

From Cannons to Commerce: The Forgotten History of Esplanade

For millions of Bengalis, the word Esplanade evokes the very pulse of Kolkata. The roar of buses, the crush of shoppers, the neon glow of billboards — all converge at this historic junction of Chowringhee and Dalhousie Square, now a teeming commercial hub. But behind the name lies a story steeped in blood, cannons, and the colonial re-engineering of a city's soul. The word Esplanade is not mere nomenclature. It is a relic of military strategy. Derived from the French esplanade, with roots in the Italian spianata and Latin ex-planare meaning "to flatten," the term referred to a levelled, open ground in front of a fort. Such spaces were designed for one reason alone: war. **PG 3**



Rs. 3

KOLKATA

MONDAY, 1 SEPTEMBER, 2025

PG-8, YEAR—12, ISSUE—96

(RNI NO.: WBENG / 2014 / 56803)

WEBSITE: WWW.LIVE7TV.COM

Morning India

Take pride in using 'SWADESHI' products: MODI

MI News Service, New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday called upon people to take pride in "swadeshi" (made in India) products as the festival season peaks in the coming weeks, stressing the mantra of "vocal for local" and the path of "aatmanirbhar Bharat" will lead to a developed India. Everything that is needed in life should be "swadeshi", he said in the 'Mann ki Baat' programme, repeatedly emphasising his point at a time when he has doubled down on the need for the country to become self-reliant amid a dip in the ties with the US after President Donald Trump imposed a 50 per cent tariff on Indian goods. As different parts of the country celebrate Ganesh festival, and Durga Puja and Diwali approach, he said people should never forget about "swadeshi" products during the festivals, be it in purchasing gifts, clothes, decor items or anything else. He stated, "Say with pride this is swadeshi, say with pride this is swadeshi, say with pride this is swadeshi. We have to move forward with this feeling. The only mantra is vocal for local, the only path is Aatmanirbhar Bharat, the only goal is developed India."

In his monthly broadcast, Modi said love for the Ramayana and Indian culture is now reaching every corner of the world, while noting that a 51-feet-tall statue of the lord was unveiled at Mississauga in Canada earlier this month.

A unique exhibition was held in Vladivostok, a very cold region of Russia, this month, in which paintings made by Russian children on different themes of the Ramayana were showcased, he added. "It is indeed heartening to see the growing awareness of Indian culture in different parts of the world." In his interactive programme, the prime minister also noted with anguish the havoc natural disasters have wreaked during the rainy season. "This monsoon season, natural disasters are testing the country," Modi said.

"At places, homes were destroyed; at others, fields were submerged; families were ruined in large numbers. Elsewhere, bridges were swept away by gushing water; roads were washed away; people's lives were enmeshed in danger. These incidents have saddened every Indian," he said. Also Read - EC targets new voter cards for all Bihar voters post SIR The prime minister added that the national and state emergency forces have toiled day and night to help people. Modern technology and resources, such as thermal cameras, life detectors, sniffer dogs and drone surveillance have been deployed in rescue and relief works, he added. Security forces, local population, social workers, doctors and the administration have made every possible effort in this hour of crisis, Modi said. In the 125th episode of Mann Ki Baat, he highlighted two major achievements of Jammu and Kashmir amid the devastating natural calamity - the first day-night cricket match in Pulwama and the 'Khelo India Water Sports Festival' at Dal Lake in Srinagar. "During this monsoon season, natural disasters are testing the country. In the last few weeks, we have witnessed massive havoc caused by floods and landslides.

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Crowds through the New Market area for festive shopping ahead of Durga Puja on Sunday in Kolkata..

Committed to take forward bilateral ties with China: MODI



Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, left, and Chinese President Xi Jinping, right, hold a meeting on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit in Tianjin, China.

MI News Service, New Delhi/Beijing: India is committed to taking forward its ties with China based on mutual trust, respect and sensitivity, Prime Minister Narendra Modi told Chinese President Xi Jinping as the two leaders held wide-ranging talks to reset the bilateral relations. Modi, who is on his first visit to China in seven years, was speaking to Xi on the sidelines of the summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation regional security bloc. In his televised opening remarks, Modi said the welfare of 2.8 billion people is linked to bilateral cooperation between India and China.

The prime minister noted that there is peace and stability along the border following last year's disengagement process, adding

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Tackling natural disasters are a big challenge: MODI



The PM closed his Mann ki Baat address by greeting the nation on Ganesh Utsav and urging people to celebrate festivals the "swadeshi" way.

MI News Service, New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday expressed pain and anguish over the devastation caused by landslides and floods triggered by incessant rains, and said natural disasters are testing the country.

In the 125th episode of the "Mann Ki Baat" programme, he also highlighted two major achievements of Jammu and Kashmir amid the devastating natural calamity - the first day-night cricket match in Pulwama and the 'Khelo India Water Sports Festival' at Dal Lake in Srinagar. "During this monsoon season, natural disasters are testing the country. In the last few weeks, we have witnessed massive havoc caused by floods and landslides.

Homes torn apart, fields submerged, and entire families destroyed. "The relentless surge of water swept away bridges; roads got washed away, and people's lives were in danger. These incidents have saddened every Indian," Modi said in the radio broadcast. The prime minister hailed the efforts of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), and security forces during the rescue operation amid mayhem. "Wherever there was a crisis, our NDRF-SDRF personnel and other security forces worked day and night to save people. The soldiers also took the help of technology. Efforts were made to speed up relief work with the help of thermal cameras, live detectors,

sniffer dogs and drone surveillance. "During this, relief material was delivered by helicopters, and the injured were airlifted. Armed forces came forward to help in times of disaster. Local people, social workers, doctors, administration -- everyone made every possible effort in this hour of crisis. I heartily thank every such citizen who prioritised humanity in these difficult times," he said. Modi noted that amid the devastation caused by floods and rains, Jammu and Kashmir has also achieved two very special achievements. "Not many people noticed these. But you will be happy to know about those achievements. A record number of people gathered in a stadium in Pulwama. Pulwama's first day-night cricket match was played here. Earlier this was impossible, but now my country is changing," he said. "The second event that caught attention was the country's first 'Khelo India Water Sports Festival' and that too held at Dal Lake in Srinagar. Truly, what a special place to host a festival like this." Modi said more than 800 athletes from across India participated in it. "Women athletes were not far behind; their participation was nearly equal to that of men. I would like to congratulate all the participants," the prime minister added.

NIA court revokes attachment of 6 more properties linked to PFI

MI News Service, Kochi: The NIA court here has revoked the attachment of six properties and a bank account allegedly linked to the banned Popular Front of India (PFI), after it released 10 other properties in June this year. These properties and bank accounts were attached after NIA registered a case against PFI for anti-national activities and the murder of RSS leader Sreenivasan of Palakkad in 2022.

According to the NIA court's six different judgments given this month, the properties and the bank account to be released belonged to Trivandrum Education Trust, Haritham Foundation Poovanchira, Periyar Valley Charitable Trust Aluva, Vallavunad Trust Palakkad, Chandragiri Charitable Trust in Kasaragod, and Social Democratic Party of India (SDPI) in New Delhi. After an investigation, the NIA has claimed that PFI was carrying out arms training at Periyar Valley campus and Vallavunad House. In June this year, the court revoked the attachment of 10 other properties belonging to various trusts and individuals in Malappuram, Alappuzha, Kollam, Pathanamthitta, Thrissur, Wayanad, Kozhikode, Palakkad, and Ernakulam, which were alleged to have links with PFI. A group of trustees and individual property owners filed appeals at the NIA court chal-

lenging attachments initiated by a designated authority appointed by the Ministry of Home Affairs in 2023 after the national agency registered a case against PFI. The NIA has so far filed charge sheets against 63 persons as part of the PFI case. The trustees and individuals claimed that they were not involved in the NIA cases and had no direct links with PFI.

However, NIA submitted to the court that these properties were used to conduct physical and arms training to the PFI cadre and provide shelter to them. The court decided to revoke the attachment of properties as it considered that the direct involvement of trust members in the PFI activities could not be established. Advocate PC Noushad, who appeared for applicants, said 17 properties attached as part of the PFI case have been revoked. "The bank account of SDPI in New Delhi was attached after it was found by the NIA that an amount was transferred from it to an accused in the PFI case. However, we provided details to the court stating that the accused worked as a driver and that money was transferred to him every month as his salary. So far, the court has revoked 17 attachments made in connection with the PFI case," he told. The applicants have approached the relevant authorities for the release of the properties, Noushad added.

India's first cold firecracker plant to come up in BENGAL

MI News Service, Kolkata: A large section of firecracker manufacturers in Bengal has been planning to set up India's first factory to produce cold firecrackers with the help of the state government next year.

They said that there was no such unit in the country, as cold fireworks are completely imported from China. Cold firecrackers worth around ₹200 crore are sold annually in India. "We have already chalked out a plan to set up a factory for cold firecrackers in Bengal. We have discussed it with the principal secretary of the micro, small and medium enterprises department, who has assured us of full support in setting up the country's first such manufacturing unit," said Sukdeb Naskar, the general secretary of the All Bengal Trinamool Green Firecrackers Manufacturing Workers' Union. Cold fireworks are a type of pyrotechnic display that uses a combination of liquid nitrogen and other chemicals to create a unique visual effect. Unlike traditional firecrackers, cold firecrackers do not produce heat or sound, making them ideal for use in areas where noise and fire hazards may be a concern. Cold firecrackers are commonly used at indoor parties and cricket grounds, as they pose no risk of fire accidents. The manufacturers said the demand for the cold firecrackers increased significantly because of their "no-risk" and "zero pollution" characteristics.

"We have already contacted LIT University in Nagpur, which has been developing the procedure to produce cold firecrackers with the help of experts from Germany and the UK. They have assured us that they will soon visit the pro-

posed manufacturing site. We also plan to begin training around 250 firework manufacturers in the production of cold firecrackers in January next year," said Sarkar, claiming that the cold fireworks are the future of the firecracker industry. A source said the government had advised the firecracker manufacturers to choose either Champahati or Maheshstala in South 24-Parganas for setting up the cold firecracker unit. The firecracker industry in Bengal has suffered multiple blows in recent years, with several explosions claiming dozens of lives and leaving the government embarrassed. The multiple explosions and loss of lives had raised questions over the government's supervision of illegal firecracker-producing units.

Chief minister Mamata Banerjee also held several meetings to help manufacturers switch to green crackers, ensuring the safety and security of workers and the public. The government has already constructed several firecracker clusters to help small-scale producers operate in protected areas while following proper norms and regulations. However, hundreds of firecracker manufacturers have complained to the Trinamool-backed union that they were denied licences despite fulfilling all required conditions.

"We praise the state government for its initiative to protect the interests of firecracker manufacturers. There are 1.5 lakh manufacturers in various districts of the state. However, the cold firecracker initiative will greatly improve safety for manufacturers and also help reduce pollution," said Sakti Pada Mondal, president of the union.

BIHAR: EC plans to issue 'new voter cards' post SIR



MI News Service, New Delhi: The Election Commission plans to issue new voter identity cards to all electors of Bihar after the completion of the ongoing special intensive revision of electoral rolls in the state, officials said on Sunday. They added that a final call on when the new cards will be issued is yet to be taken by the poll authority. Officials said while the plan is to issue every Bihar voter with a new voter card, a final call on when and how the exercise will be carried out is yet to be taken.

When electors were given enumeration forms, they were asked to submit the filled up document along with their latest photograph. The new photograph will be used to update records and issuing fresh voter cards.

According to the draft electoral roll of Bihar published on August 1, the state has 7.24 crore electors. The final voters list will be published on September 30 and assembly elections in the state are

likely to be held in November. The term of the present assembly ends on November 22 and a new House has to be constituted before that.

According to the EC, 99 per cent of those who had filled up enumeration forms have so far submitted their documents. Nearly 30,000 people have filed pleas for inclusion in the voters list as their names were missing from the draft rolls.

Separately, Bihar has become the first state where the number of electors per polling stations has been reduced from 1500 to a maximum of 1200 as part of rationalisation exercise to ensure lesser crowding of polling stations on voting day. Due to rationalisation, the number of polling stations in the state has gone up from 77,000 to 90,000. The rationalisation exercise will eventually be carried out pan India. In the last Lok Sabha elections, there were 10.5 lakh polling stations in the country.

Husband gets life term, parents seven years for dowry death in Nadia

Dipankar Edbar, Ranaghat (Nadia): A local court in Ranaghat on Saturday sentenced a man to life imprisonment for murdering his wife, while his parents were awarded seven years' jail for their role in the dowry death that shocked Hanskhali in 2017. The Additional District and Sessions Judge (ADJ), Ranaghat, pronounced the judgment in connection with Hanskhali police station case no. 254/17, registered on August 22, 2017, under sections 498A/326/307/120B of the IPC. The prime accused, Ranjit Roy (34), son of Kangali Roy of Daharbuicha village under Hanskhali PS, was convicted under Section 302 IPC and sentenced to rigorous imprisonment for life along with a fine of ₹30,000. In case of default, he will have to serve another six months of rigorous imprisonment. His father Kangali Roy (62) and mother Pali alias Foli Roy (60) were convicted under Section 304B IPC (dowry death) and sentenced to rigorous imprisonment for seven years each, with a fine of ₹15,000. Default of payment will lead to another six months' imprisonment. In addition, all three convicts were sentenced to three years' rigorous imprisonment and a fine of ₹10,000 each under Section 498A IPC (cruelty by husband and relatives). Default of fine will invite another three months' imprisonment. The court ordered that all the sentences will run concurrently. The case dates back to 2017, when the victim was allegedly subjected to cruelty and harassment for dowry before her death at her in-laws' residence in Daharbuicha, triggering widespread outrage in the locality.

Thousands gather for grand Radha Ashtami celebrations at Mayapur ISKCON



MI News Service, Mayapur: The International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON) temple in Mayapur witnessed a sea of devotees on Sunday as thousands from India and abroad gathered to celebrate Radha Ashtami, marking the birth anniversary of Goddess Radha, consort of Lord Krishna. The festival began on Saturday evening with the traditional adhivas rituals, setting the stage for a day of elaborate ceremonies on Sunday. At dawn, devotees performed mangalarati (auspicious morning prayers) before the deities of Radha and Krishna, followed by devotional chanting, harinam sankirtan and a special mahabhishek (ceremonial bathing of the idols). Rasik Gauranga Das, ISKCON Mayapur's spokesperson, also known as Ramesh Maharaj, said, "Radha Ashtami is one of the most sacred observances in our tradition. Every year, we organise special programmes to honour Srimati Radharani. She is inseparable from Krishna — they are one and the same, appearing together in different forms across the ages. The divine love of Radha for Krishna is pure and unconditional. If devotees imbibe even a fragment of that love, it can create an atmosphere of peace across the world." The sprawling Chandrodaya temple complex was adorned with thousands of lights and decorations for the occasion. Devotees queued up from the early hours to offer prayers, with temple officials estimating that over 20,000 people received prasadam (consecrated food) during the celebrations. The festival continued until late evening, with spiritual discourses, cultural performances and devotional singing forming part of the programme. Authorities made extensive security arrangements to manage the large crowds, with additional measures in place compared to regular days. "We anticipated the surge of pilgrims this year as restrictions have

been lifted. Our priority was to ensure that everyone could celebrate peacefully," a temple official said. For the past two years, Radha Ashtami at Mayapur had been subdued due to the Covid-19 pandemic, with devotees barred from entering the temple premises. This year's full-scale observance, unrestricted for the first time since the pandemic, brought a festive fervour back to the holy town. Alongside Radha Ashtami, the temple also marked Janmashtami — the birth of Lord Krishna — adding to the devotional atmosphere. Speaking on the significance of Radha, Rasik Gauranga Das emphasised the role of divine feminine power: "When the strength of the mother increases in society, only then will humanity in the age of Kali find true peace." The Mayapur temple, ISKCON's global headquarters, is one of the most important centres of Gaudiya Vaishnavism and continues to attract devotees from across the world.

Three persons were arrested on Saturday in connection with an attack on the West Bengal Pradesh Congress Committee headquarters here the previous day, police said. A senior police officer said Santosh Rajwa, one of the key accused, along with two of his accomplices, was arrested for allegedly smearing black paint on photos of Rahul Gandhi, defacing and tearing placards and festoons, and threatening those present at the scene.

TMC high command summons Krishnagar councillors to Kolkata

MI News Service, Kolkata: In a significant political move ahead of the 2026 Assembly election, the Trinamul Congress (TMC) high command has summoned its councillors from the troubled Krishnagar municipality to the party headquarters in Kolkata on 2 September. The development comes at a time when the century-old civic body has been crippled by factional feuds, leaving residents grappling with stalled services and incomplete projects. According to party insiders, phone calls from the TMC headquarters reached the councillors on Thursday afternoon, asking them to be present in Kolkata for the meeting. Senior leaders and ministers are expected to be present as the leadership seeks to resolve the protracted impasse that has virtually paralysed civic administration in the Nadia district town. The crisis deepened after the state's urban development and municipal affairs department recently issued show-cause notices to 24 councillors, questioning the breakdown of municipal services. The councillors responded within the mandated seven days, but the deadlock remained unresolved.

Gujarat arrest in Krishnanagar student murder case; uncle booked for aiding escape



Dipankar Edbar, Krishnanagar (Nadia): The Krishnanagar student murder probe widened on Sunday with police arresting the maternal uncle of prime suspect Deshraj Singh from Gujarat's Jamnagar for allegedly assisting him in his escape after the shooting. Officers said the arrest has been made in connection with Kotwali police station case 954/25 dated August 25, 2025, registered under sections 25/27 of the Arms Act and 103(1) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). The accused, identified as Kuldeep Singh of Deoria, Uttar Pradesh, was brought to Kotwali PS on Sunday after completion of transit procedures. Police sources said Kuldeep Singh provided shelter to his nephew Deshraj and facilitated his movements outside Bengal immediately after the murder. "Evidence of his assistance in the escape has been found. He is being interrogated and further investigation is underway," a senior officer in Krishnanagar said. The case relates to the August 25 daylight killing of 19-year-old Ishita Mallik, who was shot point-blank inside her Manikpara residence, opposite Krishnagar Women's

College. Police said the youth entered the house around 2 pm, fired at her head from close range and fled. Ishita was rushed to Shaktinagar District Hospital, where doctors declared her brought dead. Autopsy reports later confirmed bullet injuries to the head. Investigators suspect the firearm used in the crime was sourced from Uttar Pradesh. According to officers, Ishita and Deshraj were acquainted for years. Preliminary statements indicate Ishita may have been trying to end the relationship, which could have led to the attack. Police, however, said they are also exploring other possible motives. The prime suspect remains absconding, prompting a multi-state search. Police have issued a look-out circular and are coordinating with counterparts in Uttar Pradesh and North 24 Parganas, where he reportedly had links. Tower dumps, CCTV footage and electronic surveillance inputs are being analysed to track him down. Investigators are likely to produce Kuldeep Singh in the Krishnanagar court on Monday and seek his custody to map the shelter trail and identify others involved in aiding Deshraj.

Kalyani's Springdale hosts annual inter-school cultural meet



Dipankar Edbar, Kalyani: The familiar day of festivity returned once again as Springdale Welfare and Education Society's Social Welfare Department organised its annual inter-school cultural gathering on Sunday at the Springdale School campus. The event began at 9 am and marked its 20th year this time. Total 10 primary schools from nearby areas participated, with children coming largely from underprivileged backgrounds and many being first-generation learners. The platform provided them a rare opportunity to share thoughts, creativity and cultural expressions with each other. To support their growth, the Social Welfare Department also arranges financial aid and special

training for the children. The initiative has been driven by the relentless efforts of Mrs. Elina Sen, the guiding force of the institution. Speaking on the occasion, Elina Sen said, "There is talent scattered all around. Our platform is meant to provide opportunities for these children to showcase themselves. We don't keep first, second or third prizes here. Every participant is awarded a certificate of appreciation." The cultural meet, now in its 20th edition, continues to stand as a beacon of hope for many families and young learners in the region. The programme was sponsored by Kalyani Springdale Welfare And Education Society and Organised by Retired teachers.

Landslide buries NH10 near Sevoke, cutting off Sikkim and Kalimpong for hours

MI News Service, Kalimpong: A massive landslide struck NH10 before dawn on Saturday between Kalijhora and Sevoke, leaving the highway that connects Sikkim and Kalimpong district with the rest of the country buried under boulders. The debris-strewn road forced panicked travellers to thread through narrow farm pathways as an earth-mover struggled to carve out a semblance of passage. This calamity marks yet another blow to a highway already buckling under relentless monsoon fury. In the past few months, there were multiple landslides and cave-ins at 29 Mile, Kalijhora, Selfie Dara, Birik Dara, Melli and beyond. These incidents led to a complete halt in traffic for days along a 30km-long stretch between Sevoke and Chitray in Kalimpong. The National Highways & Infrastructure Development Limited (NHIDCL), which maintains the highway, had to work on a war footing to clear the roadblocks. The trouble deepened as the swollen Teesta submerged large stretches of NH10 at 29th Mile and a landslide at Tarkhola in Kalimpong cut off the access entirely. On Saturday, the highway remained closed for traffic between Kalijhora



and Sevoke, and vehicles had to take alternative routes to reach Sikkim and Kalimpong from Siliguri and vice versa. The road was cleared around 3pm. "NH10 has been open for all vehicles. The boulders and debris have been cleared," said Srihari Pandey, the superintendent of police of Kalimpong. Stakeholders of the tourism industry fear intermittent landslides and cave-ins will keep visitors away from the region during the ensuing festive season. "The problem of landslides and cave-ins is persistent along NH10 and NH717A, which are key routes to Sikkim and Kalimpong. These days, the condition of NH717A, which serves as an important alternative, has deteriorated. This has complicated the situation," said Samrat Sanyal, general secretary, Himalayan Hospitality & Tourism Development Network. "We are worried whether the road connectivity will be steady during the ensuing tourism season. If the roads are in a bad state, tourists will stay away," he added.

Weather experts, on the other hand, have said there is a forecast of heavy rainfall during the next few days in the sub-Himalayan Bengal and Sikkim. "The southwest monsoon is still active in the region. That is why there is a forecast of more rainfall. People should be alert as the monsoonal downpour can trigger landslides, flash floods and can also reduce the visibility on roads," said an expert.

Three arrested for attack on Bengal Congress headquarters, hunt on for BJP leader Rakesh Singh

MI News Service, Kolkata: Three persons were arrested on Saturday in connection with an attack on the West Bengal Pradesh Congress Committee headquarters here the previous day, police said. A senior police officer said Santosh Rajwa, one of the key accused, along with two of his accomplices, was arrested for allegedly smearing black paint on photos of Rahul Gandhi, defacing and tearing placards and festoons, and threatening those present at the scene. "The three were also involved in burning tyres outside the office on CIT Road and attempting to storm the premises, along with other supporters," a police officer said. Meanwhile, police are searching for the main accused, local BJP leader Rakesh Singh, and others named in the complaint by the Congress. "We are continuing our investigation and efforts to apprehend Singh and others," the official added. The agitators, allegedly led by Singh, a Congress turncoat, carried out the attack in protest against defamatory comments made about Prime Minister Narendra Modi during Rahul Gandhi's 'Voter Adhikar Yatra' in Bihar.

Barrackpore police drive to keep Kalyani Expressway free of cattle after accidents

MI News Service, Barrackpore: The traffic wing of the Barrackpore Police Commissionerate has beefed itself up for a task outside its usual traffic management duties — ensuring that the superfast Kalyani Expressway, which connects Calcutta and satellite city Kalyani in Nadia, is kept free of bovines that often become the cause of accidents. A police source stated that the traffic wing, in collaboration with the animal resources development (ARD) department, has launched a campaign in at least 42 villages on either side of the expressway to raise awareness among villagers about the dangers of allowing their cattle to wander onto the road. "This is to inform villagers that vehicles move at high speed on the Kalyani Expressway. So, do not allow your cattle to go onto the road. This may cause accidents, leading to the death of your cattle and serious accidents for vehicles and commuters. Please do not let your cattle stray onto the road," reads the English translation of the Bengali campaign jointly conducted by the police and the animal resources development department. The Kalyani Expressway is a 44.17 km, six-lane tolled expressway connecting Calcutta with Kalyani. The project also includes an elevated connector to the Belghoria Expressway to improve integration and traffic flow, with a total length of around 4.565km for the connector and widening segments. A source said the final stretch of work is still pending. In recent years, Kalyani's importance has increased as it houses two key institutions — AIIMS Kalyani and the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER) Kolkata. However, its surroundings are rural, which explains the presence of cattle. "After witnessing several accidents caused by cattle, we decided to create

awareness among the owners of bovines. The ARD department, which maintains a database of cattle in the area, is involved in the drive to identify pockets where cattle are most likely to stray onto the roads," said Amlan Kusum Ghosh, deputy commissioner of police (traffic), Barrackpore Police Commissionerate. "We have carried out a campaign in 42 villages spread across different gram panchayats like Kampa, Ghoaghachi I and II, Mohanpur, and Bandipur, along the 30 km stretch of the expressway under our jurisdiction," he added. A source said police had recently recorded at least half a dozen minor road accidents involving cattle, mainly cows, colliding with cars and bikes. Earlier this month, two motorbike riders were seriously injured and a cow was killed in a head-on collision. In the past, several cars were forced off the road while trying to avoid accidents with stray cattle. "Although no major accident has occurred so far, there is a high risk of serious mishaps due to cows that stray onto the road. The campaign has been helping a lot as villagers have begun to realise that any accident would not only damage vehicles and harm commuters but also cost them their beloved animals," said a senior police officer in Barrackpore. As a large part of the expressway is elevated, police said cows often come up via the service roads and reach the elevated stretch, creating serious hazards for traffic. Police officers said they held a survey on why cattle come onto the roads and identified specific locations frequently used by bovines. "During our survey, we found that cows and buffaloes would cross the road back when it was a single lane to move from one grazing ground to another. They do the same even though the stretch is now an expressway."

Hounded out auto drivers return to Gurgaon due to lack of livelihood opportunities in Bengal

MI News Service, Kolkata: Jafar Ali climbed into his autorickshaw with his wife and two sons on Tuesday and drove 1,500km from his home in North Dinajpur to his place of work, Gurgaon. With him were 34 other migrant families from Itahar block, all returning to Gurgaon where the men earned a living driving autorickshaws they owned or rented. Their convoy of 25 autos from Bengal reached the Haryana city on Saturday morning. All 35 families had returned home in July following a spate of detentions — and alleged torture — of Bengali-speaking migrant workers in Haryana and other BJP-ruled states, on suspicion of being Bangladeshis. But the lack of livelihood opportunities in Bengal began to bite within weeks. So, they decided to go back, preferring the risk of persecution to penury. "I stayed at home for about a month but what

I earned here was a fifth of my income in Gurgaon. So, we have returned to Gurgaon despite the fears of being tortured again for being Bengali," Jafar, a native of Kapasia village, said over the phone. The migrant families are from Kapasia, Radhanagar, Kamardanga and a few other villages in Itahar. All of them had been working in Gurgaon for the last 8 to 10 years. During the pandemic, too, they had returned home for a few months — on trucks. One of the migrants, Mostaq Alam of Radhanagar, said the Gurgaon police had recently tortured some of them on the pretext of verifying their identities. "The police summoned some of us, asking us to bring documents to prove we are Indians," Alam said over the phone from Gurgaon. "We furnished the documents, and yet were tortured and labelled Bangladeshis. So, we left for our

homes in 25 autorickshaws last month." Alam added: "After coming home, we realised that we could not even sustain our families with the meagre earnings we made here driving autos. So, we have come back to Gurgaon. We hope we won't face problems any more." Jafar and Alam said they earned at least ₹1,000 a day in Gurgaon, while in Itahar, they struggled to earn even ₹200. "Most of us had taken loans to buy our autos, and we have to pay EMIs of ₹10,000. Staying back in Itahar would mean we couldn't even pay our EMIs," Jafar said. "Also, most of our wives work as domestic help in Gurgaon and make ₹10,000 or more every month. Our children are in school. How can we manage with a daily earning of ₹200?" Chief minister Mamata Banerjee has accused the BJP of "Bengali phobia" over the alleged

harassment of the migrants and launched Shramashree, a dole to support those who return home because of "language prosecution". Under the scheme, each of these workers is to receive ₹5,000 a month for a year or until they secure new employment in Bengal. In addition, they are to receive a one-off travel allowance of ₹5,000 on arrival in Bengal from their outstation workplace. Alam said the scheme wasn't much help. "We cannot meet our expenses with a meagre ₹5,000. If we add it to our average daily earning (₹200) in Itahar, it's still not enough. Besides, it's unclear when and how long we would receive this assistance," he said. So, the group left Itahar and drove through Purnia, Muzaffarpur, Lucknow, Agra and Mathura to reach Gurgaon. "Tomorrow, some of us will drive our

autos to different parts of Gurgaon to check whether the problem of police verification persists. If everything goes well, we'll start plying our autos from Monday," Dulal Sheikh, also from Kapasia, said. Sheikh said that this time, each of them was carrying a verification certificate issued by their local police station in Itahar as well as a certificate from the local MLA. "We believe these documents will help us prove that we are not Bangladeshis," he said. Asked about the migrants returning to their workplace despite Mamata's efforts, Itahar's Trinamool MLA, Mosharaf Hossain, said the Bengal government continued to stand with people "persecuted in BJP-ruled states for speaking Bengali". "We have opened a grievance cell for them in Itahar, and a cell phone app has been launched so they can directly communicate with me."

Monsoon
set to regain
strength in
Bengal

MI News Service, Kolkata: After days of subdued rain-fall and a sluggish monsoon axis, the Meteorological Department has signaled a change in weather patterns across Bengal. Starting Tuesday, thunderstorms and moderate to heavy showers are expected to return in several districts of both South and North Bengal, bringing relief from rising humidity but also the possibility of fresh disruptions. According to officials at the Regional Meteorological Centre, the monsoon trough — currently stretching from Rajasthan through central India into the Bay of Bengal — is likely to shift back towards Bengal early next week. While scattered rainfall is forecast for Sunday and Monday, the real spell of intensified rain is set to begin from Tuesday.

Districts including Kolkata, Howrah, Hooghly, North and South 24 Parganas, Nadia, East Burdwan, East and West Midnapore, and Jhargram are expected to receive showers accompanied by thunderstorms.

Wind speeds could reach 30-40 kmph during these spells. Sunday & Monday: Scattered rain with thunder-showers, heavier activity in South 24 Parganas and East Midnapore. Tuesday & Wednesday: Significant increase in rainfall across most of South Bengal. Stronger showers likely in East and West Midnapore, Jhargram, and South 24 Parganas. Thursday onwards: Rainfall intensity expected to taper off. In Kolkata, Saturday's minimum temperature was 27.2°C, while the maximum settled at 31.6°C. Humidity remained high, fluctuating between 70% and 94%, with 6.8 mm of rainfall recorded.

ED orders Forensic
audit of Jibankrishna
Saha's financial trail

MI News Service, Kolkata: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has turned its spotlight firmly on the financial dealings of suspended legislator Jibankrishna Saha, initiating a forensic scrutiny of his bank accounts and those linked to his wife and close relatives. Officials confirm that multiple accounts—several of them maintained in rural cooperative banks—have come under the scanner after investigators allegedly detected transactions running into crores of rupees. According to ED sources, the forensic audit is aimed at reconstructing the precise flow of money across accounts and isolating possible patterns of irregular deposits and withdrawals. Such a process, officials stress, is critical to distinguish legitimate earnings from suspect transfers. Forensic experts will now analyze entries across years, tracing whether funds were layered, diverted, or disguised through structured banking activity.



The 'Library Day' was observed with full zest on behalf of Government of West Bengal at Dhono Dhannay Auditorium in Kolkata on Sunday. Siddiqullah Chowdhury - Minister of Mass Education Extension & Library Service, Government of West Bengal, Biman Banerjee - Speaker of West Bengal Legislative Assembly and other respected dignitaries were present at the auspicious occasion.

1,400 Tainted Teachers Barred From Exam

MI News Service, Kolkata: In a dramatic move that has once again shaken Bengal's education recruitment system, the School Service Commission (SSC) on Saturday evening released not one, but two explosive lists of "tainted" teachers — exposing the depth of the ongoing corruption scandal.

The first list contained the names of 1,804 ineligible appointees, all accused of securing teaching jobs through bribery and manipulation. But it was the second list that sent shockwaves: it revealed that 1,400 of these tainted teachers had reapplied to sit for the upcoming recruitment examination scheduled between Sep-

tember 7 and 14. The SSC, acting swiftly, announced the cancellation of admit cards for all 1,400 candidates, effectively barring them from re-entering the system through the back door. The release of two separate lists sparked questions. Why not a single consolidated list? Sources indicate the Commission's strategy was deliberate — the first to name and shame, the second to flag repeat applicants attempting to exploit the fresh recruitment drive. This recruitment exam, mandated by the Calcutta High Court, is intended to bring genuine aspirants — thousands of unemployed youth — back into the system after years of corruption-tainted ap-

pointments. A letter has already been sent to the Primary Education Board, School Service Commission, and Madrasa Service Commission to coordinate the process in line with the court's directive. The SSC scandal, already one of the biggest recruitment scams in Bengal's history, continues to unravel with each passing day. The publication of Saturday's lists has not only exposed the audacity of tainted candidates seeking a second chance but has also underlined the deep rot that plagued the system for years. As the countdown begins for the September examinations, one thing is clear: the fight to reclaim integrity in teacher recruitment is far from over.

Supreme court order
spurs SSC to publish
explosive list

MI News Service, Kolkata: The controversy over the School Service Commission (SSC) recruitment scam deepened further after the Commission published its latest list of ineligible candidates, following a directive from the Supreme Court. The names of individuals linked to prominent figures have now come under the scanner, adding a fresh dimension to the unfolding scandal.

As per the list released on Saturday, Shampa Ghosh, daughter-in-law of Panihati MLA Nirmal Ghosh, features at serial number 1269. She is reportedly employed at a school in Naihati. When contacted for a response, neither Shampa nor her family members provided a comment. The list also includes Shamsuddin Ahmed, known to be close to state minister Sabina Yasmin. His wife, notably, holds a position as a member of the Zilla Parishad. This development comes after the Supreme Court ordered the publication of the tainted candidates' list within seven days, a directive confirmed in court by MP Kalyan Banerjee. In compliance, the SSC released the names — exposing more links to influential circles. Meanwhile, job aspirants who had long demanded transparency feel vindicated. They claim they had repeatedly flagged specific names to the authorities, urging the Commission to make the list public.



An artisan carefully carries clay heads inside a workshop in Kolkata, for Durga Puja idols are underway in Kolkata.

Job scam fallout: More names allegedly left out of SSC list

MI News Service, Kolkata: The controversy surrounding the School Service Commission (SSC) recruitment scam has refused to die down, even after the publication of the much-awaited list of ineligible candidates. Released late Saturday night, the list contains the names of 1,806 appointees accused of irregularities, including OMR sheet manipulation and "rank jumping" in the 2016 recruitment process. But questions are mounting: is the list complete? Lawyer Firdous Shamim, who has been representing petitioners in the case, has now declared that he will move the Supreme Court again, arguing that the SSC's disclosure leaves out several categories of illegal appointments. According to the Supreme Court's earlier judgment, the Commission had identified 993 irregularities in the recruitment of classes 9 and 10, and another 810 in classes 11 and 12, specifically tied to OMR manipulation and unlawful

merit-list alterations. The list published on Saturday reflects these cases. However, Shamim argues that the scandal extends beyond just OMR fraud. "Those who secured jobs from expired panels are also ineligible. The law is clear — a panel is valid for only one year. Any appointment made after the expiry of the panel is unlawful," he said. By his count, the SSC had recommended 11,610 names, but 12,964 appointments** were ultimately issued. "That gap itself shows that over a thousand appointments were made without valid recommendation. Yet no separate list has been released to account for these names," Shamim claimed. Beyond the OMR cases, there are allegations that individuals who were never on the official panel, or who were not recommended during the 2016 cycle, still received appointment letters. Unemployed teachers' organizations argue that their identities must also be made public.

Woman raped on
boat at Princep Ghat,
accused nabbed

MI News Service, Kolkata: A chilling case of sexual assault has once again shaken the city. A young woman has alleged that she was raped on a boat ride at Kolkata's iconic Princep Ghat earlier this year. After months of investigation, the South Port police station finally arrested the prime accused on Saturday night.

According to police sources, the victim came into contact with the accused through social media. Their acquaintance soon led to a meeting at Princep Ghat in March.

What began as a casual outing turned into a nightmare when, during a boat ride, the woman was allegedly raped. The survivor, gathering courage, lodged a formal complaint in July—several months after the incident. Questions are being raised about the delay in police action. However, senior officers claim the accused had been absconding since the filing of the complaint, forcing investigators to track him down for weeks. Based on confidential intelligence, the youth was finally taken into custody on Saturday. This incident is not an isolated one. In recent months, Kolkata has witnessed a disturbing spike in reports of sexual violence. From assaults in residential localities to a recent case inside a college campus in Kasba, the city's safety record has been under severe scrutiny.

Committed to take
forward bilateral
ties with China: MODI

From PG 1

that direct flights between the two countries are being resumed. The prime minister also made a mention of the resumption of the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra. There was consent between our Special Representatives on border management, he said. India and China have a framework called the Special Representatives on the boundary question to address issues relating to the border. "We are committed to take forward our cooperation based on mutual trust, respect and sensitivity," Modi said. The prime minister also congratulated Xi on China's successful presidency of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO). Modi landed in China on Saturday on a two-day visit that came after a gap of seven years. He is in China to attend the SCO summit. The specific outcomes of the Modi-Xi talks are not yet known. Ahead of his trip to Tianjin, Modi said it is important for India and China to work together to bring stability to the world economic order. In an interview with Japan's The Yomiuri Shimbun, Modi said stable, predictable, and amicable bilateral relations between India and China can have a positive impact on regional and global peace and prosperity.

"Given the current volatility in world economy, it is also important for India and China, as two major economies, to work together to bring stability to the world economic order," Modi said in the interview published on Friday. Modi's trip to China comes less than a fortnight after Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi visited India. Following Wang's wide-ranging talks with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and National Security Advisor Ajit Doval, the two sides unveiled a series of measures for a "stable, cooperative and forward-looking" relationship. This was the Modi's second meeting with Xi after one in Russia last year. Ties between the Asian rivals have thawed since they reached an agreement in October on patrolling their disputed Himalayan border following a deadly clash between troops in 2020.

Initiative to Attract
Students Towards Libraries
Even in the Digital Age



MI News Service, Kolkata: A library is not just a storehouse of books, but a vast treasure of intellect, thought, and research. That is why, even in today's digital era, the importance of libraries is being highlighted for students and the younger generation. With this objective, an ultra-modern "Madan Kumar Mehta Memorial Library" has been established at Shree Jain Vidyalaya, Kolkata. The modernization of this library was undertaken at the initiative of the school's alumnus and senior advocate of the Calcutta High Court, Sudhir Kumar Mehta, and dedicated to the memory of his late father, Madan Kumar Mehta, one of the founding members of the institution. The library was inaugurated on Sunday by Justice (Retd.) Ashok Kumar Ganguly, former Judge of the Supreme Court and former Chairman of the West Bengal Human Rights Commission. Among the distinguished guests present were Shanta Kumari Mehta (wife of late Madan Kumar Mehta), noted

doctor Dr. Amit Kumar Roy, school presidents Vinod Kankaria and Sardar Mal Kankaria, principal Sanjay Kumar Pandey, secretary Manoj Kumar Bothra, and several others. Justice Ashok Kumar Ganguly remarked, "Without education, the progress of society is not possible. This initiative will guide the next generation on the right path." Sudhir Kumar Mehta said that the newly designed library, equipped with modern digital learning facilities, will allow students to access online resources, e-journals, and academic databases. This will enable them to prepare for higher studies, conduct research for competitive examinations, and develop innovative thinking. The inauguration of this newly built library is not merely a project of infrastructural development, but the creation of a priceless asset for future generations. It is expected to open up new avenues of knowledge, creativity, and research for the students.

From blood drive to
brawl: Chaos in Rajarhat

MI News Service, Kolkata: A blood donation camp in Rajarhat turned chaotic on Sunday when a clash broken out between TMC leader Sabyasachi Dutta forcing police intervention to restore order. The camp, organized by Dutta's aide Ijazul Laskar at Lashkarhati, was attended by Rajarhat Pan-chayat Samiti executive officer Pahar Ali Laskar and his supporters. What began as an altercation between two groups of attendees escalated rapidly — with chairs being flung and fists raised in full public view. Sabyasachi Dutta, who was on stage at the time, attempted to calm tempers and even warned that he would leave the venue if the scuffle did not stop. However, the commotion continued until officers from Techno police station arrived and brought the situation under control. Later, speaking to reporters, Dutta

downplayed the episode, attributing it to crowding at the narrow entry gate to the stage rather than any factional rivalry. "The incident began when too many people tried to enter at once. There was a rush at the gate, and some pushing led to confusion," he explained, dismissing speculation of deeper discord. Despite his clarification, images of the scuffle — including scenes of chairs being hurled — quickly spread, drawing public attention. Opposition parties seized the moment to take political potshots, with BJP leaders mocking the incident as an example of disorder. Party insiders, however, insist that the flare-up was a minor disruption at an otherwise successful social initiative. The camp itself continued after the situation was defused, underscoring that the disturbance did not derail the programme's purpose.

Take pride in using
'SWADESHI' products: MODI

From PG 1

noticed these. But you will be happy to know about those achievements. A record number of people gathered in a stadium in Pulwama. "Pulwama's first day-night cricket match was played here. Earlier this was impossible, but now my country is changing," he said. "The second event that caught attention was the country's first 'Khelo India Water Sports Festival' and that too held at Dal Lake in Srinagar. Truly, what a special place to host a festival like this." Speaking to Mohsin Ali, who is from Jammu and Kashmir and won a gold medal, he said the youth of the region can bring glory to the country as they have so much potential. Modi said the spirit of "ek Bharat, shreshtha Bharat" and the country's unity are very important for development, and sports play a big role in it. He said a German coach, Dietmar Beiersdorfer, has offered to train football players of Shahdol after he had spoken about the growing craze for the sport in his podcast with Lex Fridman. Beiersdorfer contacted the Indian embassy in Germany, expressing interest in coaching some players.

Modi said, "The life journey of young football players of Shahdol impressed and inspired him (German coach) a lot. Truly, no one had imagined that talented football players from there would attract the attention of other countries. Now this German coach has offered to train some players of Shahdol in an academy in Germany," he said, adding that some of the players will soon travel to Germany for training. In the broadcast, Modi also played an audio bite of India's first home minister, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, in connection with the operation to liberate Hyderabad from the Nizam rule. "Next month, in September, we will celebrate Hyderabad Liberation Day. This is the same month when we will remember the courage of all those heroes who took part in Operation Polo," the prime minister said. He noted that the Nizam's forces and Razakars, a private militia, killed people even for hoisting the tricolour or chanting "Vande Mataram" after India got independence, prompting Patel to launch the operation.

From Cannons to Commerce: The Forgotten History of Esplanade

MI News Service, Kolkata: For millions of Bengalis, the word Esplanade evokes the very pulse of Kolkata. The roar of buses, the crush of shoppers, the neon glow of billboards — all converge at this historic junction of Chowringhee and Dalhousie Square, now a teeming commercial hub. But behind the name lies a story steeped in blood, cannons, and the colonial re-engineering of a city's soul.

The word Esplanade is not mere nomenclature. It is a relic of military strategy. Derived from the French esplanade, with roots in the Italian spianata and Latin explanare meaning "to flatten," the term referred to a levelled, open ground in front of a fort. Such spaces were designed for one reason alone: war. They allowed cannons an unobstructed line of fire and stripped enemies of cover for



ambush. Kolkata's Esplanade owes its existence to that very principle. After the British victory at Plassey in 1757, the East India Company razed villages and cleared dense jungle across nearly a mile and a half

around the newly constructed Fort William. This "wilderness by design" was a deliberate act of erasure — a buffer zone meant to expose attackers and protect the colonial stronghold. The barren sweep of land

became the Maidan, Kolkata's famed green expanse. And the plain stretching before the Governor General's residence — today's Raj Bhavan — was christened the Esplanade. It was not commerce but cannons that gave it life. Over centuries, the guns fell silent. The Esplanade's military relevance withered, replaced by trams, markets, and the ceaseless tide of humanity. Today it is the epicentre of the city's economy, a symbol of Kolkata's restless energy. Yet the name endures — a quiet witness to the violent reordering that birthed it. As Puja shoppers jostle through its arteries, few pause to consider that Esplanade is not just a marketplace, not just a landmark. It is the fossil of a colonial battlefield — a scar left open in the heart of the City of Joy.

Change of Name

I, ASHIT PAL S/o Late Babul Pal, residing at Sanjalui, P.O.- Kharagpur, P.S.- Kharagpur (Town), Dist.- Paschim Medinipur, W.B, PIN- 721301 shall henceforth be known as ASIT PAL as declared in the Court of the 1st Class Judicial Magistrate at Kharagpur vide Affidavit No. 10841 Dated 30/08/2025. ASHIT PAL and ASIT PAL both are same and identical person.

NAME CHANGE

I Almas Sultana W/O- MD Sajid Mehedi S/O-Md Naushad Mandal Village -Basirhat Astana Rd. P.O+P.S -Basirhat Dist. -24 pgs. (N) My Father's name is written in my secondary educational documents MD Naushad Mondol and my high school educational documents have my Father's name written on Nausad Mondol 30/08/2025 LD. Judicial Magistrate Basirhat Court Affidavit is known by my father MD Naushad Mandal, MD Naushad Mondol and Nausad Mondol as the same person.

NAME CHANGE

I Modina Begum W/O Late Md Akbar, R/O Vill- Sathalia, P.O.-Bhasia, P.S.- Deganga, Dist.-24 Parganas (n), pin-743423 W.B, My father's & my husband's name has been recorded in my old passport as Md Ismail Mollah, & Md Akbar Jalilul Kadar. I also declared my father's name in his land parcha as Ismail Molla, and my Husband name in my all documents such as voter, Aadhar, Pan card name as Md Akbar. I Shall henceforth, be known as my Husband's name as Md Akbar, Md Akbar Jalilul Kadar & My father's name as Md Ismail Mollah & Ismail Molla, I shall henceforth be known declared before the first class Executive Magistrate affidavit by the Barasat Court 24 Parganas (n),WB, dated as on 22/08/2025, are same and one identical person in eye of law.

Change of Name

I, Sanoj Kumar Singh (Old Name) S/O Brij Bihari Das Residing at 14/H/7, Bibi Bagan Lane, P.s - Entally, District- Kolkata, Pin-700015 West Bengal India have Changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Sanoj Kumar Das (New Name) as declared before the Ld. Judicial Magistrate (1st Class) at Sealdah, vide affidavit no 8310 Dated 21-08-2025. I Sanoj Kumar Singh (Old Name) and Sanoj Kumar Das (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Change of Name

I, Mahtab Ayubi (Old Name) S/o Late Md. Ayub Residing at 6 Alimuddin Street, Gok Talab, P.s - Park Street, District - Kolkata Pin - 700016, West Bengal, India have Changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Md Mahtab Ayubi (New Name) as declared before the Ld. Judicial Magistrate (1st Class) at Kolkata, vide affidavit no 1188 Dated 26-08-2025. Mahtab Ayubi (Old Name) and Md Mahtab Ayubi (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Change of Name

I, Kartick Chandra Golder (Old Name) S/o Matilal Golder Residing at Vill - Chitholia, P.o - Sanekpur, P.s - Gopal Nagar, District - North 24 Parganas, Pin - 743701, West Bengal, India have Changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Kartick Chandra Golder (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public Kolkata vide affidavit Dated 29-08-2025. Kartick Chandra Golder (Old Name) and Kartick Chandra Golder (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Change of Name

I, Mohammed Abid Hussain alias Mohammad Abid Hussain (Old Name) S/o Md Hamid Hussain Residing at 10/1, P M Busti 2nd Bye Lane, Po+Ps - Shibpur, District - Howrah, Pin - 711102, West Bengal, India have Changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Md Abid Hussain (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public Kolkata vide affidavit Dated 29-08-2025. Mohammed Abid Hussain, Mohammad Abid Hussain (Old Name) and Md Abid Hussain (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Change of Name

I, Biplob Barman S/o Bhabatosh Barman Residing at Bergum, Bergoom Habra - I, District - North 24 Parganas, Pin - 743263 West Bengal India shall henceforth be known as Biplab Barman. I declare that Biplob Barman and Biplab Barman is same and one identical person by virtue of an affidavit sworn before the Notary Public, Kolkata on 29-08-2025.

Change of Name

I, Pinki Ray W/o Biplab Barman Residing at Jolpara, Bergoom, District - North 24 Parganas, Pin - 743263 West Bengal India shall henceforth be known as Pinki Barman. I declare that Pinki Ray and Pinki Barman is same and one identical person by virtue of an affidavit sworn before the Notary Public, Kolkata on 29-08-2025.

Change of Name

I, Akshay Samanta Rasamaya Samanta S/o Rasamaya Samanta Kumbhajari Samanta Residing at Betkundu, Po - Jagatpur, P.s - Mahishadal, District - Purba Medinipur, Pin - 721603, West Bengal India shall henceforth be known as Akshay Samanta. I declare that Akshay Samanta Rasamaya Samanta and Akshay Samanta is same and one identical person by virtue of an affidavit sworn before the Notary Public, Kolkata on 29-08-2025.

NAME CHANGE

I, Abdul Saiful Halder S/o. Abdul Lotif Halder (Father) & Fatima Bibi (Mother), R/o. Near Mithapukur Masjid (Trish Bigha), Addconagar, Mogra, Hooghly-712121. W.B. declared that in my Passport my mother's name recorded as Fatema Bibi W/o. Abdul Lotif Halder instead of her actual & original name is Fatima Bibi W/o. Abdul Lotif Halder. Fatima Bibi & Fatema Bibi W/o. Abdul Lotif Halder, D/o. Manjur Ahmed Sarkar both are the same & one identical person vide an Affidavit No. 8215, sworn before Judicial Magistrate, Chinsurah, Hooghly Court dated 29/08/2025.

NAME CHANGE

I, Mehroon Nesa (old name) W/o. Sk Sabed Ali, R/o. Chak Sultan, Dhanialkhal, Hooghly-712302, W.B., have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Meherunnessa Bibi (new name) vide an affidavit no. 7835 sworn before Judicial Magistrate, Sadar, Hooghly Court on 21/08/2025. Mehroon Nesa & Meherunnessa Bibi W/o. Sk. Sabed Ali both are the same & one identical person. My son Sk Abul Kalam Ajad.

NAME CHANGE

I Dayanand resident of SV 93/1 Air Force Station Kalaikunda, Dist. Paschim Medinipur, have changed my son's Name from Kayrav to Kavray Sheoran vide affidavit dated 04/07/2025 before Notary at Midnapore Court.

NAME CHANGE

I, Shireen Fazal (old name) wife of Sk Fazal Mahmood, residing at 10, Syed Amir Ali Avenue, Kolkata 700017, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Shireen Saba Fazal (new name), as declared before the notary public (Alipore Judge Court) at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 21/01/2008. Shireen Saba Fazal (new name) and Shireen Fazal (old name) both are same and one identical person.

NAME CHANGE

I, Smitsmita Rout (old name) W/O Manaranjan Nayak, residing at The Soul, Tower 3, Flat-903. Action Area III Shaporji Buz Deport, Newtown Hudaarji Po.Akandakeshari PIN-700135, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Smitsmita Nayak (new name), as declared before the notary public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 29/08/2025. Smitsmita Nayak (new name) and Smitsmita Rout (old name) both are same and one identical person.

NAME CHANGE

I, Arpita Halder (Old Name), D/O Of Tapan Halder, Residing At 148/8, Pashupati Bhattacharjee Road, Paschim Puturi, Kolkata-700041, West Bengal, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Arpita Halder (New Name) Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 29/08/2025. Arpita Halder (Old Name) And Arpita Halder (New Name) Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.

NAME CHANGE

I, Mizael Paul De Rosario & Derosario Mizael Paul Xavier (old names) son of Xavier De Rosario, residing at Tower 4 12th Floor, Flat C/1 Eastern High, Rajarhat, P.O.- Newtown, Dist.- North 24 Parganas, Pin- 700156, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Mizael De Rosario (new name), as declared before the notary public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 29/08/2025. Mizael De Rosario (new name) and Mizael Paul De Rosario & Derosario Mizael Paul Xavier (old names) all are same and one identical person.

NAME CHANGE

I, Sekh Azahar Uddin (old name) son of Sk Mohammad Istak, residing at 42/H/11, Ekbalpore Lane, P.S.- Ekbalpore, Kolkata-700023, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Sk Azahar Uddin (new name), as declared before the notary public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 29/08/2025. Sk Azahar Uddin (new name) and Sekh Azahar Uddin (old name) both are same and one identical person.

NAME CHANGE

I, Sekh Mohammad Istak (old name) son of Sk Mohammad Alam, residing at 42/H/11, Ekbalpore Lane, P.S.- Ekbalpore, Kolkata-700023, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Sk Mohammad Istak (new name), as declared before the notary public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 29/08/2025. Sk Mohammad Istak (old name) both are same and one identical person.

NAME CHANGE

I, Mohammad Jamaluddin (old name) son of Late Mohammad Sahid, residing at H/NO 12, BL NO 4, P.O.- KANKINARA, NORTH 24 PARGANAS, WEST BENGAL, PIN-743126, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Md Jamaluddin (new name), as declared before the notary public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 29/08/2025. Md Jamaluddin (new name) and Mohammad Jamaluddin (old name) both are same and one identical person.

NAME CHANGE

I, Souvik Kumar Barman (old name) son of Arun Kumar Burman, residing at 206 JUGIPARA ROAD, SOUTH DUM DUM, NORTH 24 PARGANAS, WEST BENGAL, PIN-700028, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Souvik Kumar Burman (new name), as declared before the notary public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 29/08/2025. Souvik Kumar Burman (new name) and Souvik Kumar Barman (old name) both are same and one identical person.

NAME CHANGE

I, Sasanka Sekhar Giri (old name) son of Gobardhan Giri, residing at VILL.- PURBA CHINTAMONIPUR, P.O.- KUMARPUR, SOUTH 24 PARGANAS, WEST BENGAL, PIN-743349, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Sasanka Giri (new name), as declared before the notary public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 29/08/2025. Sasanka Giri (new name) and Sasanka Sekhar Giri (old name) both are same and one identical person.

NAME CHANGE

I, Gobardhan Giri (old name) son of Late Madhab Giri, residing at VILL.- PURBA CHINTAMONIPUR, P.O.- KUMARPUR, SOUTH 24 PARGANAS, WEST BENGAL, PIN-743349, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Gobardhan Giri (new name), as declared before the notary public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 29/08/2025. Gobardhan Giri (new name) and Gobardhan Giri (old name) both are same and one identical person.

NAME CHANGE

I, Samim Aktar S/O Late Abdus Siddique Molla, Residing At Baganati, Po & Ps-Haroa,Dist-24 Parganas (North), Pin-743425, West Bengal, India. Have Changed My Father's Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Abdus Siddique Molla (New Name) As Declared Before The Notary Public At Kolkata Dated 28/08/2025. Chiddique Molla (Old Name) And Abdus Siddique Molla (New Name) Both Are Same And One Identical Person.

NAME CHANGE

I, Sankar Sardar son of Nagen Sardar, residing at Daulatpur, Daulatpur, Ashoknagar, Sendanga, Dist.- North 24 Parganas, Pin-743272, West Bengal, India, I have changed my father name Nagendra Nath Sardar to (shall henceforth be known as) Nagen Sardar (new name), as declared before the Learned Metropolitan Magistrate at Bankshall, vide an affidavit No. 4851, dated 22/05/2025. Nagen Sardar (new name) and Nagendra Nath Sardar (old name) both are same and one identical person.

NAME CHANGE

I, Sekh Maibat Ali (old name) S/O Shaikh Saukat Ali, residing at VILL & PO-BHOGRAI, PS-BHOGRAI, BALASWAR, Pin-756-038, ODISHA, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Shaikh Maibat Ali (new name), as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 04/08/2025. Shaikh Maibat Ali (old name) and Sekh Maibat Ali (old name) both are same and one identical person.

NAME CHANGE

I, Md Zulfikar Ali (old name) son of Rustam Ali Molla, residing at AKRA KRISHNANAGAR, MAHESHTALA,SOUTH 24 PGS-700014, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Md Zulfikar Ali Molla (new name), as declared before the notary public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 28/08/2025. Md Zulfikar Ali Molla (old name) and Md Zulfikar Ali (old name) both are same and one identical person.

NAME CHANGE

I, Md Safaiddin (old name) son of Late Md Nizamuddin, residing at P25B NARKEI DANGA MAIN ROAD, KOLKATA-700011, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Md Shafaiddin (new name), as declared before the notary public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 29/08/2025. Md Shafaiddin (new name) and Md Safaiddin (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Change of Name

I, Subarna Dey (Old Name) W/o Utpal Kumar Dey Residing at Itinda Road Puratan Bazar, Po+P.s - Basirhat, District - North 24 Parganas, Pin - 743411, West Bengal, India have Changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Suborna Dey (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public Kolkata vide affidavit Dated 29-08-2025. Subarna Dey (Old Name) and Suborna Dey (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Change of Name

I, Utpal Dey (Old Name) S/o Dulal Chandra Dey Residing at Itinda Road Puratan Bazar, Po+P.s - Basirhat, District - North 24 Parganas, Pin - 743411, West Bengal, India have Changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Utpal Kumar Dey (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public Kolkata vide affidavit Dated 29-08-2025. Utpal Dey (Old Name) and Utpal Kumar Dey (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

NAME CHANGE

I, Syeda Sabnamera Begum (old name) wife of Saifur Rahaman, residing at 13A/H/1, Rajab Ali Lane, Khiddipore, Kolkata-700023, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Shabnam Begum (new name), as declared before the notary public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 29/08/2025. Shabnam Begum (new name) and Syeda Sabnamera Begum (old name) both are same and one identical person.

NAME CHANGE

I, Beauty Bibi (old name) wife of Md Abdul Ohab, residing at VILL.- ALAQUILIYA P.O.- SATBHAIYA P.S.- UTTAR KASHIPUR, DIST.- SOUTH 24 PARGANAS, PIN-700135, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Beauti Khatun (new name), as declared before the notary public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 29/08/2025. Beauti Khatun (new name) and Beauty Bibi (old name) both are same and one identical person.

NAME CHANGE

I, Abdul Rajjak (old name) son of Abul Fajal Mollia, residing at VILL.- ALAQUILIYA P.O.- SATBHAIYA P.S.- UTTAR KASHIPUR, DIST.- SOUTH 24 PARGANAS, PIN-700135, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Md Abdul Rajjak Molla (new name), as declared before the notary public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 29/08/2025. Md Abdul Rajjak Molla (new name) and Abdul Rajjak (old name) both are same and one identical person.

NAME CHANGE

I, Monirul Islam (old name) son of Abdul Mannan Molla, residing at VILL.- Uttar Mayana, P.O.- Jaugram, P.S.- Jamalpur, Purba Bardhaman, Pin- 713166, WEST BENGAL,India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Monirul Islam Molla (new name), as declared before the notary public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 29/08/2025. Monirul Islam Molla (new name) and Monirul Islam (old name) both are same and one identical person.

NAME CHANGE

I, Chanchal Roy (old name) son of Chandrakanta Roy, residing at 2B/CB-123, ST-239, AA-1, Geo Cottage, P.O.- New Town, North 24 Pgs, Pin- 700156, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Chanchal Kumar Roy (new name), as declared before the notary public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 29/08/2025. Chanchal Kumar Roy (new name) and Chanchal Roy (old name) both are same and one identical person.

NAME CHANGE

I, Jahanaara Bibi (old name) wife of Sujauddin Molla, residing at Y-130, Kanthal Beria Road, P.O.- Bartala, P.S.- Nadial, Pin- 700018, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Jahanaara Begum (new name), as declared before the notary public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 28/08/2025. Jahanaara Begum (new name) and Jahanaara Bibi (old name) both are same and one identical person.

NAME CHANGE

I, Sujauddin (old name) son of Haji Mohammad Kasem Molla, residing at Y-130, Kanthal Beria Road, P.O.- Bartala, P.S.- Nadial, Pin- 700018, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Sujauddin Molla (new name), as declared before the notary public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 28/08/2025. Sujauddin (old name) and Sujauddin (old name) both are same and one identical person.

NAME CHANGE

I, Mamtaj Begum (old name) wife of Ansarul Karim Molla, residing at Y-130, Kanthal Beria Road, P.O.- Bartala, P.S.- Nadial, Pin- 700018, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Mamtaj Begam (new name), as declared before the notary public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 28/08/2025. Mamtaj Begum (old name) and Mamtaj Begum (old name) both are same and one identical person.

NAME CHANGE

I, Ansarul Karim (old name) son of Sujauddin Molla, residing at Y-130, Kanthal Beria Road, P.O.- Bartala, P.S.- Nadial, Pin- 700018, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Ansarul Karim Molla (new name), as declared before the notary public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 28/08/2025. Ansarul Karim Molla (new name) and Ansarul Karim (old name) both are same and one identical person.

NAME CHANGE

I, Prabir Kumar Saha (Old Name), Son Of Prafulla Kumar Saha, Residing At 6/1 Kshetra Chatterjee Lane, Po-Salkia, Howrah- 711106, West Bengal, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Pravin Kumar Saha(New Name) Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 20/08/2025. Prabir Kumar Saha(Old Name And Pravin Kumar Saha(New Name) Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.

NAME CHANGE

I, Manowara And Manwara Begum (Old Name),Wife Of Saidul Islam Bagani, Residing At T-474/4 Panch Paralane,Po-Bartala Ps-Rajabagan, Kolkata-700018,West Bengal,Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Manowara Bibi(New Name) Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 29/08/2025.Manowara And Manwara Begum And Manowara Bibi Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.

NAME CHANGE

I, Safiuddin Molla (Old Name),Son OfKasem Molla, Residing At V-229, Karbala Road, Po-Barfala, Ps-Rajabagan, Kolkata-700018,West Bengal, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Md Safiuddin Molla(New Name) Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 29/08/2025.Safiuddin Molla And Md Safiuddin Molla Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.

NAME CHANGE

I, Rohima Khatoun & Rahima Khatun (Old Name), Wife Of Munshi Abdul Kabir, Residing At Adarshanagar, Po-Barrackpore, P.S.- Titagarh, Barrackpore, 700120, West Bengal, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Rahima Khatoun (New Name) Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 29/08/2025.Rohima Khatoun & Rahima Khatun All Are The Same And One Identical Person.

NAME CHANGE

I, Shravan Kumar Gupta (old name) son of Late Ramlakhan Shyamal Jaiswal, residing at Gobinda Bhawan, Flat No.15, 2nd Floor, Pandit Battala, Sardarpara, Hatiara Police Station, Eco Park (Previously Newtown), Kolkata-700157, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Shravan Ramlakhan Jaiswal (new name), as declared before the Ld. 1st Class Judicial Magistrate at Sealdah, vide an affidavit No. 6574, dated 10/07/2023. Shravan Ramlakhan Jaiswal (new name) and Shravan Kumar Gupta (old name) both are same and one identical person.

NAME CHANGE

I, Saimun Khatun (old name) wife of Abdul Mallick, residing at G 181/B/1 Dhankheti,Po & Ps - Garden Reach, Kolkata- 700024, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Saimun Nisa (new name), as declared before the notary public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 28/08/2025. Saimun Nisa (new name) and Saimun Khatun (old name) both are same and one identical person.

NAME CHANGE

I, Ritesh Sheth (Old Name), Son Of Vinay Chandra Somchand Sheth, Residing At 7/2C Chakraberia Road South, Bhawanipore Kolkata-700025, West Bengal, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Ritesh V Sheth(New Name) Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 27/08/2025.Ritesh Sheth And Ritesh V Sheth Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.

NAME CHANGE

I, Indira Vinayachandra Seth (Old Name), Wife Of Vinay Chandra Somchand Sheth, Residing At 7/2C Chakraberia Road South, Bhawanipore Kolkata-700025, West Bengal, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Indira Sheth(New Name) Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 27/08/2025.Indira Vinayachandra Seth And Indira Sheth Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.

NAME CHANGE

I,Alemon Bibi,residing at Fatullapur Titimur Sarani, Nimta, Barrackpore, Pin- 700049, West Bengal, India,do hereby notified that my father Aiyar Hosen (old name) shall henceforth be known as Azhar Hossain (new name), as declared before the 1st class Judicial Magistrate at Barrackpore, vide an affidavit SL No. 10, dated 26/03/2025. Azhar Hossain (new name) and Aiyar Hosen (old name) both are same and one identical person.

NAME CHANGE

I, Mohammed Raza Murad (old name) son of Late Md Ziauddin, residing at 8/1, Amartalla Lane, Nakhuda Masjid, Kolkata- 700001, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Md Raza Murad (new name), as declared before the notary public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 28/08/2025. Md Raza Murad (new name) and Mohammed Raza Murad (old name) both are same and one identical person.

NAME CHANGE

I, Sahabuddin (old name) son of Sk Jahruiddin, residing at Vill- Alipur, P.O.- Alipur, P.S.- Haripal, Dist.- Hooghly, Pin- 712301, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Sk Sahabuddin (new name), as declared before the notary public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 28/08/2025. Sk Sahabuddin (new name) and Sahabuddin (old name) both are same and one identical person.

NAME CHANGE

I, Jahir Ali (old name) son of Sk Mafjuiddin, residing at Vill- Alipur, P.O.- Alipur, P.S.- Haripal, Dist.- Hooghly, Pin- 712301, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Sk Jahruiddin (new name), as declared before the notary public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 28/08/2025. Sk Jahruiddin (new name) and Jahir Ali (old name) both are same and one identical person.

NAME CHANGE

I, Rosana Khatun (old name) wife of Sk Jahruiddin, residing at Vill- Alipur, P.O.- Alipur, P.S.- Haripal, Dist.- Hooghly, Pin- 712301, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Rashena Begum (new name), as declared before the notary public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 28/08/2025. Rashena Begum (new name) and Rosana Khatun (old name) both are same and one identical person.

NAME CHANGE

I, Arup Das (Old Name),Son Of Lalit Mohan Das, Residing At 22/2A Harinath Dey Road,Po -Amherst Street, Ps-Narkel Danga, Kolkata-700009, West Bengal, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Arup Kumar Das(Old Name) Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 29/08/2025.Arup Das And Arup Kumar Das Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.

NAME CHANGE

I, Arab Ali Mondal (old name) son of Late Akbar Ali Mondal, residing at Vill- Gazalia P.O.- Ghoshpara, P.S.- Nazat, Dist.- North 24 Parganas, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Atahar Hussain Mondal (new name), as declared before the Ld. 1st Class Judicial Magistrate at Basirhat, North 24 Parganas, vide an affidavit dated 20/08/2025. Atahar Hussain Mondal (new name) and Arab Ali Mondal (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Miscellaneous

Howrah Division Promotes Waste Segregation and Plastic Waste Management under Swachhta Abhiyan

MI News Service, Kolkata: As part of the ongoing Swachhta Abhiyan, Howrah Division of Eastern Railway has taken a series of initiatives to strengthen cleanliness and environmental responsibility across its jurisdiction.

On 30th August, 2025, Howrah Division encouraged passengers to practice waste segregation by setting up separate dustbins for biodegradable and non-biodegradable waste at Bardhaman, Howrah, Bandel, Tarakeswar, and Srirampur stations. The initiative aims to reduce littering, promote recycling, and maintain hygienic surroundings at railway premises. Passengers



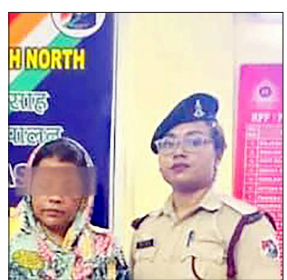
were sensitised through announcements and staff interactions to actively support the cause by using the designated bins responsibly. Continuing its efforts, on 31st August, 2025, Howrah Division ensured the proper functioning of the Plastic Bottle Crushing Machine

across the major stations of the division notably at Bandel station. Passengers were encouraged to use the facility instead of throwing plastic bottles on tracks and platforms. This step reinforces the importance of managing plastic waste effectively and contributes to the mission of creating a greener and cleaner railway environment.

Through such initiatives, Howrah Division strives to involve passengers as active partners in its cleanliness drive. The Division remains committed to spreading awareness and promoting sustainable practices in alignment with the national vision of Swachh Rail - Swachh Bharat.

Gold Smuggling Foiled at Howrah Station - RPF & Customs Seize Gold Worth ₹14.43 Lakh

MI News Service, Kolkata: In a joint operation, RPF/Post Howrah North and Customs officials intercepted a woman at Howrah Station (Old Complex), PF No. 9 on 30.08.2025. On interrogation, she admitted to concealing a gold biscuit weighing about 142.22 gm and valued at approximately ₹14.43 lakh inside her undergarments for smuggling. The passenger, identified as Smt. Anita Saha (50), of



Cuttack, Odisha, had entered the station without a valid ticket and intended

to board a train to Cuttack. She also failed to produce any valid documents for the gold. The seized item was confiscated under Section 110 of the Customs Act, 1962, and the passenger was handed over to Customs, Kolkata for further legal action.

This operation underscores the vigilance of RPF and Customs in preventing smuggling through railway premises.

Eastern Railway extends platforms at Bandel station to boost mobility & efficiency



MI News Service, Kolkata: Eastern Railway's Howrah Division has successfully completed a major mobility improvement work at Bandel Station with the extension of Platforms 1 and 2 at the Howrah end.

The extension work, covering a length of 19.6 meters, was commenced on 25th July 2025 and completed within just one month by the dedicated efforts of the Engineering Department. With this extension, the total platform length now measures

364.90 meters, enabling it to accommodate an engine with 16 bogie coaches. This upgradation is expected to significantly improve operational efficiency and punctuality of train services.

As part of this work, the Engine Stop board has been shifted to the Bardhaman end, while

IndianOil Wins Multiple Honours at SCOPE Eminence Awards 2022-23



MI News Service, New Delhi: Indian Oil has won major recognitions at the SCOPE Eminence Awards 2022-23, held at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi on 29th August, 2025. The awards were presented by the Hon'ble President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu, in the presence of leaders from across Public Sector Enterprises (PSEs).

Indian Oil received three Corporate Excellence Awards in the categories of Environment Excellence & Sustainable Development, Women Empowerment, and Global Outreach. The awards were received on behalf of the Corporation by Mr. A. S. Sahney, Chairman, IndianOil, and Ms. Rashmi Govil, Director (HR).

Two senior women executives of IndianOil were recognised in the individual categories. Ms. Geetika Verma, Chief General Manager & State Head, IndianOil Kerala State Office, was conferred the Outstanding Women

Leadership Award, while Ms. Mamoni Basumatary, General Manager (Technical), IndianOil Refineries Headquarters, received the Outstanding Women Leadership Award (Commendation).

The Individual Leadership Excellence Award (Miniratna I & II PSEs) was presented to Mr. Arvind Kumar, Director (Refineries) with additional charge of Director (Pipelines), for his performance and leadership during his tenure as Managing Director of CPCL. In addition, Mr. Shrikant Madhav Vaidya, Former Chairman, IndianOil, received the Individual Leadership Excellence Award (Commendation) in the Maharatna&Navratna PSEs category.

These awards highlight IndianOil's work in the areas of sustainability, inclusivity, global reach, and leadership, reaffirming the Corporation's role as India's leading energy company and its continued contribution to nation-building.

Ganesh Utsav: Maharashtra Postal Circle releases postcards designed by Padma Shri awardee Achyut Palav



MI News Service, Mumbai : Amid the ongoing celebrations of the Ganesh Festival, the Maharashtra Postal Circle released two Picture Postcards designed by Padma Shri awardee Achyut Palav, accompanied by a special cancellation, on Saturday at GSB Seva Mandal, the Ministry of Communications said in a release on Sunday.

Director of Mumbai GPO, Rekha Rizvi, released the picture postcards with a special cancellation and handed over the first album to the Trustee and Chairman of GSB Seva Mandal, R. G. Bhat.

Earlier, on August 24, Chief Postmaster General of the Maharashtra Postal Circle, Amitabh Singh, released a set of four picture postcards titled "Ganesh Utsav: Cultural Heritage of Maharashtra" along with a special

cancellation. According to a release, these four picture postcards have been specially designed for this event by Padma Shri awardee Achyut Palav, who was present at the release function. The first glimpse (Pratham Darshan) of Lalbaugcha Raja was organised on Sunday at around 7 pm by The Lalbaugcha Raja Sarvajanic Ganeshotsav Mandal.

The Lalbaugcha Raja Sarvajanic Ganesh Utsav Mandal Chairman Babasaheb Sudam Kambale, Secretary Sudhir Sitaram Salavi, Sudhir Jakhare, APMG (BD) Maharashtra Circle Yadagiri Nyalapelli, Asstt. Director (PSR) Maharashtra Circle and Philatelist Ashwini Manjure were present on the occasion.

Amitabh Singh, Chief PMG of the Maharashtra Circle, extended his greetings to all devotees of Lord Ganesha and philatelists across Maharashtra and Goa.

Every year, millions of devotees come here for darshan. The unveiling of the Lalbaugcha Raja, the iconic Ganesh idol, is another main attraction of the festival. Ganesh Chaturthi, a ten-day festival that starts on the fourth day of the Hindu lunisolar calendar month 'Bhadrapada', will start on August 27 this year. This auspicious ten-day festival starts with 'Chaturthi' and ends on 'Anantha Chaturdashi'.

Assam BJP releases candidate list for Bodoland Territorial Council polls

MI News Service, Guwahati: Assam State BJP on Sunday announced its candidates for 28 of the 40 constituencies in the upcoming Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC) elections.

The BTC polls will be held on September 22 across five districts -- Kokrajhar, Chirang, Baksa, Udalguri, and Tamulpur.

Counting of votes is scheduled for September 26, according to the Assam State Election Commission, which issued the notification on August 26.

According to the poll schedule, the last date for filing nominations is September 2, the scrutiny of nominations will take place on September 4, and the last date for withdrawal of candidature is September 6.

A total of 25,57,937 voters from the Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR) in five districts -- Kokrajhar, Chirang, Baksa, Udalguri, and Tamulpur -- will exercise their franchise at 3,359 polling stations.

Out of the total voters, 13,23,399 are male, 13,34,521 are female voters, and 17 are other voters. In the

2020 BTC election, there were 23,87,046 voters, representing an 11.35 per cent increase in voters over this period.

In the last BTC election, the BJP and the United People's Party Liberal (UPPL) had formed the BTC government. This time, the BJP and UPPL will fight alone.

Assam Chief Minister Dr Himanta Biswa Sarma had attended at least 40 election campaign rallies in the Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR) areas. The Hagrama Mohilary-led Bodoland People's Party (BPP), Congress, and other regional parties will also participate in this election.

Out of the total 40 council constituencies, 30 constituencies are reserved for ST, 5 for non-ST and 5 for open.

Earlier this month, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma expressed confidence in the outcome of the upcoming Bodoland Territorial elections, stating that the BJP would achieve good results in the polls. "BJP is in a very good position and we will get good results in the upcoming Bodoland elections," CM Sarma told reporters.

Special campaign to popularise 'Aamar Kolkata Metro' App Receives positive responses from commuters

MI News Service,

Kolkata: After the opening of the entire section of Green Line Corridor, commuting between Howrah and Salt Lake has become a cakewalk. Commuting between Howrah and Sealdah has also become very easy. As a result, huge passenger footfall has been noticed at various stations particularly in Blue and Green Lines. In order to popularize "AAMAR KOLKATA METRO" app for smart booking of mobile QR tickets, Metro Railway, Kolkata has been conducting a special campaign since 28.08.2025 for seven days. Total 72 cadets of Bharat Scouts & Guides of Eastern Railway have been helping and demonstrating the commuters about how to download the app through Google play store/ app store and how to book mobile QR tickets with the help of the app. This mobile QR Ticketing facility is now available



at all the Corridors of Metro Railway, Kolkata.

Overwhelming responses of the commuters at various Metro stations, viz; Howrah, Sealdah, Salt Lake Sector V, Dum Dum and Esplanade have been noticed in this regard. Thanks to the concerted efforts of the Metro staff, cadets of Bharat Scouts and Guides,

Eastern Railway more than 30000 commuters (30736) have booked their Mobile QR tickets in Blue Line and Green Line yesterday, i.e. on 30.08.2025. With the active co-operation of Metro commuters, this figure is expected to cross the 50,000 mark very soon. Metro Railway Kolkata extends special thanks to Bharat Scouts

and Guides as well as to the commuters for making this campaign successful.

AAMAR KOLKATA METRO app is very helpful to avoid long queues at the booking counters and helps to save valuable time and money. Passengers are requested to buy tickets through mobile app before reaching the stations and avail 5% discount on fare of each ticket.

At present, there are total 528000 active users in android and 88000 active users in iOS platform. The rate of downloading this app has picked up after opening the entire Green Line Corridor accompanied with the popularisation campaign by cadets of Bharat Scouts and Guides of Eastern Railway.

It is to be noted that total 57287 downloads in the Android and 5600 downloads in the iOS platform of this app have taken place from 25. 08.2025 to till yesterday.



Under "Operation Nanhey Faristey", RPF officials of Howrah and Asansol Divisions of Eastern Railway rescued four minors on 30.08.2025 from Howrah and Asansol Railway Stations and handed them over to the concerned Child Help Line for further action. Among them, one boy had fled from home without informing his parents, while three girls were attempting to travel to Bangalore for jobs without parental knowledge. This prompt action by RPF ensured the safety and protection of the rescued children.

2026 Kerala Assembly polls will decide India's future in 2029: Revanth Reddy

MI News Service,

Alappuzha: Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on Sunday said the 2026 Kerala Assembly elections will be a big fight between two political forces, and the youth should play a crucial role in safeguarding the country's democratic spirit.

During the last Lok Sabha elections, the chief minister said that he invited Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi to contest from Telangana. They chose to fight elections from Kerala and considered the state as their 'Karmabhumi'.

"We are organising a big movement against vote theft in the country. Everyone should join the fight to protect the voting rights of every Indian and to protect the Constitution," he said.

The CM emphasised that the age limit to contest in Assembly elections should be reduced to 21 years. When 21-year-old IAS officers are running the districts efficiently, shouldn't the

21-year-old youth contest as MLAs? he asked. He added that former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi had expanded voting rights to 18-year-olds, while the Modi government was "depriving the youth of their constitutional rights."

The Chief Minister highlighted the Telangana government's initiatives to strengthen the state economy under Telangana Rising - 2047. The government has targeted to achieve 3 trillion US dollar economy by 2047 and 1 trillion US dollar economy by 2035.

Congratulating AICC General Secretary KC Venugopal for initiating a commendable programme of distributing merit scholarships to talented students, CM Revanth Reddy stated that the Telangana government has filled 11,055 teaching posts in just 55 days to strengthen the education sector and establish Young India Residential

Schools in 100 Assembly constituencies.

"Each school is being constructed on a sprawling 5 acres at a cost of Rs 200 crore. The government also resolved to provide quality education to the poor on par with corporate schools. We also set up Young India Skills University to develop skills among the youth and appointed noted Industrialist Anand Mahindra as its chairman. The ITI institutions have been upgraded as ATCs, and the Sports University and Sports Academy are aiming to win medals in the Olympics. Education is a big gift and also a weapon to achieve many things in everyone's life," he noted.

Reddy praised AICC General Secretary KC Venugopal for instituting the MP Merit Awards and said that Kerala's commitment to education and adult literacy remained a role model for the country.

Independent Business Division under the Digital India Corporation, a section 8 not-for-profit company.

Since 2009, NeGD has been playing a pivotal role in supporting MeitY in Programme Management and implementation of e-Governance Projects; providing technical and advisory support to Ministries/ Departments, both at Central and State levels, along with other Government organisations.

NeGD's major operational areas include programme management, project development, technology management, capacity building, awareness and communication-related activities under the flagship Digital India Programme. NeGD has developed and is managing several National Public Digital Platforms such as DigitLocker, Entity Locker, UMANG, OpenForge, API Setu, myScheme, India Stack Global, Meri Pehchaan, UX4G, etc.

NeGD achieves Pan-India integration of nearly 2,000 e-govt services

MI News Service, New Delhi : The National e-Governance Division (NeGD), under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), has achieved another significant milestone by enabling the Pan-India integration of e-Government services on the DigitLocker and e-District platforms. With this achievement, citizens across all 36 States and Union Territories can now seamlessly access close to 2,000 digital services anytime, anywhere.

The integrated services cover a wide spectrum of citizen needs, including certificates, welfare schemes, utility payments and other essential facilities, thereby ensuring convenience, efficiency and transparency in delivery. This development marks a major leap in realising the vision of the Digital India programme, fostering paperless and mobile governance and contributing

directly to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

DigiLocker has emerged as a robust pillar of India's digital public infrastructure, successfully addressing the challenges of interoperability, data security, and multi-stakeholder coordination. Its innovative and resilient framework has enabled ease of access, inclusivity and reliability, empowering citizens across the country with trusted digital services.

With this expansion, citizens in Maharashtra now have access to the highest number of services at 254, followed by Delhi with 123, Karnataka with 113, Assam with 102, and Uttar Pradesh with 86. Furthermore, Kerala and Jammu & Kashmir each offer 77 services, while Andhra Pradesh provides 76, and Gujarat offers 64. Similarly, Tamil Nadu and Goa extend 63 services each, whereas Haryana offers 60 and Himachal

Pradesh delivers 58. In total, 1,938 services are currently available for citizens across the nation.

Building on this success, NeGD plans to further expand the portfolio of e-Government services by adopting emerging technologies through an AI-driven approach. Structured training programmes and workshops will be conducted to strengthen awareness at the State level, while continued innovation will ensure greater inclusivity and improved last-mile delivery of services. This milestone underscores the Government's commitment to leveraging technology to empower citizens and transform governance, in line with the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision of a digitally enabled and inclusive India.

In 2009, the National e-Governance Division was created by the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology as an

Monks of Ramakrishna Math and Mission enjoys Metro ride



MI News Service,

Kolkata: Monks of Mayer Bari and Udbodhon Magazine HQs led by Secretary Maharaj of Sri Sri Sarada Mayer Bari, Bagbazar, Swami Nityamuktanandaji visited the Green Line of Metro Railway, Kolkata yesterday i.e. on 30.08.2025. They started their visit from New Esplanade Metro station where they were shown the model of the East West Metro Corridor by senior officers of Metro Railway.

They then travelled in a Metro from Esplanade to Howrah Maidan and from there to Salt Lake Sector V stations of Green Line under the river Hooghly. On their way back, they boarded at the Central Park Metro station. They also visited the Operations Control Centre (OCC) and the Central Park Depot.

A memento of the Model of the Green Line Metro coach as a token of love and respect was gifted to Maharaj ji to mark the permanent bond that Kolkata Metro has established with Ramakrishna Mission and its movement.

They were extremely happy and visibly overjoyed to travel under the river Hooghly for the first time. Maharaj ji expressed his deep sense of satisfaction after the journey on Green Line and thanked for the arrangements that the Team Metro Railway Kolkata made to organise their tour.

Maharaj ji blessed Metro Railway and appreciated the services rendered by Kolkata Metro to the people of West Bengal in general and to the people of Kolkata and adjoining areas in particular.

Young civil servants entering services are architects of India's 2047 vision: Union Minister Jitendra Singh

MI News Service, Mussoorie : Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology Jitendra Singh on Sunday inaugurated the Academy's new 800-seater auditorium, "Kartavyashila", constructed at a cost of Rs 50 crore.

The Minister described it as "a crucible of ideas, debates, and inspiration" designed to foster collective learning and esprit de corps among entrants from all services.

Speaking at the 100th Foundation Course for the new Officer Trainees of the 2025 batch Civil Servants at the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA), Jitendra Singh reminded the probationers that they were "the architects of 2047 India" and that their role as custodians of the Constitution would be central to building a developed and citizen-centric nation.

The Minister said that these young civil servants entering the service today are entrusted with shaping India's trajectory as the country approaches its centenary of independence in 2047.

Congratulating the 2025 batch for their success in the Civil Services Examination, he said the Foundation Course was more than academic training: "This course marks your transition from academic learning to the structured realm of public service, preparing you to shoulder the immense responsibility of governance."

The Minister highlighted the diversity of the cohort, which includes officer trainees from 19 civil services, including the All India Services, Central Services and the Royal Bhutan Civil Service, calling it a reflection of the inclusive nature of India's administration.

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lective learning and esprit de corps among entrants from all services.

He also drew attention to the Academy's new One District One Product (ODOP) Display Hall & Facilitation Centre, which aims to showcase local enterprises and link them to national markets. The initiative, he said, would help officer trainees appreciate the importance of grassroots livelihood opportunities in inclusive development.

Touching on training innovations, the Minister referred to the Himalayan Study Tour, attachments with Central Armed Police Forces, village immersions, and the Aarambh 7.0 programme at Ekta Nagar, Gujarat, where trainees would interact with the Prime Minister and other dignitaries. These experiences, he noted, would instil resilience, empathy and teamwork alongside professional competence.

He reaffirmed the government's reforms in civil service capacity-building, citing Mission Karmayogi, which is designed to equip officers with continuous learning tools in a rapidly evolving governance environment. "As responsibilities shift, you must remain adaptable and uphold humility, integrity, and moral courage," he said.

The Minister also oversaw the sealing of the 2024 batch's vision statements in a time capsule at the Academy, a practice initiated on the Prime Minister's suggestion. These will be opened in 2047, when trainees return to reflect on their journeys and contributions to the nation.

Acknowledging the challenges ahead, Jitendra Singh said young officers would need to balance constitutional duty, political realities, and citizen expectations with dignity. He urged them to embrace their role in building Viksit Bharat 2047, telling them, "You didn't choose the timing of your birth, but you have been entrusted with this responsibility. Treat it as a providential privilege."

Drug smuggler held with 3.5 kg heroin

MI News Service, Chandigarh : Jalandhar Commissionerate Police has apprehended a drug smuggler and recovered 3.5 kg of heroin along with Rs two lakhs of drug money from his possession, said Director General of Police (DGP) Gaurav Yadav on Sunday.

The arrested drug smuggler has been identified as Manjit Singh, a resident of Jalandhar Enclave near Khambra, Jalandhar. The arrested accused is a habitual drug trafficker with three cases under the NDPS Act registered against him in Punjab and New Delhi.

DGP Gaurav Yadav said that a case has been registered. Further investigation is underway to establish forward and backward linkages in this case to dismantle the entire network, he said.

Sharing operation details, Commissioner of Police (CP) Jalandhar Dhanpreet Kaur said that during a special check, police teams from the Special Cell led by Inspector Jaspal Singh had stopped Manjit Singh on suspicion. During his frisking, police teams have recovered the heroin consignment and drug money from his black-coloured kit, she said.

The CP said that preliminary investigations have revealed that the accused was going to deliver the consignment to someone when police teams apprehended him. A probe is on to identify the source of the consignment and to identify the person who was supposed to get the consignment, she added.

Diseases that occur during rains and their treatment

While the rainy season brings coolness and freshness on one hand, on the other hand it can also become a home to many diseases. Humidity in the air, dirty water and changing temperatures affect the body's immune system. Especially children, the elderly and people with pre-existing diseases get infected quickly in the rain. In this blog, we will know the diseases that occur in the rain, their symptoms, treatment and prevention measures. Along with this, we will also answer your common questions.

Common diseases that occur in the rain

1. Dengue
Dengue is a viral disease caused by mosquito bites (Aedes mosquito).
Symptoms:
High fever
Pain in the body and eyes
Red rashes
Fatigue
Treatment:
Paracetamol under the supervision of a doctor
Excessive consumption of water and fluids
Protection from mosquitoes is important

2. Malaria
Malaria is also caused by mosquito bites, but it is spread by Anopheles mosquito.
Symptoms:
Chills with fever
Sweating
Headache
Weakness
Treatment:
Confirmation by blood test



Malaria medicine given by the doctor
Keeping the body cool during fever

3. Typhoid
This disease is caused by contaminated food and dirty water.
Symptoms:
High fever
Stomach ache
Loss of appetite
Diarrhea or constipation
Treatment:
Antibiotics
Light and easily digestible food
Drink plenty of water

4. Viral fever and cold-cough
Viral infection occurs due to fluctuations in temperature during

monsoon and activation of bacteria and viruses.

Symptoms:
Mild or high fever
Sore throat
Runny nose
Body ache
Treatment:
Rest
Home remedies like turmeric milk, decoction
Consult a doctor if needed

5. Fungal infection
Dampness and sweat causes fungal infection on the skin, especially in the thighs, underarms or feet.

Symptoms:
Itching
Redness
Blisters or scabs on the skin

Treatment:
Use fungal cream
Wear clean clothes
Keep the skin dry

6. Loose motion and stomach infection
Dirty water or contaminated food causes problems like loose motion, vomiting and stomach ache in monsoon.

Treatment:
ORS, lemonade, coconut water
Easily digestible food like khichdi

Consult a doctor if symptoms persist for more than 2 days

Prevention of diseases during monsoon

Drink boiled water
Do not wear wet clothes or shoes

Use mosquito nets and repellents

Avoid eating outside cut fruit or street food

Wash hands frequently with soap

Eat immunity boosting foods (amla, ginger, basil, turmeric)

What to eat and what not to eat in rain

Eat:
Boiled and fresh home-cooked food

Turmeric milk

Soup, decoction and herbal tea

Seasonal fruits like pomegranate, papaya

Avoid:
Outside water or chaat

Semi-cooked or stale food

Cut fruits kept in the open

Food with high spices

Study reveals how protein-rich breakfast can increase satiety, improve concentration



AARHUS, DENMARK : A new Danish study investigated the relationship between diet and cognitive function, and the findings show that a protein-rich breakfast can boost satiety and concentration.

This is important knowledge in a society with increasing obesity rates and lifestyle-related diseases, said researcher.

"Breakfast is the most important meal of the day." This is a well-worn platitude that has never had much basis in scientific evidence.

But a new Danish study has explored how different types of breakfast affect satiety and concentration and it has added new fuel to the old cliché.

The study followed 30 obese women aged 18 to 30 for three days, during which the women consumed a protein-rich breakfast, a carbohydrate-rich breakfast or no breakfast at all. The women's sense of satiety, hormone levels and energy intake were measured at lunchtime. Their total daily energy intake was measured as well.

The participants also had to complete a cognitive concentration test during the study.

"We found that a protein-rich breakfast with skyr (a sour-milk product) and oats increased satiety and concentration in the participants, but it did not reduce the overall energy intake compared to skipping breakfast or eating a carbohydrate-rich breakfast," says Mette Hansen, associate professor and PhD at the Department of Public Health, and one of the authors of the study.

The number of overweight people is increasing both in Denmark and across the globe. Obesity is often accompanied by lifestyle-related diseases such as type 2 diabetes. Previous studies have shown that people who eat breakfast have a lower BMI than people who do not eat breakfast, and protein-rich foods have generally been shown to have an increased satiety effect compared to carbohydrate-rich and high-fat foods with the same calorie content. The idea was

therefore to test whether a protein-rich breakfast could be a good strategy to achieving greater satiety during the day and thus reducing daily calorie intake.

However, the solution is not that simple, said Mette Hansen: "The results confirm that protein-rich meals increase a sense of satiety, which is positive with regard to preventing weight gain. However, the results also suggest that for this nutritional strategy to be effective, it's not enough to just eat a protein-rich breakfast."

The potential of replacing a carbohydrate-rich diet with a protein-rich diet can clearly be seen in the satiating effects measured in the study. Several of the subjects had difficulty consuming the entire protein-rich breakfast consisting of skyr and oats.

"It's intriguing that there can be such a big difference in the satiety effect of two different meals with the same calorie content. Had the women in the project been allowed to choose the size of the meal themselves, it's likely that they'd have consumed more food and thereby more calories on the day they were served bread and jam than on the day they were given skyr and oats," explained Mette Hansen. According to the researcher, although the study has provided important insights, it also has its limitations because only overweight young women participated in the study. The study is also based on relatively short-term observations, leaving open the question of how long-term dietary changes can affect health and weight. Mette Hansen therefore points out that the study underlines the need for further research to understand how different types of food affect health over time.

"We already have new data incoming from a trial where participants received either a high-protein breakfast or a low-protein breakfast. The objective was to study how the different types of breakfast affect body composition and other parameters such as microbiota and cholesterol levels," said Mette Hansen.

Research reveals brain processes speech, its echo separately

WASHINGTON DC : Echoes can make speech difficult to understand, and getting rid of echoes in an audio recording is a very difficult engineering task. According to a study published in the open-access journal PLOS Biology by Jiaxin Gao of Zhejiang University in China and colleagues, the human brain appears to successfully handle the challenge by splitting the sound into direct speech and its echo.

The audio signals in online meetings and auditoriums that are not properly designed often have an echo lagging at least 100 milliseconds from the original speech. These echoes heavily distort speech, interfering with slowly varying sound features most important for understanding conversations, yet people still reliably understand echoic speech. To better understand how the brain enables this, the authors used magnetoencephalography (MEG) to record neural activity while human participants listened to a story with and without an echo. They compared the neural signals to two computational models: one simulating the brain adapting to the echo, and another simulating the brain separating the echo from the original speech.

Participants understood the story with over 95% accuracy, regardless of echo. The researchers observed that cortical activity tracks energy changes related to direct speech, despite the strong interference of the echo. Simulating neural adaptation only partially captured the brain response they observed--neural activity was better explained by a model that split original speech and its echo into separate processing streams. This remained true even when participants were told to direct their attention toward a silent film and ignore the story, suggesting that top-down attention isn't required to mentally separate direct speech and its echo. The researchers state that auditory stream segregation may be important both for singling out a specific speaker in a crowded environment, and for clearly understanding an individual speaker in a reverberant space. The authors add, "Echoes strongly distort the sound features of speech and create a challenge for automatic speech recognition. The human brain, however, can segregate speech from its echo and achieve reliable recognition of echoic speech."

Rare fat molecule helps drive cell death: Study

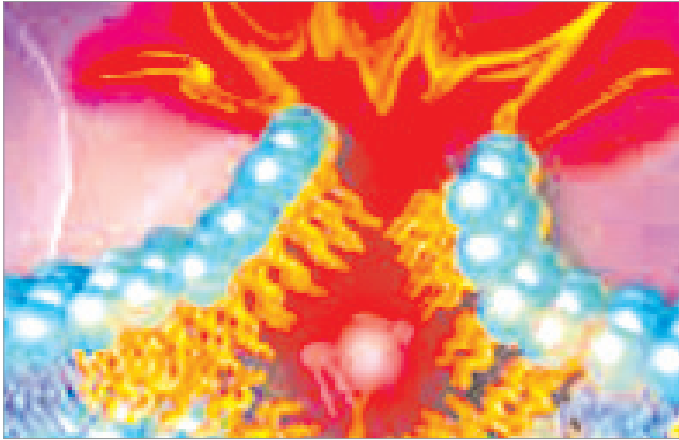
LOS ANGELES [US] : Researchers revealed that a rare sort of lipid plays a vital role in ferroptosis, a type of cell death described by Columbia professor Brent Stockwell.

The findings shed new light on how cells die during ferroptosis, potentially improving understanding of how to prevent ferroptosis in contexts where it is harmful, such as neurodegenerative diseases, or induce it in contexts where it could be beneficial, such as using it to kill dangerous cancer cells.

The study discovered that a diPUFA phospholipid, an uncommon type of lipid with two polyunsaturated fatty acyl tails, was present in a variety of situations where ferroptosis occurred, including aged brains and Huntington disease-affected brain tissue.

The finding indicated that the lipid is efficient at promoting ferroptosis.

The research was conducted by professors in Columbia's Department of Biological Sciences, Department of



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Chemistry, and the Columbia University Irving Medical Center.

Stockwell first discovered ferroptosis in 2012, when he found that certain cells were dying because their lipid layers were

collapsing--an unusual form of cell death that differs from the most common kind, which begins with the cell forming blisters on its outer surface. Since that discovery, researchers in Stockwell's lab

Language, culture can influence how our brain processes emotional faces: Research

WASHINGTON : Understanding body language is an important aspect of communication. Humans are frequently considered to be able to perceive other people's emotions innately, but there is rising evidence that this ability is impacted by people's culturally shared knowledge of emotions.

A team of scientists in the US decided to investigate how cultural upbringing and access to emotion category words, which categorize and facilitate access to a complex set of emotional ideas, experiences, and responses stored in our memory, impact how we perceive others' emotional facial expressions.

"Here we show that access to emotion category words like 'disgust' differentially alters how brain regions interact with one another when people perceive emotions on others' faces. Importantly, this effect depends on one's cultural upbringing," said Dr Joseph Leshin, a researcher at Northeastern University and the study's first author. "Our findings contribute to growing evidence that emotional facial expressions are not universally produced and understood," added senior author Dr Kristen Lindquist, a neuroscientist at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, where the data for the Frontiers in Psychology study was collected.

A trigger for emotion recognition

Two participant groups - Chinese individuals, born and raised in mainland China, but now



living in the US, and non-Hispanic White Americans who were born and raised in the US - were recruited for the study. While undergoing fMRI, both groups viewed actors pose expressions for 'disgust' and 'anger' as they are typically displayed by White North Americans. Over four blocks, the participants viewed expressions which were either preceded by the relevant emotion category word or a non-word control text. "When primed with the word 'disgust' before viewing the corresponding facial expression, immigrants from mainland China showed decreased functional connectivity in brain regions related to semantic processing, visual perception, and social cognition," Leshin said. "Whereas White American participants tend to perceive wrinkling of noses and

scowls as evidence that someone else is disgusted, Chinese participants are less likely to clearly associate those facial muscle movements with disgust. Thus, their brains were likely working harder to disambiguate the meaning of posed disgusted facial muscle movements," explained Lindquist. Critically, presenting Chinese participants with the English language cue 'disgust' prior to viewing wrinkled noses and scowls changed how their brains processed those expressions. White American participants did not show the same differences in brain connectivity in the emotion word v. control text conditions, likely because the facial expressions are familiar to them. These findings suggest that seeing an English emotion category word before seeing the cor-

could lead to more targeted and effective treatments."

Emeritus Professor Siamon Gordon, co-author of the study from the University of Oxford, said:

"Therapies that seek to re-educate macrophages are widely sought. However, the tools to measure activation are underdeveloped. Having a robust multi-gene tool to study macrophage activation can help in drug screening, identify drugs that revert macrophage activation, and eventually help with patient characterisation and personalised medicine."



EC issues notices to eight Muslim -majority border districts in Bihar for voter list verification



MI News Sevice, East Champaran: During the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of Bihar's electoral rolls, the highest number of notices were issued to eight districts along the India-Nepal and India-Bangladesh borders. Sources of Election Committee of India (ECI) state that the action was prompted due to the gaps in paperwork, submission of incorrect documents and doubts about the eligibility of applicants' citizenship.

The districts are East Champaran, West Champaran, Madhubani, Kishanganj, Purnea, Katihar, Araria and Supaul. These regions are largely dominated by Muslims and Dalits and are witnessing intensified verifications.

According to officials, Electoral Registration Officers (EROs) in these

districts began scrutinising applications earlier this week and have issued notices. Hearings will be held next week. The first will be in Raxaul on September 3, followed by Madhubani on September 7.

Each notice states that the documents submitted by the applicants in the rolls are unsatisfactory and directs the recipient to appear before the ERO with original papers at the specified date, time and venue.

Under the ECI's June 24 order, ERO are empowered to verify all claims, begin suo motu proceedings and serve notices to any voter.

If a voter's name is deleted from the final roll, the ERO must issue a speaking order detailing the reasons for the removal.

16 FIRs filed against social activist Syeda Hameed in Assam over controversial "Bangladeshi" remark



MI News Sevice, Guwahati: The Assam Jatiya Parishad confirmed that 16 FIRs have been registered in Assam against social activist and ex Planning Commission member Syeda Hameed. The complaints have emerged from 16 districts.

Speaking to the media, AJP spokesperson Jiyaur Rahman revealed, "FIRs have been registered against Syeda Hameed in 16 districts of Assam. We are demanding her arrest for her anti-Asaam and communal statements." He added that their workers will continue to register complaints in various police stations.

Hameed gave her statement at an event in Guwahati on August 24. She had said, "If Bangladeshis live in Assam, then what is the problem?" Her statement stirred controversy from regional groups who alleged that she was "insulting Assamese identity and tried to fuel communal tensions."

The AJP stated that action must be taken and demanded that the police should act under sections like 195 pertaining to offences against public peace, 353 of statements intended to cause public mischief and 356 for defamation and various sections of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita.

Drought in Iraq unearths more than 2,000 years old tombs



MI News Sevice, Iraq: Archaeologists in drought-hit Iraq have discovered 40 ancient tombs after water levels in the country's largest reservoir declined, according to an antiquities official.

The tombs, believed to be more than 2,300 years old, were unearthed at the edges of the Mosul Dam reservoir in the Khankhe region of Duhok province in the country's north.

"So far, we have discovered approximately 40 tombs," Bekas Brefkany, the director of antiquities in Duhok and leader of the archaeological work at the site, said on Saturday.

His team surveyed the area in 2023 but spotted only parts of a few tombs. They were able to work on the site only when water levels dropped "to their lowest" this year, Brefkany said.

"Drought allows us to do excavation work"

In recent years, archaeologists have uncovered ruins dating back thousands of years in the same area, as a result of droughts that have plagued Iraq for five consecutive years.

"The droughts have a significant impact on many aspects, like agriculture and electricity. But, for us archaeologists ... it allows us to do excavation work," Brefkany said.

The newly discovered tombs are believed to date back to the Hellenistic or Hellenistic-Seleucid period, according to Brefkany.

He added that his team is working to excavate the tombs to transfer them to the Duhok Museum for further study and preservation, before the area is submerged again.

Iraq, which is particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change, has been facing rising temperatures, chronic water shortages and year-on-year droughts.

Authorities have warned that this year has been one of the driest since 1933 and that water reserves were down to only 8 percent of their full capacity.

They also blame upstream dams built in neighbouring Iran and Turkiye for dramatically lowering the flow of the once-mighty rivers Tigris and Euphrates, which have irrigated Iraq for millennia.

Gaza humanitarian flotilla departs Barcelona to break Israeli siege

MI News Sevice, Barcelona: The Global Sumud Flotilla has left the Spanish port city of Barcelona, with the stated goal of "breaking Israel's illegal siege of Gaza".

The boats started moving out of the port at approximately 3:30pm on Sunday, with crowds of activists, support staff, and well-wishers there to see the crews off.

Mauricio Morales, reporting from on board the Familia, one of the Flotilla boats, said: "The turnout was overwhelming. I think nobody was expecting so many people to wave goodbye to the volunteers. Spirits are high, people are strangers in this particular boat, but [each has] a particular role."

Hours before their departure, Swedish campaigner Greta Thunberg spoke out against Israel's genocide of Palestinians, as did a number of other high-profile people who were sailing with the Flo-

tilla. "Israel [is] very clear about their genocidal intent. They want to erase the Palestinian nation. They want to take over the Gaza Strip," said Thunberg, hitting out at politicians and governments "failing to uphold international law".

"They are failing to do their most basic, legal duties to act, to prevent a genocide, to stop their complicity and support for ... the occupation and the genocide of Palestinians," she said.

Saif Abukeshk, a Palestinian activist based in Barcelona, denounced Israel's ethnic cleansing of Palestinians in Gaza. "Palestinians are being starved to death because there is a government that is intentionally starving those people to death," he said.

"There is a government that is intentionally bombing Palestinian kids and families every day for the purpose of killing as many



Palestinians as possible," Abukeshk added. "When you bomb hospitals, when you bomb schools, when you bomb educational centres, your main aim is basically to ... end the presence of the Palestinian population."

The flotilla's launch comes after the United Nations declared a state of famine in Gaza this month, as Israel doubled down on its push to seize Gaza City and forcibly displace about a million Palestinians living there

as part of its plan to take over the enclave.

The Global Sumud Flotilla, which describes itself as an independent group not linked to any government or political party, did not say how many ships would set sail or the exact time of departure, but Thunberg spoke of "dozens" of vessels.

Sumud means "perseverance" in Arabic.

Yasemin Acar, a flotilla organiser, confirmed that the flotilla, made up of delegations from 44 coun-

A music teacher uses Gaza's relentless soundtrack of war to resist Israel

MI News Sevice, Gaza: A music teacher in Gaza has found a way to help others around him cope with the relentless and terrifying sounds and horrific impact of Israel's genocidal war.

The nonstop buzz of Israeli drones overhead long predates the constant bursts of gunfire and explosions since the start of Israel's war on the besieged enclave.

"In Gaza, there is no escape from the reality of war," said Al Jazeera's Ibrahim al-Khalili, reporting from Gaza City, where exploding buildings and chaos reign and desperate people attempt to escape gunfire at food distribution sites.

Added to these horrors is the ever-present sound of Israeli drones, he said, pausing to listen to the sound of a drone flying above.

Al-Khalili said drones had hovered over Gaza for years before the Hamas-led October 7, 2023, attacks on



Musician Ahmed Abu Amsha sings with children in a makeshift camp in Gaza.

southern Israel that led to Israel's war.

Many Palestinians living in Gaza City find the sound of them unbearable, he said, explaining that "it's not just surveillance. It's psychological warfare – a noise meant to unnerv, to break people down."

Even before the current war, a report published by Save the Children in 2022 found that four out of five

children in the Gaza Strip suffered from depression, sadness and fear caused by the punishing Israeli blockade on the territory.

However, music teacher Ahmed Abu Amsha has found a creative way to help those feeling distressed by the threatening buzzing above, by turning this sound meant to torment into something positive: a song.

"We had this idea come from what we live, what we suffer here," said Abu Amsha. "When we have [drone] activity here, the kids ask me 'Mr. We are tired from the annoying sound,' [but] I told them 'No, we have to sing with it.'"

"We have to turn it into something good, and [so] we sing," said Abu Amsha, adding that the group often records videos of themselves as they sing to post onto the social media platform Instagram. "The idea from these video songs, it's to turn the sound of the war into music and make it something beautiful."

The videos shared on Abu Amsha's Instagram account, which have been viewed by thousands of people, aren't about creating art, but about refusing to "let a machine – built to watch and intimidate – define what it means to live" in Gaza, said al-Khalili. It's a form of resistance.

Children, aid seekers shot dead by Israeli forces in Gaza



MI News Sevice, Gaza: Children among at least 51 Palestinians killed since dawn as Israeli forces continue attacks across Gaza.

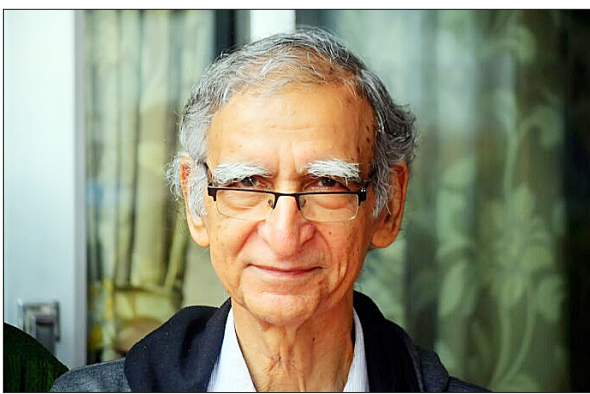
Palestinians are continuing to flee northern Gaza City and surrounding areas as Israel's military intensifies attacks as part of a plan to seize the city and push out one million people.

Yemen's Houthis have

pledged "vengeance" against Israel after confirming that its prime minister, Ahmed al-Rahawi, and other cabinet officials were killed in an Israeli attack on Sanaa on Thursday.

Israel has killed at least 63,459 people and wounded 160,256 in its war on Gaza. A total of 1,139 people were killed in Israel during the October 7 attacks, and about 200 were taken captive.

Ram Puniyani: The Noam Chomsky of India



Ram Puniyani

MI News Sevice: When one speaks of intellectual courage and the moral duty of a public intellectual, two names come to mind from two different worlds: Noam Chomsky and Ram Puniyani. Chomsky, the American linguist turned political dissenter, and Puniyani, the Indian doctor turned social critic, may have started from different fields of expertise, but both ended up becoming the conscience keepers of their societies. In fact, it would not be an exaggeration to describe Ram Puniyani as the "Noam Chomsky of India."

The comparison is not made lightly. Both men represent the rare blend of intellectual brilliance and moral commitment. Both have shown how knowledge, when divorced from social responsibility, becomes sterile — and how scholarship, when joined with conscience, can become a weapon against injustice.

Academic Roots
Noam Chomsky was born in 1928 in Philadelphia. Trained as a linguist, he revolutionized the study of language through his theory of generative grammar. At the same time, he emerged as a fearless critic of U.S. foreign policy, especially its interventions in Vietnam, Latin America, and the Middle East. His career as a professor at MIT gave him both the academic credibility and the public platform to challenge power.

Ram Puniyani (born in 1945) though coming from a different professional background, reflects a strikingly similar trajectory. A trained medical professional, he served as a professor at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay, one of India's most prestigious institutions. At IIT, Puniyani was known not only for his academic competence but also for his ability to connect social concerns with techni-

cal education. Like Chomsky at MIT, Puniyani at IIT symbolized the fusion of rigorous academic training with deep moral inquiry.

Voice Against Wrong Policies

Chomsky made his name as much by his dissent as by his linguistics. He relentlessly exposed U.S. wars abroad, the manipulations of the media, and the hypocrisy of governments that claimed to defend democracy while undermining it in practice. His work Manufacturing Consent (co-authored with Edward S. Herman) remains a classic in analyzing media's role in shaping public opinion.

Ram Puniyani has taken up a parallel role in India. For the past two decades, he has been one of the most consistent critics of divisive and discriminatory policies pursued by successive governments, particularly those inspired by sectarian ideology. In his book Communal Politics: Facts versus Myths (2003), Puniyani dismantled the propaganda narratives around Hindu-Muslim relations, showing how myths are constructed to fuel polarization. Similarly, in Religion, Power and Violence (2005), he critically examined how political forces exploit religious sentiments for power.

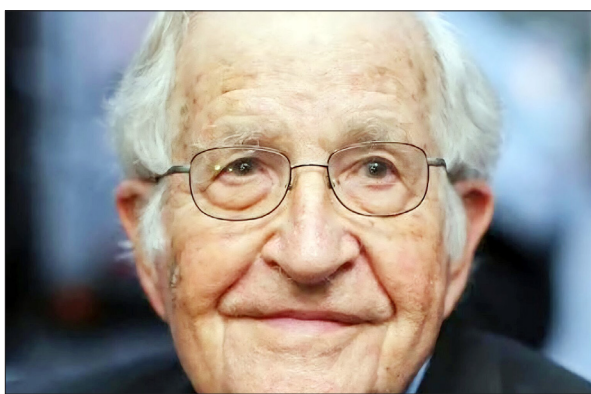
Like Chomsky, Puniyani has questioned state narra-

tives that justify violence and discrimination in the name of nationalism or security. Whether it is the misuse of anti-terror laws, the curbing of dissent, or the attempts to rewrite history to suit a communal agenda, Puniyani has spoken fearlessly.

Defender of Human Rights
If there is one thread running through Chomsky's career, it is his defense of human rights. He has stood by the victims of U.S. military interventions, the Palestinians denied their homeland, and the countless voices silenced by authoritarian regimes supported by the West.

Puniyani carries forward that same torch in India. He is an unwavering advocate of the rights of minorities, Dalits, and marginalized communities who often find themselves targeted by discriminatory practices. After the 2002 Gujarat riots, Puniyani became one of the strongest intellectual voices documenting the violence and calling for justice. His interventions, particularly in works like Contemporary India: Political, Religious and Social Realities (2006), highlighted how communal violence is not spontaneous but systematically engineered.

His human rights advocacy is not limited to academic writing. Through his organization, the Centre for Study



Noam Chomsky

of Society and Secularism (CSSS) in Mumbai, he has conducted hundreds of lectures and workshops across India, particularly in small towns and universities, to promote communal harmony and counter hate propaganda.

Champion of Secularism and Democracy

Chomsky, despite living in one of the world's oldest democracies, has constantly reminded Americans that democracy is hollow when citizens are deprived of real choices by a manipulated media and a corporate-controlled political system. His writings on "manufacturing consent" exposed how public opinion can be engineered to support unjust wars and oppressive policies.

Puniyani, in the Indian context, has been the tireless defender of secularism — the foundation stone of India's democracy. His book Indian Nationalism: The Inclusive Vision (2017) argues that the strength of India lies in its pluralist and secular ethos, not in the dominance of any single religious identity.

In countless essays, columns, and public talks, he has warned against the erosion of constitutional values and the dangers posed by majoritarian politics. Like Chomsky, who insists that democracy must mean more

than periodic elections, Puniyani has stressed that India's democracy must guarantee dignity and equality for all communities.

Advocacy of Communal Harmony

One of Puniyani's most significant contributions has been his relentless efforts to build communal harmony. Through the CSSS, he has organized peace-building initiatives, youth workshops, and interfaith dialogues across states like Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, and Madhya Pradesh. His lectures often blend history, politics, and contemporary issues, helping young audiences understand the roots of communalism and the urgency of defending secularism.

Just as Chomsky moved from theoretical linguistics to practical political activism, Puniyani has moved from the confines of IIT classrooms to grassroots spaces where the future of India's unity is debated.

The Intellectual Conscience

Both Chomsky and Puniyani demonstrate that true intellectuals are not neutral observers but engaged participants in society. Chomsky once said, "It is the responsibility of intellectuals to speak the truth and to expose lies." Puniyani embodies this spirit in India. He has refused to

be silent in the face of hate, even when it brought personal risk and vilification.

Their roles in their respective societies highlight a common truth: intellectual courage transcends disciplines and borders. A linguist in America and a doctor in India, both transformed into moral voices because they refused to separate knowledge from justice.

Ram Puniyani's journey from a professor at IIT to one of India's most outspoken public intellectuals mirrors, in many ways, the trajectory of Noam Chomsky from MIT professor to global critic of empire. Both men have reminded us that intellectual life divorced from public responsibility is a betrayal of humanity.

Ram Puniyani's commitment to the cause he upholds is truly unparalleled. Even past the age of 80, with a lean and fragile frame, he continues to embody remarkable willpower and dedication. Tirelessly defending human rights, he spends much of his time traveling across the country to participate in symposiums and seminars, while also conducting workshops aimed at training young people — the future defenders of justice and human dignity.

Critics from Within: Chomsky on Zionism and Puniyani on Hindutva

Despite being Jewish, Noam Chomsky has been one of the most consistent and outspoken critics of Zionism and Israeli state policies. Similarly, though Ram Puniyani comes from a Hindu background, he has emerged as one of the strongest voices against Hindutva, the political misuse of Hinduism. Both demonstrate that true moral conviction is not about defending one's community at all costs, but about speaking out against injustice — even when it comes from within one's own tradition.

Men’s Hockey Asia Cup: India secure Super 4s spot with 3-2 win over Japan

RAJGIR : The Indian Men's Hockey Team continued their winning form in the Hero Men's Asia Cup Rajgir Bihar 2025 with a 3-2 victory against Japan in their second Pool A fixture at the Rajgir Hockey Stadium, in Rajgir, Bihar on Sunday.

Captain Harmanpreet Singh (5', 46') and Mandeep Singh (4') scored goals for India while Kosei Kawabe (38', 59') scored a brace for Japan. With this win, India has secured a spot in the Super 4s stage as they progress ahead in the tournament. The match also marked an important milestone for Indian goalkeeper Krishan B Pathak as he celebrated his 150th international game.

India made a bright start to the first quarter, scoring two back-to-back goals in the first five minutes to assert their dominance. In the fourth minute, Sukhjeet Singh collected the ball on the baseline and played a perfect pass to Mandeep Singh (4') as he beat his marker in front of the goal and finished it into the net to open the scoring, as per a Hockey India press release.

In the very next minute, India won their first Penalty Corner of the day, and after two retakes, Captain Harmanpreet Singh (5') fired a powerful shot that struck the Japanese goalkeeper's foot



and went into the goal to increase the home side's lead. Japan too won a Penalty Corner in the 13th minute, however, it didn't amount to anything.

Japan improved upon their performance in the second quarter as we saw end-to-end action between the two sides, but India's resilient defence ensured the lead remained intact. In the 19th

minute, Japan came close to scoring as Ryosuke Shinohara dribbled down the middle and fired a backhand shot which went narrowly wide. Japan won their second penalty corner in the 24th minute, but Jarmanpreet saved it on the line and cleared it away for a retake, which was eventually stopped by India. India won their second penalty corner towards the

end of the first half, but Amit Rohidas couldn't find the target with his drag flick.

Japan found their first goal in the third quarter as Kosei Kawabe (38') did well to collect a difficult pass inside the circle and followed it with an angular shot, finding the bottom right corner past the keeper. After the goal, Japan had a spring in their steps as they started attacking

aggressively in search of an equaliser, but India ensured their controlled the possession and tempo of the game to not give away another goal. With just seconds left in the quarter, India won a crucial Penalty Corner, which was converted beautifully by Captain Harmanpreet Singh (46') through the goalkeeper's legs to reclaim the two-goal cushion for India.

In the opening minutes of the final quarter, Japan won a Penalty Corner but were met with two incredible back-to-back saves by Indian gaolkeeper Suraj Karkera. Moments later Abhishek did well to find space inside the circle from the right as he struck a strong backhand shot towards goal but it was saved well by the Japanese keeper. In the dying moments of the match, Japan's Kosei Kawabe (59') struck his second goal of the day as he won the ball on the rebound inside the circle and scored past the keeper to reduce the deficit. Captain Harmanpreet Singh was given a yellow card in the final minute as India were down to 10 men, but they slowed down the proceedings and held their ground to protect the slim lead and emerge victorious.

India will take on Kazakhstan in their next match in the Men's Asia Cup, Rajgir, Bihar 2025, on Monday, September 1.



Hockey India congratulates Krishan B Pathak on completing 150 international games

RAJGIR : Hockey India on Sunday congratulated Indian Men's Hockey Team goalkeeper Krishan B Pathak on completing the milestone of 150 international caps.

The 28-year-old, who hails from Kapurthala, Punjab, achieved this remarkable feat during India's second match of the ongoing Hero Men's Asia Cup Rajgir, Bihar 2025, against Japan at the Rajgir Hockey Stadium, as per a release from Hockey India.

India began their campaign with a thrilling 4-3 win over China, riding on a hat-trick by Captain Harmanpreet Singh and a goal from Jugraj Singh, and are now aiming to build on their winning momentum.

Pathak, known for his agility and consistency under the bar, first rose to prominence as part of the Gold medal-winning Indian Junior Men's Hockey Team at the FIH Junior World Cup 2016 in Lucknow.

He made his senior debut against Japan at the Four-Nations Tournament in January 2018 and soon cemented his place in the squad. Since then, he has been part of several of India's most celebrated triumphs, including the 2018 Asian Champions Trophy (Joint Gold with Pakistan), the 2022 Asian Games Gold in Hangzhou, and back-to-back Asian Champions Trophy titles in 2023 and 2024.

His individual brilliance has also been widely recognised—he is a two-time recipient of the Hockey India Baljit Singh Award for Goalkeeper of the Year (2019, 2022) and was honoured with the prestigious Arjuna Award in 2024.

Pathak became a mainstay in India's defence during the FIH Men's Hockey Pro League 2020/21 and 2021/22, where his key saves secured India a podium finish. He was also part of India's squad which won Silver medal at the 2022 Birmingham Commonwealth Games and participated at the FIH Odisha Men's Hockey World Cup 2023 in Bhubaneswar-Rourkela. Following the retirement of legendary goalkeeper PR Sreejesh after the Paris 2024 Olympic Games, Pathak has been India's trusted first-choice goalkeeper.

Krishan B Pathak, reflecting on his milestone, said, "It is a very special moment for me and my family. To represent India 150 times is a dream I could never have imagined when I first started playing hockey in Kapurthala. Every cap is a matter of pride, but this milestone feels extra special because it comes during such an important tournament for us. I am grateful to my coaches, teammates, and everyone at Hockey India who believed in me and supported me throughout my journey. My focus now is to keep contributing to the team's success and inspire the next generation of goalkeepers in India."

Congratulating Pathak, Hockey India President Dilip Tirkey said, "Krishan has been one of the pillars of Indian hockey in recent years. Goalkeeping is a demanding role, and he has consistently delivered on the biggest stages. His journey from the Junior World Cup in 2016 to becoming India's first-choice goalkeeper is an inspiring story for every young athlete. On behalf of Hockey India, I congratulate him on achieving 150 international caps and wish him many more milestones in the years to come." Hockey India Secretary General Bhola Nath Singh added, "We are extremely proud of Krishan's achievements. He has shown tremendous dedication, resilience, and passion for the sport. His performances have played a big part in India's success in recent years, and he continues to be a role model for aspiring players. Reaching 150 caps is not just a personal milestone but also a testament to his contribution to Indian hockey."

Brook praises Crawley, Cox; says every in-form player is in mix for England



LONDON : Harry Brook, a part of England's domestic white-ball competition, The Hundred, motivated his fellow Northern Superchargers teammates Zak Crawley and Jordan Cox to build on their recent performances and push for a place in England's ODI and T20I setups.

England have gotten off to a winning start in their new white-

ball era after Harry Brook took over the captaincy in April, defeating West Indies in both the ODI and T20I series, as per the ICC website.

Both Cox and Crawley, who are the highest and third-highest run-getters in this season of the Hundred, respectively, haven't been included in the squads against Ireland and South Africa.

However, Brook was full of praise for both batters and stated that every in-form player was still in the mix.

"Everybody's in the mix: whoever does well," Brook was quoted as saying by ESPNcricinfo. "Crawley obviously has the attributes that we're talking about: putting pressure on the bowlers with their good and bad balls; he can manipulate the field really well; he's good against fast bowling, and he's good against spin."

"He's got all the attributes to play white-ball (cricket) for England. It's the same with everybody. Everybody's been talking about Jordan Cox: he's obviously an unbelievable player. You've just got to keep on doing it, and he as consistent as you can for a long period of time, it's good to have competition (for places)," he added. While Cox has been a part of three ODI games and two T20Is last year, Crawley has played just eight ODIs, his last one in December 2023.

Following a riveting five-match Test series against India, England will play white-ball internationals against South Africa at home, the first of which will take place on 2 September at Leeds.

"He said, abbey jaa naa...": Ishant recalls hilarious banter with Virat before his maiden Test fifty



NEW DELHI : Indian pacer Ishant Sharma recalled scoring his maiden Test half-century against the West Indies back in 2019 at Kingston and how he faced some teasing from his close friend and teammate Virat Kohli, who jokingly asked him to just "play the ball". Ishant spoke about this hilarious banter and his first-ever batting milestone in international cricket on the official X handle of the Gujarat Titans (GT).

Speaking on his half-century, Ishant said, "Oh, that is a special one. Scoring my first 50 against the West Indies. I was very relaxed. I think that was in Jamaica. I was very relaxed, talking to Virat, putting my feet up on the table. And he said, 'What are you going to do? I said, 'I'm going to bat. I said, 'I'm going to score

runs. He was laughing and said, "Abbey Jaa Na". Obviously, being a Delhi boy, we played together since childhood. Under 17s, we started playing together. And then he said, go man, just stand there and play the ball. (Hanuma) Vihari will score runs." Recalling his partnership with Vihari, Ishant said that he told Vihari to play his normal cricket and vowed not to "throw his wicket". He also recalled how tired and sweaty he was after batting for 60 balls, something he did not experience much while bowling at such a fast pace. "Vihari and I were batting. And then he was asking, what should I do? I said, just keep on playing normal cricket. Do not worry, I would not throw my wicket. So, we built a partnership," he recalled.

Brendan becomes 3rd Zimbabwe batter to complete 10,000 international runs



HARARE : Zimbabwe batter Brendan Taylor on Sunday became only the third player from his team to touch the 10,000-run mark in international cricket, marking a big moment in nation's cricketing history.

Taylor achieved this milestone during his side's second ODI against Sri Lanka at Harare. After a duck in the first ODI, Taylor reached the milestone by making a 37-ball 20, without any boundaries or a six.

Now in 287 matches, he has made 10,009 runs in 320 innings at an average of 33.92, with 17 centuries and 57 half-centuries and a best score of 171. He is now with legends Andy Flower (11,580 runs in 276 matches with 16 centuries at an average of 40.63) and Grant Flower (10,028 runs in 288 matches at an average of 32.03, with 12 centuries) as a part of the 10,000 international runs club.

In Tests, Taylor has made 2,371 runs in 35 Tests and 70 innings at an average of 35.92, with six centuries and 12 fifties and a best score of 171. He is the fourth-highest run-getter for Zimbabwe in the format.

In ODIs, Taylor is the second-highest run-getter, with 6,704 runs at an average of 35.28, with

11 centuries and 39 fifties. His best score of 145*. Taylor is the seventh-highest run-getter in T20Is for Zimbabwe, scoring 934 runs in 45 matches and innings at an average of 23.94, with five fifties and best score of 75*.

He became available for selection following the completion of a three-and-a-half-year suspension imposed by the International Cricket Council (ICC) during second Test against New Zealand earlier this month, after he accepted responsibility for breaching both the ICC Anti-Corruption Code and the ICC Anti-Doping Code.

Since then, Taylor has undergone a thorough rehabilitation programme and has consistently demonstrated a sincere commitment to personal growth, accountability and restoring trust. His presence in the side adds a lot of strength and experience, having played 34 Tests and overall 284 international matches in his career. In his comeback Test, Taylor scored 44 and 7 at Bulawayo. Coming to this second ODI, SL opted to field first. Ben Curran (79 in 95 balls, with nine fours) and Sikandar Raza (59* in 55 balls, with five fours and a six) fired brilliant half-centuries.

Duleep Trophy: Central Zone moves to semifinals after clash with North East Zone ends in draw



BENGALURU : The quarterfinal fixture of the ongoing Duleep Trophy between Central Zone and North East Zone ended in a draw on Sunday, with Central Zone making it to the semifinals on the basis of their massive first innings lead.

North East Zone elected to win the toss and opted to field first. After Central Zone opener Aayush Pandey (3) was dismissed early, a 139-run stand between Danish Malewar and Aaryan Juyal (60 in 100 balls, with eight fours) kept the scoreboard ticking till Juyal retired hurt.

What followed was a massive carnage as Maleshwar had a double century partnership with skipper Rajat Patidar (125 in 96 balls, with 21 fours and three sixes), with the captain reaching the milestone in just 80 balls, playing his first competitive match after leading Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) to their maiden Indian Premier League (IPL) title.

Malewar retired out for 203 in 222 balls, with 36 fours and a six, letting Yash Rathod (87* in 108 balls, with 11 fours) and Shubham Sharma (34 in 76 balls, with two fours), get some game time and take the team to a massive 532/4 declared.

In reply, NEZ was skittled out for 185 runs in just 69.3 overs,

with Karnajit Yumnam (48 in 77 balls, with eight fours and a six) and Ankur Malik (42 in 55 balls, with five fours and two sixes) being the top scorers for their side.

Aditya Thakare (3/23) led the bowling charts for Central Zone, while Khaleel Ahmed and Harsh Dubey also scooped a couple wickets each. Deepak Chahar also got a wicket.

With a healthy 347-run lead in their hands, Central Zone got to bat again. Shubham Sharma (122 in 215 balls, with 17 fours) got a promotion up the order to number three, and he made the most of it. Skipper Patidar (66 in 72 balls, with six fours and three sixes) and Yash Rathod (78 in 83 balls, with 11 fours) also got cracking half-centuries. Central Zone ended with 331/7 declared, giving their opponents 679 runs to a win, a mountain-like target.

Jehu Anderson (64 in 96 balls, with 11 fours and a six) and skipper Rongsen Jonathan (60 in 97 balls, with nine fours) showed up for NEZ with half-centuries, but at 200/6, both teams shook hands for a draw.

Dubey, Thakare and Shubham got two wickets each.

Now Central Zone will take on West Zone in the semifinal from September 4 onwards.