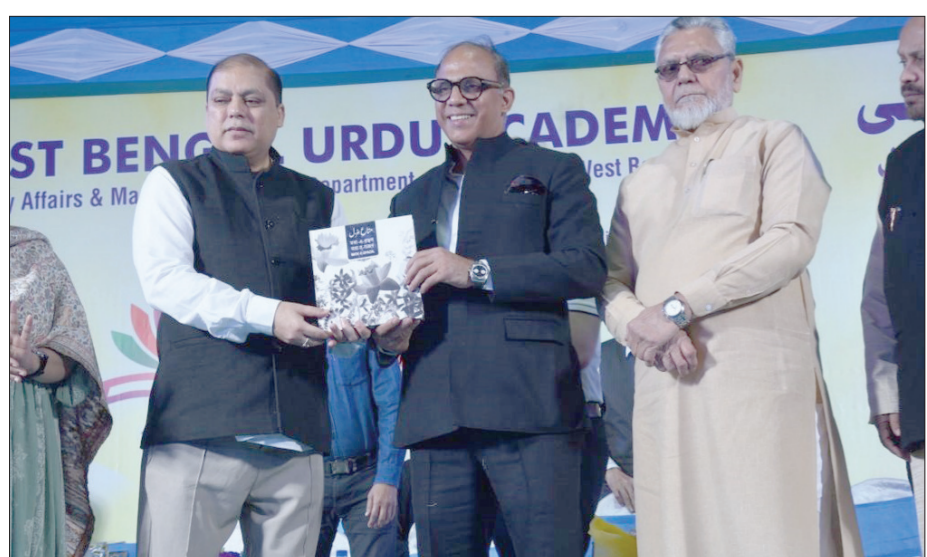
Union Home Minister Amit Shah who

injured devotees and pray to God that all the injured devotees recover soon," Murmu said in a post on X.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressing his deep condolences to the death and injuries of devotees in the stampede in Maha Kumbh, wished the speedy recovery of all the injured.

"The accident that happened in Prayagraj Mahakumbh is extremely sad. My deepest condolences to the devotees who have lost their loved ones in this. Along with this, I wish for the speedy recovery of all the injured. The

▶▶ Continued on page 3



MD Nadimul Haque, MP & Dy Chairman West Bengal Urdu Academy and Syed Sahabuddin Haider, Function Sub-Committee Chairman of WBUA, felicitate Dr. Rishikesh Kumar, neurologist and Director IED hospital at the Urdu Academy Book Fair in Kolkata.

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**Save that note!**  
You can visit any bank branch to get damaged notes exchanged for new ones.

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State Minister and Mayor of Kolkata Firhad Hakim at the meeting of Bangiyu Sankhyalagu Buddhijibi Mancha at Rani Rashmoni Road in Kolkata on Wednesday.

# UNICEF-run health camps bring relief to locals

**MI News Service, Sunderbans:** Family members of Hitesh Mondal, an 11-month-old child, brought him to a health camp in Lahiripur gram panchayat office in Sunderbans as he had difficulty in sleeping properly due to a "fragile neck" and got advice from doctors there for future course of treatment.

gration for better livelihood opportunities and lack of transport facilities to visit distant hospitals forced mothers in Sunderbans to ignore regular health check-ups of their wards, UNICEF Programme Specialist, Risk and Resilience Omkar Oniel Khare said.



condition of these children would have to be more serious. Infants, who have missed a few doses of routine immunization for one reason or another, also get vaccinated in the camps organised close to their residences," the ASHA worker said. These camps - spread across Goosaba, Patharpratima and Namkhana blocks in the Indian part of Sunderbans - have been organised after cyclone 'Remal' made landfall in May last year, the UNICEF official said.

Earlier, much childbirth used to take place at residences, and people faced severe difficulties during calamities like cyclone 'Remal' or 'Amphan'.

Juthika Mondal, aged 19, who had a history of several premature deliveries, had attended the camp four times since November 25 last year, during another pregnancy.

A visiting press party to one of the 163 UNICEF camps in the riverine area found that these localised health facilities have contributed to counter malnourishment in several children in the area.

Hitesh was one of many children who have been getting appropriate medical advice from these health facilities and some of them have been provided with free nutritional supplements and vitamins, the UNICEF official said.

The project is slated to end this month, he said. The health camps, organised in disaster-impacted locations of Sunderbans, also provided opportunities for pregnant women to seek advice and guidance from registered doctors and get check-ups done at their locality.

Financial difficulties prevented many women from accessing distant government and private health facilities for regular check-ups required for high-risk pregnancies, she said.

Hitesh and Juthika are among hundreds of children and women, who have been getting benefited from local-level health camps run by UNICEF in remote areas of Sunderbans in West Bengal.

Hitesh's parents got initial advice from the health camp and he was referred to a tertiary care hospital for further evaluation and treatment.

Like Hitesh, children suffering from fever, measles and jaundice got checked by doctors in the camps and received treatment as necessary, another official said.

In the past one month, 45 deliveries took place at a rural hospital in Gosaba and not a single case of miscarriage was reported, a health official said.

The elderly people living on the islands, who often fail to visit distant government hospitals due to high transport costs and lack of manpower, also benefited from these medical camps, Khare said.

# Siliguri to enhance traffic management on eastern bypass

**MI News Service, Siliguri:** The Siliguri Municipal Corporation (SMC) will intensify the traffic management system along the Eastern Bypass — a 7km-long road connecting the city's northwest with the southwest outskirts — in collaboration with the Siliguri Metropolitan Police (SMP) and the state public works department to avert accidents.

The decision was made at a meeting attended by mayor Gautam Deb and senior officials of the SMP and the PWD. "At the meeting, it has been decided to place more speed breakers, iron rail guards and additional reflectors on the entire bypass to

There are 64 electric poles with 124 street lights along the road. The PWD will ensure that the road is properly illuminated. I will also request the Jalpaiguri district administration to install lights in prominent junctions of the road where rural roads connect the bypass," said Deb.

The mayor claimed that during his tenure as the north Bengal development minister and as the MLA of the Dabgram-Fulbari Assembly seat — the bypass is in the constituency — the north Bengal development department had spent ₹53 crore for its widening and had built road dividers.

In the past few weeks, there were road accidents in which people lost their lives or suffered injuries.

Sources said senior police officers, who were present at the meeting, also came up with certain suggestions for better management of traffic along the road and also to curb accidents.

# Educational Prog organized by Howrah Shibpur Social Organization



**MI News Service, Howrah:** On the occasion of 76th Republic Day at Shibpur Howrah near Fort William Jute Mill), a program organised consists of Sit & Draw Competition, Maths Competition, Quiz Contest (Open to All) and Felicitation & Prize distribu-

tion. Dr. Seraj Ahmed (Associate Prof. SSKM), Md Noor Alam (Founder & Director NEET Basket), Seraj Anwar (Staff, Akhbar e Mashriq), Master Khushfar Aziz, Khwaja Ahmed Abbas, Shadab Masoom (Asst. Teacher), Seraj Ahmed (Teacher), Sarfaraz

Khan (Founder & Director Salam India Foundation) and other dignitaries were present in the program.

The Felicitation Ceremony and Prize distribution program was hosted by Khurshid Jamal.

The chief organizer of the program was Shahid Jamal.

The chief organizer of the program was Shahid Jamal.

# MAKAUT: Head of Department Payal Banerjee marries student in classroom!

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** The 'bride' is in full wedding attire. A red sari, a red cheli covered headscarf, jewelry all over her body, a garland of rajnigandha around her neck! The groom is dressed in a completely 'informal' outfit! A sweatshirt and jeans, a shawl around his neck! And that's the knot. Cut to! The bride removed the tikli with her own hands, the bride is taller than the groom. So she leaned a little... With a smile full of insults, she filled her sindihi with vermilion. The scene was captured on camera. So far, everything is fine! Now let's come to Venu, Venu's classroom! Did you surprise her? It doesn't end here, a first-year student married the head of the department! These wedding clip-pings spread like wildfire, instantly going viral. This scene from the classroom of the Applied Psychology Department of the Haringhata campus of Macout, Nadia, has now raised a bunch of questions. But what is the story behind it? Did the student really marry the head of the department?



in her own good mood, in a completely 'candid moment'!

The university authorities have sent the head of the department, Payal Banerjee, on leave after the video of the 'wedding' went viral. Although the university authorities said that they knew nothing about this matter, when asked to answer the professor, she said that the whole thing was actually a play. It was a psycho drama. Her project was going on in the classroom. We contacted the professor, Payal Banerjee. She said, "This is beyond my imagination. I have never heard or seen this in my life. I am all ready to get married. Marriage is a sacred matter. Talking about it, where some children are bringing veils, some are bringing colors, abir... preparing it in a bad way is beyond imagination. Because sometimes it is beyond imagination. A lot of

things happen at the freshers' party. There is dancing, singing, drama. Someone has made a part of the drama viral there, that is a dirty matter. I am also being character-killed. The children also have careers."

But here is the rub. Because the university authorities claim that it is a psychological drama, part of a project. And the professor says that it is part of a freshers' party play. The vast difference between a project and a freshers' party is undeniable, say the academicians. According to said, "Marriage is happening in a college classroom, this is a very strange thing. Various dire consequences of the state's education system are coming out of this. There is a lack of understanding among teachers about student-teacher relationships."

Tapas Chakraborty, acting vice-chancellor of Macoute, said, "I was not informed. As far as I know, they informed the registrar by writing a letter. When the whole matter came out, they informed us by writing that this is part of our curriculum, this is a psycho drama. They were informed that an investigation is underway, and they were asked to stay out until the investigation is over."

Partha Pratim Lahiri, Registrar of the Haringhata campus of MACUT, said, "We are a little shocked. Because in my professional experience, I have never seen such an incident. The professor has been sent on compulsory leave. She has been removed from the post of HOD."

Even educators are shocked when the issue comes to light. Partha Pratim Biswas, leader of the professors' organization, said, "Marriage is happening in a college classroom, this is a very strange thing. Various dire consequences of the state's education system are coming out of this. There is a lack of understanding among teachers about student-teacher relationships."

Sixty-year-old Renuka Mondal, whose husband had died in a tiger attack nine years ago, attended the health camp at Lahiripur gram panchayat.

Due to financial and social challenges, she and many others usually rely on rural quacks for healthcare but their medicines could not provide any permanent solution. However, the medicines provided by the doctors at the health camp have significantly alleviated her knee pain, offering much-needed relief, she claimed.

Dr Rishi Majumdar, who was attending patients at the Lahiripur camp, said many of them have been found to suffer from chronic as well as lifestyle diseases.

Director P B Salim told. "According to our plan, 30 per cent of the coal deposit will be extracted through open-cast mining, 40 per cent through underground mining, and the remaining 30 per cent via gasification. Gasification is the only way to tap the full potential of this mega coal block," he added.

The 35,000-crore project is being touted as a game changer for Birbhum district. Salim also stated that WBPDCD aims to proceed with the coal gasification project and mining operations simultaneously. "For underground mining, we floated a global tender that has generated interest. As for gasification, the area under consideration spans around 1,000 acres," he said.

A senior WBPDCD official explained that a pilot project will be undertaken to assess the feasibility of underground coal gasification in parts of the block where coal is located at a depth of up to 400 metres. "Once progress is made, we will seek the Centre's approval and support," the official said.

Coal gasification is a new concept in India and the country, in a bid to enhance clean energy, has been promoting the technology to reduce carbon footprint. The Union government has a policy to assist underground coal gasification projects. Additionally, Coal India Ltd (CIL) and Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd (BHEL) have signed an MoU for gasification initiatives at Mahanadi Coalfields in Odisha while CIL's Eastern Coalfields Ltd and GAIL are working on coal gasification technology for a synthetic natural gas plant in West Bengal.

The Deocha-Pachami-Harinsingha-Dewanganj coal block, allocated to West Bengal in 2018, has an estimated reserve of 1,200 million metric tonnes of coal. However, basalt rock in the region poses significant challenges to open-cast mining. To address this, the state government has appointed a mine developer and operator that will share 71 per cent of the revenue from basalt rock mining with the government.

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# State Conference of Bengal and Kolkata Police Welfare Committee at Bhawani Bhawan

**Nurul Islam Khan** West Bengal Police and Kolkata Police Welfare Committee Joint State Conferences at Bhawani Bhawan, Alipore, Kolkata, Village Police, Karmabandhu, CPC and Contextual Drivers' Conferences were held successfully. A large number of police personnel, officials of the district administration and CRPF personnel were present at the function. Various issues were discussed in the meeting. At the same time, they acknowledged that this government has fulfilled many of their demands. The workers raised the issues of proper salary, dress, identity card, annual increment, retirement allowance and various other demands.



jumdar, IAS, AIG (Headquarters), Shri Santanu Sinha Biswas, Co-ordinator, West Bengal Police and Kolkata Police Welfare Committee, Shri Bijitashwa Rout, Convenor West Bengal Police Welfare Committee, Shri Ruhul Amin Ali Shah, Convenor, Kolkata Police Welfare Committee, Shri Pratap Nayak, General Secretary, West Bengal State Government Employees Federation, State Secretary, Kolkata Police Welfare Committee, Central Police Officers and Central Police Officers. Shantanu Sinha said, "We will fight united-

ly to maintain law and order. Humanitarian Mamata Banerjee has honoured our multi-faceted demand. We will not do anything wrong. We will support all employees. He further said that Mamata Banerjee has started the Police Welfare Committee to bring all the employees under one umbrella for the welfare of the people. "Mamata Banerjee will be the guardian of India in the future," he said. Bijitashwa Raut said that Hon'ble Mamata Banerjee has inspired me to serve the people and work alongside this huge force. He is doing unprecedented work for the development of the country. The historic state conference is being held in this historic city. The Welfare Committee is working with the slogan of rise in unity and fall in differences. He said that discipline won't work. All tasks can be completed by disciplined forces. Kolkata Police Welfare Committee convenor Ruhul Amin Ali Shah and IPS Ajay Kumar Ranade also spoke on the occasion. Among others, Basudev Pramanik, Mujahid Islam Leena Bhat-tacharjee and Nazma Khatun were present.

# Bengal govt explores coal gasification in Deocha-Pachami

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** The West Bengal government is exploring underground coal gasification in the 30 per cent of the Deocha-Pachami block, where traditional open-cast and underground mining methods are unfeasible, a top official said.

The rest of the block, considered India's largest and the world's second-largest coal reserve, will be operated through open-cast and underground mining, he said. The open-cast mining in parts of the block is set to commence in the first week of February, he said. The mining development and operator (MDO), in the initial phase, will begin an exercise for removing overburden, the official said.

Coal gasification is a new concept in India and the country, in a bid to enhance clean energy, has been promoting the technology to reduce carbon footprint. The Union government has a policy to assist underground coal gasification projects. Additionally, Coal India Ltd (CIL) and Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd (BHEL) have signed an MoU for gasification initiatives at Mahanadi Coalfields in Odisha while CIL's Eastern Coalfields Ltd and GAIL are working on coal gasification technology for a synthetic natural gas plant in West Bengal.

West Bengal Power Development Corporation Ltd (WBPDCD) is the executing agency for mining at the Deocha-Pachami coal block in Birbhum district of the state. "We are seriously exploring underground coal gasification possibilities and have already held several meetings with Indian and foreign experts," WBPDCD Managing

Director P B Salim told. "According to our plan, 30 per cent of the coal deposit will be extracted through open-cast mining, 40 per cent through underground mining, and the remaining 30 per cent via gasification. Gasification is the only way to tap the full potential of this mega coal block," he added.

The 35,000-crore project is being touted as a game changer for Birbhum district. Salim also stated that WBPDCD aims to proceed with the coal gasification project and mining operations simultaneously. "For underground mining, we floated a global tender that has generated interest. As for gasification, the area under consideration spans around 1,000 acres," he said.

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# School shoes must be purchased from specific vendor, price Rs 2000! Shoe-controversy in school

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** A famous school in Kolkata. There is a shoe controversy in that school! Notebooks, assignment materials had to be purchased in advance from the school. Until then, the matter was fine. But the controversy spread with a message from the school authorities that came to the parents' group. In that message, it was said that a specific brand of shoe has to be purchased from the school. From nursery to class five, the price of that specific brand of 'Velcro' shoe is Rs. 2047. And from class six to class twelfth, the price of that shoe is Rs. 2100. The name of that specific brand is also mentioned in the school's message.



As soon as this message entered the WhatsApp group, several questions arose in the minds of the parents. How can the school decide what expensive brand of shoes the parent should wear for their child? Why does one have to buy school shoes worth 2,000

In that case, apart from the cost of teaching and school fees, there are many other expenses. They have to buy notebooks and books from the school. Now shoes? The school authorities were questioned. However, the school authorities did not want to open their mouths on this issue in front of the TV9 Bangla camera. However, to avoid controversy, the authorities told the TV9 Bangla representative that it is not necessary to buy expensive shoes. The school said that parents can also buy shoes from outside if they want. Since buying this 'Velcro' will do the job of the school's 'regular shoes' and 'sports shoes' at the same time, the message has been sent.

Present on the occasion were Shri Ajay Mukund Ranade, IAS, ADG (Administration), Shri Rashid Munir Khan, IAS, DIG (Headquarters), Shri Kankana Prasad Barui, IAS, DIG (Telecom), Shri Manal Ma-

to maintain law and order. Humanitarian Mamata Banerjee has honoured our multi-faceted demand. We will not do anything wrong. We will support all employees. He further said that Mamata Banerjee has started the Police Welfare Committee to bring all the employees under one umbrella for the welfare of the people. "Mamata Banerjee will be the guardian of India in the future," he said. Bijitashwa Raut said that Hon'ble Mamata Banerjee has inspired me to serve the people and work alongside this huge force. He is doing unprecedented work for the development of the country. The historic state conference is being held in this historic city. The Welfare Committee is working with the slogan of rise in unity and fall in differences. He said that discipline won't work. All tasks can be completed by disciplined forces. Kolkata Police Welfare Committee convenor Ruhul Amin Ali Shah and IPS Ajay Kumar Ranade also spoke on the occasion. Among others, Basudev Pramanik, Mujahid Islam Leena Bhat-tacharjee and Nazma Khatun were present.

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At least 30 pilgrims dead...

**From PG 1**  
in Prayagraj, the state government has issued helpline numbers. People who have gone to Maha Kumbh from the state can get any kind of help by calling toll free numbers: 1070, 8218867005, 90584 41404.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh expressed condolences to the bereaved families of those who have lost their loved ones in the Maha Kumbh stampede. He also wished for the speedy recovery of those who suffered injuries during the stampede in the early hours of Wednesday. In a social media post on X, he wrote, "Under the guidance of the Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, the Uttar Pradesh government and the local administration are providing all possible help to the victims."

A woman undergoing treatment for cancer took a dip in the river Ganga on Tuesday, hoping the auspicious occasion of Mauni Amavasya turns the tides for her and helps her battle the disease.

Nirmala came to the Maha Kumbh fair grounds on a wheelchair and will depart for Mumbai today, where she will undergo chemotherapy at the Tata Memorial Hospital.

All officials and personnel are on cloud regulation duty since last evening, said Vaibhav Krishna, DIG Mahakumbh. "In the morning, there was pressure

and a huge crowd. Many Akharas told us to regulate the crowd and that they would come out for the snan (dip) later. Now that the crowd is under control, our preparations for the Akharas and saints are in place. The Akhara Marg and Akhara Ghat are ready."

When asked about the number of people died or injured in the stampede, Krishna said, "We do not have official numbers of stampede victims since we have been involved in crowd control here. The injured are being treated."

Reacting to the mishap, Jagadguru Shankaracharya Swami Avimukteshwaranand Saraswati Maharaj said, "The incident that took place late last night is unfortunate and everyone is sad, but we should be cautious that no such incident happens in the future. I appeal to the devotees to remain patient and take a holy dip anywhere in the Kumbh Kshetra. There is no specific place where devotees should gather to take the dip."

Adani Group Chairman, Gautam Adani, extended his condolences and said, "The heart-wrenching incident deeply saddens us."

"We pay our humble tributes to the departed souls and express our deepest condolences to the bereaved families," Adani said.

World Bengal Business Summit to witness high-profile attendance and key policy announcements

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** As January comes to a close, Bengal is gearing up for one of its most anticipated events of the year—the World Bengal Business Summit, scheduled for February 5 and 6. The summit, which is expected to attract considerable attention, will showcase Bengal as a hub for investment and industrial growth. With notable business leaders and dignitaries from across the country and abroad in attendance, this high-profile event is expected to be a major turning point for Bengal's economic future.

One of the most significant

highlights of the event is the attendance of Bhutan's King JigmeKhesarNamgyelWangchuck, who is scheduled to participate in the summit. This marks a notable moment in the event's history, as it emphasizes the strong ties between Bengal and Bhutan. Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee shares a close relationship with the Bhutanese king, further strengthening the significance of his visit. The king's presence is expected to bring additional attention to Bengal as a destination for both domestic and international investments.

In addition to King Jig-

meKhesar, several prominent Indian leaders are expected to attend, including Chief Ministers from neighboring states. Bengal's Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's attendance will add weight to the summit's proceedings, as she is expected to be at the center of discussions on fostering industry-friendly policies and strengthening Bengal's position in the national economic landscape.

Ahead of the summit, a key Cabinet meeting will be held at Nabanna, where several pro-business policies are likely to be approved. These policies are

aimed at encouraging investments and creating a more conducive environment for industrial growth in the state. Notably, Jharkhand's Chief Minister Hemant Soren and Reliance Industries Chairman MukeshAmbani are confirmed to attend the summit, further underscoring the event's importance.

The identities of other state Chief Ministers are expected to be confirmed in the coming days, with political observers keenly watching for the participation of BJP-ruled states. The final list of attendees will be disclosed by

Mamata Banerjee in a forthcoming announcement. At the same time, officials have been tasked with preparing an outline of potential investment deals and MoUs that will be discussed at the summit.

The World Bengal Business Summit comes at a time when Bengal is looking to position itself as a leading business hub in the region. The event will focus on attracting investments from both domestic and international sources, with a special emphasis on sectors that can drive Bengal's economic growth in the coming years.



All India Forward Bloc (AIFB) Bengal Committee organizes a rally protesting against the rising prices of goods, demanding permanent jobs in government and private sectors, and promoting communal harmony. The rally commences from Mahajati Sadan to Dharamtala, in Kolkata on Wednesday.

Mamata Banerjee lashes...

**From PG 1**  
mastermind behind this drama was none other than the Leader of the Opposition, the traitor himself. I felt deeply sorry for the women who were exploited in Sandeshkhali. BJP tried to win by trampling on their dignity. The Election Commission should have taken action against this." Mamata further attacked the BJP and the CPI-M, writing, "They rejoiced when 26,000 youth lost their jobs. I had said then, those who caused these job losses will not escape. They conspired to shut down Bengal's schools. In this way, they held back 10 lakh jobs

with legal cases. BJP is, in reality, an anti-Bengal party."

Reflecting on the challenges her party faced during the election, Mamata described it as the most intense smear campaign she has faced in her political career. Nevertheless, she attributes her victory to the unwavering blessings of the people. She also credited the success of programmes like Kanyashree and Lakshmir Bhandar for her party's continued success. Additionally, her book underscores the significant negligence Bengal has faced from the central government for long.

IIT Bombay and BRC sign MoU to advance AI-driven Indological research

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** IIT Bombay and Bhaktivedanta Research Centre (BRC) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to advance AI-driven services and software solutions for Indological research. The partnership brings together BharatGyan, an AI project under IIT Bombay's TIH Foundation, and BRC, dedicated to preserving India's history and culture. The collaboration will leverage AI and IoT technologies to develop tools that enhance research methodologies in Indology, bridging ancient wisdom with modern advancements. The MoU aims to create a sustainable innovation ecosystem, promoting interdisciplinary research and contributing to cultural and linguistic preservation, especially in Bengali texts.

Kunal Ghosh supports victims of fraudulent builders in Madhyamgram

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** Trinamool Congress leader Kunal Ghosh has voiced strong support for Shovon and Sohel Banerjee, residents of Madhyamgram, who have fallen victim to a fraudulent builder syndicate. The Banerjee family claims they were misled by a housing project promising flats in exchange for lakhs of rupees, but they have yet to receive what was promised. In his statement, Ghosh condemned the fraudulent practices of the builder network, stating, "Shovon and Sohel Banerjee are victims of a dishonest syndicate. They saw advertisements for flats and decided to book one. By 2015-16, they had paid 95% of the total cost. The flat was supposed to be delivered by 2018. However, after several visits, they were told to move to another property, which was priced higher. Despite taking the matter to the Consumer Protection Court, no solution was reached. Meanwhile, they are still paying EMI for the bank loan."

Ghosh emphasized the need for caution when dealing with such unscrupulous builders, calling it a clear case of cheating.

West Bengal tightens security, bans mobile phones for upcoming exams

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** With just a few days left until the Madhyamik exams begin on February 10, the West Bengal Board of Secondary Education has introduced stricter rules to prevent cheating and ensure security. The board has announced that civic volunteers and para-teachers will not be involved in any exam-related duties this year. This decision stems from concerns over security risks, as local civic volunteers and para-teachers may have connections with students.

In addition, a new rule mandates that if a guardian needs to enter the examination center, they will undergo a body search conducted by police officers—not civic volunteers. This decision was made due to past incidents where guardians brought in cheating materials or mobile phones for students. To prevent such practices, body searches will be conducted during entry and exit, while students will be searched by teachers. The board has also emphasized that no guardians are allowed in exam halls unless absolutely necessary, and all such entries will be scrutinized. The aim is to prevent any possibility of cheating, which has been a recurring problem. Several instances have been reported where guardians were caught trying to pass on cheating materials, including mobile phones, to their children.

Supreme Court asks parents of RG Kar victims to apply afresh

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** The Supreme Court has commenced hearing the RG Kar case and directed the parents of the deceased doctor to file a fresh application. Chief Justice Sanjiv Khanna stated that the statements made in the previous application by the victim's parents were debatable in court. The CBI lawyer informed the court that they had answers to all the questions raised, but if the discussion were held at this stage, many answers might favor the accused. The victim's family is expected to submit a new application within a week. The parents of the RG Kar victim had filed a case raising con-

State moves towards long-term OMR Sheet preservation to avoid recruitment scams

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** In a major step to prevent recruitment fraud in the state, the West Bengal government is planning to introduce a new rule that will mandate the preservation of OMR sheets (Optical Mark Recognition sheets) used in teacher recruitment exams for a period of 10 years. This move comes as part of the state's effort to ensure transparency and accountability in

the recruitment process, especially in light of recent controversies surrounding teacher appointments. The State School Service Commission (SSC) had initially proposed a rule to retain OMR sheets for two years. However, the state government disagrees with this suggestion and has put forward the idea of preserving the OMR sheets for a much longer duration—10 years.

cheating, which has been a recurring problem. Several instances have been reported where guardians were caught trying to pass on cheating materials, including mobile phones, to their children. Regarding students, the West Bengal Council of Higher Secondary Education (WBCHSE) has issued a warning that any student caught cheating or using a mobile phone during the higher secondary exams will have their entire exam canceled. This follows a similar policy by the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), which bars students caught cheating from appearing in exams for two years. The WBCHSE has enforced a zero-tolerance approach toward malpractice.

Mobile phones, smart-watches, and other electronic devices are strictly prohibited inside exam halls. Only approved calculators are allowed, and any student found with a prohibited device will have their entire examination canceled, regardless of whether the device was used. Before distributing the question papers, invigilators will ensure no electronic devices are present in the hall. Students caught with unauthorized

devices will face immediate disqualification.

The higher secondary exams, which will be held from March 3 to March 18, will also see enhanced security measures. Exam rooms will have a minimum of two invigilators, with one additional invigilator for every 25 students. For rooms with over 50 students, three invigilators will be present. To further secure the exam process, question papers will be sent in sealed packets that can only be opened inside the hall in front of the students.

Police officers will be stationed at exam centers before the arrival of the question papers to ensure no outside interference. Unauthorized individuals will be banned from entering within 100 meters of the exam centers, and nearby photocopy shops will be closed during the exam hours. To ensure a disturbance-free environment, loudspeakers will be prohibited.

With these stringent measures in place, the West Bengal education boards aim to maintain the integrity of the examination process, ensuring a fair and transparent evaluation system for all students.

Firhad Hakim holds meeting with Haryana firm to address tilting buildings

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** Amid multiple incidents of buildings tilting across Kolkata, the city's administration is under increasing pressure. The recent events in Baghajatin and Tangra have sparked further controversy, adding to the growing concern. On Wednesday, Kolkata Mayor Firhad Hakim held a special meeting at the Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC) with two representatives from a Haryana-based firm that specializes in lifting tilted buildings.

While a Haryana-based company was involved in the Baghajatin incident, the firm Hakim met with on Wednesday is separate from the one associated with Baghajatin. Sources reveal that two employees from the Haryana firm attended the meeting, along with two translators to avoid any language misunderstandings. The meeting mainly focused on the methods for straightening the leaning buildings without causing further damage.

The KMC is under increasing scrutiny following multiple building failures, including the collapse of a house in Garden Reach and tilting buildings in Baghajatin, Tangra, and other areas. In response, Mayor Firhad Hakim has already outlined some measures, including issuing new building guidelines and considering plans for future construction.

Under the new rules, owners wishing to build on plots of half katha (approximately 1500 sq. ft.) will receive significant financial relief during the approval process. Additionally, the KMC plans to offer similar concessions for construction in colonies. These new guidelines aim to help citizens construct legally sound homes without facing future difficulties. In recent years, multi-story buildings in Kolkata have been collapsing at an alarming rate. In Behala, a five-story building has been tilting for nearly 10 years, with residents claiming no resolution despite repeated complaints to the promoters. In Laketown,

two dangerously close multi-story buildings, one six-story and the other four-story, are now stuck together near Railway Gate No. 26 in South Dum Dum Municipality. The residents in these areas have expressed their frustrations with the KMC's lack of action.

Amidst this crisis, the KMC has introduced an innovative initiative to curb illegal construction in Kolkata. To combat the rise of unauthorized buildings, the KMC is planning to waive building fees for constructions in refugee colonies and leased land. Typically, building fees in Kolkata can be quite high, and some promoters bypass regulations to avoid them. This new policy seeks to ease the financial burden on landowners in these areas, encouraging compliance with building regulations.

The KMC has proposed changes to municipal laws to facilitate this initiative, which will require state government approval. A high-level committee has been established to oversee these efforts, including key figures such as DebabrataMajumdar and SwapanSamaddar, among others. Once approved by the West Bengal Legislative Assembly, the new regulations will be implemented, which would significantly reduce the cost of constructing a three-story building, providing much-needed relief to property owners.

Furthermore, the KMC plans to introduce Floor Area Ratio (FAR) benefits, allowing taller buildings in areas with narrow roads that previously limited construction to just two stories. This approach aims to regulate urban growth more effectively while ensuring that buildings remain safe and legally compliant. KMC officials believe these steps will curb illegal construction and promote safer, more orderly urban development in Kolkata. This initiative marks a major step in addressing Kolkata's urban planning challenges, ensuring a safer city and reducing the risks associated with unauthorized buildings.

West Bengal to launch special ration package for Ramadan

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** As Ramadan approaches in just one month, the West Bengal state government is likely to launch a special initiative for ration distribution during the holy month. Following the tradition of providing additional support, the government will offer a special package to beneficiaries under the National Food Security Act. This package will include essential food items like flour (maida), sugar, and chickpeas (chola), catering to approximately six crore beneficiaries in the state.

According to sources, the government's plan involves distributing one kilogram of these food items to each family. In an effort to streamline the

process and ensure sufficient supplies, ration dealers have been instructed to report the estimated amount of food needed through their online POS (Point of Sale) systems.

The Food Department has instructed ration dealers to notify them about the required quantities of food items once the distribution details are confirmed. However, the dealers have raised concerns about the lack of information on the price and subsidy rate for these goods. Without clear pricing, dealers have expressed difficulty in gauging the demand for the special Ramadan package or determining how much of the items will be needed.

Stampede at Mahakumbh...

**From PG 1**  
this accident. Along with this, I wish for the speedy recovery of all the injured. Under the guidance of the Chief Minister @myogiadityanath, the Uttar Pradesh government and the local administration are providing all possible help to the victims." Rajnath Singh said in a post on X.

Also expressing her deep condolences at the Maha Kumbh tragedy, West Bengal Chief minister Mamata Banerjee said she is "deeply saddened by the stampede at Mahakumbh. At least 15 innocent people lost their lives there. My thoughts are with the bereaved pilgrim families."

"I am deeply saddened to learn of the tragic stampede at the Maha Kumbh, which has claimed at least 15 innocent lives. My thoughts and prayers are with the bereaved pilgrim families.

My learning from our Gangasagar Mela is that planning and care must be maximal in matters relating to pilgrims' lives in vast assemblies of people. Prayers for the departed souls," she tweeted in her X handle.

However, later the death toll increased to at

least 30, according to official sources.

Mahakumbh DIG Vaibhav Krishna said that the police are looking into the cause of the mishap that occurred in the early hours of Wednesday.

Vaibhav Krishna said that Amrit Snan once again resumed in the afternoon and police and administration are assisting the seers of all akharas in completing their traditional processions.

More than 10 crore devotees are expected to arrive," DIG said. The stampede took place as millions of devotees gathered at the confluence of the Ganga and Yamuna rivers to take a holy dip on the auspicious occasion of Mauni Amavasya tried to move forward in huge numbers for the second Shahi Snan. "Around 8-10 crore devotees are present in Prayagraj today. . .

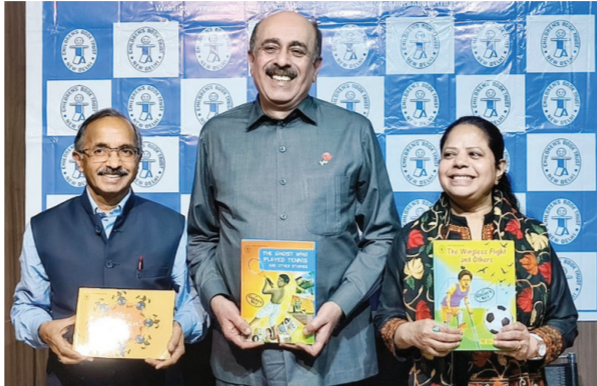
36.1 million devotees have taken the Holy Dip in Triveni till 10 am on Wednesday, according to the Uttar Pradesh government. Other significant days during the Mahakumbh include February 3 (Basant Panchami), February 12 (Maghi Purnima), and February 26 (Maha Shivaratri).

Mahamandaleshwar...

**From PG 1**  
stating, "We had requested the construction of more ghats for the holy dip, but that was not done. The administration should have ensured the optimal use of all available ghats to prevent overcrowding." With thousands of devotees from West Bengal and other states still remaining stranded in Prayagraj.

He also called for urgent relief measures and a dedicated helpline for affected pilgrims as the demand for this was growing louder. The tragedy has once again raised serious concerns about the Uttar Pradesh government's preparedness for handling large religious gatherings like the Maha Kumbh.

Bengal spends most in books compared to other states: CBT



MI News Service, Kolkata: When it comes to shell out money for buying books, West Bengal is way ahead of other states. Children's Book Trust (CBT), a New Delhi based organisation who recently held a press conference at Press Club, Kolkata said that the reading habits among the Bengalis is really awe-inspiring. In a media interaction CBT refers its focus to adopt 'Look East Policy'.

marketing campaign with its focus on Eastern and North Eastern states including West Bengal, Odisha, Jharkhand, Meghalaya and Assam. This year, Children's Book Trust (CBT) has started the year by participating for the first time at the 41st edition of Asansol Book Fair in West Bengal's second most populous city Asansol and is following it up with their participation at the 48th International Kolkata Book Fair from 28th January to 9th February, 2025.

Commendable performance of Metro RPF in The Year 2024

MI News Service, Kolkata: Metro railway authorities always give highest importance to safety and security of passengers in the Metro premises. For ensuring this, Railway Protection Force (RPF) has been playing a pivotal role.



Eminent journalists like Utpal Chatterjee, Snehasis Sur and others took part in a programme to commemorate the 'Indian Newspaper Day' at Press Club, Kolkata on January 29, Wednesday.

Conference tourism to get priority at Bengal GB Summit

MI News Service, Kolkata: Meetings, incentives, conferences and exhibitions (MICE) are expected to be a focus area for the hospitality sector in the upcoming Bengal Global Business Summit on February 5 and 6, with the state showcasing its existing infrastructure and the pipeline of hospitality projects.

Besides Sunderban and Digha, the northern part of Bengal including Siliguri, Kalimpong, Lataguri, Mirik will be a key focus of the hospitality industry with several developers keen to expand there, sources said.

Name Change I, Dilip Kumar Chatteraj (Old Name), S/O-Basanta Chatteraj, Resident Of Nimcha-713358 Shall Henceforth Be Known As Dilip Chatteraj (New Name) Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 14/01/2025.

Name Change I, Azziza Khatoon (Old Name) wife of Abdul Amed Laskar, residing at Ankurhati Laskar Para P.O.-Salop, Howrah, Pin- 711409, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Azziza Begum (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata, dated 28/01/2025.

Name Change I, Gita Debnath & Geeta Devnath And Geeta Debnath, W/O Biswanath Debnath, Date Of Birth 23/12/1965, Residing At 194, Gorakshabasi Road, Sumi Apartment, Flat - 06/PS - Dumdum, North 24 Parganas - 700028, West Bengal, Shall Henceforth Be Known As Geeta Nath Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Ld 1st Class Judicial Magistrate At Kolkata On 29/01/2025.

Name Change I, Abul Kalam Goldar alias Abu Kalam Goldar S/O Late Jaynal Mallick Residing at Vill+P.O. - Nabghara, P.S. - Sankrail, District - Howrah, Pin- 711322 West Bengal India shall henceforth be known as Abul Kalam Mallick. I declare that Abul Kalam Goldar, Abu Kalam Goldar and Abul Kalam Mallick is same and one identical person by virtue of an affidavit sworn before the Notary Public, Kolkata on 29-01-2025.

Name Change I, Parichay Bhattacharya, Bhattacharyya Parichay & Parichay Bhattacharyya (Old Names) son of Late Paritosh Bhattacharjee, Date of Birth 09/11/1964, residing at 5, Lake Place, Post - Sarat Bose Road, P.S.- Tollygunge, Dist - Kolkata, Pin- 700029, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Parichay Bhattacharjee (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata, dated 29/01/2025.

Name Change I, Sajani Kanta Khanra (old name), S/O GOPAL Chandra Khanra, residing at DULLIYA, Howrah, Dist- Howrah, PS- Sankrail, P.O.- Dulliya, 711302, WEST BENGAL, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Sajani Khanra, vide an affidavit sworn before the notary public at Kolkata on 29/01/2025.

Name Change I, Nasim Goldar S/O Abul Kalam Mallick Residing at Vill+P.O. - Nabghara, P.S. - Sankrail, District - Howrah, Pin- 711322 West Bengal India shall henceforth be known as Nasim Mallick. I declare that Nasim Goldar, I and Nasim Mallick is same and one identical person by virtue of an affidavit sworn before the Notary Public, Kolkata on 29-01-2025.

Name Change I, Tamali Bhattacharyya (Old Name) wife of Chittaranjan Bhattacharyya, residing at Pacific Residency, Block-B, 2nd Floor, Flat No-2B2, 44 Jamadar Para, Borla Near Bishi Raj Narayan Balika Vidyalaya, P.O.-Garia, P.S.- Bans-droni, Kolkata- 700084, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Tamali Bhattacharyya (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata, dated 29/01/2025.

Name Change I, Moutim Nath ( Old Name) Wife of Souvomi Nath residing Sugam Habitat Tr 7 Flat-6B, 15A Picnic Garden, Ps-Tiljala Kolkata-700039, West Bengal Shall henceforth be known as Moutim Nandy Nath (New Name) vide an Affidavit sworn before the Notary Public at Kolkata on 29/01/2025.

Name Change I, Krishna Komal Samaddar S/O Late Gopal Samaddar Residing at Ramkrishna Pally, Po - Bologachhi, P.s - Barunipur, District - 24 Pgs(S), Pin- 743376 West Bengal India shall henceforth be known as Krishna Kamal Samaddar. I declare that Krishna Komal Samaddar and Krishna Kamal Samaddar is same and one identical person by virtue of an affidavit sworn before the Notary Public, Kolkata on 29-01-2025.

Name Change I, Dhiren Gharami (Old Name) son of Late Nirod Gharami, residing at Uttar Rajapur, P.O. - Taldi, Barunipung Pin- 743376, P.S. - Ganning, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Dhirendranath Gharami (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata, dated 28/01/2025.

Name Change I, Survanta And Survanta Vitthal Khandekar (Old Name), Daughter Of Ekmath Ganu Kaled Wife Of Vitthal Mahadev Khandekar Residing At Patil Vasti, Khadki, Tal. Man, Khadki, Satara - 415509, Maharashtra, Shall Henceforth Be Known As Survabai Vitthal Khandekar (New Name) Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 29/01/2025.

Name Change I, PRAKASH CHAND JAIN (Old Name) S/O Late GOPI MAL JAIN LODHA Residing at 98, Christopher Road, P.S.-Topsia, District - Kolkata, Pin - 700046, West Bengal, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as PRAKASH JAIN LODHA (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public govt of India at Alipore vide affidavit Dated 02-03-2022.

Name Change I, Dhanonjoy Gharami (Old Name) son of Dhirendranath Gharami, residing at Uttar Rajapur, P.O. - Taldi, Barunipung, Pin- 743376, P.S. - Ganning, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Dhananjay Gharami (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata, dated 28/01/2025.

Name Change I, Md Zaheer (old name) S/O Md Nehaluddin khar, residing at Talpokharia R.K Mission Bye Lane Asansol, PO Ushagram PS Asansol (South), DIST PASCHIM BARDHAMAN Pin-713303, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Md ZAHIRUDDIN KHAN (new name) as declared before the Notary public at Kolkata dated 29/01/2025.

Name Change I, DHRUP SAHA (Old Name) S/O MINTU SAHA Residing at 85/13 B/1, Chandri Ghosh Road, P.O.& P.S.-Regent Park, District - Kolkata, Pin - 700040, West Bengal, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as DHRUV SAHA (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public govt of India vide affidavit Dated 29-01-2025.

Name Change I, Hena Kaisar (Old Name), W/O Jawed Alam, And D/O Late Md Oyajul Haque @ Md Wazul Haque Residing At 14, Kustia Road, Po & Ps -Tiljala, Kolkata-700039, West Bengal, INDIA, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Soni Khatoon (New Name) As Declared Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 27/01/2025.

Name Change I, Prabr Bagchi (Old Name) son of Prudoy Kumar Bagchi, residing at A903, Bogui Bihar, VIP Road, Airport, Baguiati, Dist.- North 24 Parganas, Pin- 700052, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Prabr Kumar Bagchi (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata, dated 29/01/2025.

Name Change I, Sk Safikul Islam (old name) S/O, Sk Ajjilul Islam R/o, Hamidpur, Hanraal, Dadpur, Hooghly-7121 49, W.B. have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Sekh Safikul Islam (new name) vide an affidavit no. 790 sworn before Judicial Magistrate, Sadar, Hooghly Court on 28/01/2025.

Name Change I, Hena Kaisar (Old Name), W/O Jawed Alam, And D/O Late Md Oyajul Haque @ Md Wazul Haque Residing At 14, Kustia Road, Po & Ps -Tiljala, Kolkata-700039, West Bengal, INDIA, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Soni Khatoon (New Name) As Declared Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 27/01/2025.

Name Change I, Snigdha Dutta (Old Name) daughter of Sankar Prasad Maity, residing at 22, Mata Monomohini Nagar, Bonhoochi, P.S.- Baranagar, Kolkata- 700108, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Snigdha Maity (New Name) as declared before the 1st Class Judicial Magistrate (SI No - 2857) at Kolkata, dated 21/11/ 2024.

Name Change I, Pratima Nayak, Wife Of No 1459655/1, Rank Ex Hav Name Bikash Chandra Nayek Resident Of Vill. Rabhira Para, Bud Bud P.O. Bud Bud, Dist. Purba Bardhaman, (W.B.), Pin-713403, Have Changed My Name From Pratima Nayak To Pratima Nayek Vide Affidavit Dated 20.01.2025 Before The Court Of The Ld Executive Magistrate At Purba Bardhaman.

Name Change I, (Old Name) ALADI BISWAS W/O SAHADEB BISWAS, Residing at, Vill- Betal dakhin jitpur, Post- Betal, Ps- Tehatta, Dist- Nadia, Pin- 741163, West Bengal. Do hear by declare that I have Changed my name from ALADI BISWAS To SUCHITRA RANI BISWAS (New name) and hence forth I Shall be Known as (New Name) SUCHITRA RANI BISWAS in all purpose Vide an affidavit Sworn before the notary public at Berhampore Murshidabad On 06 Jan 2025.

Name Change I, Purnobrat Sarkar (Old Name), S/O Jagadullabh Sarkar, Resident Of Bidhanpally Vivekananda Colony, Madhyamgram, Dist- 24 Parganas (North), West Bengal, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Purnabrat Sarkar (New Name) Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 28/01/2025.

Name Change I, Sunil Kumar Goenka, son of Late Om Prakash Goenka, residing at 261, Rabindra Sarani, Barabazar, Circus Avenue, Kolkata-700007, do hereby solemnly affirm and declare that my actual name is Sunil Kumar Goenka and Sunil Goenka is the same and one identical person via affidavit before the Notary dated 22nd January 2025.

Name Change I, (Old Name) MASABUN W/O- NABJUL NADAP, Residing at, Vill- Koklamari (Dhuniapara), Post- Koklamari, Ps- Pukhuria, Dist- Malda, Pin- 732208, West Bengal. Do hereby declare that I have Changed my name from MASABUN TO NAZEMA BIBI (New name) and hence forth I Shall be Known as (New Name) NAZEMA BIBI in all purpose Vide an affidavit Sworn before the notary public at Berhampore Murshidabad On 06 Jan 2025.

Name Change I, Purnobrat Sarkar (Old Name), S/O Jagadullabh Sarkar, Resident Of Bidhanpally Vivekananda Colony, Madhyamgram, Dist- 24 Parganas (North), West Bengal, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Purnabrat Sarkar (New Name) Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 28/01/2025.

Name Change I, Mukherjee Shreya Jayanta, D/O Jayanta Mukherjee W/O Sandipan Chakraborty, Residing at 'Calcutta Greens, Phase - II, MIG II-B, FL-10-10/6, 105/02 Sarvepalli, Satyaji Ray Metro Station, Highland Park, Santoshpur, Kolkata, West Bengal - 700075', have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as 'Shreya Mukherjee' as declared before the Executive Magistrate Court, Mamladar Office, Okhamandal (Gujarat), vide Affidavit No. 14698/2024, dated : 05/09/2024.

Name Change I, (Old Name) SEKH EMAMUL S/O- SEKH MAFILUDDIN, Residing at, Vill- Mollapara Nagari, Post- Koklamari, Ps- English bazar, Dist- Malda, Pin- 732208, West Bengal. Do hereby declare that I have Changed my name from SEKH EMAMUL TO SEKH ENAMUL (New name) and hence forth I Shall be Known as (New Name) SEKH ENAMUL in all purpose Vide an affidavit Sworn before the notary public at Berhampore Murshidabad On 06 Jan 2025.

Name Change I, Md Hasibur Rahman (Old Name), S/O Md Mojibur Rahman, Residing At 1, Topsia Road South, Po-Gobinda Khatik, Kolkata, 700046 west bengal, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Md Hasibul Rahman (New Name) As Declared Before The Ld.1st Class Judicial Magistrate At Kolkata On 28/01/2025.

Name Change I, Mala Chattopadhyay Prusty D/O Subol Chattopadhyay, residing at Navrang, Flat 5B, 6, South End Park, Sarat Bose Road, P.O- Sarat Bose Road, Kolkata-700029, declare that my father Subol Chattopadhyay who died on 22.10.2001. In my PAN Card my father's Name is Subol Kumar Chattopadhyay and in my Indian passport No. Z3223946 my father name is Subol Chattopadhyay instead of Subol Kumar Chattopadhyay.

Name Change I, (Old Name) SEKH EMAMUL S/O- SEKH MAFILUDDIN, Residing at, Vill- Mollapara Nagari, Post- Koklamari, Ps- English bazar, Dist- Malda, Pin- 732208, West Bengal. Do hereby declare that I have Changed my name from SEKH EMAMUL TO SEKH ENAMUL (New name) and hence forth I Shall be Known as (New Name) SEKH ENAMUL in all purpose Vide an affidavit Sworn before the notary public at Berhampore Murshidabad On 06 Jan 2025.

Name Change I, Md Hasibur Rahman (Old Name), S/O Md Mojibur Rahman, Residing At 1, Topsia Road South, Po-Gobinda Khatik, Kolkata, 700046 west bengal, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Md Hasibul Rahman (New Name) As Declared Before The Ld.1st Class Judicial Magistrate At Kolkata On 28/01/2025.

Change of Name I, Subhas Chatterjee, S/o Lt. Sisir Ranjan Chattopadhyay, Residing at Ward no 6, Kharagpur, Paschim Medinipur shall henceforth be known as Subhas Chandra Chattopadhyay/Chatterjee as declared before First Class Judicial Magistrate Paschim Medinipur court, WB vide affidavit no 7339 dated 29/03/2017. Subhas Chatterjee and Subhas Chandra Chattopadhyay/Chatterjee both are same and identical person.

NAME CHANGE I, SHAHINA SHAKIL w/o SHAKIL AHMED r/o 47/1/H/1, Sir Syed Ahmed Road, Kolkata 700014, declared that SHAHINA SHAKIL and SHAHINA NAAZ is same and one identical person vide affidavit at 1<sup>st</sup> Class Judicial Magistrate at Sealdah Court on 28-01-2025 SI no. 1035.

Name Change I, Aziza Khatoon (Old Name) wife of Abdul Amed Laskar, residing at Ankurhati Laskar Para P.O.-Salop, Howrah, Pin- 711409, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Azziza Begum (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata, dated 28/01/2025.

Change of Name I, Subhas Chatterjee, S/o Lt. Sisir Ranjan Chattopadhyay, Residing at Ward no 6, Kharagpur, Paschim Medinipur shall henceforth be known as Subhas Chandra Chattopadhyay/Chatterjee as declared before First Class Judicial Magistrate Paschim Medinipur court, WB vide affidavit no 7339 dated 29/03/2017. Subhas Chatterjee and Subhas Chandra Chattopadhyay/Chatterjee both are same and identical person.

NAME CHANGE I, AFSANA MUMTAZ w/o NABIL AHMED r/o 47/1/H/1, Sir Syed Ahmed Road, Kolkata 700014, declared that AFSANA MUMTAZ and AFSANA NABIL is same and one identical person vide affidavit at 1<sup>st</sup> Class Judicial Magistrate at Sealdah Court on 28-01-2025 SI no. 1036.

Name Change I, AZIMUDDIN RAHMANI, (old name) S/O Md ZAHIRUDDIN Khan, residing at R.K Mission Bye Lane TALPOKHARIA VTC Asansol, PO Ushagram PS Asansol (South), DIST PASCHIM BARDHAMAN Pin-713303, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as MOHAMMAD FAISAL KHAN (new name) as declared before the Notary public at Kolkata dated 29/01/2025.

Phaco Emulsifier Machine inaugurated at Liluah Railway Workshop Hospital



Diabetic Retinopathy Camp organized. In a significant step towards enhancing eye care facilities for railway beneficiaries, a new Phaco Emulsifier machine was inaugurated on 28.01.2025 at the Operation Theatre (O.T) Complex of Liluah Railway Workshop Hospital. The inauguration was led by Dr. A. Kirtania, Principal Chief Medical Director, Eastern Railway, in the presence of Shri Yatish Kumar, Chief Works Manager, Liluah, Eastern Railway and Dr. Debjani Das, Chief Medical Superintendent, Liluah Railway Workshop Hospital.

The presence of dedicated doctors and hospital staff at the inauguration underscored their commitment to providing advanced medical care to railway employees and their families. In addition, a Diabetic Retinopathy Screening Camp was organized on 25th January 2025 at the OPD Complex of Liluah Railway Hospital. This initiative, conducted under the guidance of Chief Medical Superintendent/ Liluah Railway Workshop Hospi-

tal and the Ophthalmology Department of B.R. Singh Hospital, aimed at early detection and prevention of diabetic eye diseases among railway beneficiaries. The camp was led by Dr. S. Home (CS-1, B.R. Singh Hospital), Dr. Arnab Mitra (Senior Consultant, Eye, B.R. Singh Hospital), and Dr. Anwesha Das (CMP, Eye, Liluah), along with their medical teams. A total of 93 patients were screened for Diabetic Retinopathy and Diabetic Maculopathy. Comprehensive blood tests, vision check-ups, and retinal photography using a Fundus Camera were conducted. Blood examinations, including Random Blood Glucose (RBG) and HbA1c tests, were also carried out for all patients.

Sealdah Division launches massive Anti Littering Drive to promote Swachh Bharat Aviyon and to deter littering



MI News Service, Kolkata: A nationwide cleanliness campaign are being conducted over Indian Railways to keep Railway stations, yards and tracks free from debris and littering. As a part of that endeavour, Sealdah Division has also launched a comprehensive anti-littering drive across the Division to monitor and deter littering. It has been observed recently that, a number of points and signal failures are occurred just because of throwing of garbage on Railway track.

In order to put an end to such menace, it has been decided by Sealdah Division to impose spot penalties on those found littering on Railway track and premises. Penalties have been imposed on offenders from Rs.500/- to Rs.1000/-, depending upon the severity of the offence. CCTV cameras have been installed at vulnerable locations to monitor closely and initiate action accordingly. Additional staff have been deployed to ensure cleanliness and to supervise anti littering activities.

RBI to buy Gov securities in bid to boost liquidity in banking system

MI News Service, New Delhi: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has doubled down on its efforts to infuse liquidity into the banking system when it announced a series of measures to plug the gap on Monday. Liquidity shortage in the system as evident by banks' borrowing from the RBI had last week crossed the ₹3-lakh-crore mark to touch ₹3.16 lakh crore. It subsequently moderated to ₹2.82 lakh crore as on January 24. The RBI had announced daily variable rate repo auctions (VRR) on January 15.

Chhattisgarh gets investment proposals of 6K Cr

MI News Service, Mumbai: The Chhattisgarh government received investment proposals worth Rs 6,000 crore in sectors such as plastic, textile, information technology, and food processing at an investor connect meet. The highest amount of investment proposal of Rs 2,367 crore came from Ambuja Cement, the state government said in a statement. At the meet, Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai also held discussions with US Consul General Mike Hankey and Consul General of Russia Ivan Y Fetisov on investment possibilities in the state in sectors like health, education, IT and tourism.

Sealdah Division Observed 76th Republic Day



MI News Service, Kolkata: Eastern Railway, Sealdah Division marked the 76th Republic Day with a vibrant celebration that showcased the division's commitment to service, progress, and the well-being of its passengers.

The event was a grand display of unity and camaraderie as employees from various departments came together to commemorate India's democratic spirit. The Railway Protection Force (RPF) stole the show with a meticulously choreographed parade that highlighted their dedication to ensuring passenger safety and security.

Adding to the festive atmosphere were performances by the St. John Ambulance, Civil Defence personnel, children from the Bharat Scouts and Guides

and Chahak academy which is run by ERWVO led by Smt Gunjan Nigam President / ERWVO/Sealdah. Their enthusiastic participation underscored the division's commitment to community engagement and social responsibility.

Divisional Railway Manager, Sealdah Sri Deepak Nigam highlighted the significant strides made by the division in recent times. He emphasized the division's focus on punctuality improvement, which has resulted in a marked enhancement in the reliability of train services.

The conversion of all trains originating from Sealdah to 12-coach composition has not only increased passenger capacity but also improved passenger comfort. Furthermore, the DRM highlighted the division's ef-

orts to extend platforms to accommodate longer trains and to provide enhanced passenger amenities at all stations. These initiatives have significantly improved the overall travel experience for passengers.

Our commitment to providing world-class railway services is unwavering, said the DRM. We are constantly striving to improve our infrastructure, operations, and passenger amenities. The successful celebration of Republic Day is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our employees.

The event was a resounding success, leaving all attendees with a sense of pride and patriotism. The Sealdah division remains committed to serving the nation and its people with excellence.

Work Permission Granted for Elevated Approach and Exit Road for Bhubaneswar Railway Station Redevelopment

MI News Service, Bhubaneswar: In a major step forward for the redevelopment of Bhubaneswar Railway Station, the Odisha State Government has granted working permission for the construction of the Elevated Driveway and Exit Road on the Master Canteen side of the Station. This development is a crucial component in the modernization of the Station and will accelerate the overall project timeline.

The permission specifically allows for the construction of the Elevated Approach and Exit Road on the land allocated by the Bhubaneswar Development Authority (BDA). The move will ensure that the redevelopment project proceeds smoothly while keeping in mind the collaborative planning between East Coast Railway (ECoR) and BDA.

As part of the broader Station Redevelopment, the development of parking areas and commercial spaces within the station precincts will be done in consultation with the Bhubaneswar Development Authority. BDA is also planning to develop commercial areas over the land allotted to them, ensuring that the interests of both the Railway Station and BDA are aligned, creating a modern, vibrant station complex for the future.

This development will help expedite the completion of the Bhubaneswar Station Redevelopment and modernization project. Construction is expected to begin immediately, with work starting on the foundation for the Elevated Driveway. The overall project, which includes the station's new entry and exit routes, lifts, escalators

on all platforms and an air-concourse, is on track.

The Indian Railways is investing ₹419 crore into the redevelopment project, which will result in the creation of state-of-the-art facilities and amenities for passengers. This includes entry from both sides, an air-concourse connecting all the platforms, separate entry and exit points, Lift & Escalators, baggage security check-in area, information center, food plaza, Waiting Room, etc.

The redevelopment of Bhubaneswar Railway Station is a testimony to Indian Railways Amrit Station Scheme for developing a seamless, world-class travel experience that meets the experience of passengers. With this recent approval, the project is poised to meet its deadlines and transform Bhubaneswar into a key hub in India's railway network.

Railway Minister, Ashwini Vaishnav, Reviews Trains Departing from Prayagraj



MI News Service, Prayagraj: On January 29, 2025, Railway Minister Shri Ashwini Vaishnav visited the Railway Board's War Room to review real-time updates on train operations. He instructed Railway officials to closely monitor the situation and manage train operations from Prayagraj as per requirements and planning. Chairman and CEO of the Railway Board, Shri Satish Kumar, also monitored train movements throughout the day from the War Room. He directed that all trains bound for Prayagraj be given top priority.

আমার মঞ্চে সুনন্দা মন্ডল, পিতা: সুনন্দা মন্ডল, কানিন্দা ১৭৬ মাতলা সাবরেজিস্ট্রার অফিস হইতে ইং- ১২.০২.২০২৪ তারিখে ৯৯২৭ নং দলিলে বাণিজ্য মৌজার L.R. ২৩০৪ নং প্লটের L.R. ৩৯৯ নং খতিয়ানের নিকট হইতে খরিদ করেন। রীতা মজুমদারের নিকট হইতে খরিদ করেন। রীতা মজুমদারের উক্ত সম্পত্তি ইং- ১২.০২.২০২৪ তারিখে ১৯৪৭ নং দলিলে আমোক্তার পলান নম্বরের পূর্ব বাণী নম্বরের নিকট হইতে খরিদ করিয়া আমার মঞ্চে নিকট বিক্রয় করেন। আমোক্তার দলিল নং- ৮৫ তাং- ২৩.০৩.২০১২. উক্ত জমি লইয়া কাহারো কোন আপত্তি থাকিলে কানিন্দা- ১ বি.এল.এন্ড.এল.আর. অফিসে ১৫ দিনের মধ্যে আপত্তি দাখিল করিবেন।

Shreya Shil Advocate Red. No.-F/2180/2506/2019

A grand temple of Mata Vaishno Devi will be built in Odisha like Jammu and Kashmir: Prana Pratishtha festival will run for five days from Jan 29th

As per the advice of chief priest of Mata Vaishno Devi of Jammu and Kashmir, the priests of Lord Jagannath temple will do puja/rachana of Maa. Three priests will worship the mother under the leadership of Lakhani Mishra who has come from Kashi Vishwanath Town: Common devotees will get darshan from February 2. People of seven panchayats around the temple have helped in the construction of the temple

Sunita Das A grand temple of Mata Vaishno Devi has been built on a remote hill in Nayagarh district, 102 km from Bhubaneswar, the capital of Odisha. The Prana Pratishtha ritual will be performed by the priest of Puri Jagannath temple for 5 days from 29th January. Like Maa Vaishno Devi Dham, devotees will get to see the mother by entering the cave here too. This cave is 180 feet long. It took 4 years to build this grand temple of the mother built in 50 acres of hilly area. The Mandir is registered in the name of Mata Vaishno Devi Charitable Trust Vaishno Dham Odisha, whose main trustees are Kajal and Sachin Rout. Mr Rout said that when people came to know about Mata Vaishno Devi, people started joining on their own and with the help of the people, this grand temple of Maa has been built. He said that there is only one way to come and go to this temple. After travelling 6 km on Sarankul road from Nayagarh, there is Solpata Chowk and then 6 km from Jamukan, the Mountain is situated. Maa Vaishno Devi Dham Nayagarh has been built by cutting this 60 feet high mountain. A 180 feet long and 7 feet high tunnel has been built in the mountain to have darshan of Maa, through which devotees will be able to enter and have darshan of Maa. Pran Pratishtha Ritual of Maa will be conducted for five days from 29th January and Maa will give darshan to devotees from 3 pm on 2nd February. Excitement among local people



People say it is the blessings and grace of Maa that Maa's Dham is being built here today. Every day 30 to 40 thousand devotees will be able to come here to have darshan of Maa. With this Dham of Maa, Nayagarh district will now gain fame in the whole area. Every person of the area is contributing to the construction of this holy and divine Dham of Maa. People believe that this will also open up employment opportunities in the area. Happiness and prosperity will come with the blessings of Maa.

Nalikul Purba Gram Panchayat Nalikul, Haripal, Hooghly Notice Inviting e-Tender e-Tenders are invited from the experienced & bonafied resourceful contractor for different developmental works of NIT No.: 018/NPG/2024-25 (SI.-1 to 4) & Memo No.: 029/NPG/2025, Date: 29.01.2025. Fund: XV FC, 5th SFC & Own Fund. Bid Submission Start Date (Online): 29.01.2025 at 17:00 Hrs. Bid Submission Closing Date (Online): 11.02.2025 up to 17:00 Hrs. Bid Opening Date (Online): 12.02.2025 at 10:00 Hrs. For more details visit www.wbtenders.gov.in & undersigned GP Office. Sd/- Pradhan Nalikul Purba Gram Panchayat

PWD (GOVT OF WB) TENDER NOTICE

Short NIQ No.: 42/BB of 2024-25, Short NIQ No.: 14/BBES of 2024-25 & Short NIQ No.: 10/BBIT of 2024-25 of Assistant Engineer, Banga Bhawan, P.W.D. under Banga Bhawan Sub Division, from bonafied outsider only having credential for similar nature of work. Last Date & time for Receipt of Application for Participating in the Tender/Quotation (Offline) 30.01.2025 up to 14.00 hrs. Others details may be seen from the web site: http://etender.wb.nic.in & http://wbpwd.in Sd/- Officer-in-Charge & Assistant Engineer, P.W.D., Banga Bhawan

আমার মঞ্চে সুনন্দা মন্ডল, পিতা: সুনন্দা মন্ডল, কানিন্দা ১৭৬ মাতলা সাবরেজিস্ট্রার অফিস হইতে ইং- ১২.০২.২০২৪ তারিখে ৯৯২৭ নং দলিলে বাণিজ্য মৌজার L.R. ২৩০৪ নং প্লটের L.R. ৩৯৯ নং খতিয়ানের নিকট হইতে খরিদ করেন। রীতা মজুমদারের নিকট হইতে খরিদ করেন। রীতা মজুমদারের উক্ত সম্পত্তি ইং- ১২.০২.২০২৪ তারিখে ১৯৪৭ নং দলিলে আমোক্তার পলান নম্বরের পূর্ব বাণী নম্বরের নিকট হইতে খরিদ করিয়া আমার মঞ্চে নিকট বিক্রয় করেন। আমোক্তার দলিল নং- ৮৫ তাং- ২৩.০৩.২০১২. উক্ত জমি লইয়া কাহারো কোন আপত্তি থাকিলে কানিন্দা- ১ বি.এল.এন্ড.এল.আর. অফিসে ১৫ দিনের মধ্যে আপত্তি দাখিল করিবেন।

Shreya Shil Advocate Red. No.-F/2180/2506/2019

Notice Inviting e-Tender

Ref e-NIT No.: 2025\_ZPHD\_808400\_1 to 2. An e-Tender (Notice No.: 81, Date: 29.01.2025) containing two number of scheme for construction work under Kalna-II Panchayat Samity, Purba Bardhaman has been floated amounting to Rs. 6.99998 lakhs. Fund-15th CFC (Untied Grant) 2023-24. Bid Submission End on: 10.02.2025 at 05:30 PM. Log on Gov. Website: www.wbtenders.gov.in Please look for details in the undersigned office notice board. Sd/- Executive Officer Kalna-II Panchayat Samity Singerkone, Purba Bardhaman

আমার মঞ্চে বিক্রম বিশাল, পিতা: অনুপ বিশাল মাতলা সাব রেজিস্ট্রার অফিস হইতে ইং- ২২.০১.২০২৫ তারিখে ৫১০ নং দলিলে ভানু মৌজার L.R. খতিয়ান ৫০৭ পাশে নং- ৩৪৭ পরিমাণ ৪ শকক বাজি জমি আমোক্তার জঙ্ঘের সর্বস্বত্ব মল্লার নিকট হইতে খরিদ করেন। আমোক্তার দলিল নং- ২৪৫ তারিখ 14.01.2025. A.D.S.R. Matla. উক্ত জমি লইয়া কাহারো কোন আপত্তি থাকিলে কানিন্দা- ১ বি.এল.এন্ড.এল.আর. অফিসে ১৫ দিনের মধ্যে আপত্তি দাখিল করিবেন।

Shreya Shil Advocate Red. No.-F/2180/2506/2019

East Coast Railway Launches Campaign to Alert Selfie Takers on Railway Tracks

MI News Service, Bhubaneswar: East Coast Railway (ECoR) has launched a campaign aimed at warning teenagers and college students about the dangerous habit of taking selfies near railway tracks. This initiative comes in response to a disturbing rise in accidents where young people have tragically lost their lives while attempting to shoot short videos and take selfies near Railway Tracks.

Taking selfies at railway stations or on tracks may seem like a fun activity in social media, but it's a deadly risk. In recent years, many accidents have been reported where students or youth were moved down by moving trains while taking selfies in unsafe locations. Many of these incidents occurred because people weren't paying attention to the dangers around them—like moving trains, overhead electrical power

equipment and crowded station areas. To address this growing concern, Indian Railways has implemented strict regulations. Under Section 147 & 153 of Railway Act, anyone caught taking selfies near moving trains or on railway tracks could face heavy fines, legal consequences, or even jail. It's a reminder that safety always comes first, and no photo is worth risking your life for.

Safety Guidelines to Remember: No Selfies on Tracks: Never take selfies on or near railway tracks. The risk is not worth it. Legal Consequences: Taking selfies in dangerous locations can lead to fines or even imprisonment. Think before you click. A Call to Action for Students, Schools, and Parents: ECoR reminds Students & Teenagers that your life is worth so much more than a social media post. Don't let a fleeting moment of fame come at the cost of your safety. Schools & Colleges: ECoR encourages educational institutions to raise awareness about this issue. Organize awareness programs, workshops, or talks to help students understand the real dangers of taking selfies in crowded places like railway stations and Railway Tracks.

Parents are appealed to counsel their children about these dangers. Help them make smart decisions online and teach them the importance of respecting safety guidelines when out in public spaces. To make sure the message reaches as many people as possible, ECoR is using various platforms such as newspaper advertisements, TV spots, public announcements and social media campaigns. These efforts are designed to remind everyone, especially teenagers—that taking a selfie on or near railway tracks is never worth the risk.

Safety Starts with You: Railway stations are crowded places. With fast-moving trains, electrical equipment and the constant hustle of passengers, it is not unusual to get distracted. Public are appealed to make safe decisions. "Remember, your moment of fame on social media shouldn't come at the cost of your life or someone else's". Keep yourself and others safe by following these guidelines and always choosing safe locations for selfies at Railway premises.

EASTERN RAILWAY

Abridged Tender Notice No. KPA-ERS-OT-39-24-25, Dated: 27.01.2025. Tender Notice for E-tender is invited by Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer, Eastern Railway, Kanchrapara Workshop, North 24 Parganas, West Bengal, PIN-743145 Kanchrapara for the following work: Tender No.: KPA-ERS-OT-39-24-25. Description: POH work including materials of Cab AC of Crew Friendly CAB. Quantity: 88 nos. Tender Value: ₹ 49,95,547.92. Date and time of opening of tender: 18.02.2025 at 15.00 hrs. Period of completion: 24 (Twenty Four) months. The Tender documents and other details can be obtained from the website: www.ireps.gov.in. The bidding for the tender is to be submitted through e-tendering on above website. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any manual offer if received shall not be accepted and will be summarily rejected.

MISC-319/2024-25 Tender Notice is also available at websites: www.erdianrailways.gov.in/www.ireps.gov.in Follow us at: @EasternRailway @easternrailwayheadquarter

EASTERN RAILWAY

E-Tender Nos.: 318\_2024-25, 319\_2024-25 & 327\_2024-25, dated 28.01.2025. Following e-Tender is invited online by Divisional Railway Manager, Eastern Railway, Howrah, DRM Building, Near Railway Station, Howrah-711011 [for the jurisdiction of Sr. DEN/Howrah] from Tenderers having experience of similar nature of work and required financial capabilities including those registered with Irrigation/CPWD/SEB/MES or any public sector undertaking for the following work: SI No. 1. NIT No.: 318\_2024-25. Description of work: Improvement and provision of amenities for Divyangjan Passenger, improvement of toilets and provision of signage in the section of AEN/Bandel. Approx. Cost: ₹ 1,97,51,855.08; Earnest Money: ₹ 2,48,800.00; Cost of Tender Form: Nil. Completion Period: 06 (Six) Months. SI No. 2. NIT No.: 319\_2024-25. Description of work: (i) Improvement and provision of amenities for Divyangjan Passenger, improvement of toilets and provision of signage in the section of AEN/Luah. (ii) Replacement of old and overaged OFC Container with New OFC Room over Howrah Division (Phase-I). Approx. Cost: ₹ 2,48,19,474.15; Earnest Money: ₹ 2,74,100.00; Cost of Tender Form: Nil. Completion Period: 06 (Six) Months. SI No. 3. NIT No.: 327\_2024-25. Description of work: Howrah Division - TRR (P) - 17.417 Tkm in locations -Bally -Bandel Up Main Line 16 - 17.160 to -1.160 KM, Up Main Line 18.005 - 21 - 2.995 KM, Howrah -Bally Dn Main Line 6 - 6.200 to 0.200 KM, Dn Main Line 8 - 8.431 to 0.431 KM, Rev Main Line 2.087 - 2.620 to 0.533 KM, Up Main Line 6 - 8.660 to 2.660 KM; Howrah - Santargachi Dn-2 1.099 - 1.665 to 0.566 KM, and Bally -Bandel Dn Main Line 12.915 - 13.385 to 0.470 KM, Dn Main Line 13.716 - 15.225 to 1.509 KM, Dn Main Line 15.517 - 16.101 to 0.584 KM, Dn Main Line 17.134 - 19.400 to 2.266 KM, UP Main Line 8.660 - 10.280 to 1.620 KM, Up Main Line 11.150 - 11.500 to 0.350 KM, Up Main Line 11.927 - 14 - 2.073 KM & CTR (P) - 0.42 Tkm in Locations - Howrah - Bally Chord Dn HBC 4.580 - 5 - 0.420 KM under jurisdiction of Senior DEN/Howrah. Approx. Cost: ₹ 1,36,94,656.14; Earnest Money: ₹ 2,18,500.00; Cost of Tender Form: Nil. Completion Period: 12 (Twelve) Months. In case the date of closing mentioned in the Notice Inviting Tender is declared a holiday/bandh/ strike on any account, the date of closing tender online will not be changed as the application in the website of IREPS does not permit submission of any offer after closing date and time of the tender. However, opening of tenders online will be done on the next working date. Closing date and time of tender: 17.02.2025 at 14.00 hrs. The detail of tender are available at website www.ireps.gov.in Tenderers are requested to submit their offer online on the above website. Payment of EMD and TDC - Payment of Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) and Tender document cost (TDC) in respect of E-Tendering should be accepted through net banking or payment gateway only. No manual offer will be accepted. HWH-57/2024-25 Tender Notice is also available at websites: www.erdianrailways.gov.in/www.ireps.gov.in Follow us at: @EasternRailway @easternrailwayheadquarter

Bijur-II Gram Panchayat

Vill.- Jotram, P.O.- Satgachia, Dist.- Purba Bardhaman Notice Inviting e-Tender e-tender are invited from the all benefited agencies for execution of following works under BIJUR-II G.P.area. 1. Memo no.- 32/ Bijur-II/2024, Tender no.- 12 /2024-25 & 2. Memo no.- 33/ Bijur-II/2024, Tender no.- 13 /2024-25. Closing date and time of Bid Submission - 04/02/2025 up to 5.30 P.M. Please see details in website www.wbtenders.gov.in & Gram Panchayat Notice Board. Sd/- Pradhan Bijur-II Gram Panchayat

Mugura Gram Panchayat

(Raina-I Panchayat Samity) VIII.+P.O.- Sanktia, Dist.- Purba Bardhaman Notice Inviting e-Tender e-Tenders are being invited from the eligible contractor vide Memo No.: i) 54/MGP (SI.-1 to 3), ii) 55/MGP (SI.-1), iii) 56/MGP (SI.-1), iv) 57/MGP (SI.-1) & v) 58/MGP (SI.-1), Date: 28.01.2025. Fund: 15th CFC (2024-25). Tender will be available in the website www.wbtenders.gov.in and undersigned GP Office. Bid Submission End Date: 07.02.2025 at 11:00 AM. Bid Opening Date: 10.02.2025 at 11:00 AM. Sd/- Pradhan Mugura Gram Panchayat

KULPI PANCHAYAT SAMITY

KULPI, SOUTH-24 PARGANAS e-TENDER NOTICE E-Tenders are hereby invited by the E.O, Kulpi under 15th FC fund vide NIT No- 108/KLPS/15th FC 2024-25 & 2025\_ZPHD\_808103\_1, 2. Bid Submission Last Date: 07/02/2025. For details visit Website: https://wbtenders.gov.in Sd/- Executive Officer Kulpi Panchayat Samity

Chandrahati-2 Gram Panchayat

P.O.- Chandrahati, P.S.- Mogra, Dist.- Hooghly, PIN- 712504 Notice of Inviting e-Tender e-Tender is invited from the experienced and resourceful bidders for execution of 08 nos. of development work(s) vide Reference No.: CH-2/25/35, 36, 37, 38, Date: 24/01/2025. Tender ID: 2025\_ZPHD\_807996\_1, 2025\_ZPHD\_807038\_1, 2025\_ZPHD\_807630\_1, 2025\_ZPHD\_807145\_1. Last Date of Bid Submission: 05.02.2025 up to 06.00 PM. Intending bidders are requested to visit the website https://wbtenders.gov.in and this office notice board. Sd/- Pradhan Chandrahati-2 Gram Panchayat

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE

ICICI Bank Branch Office: ICICI BANK LTD, BP-4, Technopolis Building, 4th Floor, Sector V, Salt Lake City, Kolkata West Bengal- 700091. CIN No: L65190G1994PLC021012, www.icicibank.com The Authorised ICICI Bank Officer under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued Demand Notices to the borrower(s) mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the Notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said Notice. Having failed to repay the amount, the Notice is issued to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken symbolic possession of the property described below, by exercising powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property. Any dealings with the property will be subject to charges of ICICI Bank Limited.

S. E. RAILWAY - TENDER

e-Tender Notice No.: SER/PKGPW/Canteen/01, dt. 28.01.2025. e-Tender is invited by Workshop Personnel Officer, Kharagpur Workshop, South Eastern Railway, Kharagpur-721301 for and on behalf of President of India for the following works before 17.00 hrs. on the date mentioned against items and will be opened after 17.30 hrs. Name of the work: Cooking, Serving, Vending of meals, tiffins, tea and snacks including cleaning of utensils, equipment and accessories at Main Canteen, Kharagpur Workshop and Petty maintenance work of cooking apparatus, gas stove, dining table, kitchen chimney etc. Approximate cost of work: ₹ 33,95,981/-. Earnest Money: ₹ 67,900/- Date & Time of closing e-tender: 15.02.2025 at 17.30 hrs. Website particulars & details: www.gem.gov.in Bid Number: GEM/2025/B/5854417, Dated 25.01.2025, S.E. Railway, Kharagpur Workshop. Interested tenderers may visit website www.gem.gov.in for full details/description/specification of the tenders and submit their bids online. In no case manual tenders for this work will be accepted. (PR-1071)

OFFICE OF THE NATUNGRAM GRAM PANCHAYAT

UNDER MURSHIDABAD-JIAGANJ DEVELOPMENT BLOCK MURAGOAR, TALGACHI, MURSHIDABAD, PIN-742149 e-mail: natungramgp@gmail.com NOTICE INVITING e-Tender e-Tender are invited through online Bid System under Following Tender (NIT) No: NPG-08/2024-2025 Dated: 29-01-2025 The last date for on-line submission of tender is 14-02-2025 (Friday) upto 14:00 Hours. For details please visit website https://wbtenders.gov.in Sd/- Sangita Roy (Pradhan, Natungram G.P.)

Interview for Lecturer

Rajib Gandhi Memorial Primary Teachers Training Institute (Recognised by NCTE, Affiliated to WBPEE) Bhawanipur, P.S.- Udaynarayanpur, Howrah-711412 For the post of Lecturer- M.A. / M.Sc. / M.P.Ed. & M.Ed : (1) Foundation-1, (2) Beng-1, (3) Eng-1, (4) Math-1, (5) Physical Edu-1, (6) EVS-1, (7) Geography-1, (8) Fine Arts-1, (9) Music-1, (10) Computer-1, (11) Librarian-1. Please submit all the testimonials with CV and colour photo with in 11/02/2025 at 04.00 PM at our office. Contact : 9733732403 & 03214-253200. Email : admin@rajibgmpti.org (Criteria & Pay scale: as per NCTE & Govt. Rules)

Notice Inviting e-Tender

The Head Master, Amdabad High School (H.S.) invites percentage rate e-Tender. NIT No.- DSE / HM / AHS / NIT-01/2025 (2nd Call) Dated- 28/01/2025. Last date of Bid submission is on 04/02/2025 upto 18-00 hours. Information details are available in the website https://wbtenders.gov.in Sd/- Head Master, Amdabad High School (H.S.)

Notice Inviting e-Tender

Notice is hereby given that the following Share Certificates of VESUVIUS INDIA LIMITED having Registered Office at P-104, Taratala Road, Kolkata-700088, have been Lost, Misplaced, Stolen and/or are Untraceable. MEMBER'S REGD. FOLIO NO. (S) SHARE CERTIFICATES NO. (S) NO. OF SHARES FROM TO DISTINCTIVE NOS. TO S11176 46245 100 12983401-12983500 Application has been made by the Registered Shareholder to the Company for issue of Duplicate Share Certificate in Replacement of the Duplicate. Any Person having any objection to the issue of Duplicate Share Certificates as aforesaid is Required to lodge with the company at the above Address or to its Registrars C B Management Services (P) Ltd., "Rasoi Court", 20, RN Mukherjee Road, 5th Floor, Kolkata-700011, His/her/their objection thereto within 15 Days from the date of publication. SHARHOLDER NAME & ADDRESS SHAKUNTALA DAWAR B 111, DHOOP CHAON, Off. 4 Bungalows Road, Andheri (West), Mumbai-400053, Maharashtra. Place: Kolkata Date: 30/01/2025

Notice Inviting e-Tender

The above-mentioned borrower(s)/guarantor(s) is/are hereby issued a 30 day Notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold after 30 days from the date of publishing this Notice, as per the provisions under Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002. Date: January 30, 2025 Place: Purbasthali & Nadia Sincerely Authorised Signatory For ICICI Bank Ltd.

Notice Inviting e-Tender

Notice is hereby given that the following Share Certificates of VESUVIUS INDIA LIMITED having Registered Office at P-104, Taratala Road, Kolkata-700088, have been Lost, Misplaced, Stolen and/or are Untraceable. MEMBER'S REGD. FOLIO NO. (S) SHARE CERTIFICATES NO. (S) NO. OF SHARES FROM TO DISTINCTIVE NOS. TO S11176 46245 100 12983401-12983500 Application has been made by the Registered Shareholder to the Company for issue of Duplicate Share Certificate in Replacement of the Duplicate. Any Person having any objection to the issue of Duplicate Share Certificates as aforesaid is Required to lodge with the company at the above Address or to its Registrars C B Management Services (P) Ltd., "Rasoi Court", 20, RN Mukherjee Road, 5th Floor, Kolkata-700011, His/her/their objection thereto within 15 Days from the date of publication. SHARHOLDER NAME & ADDRESS SHAKUNTALA DAWAR B 111, DHOOP CHAON, Off. 4 Bungalows Road, Andheri (West), Mumbai-400053, Maharashtra. Place: Kolkata Date: 30/01/2025

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## Škoda Kylaq officially launches in India

**Patna :** Škoda Auto India's first-ever sub-4-metre SUV, the Kylaq, has officially arrived on Indian roads, marking a significant milestone for the brand. With its launch, the Kylaq opens new horizons for Škoda in India's booming SUV market. It is the brand's first offering in the high-demand sub-4m segment and the first model in India to showcase Škoda's new Modern Solid design language, emphasising robustness, functionality, and authenticity. Customer deliveries and test drives to begin from today. Petr Janeba, Brand Director, Škoda Auto India shares, "The Kylaq has officially arrived and is set to drive Škoda's growth trajectory in India over the coming years. Its availability from today marks the New Era for Škoda Auto India. It combines safety, exceptional driving dynamics, and segment-leading features. Following the success of the Kushaq and Slavia, the Kylaq continues our India-focused product strategy, helping us tap into new markets and bring even more customers into the Škoda family. With its accessible pricing, we can say the Kylaq truly democratises European technology on Indian roads."

With the overwhelming response to the Kylaq and its strong appeal in the competitive



sub-4m SUV segment, Škoda Auto India is confident of achieving robust sales momentum. The company has outlined its goal of reaching 1 lakh annual sales by 2026, driven by the Kylaq's segment-leading features, exceptional safety standards, and European technology for Indian roads, which resonate with consumers. This strategic focus aligns with Škoda Auto India's commitment to expanding its footprint and bringing premium mobility solutions to a broader customer base across

the country. 5-star rated at BNCAP The Škoda Kylaq has set a benchmark in safety, emerging as the best-performing vehicle in the ICE sub-4-metre compact SUV segment. It achieved an impressive 30.88 points out of 32 (97%) in Adult Occupant Protection and 45 points out of 49 (92%) in Child Occupant Protection. For child safety, the Kylaq excelled with a perfect score of 16 points (100%) in the frontal offset barrier test and 8 points (100%) in the side-moving deformable barrier test

for 1.5 and 3-year-old children. Additionally, it earned maximum points in the recommended child seat assessment and 9 points out of 13 (69%) in the vehicle-based assessment, highlighting Škoda's commitment to safety across all parameters. Tailored features The Kylaq introduces several segment-firsts, including six-way electric seats with ventilation for both the driver and front passenger. A dedicated stowing space for the parcel tray further enhances

the boot's usability and versatility. The Kylaq's boot offers a segment-best 446 litres of capacity, which expands to 1,265 litres with the rear seats folded down. features Auto Climatronic, with ventilation for the electrically adjustable front seats. Select variants are also available with an electric sunroof. Also on offer are cruise control, steering-mounted paddle-shifters with the six-speed automatic gearbox, leatherette seats, wireless Android Auto and Apple CarPlay and wireless charging among other features. Taking centre stage is a 25.6cms infotainment screen with an even more intuitive user interface, while the driver gets a 20.32cms Virtual Cockpit with a renewed interface.

Modern Solid: A new interpretation of familiar Škoda lines As the first Škoda model in India to adopt the new Modern Solid design language, the Kylaq's exterior is defined by a distinctive shape and clean lines. front is characterised by a shiny black grille with 3D ribs, while the hallmark Škoda SUV "four eyes" headlights graphic has been completely reinterpreted. The Kylaq is also the first model in India to feature the all-new Škoda wordmark on the rear. Also new is a bold front lower spoiler in aluminium optics in the front.

## Winners of Avinya'25 And Vasudha Startup Challenges Announced At "Energize India" Conclave



**New Delhi :** Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Shri Hardeep Singh Puri, today announced the winners of two prestigious startup challenges - Avinya'25 and Vasudha - at a special ceremony held at ONGC headquarters.

The announcement came at the conclusion of "Energize India: Catalyzing Growth Through Startup Innovation", a high-powered conclave that brought together energy sector veterans, investors, and innovators.

The winners of Avinya'25, India's premier energy startup competition, was UrjanovaC Pvt Ltd. The runners up were Breathe ESG Private Limited, AgriVijay, Apeiro Energy and UGreen Technology.

For Vasudha, the global startup challenge in upstream oil and gas sector, the winner was Latin Energy Partners Inc., Paraguay and the runner up was Ultrasound Process Consulting LLC, USA

These winning startups emerged from an intensely competitive field - Avinya'25 received 173 applications from across India, while Vasudha attracted global participation in crucial areas including seismic data interpretation, AI applications, and carbon capture technologies.

The winners of the Hackathon were also announced with IIT (ISM) - Dhanbad emerging as the winner and IIT-Guwahati as the runner up.

Addressing the occasion, Minister Shri Hardeep Singh Puri highlighted the pivotal role of PSUs under the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas in fostering innovation through a Rs. 547.35 crore startup fund. Supporting 303 startups with Rs. 286.36 crore, these efforts propel India's vibrant ecosystem of over 110 unicorns, creating transformative growth and jobs.

Speaking on the diversification of energy supply sources, Shri Puri noted that India had already embarked on this path. "Earlier, we used to import from 27 countries; now we are sourcing from 39, with discussions underway with a few more," he said. He emphasized that diversification provides strategic advantages by ensuring a broader geographical spread. "Our imports are guided by fundamental, self-

evident principles: we will source energy from wherever it is available at the right price," he added.

Regarding the target of achieving 20% ethanol blending, Shri Puri highlighted that India has already reached at 19% blending. Expressing confidence in surpassing the target ahead of schedule, he revealed that discussions have begun on developing a roadmap beyond 20 percent blending.

The day-long "Energize India" conclave featured thought-provoking panel discussions on identifying opportunities in the energy sector, leveraging emerging technologies, and accessing capital for energy startups. Industry leaders shared insights on how startups can contribute to India's energy transition while maintaining the delicate balance between security, accessibility, affordability, and sustainability.

Speaking at a panel discussion, Shri Pankaj Jain, Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas said, "Fossil fuel is not going anywhere in India for the next 25 years. We have several terabytes of seismic data on our open waters earmarked for exploration. I urge our bright sparks to think about developing solutions to mine through the data and contribute to hydrocarbon exploration efforts."

Shri S.C.L. Das, Secretary, Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises, stated during the panel discussion alongside Shri Pankaj Jain, "We are trying to develop a system whereby we assess the maturity level of different startups so that the Ministry can cater to their needs in terms of regulatory compliance or access to capital, in collaboration with other central ministries, state governments and local governments." The winning startups will receive prominent exposure at India Energy Week 2025, where they will showcase their innovations to over 70,000 energy professionals from 120 countries. The winners will join fourteen public sector undertaking (PSU) startups in a special startup pavilion at IEW 2025, demonstrating the breadth of innovation in India's energy sector.

These startup challenges are part of India Energy Week 2025, scheduled to be held in New Delhi from February 11-14, 2025.

## World Wetlands Day: The Art of Living Safeguards Nature's Lifelines

**Bangalore (Karnataka) :** Every year on February 2nd, World Wetlands Day reminds us of the vital role wetlands play in sustaining life. This day marks the adoption of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands in 1971, an international treaty recognising the critical importance of these ecosystems for both people and the planet.

A prime example of this ecological treasure is the Haiderpur Wetlands, nestled within the Hastinapur Wildlife Sanctuary in Uttar Pradesh, India. Spanning approximately 6,900 hectares, this Ramsar site is home to over 333 bird species and a wealth of flora and fauna, making it a sanctuary of biodiversity.

The theme for World Wetlands Day 2025, 'Protecting Wetlands for Our Common Future' highlights the profound connection between wetlands and human well-being. Wetlands provide clean water, protect against floods, boost biodiversity, and offer recreational opportunities - all essential for a healthy and thriving society.

Yet, their immense value often goes unnoticed.

The Art of Living's Commitment to Wetlands

The Art of Living Social Projects is dedicated to preserving and restoring these natural lifelines. Wetlands are nature's reservoirs, recharging groundwater, preventing soil erosion, and acting as carbon sinks to combat

climate change. Unfortunately, urbanisation and industrial activities have significantly degraded many wetlands.

At Haiderpur Wetlands, The Art of Living Social Projects has made a tangible impact. By engaging local communities, conducting educational workshops, and training youth as bird guides, the initiative has encouraged a sense of ownership and responsibility among the people. These efforts have transformed Haiderpur Wetlands from a neglected area into a vibrant haven for biodiversity.

Looking Ahead: Protecting Wetlands, Protecting Ourselves

This World Wetlands Day, The Art of Living Social Projects calls on individuals, organisations, and communities to join hands in safeguarding these critical ecosystems. Wetlands are more than water bodies; they are lifelines that sustain human well-being and environmental health.

Let's honour the vital role of wetlands by committing to their preservation - not just today, but every day. Together, we can ensure that wetlands continue to nurture biodiversity, protect against climate extremes, and enhance the quality of life for future generations.

Because when wetlands thrive, so does humanity.

Explore The Art of Living's role in transforming the Haiderpur Wetlands here .

## Surajkund Mela to be held from February 7-23

**Chandigarh :** The 38th International Surajkund Crafts Mela will be held in Faridabad from February 7-23, Haryana's Tourism Minister Arvind Sharma said on Monday. The fair this year will be celebrated as 'Shilp Mahakumbh' on the lines of the Maha Kumbh and craftsmen from all over the world will showcase their creative work, he said. Sharma reviewed the preparations for the fair in a meeting with Haryana Tourism Corporation and district administration officials in Surajkund. Minister of State for Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, Rajesh Nagar was also present. Sharma also visited the Surajkund Mela premises and reviewed the arrangements, according

to an official statement. Sharma said Haryana has preserved its cultural and historical heritage. "Along with establishing the identity of Haryanvi culture in the world, the beginning of giving a proper platform to the craftsmen started in the form of a crafts fair in Surajkund in 1987, which is setting an example at the global level today," he said. He said the Surajkund Mela has been digitised and the booking of stalls has been done online for the first time. Sharma said this year Odisha and Madhya Pradesh are the theme states and BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation) countries -- Bangladesh, Bhutan, India.

## REVIVAL: Redefining Ready-to-Cook with Millet-Based Goodness

**Coimbatore (Tamil Nadu) :** REVIVAL, a leading brand in the ready-to-cook mix industry, is proud to introduce its range of healthy, nutritious, and convenient millet-based products to a wider audience. Revolutionizing the way we approach healthy eating, REVIVAL aims to make nutritious meals easily accessible for all, with its 100% natural, ready-to-cook offerings now available on Amazon and Flipkart.

Dedicated to promoting wholesome food habits, REVIVAL Foods specializes in millet-based products that deliver the perfect balance of taste and nutrition. These meals, crafted by expert food technologists, ensure a hassle-free cooking experience while prioritizing health and flavor.

The brand's core philosophy is centered around making healthy eating effortless, offering a variety of ready-to-cook meals that save valuable time without compromising on quality. Each product is



meticulously crafted with the finest ingredients, ensuring every bite is delicious and packed with essential nutrients.

REVIVAL's product lineup includes:

- \* Multi-Millet Bisi Bele Bath
  - \* Multi-Millet Pongal Mix
  - \* Multi-Millet Biryani Mix
  - \* Mighty Mix Dosa
  - \* Nutty Nib Millet Pancake
- These delicious meals are crafted with the power of millets, a superfood known for its rich

nutritional profile. REVIVAL Foods offers a truly holistic approach to convenient, healthy living, with products that are as nourishing as they are easy to prepare.

These millet-based products are now available for purchase on Amazon.in, Flipkart, and through the brand's official website: [www.revivalfoods.in](http://www.revivalfoods.in). For more information or inquiries, customers can reach out to REVIVAL at +91 9344901205.

## From Struggle to Success: Farmers Gather at Kisan Samruddhi Mahotsav 3.0 to Celebrate Transformation

**Bangaluru (Karnataka) :** In a powerful display of gratitude for Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar's commitment to their well-being, over 1,000 farmer-beneficiaries from across Maharashtra, including drought-prone areas like Jalna, Wardha, Akola, Amravati, Buldhana, Beed, and Latur, have gathered at The Art of Living International Center to participate in the third edition of the Kisan Samruddhi Mahotsav 3.0.

Among them, 300 farmers from Maharashtra's most drought-stricken regions, once grappling with water scarcity, soil infertility, and financial hardship, have self-funded their flights to attend the event. Here, they will share inspiring stories of transformed lives and flourishing livelihoods, all made possible through Gurudev's visionary leadership and The Art of Living Social Projects' farmer-focused initiatives.

A Celebration of Change and Gratitude

The Mahotsav will be graced by the global humanitarian and driving force behind The Art of Living Social Projects' river rejuvenation and water conservation efforts, Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, along with Shri Sanjay Rathore, Minister of Soil and Water Conservation, Government of Maharashtra and Hon. Members of the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly.

In addition to the celebration, the Mahotsav will feature immersive sessions and workshops on natural farming techniques, water conservation practices, and agricultural innovations to

boost productivity and farm income.

A Holistic Approach to Farmer Well-being

The Art of Living Social Projects not only focuses on enhancing water availability for farming but also addresses farmers' mental well-being through practices like meditation, yoga, and Sudarshan Kriya (a powerful breathing technique that alleviates stress and fosters inner peace).

"The team that Gurudev has built within The Art of Living Social Projects is highly dedicated and enthusiastic, working selflessly," said Shri Devendra Fadnavis, Hon. Chief Minister of Maharashtra.

Spotlighting the Success of Jalyukt Shivar 2.0

Launched on 26th November 2023, Jalyukt Shivar 2.0 (JYS 2.0) promised to resolve Maharashtra's water crises through a collaboration between the Government of Maharashtra and The Art of Living Social Projects. Spanning 86 tehsils in 24 districts, the project implemented ground-breaking practices like stream deepening, dam construction, and farm pond creation, with the goal of making Maharashtra drought-free.

The Kisan Samruddhi Mahotsav will spotlight the remarkable achievements of JYS 2.0 which has already benefited over 2 lakh people across 10 districts in Maharashtra. Shri Devendra Fadnavis praised The Art of Living Social Projects' pivotal role, noting that the success of the Jalyukt Shivar Yojana owes much to



their efforts in desilting, deepening, and straightening streams and rivers.

Restoring Water Flow, Reviving Agriculture

In just 4 to 5 months, 50 nalas

(streams) spanning 150 kilometres were scientifically de-silted, deepened, and widened, helping store 2.58 billion litres of water. This massive effort has revived water flow to regions that had suffered

neglect for decades, with some streams having been dry for over 70 years.

"The transformation in the lives of farmers through JYS 2.0 is deeply inspiring," says Prasanna Prabhu, Chairman of The Art of Living Social Projects. "Our approach is holistic, empowering local communities to work toward a greater vision, not just through water body rejuvenation but by fostering a sense of ownership and collective growth."

A New Dawn for Farming Communities

"Earlier, we had to stay awake at night to fill water, but now that is no longer necessary," shares Nilesh, a beneficiary farmer from Amravati. With a sense of relief, he adds, "I can assure you that there will be no more disputes in the village over water."

Sunny Arane, another farmer, recounts the profound impact of the initiative: "Before the Jalyukt Shivar work, young people viewed farming differently. During the crop season, rainwater would accumulate in the fields, making cultivation impossible."

With the restored water supply, farmers now have the opportunity to grow a second crop, significantly boosting their income and improving water management in Marathwada, Vidarbha, Khandesh, and Western Maharashtra.

"While deepening the river, we used the de-silted yellow soil for building roads and spread the black, top fertile soil in the fields," Nilesh shares. "This increased our yield." Some villages have even seen roads built after

70 years, thanks to these efforts.

Looking Ahead: Expanding the Reach of JYS 2.0

Looking ahead, the next phase of JYS 2.0 aims to expand its reach five-fold, targeting 750 kilometres and bringing sustainable water solutions to even more regions.

"Since the construction of the nalas, water no longer accumulates in the fields. Young people are now returning to farming," concludes Sunny Arane.

Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar says, "When people's support, the government's intent, and divine grace come together, success is inevitable. By advancing Jalyukt Shivar and natural farming together, we will witness a golden era once more."

The success of Jalyukt Shivar reflects the profound impact of collaboration, vision, and resilience. As these efforts continue, they are reshaping the landscape for farmers, ensuring that water scarcity is no longer a barrier to prosperity.

About The Art of Living Social Projects

The Art of Living, a non-profit, educational, and humanitarian organisation founded in 1981 by the world-renowned humanitarian and spiritual leader - Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, through its River Rejuvenation Project, aims at making a positive impact on India's water needs and fight head-on with water scarcity that has gripped the country.

## Bangladesh: Awami League calls for general strike, blockade

**MI News Service, Dhaka:** Bangladesh's Awami League has announced a series of political programs, including a general strike and a nationwide blockade, in protest against what it describes as "false cases" against Sheikh Hasina and the ongoing persecution of religious minorities in the country. The party issued a statement late on Tuesday outlining its upcoming protest schedule and demands, asserting that stricter measures would follow if authorities attempted to obstruct their activities.

According to the party's official statement, the programs will be carried out as follows: from Saturday, February 1, to Wednesday, February 5, party members will distribute leaflets; on Thursday, February 6, a protest march and rally will be held; a second protest rally is scheduled for Monday, February 10; on Sunday, February 16, the party will conduct a blockade; and on Tuesday, February 18, a nationwide morning-to-evening hartal (general strike) will take place. The Awami League has warned that, "if there is any kind of obstruction in these programs to realise the political and democratic rights of the people of the country, more strict programs will be announced." The party's protests are primarily focused on demanding the withdrawal of legal cases against Sheikh Hasina, including what it called a "false murder case" filed against the former prime minister. The statement also calls for the dismissal of other cases in the "illegal and illegal ICT Tribunal" and an end to what the party describes as a "farical trial." Additionally, the Awami League has framed its movement as a response to the violence and persecution of religious minorities in Bangladesh, specifically referencing "attacks and massacres of religious minorities including Hindu-Buddhist-Christians and attacks and vandalism of various religious shrines." The party has further demanded that the government "stop killings" and ensure the protection of all citizens.

This marks the Awami League's first major street mobilisation since the ouster of Sheikh Hasina on August 5. However, the party faces significant logistical and political challenges in executing these protests, as many of its leaders and workers are currently in hiding due to fears of legal action and targeted attacks. With a large number of its members on the run, the scale and effectiveness of the announced demonstrations remain uncertain.

## Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf leader warns of launching nationwide campaign against govt

**MI News Service, Islamabad:** Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (K-P) chapter President Junaid Akbar has warned of launching a nationwide campaign against Pakistan Muslim League - Nawaz-led (PML-N) coalition over government's lack of commitment to address political tensions through talks, The Express Tribune reported. Speaking to a local TV news channel, Akbar said the opposition's willingness to hold talks with the government was seen as a sign of weakness. His remarks came after PTI did not attend the fourth round of talks with PML-N-led coalition government on Tuesday, effectively stalling the negotiation process.

The government's talks committee meeting on Tuesday was postponed after representatives PTI representatives did not attend the meeting. Pakistan National Assembly Speaker Ayaz Sadiq said that the committee would remain intact despite the lack of participation. The first round of talks between PTI and the government was held on December 23, 2024. Since the talks started



in December, the two sides have met thrice. The talks between PTI and PML-N-led government started in December last year to reduce political tensions in Pakistan. However, the talks were stalled as PTI accused the government of not constituting judicial commissions to carry out probe into the May 9, 2023, protests and the crackdown on PTI demonstrators in Islamabad on November 26, 2024.

Akbar said that PTI wanted to

make negotiations work, however, the current trajectory indicates a deadlock. When asked if PTI would now seek solutions on the streets, he responded, "Yes, definitely." He announced several protest plans, including district-level protests on February 8 against alleged election rigging and a protest at D-Chowk in Islamabad, The Express Tribune reported.

Notably, Pakistan held its 12th national general election on February 8 last year, amid allegations of rigging and the shutdown of cellular and internet services. In his remarks, Junaid Akbar announced that PTI would not engage in negotiations during street protests. Indicating significant changes within Imran Khan-founded party, he said that PTI's "homeopathic leadership" would be replaced by hardliners after a reorganization scheduled for May. Akbar said that PTI's plans to revamp the provincial cabinet, with two new members expected to become part of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur's team, The Express Tribune reported.

## Enhancing Passenger Safety and Convenience with foot over bridges across key stations

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** In a significant move to improve safety, accessibility, and convenience for passengers, Eastern Railway has sanctioned and is actively working on the installation of Foot Over Bridges (FOBs) at 27 key stations in the Asansol Division. The provision of these FOBs is expected to substantially enhance commuter experience by providing safe, smooth, and easy passage over railway tracks, especially for the elderly, children, and people with disabilities. By eliminating the need for passengers to cross busy tracks at ground level, the new bridges will reduce the risk of accidents, enhance mobility, and ease congestion at platforms. Additionally, these structures will help alleviate overcrowding, ensuring a more organized and secure station environment.

The ongoing development of these FOBs is a part of a broader initiative to modernize and upgrade critical railway infrastructure across the region. The stations currently undergoing this enhancement include Mathurapur, Telwa, Madhupur, Raniganj, Panagarh, Rajbandh, Kalipahari, Waria, Simultala, Jamtara, Andal, Chittaran-

jan, Jasidih, Sitarampur, Barabani, Thaparnagar, Vidyasagar, Rajla, Madankatta, Siuri, Asansol, Narganjo, Lahabon, Kumardubi, Pandabeshwar, Deoghar, and Dumka. These locations, spread across the Asansol Division, are set to benefit from the improved infrastructure, which will make traveling safer and more efficient for thousands of daily commuters. These Foot Over Bridges (FOBs) significantly enhance passenger amenities by improving the overall convenience and safety of station access. They provide a safe, elevated pathway for passengers to cross tracks without the risks associated with ground-level track crossings, ensuring a smoother and more secure travel experience. FOBs help reduce congestion on platforms, allowing for better crowd management, especially during peak hours. Additionally, they make stations more accessible for elderly passengers, children, and those with mobility challenges, by eliminating the need for steep staircases or unsafe crossings. With these well-placed FOBs, passengers can move efficiently from one platform to another,

thus improving the overall flow of foot traffic and enhancing the station environment.

The introduction of FOBs at these stations represents a proactive approach to passenger safety and infrastructure development, catering to the diverse needs of the travelling public. The foot over bridges will not only offer enhanced safety but will also promote greater accessibility for all passengers, ensuring that everyone, regardless of age or physical ability, can navigate stations with ease. The upgraded facilities are expected to improve overall passenger satisfaction, reduce delays caused by unsafe track crossings, and promote smoother passenger flow during peak hours. This initiative underscores Eastern Railway's commitment to upgrading its services and creating a modern, safe, and reliable railway network that prioritizes passenger well-being. The installation of these FOBs is a major step in the region's continuous effort to modernize station infrastructure, enhance safety standards, and improve the overall travel experience for its growing number of passengers.

## The Iron Dome for America: US launches next-generation missile defence plan



**MI News Service, Washington, DC:** On January 27, 2025, President Donald Trump signed an executive order aimed at enhancing the United States' missile defence capabilities in light of the growing threats from sophisticated ballistic, hypersonic, and cruise missiles. The order, which lays out a comprehensive plan for the next-generation missile defence shield, underscores the US government's recognition of the increasingly complex and urgent risks posed by adversaries' evolving missile technologies. The order highlights the necessity of bolstering US defence systems against advanced aerial attacks, a challenge that has only intensified over the past several decades.

Despite efforts in the 1980s, particularly the Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI) under President Ronald Reagan, previous attempts at a comprehensive missile defence program were ultimately halted. While SDI led to technological advancements, its goal of building an effective defence against nuclear missile threats was never fully realised. In the years since the United States withdrew from the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty in 2002, the country's missile defence

strategy focused largely on addressing threats from rogue states and mitigating the risks of accidental missile launches. However, with the rise of new missile technologies by both peer and near-peer adversaries, the threat landscape has become more sophisticated, prompting the need for an updated and more robust defensive posture.

The executive order directs the development of a next-generation missile defence shield that will provide multi-layered defence against a wide array of missile types. This system is designed to defend against threats such as ballistic missiles, hypersonic weapons, and advanced cruise missiles. A key component of the plan is to ensure that the US retains its secure second-strike capability, meaning it can retaliate effectively in the event of a missile attack. To achieve these objectives, the order sets in motion the acceleration of several critical technological advancements, including the Hypersonic and Ballistic Tracking Space Sensor layer.

This layer will allow for faster detection and tracking of incoming missiles. Additionally, the order calls for the development and deployment of space-based in-

terceptors capable of intercepting missiles during their boost phase, as well as the establishment of terminal-phase intercept systems to neutralise threats before they reach critical infrastructure. The plan also envisions the creation of a secure and resilient supply chain to support the defence technologies, with a focus on next-generation security features.

The Secretary of Defence is tasked with submitting a detailed implementation plan within 60 days. This plan will outline the architecture and requirements for the new missile defence system, and it will include a roadmap for accelerating the deployment of these advanced systems. Additionally, the Department of Defence will be asked to review its organisational structure to ensure it can rapidly respond to evolving threats. The administration will also work closely with the Office of Management and Budget to secure the necessary funding for the initiative, ensuring that it is integrated into the Fiscal Year 2026 Budget. As part of the broader implementation strategy, US Strategic Command and Northern Command will provide an updated assessment of the missile threat to the US homeland, with an emphasis on defending against nuclear strikes. A prioritised list of locations will be developed to determine where the defence systems should be deployed first. In addition to strengthening its own missile defence systems, the United States will continue to collaborate with its allies and partners around the world to enhance missile defence capabilities.

## Elon Musk's SpaceX to bring astronauts Sunita Williams and Barry Wilmore home

**MI News Service, Washington DC:** Elon Musk posted on X (formerly Twitter): "The President has asked SpaceX to bring home the 2 astronauts stranded on the ISS as soon as possible. We will do so. Terrible that the Biden administration left them there so long."

In response to this post, President Trump expressed frustration with the Biden administration's handling of the situation involving two astronauts, Barry "Butch" Wilmore and Sunita Williams, who have been aboard the International Space Station (ISS) since June 5, 2024. The astronauts were left on the ISS after an issue with their Boeing Starliner capsule delayed their return to Earth, CBS News reported.

Trump blamed the Biden administration for what he described as "abandoning" the astronauts, and he called on SpaceX founder Elon Musk to bring them home. In a post on his Truth Social platform, Trump wrote, "I have asked SpaceX founder Elon Musk to go get the two brave astronauts who have been virtually abandoned in space by the Biden administration. They have been waiting for many months on @Space Station. Elon will soon be on his way. Hopefully, all will be safe. Good luck Elon!!!" Musk, who had previously acknowledged the request, responded on X, stating that SpaceX would indeed bring the astronauts home. He criticised the Biden administration's role in the delay, writing, "Terrible that the Biden administration left them there so long." However, the characterisation of the astronauts as "stranded" and "abandoned" has been disputed. While Wilmore and Williams have been on an extended stay aboard the ISS, they were never in any immediate danger and could return to Earth anytime NASA decided. Their return could occur via a SpaceX Crew Dragon capsule, which has had seats available for them since September 2024.

## Successful completion of Limited Height Subway in Deoghar-Banka section under Asansol Division



**MI News Service, Asansol:** The construction of Limited Height Subway No. 2 in the Deoghar-Banka section under Asansol Division has been successfully completed today. This achievement marks another step toward enhancing the safety and convenience of passengers and the public while ensuring smooth railway operations in the region.

The project involved the meticulous execution of work to replace the existing level crossing with a modern Limited Height Subway. The newly constructed LHS No. 2 will eliminate delays caused by the closing of gates at level crossings, ensuring uninterrupted travel for road users. Additionally, it will significantly reduce the risk of accidents, enhancing safety for commuters. The construction work was carried out with strict adherence to safety protocols and minimal disruption to

train operations. A team of skilled engineers and workers worked tirelessly to ensure the timely completion of this vital infrastructure project. The LHS is designed to accommodate light and medium vehicular traffic while ensuring efficient drainage to prevent waterlogging during the monsoon season.

This development is part of the ongoing efforts of the Asansol Division to modernize railway infrastructure and improve safety standards while addressing operational and safety challenges effectively. The successful completion of LHS No. 2 highlights the collaborative efforts of the engineering, operations, and safety teams of the Asansol Division. It is expected to benefit passengers, local residents, and road users by offering seamless connectivity and enhancing safety across the region.

## Sikyong Penpa warns of strategic and ecological risks from China's Brahmaputra mega-dam project

**MI News Service, Tezu:** Tibetan Government-in-Exile President Sikyong Penpa Tsering spoke at the Tezu Dhargyeling Tibetan Settlement on January 27, underlining the strategic and geopolitical importance of the Tibetan Plateau, according to a statement by the Central Tibet Administration (CTA).

He expressed concerns over China's proposed mega-dam project on the Brahmaputra River, stating, "It has serious ecological and strategic ramifications for riparian communities," according to the CTA. Highlighting the seismic sensitivity of the Tibetan Plateau, Sikyong warned of the risks posed by large-scale construction in the fragile region.

"The recent devastating earthquake in Tibet's Dingri region is a stark reminder of the natural disasters that could follow," he noted. As part of his second round of official visits to Tibetan settlements in West Bengal and Arunachal Pradesh, the Sikyong made a significant stop at the Tezu Dhargyeling Settlement, according to the CTA. He met with local dignitaries and officials during his day-long tour and also paid respects to Kyabje Dzogchen Ganor Rinpoche. Throughout these interactions, he expressed gratitude for the continued assistance provided to Tibetan residents in the area.

## Howrah Division completes infrastructure upgrades in 96 hours during 100-Hour Mega Block on Dum Dum-Dankuni Section

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** In a remarkable achievement, Howrah Division successfully completed extensive infrastructure upgrades in just 96 hours (23.01.25 to 26.01.25) in shadow of the herculean 100-hour mega block undertaken by Sealdah Division on the Dum Dum-Dankuni section from January 23 to January 27, 2025. This planned block was utilized to carry out crucial track, signaling, and overhead electrical upgrades, ensuring enhanced safety, efficiency, and reliability for passengers.

Highlights of the Completed Work in Howrah Division

**Track Improvements:** Over 3.5 kilometers of tracks were deep cleaned to strengthen the ballast (stone foundation), ensuring stability and durability. Approximately 1.6 kilometers of old tracks and sleepers were replaced with stronger, upgraded materials for safer train operations. Over 11 kilometers of tracks were realigned and leveled to improve ride comfort and operational efficiency. Defective joints, crossings, and rails were replaced to



eliminate potential safety risks.

**Signaling System Upgrades:** Modernized point machines, which guide trains between tracks, were installed

at multiple locations to enhance operational accuracy. Old signaling cables and junction boxes were replaced, ensuring better communication and reliability. Advanced battery systems and control equipment were installed to guarantee uninterrupted signaling.

**Overhead Electrical Modernization:** Over 6 kilometers of outdated overhead wires were replaced with new, high-quality wires for seamless power supply to trains. Replacement of 2756 meters of over-aged catenary wire and dismantling of old wires. Replacement of 3320 meters of worn-out contact wires with associated dismantling. Maintenance and repairs were carried out at over 100 locations to enhance the reliability of the electrical system. Tree branches near electrified zones were trimmed to prevent disruptions.

**Additional Works:** Foot-overbridges were painted and rust-proofed to maintain safety and structural integrity. Fresh ballast (crushed stones) was unloaded at critical locations to reinforce track stability.

## Taiwan detects hike in Chinese activity around itself

**MI News Service, Taipei:** Taiwan stated that it detected six Chinese military aircraft and five naval vessels around Taiwan from 6 am (local time) on Tuesday till 6 am (local time) on Wednesday.

Of the six Chinese military aircraft, three crossed the median line and entered Taiwan's northern and Southwestern ADIZ.

In a post on X, the Taiwanese MND said, "6 PLA aircraft and 5 PLAN vessels operating around Taiwan were detected up until 6 a.m. (UTC+8) today. 3 of the aircraft crossed the median line and entered Taiwan's northern and Southwestern ADIZ. We have monitored the situation and responded accordingly."

Notably, Chinese activity has

risen around Taiwan.

On Tuesday, Taiwan reported six Chinese military aircraft and seven naval vessels around itself.

Taiwanese MND said that their armed forces monitored the situation and responded accordingly.

This incident follows a recent pattern of escalated manoeuvres by China around Taiwan, raising concerns over regional stability as Beijing continues to assert its claims over the island.

Earlier on Saturday, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio has raised concerns over Beijing's coercion against Taiwan during a phone call with his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi, Focus Taiwan reported, citing the US Department of State.

According to Focus Taiwan, Rubio emphasized the United States' "commitment to our allies in the region and serious concern over China's coercive actions against Taiwan and in the South China Sea," said State Department spokesperson Tammy Bruce in a readout following the phone call on Friday (Washington time)

Bruce also quoted Rubio as stating that the US will pursue a relationship with Beijing that "advances US interests and puts the American people first."

This was Rubio's first phone call as Secretary of State with Wang, who is also the director of the Chinese Communist Party Central Committee's Foreign Affairs Commission.

### JHON DURAN OR VICTOR BONIFACE, WHO WILL PARTNER CRISTIANO RONALDO AT AL-NASSR FC?

Aston Villa attacker Jhon Duran is all set to join Cristiano Ronaldo at Saudi Pro League's Al-Nassr FC, reports said. The 21-year-old Duran has already agreed to his personal terms with Al-Nassr and is awaiting the talks between the two clubs to progress, the report added.

Aston Villa were not willing to accept any offers for Duran before next summer. Qatar-powered French giants PSG were among the parties interested in the service of the Colombian, who scored seven times in the Premier League this season after 20 appearances. He also managed three Champions League goals after seven games. However, things have changed and Villa are about to accept an offer higher than 70 million, L'Equipe said in a report citing sources in England.

Duran or Boniface? The development has created some confusion among fans as it was earlier reported that Al-Nassr were holding talks with Bayer Leverkusen's Victor Boniface. With the likes of Ronaldo, Sadio Mane and Angelo Gabriel in their ranks, it seems unlikely that the former AFC Champions League winners would land two fresh attacking options from Europe. Boniface was declared the Riyadh side's replacement option for Brazilian Talisca for a 60 million deal.

Manager Xabi Alonso had left Boniface out of training on Tuesday further strengthening the exit rumours. Leverkusen, meanwhile, have decided to go after Brighton & Hove Albion's Irish prodigy Evan Ferguson as a replacement for the Nigerian, ESPN reported.

"Victor Boniface or Jhon Duran, one of them for Al Nassr... as revealed on Monday. Decision to follow soon," noted football journalist Fabrizio Romano tweeted on Wednesday, confirming the development.



Virat Kohli during a practice session on the eve of the Ranji Trophy match between Delhi and Railways, at Arun Jaitley International Cricket Stadium, in New Delhi on Wednesday. (ANI Photo)

### Steve Smith joins elite list, becomes 15th player to score 10,000 Test runs

GALLE [SRI LANKA] : Australia stand-in skipper Steve Smith completed 10,000 runs in the longest format of the game during the ongoing first Test against Sri Lanka at the Galle International Stadium on Wednesday. The right-hand batter became only the 15th player to achieve this landmark in Test cricket, as per the ICC official website.

Missing the chance to reach the mark in his home city of Sydney during the recent Border-Gavaskar Trophy series, Smith brought up the five-figure milestone in Australia's first Test against Sri Lanka in Galle, playing his signature flick toward mid-on, setting off for one before raising his bat to acknowledge the applause.

The moment was marked by an ovation from the Australian group.

Smith moved the score to 137/2 with the run, continuing Australia's strong start after the tourists won the toss and elected to bat. The 35-year-old has compiled his runs at an average of over 55, with Kumar Sangakkara the only batter beyond the 10,000 figure with a better return (57.40). He became the fifth

fastest batter by innings to reach 10,000 Test runs.

The batter joins Allan Border, Steve Waugh and Ricky Ponting as the fourth Australian to reach the mark.

Earlier in the day, Australia skipper Steve Smith won the toss and elected to bat first in the clash against Sri Lanka.

Right-hand batter Josh Inglis is set to make his debut in the longest format of the game as the Baggie Greens named him in the playing XI for the first match of the series. Both the teams are going with three spinners and one seaming option in their line-up for this match.

Teams:

Australia (Playing XI): Usman Khawaja, Travis Head, Marnus Labuschagne, Steven Smith (c), Josh Inglis, Beau Webster, Alex Carey (wk), Mitchell Starc, Matthew Kuhnemann, Nathan Lyon, Todd Murphy.

Sri Lanka (Playing XI): Dimuth Karunaratne, Oshada Fernando, Dinesh Chandimal, Angelo Mathews, Kamindu Mendis, Dhananjaya de Silva (c), Kusal Mendis (wk), Prabath Jayasuriya, Nishan Peiris, Jeffrey Vandersay, Asitha Fernando.

## Hockey India announces 24-member Indian Women's Hockey Team for FIH Pro League 2024-25

NEW DELHI [INDIA] : Hockey India on Wednesday announced the 24-member Indian Women's Hockey Team for the Bhubaneswar leg of the FIH Pro League 2024-25, which will be held at the Kalinga Hockey Stadium from 15th to 25th February, a release from Hockey India said.

India will face off against visiting teams - England, the Netherlands, Spain, and Germany, playing each team twice. Their campaign kicks off with a match against England on 15th February.

The squad includes goalkeepers Savita and Bichu Devi Kharibam, while Sushila Chanu Pukhrabam, Nikki Pradhan, Udita, Jyoti, Ishika Chaudhary,

and Jyoti Chhatri have been selected as defenders.

In the midfield, the team features Vaishnavi Vitthal Phalke, Neha, Manisha Chauhan, Salima Tete, Sunelita Toppo, Lairemsiami, Baljeet Kaur, and Sharmila Devi. Forwards in the squad include Navneet Kaur, Mumtaz Khan, Preeti Dubey, Rutaja Dadaso Pisal, Beauty Ddungdung, Sangita Kumari, Deepika, and Vandana Katariya.

Dynamic midfielder Salima Tete will lead the Indian team as captain, with forward Navneet Kaur serving as vice-captain.

Also, the standby list comprises goalkeeper Banwari Solanki, defenders Akshata Abaso Dhekale, and Jyoti Singh, along with forwards Sakshi



Rana, Annu, and Sonam.

Notably, as per the FIH regulations, if a team has more than 4 matches scheduled to play during a FIH Pro League stage, they can revise their 24-member squad after the first 4 matches. However, any changes must be made using players from their pre-approved substitution list.

Sonam, in particular, stands a chance to make her senior international debut after an impressive performance in the recently concluded Women's Hero Hockey India League, where she was the second-highest scorer.

Speaking on the squad selection, Indian Women's Hockey Team chief coach Harendra Singh said, "We are pleased with

the squad we have selected for the Bhubaneswar leg of the FIH Pro League 2024-25. This team brings a good blend of experienced players and exciting young talent, which will be crucial as we face top-level competition in the tournament. Our focus has been on building a balanced squad, with strong options in every position."

"I am particularly excited to see how some of the younger players perform, especially those who have shown great promise in the Women's Hockey India League. We are confident in the team's preparation, and I believe we have the potential to deliver strong performances against some of the best teams in the world," he added.

### Anna Kournikova in wheelchair: Enrique Iglesias's partner photographed in Miami injured

Anna Kournikova, a two-time Grand Slam champion, used to make headlines not just for her mighty backhands but for her unparalleled charisma on and off the court. The iconic 43-year-old Russian, who ventured into pop culture alongside her partner Enrique Iglesias, remains the dream girl for many sports enthusiasts who followed tennis in the last decade of the 20th century and the first of the 21st.

Anna Kournikova was spotted in public this past week after a two-year hiatus from public attention. However, the Russian who lifted the Women's Australian Open Doubles trophy twice alongside Martina Hingis was not in the best shape when photographed in Florida.

According to reports, the former world number eight (top-ranked in doubles rankings) was seen moving around in a wheelchair donning an orthopaedic boot at the Bal Harbour shopping centre in Miami, Florida, with her two daughters and friends. She was reportedly photographed sporting a black hoodie and tracksuit bottoms with her mobile phone in one hand.

The details of the incident that led to Kournikova's injuries largely remain



unknown. It was her daughters Lucy, seven, and Mary, four, who were seen in her company along with a bunch of friends. Kournikova and Enrique Iglesias are not legally married to date but are parents to three kids -- Nicholas, Lucy and Mary. Kournikova is said to have sacrificed her scintillating public life to concentrate on motherhood.

### England's veteran spinner Adil Rashid climbs to top of ICC men's T20I bowling rankings

DUBAI [UAE] : England's veteran spinner Adil Rashid has reclaimed the top spot in the ICC men's T20I bowling rankings after his sensational performances in the three T20Is against India.

The 36-year-old leg-break spinner first moved to the summit in the T20I bowling rankings at the end of 2023. He remained at the top spot before being dethroned by the West Indies ball twirler Akeal Hosein before Christmas.

His impressive showings in the three T20Is against India in the sub-continent allowed him to reclaim the top spot. Rashid delivered a clinical spell with the ball to turn the tides in England's favour.

With his match figures of 1/15, Rashid played a crucial role in England's 26-run victory in the third match in Rajkot on Tuesday. Rashid has three scalps to his name in the same number of matches.

After the conclusion of the three T20Is, England are trailing in the series with a 2-1 deficit. On the other hand, India's mystery spinner Varun Chakravarty climbed 25 places to fifth following his five-wicket haul in Rajkot.

India vice-captain Axar Patel stands



on the cusp of earning a place in the top 10. He moved five places up to 11th in the same rankings.

Australia's Travis Head has found a new challenger for his top spot in the T20I batting rankings. India's young southpaw Tilak Varma, on the back of his rollicking performances, jumped to the

second spot.

Head holds a 23-point lead at the top of the T20I batting rankings. But Tilak remains hot on heels with his scores of 19\*, 72\* and 18 against England.

If Tilak goes on to continue with his swashbuckling performances, he could topple Head from the top. If he can do so, Tilak will become the youngest player to become the top T20I batter.

Tilak's compatriot Abhishek Sharma moved 59 places to 40th. England's Liam Livingstone jumped five places to equal 32nd, and Ben Duckett moved 28 rungs to equal 68th in the T20I batting rankings.

In the ICC Test bowling rankings, Pakistan's veteran spinner Noman Ali moved to the fifth spot following his 10-wicket match haul in the second Test against the West Indies.

Noman's counterpart, Jomel Warrican, rose to the 24th spot in the ICC Test all-rounder rankings. Pakistan wicketkeeper batter Mohammad Rizwan was the biggest mover in the Test batting rankings. He moved two spots up to 15th after ending the series as the leading run-scorer with 147 runs.

## HARBHAJAN SINGH, SHIKHAR DHAWAN, SURESH RAINA HEADLINE LINE-UPS OF LEGEND 90 LEAGUE TOURNAMENT

RAIPUR (CHHATTISGARH) : Legend 90 League which will be played from February 6 to 18 in Raipur, on Tuesday announced full squads of the franchises ahead of the start of the tournament. The Legend 90 League will feature cricket stalwarts such as former Indian cricketers Harbhajan Singh, Shikhar Dhawan, Suresh Raina, former New Zealand batter Ross Taylor, former Australian skipper Aaron Finch etc.

With dynamic franchises like Chhattisgarh Warriors, Haryana Gladiators, Dubai Giants, Gujarat Samp Army, Delhi Royals, Big Boys, and Rajasthan Kings, the stage is perfectly set for an unforgettable celebration of cricket.

The Chhattisgarh Warriors boast marquee players like Martin Gupthill, Suresh Raina, and Ambati Rayudu, while Delhi Royals have Shikhar Dhawan alongside Ross Taylor. Haryana Gladiators will have Harbhajan

Singh at the helm, and former West Indies all-rounder Dwayne Bravo will represent Rajasthan Kings. Also, former Bangladesh captain Shakib Al Hasan will play for Dubai Giants.

Speaking on the legendary players gracing the League, Shivain Sharma, Director of the Legend 90 League, said as quoted by the Legends 90 League press release, "We are thrilled to host such a unique and dynamic format with some of the biggest legends in cricket gracing the field once again. Fans can expect a thrilling display of skill, camaraderie, and entertainment."

Full squads:  
 Dubai Giants: Shakib Al Hasan, Thisara Perera, Kennar Lewis, Kevin O'Brien, Brendan Taylor, Liam Plunkett, Dwayne Smith, H. Masakadza, Richard Levi, Luke Fletcher, Rahul Yadav, Christopher M, Sid Trivedi, S. Prasanna.



Chhattisgarh Warriors: Siddarth Kaul, Sheldon Jackson, Pawan Negi, Kevon Cooper, Suresh Raina, Vishal Kushwaha, Martin Gupthill, Abhishek Sakuja, Ambati Rayudu, Amit Verma, Gurkeerat Singh Mann, Amit Mishra, Rishi Dhawan, Kalim Khan, Unmukt Chand, Manoj Singh, Abhimanyu Mithun, Colin de Grandhomme.

Haryana Gladiators: Pawan Suyal, Praveen Gupta, Abu Nechim, Anureet Negi, Imran Khan, Asela Gunaratne, Ishank Jaggi, Harbhajan Singh, Nagendra Chaudhary, Rikki Clarke, Peter Trego, Chadwick Walton, Manan Sharma.

Gujarat Samp Army: Yusuf Pathan, Moeen Ali, Obus Pienaar, Saurabh Tiwary, Kesrick Williams, Jaisal Karia, Miguel Cummins, Chandrapaul Hemraj, Shapoor Zadrán, Mohammad Ashraf, William Perkins, Navin Stewart, Abhishek, Chaturanga De Silva, Mausif Khan.

Big Boys: Matt Prior, Ishan Malhotra, Monu Kumar, Chirag Gandhi, Tamim Iqbal, Tillakaratne Dilshan, Herschelle Gibbs, Upul Tharanga, Abdur Razzak, Shannon Gabriel, Varun Aaron, Niel Broom, Karamveer Singh, Robin Bist, Naman Sharma, Kapil Rana, Vinod Chanwariya.

Delhi Royals: Shikhar Dhawan, Lendl Simmons, Danushka Gunathilaka, Angelo Perera, Sahard Lumba, Bipul Sharma, Lakhwinder Singh, Rajwinder Singh, Rayad Emrit, Ross Taylor, Jerome Taylor, Sumit Narwal, Parvinder Awana.

Rajasthan Kings: Dwayne Bravo, Anki Rajpoot, Phil Mustard, Shahab Nadeem, Faiz Fazal, Shadab Jakati, Jaskaran Malhotra, Imran Tahir, Jaykishan Kolsavala, Rajesh Bishnoi, Corey Anderson, Pankaj Rao, Samiullah Shinwari, Rajat Singh, Ashley Nurse, Dawlat Zadrán, Manpreet Gony.