

Kunal Ghosh slams BJP's "lone" Nabanna protest by Shuvendu

The recent Nabanna campaign has sparked a fresh round of political debate, with senior leader Kunal Ghosh raising questions about the apparent absence of key opposition figures during the programme. Speaking to the media, Ghosh remarked on the lack of visible participation from several prominent leaders, including Shamik Bhattacharya, Sukanta Majumdar, and Dilip Ghosh, during the protest led by Leader of the Opposition Shuvendu Adhikari. PG 3



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Morning India

INDIA SHOT DOWN 6 PAKISTAN JETS DURING OPERATION SINDOOR: IAF CHIEF

MI News Service, New Delhi: Indian Air Force chief Amar Preet Singh said India had shot down at least five Pakistani fighter jets and one large military aircraft during Operation Sindoor, using the Russian-made S-400 anti-aircraft missile. He did not mention any losses suffered by India but said the key reason behind the success of the May 7-10 military operation was the “presence of political will”.

Indian defence officials had earlier acknowledged that India had lost aircraft but not revealed how many. Air Chief Marshal Singh's comments marked the first official disclosure of the number of Pakistani jets India had shot down during Sindoor. His remarks came days after Rahul Gandhi alleged in Parliament that India had lost aircraft during the conflict because of the Narendra Modi government's failure to show “political will”. “We have at least five fighters confirmed kills and one large aircraft, which could be either an ELINT aircraft or an AEW&C aircraft, which was taken on at a distance of about 300 kilometres,” Singh said delivering the Air Chief Marshal L.M. Katre lecture in Bengaluru. “This is actually the largest ever recorded surface-to-air kill that we can talk about,” he added. “A key reason for (the) success was the presence of clear political will. There were very clear directions given to us. No restrictions were put on us.... If there were any constraints, they were self-made.... We decided how much to escalate and we had full freedom to plan and execute.”



Captain Shiv Kumar, the defence attaché in Indonesia, had earlier said India had lost “some” combat jets on May 7 because of the “constraint given by the political leadership” against striking Pakistani military establishments and air defences. In Parliament, Rahul had cited Shiv Kumar to allege that the government had compelled the forces to conduct Operation Sindoor with their “hands tied behind their backs” to protect Modi's image. Before Shiv Kumar, Chief of Defence Staff Anil Chauhan had acknowledged that India had lost fighter jets on Sindoor's opening day before rectifying its tactical mistakes and launching attacks that “hit deep inside Pakistan” on subsequent days. Listing the other damages on Pakistan's defence capabilities, the air chief on Saturday said: “Shahbaz Jacobabad airfield, one of the major airfields that was attacked. Here there's an F-16 hangar. One half of

the hangar is gone and some aircraft inside might have been damaged. “And I'm sure there were some aircraft inside which got damaged there. We were able to get at least two command and control centres, like Murid and Chaklala. At least six radars, some of them big, some of them small....” ‘Ghost’ of Balakot The air chief said India had fought “a high-tech war”, laying to rest the “ghost” of the Balakot air strike launched on Pakistan in 2019 in retaliation for the Pulwama terror attack. The air chief expressed disappointment at those who had questioned the success of the Balakot air strikes. “...In Balakot, we couldnot get anything from inside, and it became a big issuetrying to tell our own people, unfortunately, as to whatwe have been able to achieve,” he said. “We had intelligence of what had gone on inside, had a human kind of intelligence where we had a very clear picture of the inside in terms of there had been huge damage.” He added: “There have been so many terrorists who have been neutralised, but we could not convince our own people that, ‘Look, we have achieved that’. So I am very happy that this time we were able to take care of that ghost of Balakot that we were able to tell the world what we have achieved.”

Singh showed photos, videos and satellite imagery relating to Operation Sindoor. ‘Good decision’ Air Chief Marshal Singh defended the government's move to pause Operation Sindoor, saying the decision reflected wisdom after achieving key military objectives.

US President Donald Trump has repeatedly claimed to have brokered a “ceasefire” between India and Pakistan. But the Modi governmentsays the decision to stop the operation was its own and that a heavily battered Pakistan had requested the halt —claims that Singh appeared to endorse.

“People got down to their egos in the war. Our objective was very clear — to teach terrorists a lesson so they think twice before doing anything,” the air chief said. “Once we achieved that, we should have looked for all windows of opportunity to stop. Some people very closeto me said, ‘Aur maarna tha’,” he added.

“Can we continue to be at war? Why should we remain at war when we can stop it? That's my way of looking at things, but I think the nation has taken a very, very good decision. The decision was taken at a much higher level. “In 80 to 90 hours of war, we were able to achieve so much damage that it was clear to them (Pakistan) that if they continue, they are going to pay for it more and more. “So they came forwardand sent a message to our DGM0 that they wanted to talk. This was accepted onour side.”

However, the Opposition believes that Trump's remarks raise questions that the Modi government needs to answer. Several Opposition leaders, including Rahul Gandhi and Mallikarjun Kharge—the leaders of the Opposition in the two Houses — have questioned the timing and the logic behind the halt to Operation Sindoor.

200 still missing as Dharali rescue called off

MI News Service, Uttarakashi: The rescue operation in flash flood-hit Dharali village of Uttarkashi district was officially concluded on Saturday, with at least 200 villagers and tourists still missing. The Uttarakhand government has stopped short of saying that the missing are presumed dead, and its official death toll remains six, on the basis of bodies recovered.

A committee has been formed to prepare a rehabilitation plan for the survivors at Dharali, which saw houses, hotels, homestays, shops and offices in its lower reaches swept away by a torrent of mud, water and rocks on Tuesday afternoon. “A large number of roads in the neighbourhood of the devastated village were damaged because of flash floods or landslides. It was very difficult to conduct the

Arya was quoted as saying: “The rescue operation was over after about 400 people, who were stranded in the (upper reaches of the) village and adjoining areas, were taken to safe places.”

But, he said, the search for those missing is continuing. “Rescue teams, including those from the army, are using ground-penetrating radar to look for people who might be buried (under the debris),” he said. The deluge has left nothing standing in the Dharali market. “Hundreds might be buried a few feet below where I'm standing,” Mahesh Kumar, who used to work at a homestay at Dharali market, told reporters on Saturday afternoon. He described how he had survived.

“Here, people alert each other by whistling (a signal) if they sense any danger. Some tourists were having



Security personnel assist a woman as people stranded in the Dharali area were brought back during a search and rescue operation in the aftermath of the recent flash floods, in Uttarakashi.

rescue operation but we did it somehow and reached the people with everything they needed,” chief minister Pushkar Singh Dhami said. “We have completed the operation. Now I have set up a three-member committee that will submit a rehabilitation plan within a week.” Dhami added: “Houses were destroyed also in two villages of Pauri Garhwal district the day after the Dharali deluge. We shall rehabilitate those villages too. We will pay a compensation of ₹5 lakh to those who have lost their houses and to the families of those who died.” District magistrate Prashant

their lunch at the restaurant attached to the homestay. I heard people in Mukhba (a nearby village that overlooks Dharali), whistling and then turned to look at the Kheer Ganga,” he said. “The nullah looked like a monster. I saw people running for the hills. I asked the tourists to leave their food and run with me. Unfortunately, they didn't understand what I was saying.” He added: “After climbing the hill, I looked back and saw that everything had been flattened at Dharali market. The tourists must be buried under the

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Indian Navy's advanced frontline frigate Himgiri (F34) ahead of its commissioning in Visakhapatnam.

'Not bound by rules' to disclose voters excluded from draft roll: EC

MI News Service, New Delhi: The Election Commission (EC) has told the Supreme Court that there would be no deletion of any voter's name from the draft electoral roll in Bihar without issuance of prior notice, affording opportunity of being heard and a reasoned order. The poll panel also said that statutory framework does not require it to prepare or share any separate list of names of people not included in the draft electoral rolls, or publish the reasons for non-inclusion of anyone in the draft rolls for any reason. The EC filed an additional affidavit in the apex court on Saturday, days after it came out with the much-anticipated draft electoral rolls in Bihar, enlisting 7.24 crore voters but knocking off more than 65 lakh names, claiming that most of the persons concerned had died or migrated. Separately, the EC also filed its reply to an application filed by the petitioner seeking direction to the poll panel to publish a full and final assembly constituency and part/booth wise list of names and details of approximately 65

lakh electors whose enumeration forms were not submitted along with reasons for non-submission. A bench headed by Justice Surya Kant is hearing the pleas against the EC's Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Bihar. In its additional affidavit, the poll panel said the first stage of SIR was completed and draft electoral roll was duly published on August 1. “It is further submitted that, as a matter of policy and in strict adherence to the principles of natural justice, no deletion of any elector's name from the draft electoral roll, published on August 1, 2025, shall be undertaken without: (i) issuance of a prior notice to the concerned elector indicating the proposed deletion and the grounds thereof, (ii) affording a reasonable opportunity of being heard and furnishing relevant documents, and (iii) passing of a reasoned and speaking order by the competent authority,” it said.

It said these safeguards are further reinforced by a robust two-tier appeal mechanism prescribed under the relevant rules,

thereby ensuring that every elector has adequate recourse against any adverse action. The EC said to ensure that no wrongful deletion from the draft rolls was carried out, strict directions were issued to prevent deletion without notice and a speaking order by the competent authority, with provision for appeals under section 24 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950. The poll panel said it is taking every possible step to ensure that no eligible elector is excluded from the electoral roll. In its separate reply, the poll panel said, “It is submitted that the statutory framework does not require the respondent (EC) to prepare or share any separate list of names of people not included in the draft electoral rolls, or publish the reasons for non-inclusion of anyone in the draft electoral rolls for any reason.” As neither the law nor guidelines provide for preparation or sharing of any such list of previous electors whose enumeration form is not received for any reason during the enumeration

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Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the inauguration of the Yellow Line and the foundation stone laying of the Metro Phase-3 project, in Bengaluru. Karnataka Governor Thawar Chand Gehlot, state Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and state Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar also seen at the auspicious occasion.

'Make in India' instrumental for Operation Sindoor's success: MODI

MI News Service, New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said Indian technology and the Make in India initiative were behind the success of Operation Sindoor which brought Pakistan to its knees in a few hours. The world for the first time saw the new face of India during Operation Sindoor when it demonstrated its ability in destroying the terror hubs deep inside Pakistan, he said. “The world has seen for the first time India's new face during Operation Sindoor where the Indian military demonstrated the ability to destroy the terror hubs by targeting them deep inside Pakistan and bringing Pakistan to its knees within a few hours,” Modi said here at the foundation laying ceremony of Metro Phase-3 project. “Our technology and the strength of Make In India is behind the success of Operation Sindoor,” the Prime Minister said.

He added that there was a major role of Bengaluru and its youth in Operation Sindoor. The Prime Minister underlined that Bengaluru is identified with big cities of the world. Noting that India has to not only compete globally, but also has to lead, he said, “We will progress only when our cities are smart, fast and efficient.” In this context, he said his government's emphasis has been on completing modern infrastructure. “Urban planning and urban infrastructure are much needed in the 21st century and we have to make cities like Bengaluru future ready,” the PM said. Bengaluru always ived and retained the legacy of the founder of the city Kempe Gowda, and it is making his dream into reality. “We are seeing Bengaluru as a symbol of the rise of New India.

Centre's 'Free Hand' key to Operation Sindoor's success: Army Chief

MI News Service, Chennai: Army Chief Gen Upendra Dvivedi asserted that Operation Sindoor was unlike any conventional mission and that it was akin to playing a game of chess as “we did not know” what would be the enemy's next move. In his address at a function at IIT-Madras, he recalled the intricacies of India's decisive military action in May on terror infrastructure in retaliation for the April 22 Pahalgam attack. Dvivedi claimed that the Centre gave a “free hand” to the armed forces to execute Operation Sindoor.

Dvivedi has mocked Pakistan's victory claim against India during the recent conflict, underlining the importance of the narrative management system. “Narrative management system is something which we realise in a big way because victory is in mind. It's always in the mind. If you ask a Pakistani whether you lost or won, he'd say, my chief has become field marshal, we must have won only, that's why he has become field marshal,” said the Chief of Army Staff, taking a subtle jibe at Pakistan Army chief Asim Munir's promotion to Field Marshal.

Using the metaphor of the chess game, Gen Dvivedi said, “In Operation Sindoor what we did, we played chess. So, what does it mean? It means, we did not know what is the next move, the enemy is going to take, and what we are going to do. This is something, we call.. the grey zone. Grey zone is that we are not going for the conventional operations. But, we are doing something, just short of a conventional operation.” “Conventional operation means, go with



Gen Upendra Dvivedi

everything, take everything you have. And, if you are able to come back, otherwise, stay there. That is called the conventional approach. Here, the grey zone means any activity that is taking place in all domains, that is something we are talking about and Operation Sindoor taught us that this is the grey zone,” he said. “So, we were making the chess moves, and he (enemy) was also making the chess moves. Somewhere we were giving him the checkmate and somewhere we were going in for the kill at the risk of losing our own, but that's the way, life is all about,” the Army chief said. Earlier, Air Chief Marshal Amar Preet Singh said that India downed five Pakistani fighter jets, and one large Airborne Early Warning and Control (AEW&C) or early warning aircraft, during Operation Sindoor. Under Operation Sindoor in May, the IAF carried out precision strikes on multiple targets in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir linked to terror groups. The operation was aimed at destroying terror infrastructure and neutralising key operatives in wake of the Pahalgam attack.

2 soldiers killed in 'longest' Valley gunfight



Security forces patrol the area as 'Operation Akhal' continues for the 10th day, in Kulgam, Jammu and Kashmir.

MI News Service, Kulgam: Two soldiers were killed and two injured in the ongoing Kulgam anti-militancy operation on Saturday, deepening concerns for the forces as the gunfight has stretched past 200 hours and has left 10 soldiers wounded so far.

The operation in Kulgam has already emerged as the longest gunfight between militants and security forces this year in Kashmir. The operation is again laying bare the limits of advanced technology, including drones and helicopters, against militants

adept in jungle warfare. Army's Srinagar-based 15 Corps said they lost two soldiers in the gunfight, the official admission of the casualties of forces in the operation. “Chinar Corps honours the supreme sacrifice of the bravehearts, 1/Nk (Lance Naik) Pritpal Singh and SEP Harminder Singh, in line of duty for the nation. Their courage and dedication will forever inspire us. The Indian Army expresses deepest condolences and stands in solidarity with the bereaved families. Operation continues,” the army said in a social media post. Both the slain soldiers are from Punjab. Chief minister Omar Abdullah joined the wreath-laying ceremony for them in Srinagar on Saturday and paid tribute “to the brave

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Police organization expresses strong anger against opposition leader

Nurul Islam Khan

On Saturday, the current opposition leader, who has the status of a cabinet minister, made insulting and ugly comments targeting the Honorable Mayor of Kolkata Police or the police, focusing on a special campaign in Nabanna, which has crossed all limits of decency, which is very dangerous for a tasteful and polite society. He is corrupting the society by using legal protection as a tool. As the head of our police family, we strongly protest against his disrespectful remarks directed at the Honorable Mayor and the Chairman of the Kolkata Police Development, Welfare and Grievance Redressal Committee. He has been continuously insulting the police, who are always committed to providing protection to people of all classes of society. Ruhul Amin Ali Shah, Convener of the Central Committee, Kolkata Police Development, Welfare and Grievance Redressal Committee, has announced plans to take the path of a larger movement in the future. Bijitash Raut, Convener of the West Bengal Police Welfare Committee, has also expressed strong anger over this.

Divine Solitaires brings back 'The Solitaire Festival of India'

MI News Service, Kolkata: Divine Solitaires is re-launching its flagship celebration, The Solitaire Festival of India (TSFI), in its fourth national edition from August 1 to 31, 2025. The event promises an enhanced diamond shopping experience with assured gifts, weekly mega draws, and a bumper finale. The theme is "Sparkle Se Surprise Tak", offering unique rewards and high-value gifts.

Bengal migrant jailed in Maharashtra for months after failing to speak Hindi clearly

MI News Service, Kolkata: A migrant worker from Patiram in South Dinajpur district has purportedly been languishing in a jail in Maharashtra's Thane district for nearly three months after being branded as a Bangladeshi and allegedly because he could not properly explain his address in Hindi. Asit Sarkar, 54, had travelled to Maharashtra in January this year with his two sons in search of work. The trio found jobs in a unit which manufactures gold-plated necklaces in Bhiwandi's Sonali area. But in late February, Narpoli police raided the locality and picked up seven migrant workers, including Asit, on suspicion of being Bangladeshi nationals, said sources.

The police reportedly asked the workers to produce documents to prove their Indian citizenship. "All of them did. Six were released. But my husband was singled out and arrested. His crime was that he could not pronounce his home address properly in Hindi. When asked where he was from, he reportedly replied in Bengali, which made the police interpret that he was a Bangladeshi," Asit's wife Lipi said, sitting at her home in Patiram. While Asit was remanded in judicial custody, his sons managed to evade arrest. One of them, Akash, who is 22, has returned home and has been running from pillar to post, seeking help for his father's release. He said that the Maharashtra police had come looking for him, too, in Thane. "I barely managed to flee. Since then, no one has allowed us to meet my father in jail," he said. Lipi said: "My husband does not know Hindi well. That does not make him a foreigner."



Actor Abir chattopadhyay and former Indian cricketer Sourav Ganguly during a promotional event in Kolkata on Sunday

Bengal Governor says Swasthya Bhawan to look into alleged allegations against the Yoga Council

Dipankar Edbar, Kalyani (Nadia) : The Governor of West Bengal has stated the Health and Family Welfare Department, of Government of West Bengal through a letter on July 28, 2025, to initiate step against all individuals of West Bengal Yoga and Naturopathy Council, involved in fraudulent activity. Allegedly there are huge corruption like as the examiner and examinee being the same person, gap at serial of 173 students in the Registration records, nepotism in case of examinees of institutes of board members of the said council including the President of the council Tushar Kanti Shil and so on. A petition was sent to the office of West Bengal Governor by one Arun Kumar Das of Kathalbaria Nabadiganta welfare society, Bethuadahari, Naka-shipara in Nadia alleging huge misdeeds and corruptions in the West Bengal Council of Young and Naturopathy. Simultaneously, the Governor has requested the Deputy Secretary of Health and Family Welfare Department, Swasthya Bhawan on July 28, 2025, to initiate step against all individuals, involved in this fraudulent activities on urgent basis. One of the Governing body members of the said council has recently submitted his resignation to the Director General of AYUSH. His resignation letter dated July 19 this year has also hinted that there was many malpractices in result of students from various institutions. It led to fail of huge students of a few particular institutions of Yoga and Naturopathy registered under the council. While the Council President and a few Governing Body members have their personal institutions, the students of their institutions have passed well from the council and allegedly nepotism was active there. But many other students from other institutions have been found unbelievably fail. The allegation of involvement of



President Tushar Shil is also there. Dr. Rashbehari Sarkar, one of the Governing body members said in his resignation letter, "....over the past several months, I have become increasingly disturbed by the growing number of corruption allegations and legal cases involving the Council. Administrative lapses, irregularities, biased decisions, and a tendency to suppress information have significantly damaged the reputation of the Council and eroded public trust. I have raised these issues internally on several occasions. Unfortunately, the Council has taken no effective measures to address them. On the contrary, attempts to establish accountability and transparency have been met with resistance and obstruction. I must also highlight a serious concern regarding the recently conducted RYT examination, where an unusually high number of candidates were declared failed. As a member of the Governing Body, I find such irrational and disproportionate results unacceptable. When all candidates from a particular institute were declared pass, candidates from most other institutes overwhelmingly got failed."



Jhulan Utsav at a house in Chalta Bagan on Vivekananda Road, featuring decorative models depicting various pastimes of Radha and Krishna on Sunday in Kolkata...

Murshidabad District Conference of Save the Constitution Manch

Nurul Islam Khan

On Saturday, the district conference of Save the Constitution Gana Manch was held at Subhash Chandra Bose Centenary College in Lalbagh, Murshidabad. Haji Shamsul Haque presided over the conference, while student leader Sajidur Rahman conducted the conference. The speakers recalled the sacrifice of Sirajuddaula, the history of the freedom struggle, and the secular and socialist core ideas of the Indian Constitution. They called for unity



against divisive forces and highlighted the need for a movement to protect the rights of the people. The speakers included Firoz Ahmed Mollah, Srimanta Roy, Debarun Roy, Partha Pal,

Anisur Rahman, Sulaiman Sheikh, Abul Kalam, and others. The district committee was formed with Sajidur Rahman as the district coordinator and Sheikh Helaluddin as the district president.

State Forest Department to Conduct Study on endangered Gangetic dolphins

MI News Service, Kolkata: A group of fishermen set out to catch hilsa during the peak monsoon season in the Bhagirathi River at Shadipur in Jamalpur, East Burdwan district, but instead found a Ganges river dolphin caught in their net. The Ganges river dolphin is recognised by the central government as India's national aquatic animal. Prashanta Pakar, a professional fisherman from Jamalpur, who caught the 50-55 kg Gangetic dolphin, said they released it back into the middle of the river after it became entangled in their fishing net. In 2024, after a gap of about two decades, hilsa weighing around one kilogram had been caught here, giving the fishermen hope that they would again land the prized "silver crop" this year. Instead, they found themselves with an endangered Gangetic dolphin in their net. Ganesh Choudhury, a Gangetic dolphin expert from the Katwa area, said that fish form the main diet of these dolphins and, due to a shortage of fish in the Ganga, they are entering other rivers and lakes.

"In the Ajay and Bhagirathi rivers of Katwa, there are around 45-48 Gangetic dolphins, and they are regularly caught in fishermen's nets. While some are released alive, a few die after being trapped," he added.

Internationally acclaimed swimmer and national award-winner Sayani Das of Kalna had earlier posted a picture of herself swimming in the Ganga alongside a dolphin. On World Wildlife Day this year, the Union minister of environment, forest and climate change released India's first-ever census figures for the Gangetic dolphin population. The survey recorded 6,327 dolphins in the Ganga and its tributaries. Of these, three were identified as Indus river dolphins and 6,224 as Gangetic river dolphins. The count showed 3,275 in the main Ganga and 2,414 in its tributaries. The census began in 2021, covering about 8,507 km of waterways. The highest numbers were recorded in Uttar Pradesh, followed by Bihar, West Bengal, and Assam. Prime Minister Narendra Modi personally released the Indian Gangetic Dolphin Census Report 2025 during a meeting of the National Board for Wildlife in Gujarat. "In 2004, West Bengal alone had about 4,000 Gangetic dolphins, but over the decades, due to food scarcity, pollution, and fishing activities, the number has dropped below one thousand," said Ganesh Choudhury. The Ganges river dolphin has been listed as an endangered species on the IUCN Red List since 1996. A long stretch of the Ganges between Sultanganj and Kahalgaon in Bihar has been declared the Vikramshila Gangetic Dolphin Sanctuary – the country's first protected area for the species. About a month ago, the Inland Waterways Authority of India and the Union MoEFCC jointly took steps to install sensors in cruise ships and other passenger and cargo vessels to protect Gangetic dolphins from propeller strikes.

Darjeeling tea planters propose attendance-linked bonus, unions reject tiered structure

MI News Service, Darjeeling: The Darjeeling Tea Association (DTA) has, for the first time in the industry's history, proposed an attendance-linked bonus system for garden workers this year.

The lowest bonus rate is 8.33 per cent while the highest is 20 per cent of the workers' annual earnings. The final rate has to be negotiated between planters and workers' unions. On Friday evening, the Darjeeling Tea Association convened the bonus meeting for the Darjeeling tea industry in Darjeeling. Sources said that planters proposed a tiered bonus structure based on the number of days work put in by a worker in the year, which was rejected by the unions. Saman Pathak, CITU leader, who was present in the meeting said: "The plan suggested 16 per cent for workers with attendance of 240 or more working days in a year, 14 per cent for those with 191-239 days, 12 per cent for 151-190 days, and 8.33 per cent for 30-150 days." The planters clarified to that the percentage mentioned was just an example and that they have not come up with any final percentage. They, however, confirmed that they proposed a tiered bonus structure. "Absenteeism is a major bane of the industry and this is why we propose a tiered structure," said Sandeep Mukherjee, the principal adviser of the Darjeeling Tea Association. "If bonus rate is agreed as per attendance there would be no need for central level negotiations every year. The attendance is kept at the garden level and every worker would be aware of the bonus they would be entitled to," said Mukherjee. Pathak, however, said that the proposal was rejected by the nine unions attending the meeting.

IISER students seek probe against anti-ragging committee members over scholar's death

MI News Service, Kolkata: Students of IISER Kolkata on Saturday demanded a probe against members of the institute's anti-ragging committee, alleging that they failed to respond to the complaint research scholar Anamitra Roy had lodged in April before deciding to end his life on Thursday night. The IISER students have called for the immediate dissolution of the anti-ragging committee and an apology from its members for what they described as negligence leading to Roy's death.

They also demanded the formation of a special investigation team comprising external members and a student representative to investigate the death of the third-year PhD scholar who, they alleged, was subjected to repeated bullying and abuse by senior research scholar Sourabh Biswas, who enjoyed the protection of his supervisor, Anindita Bhadra. The institute has now constituted a fact-finding committee with both external and internal members, including a representative from AIIMS Kalyani, and asked it to submit its report within seven days, sources said. An IISER spokesperson refused to share details about the probe team. Sources indicated that the Union human resource development ministry was also likely to send a fact-finding team. On Saturday, students submitted a 16-point charter of demands, which included the creation of a disciplinary action committee for professors and staff members, an external panel to investigate alleged scientific misconduct in Biswas's PhD thesis.

Bengal

Diamond Abhishek Harbours Glory for Bengal



Siddharth Albert Majumder

There is a popular saying, 'where there is a will, there is a way.' TMC national Vice President and second –in-command to Mamata Banerjee, Abhishek Banerjee has once again proved the saying right to harvest a success story which otherwise was meant to be another 'Mission Impossible'. Banerjee dreamt, prepared and nurtured his very own 'brain child' Diamond Harbour Football Club which is now popularly known as Diamond Harbour FC (DHFC). Barely three years into its existence, Diamond Harbour FC seems to have achieved a lot. In a city that is generally preoccupied with the legacy of its big three clubs – Mohun Bagan, East Bengal and Mohammedan Sporting – Diamond Harbour FC has fast emerged as the fourth alternative in Kolkata's rich football heritage. It was April 15, 2022, Bengali New Year – when a modest football club was born on the grounds of Bata Stadium in Mahesh-tala. Few could have imagined that this fledgling outfit would scale the heights of Indian football with such breathtaking speed, becoming the newest sensation in the nation's football landscape. Diamond Harbour FC's journey reads like a modern-day sporting fairy tale. In just three years, the club has achieved what many consider impossible – rising from the Calcutta Football League First Division to winning the I-League 2 and getting into the prestigious I-League, capturing hearts and headlines along the way.

A DIAMOND THAT HARBOURED CHAMPION

Under Spanish tactician Kibu Vicuna's astute guidance, Diamond Harbour FC achieved the unprecedented feat of

winning the I-League 2 title while remaining unbeaten across 15 matches – 11 wins and 4 draws.

The former Mohun Bagan coach, who previously delivered an I-League title to the Green and Maroon brigade, has instilled a winning mentality within the squad. Abhishek Banerjee stood by the team in its hardest time providing all possible help to the club and eventually engineered the Diamond Harbour to win the I-League 2 and getting promoted to I-League. Abhishek proudly says, "When I first conceived the idea it was actually a case of 'mission impossible'. There was a mental taboo that beyond East Bengal, Mohun Bagan and Mohammedan Sporting no fourth club can excel in Bengal. That was the real challenge. But 'challenge' is ingrained in my blood and hence I took it. Rest is history." "Our diamonds of Diamond Harbour FC have harboured glory for Bengal. Bengal's pride, Bengal's pride has been my top most priorities and it will continue to be so." Added Abhishek.

DIAMOND'S DURAND CUP DEBUT

Diamond always glitters. In Durand Cup it continues to glitter. In its first appearance in Durand Cup 2025 DHFC has scripted success stories. After defeating Mohamedan Sporting 2 – 1, the Diamonds humiliated BSF 8 – 1 in its second match.

With their blend of tactical acumen, unwavering determination, and growing fanbase, Diamond Harbour FC has emerged as a formidable force that no opponent can afford to underestimate in the 134th edition of Asia's oldest football tournament. Some of the exciting players to watch out for in their squad include the likes of Jobby Justin and Girik Khosla among others.

Hemophilia Society-Durgapur celebrated Rakhi festival



MI News Service, Durgapur: Hemophilia Society-Durgapur Chapter celebrated Rakhi festival on 10.08.2025 at their premises. Shri Anup Kumar Agarwal, Char Accountant, Durgapur Dr. Ipsita Nag, Medical Officer, HTC, HSDC were present on the occasion. Around 195 hemophilia patients and their family members attended the event. Mothers and sisters with hemophilia tie Rakhi on the wrists of brothers, expressing love and prayers for the well-being of their brothers. Shri Anup Kumar Agarwal greeted all hemophilia patients and their mothers and paid tribute to hemophilia mothers. Wishing you all a Rakhi Bandhan filled with love, warmth and cherished traditions. Free anti hemophilia factor, The only costly medicine was distributed to all the hemophiliacs at free of cost on this occasion.

IIT-Kharagpur creates dean of students' well-being post after four suspected suicides

MI News Service, Kharagpur: In the wake of suspected suicides of four boarders in hostels since January, IIT-Kharagpur has appointed a dean to solely look after the well-being of students and interact with them intensively to assess their mental health condition. Director Suman Chakraborty told PTI on Saturday that Arun Chakraborty, professor at Centre for Ocean, River, Atmosphere and Land Sciences of the premier institute, was appointed as the dean of students' well-being on August 5 and has taken charge. Arun Chakraborty is actively involved in the induction programme for freshers for the BTech course and is well-versed with their issues, the director added.

Man nabbed in Rs55,000 online loan fraud in Kolkata

MI News Service, Kolkata: Kolkata police have arrested a Shyampukur resident, Abhijit Saha, on allegation of defrauding a Bhavanipur resident by unlawfully obtaining his financial details and taking an online loan of Rs55,000.

According to police sources, the accused met the complaint while returning from Odisha and struck up a conversation. Over several days, he allegedly gained the individual's trust and obtained sensitive account information. Investigation claim the loan without the victim's knowledge. Upon discovering the transaction, the complaint lodged a report with Bhavanipur police station. An suspect's location was traced through an online hotel booking application. Officers allege that the accused used similar methods to accused used people and spent the proceeds on luxury hotel stays. Police are now questioning Saha to determine whether there additional victims or other fraudulent activities linked to him.

Chiranjit urges closure, justice in year-old Tilotama case

MI News Service, Kolkata: Barasat MLA and veteran actor Chiranjit Chakraborty has expressed concern over the lack of closure in the year-old Tilotama case, urging that the investigation be brought to conclusion at the earliest. Speaking to the media on Sunday, he describe August 9 as a "black day" for Bengal and emphasised the need for accountability.

It is not yet clear who was responsible. Those who were taken into custody should have been given adequate security. I am saddened to hear that Tilotama's mother was injured during the Nabanna campaign. It was not appropriate. This issue must be resolved, and the guilty must face justice," said the MLA. He further added, "From what I can see, the investigation still appears incomplete. I hope the authorities concerned take prompt steps so that the culprits are identified and punished. Tilotama's father also reiterated his call for justice, stressing the need for a transparent investigation process. He urged that all concerned agencies work together to ensure that the truth comes out, while expressing faith that proper evidence and judicial processes can bring closure to the case. The incident, which occurred on August 9 last year, continues to evoke strong public sentiments, with many citizens and organisations holding demonstrations to demand justice.

Durga puja returns to EZCC with Khuti Puja after two years

MI News Service, Kolkata: After a two-year pause, Durga Puja celebrations have returned to the Eastern Zonal Cultural Centre (EZCC) in Kolkata, marking a revival of an earlier tradition. On Sunday, the festivities began with the customary Khuti Puja, which signals the formal start of preparations for the upcoming autumn festival. The event was organised by the West Bengal Cultural Forum and saw the participation of several prominent personalities associated with the forum. Organisers and cultural representatives gathered at the venue to perform the rituals, reaffirming their commitment to hosting the festival at this historic location. Durga Puja at the EZCC was first organised in 2020, followed by celebrations in 2021 and 2022.



CP of Kolkata Manoj Kumar Varma visited SSKM Hospital to see police personal who were injured in BJP rally on Sunday

Kunal Ghosh slams BJP's "lone" Nabanna protest by Shuvendu

MI News Service, Kolkata: The recent Nabanna campaign has sparked a fresh round of political debate, with senior leader Kunal Ghosh raising questions about the apparent absence of key opposition figures during the programme. Speaking to the media, Ghosh remarked on the lack of visible participation from several prominent leaders, including Shamik Bhattacharya, Sukanta Majumdar, and Dilip Ghosh, during the protest led by Leader of the Opposition Shuvendu Adhikari.

Kunal Ghosh commented that Suvendu Adhikari appeared to be standing "alone" in the campaign and hinted at possible internal issues within the opposition camp. "If one listens closely, there are many things to be heard from within," he observed. He further alleged that while Adhikari's supporters took part in the campaign, certain actions during the day, particularly by some leaders, undermined the overall programme. In



response, BJP state spokesperson Shamik Bhattacharya defended Suvendu Adhikari's role, describing it as part of his constitutional duty as Leader of the Opposition. Bhattacharya maintained that Adhikari attended the protest to address pub-

lic grievances and dissatisfaction in the state. He also noted that other BJP leaders, MLAs, and workers had extended their support to the campaign. Former BJP state president Dilip Ghosh clarified that he was unable to join the protest due to health concerns but had offered his moral support. The Nabanna campaign has also led to legal repercussions, with seven cases registered in connection with the day's events. Allegations of clashes with the police have been made, and authorities have launched an investigation. Among the incidents under scrutiny is an alleged pushing incident involving Tilotama's mother. Kunal Ghosh claimed that a BJP leader was responsible for the act, a charge that the opposition has not accepted. The political fallout from the Nabanna campaign appears set to continue, with both sides trading accusations while investigations proceed into the incidents reported during the protest.



Trinamool Yuva Congress leaders and activists held a demonstration condemning the attack and harassment faced by Bangla-speaking people in other states, in Kolkata on Sunday

SBSTC bus catches fire near Kolkata airport, passengers escape in panic

MI News Service, Kolkata: The father of Tilotama, the victim in the RG Kar Medical College case, has levelled serious allegations of political bias against a section of the doctors' protest platform that has been demanding justice for the past year. Speaking after a protest march to Nabanna on Saturday, he claimed that despite assurances, several groups did not participate in the event, and some members of the platform appeared to be working in alignment with a particular political ideology.

According to him, the Nabanna campaign had been intended as a non-political demonstration, and invitations were extended to multiple organisations and individuals who had previously supported their cause. While a few senior doctors were present, many others were absent. Expressing disappointment, he said, "We had invited everyone. A few senior doctors came, but it is clear



that some are influenced by a certain political ideology. I had requested them to join the campaign from any platform they preferred, but they did not accept that." The Nabanna march saw significant participation from supporters, with Tilotama's parents leading from the front.

However, the father questioned the absence of several groups who had been active in earlier stages of the movement. He also noted that the response from certain quarters had been lukewarm despite

their repeated outreach. While the main doctors' protest platform did not attend Saturday's march, they had organised a separate night-long sit-in the day before, demanding justice in the case. The event included a torchlight procession from College Square to Shyambazar, and demonstrations also took place in the suburbs. Tilotama's death has triggered continuous protests and demands for action, with her family and supporters vowing to continue their movement until justice is served.

Mid-August low pressure to Drench Bengal again, fisherman alert issued

MI News Service, Kolkata: The Alipore Meteorological Department has issued an alert for West Bengal, warning of a possible fresh spell of heavy rainfall in the middle of August as a low-pressure system is expected to develop over the northwest and west-central Bay of Bengal by Wednesday. This system is likely to impact coastal and inland districts of Bengal and Odisha, prompting the authorities to advise fishermen to avoid venturing into the sea on Tuesday and Wednesday. At present, the monsoon trough remains moderately active, stretching across Delhi and extending east and southeast over Bathinda, Rohtak, Delhi, Bareilly, Lucknow, Patna, Bankura, and Digha, before continuing to the northeast Bay of Bengal. This active trough is supporting intermittent rainfall across several parts of the state. On Sunday, light to moderate showers accompanied by gusty winds of 30 to 40 kmph are expected in various districts of South Bengal. Districts such as West Midnapore, Bankura, Purulia, West Burdwan, Birbhum, Nadia, and Murshidabad are likely to experience rain with thunderstorms. Similar weather conditions are forecast for Monday and Tuesday, but rainfall activity is expected to intensify from Wednesday. The Meteorological Department predicts a high probability of heavy rain in parts of South 24 Parganas, with showers continuing across other South Bengal districts as well. If the low-pressure system becomes well-marked, the weather could worsen further. By Thursday, some areas in West Midnapore and Jhargram districts are likely to witness heavy rainfall. Rainfall activity is expected to gradually subside across South Bengal from Friday.

Fake 'Private Police Station' busted, 6 arrested in major fraud case

MI News Service, Kolkata: Authorities have arrested six individuals, including the main accused, Bibhas Adhikari, for allegedly operating a fraudulent "private police station" under the guise of an international investigation agency. The arrests were made in Noida, Uttar Pradesh, following an extensive probe into the illegal operation, which is suspected of being involved in large-scale financial fraud. Investigators allege that the accused set up a fake investigation office where they produced counterfeit international recognition ID cards. Using this setup, they reportedly registered false cases themselves, then summoned individuals named as accused in these cases and extorted money from them in the name of conducting investigations. A search of the premises revealed a significant quantity of forged identity cards and other incriminating materials. Sources indicate that Bibhas Adhikari was already under scrutiny in connection with an earlier recruitment-related corruption investigation. In April last year, his home, office, and an ashram in Nalhati, Birbhum, were searched by central investigation agencies, resulting in the seizure of numerous documents. The current case, however, points to a separate and broader fraud network, involving impersonation of law enforcement and misuse of fabricated credentials. The accused allegedly also created a website for their so-called international investigation agency, through which they collected "donations" from unsuspecting individuals. Local residents claim that the ashram associated with Bibhas had previously been linked to multiple corruption allegations. Police are now expanding their investigation to identify other potential victims and to determine the full scale of the operation. The discovery of the fake police station has raised concerns about similar fraudulent setups potentially operating elsewhere.

Ballygunge mystery : High Court lawyer falls to death from 4th floor

MI News Service, Kolkata: Kolkata police are investigating the mysterious death of Calcutta High Court lawyer Kaustav Chandra Das, who fell from the fourth-floor window of his Ballygunge residence early Saturday morning. According to police sources, the incident occurred around 4:30 a.m. at a well-known residential complex in the area. Das, who lived with his wife and son, was found lying critically injured on the ground. He was pronounced dead at the scene, and his body has been sent for post-mortem examination to determine the exact cause of death. Investigators are working to establish whether the fall was the result of suicide, an accident, or foul play. This tragedy follows another recent incident in Howrah, where a young boy, Abhaya Porel, died after falling from the window of a multi-storey building in Balitukuri Naskar Para. According to local residents, the child fell while playing near an open window. Doctors declared him dead upon arrival at the hospital. Residents alleged that the building owner had constructed an unauthorized upper-floor structure and rented it out without installing protective grills on the windows, raising safety concerns. Both incidents have sparked renewed attention on residential safety measures, with authorities urging building owners and residents to ensure adequate protections to prevent similar tragedies.

Kasba gang rape twist: Court allows voice sample test of accused

MI News Service, Kolkata: Kolkata Police have introduced a fresh development in the ongoing investigation into the Kasba gang rape case. The police have sought and obtained permission from the Alipore court to collect voice samples from the primary accused, Manojit Mishra, along with his alleged associates, Jaib and Pramit. According to police sources, forensic experts have already examined the mobile phones seized from the accused trio. The analysis has reportedly revealed several crucial audio clips and conversations that may hold significant evidentiary value. Investigators are now aiming to match these recordings with the voice samples of the suspects to verify their authenticity and establish a stronger case. The Alipore court approved the police's application for voice sample collection during a hearing on Saturday. Additionally, when the four accused — Manojit, Jaib, Pramit, and another co-accused — were produced be-

fore the court, they were remanded to judicial custody until August 22. The case stems from a disturbing incident that took place on June 25 inside Kasba Law College. As per the complaint filed by the survivor the following day, she was allegedly assaulted and raped between 7:30 pm and 11:45 pm in two separate locations within the institution — the students' union room and the guard's room. The survivor told investigators that she was initially confronted in front of the college by Manojit Mishra, who allegedly threatened her and forcibly took her inside. She further claimed that she was threatened with assault using a hockey stick and was physically beaten during the ordeal. The case, which has sparked widespread outrage, continues to be a priority of Kolkata Police. The upcoming forensic voice analysis is expected to play a pivotal role in corroborating the survivor's statement and strengthening the prosecution case.

'Not bound by rules' to disclose voters excluded from draft roll: EC

From PG 1 phase, no such list can be sought by the petition as a matter of right," it said. The poll panel said exclusion of a name from draft electoral roll does not amount to deletion of an individual from electoral rolls. It said draft roll simply showed that duly filled enumeration form of existing electors has been received during enumeration phase. "But, on account of human involvement in execution of this exercise of scale, there is always a possibility that an exclusion or inclusion might surface due to inadvertence or error," it said. The EC said prior to publication of draft electoral roll, it had directed the CEO and others to share with political parties the booth-level list of individuals whose enumeration forms were not received due to any reason and seek their assistance for reaching out to them. It alleged that the petitioner's approach was consistent with its earlier attempts to malign EC by building false narratives on digital, print and social media. "Such attempts should be appropriately dealt with by this court, and heavy costs should be imposed for petitioner's attempts to deliberately mislead this court," it said. The poll panel said admittedly,

after the publication of draft rolls, political parties were supplied with an updated list of names of electors not included in draft roll so as to ensure that all attempts are made to reach out to them. "The political parties have acknowledged receipt of the said list," it said. The EC said, "In yet another attempt to mislead this court, the petitioners emphatically assert that a person whose name has been excluded from the draft roll has no recourse to a remedy as he/she cannot file a claim or objection". Referring to detailed guidelines of SIR order of June 24, the poll panel said it expressly provides for inclusion of individuals whose enumeration forms have not been submitted within the specified time. On August 6, the apex court had asked the EC to furnish by August 9 the details of around 65 lakh electors left out from the draft electoral rolls. NGO 'Association For Democratic Reforms', which has challenged the EC's June 24 order directing for SIR of electoral rolls in Bihar, has filed a fresh application seeking direction to publish names of around 65 lakh deleted voters with the mention whether they are dead, permanently migrated or not considered for any other reason.

200 still missing as Dharali rescue called off

From PG 1 debris of the home where they were staying." He said some residents of the Dharali market area had survived because they were visiting the Someshwar Dev Temple on the hill. "A big fair is held there every year on August 4 and 5," Kumar said. Some 150 people from Dharali and adjoining villages have taken shelter in the temple, refusing to be evacuated to safer places. "There is enough space for 150 people on the temple's first floor. I cook rice, dal, vegetables and rotis for them. The govern-

ment has provided us with food grains and other stuff," Sushila Devi, whose house is on the hill, said. She said a few houses in villages close to Dharali too had been damaged but no deaths were reported there. "Some government officers are encouraging us to shift to Uttarkashi (town) or Dehradun but we have refused. The government must rebuild our houses. We are ready to live or die here," said Manas Semwal, who was at the temple with his family when the flash flood struck following a cloudburst.

2 soldiers killed in 'longest' Valley gunfight

From PG 1 soldiers who made the ultimate sacrifice at Kulgam". Official sources said two soldiers were injured in the overnight gun battle, bringing the number of injured to 10. Forces claimed two militants were killed earlier in the gunfight, but the body of only one militant has been recovered. He is believed to be a local. Hundreds of security force personnel, including the army and the CRPF, as well as the police, are involved in the operation against well-armed and well-trained militants. Sources said forces are using attack drones and helicopters to target the militants' positions that are entrenched in a maze of dense forests. The encounter began last Friday after the army, the police and the CRPF launched a joint operation following a tip-off about the presence of a large group of militants. Saturday was the ninth day of the operation. Unlike the ongoing operation, security forces achieved a quick success against three militants involved in the Pahalgam attack once their location was pinpointed.

NAME CHANGE
I AZAHARUL ISLAM KHAN, S/O- IYAKUB KHAN, Vill- Gordoani, P.O- Thakur Chak, P.S- Bakultala, Dist- South 24 Parganas, Pin- 743338. That due to inadvertently my name has wrongly been recorded in my passport being No. L9943895, Dated of Issue 10/07/2014 as AJAHARUL ISLAM KHAN In Place of AZAHARUL ISLAM KHAN. In the Court Ld. 1st Class Judicial Magistrate at Alipore dated on 06/08/25. By Affidavit I hereby declare that AZAHARUL ISLAM KHAN & AJAHARUL ISLAM KHAN is the same and one identical person.

NAME CHANGE
I Rishab Rakhecha, son of Binod Kumar Rakhecha residing at 15/16 Rameshwar Malia Lane 5th floor Howrah 711101, do hereby solemnly affirm and declare that Rishab Jain and Rishab Rakhecha both indicating and referring myself as same and one identical person via affidavit before the Ld Judicial Magistrate 1st class at Kolkata, August 2025

Change of Name
I, Soma Roy alias Soma Datta (Roy) (Old Name) D/o Subhash Chandra Datta W/o Sourabh Roy Residing at Devaloke Heights Flat 4A, 142A Raja S C Mullick Road, Kolkata - 700092 West Bengal India have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Soma Datta (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public Kolkata vide no 52/2025 affidavit Date 08-08-2025. Soma Roy, Soma Datta (Roy) (Old Name) and Soma Datta (New Name) both as same and one identical person.

Change of Name
I, Muzaffar Alam (Old Name) S/o Mohd Yusuf Residing at Vill - Rejjak Nagar, Basudevpur Jemari, Alaldi, Salanpur, District- Bardhaman, Pin - 713335, West Bengal, India have Changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Md. Muzaffar Alam (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public Kolkata vide affidavit no 51/2025 Dated 08-08-2025. Muzaffar Alam (Old Name) and Md. Muzaffar Alam (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Change of Name
I, Shara Begum wife of Ghulam Md Mustafa, residing at 99/2, Pilkhana 2nd Lane, PS-Golabari, Howrah-711101, West Bengal, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Sitara Begum as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata dated 08/08/2025. Shara Begum and Sitara Begum both are same and one identical person.

NAME CHANGE
I, Malik Sakira (Old Name), Wife Of Samad Mallick, Residing At Vill & Po - Khajutti, Ps - Bagnan, Howrah-711303, West Bengal, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Sakhira Begam (New Name) Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 08/08/2025. Malik Sakira And Sakhira Begam Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.

NAME CHANGE
I, Sarfaraz (Old Name), Son Of Ghulam Rasul, Residing At 15, Sir Syed Ahmed Road, Entally, Kolkata-700014, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Md Sarfarz (New Name) Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 08/08/2025. Sarfaraz And Md Sarfarz Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.

NAME CHANGE
I, Vijay Dubey (old name) S/O Late Raj Narayan Dubey, residing at RADHA KUNJ, 4TH FLOOR, 30, BELUR ROAD, LILUAH, HOWRAH-711204, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Vijay Kumar Dubey (new name), as declared Before The Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 08/08/2025. Vijay Kumar Dubey (new name) and Vijay Dubey (old name) both are same and one identical person.

NAME CHANGE
I, Sajjad Saikh (Old Name),Son Of Kaimadadin Sekh, Residing At Vill & Po-Dakshin Alipore, Ps -Bishnupur, South 24 Parganas -743503, West Bengal, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Sajjad Ali Sekh (New Name) Vide An Affidavit No 42594 Sworn Before The Ld 1st Class Judicial Magistrate At Saikh On 05/07/2025. Sajjad Saikh And Sajjad Ali Sekh Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.

NAME CHANGE
I, Uday Kumar Singh (Old Name), Son Of Jaglal Mahato, Residing At 63 Niloday House Shala Pata Bagan, Durga Mandir Road, Kamarhati(M), Po-Agarpara, North 24 Parganas-700109, West Bengal, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Uday Mahato (New Name) Vide An Affidavit No 28 Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 08/08/2025. Uday Kumar Singh And Uday Mahato Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.

NAME CHANGE
I, Jaglal Singh (Old Name),Son Of Late Ram Sebak Mahato, Residing At 63 No Shala Pata Bagan,Kamarhati(M), North 24 Parganas - 700109, West Bengal, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Jaglal Mahato(New Name) Vide An Affidavit No 27 Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 08/08/2025.Jaglal Singh And Jaglal Mahato Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.

NAME CHANGE
I, Kartik Ch Biswas (Old Name),Son Of Jatindra Nath Biswas, Residing At Loupala Dakshinpara, Po - Subarnapur,Ps - Haringhata,Nadia - 741249,West Bengal, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Kartik Chandra Biswas(New Name) Vide An Affidavit No 30 Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 08/08/2025.Kartik Ch Biswas And Kartik Chandra Biswas Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.

NAME CHANGE
I, Kritibas Biswas (Old Name), Son Of Kartik Chandra Biswas, Residing At Loupala Dakshinpara, Po - Subarnapur,Ps - Haringhata,Nadia - 741249,West Bengal, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Kritibash Biswas(New Name) Vide An Affidavit No 29 Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 08/08/2025.Kritibas Biswas And Kritibash Biswas Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.

NAME CHANGE
I, Mousumi Das & Mousumi, Daughter Of Gopal Som, Residing At 19/8,Ramkrishna Path,Howrah Corporation, Howrah-711101, West Bengal, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Mousumi Som Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 08/08/2025. Mousumi Das & Mousumi And Mousumi Som All Are The Same And One Identical Person.

NAME CHANGE
I, Mira Pathak(Old Name),Wife Of Yudubir Pathak, Residing At 57/1A Priya Nath Middya Road, Kamarhati, Belghoria, North 24 Parganas-700056, West Bengal, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Mira Devi(New Name) Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 07/08/2025. Mira Pathak And Mira Devi Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.

NAME CHANGE
I, Mousumi Pal Nandi (Old Name), Wife Of Utpal Nandi, Residing At Matukpur, Pandua,Hooghly - 712149, West Bengal, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Mousumi Pal(New Name) Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 08/08/2025.Mousumi Pal Nandi And Mousumi Pal Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.

NAME CHANGE
I, Reshma Naushad (old name) wife of Naushad Alam, residing at 34F, Ekbalpore Lane, P.O.-Khidderpore, P.S.- Ekbalpore, Kolkata- 700023, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Reshma Khatoon (new name), as declared Before The Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 08/08/2025. Reshma Khatoon (new name) and Reshma Naushad (old name) both are same and one identical person.

NAME CHANGE
I, Paromita Chakravorty (old name) D/O Sudhinidra Nath Chowdhury, residing at BL-3, 9th Floor, FL-9D, 278 Ho Chi Minh Sarani, Behala, Kolkata- 700061, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Paromita Chowdhury (new name), as declared Before The Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 08/08/2025. Paromita Chowdhury (new name) and Paromita Chakravorty (old name) both are same and one identical person.

NAME CHANGE
I, Rehana Khatoon (old name) W/O Md Asgar, residing at Hasil Khan Building 6/14, Nilmoni Halder Lane, P.O.- Dharamtala, P.S.- New Market, Kolkata- 700013, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Rihana Khatoon (new name), as declared Before The Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 08/08/2025. Rihana Khatoon (new name) and Rehana Khatoon (old name) both are same and one identical person.

NAME CHANGE
I, Farhan Hussain Gelani (old name) S/O Imtiaz Hussain, residing at 17/1A, Charu Khansama Lane, P.S.- Karaya, Kolkata-700017, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Farhan Hussain Gilani (new name), as declared Before The Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 08/08/2025. Farhan Hussain Gilani (new name) and Farhan Hussain Gelani (old name) both are same and one identical person.

NAME CHANGE
I, RAMA SHANKAR PRASAD, RAMSHANKAR (old name) son of RAMESHWAR PRASAD, residing at DALSINGHPARA BAZAR, DALSINGHPARA TEA GARDEN, KALCHINI, SADAR, ALIPURDUAR-735208, W.B,India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as RAMASHANKAR JAISWAL (new name), as declared before the notary public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 08/08/2025. RAMASHANKAR JAISWAL (new name) and RAMA SHANKAR PRASAD,RAMSHANKAR (old name) both are same and one identical person.

NAME CHANGE
I, Utam Thapa (Old Name) Son Of Kanchha Biswakarma, Residing At Koma Line, Telepara Tea Garden,T.e Binnaguri, Jalpaiguri-735203, W.b, India, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Utam Biswakarma (New Name), As Declared Before The Notary Public At Kolkata, Vide An Affidavit Dated 08/08/2025. Utam Biswakarma (New Name) And Utam Thapa (Old Name) Both Are Same And One Identical Person.

NAME CHANGE
I, Mousumi Modak (old name) W/O Sukanta Nandi, residing at Akrampur Nababharat Noapara, Barasat, North 24 Parganas, Pin- 700125, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Mousumi Nandi Modak (new name), as declared Before The Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 08/08/2025. Mousumi Nandi Modak (new name) and Mousumi Modak (old name) both are same and one identical person.

NAME CHANGE
I, Purnima Adhikari And Adhikari Purnimarani Angshopati, Wife Of Angshopati Adhikari, Residing At Vill - Sabdalpur,Po Aranghata,Ps Dhantala, Nadia-741501, West Bengal, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Purnima Rani Adhikari(New Name) Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 08/08/2025.That Purnima Adhikari, Adhikari Purnimarani Angshopati And Purnima Rani Adhikari All Are The Same And One Identical Person.

NAME CHANGE
I, Borjahan Midde (old names) S/O Raup, residing at Vill- Jujarsha, Howrah, Pin- 711302, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Barjahan Middya (new name), as declared Before The Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 08/08/2025. Barjahan Middya (new name) and Borjahan Midde (old name) both are same and one identical person.

NAME CHANGE
I, Mahabuddin Ahmed & Mahabubuddin Ahmed (old names) S/O Aptabuddin Mandal, residing at Vill- Farasatpur, P.O.- Champapukur, P.S.- Matia-Basirhat, Dist.- North 24 Pgs, Pin- 743291, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Mahabubuddin Mandal (new name), as declared Before The Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 08/08/2025. Mahabubuddin Mandal (new name) and Mahabuddin Ahmed & Mahabubuddin Ahmed (old names) all are same and one identical person.

NAME CHANGE
I, Mohammad Abdul Matin Mondal (old name) S/O Md Abdul Kadir Mondal, residing at Vill- Basirhat, Trimohini Paschimpara, P.O.- Basirhat College, P.S.- Basirhat, Dist.- North 24 Pgs, Pin- 743412, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Md Abdul Matin Mondal (new name), as declared Before The Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 08/08/2025. Md Abdul Matin Mondal (new name) and Mohammad Abdul Matin Mondal (old name) both are same and one identical person.

NAME CHANGE
I, Tariqul Islam, Torikul Islam, Tarikul Islam Molla (old names) S/O Abdul Maleque Molla, residing at Vill- Behari, P.O.- Atpukur, P.S.- Haroa, Dist.- North 24 Pgs, Pin- 743425, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Tariqul Islam Molla (new name), as declared Before The Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 08/08/2025. Tariqul Islam Molla (new name) and Tariqul Islam, Torikul Islam, Tarikul Islam Molla (old names) all are same and one identical person.

NAME CHANGE
I, Firoja Parveen (old name) W/O Tariqul Islam Molla, residing at Vill-Behari, P.O.-Atpukur, P.S.- Haroa, Dist.- North 24 Pgs, Pin- 743425, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Firoja Parvin (new name), as declared Before The Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 08/08/2025. Firoja Parveen (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Howrah division intensifies cleanliness efforts through station-wide drives under Swachhata Abhiyan



MI News Service, Kolkata: The Howrah Division of Eastern Railway has reinforced its commitment to cleanliness, public hygiene, and environmental sustainability by launching a large-scale intensive cleanliness drive on August 10, 2025, as part of the ongoing Swachhata Abhiyan.

Railway staff, along with enthusiastic participation from local communities, ac-

tively engaged in day-long cleanliness activities across key stations, including Howrah, Katwa, Rampurhat, Bardhaman, Azimganj, Adisaptagram, Bandel, Bolpur Shantiniketan, Sheoraphuli, and Shrirampur. The focus was to ensure hygienic surroundings, improved passenger amenities, and enhanced environmental upkeep at station premises. This initiative aligns with

the vision of the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, one of India's most impactful national movements towards building a cleaner, greener, and healthier environment. The Howrah Division remains at the forefront of implementing sustainable practices, fostering public awareness, and maintaining cleanliness standards in railway infrastructure. The division has appealed to all citizens to refrain from spitting, littering, or disposing of plastic bottles and other waste in station areas and surroundings. Such actions compromise sanitation, public health, and railway operations. All passengers and residents are urged to adopt responsible waste disposal habits and contribute actively to the Swachhata Abhiyan. Cleanliness is a collective responsibility. Every individual's conscious effort will help create a healthier, safer, and more sustainable India.

"Police injured her...": Sukanta Majumdar on RG Kar victim's mother hurt during 'Nabanna Chalo Abhiyan'

MI News Service, Kolkata: Union Minister Sukanta Majumdar on Sunday met with the mother of the RG Kar rape-murder victim and reported that her condition has improved, with discharge expected within a few hours after she was injured during the 'Nabanna Chalo Abhiyan', a march toward the state secretariat on Saturday to demand justice for the junior doctor who was raped and killed at R G Kar Medical College Hospital a year ago on August 9, 2024.

During their conversation, the victim's mother alleged that she was injured by police while protesting against the police administration and the West Bengal government.

Speaking to reporters, Sukanta Majumdar said, "Now the situation is improved, and within a few hours she will be discharged. While talking to her, she said that the police injured her while she was protesting against the police administration and the West Bengal govt. A big lump was present on her forehead yesterday. That has been minimised. According to doctors, she is out of danger. However, there was a feeling while talking to the doctors that

they are under some kind of political pressure. Abhaya's parents said that they are not even allowed to speak to their neighbours. This is not good for any democracy."

The Kolkata Police launched a lathi charge on the protestors during the rally. The rally was called to mark the first anniversary of the RG Kar Medical College rape and murder.

The victim's parents also participated in the 'Nabanna Abhiyan' rally. Father of the RG Kar rape and murder victim said, "The High Court has permitted us to stage protests peacefully. Police used a lathi charge on us, that's why we got injured. On 9 August 2024, the police mistreated us. We were allowed to see the body only after having a telephonic conversation with Mamata Banerjee. We had to stand out for three hours and 30 minutes."

West Bengal Assembly LoP Suwendu Adhikari, who participated in the 'Nabanna Abhiyan' rally on Saturday, targeted Mamata Banerjee by saying that the police under the Bengal CM are "anti-national" and remarked that they attacked the brothers and the sadhu community on the occasion of Raksha Bandhan.

Patna DM writes to Dy CM Sinha to submit his response on holding two EPIC numbers

MI News Service, Patna: The Patna District Magistrate on

Sunday wrote to Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Vijay Kumar Sinha, seeking to submit his response regarding holding two electors' photo identity card (EPIC) numbers in different constituencies.

Patna DM in the letter mentioned that Sinha's name has been found recorded at both places.

"Regarding the inclusion of your name in the voter lists of two Assembly constituencies in the draft electoral roll published based on the qualification date 01.07.2025," he said.

"It is informed that your name is recorded in the draft electoral roll published during the Special Intensive Revision, 2025, in Assembly Constituency No. 182 - Bankipur, Polling Station No. 405, Voter Serial No. 757, EPIC No. AFS 0853341, and additionally, your name is also recorded in Assembly Constituency No. 168 - Lakhisarai, Lakhisarai, EPIC No. IAF 3939337." Moreover, your name was found recorded at both places even prior to the Special Intensive Revision," the DM added in his letter.

The DM further asked the Deputy CM to submit his response on this matter by August 14.

Earlier today, Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Vijay Kumar Sinha responded to Tejashwi Yadav's allegation on Sunday that he holds two elector's photo-identity card (EPIC) numbers in different constituencies. "Our whole family had voter IDs from Bankipur. In April 2024, I applied to add my name to the Lakhisarai constituency and remove it from Bankipur. It did not happen immediately, so I called the BLO, filled the form, and took the receipt. I

have all the documents. "I voted from only one place last time too: it was in Lakhisarai," he said.

Addressing a press conference here, Vijay Sinha said that he had applied to add his name to Lakhirai in 2024 and remove it from Bankipur, Patna, but the deletion form was rejected.

He said, "Earlier, my entire family's name was listed in Patna. In April 2024, I applied to add my name to the Lakhisarai Assembly. I also filled out a form to have my name removed from there. I have proof. For some reason, my name wasn't removed, so I called the BLO, submitted a written application, and took a receipt. I have both documents. My deletion form was rejected."

Sinha added that he flagged the issue with the Election Commission after the poll body released the draft voter list, following the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) in the state. He said that the ECI has given a one-month correction window, and the final voter list has not been released yet.

"One month is given for the correction. People questioning a Constitutional body do not have trust in the Constitution." They

Restoration of diverted trains

MI News Service, Kolkata: The following Trains which were diverted due to derailment of Goods Train between Chandil-Nim-dih Adra Division, now will run on normal route:
●18182 Thawe-Tatanagar Express Journey commencing on 09.08.25 will run on normal route
●13288 Ara-Durg Express Journey commencing on 09.08.25 will run normal on

route
●22844 Patna-Bilaspur Express Journey commencing on 10.08.25 will run on normal route
●20898 Ranchi-Howrah Vande Bharat Express Journey commencing on 10.08.25 will run on normal route
●12375 Tambaram-Jasidih Express Journey commencing on 09.08.25 will run on normal route

Malda division intensifies cleanliness and awareness initiatives under Swachhata Abhiyan 2025



MI News Service, Kolkata: Malda Division of Eastern Railway has undertaken intensive cleanliness and awareness initiatives as part of Swachhata Abhiyan 2025, aimed at promoting hygiene, effective waste management, and environmental sustainability. The drive was led by Shri Manish Kumar Gupta, Divisional Railway Manager/Malda, at the Power House Railway Colony and surrounding railway premises. During the programme,

awareness messages such as "Clean India," "Use Dustbins," and "Say No to Littering" were prominently displayed to encourage behavioural change among residents and passengers. The initiative witnessed active participation from branch officers, members of the Malda Vivekananda Scouts Group, and local citizens, reflecting a strong community commitment towards maintaining a cleaner and greener railway environment.

Metro to run 80 services on purple line, 108 services on green line-1 and 134 services on green line-2 from Monday

MI News Service, Kolkata: Green Line-1, Green Line-2 and Purple Line Metro services are increasing again from 11.08.2025 (Monday).

To meet the demand of commuters, Metro Railway authorities are going to increase Metro services and service hours on the Green Line-1, Green Line-2 and Purple Line.

GREEN LINE-1
A total of 108 services (54 UP + 54 DN) on this stretch will be operated. At present, 106 services (53 UP + 53 DN) are being operated daily from Monday to Saturday on Green Line-1. Service hours on this Corridor are also going to increase to 06:35 hrs to 22:00 hrs instead of 06:55 hrs to 22:00 hrs.

FIRST SERVICE
At 06:35 hrs. from Sealdah to Salt Lake Sector V (instead of 06:55 hrs)

At 06:40 hrs. from Salt Lake Sector V to Sealdah (instead of 07:00 hrs)

LAST SERVICE
At 21:35 hrs. from Sealdah to Salt Lake Sector V (No Change)

At 21:40 hrs. from Salt Lake Sector V to Sealdah (No Change)

No services will be available on Sundays.

GREEN LINE-2
A total of 134 services (67 UP + 67 DN) on this stretch will be operated. At present, 130 services (65 UP + 65 DN) are being operated daily from Monday to Saturday on Green Line-2. Service hours on this Corridor are also going to increase to 06:30 hrs to 21:53 hrs instead of 07:00 hrs to 21:53 hrs.

Protests surrounding Sukanta in Dum Dum

MI News Service, Kolkata: On the day of the inauguration of the AC local, there was a tense situation at Dum Dum station. Trinamool workers and supporters staged a massive protest around Union Minister of State Sukanta Majumdar. 'Joy Bangla' slogans were raised. After that, a scuffle started between the workers and supporters of the two parties. There was widespread tension. A group of INTTUC members started protesting by raising slogans. They kept saying that BJP is anti-Bangla. They shouted 'Joy Bangla' slogan. A Trinamool worker shouted, " They have no place in Bengal. They are anti-Bangla."

বিজ্ঞপ্তি
আমার মকেল বাবরু সাই, পিতা গরাক সাই, 2024 সালে (DSR-1 হাওড়া অফিসে রেজিস্ট্রিকৃত) 1077,1078 নং কোবোলা দলিলমূলে চেন মারফৎ 0270/2018 ও আমানোক্তার (মুদ্রাভ নম্বর ও চিত্রিত নম্বর) দলিলমূলে কেনেন, মৌজা-লক্ষণপুর, LR- 353 নং দাগে, LR-1449 নং বস্তিয়ানে সম্পত্তির নামপত্রেদের আবেদন করেন। এবিষয়ে কার্যের আপত্তি থাকলে বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশের ১ মাসের মধ্যে BL & LRO চেম্বেরজু অফিসে জানান। অন্যথা আইনানুগ কার্য হবে।
SMT. DIPIKA DAS
ADVOCATE
HOWRAH JUDGE'S COURT

Gangadharpur Mahavidyamandir (Howrah, West Bengal)
E-Tenders are invited from eligible licensed suppliers/agencies with suitable credentials for the procurement of books for the College Library. For details, visit the WB e-Tender portal the College website: <https://gmvm.ac.in/>. Last date for submission of bids is 18.08.2025 up to 13:00 hrs.

Gangadharpur Mahavidyamandir (Howrah, West Bengal)
E-Tenders are invited from eligible Licensed Suppliers/Agencies with suitable credentials for Supply and Installation of CCTV System at the college New Campus. For tender details, please visit the WB e-Tender portal or the college website: <https://gmvm.ac.in/>. Last Date for Submission is 18.08.2025 up to 13:00 hrs.

Digsui Hoerah Gram Panchayat
VIII.+P.O.: Digsui, P.S.- Mogra, Dist.- Hooghly, Pin – 712148

Notice Inviting e-Tender
e-Tender is invited from the experienced and resourceful bidders for execution of 19 nos. development works vide e-NIT No.: 194/DHGP/2025-26, 195/DHGP/2025-26, 196/DHGP/2025-26, 197/DHGP/2025-26, 198/DHGP/2025-26 & 199/DHGP/2025-26, Date: 08.08.2025. Any working day from 11.08.2025 at 10:00 AM. Bid Submission End Date: 25.08.2025 up to 05:00 PM. Date of Opening of Tender: 27.08.2025 at 02.00 PM. For more details please visit <https://wbttenders.gov.in> & undersigned GP Office.

Sd/-
Pradhan,
Digsui Hoerah Gram Panchayat

A historic stride in Railway services for the people of West Bengal

Air-Conditioned EMU train service between Sealdah and Ranaghat flagged off

MI News Service, Kolkata: Ushering in the new era of comfortable suburban journey for the people of West Bengal, the long-awaited Air-Conditioned EMU (Electric Multiple Unit) train service between Sealdah and Ranaghat was flagged off by Shri Sukanta Majumdar, Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Education & Development of the North Eastern Region, and Shantanu Thakur, Union Minister of State for Ports, Shipping & Waterways today (10.08.2025) from Sealdah Railway Station in presence of Samik Bhattacharya, Member of Parliament, Jagannath Sarkar, Member of Parliament and other dignitaries. Milind Deouskar, General Manager/ Eastern Railway, Rajeev Saxena, Divisional Railway Manager/Sealdah and Principal Officers of Eastern Railway were also present at the occasion.

Milind Deouskar, General Manager/Eastern Railway delivered the welcome speech in which he mentioned that the AC EMU service introduced between Sealdah & Ranaghat is the first of its kind in Eastern India. This train will run in morning and evening peak hours for a comfortable journey of suburban passengers between Ranaghat & Sealdah.

Jagannath Sarkar, Member of Parliament, in his speech appealed to the commuters between Ranaghat & Sealdah to purchase monthly tickets and also spread the message for patronising this coveted AC EMU service so that more such trains can be available in future.

Samik Bhattacharya, Member of Parliament, revealed how the Union Government is trying hard for all-round development of Railway network in West Bengal. Marching ahead in this direction, Railway Ministry has introduced the AC EMU services from Sealdah.

Shantanu Thakur, Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Ports, Shipping & Waterways expressed thanks to Prime Minister and Minister for Railways for taking such initiatives towards running of AC EMU train from Sealdah



for the comfortable journey of suburban passengers of this journey.

Sukanta Majumdar, Union Minister of State for Education & Development of the North Eastern Region mentioned that the Eastern Railway has created history by running the first AC EMU local between Sealdah & Ranaghat. He also mentioned how various initiatives of the Union Government is putting impetus to the socio-economic development in West Bengal like historic increase in Railway Budget allocation, development of Amrit Bharat stations, OSOP (One Station One Product) stalls for the benefit of local artisans and indigenous industries.

This launch marks a defining chapter for suburban railway connectivity in Eastern India, particularly for the thousands of daily commuters between Sealdah and Ranaghat. For the first time, the Eastern Region introduces an air-conditioned EMU service, setting a new benchmark for comfort and convenience in local rail travel. This new 12-car AC EMU rake is a three-phase, underslung-type marvel of modern engineering. Each coach is fully air-conditioned, equipped with dual 15-ton roof-mounted packaged units for optimal cooling. Commuters will enjoy panoramic views through wide, double-sealed glass windows while experiencing smooth travel facilitated by wide vestibule gangways interconnecting all the coaches. With a capacity to seat over 1,100 passengers, these rakes prioritize both comfort and safety. The coaches come with stainless steel three-seater arrangements and aluminium modular luggage racks. Each coach features four automatic, electrically operated sliding doors on both sides, ensuring quick and efficient boarding

and deboarding. To further enhance safety, the train is equipped with high-resolution CCTV surveillance, with four cameras installed in each coach.

Among the train's passenger-friendly features is a GPS-enabled LED passenger information system that offers real-time updates and automatic audio announcements. Emergency talk-back units at every doorway allow passengers to immediately alert the motorman or guard in case of distress. An emergency alarm system is also integrated to bring the train to a stop if necessary. Two dedicated women's coaches, located at each end of the rake, ensure safety and comfort for female commuters. The inclusion of such modern safety features, coupled with clean and cool interiors, represents a major upgrade in the region's suburban rail service.

Regular commercial run of this train will commence from 11.08.2025 (Monday). The train is scheduled to leave Ranaghat at 08:29 AM to reach Sealdah at 10:10 AM during the morning peak, and in the evening, it will leave Sealdah at 6:50 PM to reach Ranaghat at 8:32 PM. The train will stop at Bidhanagar Road, Dum Dum Junction, Sodpur, Khardaha, Barrackpore, Naihati, Kanchrapara, Kalyani, and Chakdaha. To keep this premium yet accessible, the fare has been fixed affordably — with a minimum of ₹35 and a maximum of ₹120 for the full stretch of journey from Sealdah to Ranaghat.

Today's inauguration signifies not just the launch of a new train, but the beginning of a modern, comfortable, and secure commuting experience for thousands across Bengal. It reflects the Railway's continued commitment to improving infrastructure, urban mobility, and the overall quality of life for the public.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurates, lays foundation stone of metro projects wortharound Rs 22,800 crore in Bengaluru, Karnataka

MI News Service, New Delhi: Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated the Yellow Line of Bangalore Metro worth aroundRs 7,160 crore and laid the foundation stone of Bangalore Metro Phase-3 project worth over Rs15,610 crore in Bengaluru, Karnataka today. He also flagged off three Vande Bharat Express trains atKSR Railway Station, Bengaluru. Addressing the gathering on the occasion, he remarked that uprooting foot on the land of Karnataka, he felt a sense of belonging. Highlighting the richness ofKarnataka's culture, the affection of its people, and the sweetness of the Kannada language, whichdeeply touches the heart, Shri Modi began by paying respects at the feet of Bengaluru's presidingdeity, Annamma Thayi. Recalling that centuries ago, Nadaprabhu Kempegowda laid the foundation of Bengaluru city, the Prime Minister noted that Kempegowda envisioned a city rooted in traditionwhile also reaching new heights of progress. "Bengaluru has always lived that spirit and preserved itand today, Bengaluru is realizing that very dream", stated the PM.

"Today, Bengaluru is emerging as a city that has become a symbol of New India's rise", stated ShriModi, describing it as a city whose soul embodies philosophical wisdom, and whose actions reflecttechnological expertise. He highlighted that Bengaluru is a city which has proudly placed India on theglobal IT map, crediting the success story of Bengaluru to the hard work and talent of its people.

"In the 21st century, urban planning and urban infrastructure are critical needs for our cities",emphasised the Prime Minister, stating that cities like Bengaluru must be prepared for the future. Hehighlighted that in recent years, the Government of India has launched projects worth thousands ofcrores for Bengaluru and today, this campaign is gaining new momentum. Shri Modi inaugurated theBangalore Metro Yellow Line and laid the foundation stone for Metro Phase-Three. He also flaggedoff three new Vande Bharat trains connecting different parts of the country. He added that thecommencement of Vande Bharat service between Bengaluru and Belagavi will boost trade and tourism in Belagavi. Additionally, Vande Bharat Express trains were launched between Nagpur andPune, and between Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra and Amritsar. The Prime Minister noted that theseservices will benefit lakhs of devotees and promote tourism. He congratulated the people ofBengaluru, Karnataka, and the entire nation for these projects

and the new Vande Bharat trains.

Mentioning that this is his first visit to Bengaluru following Operation Sindoor, Shri Modihighlighted the success of Indian forces in Operation Sindoor, noting their capability to destroyterrorist hideouts deep across the border. He emphasized India's strength in forcing Pakistan, whocame to defend the terrorists, to its knees within hours. "The entire world has witnessed this new faceof New India", remarked the Prime Minister, attributing the success of Operation Sindoor to thepower of technology and the strength of Make in India in the defence sector. He acknowledged the significant contribution of the youth of Bengaluru and Karnataka in this achievement, and extended his congratulations to all for their role in this success.

Noting that Bengaluru is now recognized alongside major global cities, the Prime Ministeremphasized that India must not only compete globally but also lead. He remarked that progress will come only when our cities are smart, fast, and efficient, underscoring the government's strong focuson completing modern infrastructure projects. Shri Modi announced the commencement of theYellow Line of Bangalore Metro from RV Road to Bommasandra, which will connect several keyareas of Bengaluru. He noted that travel time between Basavanagudi and Electronic City will now be significantly reduced. This, he said, will enhance ease of living and ease of working for lakhs ofpeople.

The Prime Minister announced that alongside the inauguration of the Yellow Line, the foundationstone for Bangalore Metro's Phase Three —namely, the Orange Line—has also been laid. He statedthat once operational, the Orange Line, in conjunction with the Yellow Line, will facilitate dailytravel for 25 lakh passengers. This, he said, will empower Bengaluru's transport system and elevate itto new heights. Shri Modi further remarked that Bangalore Metro has introduced a new model forpublic infrastructure development in the country. He highlighted that companies like InfosysFoundation, Biocon, and Delta Electronics have provided part-funding for several key metro stations.He praised this innovative use of CSR as a source of inspiration and extended congratulations to thecorporate sector for their contribution.

"India is currently the fastest-growing major economy in the world. In the past eleven years, India'seconomy has risen from the 10th position to the top five globally, and is rapidly progressing

towardbecoming one of the top three economies", highlighted Shri Modi. He attributed this momentum tothe spirit of "Reform, Perform and Transform," driven by clear intent and honest efforts. Reflecting on infrastructure growth, the Prime Minister recalled that in 2014, metro services were limited to justfive cities. Today, he added, metro networks span over 1,000 kilometers across 24 cities, makingIndia the third-largest metro network globally. Shri Modi also pointed out that prior to 2014, onlyabout 20,000 kilometers of railway routes had been electrified. In the last eleven years alone, morethan 40,000 kilometers of railway routes have been electrified, marking a significant leap insustainable transport development.

Emphasising that India's achievements are soaring not just on land but also in the skies, the PrimeMinister highlighted that in 2014, India had only 74 airports, and today, the number has increased toover 160. He also pointed out the remarkable progress in watervay infrastructure stating that in 2014,only three national waterways were operational; this number has now risen to thirty.

Discussing the significant leap made by India in the health and education sectors, Shri Modihighlighted that until 2014, the country had only 7 AIIMS and 387 medical colleges, while today, 22AIIMS and 704 medical colleges are serving the people. The Prime Minister stated that in the past 11years, over one lakh new medical seats have been added across the country. He emphasized theimpact of this expansion, noting how middle-class children have greatly benefited from the increasedopportunities. Shri Modi further highlighted that in the last 11 years, the number of IITs has increased from 16 to 23, IITs from 9 to 25, and IIMs from 13 to 21. He stated that today, students have access to significantly more opportunities in higher education.

Affirming that today as the nation progresses rapidly, the lives of the poor and marginalized aretransforming at the same pace, the Prime Minister highlighted that under the Pradhan Mantri AwasYojana, over 4 crore pucca houses have been provided. He announced that the government is now setting to construct 3 crore more houses. Shri Modi remarked that in just 11 years, more than 12 crore toiletshave been built across the country. He emphasized that this initiative has granted dignity, cleanliness, and safety to crores of mothers and sisters.

"The rapid pace of development in the country is strong-

ly driven by India's economic growth",underlined Shri Modi, highlighting that before 2014, India's total exports had reached only \$468billion whereas today, that figure has risen to \$824 billion. The Prime Minister remarked that earlier,India used to import mobile phones, but now, the country is among the top five exporters of mobilehandsets. He noted that Bengaluru has played a significant role in this transformation. Shri Modifurther highlighted that before 2014, India's electronics exports stood at approximately \$6 billion,which has now increased to nearly \$38 billion.

Highlighting that eleven years ago, India's automobile exports stood at approximately \$16 billion, thePrime Minister cited that today, that figure has more than doubled, making India the fourth-largestautomobile exporter globally. He stated that these achievements strengthen the resolve ofAatmanirbhar Bharat and affirmed that together, the nation will move forward and build a developedIndia.

"The journey to a Viksit Bharat will move forward hand in hand with Digital India", exclaimed ShriModi, noting that through initiatives like the India AI Mission, India is advancing toward global Allleadership. He added that the Semiconductor Mission is also gaining momentum, and India will soon have its own Made-in-India chip. The Prime Minister stated that India has become a global example of low-cost, high-tech space missions. He emphasized that India is progressing in all areas of futuristic technology, and the most remarkable aspect of this advancement is the empowerment of thepoor. Pointing out that digitization has now reached every village in the country, the Prime Ministersaid through UPI, India accounts for over 50% of the world's real-time transactions. He remarked thattechnology is helping bridge the gap between government and citizens, mentioning that today, over 2,200 government services are available on mobile platforms. He added that through the UMANGapp, citizens can complete government tasks from home, while withDigiLocker, the hassle ofmanaging government certificates has been eliminated. The Prime Minister stated that India is nowinvesting in technologies like AI-powered threat detection. He emphasized that the goal is to ensurethe benefits of the digital revolution reach the last person in society. He acknowledged that Bengaluru is actively contributing to this national effort.

"Our next big priority should be becoming self-reliant in technology", declared the Prime

Minister,highlighting that Indian tech companies have made a mark globally, developing software andproducts for the entire world. He stressed that it is now time to prioritize India's own needs morestrongly and must accelerate the development of new products, especially as software and apps arenow being used across every domain. Shri Modi stated that it is essential for India to reach newheights in this space. Calling for focused efforts to lead in emerging fields, the Prime Ministerstressed the need to strengthen Bengaluru and Karnataka's presence in Make in India and themanufacturing sector. He urged that India's products must adhere to the Zero Defect, Zero Effectstandard, meaning they should be flawless in quality and have no negative impact on theenvironment. He expressed confidence that Karnataka's talent will lead the vision of AatmanirbharBharat.

Shri Modi stated that whether it is the central government or state governments, all are committed to serving the people, emphasizing the need for collaborative efforts to improve the lives of citizens. Hehighlighted that a key responsibility in this direction is the implementation of new reforms. ThePrime Minister noted that over the past decade, the central government has consistently advanced reforms. As an example, he cited the passage of the Jan Vishwas Bill to decriminalize laws, and announced that Jan Vishwas 2.0 is also being introduced. He encouraged state governments to identify laws with unnecessary criminal provisions and work toward eliminating them. Shri Modimentioned the Mission Karmayogi initiative, aimed at providing competency-based training to government employees. He suggested that states can adopt this learning framework for their officialsas well. Highlighting the focus on the Aspirational Districts Programme and the Aspirational BlockProgramme, the Prime Minister urged states to similarly identify regions that require specialattention. He concluded by calling for continuous reform efforts at the state level, expressingconfidence that these joint initiatives will take Karnataka to new heights of development and affirmedthat together, we will fulfill the vision of Viksit Bharat.

Governor of Karnataka, Shri Thaaawarchand Gehlot, Chief Minister of Karnataka, Shri Siddaramaiah,Union Ministers Shri Manohar Lal, Shri H.D. Kumaraswamy, Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw, Shri V.Somanna, Sushri Shobha Karandlaje were present among other dignitaries at the event.

Himachal: Police rescue 3 kidnapped schoolboys in 12 hours; one arrested



MI News Service, Shimla : The Shimla District Police traced three kidnapped Class 6 students from the prestigious Bishop Cotton School (BCS) in less than 12 hours, ensuring their safe recovery, and arrested a 45-year-old man in connection with the case.

The district administration said it will soon issue safety directions to all schools to prevent such incidents in the future. The police said the case came to notice on Saturday evening when the school reported that three boys of class 6th had failed to return from an authorised outing.

The students were recovered from Kokunala village in Kotkhai. The district administration said it will soon issue safety directions to all schools to prevent such incidents in the future.

Superintendent of Shimla Police Sanjeev Kumar Gandhi said the children were medically examined after being brought back and are safe.

"The police, with alertness, traced the children safely. The kidnapper has also been arrested. Further action in the matter is

being taken. A 45-year-old man has been arrested in this case," SP Gandhi told ANI.

"We immediately acted, forming teams led by Additional SP Navdeep Singh, SHO Sadar, and SHO Chhota Shimla, along with officials from neighbouring districts. Together, we successfully traced the children. This is a kidnapping case, and we will investigate the reasons behind it. The way our police team worked on this sensitive case is appreciable," police official said.

"We used CCTV and cyber investigation tools to track the case. We identified the vehicle and located it in Chaitihla village in Kotkhai, where the children were found safe. Investigation is being done with due diligence, keeping all aspects open. Our duty was to find the children safely, and we fulfilled it," Gandhi said.

SP Gandhi emphasised that the investigation will remain transparent and will also examine measures schools should adopt for better safety.

"The person who took the children in the vehicle

has been taken into custody. It was a team effort that resolved a complicated and difficult case on very short notice," he said.

Deputy Commissioner of Shimla district administration, Anupam Kashyap, commended the police for their swift action.

"As you know, Himachal Pradesh is a peaceful state, and Shimla generally runs in an orderly way. Such incidents do not usually happen. The police and administration are always alert. In this case, with proper coordinated effort, the Superintendent of Police and his entire team handled it competently and successfully. I congratulate them," Kashyap told ANI.

He said schools and parents need to be more vigilant.

"Children need to be guided more intensively in schools. Generally, such issues don't arise in Shimla and Himachal Pradesh. Many officers regularly monitor schools, adopt them, and give students tips on physical fitness and safety. This incident should not have happened, but the prompt efforts by Shimla Police were excellent. I believe the police remain ready day and night to fulfil their duty, and our aim is to ensure such incidents do not occur in the future," Kashyap said.

Deputy Commissioner of Shimla added that school activity calendars will be reviewed in light of the incident, and safety monitoring will be intensified.

Police had registered a Case under Section 137B of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) at the New Shimla Police Station.

Further investigation is still underway.

"Not afraid of any notice": Congress' KC Venugopal on EC asking Rahul Gandhi to submit proof of "vote theft" claims

MI News Service, Thiruvananthapuram: After Karnataka Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) issued a notice to Rahul Gandhi over his "vote theft" claims, Congress MP KC Venugopal criticised the Election Commission, stating that instead of responding, ECI is issuing a notice.

Speaking to ANI, the Congress MP stated that the Congress party is "not afraid" of any notice from the ECI and they will continue to stand for the truth.

"Rahul Gandhi as a Leader of the Opposition has clearly asked five pertinent questions to the Election Commission of India with evidence. Instead of responding to those five questions, they are issuing a notice to Rahul Gandhi. We are not afraid of any notice from the Election Commission of India. We will continue to stand for the truth. People of India should know the truth. The people who are trying to kill democracy and those safeguarding those who want to kill democracy have to be exposed," Venugopal said.

The Congress MP also took to X to criticise the polling body, stating, "Rahul ji's mega expose was based on ECI's own data. So now, after he has caught you red-handed, you want him to 'provide the relevant documents'?" Let's be crystal clear - the data is YOUR OWN VOTER LIST."

Venugopal also targeted the ECI over "blocking" access to CCTV footage.

The social media post read, "You refuse to give electronically readable voter lists. You block access to CCTV footage. You erase the very evidence that could expose the fraud. And now, when caught before the nation, you

question the whistleblower when all proof is in the public domain? That's not just ironic, it's an admission of guilt. Rahul ji has asked 5 straightforward questions: 1. Why is the Opposition denied the digital, machine-readable voter list? What are you hiding? 2. Who ordered the erasure of CCTV and video evidence? 3. Why the fake voting and voter list tampering? 4. Why threaten and intimidate Opposition leaders? 5. Has the ECI now reduced itself to acting as the BJP's election agent? The ball is in your court. No hiding, no intimidation, and no PR spin will wash away the sham you have presided over."

This comes after the Karnataka Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) has asked Congress MP Rahul Gandhi to submit documents to inquire into his "vote theft" allegations against the Election Commission of India.

In a letter dated August 10, the Karnataka CEO stated that Rahul Gandhi has claimed to have documents presented during his August 7 press conference from the Election Commission of India records, alleging that a voter, Shakun Rani, voted twice based on data shown by a polling officer.

The polling body further stated that upon preliminary inquiry, Shakun Rani has denied voting twice. The CEO's office also found that the tick-marked document presented by Rahul Gandhi was not issued by the polling officer, raising questions about the authenticity of the claim.

The letter read, "In your Press Conference, you have stated that the documents shown in your presentation are from the records of the Election Commission of India.

Congress leader Anand Sharma resigns as chairman of AICC Foreign Affairs Department

MI News Service, New Delhi: Former Union Minister and Congress leader Anand Sharma has resigned from the post of the Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Department of the All India Congress Committee (AICC), although he continues to be a member of the Congress Working Committee (CWC).

Senior Congress leader Anand Sharma was part of an all-party delegation that visited multiple countries as part of India's big diplomatic outreach Operation Sindoor.

Anand Sharma was part of the delegation led by NCP-SCP leader Supriya Sule. The delegation also included Rajiv Pratap Rudy (BJP), Vikramjit Singh Sahney (AAP), Manish Tewari (Congress), Anurag Singh Thakur (BJP), Lavu Sri Krishna Devarayalu (TDP), V Muralaedharan (BJP), and former diplomat Syed Akbaruddin.

Congress MP Manish Tewari conveyed his deep respect and admiration for Anand Sharma, highlighting his exceptional understanding of foreign affairs.

The Congress MP further noted that he and Anand Sharma were part of the



same group of all-party delegation, where members of the group considerably benefited from Sharma's insights.

In a social media post on X, Tewari wrote, "Had the pleasure and honour of working with @Anand-SharmaIN for over four decades. His understanding of Foreign Affairs is astute. Especially on Africa the depth of his knowledge is incisive. As we were together on the same politico- strategic delegation together in End May - early June 2025 we were greatly benefited by his insights. He has spent close to five and a half decades of his life in the service of @INCIndia. Wishing him a very healthy and fulfilling life."

It is noteworthy that Congress leaders Anand Shar-

ma, Shashi Tharoor, and Manish Tewari, who were part of the Operation Sindoor Outreach delegations India sent to partner countries to highlight its stand against cross-border terrorism, were not among the Congress speakers during the debate after Operation Sindoor in Parliament.

According to the sources, Manish Tewari had sent a request to the party to speak during the debate, Tharoor apparently conveyed unwillingness as his stance during the visit abroad of the delegation would be at variance with the party's strong stance against the government on the aspects related to the military operation to hit target infrastructure in Pakistan and PoJK. Tharoor led one of the all-party delegations.

Durand Cup: East Bengal tramples IAFFT



MI News Service, Kolkata: The Sunday evening was a dazzling one for the Red and Gold brigade as they literally trampled Indian Air Force Football Team (IAFFT) in a fascinating Durand Cup match. East Bengal eventually smashed IAFFT 6 - 1 in

the Durand encounter. It was rather a one-sided match where the torch bearers could have easily increased the tally in front of a near packed Kishore Bharati Stadium on Sunday. Ahad, Bipin, Anwar Ali, Rashid and Saul scored for the Red and Gold brigade.

As part of its commitment to safer mobility, Maruti Suzuki has introduced a series of advanced safety features across its vehicle portfolio under the newly unveiled NEXA Safety Shield and ARENA Safety Shield initiatives.

The announcement coincides with the 10th anniversary celebrations of the NEXA retail channel, reaffirming the company's pledge to enhance customer safety. NEXA was launched in 2015 to bring a premium automotive retail experience to its discerning customers in India.

The Safety Shield packages across NEXA and ARENA include six airbags, ABS with EBD, ESP with Hill Hold Assist, reverse parking systems, three-point ELR seat belts and seat belt reminder, ISOFIX child anchorages, and pedestrian impact protection.

The company also emphasises road safety through educational programmes, enforcement support, and emergency care initiatives.

Over the years, Maruti Suzuki democratised safety in India, offering features like ESC and six airbags across a broad range -- from entry-level hatchbacks to premium SUVs.

Recent innovations include a 360-degree camera, heads-up display, electronic parking brake with auto-hold in New Invicto, front parking assist, and the unveiling of Level 2 ADAS in the eVITARA.

Maruti Suzuki's Senior Executive Officer (Marketing and Sales), Partho Banerjee, said safety has always been a strategic priority for the company.

"In FY 2024-25, we made significant strides in enhancing vehicle safety, with features like Electronic Stability Program (ESP) now standard across all models, and six airbags introduced as standard in 14 models."

He added that the dual-channel Safety Shield rollout reflects the company's aim to anticipate evolving customer needs and deliver technologically advanced solutions that inspire confidence on the road.

"We are the first company to introduce six airbags in more than 140 variants. It's a mammoth job, which we have done. Generally, the perception was that Maruti vehicles are safe or not. Today, we have showcased that it's not only the six airbags, but there are more than that, including the active and the passive safety features, which comprise the ARENA safety shield and the NEXA safety shield. We are offering one of the best safety standard vehicles, and the so-called doubts that are there in the minds of the consumers just need to be taken off," he told ANI.

Maruti Suzuki's investment in safety extends beyond vehicles.

The company operates a state-of-the-art R&D centre in Rohtak, developed for Rs 3,800 crore, where each model undergoes over 50 crash tests, including the controlled crash of around 30 vehicles, before launch.

Its safety credentials were bolstered when the all-new Dzire became the first sedan in India to achieve a 5-star rating under the Bharat New Car Assessment Programme (BNCAP). At the same time, the Baleno secured a 4-star rating.

By combining rigorous testing, cutting-edge technology, and comprehensive safety education, Maruti Suzuki aims to set new benchmarks in vehicle safety, reinforcing its position as an industry leader in protecting drivers, passengers, and pedestrians alike.

The development of public charging infrastructure will play a vital role in faster adoption of electric vehicles as driving range anxiety has emerged as a deterrent to customers to accept an EV as a primary car in a household, according



MARUTI SUZUKI RAISES BAR ON SAFETY

UNVEILS NEW ADVANCED FEATURES

THE DEVELOPMENT OF PUBLIC CHARGING INFRASTRUCTURE WILL PLAY A VITAL ROLE IN FASTER ADOPTION OF ELECTRIC VEHICLES AS DRIVING RANGE ANXIETY HAS EMERGED AS A DETERRENT TO CUSTOMERS TO ACCEPT AN EV AS A PRIMARY CAR IN A HOUSEHOLD, ACCORDING TO A SENIOR MARUTI SUZUKI INDIA EXECUTIVE.

ANNIVERSARY

10TH ANNIVERSARY OF NEXA RETAIL CHANNEL (launched in 2015)

- Six airbags
- ABS with EBD
- ESP with Hill Hold Assist
- Reverse parking systems
- Three-point ELR seat belts & seat belt reminder
- ISOFIX child anchorages
- Pedestrian impact protection

RECENT TECH ADDITIONS

- 360° camera
- Heads-up display
- Electronic parking brake with auto-hold
- Level 2 ADAS in eVITARA

EXTENSIVE R&D AT ₹3800 CRORE ROHTAK CENTRE

EACH MODEL UNDERGOES 50+ CRASH TESTS

NEW DZIRE: FIRST SEDAN TO ACHIEVE 5-STAR BNCAP RATING

BALENO SCORED 4 STARS



to a senior Maruti Suzuki India executive.

The sales of electric passenger vehicles in the domestic market have almost doubled, but the overall base still remains small.

"Total contribution of EVs is 4.5 per cent (overall PV sales), it has grown from 2.4 per cent to 4.5 per cent. Absolutely, if you see numberwise, growth is 100 per cent. But is it sustainable?" Maruti Suzuki India Senior Executive Officer (Marketing & Sales) Partho Banerjee said in an interaction.

Maruti Suzuki is set to introduce its first electric model - e-VITARA this fiscal.

Banerjee stated that the segment is not witnessing adequate growth as customers do not perceive EVs as the primary car in a household.

"He (customer) has got many inhibitions that EV cannot be my first car. A person who just wants to have one car doesn't want EV to be the first car," he added.

According to FADA sales data, electric passenger vehicle retail sales jumped 93 per cent year-on-year in July.

Total electric passenger vehicle registrations rose to 15,528 units last month as compared with 8,037 units in the year-ago period.

Banerjee said that while automakers have taken care of the anxiety in terms of offering 500 km driving range in cars, concerns still remain about public charging infrastructure.

He noted that Maruti Suzuki is working to establish charging infrastructure in 100 cities but asserted that highways still lack adequate charging stations.

He also pointed out that all the vehicular technologies are going to come in the domestic market and it should be left to the consumer to select as per the requirement.

"It is a discretion of the customer based on his need, what he wants that's going to happen. But yes, one technology should not be given more weightage than the other technologies. It should be the customer selecting, actually," he said.

Currently, the total tax incidence on battery elec-



THE ANNOUNCEMENT COINCIDES WITH THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS OF THE NEXA RETAIL CHANNEL, REAFFIRMING THE COMPANY'S PLEDGE TO ENHANCE CUSTOMER SAFETY. NEXA WAS LAUNCHED IN 2015 TO BRING A PREMIUM AUTOMOTIVE RETAIL EXPERIENCE TO ITS DISCERNING CUSTOMERS IN INDIA.

tric vehicle in the country is 5 per cent, which is inclusive of GST, while a hybrid model attracts a tax of about 43 per cent.

Maruti's two models, Grand Vitara and Invicto, are fitted with strong hybrid technology.

On reasons for dip in sales of entry level cars, Banerjee said that cost escalation due to various new regulations has led to drop in demand.

"The cost has gone up, and the affordability is a problem. We are trying our level best by offering the best products. Very soon, we are going to introduce a financial package of owning Alto for just Rs 2,999," he said.

"But the fundamental question is this, we cannot put money in the wallet of the customer. We can just help him out," Banerjee said. He noted that many people in both urban and rural areas are unable to buy the entry level cars with cost going up.

Any measures that help reduce acquisition cost for probable buyers would enable the growth of the segment, he added.

Banerjee noted that the impact of the recent repo rate reduction is yet to benefit the end buyers.

He noted that probably it will take couple of years for the entry level segment to again get on the growth trajectory. Commemorating a decade of its Nexa sales network, the company has unveiled the Grand Vitara PHANTOM BLAQ edition, offered in matte black colour wrap.

AUTO TROUBLE: TRUMP TARIFFS EAT INTO TATA MOTORS ABROAD BEFORE THEY HIT INDIA



The effect of US tariffs came to India Inc before it hit the country. The latest casualty, Tata Motors.

One of India's biggest automakers, Tata Motors, saw its consolidated net profit slump by over 62 per cent to Rs 4,003 crore in its fiscal first quarter. The three-month period saw demand slowdown in domestic markets, but the dip in Jaguar Land Rover (JLR) profits on account of winding down its legacy line and the impact of Trump tariffs added fuel to the fire.

Total ops revenue for Q1 FY2026 was Rs 1,04,407 crore, down marginally from Rs 1,07,102 crore a year ago. The auto giant saw its volumes shrink across all its arms, but the major bite of the profits was taken out of JLR.

Incoming CEO of JLR, and the current Tata Motors Group CFO, P.B. Balaji, seemed to be relieved that they did not post losses. "Despite stiff macro headwinds, the business delivered a profitable quarter, supported by strong fundamentals."

JLR's topline was massively impacted by the US tariffs on cars produced in the UK and the EU. The planned legacy Jaguar phaseout added to more woes.

Outgoing JLR CEO Adrian Mardell said that the latest UK-US and the US-EU trade deals would "lessen the significant US tariff impact in subsequent quarters".

Back home, in the passenger vehicle segment, Tata Motors' market share in the period shrank to 12.3 per cent from 12.9 per cent it was last quarter, as per VAHAN data.

In Q1, the India business of Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles saw its CNG portion expand to 27 per cent. Petrol powertrains still made up half of the registrations (50 per cent). EVs stood at 13 per cent, while Diesel was 10 per cent. However, passenger vehicle revenue slumped by 8.2 per cent year-on-year to Rs 10,900 crore in the first fiscal quarter. Tata Motors attributed the drop to a moderation in sales across the industry due to lacklustre demand.

However, it noted that the volume crunch was felt more in the passenger vehicles below ₹10 lakh. With the new Harrier EV launch in July and the Tiago and Altoz hatchback updates in June, Tata Motors expects higher profitability going forward.

The automaker also stated a few initiatives such as the "institutionalisation of dealer stock policy and focus on driving retails" and "supportive retail incentive schemes" with upcoming festive period campaign.

"Q1 was a subdued quarter for the passenger vehicle industry, with volume pressures persisting across most segments. Demand softness weighed on overall performance, although the Electric Vehicle category remained a bright spot, supported by new launches and growing customer interest," reasoned Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles MD Shailesh Chandra.

"Looking ahead, while the overall industry growth is expected to remain muted, we are confident that our recent and forthcoming series of launches—across ICE and EVs—will enable us to outperform the market and strengthen our position across key segments," he added.

Indian refiners can do without Russian oil but with trade-offs

NEW DELHI: Indian refiners, the world's biggest user of Russian oil, can operate without supplies from Moscow from a technical standpoint, but the shift would involve major economic and strategic trade-offs, analysts said.

Russian crude supports high distillate yields - the share of crude converted into fuels like petrol, diesel, and jet fuel through distillation. Replacing Russian crude, which accounts for up to 38 per cent of India's refinery intake, with alternatives will shift yields, resulting in lower middle distillates (diesel and jet fuel) and higher residue outputs,

according to global real-time data and analytics provider Kpler.

US President Donald Trump last week announced an additional 25 per cent tariff on US imports from India - raising the overall duty to 50 per cent -- as a penalty for the country's continued imports of Russian oil.

Since the steep tariffs are likely to hit the USD 27 billion of non-exempt exports that India does to the US, there has been chatter around stopping or curtailing oil imports from Russia.

"Indian refiners can operate without Russian crude from a technical standpoint, but the shift

would involve major economic and strategic trade-offs," Kpler said in a report, 'US Tariffs on Indian Imports: Implications for Energy Markets & Trade Flows'. India turned to purchasing Russian oil sold at a discount after Western countries imposed sanctions on Moscow and shunned its supplies over its invasion of Ukraine in February 2022. Consequently, from a mere 1.7 per cent share in total oil imports in 2019-20 (FY20), Russia's share increased to 35.1 per cent in FY25, and it is now the biggest oil supplier to India.

In terms of volume, India imported 88 million tonnes

from Russia in FY25, out of the total shipment of 245 million tonnes.

In July, India received 1.6 million barrels per day of crude from Russia, ahead of China's nearly 1 million bpd and Turkey's around 5,00,000 bpd.

Kpler said deep discounts and strong compatibility with India's refining systems led to a surge in imports of Russian Ural crude oil.

"Russian crude supports high distillate yields (diesel and jet fuel) and is ideally suited to India's advanced refining infrastructure. It has enabled both state-owned and private refiners to operate above nameplate

capacity while maintaining strong margins.

"A reversal of this will result in a mild yield shift (lower middle distillate yields, higher residue yields) and probably a small reduction in primary throughput rates, as margins will no longer command a sizeable premium against regional benchmarks, considering existing discounts on Russian oil," Kpler said.

The Indian government has issued diplomatic but firm responses to the US tariffs, emphasising the importance of maintaining energy security.

"Should Russian oil become inaccessible, India

US PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP LAST WEEK ANNOUNCED AN ADDITIONAL 25 PER CENT TARIFF ON US IMPORTS FROM INDIA - RAISING THE OVERALL DUTY TO 50 PER CENT - AS A PENALTY FOR THE COUNTRY'S CONTINUED IMPORTS OF RUSSIAN OIL.

could face an additional USD 3-5 billion in annual import costs (based on a USD 5 per barrel premium on 1.8 million bpd). If global prices rise further (a scenario in which Russian crude exports are being curtailed, in the absence of sufficient buying interest from India), the financial burden could increase significantly," the report said.

This may prompt the government to cap retail fuel prices, which could strain fiscal balances. A spike in the import bill could even lead to a reduction in overall crude purchases. India's limited storage capacity further constrains its ability to man-

age such disruptions.

While Russian flows to India continue under a 'business-as-usual' stance, the escalating US rhetoric has reopened conversations about supply diversification, with some Indian refiners reportedly booking increased volumes of Middle Eastern crude.

According to Kpler, replacing 1.8 million barrels per day (bpd) of Russian crude would require a multi-regional approach. The Middle East remains the most viable option operationally, grades such as WTI Midland from the US could contribute 2,00,000-4,00,000 bpd.

Congress launches campaign urging people to 'register' against 'vote chori'

MI News Sevice, New Delhi: Escalating its attack over Rahul Gandhi's claims of poll rigging, the Congress party has launched a dedicated web portal where citizens can register to demand accountability from the Election Commission (EC) against what it terms as "vote chori" (vote theft) and support Gandhi's call for digital voter rolls.

The portal allows users to click a link to access and download what the party describes as "proof" of vote theft, demand EC accountability, and report cases of alleged electoral fraud. It also features a video of Gandhi reiterating his charge of a "huge criminal fraud" in the elections, accusing the BJP and the EC of collusion.

Citing an example from a constituency in Karnataka, Gandhi described the alleged malpractice as "a crime against the Constitution." The portal's message states that the vote is the foundation of democracy but is under "systematic attack by the BJP, with the Election Commission complicit."

In one cited case from the Bangalore Central parliamentary constituency, the Congress claims to have found over one lakh fake voters that allegedly helped the BJP secure victory. "Imagine this happening in 70-100 seats - it would destroy free elections," the message warns. The party

says similar alarms were previously raised in Maharashtra and that it now has "proof" to back the claims.

Registered users on the portal receive a digital certificate affirming their stand against "vote chori" and supporting Gandhi's demand for digital voter rolls. The certificate bears the signatures of Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, general secretary K C Venugopal, and treasurer Ajay Maken. Citizens can also register via a phone number provided on the site, after which they receive a link via SMS.

Several Congress leaders and supporters have already registered, sharing their certificates widely on social media to amplify the campaign.

Meanwhile, the Election Commission has pushed back strongly against the allegations. On Saturday, EC officials urged Gandhi to either sign a formal declaration substantiating his claims or apologise for what they called "fake" charges. The renewed demand came a day after a sharp exchange between the Leader of the Opposition and the poll body over alleged vote theft in at least three states.

If you'd like, I can also make a punchier, news-agency style version of this in under 200 words for quick reading. Would you like me to prepare that next?

ECI shares details of persons excluded from Bihar draft electoral roll

MI News Sevice, Patna: While opposition leaders in Bihar continue to demand detailed drafts of the ongoing voter list revision, the Election Commission of India (ECI) has confirmed that all Booth Level Agents (BLAs) of recognised political parties have already been provided with the updated draft lists. The draft voter list includes the names of deceased, transferred, and dual-entry electors.

The ECI has instructed that if any objection arises regarding the verification of a deceased elector, BLAs should inform the Booth Level Officer (BLO) with sufficient evidence. The lists have also been posted outside polling stations, inviting claims and objections from local residents.

According to the ECI, as part of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) 2025, based on the qualifying date of July 1, 2025, forms were issued to all electors listed in the rolls published on June 25, 2025. These forms, along with supporting documents, were collected from voters.

BLOs, supervisors, and administrative staff conducted field visits and door-to-door verification and detected the deceased, transferred and those who had dual entries. For instance, in the polling station number 151 in Bihar,

officials identified 746 deceased electors, one transferred elector, 13 relocated electors, and three double entries.

Similarly, in polling station number 153, out of 779 electors, 633 enumeration forms have been received; 40 electors have been found deceased. At polling station number 154, Madhubani Assembly Constituency, out of 1,424 electors, 1,372 forms were received; among the rest, 17 were deceased, 22 were permanently shifted, eight had double entries, and five were absent.

The ECI has asked BLOs to ensure the timely correction of records based on objections and verification. The last date for submitting the form for reconsideration is September 1.

As per the Election Commission, Aam Aadmi Party has two BLAs, Bahujan Samaj Party has 74, Bharatiya Janata Party has 53,338, CPI(M) has 899, Congress has 17,549, National People's Party has seven, CPI(M-L) (Liberation) has 1,496 BLAs, Janata Dal (United) has 36,550, Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) has 1,210 BLAs, Rashtriya Janata Dal has 47,506 BLAs, Rashtriya Lok Janshakti Party has 1,913, and Rashtriya Lok Samta Party has 270 BLAs. All these have been participating in the SIR exercise.

Thousands rally in Istanbul against Israeli actions in Gaza

MI News Sevice, Istanbul: Thousands of Turkish protesters here on Saturday, denouncing Israeli attacks and blockade in Gaza.

Organized by 15 civil society organizations under the "Support for Palestine Platform," the "Be Hope for Gaza" march gathered participants at Beyazit Square after evening prayers, before marching towards the iconic Hagia Sophia Mosque.

They chanted slogans like "Murderer Israel, get out of Palestine," carried Palestinian flags, and held banners accusing Israel of starving Gaza and demanding accountability.

Separately, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan held a phone call with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, during which Erdogan condemned Israel's decision to bring Gaza under full military control as "absolutely unacceptable."

According to a statement by the Turkish presidential office, Erdogan reiterated Türkiye's continued diplomatic efforts for a ceasefire

Hundreds of thousands rally across Europe in support of Gaza

MI News Sevice, London: Hundreds of thousands of demonstrators in European countries held rallies and marches Saturday in solidarity with Palestinians in the Gaza Strip, demanding an end to Israeli attacks on the enclave.

Brits took to the streets in London to protest the attacks and demand an immediate ceasefire as part of the 30th National March for Palestine.

Hundreds of thousands marched towards the Prime Minister's Office from central Russell Square under the theme: "Stop Starving Gaza."

Palestine Solidarity Campaign (PSC), one of the organizers of nationwide pro-Palestine rallies, wrote on X before the protest that Israel is starving Palestinians in Gaza to death. "Our government must take action to end Israel's genocide," it noted.

Carrying Palestinian flags, the crowd shouted slogans including one that criticized the British government "for being complicit" in the genocide.

Hundreds in Stockholm protested Israeli plans to occupy Gaza City.

The protesters gathered in the Odenplan area



with various signs that denounced Israeli attacks and US support for Israel.

The demonstrators later marched toward the Foreign Ministry. Israel's Security Cabinet approved Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's widely opposed occupation plans early Friday.

Many also took to the streets in Amsterdam to protest the plan and Western support for Israel.

The demonstration demanded immediate unrestricted aid delivery into Gaza.

The Health Ministry in Gaza said Friday that 21 Palestinians have been killed and more than 341 injured while trying to get humanitarian aid in the last 24 hours, bringing the

number of Palestinians killed while seeking aid to 1,743, with over 12,590 wounded since May 27.

It reported that 11 people, including children, have died in the past 24 hours due to famine and malnutrition. That took the death toll from starvation to 212, among them 98 children, as the humanitarian crisis in the enclave deepens.

Several pro-Palestine rallies were held in Spain, including Madrid, to protest Israeli attacks and starvation in Gaza.

Carrying Palestinian flags, protesters shouted "End to genocide" during the rally in Madrid.

Some banged pots and pans to protest the starvation in the besieged Pales-

tinian enclave.

Thousands gathered at Jardin Anglais in Geneva to protest famine- and malnutrition-related deaths in Gaza from the Israeli blockade.

The crowd staged a sit-in during the demonstration while protesting Israeli attacks by shouting in English, French and Arabic.

Carrying Palestinian flags, protesters banged pots and pans to raise awareness about the starvation in Gaza.

The crowd also demanded an end to international support for Israel's oppression of Palestinians.

The Israeli army resumed attacks on Gaza on March 18, and has since killed 9,862 victims and injured 40,809, shattering a ceasefire and prisoner exchange agreement that took hold in January.

Last November, the International Criminal Court issued arrest warrants for Netanyahu and his former Defense Minister Yoav Gallant for war crimes and crimes against humanity in Gaza.

Israel also faces a genocide case at the International Court of Justice for its war on the enclave.

Israel-imposed starvation has killed 100 children in Gaza

MI News Sevice, Gaza: Israeli attacks across the besieged Gaza Strip continue, killing at least 39 Palestinians, as the death toll from Israeli-induced starvation since the war began rises to 217, including 100 children.

The United Nations Security Council is set to hold a rare weekend session to discuss Israel's plan to seize Gaza City and forcibly displace nearly a million Palestinians.

Protesters have gathered in major cities across the world, from Buenos Aires to London and Istanbul, urging world leaders to take action and end Israel's war on Gaza.

Israel's war on Gaza has killed at least 61,430 people and wounded 153,213. An estimated 1,139 people were killed in Israel during the October 7, 2023, attacks, and more than 200 were taken captive.

A Palestinian teenager,



shot in the eye by Israeli forces while desperately seeking food for his family near a United States and Israeli-backed GHF site in Gaza, is unlikely to regain sight in his left eye, doctors treating him have said, as the population of the besieged and bombarded enclave suffers from forced starvation.

Fifteen-year-old Abdul Rahman Abu Jazar told Al Jazeera that Israeli soldiers kept shooting at him even after he was struck by a bullet, making him

think "this was the end" and "death was near."

Relaying the harrowing chain of events from a hospital bed with a white bandage covering one eye, Abu Jazar said he went to the site around 2am (23:00 GMT).

"It was my first time going to the distribution point," he said. "I went there because my siblings and I had no food. We couldn't find anything to eat."

He says he moved forward with the crowd until

he reached al-Muntazah Park in the Gaza City environs about five hours later.

"We were running when they began shooting at us. I was with three others; three of them were hit. As soon as we started running, they opened fire. Then I felt something like electricity shoot through my body. I collapsed to the ground. I felt as though I had been electrocuted ... I didn't know where I was, I just blacked out. When I woke up, I asked people 'Where am I?'"

Others near Abu Jazar told him he had been shot in the head. "They were still firing. I got scared and started reciting prayers."

A doctor at the hospital held a phone light near the boy's wounded eye and asked him if he could see any light. He could not. The doctor diagnosed a perforating eye injury caused by a gunshot wound.

Europe promises to 'stand firmly' with Ukraine as Trump, Putin plan summit

MI News Sevice, Kyiv: European leaders have welcomed plans by United States President Donald Trump to hold talks with his Russian counterpart, Vladimir Putin, on ending the war in Ukraine, but called for continued support for Kyiv and pressure on Moscow to achieve a just and lasting peace.

The statement by France, Italy, Germany, Poland, the United Kingdom and the European Commission late on Saturday came as Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy insisted that Kyiv will not surrender land to Russia to buy peace.

Trump, who has promised to end the three-year war, plans to meet Putin in Alaska on Friday, saying the parties were close to a deal that could resolve the conflict.

Details of a potential agreement have not been announced, but Trump said it would involve "some swapping of territories to the betterment of both". It could require Ukraine to surrender significant parts of its territory, an outcome Zelenskyy and his European allies say would only encourage Russian aggression.

The European leaders, in their joint statement, stressed their belief that the only approach to end the war successfully required active diplomacy, support for Ukraine, as well as pressure on Russia.

They also said any dip-

lomatic solution to the war must protect Ukraine's and Europe's security interests.

"We agree that these vital interests include the need for robust and credible security guarantees that enable Ukraine to effectively defend its sovereignty and territorial integrity," they said, adding that "the path to peace in Ukraine cannot be decided without Ukraine."

The leaders said they were ready to help diplomatically and promised to maintain their "substantial military and financial support for Ukraine".

"We underline our unwavering commitment to the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Ukraine," they said, adding:

"We continue to stand firmly alongside Ukraine."

Zelenskyy said on Sunday that Kyiv "values and fully supports" the joint statement by European leaders.

"The end of the war must be fair, and I am grateful to everyone who stands with Ukraine and our people today for the sake of peace in Ukraine, which is defending the vital security interests of our European nations," he wrote on X.

"Ukraine values and fully supports the statement by President Macron, Prime Minister Meloni, Chancellor Merz, Prime Minister Tusk, Prime Minister Starmer, President Ursula von der Leyen, and President Stubb on peace for Ukraine."

Mass arrests in London as activists challenge UK's ban on Palestine Action

MI News Sevice, London: British police said they arrested 365 people in central London on Saturday as supporters of a recently banned pro-Palestinian group intentionally flouted the law as part of their effort to force the government to reconsider the ban.

Parliament in early July passed a law banning Palestine Action and making it a crime to publicly support the organization. That came after activists broke into a Royal Air Force base and vandalized two tanker planes to protest against Britain's support for Israel's offensive against

Hamas in the Gaza Strip.

Backers of the group, who have held a series of protests around the UK over the past month, argue that the law illegally restricts freedom of expression.

More than 500 protesters filled the square outside the Houses of Parliament on Saturday, many daring police to arrest them by displaying signs reading "I oppose genocide. I support Palestine Action." That was enough for police to step in.

But as the demonstration began to wind down, police and protest organisers sparred

over the number of arrests as the organisers sought to show that the law was unworkable.

"The police have only been able to arrest a fraction of those supposedly committing terrorism" offences, and most of those have been given street bail and allowed to go home," Defend Our Juries, which organised the protest, said in a statement.

"This is a major embarrassment to (the government), further undermining the credibility of this widely ridiculed law, brought in to punish those exposing the government's own crimes."

Police monitor pro-Palestinian protest in Parliament Square, London. Photo: AP

London's Metropolitan Police Service quickly hit back, saying this wasn't true and that many of those who gathered in the square were onlookers, media or people who didn't hold placards supporting the group.

"We are confident that anyone who came to Parliament Square today to hold a placard expressing support for Palestine Action was either arrested or is in the process of being arrested," the police force said in a statement.

Science has not been able to find a substitute for blood: Minister Javed



Nurul Islam Khan

The century-old Young Muslim Society Social Welfare Organization Club of Topsia has been organizing various social programs for 50 years. It has been organizing health camps including receptions for meritorious students of the area, charitable treatment. On Saturday, there was Zikr-e-Shahadat. Prayers were offered for the welfare of people all over the world. A blood donation camp was held on Sunday. 100 people, both men and women, donated blood.

Many valuable awards and certificates were given to all the blood donors. State Minister Javed Ahmed Khan, who was present, said that science has not yet been able to

find a substitute for blood.

As a result, donating blood is a noble and social work.

He protested against the constant harassment of Bengalis in other states. He said that only Bengalis have shown the path to development by enriching India.

Ward No. 66 Councillor Faiz Khan said that to provide services to the common people, we will go to the people as representatives and organize camps to remove their grievances. The state government has implemented many projects for the welfare of the people. The club was represented by Hasangir, Sheikh Nizamuddin, Asgar Ali, Ainul Haque, Md Kamal, Sheikh Jahangir, Sarafat Hossain Naimuddin and many others.



As Netanyahu eyes full Gaza control, Israel faces crisis of int'l credibility

MI News Sevice, Perth: For all its claims of being a democracy that adheres to international law and the rules of war, Israel's global reputation is in tatters.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's latest plan for a full military takeover of Gaza, along with the expanding starvation crisis in the strip and Israel's repressive measures in the West Bank, underline the country's predicament.

Notwithstanding US support, the Jewish state faces a crisis of international credibility, from which it may not be able to recover for a long time.

According to a recent Pew poll, the international view of Israel is now more negative than positive. The majority of those polled in early 2025 in countries such as the Netherlands (78 percent), Japan (79 percent), Spain (75 percent), Australia (74 percent), Türkiye (93 percent) and Sweden (75 percent) said they have an unfavourable view of Israel.

The International Criminal Court has issued arrest warrants for Netanyahu and Israel's former defence minister, Yoav Gallant, on charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity. Many international law experts, genocide scholars and human rights groups

have also accused Israel of committing genocide in Gaza.

Israel's traditional supporters have also harshly criticised the Netanyahu government's actions, from both inside and outside the country. These include former prime ministers Ehud Olmert and Ehud Barak, the Israeli literary giant David Grossman, and Masorti Judaism Rabbi Jonathan Wittenberg and Rabbi Delphine Horvileur.

In addition, hundreds of retired Israeli security officials have appealed to US President Donald Trump to push Netanyahu to end the war.

With images of starving children in Gaza dominating the news in recent weeks, many of Israel's friends in the Western alliance have similarly reached the point at which they can no longer tolerate its policy actions.

In a major shift in global opinion, France announced it would recognise Palestinian statehood in September. The United Kingdom and Canada vowed to follow suit. Even Germany has now begun the process for recognition. And Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese has indicated his country's recognition of Palestine was only a matter of time.

Arab, Islamic blocs slam Israel's plan to impose full military control over Gaza

MI News Sevice, Cairo: The ministerial committee mandated by the Joint Arab-Islamic Extraordinary Summit on Gaza, along with 23 countries, the Arab League and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, on Saturday jointly voiced "strong condemnation and categorical rejection" of Israel's intention to impose full military control over Gaza.

The joint statement, released by the foreign ministries of the countries, including Egypt, Palestine, Qatar, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Oman, Yemen, Sudan, Libya, Mauritania, Indonesia, Malaysia, Pakistan, Nigeria, Bangladesh, Chad, Djibouti, Somalia, Türkiye, and Gambia, described the Israeli intention as "a dangerous and unacceptable escalation, a flagrant violation of international law, and an attempt to entrench the illegal occupation and impose a fait accompli on the ground by force, in contravention of

international legitimacy."

The statement warned that the declared Israeli course of action "constitutes a continuation of its grave violations, including killing and starvation, attempts at forced displacement and annexation of Palestinian land, and settler terrorism, which are crimes that may amount to crimes against humanity."

It added that such measures "obliterate any opportunity for peace, undermine regional and international efforts towards de-escalation and peaceful resolution of the conflict, and exacerbate the severe violations against the Palestinian people."

The countries and blocs demanded "the immediate and comprehensive cessation of the Israeli aggression" in Gaza, the West Bank, and East Jerusalem, as well as the "unconditional entry" of humanitarian assistance into Gaza and the freedom of operation for relief agencies.

India qualify for AFC U20 Women’s Asian Cup for first time in two decades



YANGON [MYANMAR] : The India U20 women’s national team secured qualification for the AFC U20 Women’s Asian Cup for the first time in 20 years, after defeating hosts Myanmar 1-0 in their final Group D encounter at the Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon, on Sunday, according to the AIFF website.

The Young Tigresses finished top of their group with seven points, after winger Pooja’s 27th-minute goal secured a victory for them in front of a partisan crowd at the Thuwunna Stadium.

It was a game of two halves, the first dominated by India, while Myanmar controlled the proceedings in the second. Neha and Sibani Devi Nongmeikapam combined as early as the third minute,

when the former fizzed in a cross to the latter, who was merely inches away from tapping it in.

While the hosts absorbed all the pressure, they did launch a few counterattacks, and forward Su Su Khin came close in the ninth, after receiving a chest-down from Yin Loon Eain.

The hosts began to ease their way into the game as the minutes wore on, but India took the lead through Pooja minutes ahead of the 30-minute mark.

It was Pooja herself who had started the attack on the counter before crossing it in from the right. Her ball evaded one and all, but Neha, at the opposite flank, managed to get onto the end of it and sent it looping back in. Pooja, who had made her way to the

goalmouth by then, barely had enough time to react, and plonked it over the line with her torso.

That calmed the nerves in the Indian camp, at least till the end of the first half. The Young Tigresses kept the ball and took their slender lead into the break.

The second half was a completely different prospect, however. Buoyed by the home support, Myanmar came all guns blazing, and India goalkeeper Monalisha Devi had to make a smart 48th-minute save to keep Su Su Khin out. India had dug their trenches, and they dug deep, as they absorbed wave after wave of Myanmar attacks. Monalisha, who had not conceded a single goal in the previous two matches, was called into action with 10 minutes

left on the clock when Myanmar substitute Moe Pwint Phyu struck a headed cross by Ei Thet Phyo into the upright. The ball kept rolling tantalisingly on the line before the India goalkeeper leapt across and swiped it away to safety. Phyu hit the woodwork once again, this time in the 90th minute, when her shot took a deflection off Shubhangi, only to crash into the upright and bounce out of play.

Seconds later, India broke on the counter as Sibani sent a cross to Sulanjana Raul, who also hit the woodwork, her header crashing into the cross-bar. Despite all the pressure from the hosts, India clung on to their lead and secured qualification for the first time in two decades.

NEW ZEALAND ALL-ROUNDER THAMYSN NEWTON ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT FROM INTERNATIONAL CRICKET

NEW DELHI [INDIA] : New Zealand all-rounder Thamysn Newton has announced her retirement from all forms of cricket, after a 14-year career consisting of 10 ODIs and 15 T20Is on Sunday.

Newton was a part of the squad in the 2016 ICC Women’s T20 World Cup, where New Zealand women lost out on a final spot narrowly after being beaten by the eventual champions, West Indies women, by six runs in the semi-final, according to the ICC website.

The pace all-rounder has grabbed 11 wickets in 10 ODIs she has been a part of, including one five-wicket haul against Pakistan in 2016.

While in T20Is, she has snapped nine wickets in 15 matches, which includes best figures of picking three wickets, giving away just nine runs in only her third T20I.

Newton last played an ODI in 2017, she earned back her central contract with New Zealand in 2021 after a gap of three years. But she only played three more T20Is after that. She also played for Perth Scorchers in the WBBL 2017-18. In the New Zealand domestic circuit, Newton has won multiple tournaments, including the Hallyburton Johnstone Shield, the 50-over contest, claiming it once each for two different teams - Canterbury and Wellington.

She has also triumphed in the Super Smash for Wellington four times. She began her domestic career with Wellington in 2011-12 before switching over to Canterbury from 2014 to 2018.

She returned to Wellington again for a further five years before moving to Central Districts ahead of the 2023-24 season.



Haryana, Jharkhand set to clash in final of 15th India Junior Women National Championship 2025

KAKINADA (ANDHRA PRADESH) : Haryana and Jharkhand emerged victorious at the semi-finals of the 15th Hockey India Junior Women National Championship 2025 in Kakinada on Sunday, setting up a thrilling clash for the final, according to a release from Hockey India.

While Chhattisgarh will face Uttar Pradesh in the clash for third place.

In the first semi-final of the day, Haryana defeated Chhattisgarh 3-0. Haryana’s Captain Shashi Kasha (8’) put her team ahead as early as the first quarter. Both teams were locked in a fierce battle until Supriya (45’, 47’) broke the deadlock with two late goals in quick succession.

In the other Semi-Final, Hockey Jharkhand defeated Uttar Pradesh Hockey, 3-0. Sweetie Dungdung (13’) opened the scoring in the first quarter, before Rina Kullu (56’) and Captain Rajni Kerketta (59’) added to the tally to complete a comprehensive victory.

Earlier, in the Quarter-Finals, Hockey Haryana, Chhattisgarh Hockey, Hockey Jharkhand and Uttar Pradesh Hockey sealed their



spots in the Semi-Finals on Saturday in Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh.

In the first Quarter-Final of the day, Hockey Haryana enjoyed a comfortable 4-1 victory over Hockey Association of Odisha. The winning side opened the game strongly with an early goal by Kajal (2’), followed by another one in the second quarter by Supriya

(27’) to extend the lead.

Captain Sashi Kasha (36’) also featured on the scoresheet with a goal in the third quarter. In the final quarter, Amisha Ekka (47’) scored a consolation goal for Hockey Association of Odisha, but Saavi (60’) struck the net again for Hockey Haryana to help her side win with a sizable lead.

The second fixture of the day

saw Chhattisgarh Hockey win 2-1 over Hockey Madhya Pradesh in a shootout after a 1-1 draw over the four quarters.

Yashoda (2’) struck an early goal for Chhattisgarh Hockey; however, Huda Khan (15’) promptly equalised for Hockey Madhya Pradesh towards the end of the first quarter. The teams battled for possession over the next three quarters but couldn’t find a winning goal. Kajal scored one of her attempts during the shootout for Hockey Madhya Pradesh, while Captain Rukhamani of Chhattisgarh Hockey scored both her attempts during the shootout to help her side qualify for the Semi-Finals. In the third Quarter-Final, Hockey Jharkhand defeated Hockey Punjab 3-1 to progress ahead in the tournament.

Pawanpreet Kaur (6’) of Hockey Punjab scored the first goal of the game through a penalty corner, but their lead only lasted a minute. Sweetie Dungdung (7’) scored a field goal for Hockey Jharkhand to equalise, followed by goals from Shanti Kumari (22’) and Roshni Aind (46’) to seal the victory.

Khelo India ASMITA is an affirmative action in sports for increasing women’s participation: Union MoS Raksha Khadse

JALGAON (MAHARASHTRA) : In a significant push to increase women’s participation in sports, the Khelo India ASMITA Football League 2025-26 was inaugurated by Raksha Nikhil Khadse, Minister of State, Youth Affairs and Sports, at the Godavari Engineering College Ground in Jalgaon, Maharashtra. The league, a powerful initiative embodying the principle of affirmative action, aims to unearth and nurture young female talent from diverse communities across the region.

The day-long event, which officially commenced with an opening ceremony, brought together aspiring footballers aged 13 and under. Raksha Khadse, while addressing the gathering, stated that this is the stage "where passion turns into performance," as the league seeks to unleash the "untapped talent" brimming within women’s sports. The competition is designed to provide a platform for everyone, from first-time players to hidden champions.

She also underscored the league’s broader mission. "This league isn’t just about sports; it’s about breaking barriers," she stated. "It is a powerful step towards affirmative action, bringing aspir-



ing women players, including those from tribal and minority communities, right into the spotlight." The initiative, she added, is a clear articulation of the government’s philosophy of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas'.

The Khelo India ASMITA league is a core component of the 'Khelo Bharat Niti,' promoting sports for nation-building and women’s empowerment. The league is a dedicated platform for young girls, addressing historical imbalances and creating new opportunities. This initiative is changing the narrative around women in sports, helping them challenge stereotypes and become new role models. The league’s focus on grassroots talent aligns with PM Modi’s vision, aiming to make India a global sporting powerhouse where women play a central role and find their identity through sports.

The inauguration was held in the presence of dignitaries, including Ketakitai Patil and Farukh

Tim David, Dwarshuis shine as Australia beat Proteas by 17 runs in T20 series opener

DARWIN [AUSTRALIA] : Tim David and Ben Dwarshuis shone as Australia sealed the victory by 17 runs in the opening T20I against South Africa at Marrara Oval, Darwin on Sunday. With one win under its belt, Australia now leads the series 1-0.

After South Africa opted to field, Australia scored a respectable 178 in their 20 overs, with Tim David’s impactful fifty and Cameron Green contributing a lightning-fast cameo.

Australia’s top order faltered early, Travis Head fell cheaply, for 2 in the second over, followed by a golden duck from Josh Inglis, but Cameron Green counterpunched with a 35 off 13 balls, injecting momentum into the innings. Tim David then took over, launching an explosive 83 off 52 balls that included eight massive sixes, lifting Australia from a precarious collapse to a defendable platform.

Despite his onslaught, South African captain Aiden Markram brought his pace attack into the game. Young sensation Kwena Maphaka led the way with four

wickets for 20 runs, the best T20I stats for a South African against Australia.

While chasing, South Africa lost Markram early for 12 in the first over. Proteas lost three wickets inside the powerplay as Australia kept bowling on tight lines. Rickelton and Stubbs had put a partnership of 72 in 52 balls before Hazlewood bowled a cross-seam delivery to remove Stubbs, for 37 in the 15th over.

Ryan Rickelton’s 71 off 43 balls offered resistance, but his scoring rate wasn’t enough to overcome the mounting required run rate.

South Africa fell short at 158 for 7, handing Australia a memorable win. Hazlewood and Zampa’s crucial contributions with the ball sealed the result.

David was named player of the match for his match-winning knock of 83 off 52 balls.

Brief score: Australia 178/10 (Tim David 83, Cameron Green 35; Kwena Maphaka 4/20). Vs South Africa 161/9 (Ryan Rickelton 71, Tristan Stubbs 37; Ben Dwarshuis 3/26).



Nisha, Muskan clinch gold as 9 out of 10 Indian women return with medals from Asian U19 Boxing Championships

BANGKOK [THAILAND] : India’s young women pugilists underlined their growing prowess in continental boxing as Nisha (54kg) and Muskan (57kg) clinched gold, and five others won silver, at the U19 Asian Boxing Championships 2025 in Bangkok, Thailand on Sunday.

Of the 10 women boxers in the U19 fray, nine will return with medals - including two golds, five silvers, and two bronzes - showcasing India’s status as an emerging powerhouse alongside countries like Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and China.

Nisha opened India’s gold medal account in the second bout of the day when she raised her level to dominate the third and final round against Sirui Yang of China to record a 4:1 win. Muskan then made it two in a row for India, coming out with an aggressive approach and staving off Kazakhstan’s Ayazhan Ermek in the subsequent rounds to get a 3:2 split verdict.

The U19 and U22 Asian Boxing Championships, which are being held simultaneously, provide India’s rising stars with a platform to showcase their skills and determination against some of Asia’s toughest opponents. India has fielded a strong contingent of 40 boxers, 20 in each age group, with a perfect mix of proven champions and potential talents who have impressed in the domestic circuit.

Three more boxers will be in action in the men’s finals later in the day. India is also assured of 13 medals in the U22 category, with five boxers set to fight for gold on Monday.

Among the other Indian women contesting for gold on Sunday, Vini went down against Sevara Mamatova of Uzbekistan in the 60kg final. In comparison, Arinda Akimoto of Japan got the better of Nisha 4:1 in the 65kg summit clash.

In the higher weight categories, Aarti Kumari (75kg) lost to Tongtong Gu of China, while Kritika Wasan’s (80kg) last round efforts were not enough to avoid a 2:3 loss against Kuralay Yeginbaikyz of Kazakhstan. Parchi Tokas (80+kg) went down by an identical margin against Sobirakhon Shakhobidinova of Uzbekistan.



ROUND 1 OF JK TYRE NOVICE CUP AND ROYAL ENFIELD CONTINENTAL GT CUP CONCLUDES IN COIMBATORE

COIMBATORE (TAMIL NADU) : For connoisseurs of motorsport, the Kari Motor Speedway on the outskirts of Coimbatore, the thrill and speed of cars and bikes pushing the limits was on full view as the Royal Enfield Continental Cup and JK Tyre Novice Cup brought nail-biting action to life, according to a release from JK Tyre Novice Cup.

Part of the 28th JK Tyre Racing Championship, the weekend saw exciting races in its two categories as Anish Shetty and Bhuvan Bonu came out all guns blazing in Round 1, which concluded over the weekend.

Anish dominated the Royal Enfield Continental GT Cup. To win a hat-trick of races spread over Saturday and Sunday was a sight to watch. If competition in the two-wheeler category was made to look woefully one-sided by Anish, born in Hubli and settled in Bengaluru, he had slogged hard for it. These bikes, weighing



close to 200 kg, are not easy to tease on the track. Anish showcased fitness, form, and above all, speed to catch the attention of one and all. The weather pattern over the two days was different.

Saturday was sunny and

The GT Cup grid is a mix between the seasoned riders and novices who have emerged from a trial of sorts from the street to the circuit.

Perhaps, one more boy who could match Anish in terms of challenge was Kayan Zubin Patel from Mumbai. Kayan was not as fast as Anish, but the third race of the weekend saw defending champion Navaneeth Kumar from the previous season bouncing back to second place.

Overall, in the standings, Anish Shetty is way ahead with 30 points. Kayan is at 19 points and Navaneeth at 12 points. "It has been a fruitful weekend, and all the hard work paid off," said Anish Shetty.

For the young drivers who were also part of the grid as novices, watching Anish was a learning experience. He showcased speed and style with his bike. Among the amateurs, Bryan Nicholas from Pondicherry was

just too good as he won all three races (36 points). Behind him was Johring Warisa (27 points) from Umrangso. Kabir Saohch from Vadodara was third in overall standing with 18 points.

In the JK Tyre Novice Cup, Bhuvan Bonu was too fast for the rest of the field. The 15-year-old from Bengaluru, who trains in the United States of America, was pushing his car effortlessly. At some stages, it looked as if he was in a different car altogether. Indeed, to be getting the racing juices flowing all through two days, Bonu was confident. "I kept getting better and better. I enjoyed the weekend," said the lad.

As for the rest of the field, which included Ojas Surve and Abhijit Vadavalli, it was more of watching Bonu tease his car on two consecutive days. He did not want to say much about how fast his car was in an incident-filled last race on Sunday.