

State Blames Centre for Soaring Egg Prices in West Bengal

With the onset of winter, the price of poultry eggs usually rises slightly, but this year, the increase has broken all previous records. The cost of a pair of eggs has surged to ₹15, prompting West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee to directly blame the central government for the steep price hike. Speaking to the media, Banerjee argued that the primary feed for chickens and ducks, which is supplied to farms across the state, has been increased by the Centre by 12 per cent annually. She claimed that this systematic rise in feed prices has been directly responsible for pushing up the cost of eggs to unprecedented levels. “Why are egg prices rising so sharply?” asked Banerjee. “The main feed for poultry is being increased in price by 12 per cent every year by the central government. Those who talk loudly about eggs on social media should remember that we supply eggs to 12 other states. PG 3



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CM Mamata blames Amit Shah for being behind SIR 'ploy' in Bengal, says BJP dug its own grave

MI News Service, Malda : West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Wednesday tore into the BJP over the Election Commission's rollout of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls barely three to four months before the Assembly polls, accusing Union Home Minister Amit Shah of "orchestrating" the exercise to unsettle voters and "capture West Bengal by trickery". Addressing a massive anti-SIR rally in Malda's Gazole on the first day of her two day visit to Malda and Murshidabad districts, Mamata Banerjee said the saffron camp had "miscalculated the pulse of Bengal" and ended up "digging its own grave" by pushing for a hurried revision process that triggered panic among citizens. "Home Minister Amit Shah is behind this ploy of implementing SIR when the elections are at the doorsteps", she alleged.

"Shah wants to capture Bengal by hook or by crook and at any cost. But remember, by doing SIR in Bengal, you have dug your own grave. Bengal and Bihar are not the same. You cannot win Bengal by cleverness and trickery," she thundered. She also alleged that the EC's November 4 rollout of SIR had unleashed "widespread fear", with people believing their names would be arbitrarily dropped from the voters' list. "Till now, 39 ordinary citizens, including four BLOs, have died due to SIR panic, suicides included. We are helping their families. This trauma cannot continue," she added. Similar incidents, she claimed, had occurred in a number of other states as well.

Mamata Banerjee clarified that the



West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee lambasts the opposition and the EC while addressing a massive rally at Gajol in Malda district on Wednesday.

TMC was not opposing the revision itself but the "politically motivated haste". "We are not against SIR or census. But why the tearing hurry? A citizen again has to prove he is a citizen. Why?" she asked.

"This has been done to disrupt Bengal's development work. They have blocked our dues, yet we are running schemes. Now they want to wreck

everything in the name of SIR," said Mamata Banerjee. Amid thunderous applause from the packed gathering, the Chief minister announced that from December 12, the TMC will set up statewide "May I Help You" camps to assist citizens when SIR hearings begin later this month. She also appealed to migrant workers to ensure that they fill up their forms, warning that "names

may be struck off if forms are not submitted". Ratcheting up her attack on the BJP's ideological thrust, Mamata Banerjee asserted, "We don't need to learn Hindutva from the BJP. I do not practise communal politics; I practise secular politics. I respect every religion. I will not allow unrest in Bengal." Without naming the BJP-led Union government, she fired a sharp warning, "You

think you can do everything with brute force? You want to create an Emergency-like situation? Remember, people speak the last word. People will not forgive you." "The BJP is like bed bugs; they bite till you remove them. They must be removed politically so Bengal is no longer harmed," she thundered. She also accused the Centre of withholding funds and said "We get only GST. All our tax money is taken away by the Centre. Bengal is supposed to get

on "humanitarian grounds" the entry of a pregnant Sonali and her young son into India, nearly six months after they were pushed into Bangladesh. The top court was hearing a plea of the Centre challenging the September 26 order of the Calcutta High Court by which it had set aside the central government's decision to deport Khatun and others to Bangladesh and termed it "illegal". Reiterating her position on citizenship and deportation issues, Mamata Banerjee

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Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee

Rs 1.87 lakh-crore. Now we hear even cigarette taxes will be taken. You have grabbed everything across India. Does it not shame you? And then you want to grab Bengal forcefully?" she said. Mamata Banerjee also referred to the case of Sunali (Sonali) Khatun, the pregnant woman and her child who were pushed into Bangladesh by the BSF earlier this year and whose return the Supreme Court allowed on humanitarian grounds on Wednesday.

"The court asked the Centre to bring back Sonali Khatun and vher 8 year old son . We fought the case," she said. "Sonali is an Indian citizen. Then why did the BSF push a pregnant woman to Bangladesh? Was it because she is Bengali? Is that why she was branded Bangladeshi and thrown across the border?", she asked. The Supreme court on Wednesday allowed

said, "As long as I am here, no Bengali will be pushed back or sent to a detention camp." The showdown over SIR comes as Went Bengal heads into its most polarised Assembly election in years, with the TMC framing the revision as a tool for intimidation and the BJP insisting it is a routine process.

For Chief minister Mamata Banerjee, the issue feeds into a larger narrative that the BJP is using institutional levers to unsettle linguistic minorities, weaken welfare delivery, and stir anxieties around citizenship. She, however, insisted that she was in Malda not to seek votes but to "stand by anxious citizens". "I have come not to ask for votes, but come to stand by you. Do not be afraid. No one will go to a detention camp. Your names will not be dropped. Bengal will remain safe," she thundered amid huge applause.

Govt framing new rules for curbing fake news and AI-generated deep fake videos :
Ashwini Vaishnav



MI News Service, New Delhi : The Union government is working on framing new rules for curbing fake news and AI-generated deep fake videos by strengthening the institutional mechanism for that, Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting and IT Ashwini Vaishnav informed the Lok Sabha on Wednesday. Terming fake news as one of the greatest

9 Fake news is a very serious issue. Fake news is a threat to democracy. There is a need to take strict action against fake news and AI-generated deep fake video

Ashwini Vaishnav

threats to democracy, Ashwini Vaishnav told the members that there is a need to take stringent action against those who create AI-generated deep fake videos and spread false information. "Keeping this in mind the government is seriously working on framing new strict rules for curbing fake news and AI-generated deep fake videos and strengthening the institutional mechanism for that", the Union Minister said in the lower house of Parliament today . "Fake news is a very serious issue. Fake news is a threat to democracy. There is a need to take strict action against fake news and AI-generated deep fake videos," he said during Question Hour.

Kolkata to host 'Byabasayi Sammelan 2025'

MI News Service, Kolkata: In a major outreach to the state's MSME-driven large trading community ahead of next year's assembly elections, West Bengal Chief minister Mamata Banerjee will address over 12,000 traders at the 'Byabasayi Sammelan 2025' here on December 17. A business meet is also scheduled for December 18 to facilitate interactions with industry representatives, as the usual two-day international business summit under the Biswa Bangla Global meet, is not being held this year in view of the upcoming polls.

The 'Byabasayi Sammelan 2025' assumes significance as the state government seeks to consolidate support from all quarters, including small businesses, in the run-up to the 2026 assembly elections. The Confederation of West Bengal Trade Associations (CWBTAA) president Sushil

Poddar said the event, where Mamata Banerjee will be the chief guest, would provide a platform for the CM to connect with thousands of small traders, who form the backbone of Bengal's supply chain. "Traders create livelihood opportunities for more than one crore people in West Bengal, directly and indirectly. We look forward to the Chief minister outlining priorities for ease of doing business and addressing ground-level challenges," Poddar said. According to CWBTAA, the state has around 60-65 lakh traders, including those in the unorganised sector, who play a key role in facilitating the movement of goods, supporting MSMEs, and linking Bengal with neighbouring markets. The network also contributes to cross-border commerce with Bangladesh,

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Kashmir freezes as sub-zero temperatures drop further



MI News Service, Srinagar : The severe cold wave conditions intensified across the Kashmir valley as the minimum temperature dropped further below the freezing point on Wednesday with a thick layer of fog engulfing most parts of the upper reaches of the Union Territory, official sources here said.

Srinagar recorded a low of minus 5.4 degree Celsius on Tuesday night, down from minus 3.5 degree Celsius the previous night, they said. As

a result a thick blanket of snow and dense fog engulfed the entire capital city of Srinagar and other places in the valley, especially around water bodies including the famous Dal lake. Most of the streets in the city look deserted as majority of population preferred to remain indoors because of the harsh weather condition, while very few people were seen warming themselves with

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India sends huge relief materials and over 70 medics to cyclone-hit Sri Lanka



Indian Air Force C-17 Globemaster aircraft with a self-contained, modular field hospital, over 70 medical & support personnel, and vehicles, lands under operation Sagar Bandhu, in Colombo on Tuesday

MI News Service, Colombo : As part of its continuing humanitarian assistance following the devastating floods and landslides by Cyclone Ditwah in Sri Lanka, India has sent a mobile field hospital and over 70 medical personnel to the island nation. Informing this the Indian mission here said on Wednesday that as Sri Lanka has been grappling with widespread flooding and landslides leading to severe infrastructure collapse in several completely isolated districts and straining the country's disaster-re-

India's medical aid in the wake of the damage caused by cyclone Ditwah arrived in Sri Lanka on Wednesday

Sri Lankan President's office

sponse capacity, India has sent this massive humanitarian assistance as one of the first responders to this unprecedented natural disaster. As of Wednesday as many as 474 people have been killed and another 366 remained missing, in catastrophic floods and land-

slides caused by extreme weather conditions since November 16 in the country.

"India's medical aid in the wake of the damage caused by cyclone Ditwah arrived in Sri Lanka on Wednesday", the Sri Lankan President's office said in a statement. The supplies included advanced medical equipment and field hospitals. "An Indian Air Force C-17A aircraft carrying urgent medical assistance arrived in Sri Lanka. The consignment comprised critical

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Mamata Banerjee calls for building an inclusive society where everybody can live with equal opportunity and respect

MI News Service, Kolkata : West Bengal Chief minister Mamata Banerjee has called for building a more inclusive society for all including for the Persons with Disabilities where every individual, regardless of their circumstances, can live with equal opportunity and respect. Sending a message on the 'International Day of Persons with Disabilities' through her X handle on Wednesday, the Chief minister said "On this International Day of Persons with Disabilities, we reaffirm our commitment to building a more inclusive society".

Highlighting a series of work done by her government in this regard, Mamata Banerjee said "Our Government has strengthened institutional mechanisms to support PwDs right from their birth through their entire lifecycle - we are screening newborn babies to detect anomalies and developmental delays for timely corrective interventions; we run special schools, arrange for special education in all schools for children with special needs, and equip them with skills so they can earn a decent livelihood and by reserving



On this International Day of Persons with Disabilities, we reaffirm our commitment to building a more inclusive society

CM Mamata Banerjee

jobs in government, we have ensured that PwDs can lead a life of self-sufficiency and dignity. We have also created a robust social security network for PwDs through schemes like Manabik Pensions, Student Scholarships, Distribution of Prosthetic Aids and health care for all". Hoping that all will follow these achievements to reach the goal, she said "Let us all work together to build a society where every individual, regardless of their circumstances, can live with equal opportunity and respect".

SC allows Sonali Khatun and her child's entry into India from Bangladesh on 'humanitarian grounds'

MI News Service, New Delhi : In a landmark decision , the Supreme Court purely on "humanitarian grounds" on Wednesday allowed the entry of a pregnant woman and her eight-year-old child into India, months after they were detained in Bangladesh after they were pushed back from Delhi. A bench of Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justice Joy-malya Bagchi asked the West Bengal government to take care of the minor and directed the Chief Medical Officer of Birbhum district to provide all possible medical assistance to the pregnant woman Sonali Khatun, including free of cost delivery at a good hospital. . The bench



noted the submission of Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre, that the competent authority has agreed to allow the

woman and her child back into the country purely on humanitarian grounds without prejudice to rights and contentions, and they would be kept under surveillance. The top court said they would eventually be brought back to Delhi from where they were picked up and deported to Bangladesh.

Senior advocates Kapil Sibal and Sanjay Hegde urged the court that there were others also, including Sonali's husband who are in Bangladesh and need to be brought back to India for which Mehta may seek further instruction. Mehta contended that he would be contesting their claim of being Indian citizens

and maintained that they were Bangladeshi nationals and it was only humanitarian grounds that the union government was allowing the woman and her child into India. The woman's father alleged that the families, working as daily wage earners in Sector 26 of the Rohini area in Delhi for over two decades, were picked up by police on June 18 on suspicion of being Bangladeshis and subsequently pushed across the border on June 27. The bench was hearing an appeal filed by the Union government challenging a Calcutta High Court direction to bring back

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Special seminar/
interactive session

MI News Service, North 24 Pgs: A special seminar/interactive session was organized on 26th November 2025 in the premises of Employees' State Insurance Corporation (Ministry of Labour & Employment, Government of India), Barrackpore, Salt Lake to disseminate information/and for widespread awareness about SPREE and AMNESTY scheme & in addition code on Social Security 2020 was also briefly discussed. The seminar was attended by representatives of the big employers & employer's association and office bearers of the trade unions associations of SRO Barrackpore jurisdiction. The seminar was coordinated by Shri. Amarnath Tiwari, Joint Director, Head of the Office, ESIC Sub-Regional Office, Barrackpore. The employers/employees, representatives present in the seminar were given finer detailed information regarding SPREE and Amnesty schemes by the officials of Sub Regional Office, Barrackpore. The employers were informed in brief that the SPREE scheme will remain open till 31/12/25 and this period is about to come to an end on 31st December 2025, so wide publicity in this regard will help both employers and their employees. The newly registered employers/employees shall be treated as covered from the date of their registration. The registration under SPREE scheme will not attract any liability for the past period. Similarly, in AMNESTY scheme an opportunity has been provided to employers to come forward for a mutual settlement of the court cases by resolution of disputes outside the court. This reduction in litigation will also promote ease of doing business. The AMNESTY scheme will remain open from 1/10/25 to 30/9/26. The employers will have to fulfill certain conditions before the cases are withdrawn. The employers/employees, representatives present in the seminar were also informed in brief about Code on Social security 2020 which is implemented from 21-11-2025. They were informed that detailed information on Labour Code will be shared as & when the rules & regulations are notified by Govt. of India.

The main intention of this seminar was to publicize SPREE as well as AMNESTY scheme to ensure maximum coverage/maximum participation for the success of the scheme and to also make awareness about the new Labour Codes. All the participants took active interest in the discussion and got their queries clarified. They also agreed to cooperate with ESIC for success of the schemes.

Mother buries newborn alive in Jalpaiguri, father arrested

MI News Service, Jalpaiguri: A newborn was buried alive by his mother in Jalpaiguri's Rajadanga Gram Panchayat, triggering widespread outrage and a police probe. The disturbing incident unfolded in the Khaldhura Rickshaw area of North Majhagram under Krani block, where locals discovered the baby's lifeless body partially buried next to the family home around 8 a.m. According to eyewitness accounts, Regina Begum, the mother, concealed her entire pregnancy, even reportedly tampering with a pregnancy test by using water. She gave birth to a son but immediately attempting to bury the newborn alive. Villagers intervened upon spotting the grim scene, but Regina fled the spot, allegedly placing the infant's body in a barn before absconding. The father, Ziyarul Haque, who reportedly left for business as usual that morning, has since been arrested by Kranti police. Local residents express shock and confusion over the incident, labeling the child's death as unusual and shrouded in mystery.

World AIDS Day Awareness Programme
Organized by Swasamman Welfare Foundation

MI News Service, Kolkata: Swasamman Welfare Foundation successfully organized a comprehensive HIV/AIDS Awareness Programme on the occasion of World AIDS Day, 1st December 2025, following the official approval of the Secretary, Health & Family Welfare Department, Government of West Bengal, and the Project Director, West Bengal State AIDS Prevention & Control Society (WBSAP&CS).

The programme was held at R.N. Avenue, Rashmoni More, Sodepur, with active support from Milan Tirtha Club, ensuring extensive community participation in promoting public understanding of HIV/AIDS and the importance of prevention, care, and stigma reduction.

The event was formal-



To mark the International Day of Persons with Disabilities on 3rd December, a special day-long event, 'Purple Fair,' was organised at the Ramakrishna Mission Blind Boys' Academy, Narendrapur. The initiative was jointly conducted by the National Academy of Direct Taxes (NADT) Kolkata Regional Campus, the Principal Chief Commissioner of Income Tax, West Bengal & Sikkim Region, and the Blind Boys' Academy. The programme was inaugurated by Surbhi Verma Garg, Principal Chief Commissioner of Income Tax; B. Satyanarayana Raju, Additional Director General of NADT; and Swami Ekachittananda, Principal of Ramakrishna Mission Residential College, Narendrapur. Several hundred visually impaired students actively participated in sports, musical performances, creative competitions, and interactive sessions, showcasing their talent and enthusiasm, which deeply impressed the guests. Surbhi Verma Garg highlighted that the initiative aims to make children with special needs self-reliant and support their talent development and social inclusion. Swami Ekachittananda stressed that following Swami Vivekananda's ideals, students should strive for self-dependence through true education. The 'Purple Fair' celebrated the spirit of inclusion and reaffirmed the importance of building a society that embraces all abilities.

BCKV baby corn study
earns international spotlight
across four Asian nations

MI News Service, Mohanpur: A baby corn agronomy study from Bidhan Chandra Krishi Viswavidyalaya (BCKV), Mohanpur, has drawn international visibility after being presented across four Asian countries over the past two years. The research, conducted under the ICAR All India Coordinated Research Project on Maize, forms part of the M.Sc dissertation of young agronomist Mayukh Bhattacharyya, guided by agronomist Sonali Biswas.

The study, "Effect of Integrated Nutrient Management on Baby Corn in the New Alluvial Zone of West Bengal", examined how combined use of chemical fertilisers and organic amendments could raise productivity while improving soil health.

Field trials carried out during the 2023-24 rabi season assessed farmyard manure (FYM), green manure (Dhaincha) and recommended fertiliser doses in multiple combinations. Integrated nutrient treatments led to higher plant height, leaf area

index, biomass accumulation and nutrient uptake.

Baby corn yield (de-husked cob) nearly doubled over farmer-level practices, while fodder yield also saw a considerable rise. The most profitable treatment involved the recommended fertiliser dose with 15 t/ha FYM, which recorded the highest benefit-cost ratio. Soil organic carbon levels improved, indicating long-term sustainability potential.

The findings were first showcased in Kuala Lumpur in 2023 at the 6th International Conference on Health Care and Allied Sciences, where Bhattacharyya received the Best Paper Presenter Award. During this period, he also taught agriculture at Lincoln University College, Malaysia.

In 2025, he represented India at the International Symposium on Sustainable Plantation Management in Colombo, with the presentation later published as a book chapter in the symposium volume.

The work was subsequently recognised at the World Congress on Climate Change and Its Effects in Kathmandu, where Bhattacharyya received the Innovative Young Researcher Award.

The next presentation is scheduled at the International Conference on Organic Agriculture 2025, to be held from November 26-28 at the SEARCA headquarters, University of the Philippines Los Baños.

Bhattacharyya has authored peer-reviewed papers, farmer-oriented publications and holds two Indian patents, an AI-based plant disease diagnostic tool and a UV-based pathogen-neutralisation device, reflecting his focus on translational agri-technology.

The multi-country dissemination of the BCKV study underscores the growing prominence of research emerging from eastern India's alluvial regions and aligns with a global shift towards soil health, integrated nutrient management and sustainable input use in modern agronomy.

Anubrata Mandal fires
back at BJP's SIR trap

MI News Service, Birbhum: In Birbhum's Khairashol block, TMC district core committee convener Anubrata Mandal launched a blistering attack on what he described as the BJP's "SIR tactics," addressing large gatherings across the Panchra, Rupuspur, and Lokpur gram panchayats. Speaking before a packed audience of booth-level agents and supporters, Anubrata Mandal accused the BJP of attempting to undermine Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's development-driven governance through what he called a politically motivated voter-verification drive.

Anubrata Mandal alleged that the BJP, unable to counter the TMC's popularity directly, was using SIR to replicate what he characterized as the effects of Assam's NRC. He claimed that the NRC process had led to the detention of "19 lakh Hindus and 5 lakh Muslims" and warned that a similar strategy in West Bengal aimed to "incarcerate 2-3 crore Bengalis" to destabilize the state government. Mocking the opposition's ambition, he thundered, "Where is the fool who thinks West Bengal wants Mamata Banerjee removed?" His remarks came as SIR's procedural stages neared completion.

Nuvoco Vistas Corp. Ltd.

MI News Service, Kolkata: Nuvoco Vistas Corp. Ltd. has launched the NUVOCO ZERO M UNNATI App for influencers in the building materials sector, including contractors and applicators. This app enhances the user experience by offering reward point tracking, product information, updates on offers, and direct support. Chirag Shah, Head of Marketing, emphasized the app's role in empowering influencers with key resources and support for driving product adoption.

Tata Motors

MI News Service, Kolkata: Tata Motors Ltd. reported a 29% year-on-year increase in commercial vehicle sales for November 2025, totaling 35,539 units compared to 27,636 units last year. Growth was broad-based, with notable increases in HCV trucks (34%), ILMCV trucks (35%), and domestic sales up 25% to 32,753 units; international sales surged by 92% to 2,786 units.

Turkish Airlines
partners with Samsung



MI News Service, Kolkata: Turkish Airlines has partnered with Samsung to enhance travel comfort through digital transformation. Starting December 1st, passengers can track their baggage with the Smart Tagged Baggage Service using Galaxy SmartTag via the SmartThings Find app, marking Turkish Airlines as the first airline to implement this technology globally. This initiative reflects the airline's commitment to innovation, with both companies emphasizing their goal to enrich the travel experience for passengers.

Amateur Radio Operator wins
global honor for humanitarian service

MI News Service, Kalyani: West Bengal Amateur Radio Club, so to speak, was started as a hobby and once it has appeared as a helping hand during the moments of distressed to the individual or to the group and even amid natural calamities. Their constant humanitarian activities has brought them to the door of receiving an International Award from Orlando, Florida.

In a remarkable recognition of humanitarian service, Ambarish Nag Biswas, secretary of the West Bengal Radio Club (WBRC), has been selected for the inaugural "Amateur Radio Hero Award" by HamCation 2026, one of the world's largest amateur radio shows held annually in Orlando, Florida.

The announcement reached him early on Wednesday through an official email from Mike Banigan (KJ4UD0), Awards Chairman of HamCation Ambarish Nag Biswas said. The award, being introduced for the first time, honors an amateur radio operator who has gone "above and beyond" in offering communications support during disasters or moments of critical public need.

Amateur or ham radio is often mistaken as a hobby of antennas and call signs. But in Bengal, over the last decade, it has quietly evolved into an alternative communication backbone during cyclones, floods, missing-person searches, and other emergencies, largely due to the tireless efforts of WBRC.

Ambarish Nag Biswas has been at the center of this transformation.

During Cyclone Amphan, Yaas, and repeated storms along the Bay coast, when phone lines collapsed and towers buckled, ham radio operators under WBRC maintained uninterrupted communication between disaster zones, control rooms, and rescue teams.

His team has also played a role in reuniting a huge of lost persons, including children, with their families across India through their "Missing Persons Tracking Protocol".

"It is impressive learning about your efforts using amateur radio to support the community during times of need," Banigan wrote in the mail, notifying Biswas of the selection.

HamCation, sponsored by the Orlando Amateur Radio Club, is the second-largest amateur radio show in the United States. That a grassroots Indian



radio club would draw such international recognition has surprised even the organizers.

Over the past years, multiple global research papers and academic presentations have documented WBRC's model of humanitarian ham radio operations, from cyclone communication architecture to emergency medical transport coordination. These have made the club a case study in how volunteer radio can augment modern disaster management systems.

The award will be conferred on February 14, 2026, during the HamCation 2026 banquet. Public announcement of the awardees is scheduled on the programme Ham Nation at 9 PM EST on December 3 (Thursday morning in India).

Speaking after the announcement, Ambarish Nag Biswas said: "This is not my achievement alone. It is the recognition of Bengal and its people. Ham radio showed the world that even a hobby, when used for humanity, can save lives. We are proud of the work we have done, and want to do much more for society."

He expressed gratitude to volunteers, government agencies, and citizens who have supported the club's mission, and appealed for continued encouragement as WBRC prepares to expand training, cyclone-zone communication units, and student outreach.

At a time when technology is increasingly commercial and algorithmic, the award highlights an often-overlooked truth: that simple radios, powered by skill, discipline, and compassion, can still be a lifeline.

For enormous people across Bengal, and for many more across the world who have followed the work of the West Bengal Radio Club, Wednesday's sunrise carried a message, that human service, even when transmitted quietly over frequencies, can echo across continents.

Nadia farmer's efforts revive
near-extinct 'Sankene' paddy variety



MI News Service, Tehatta: In a quiet corner of rural Bengal, a long-forgotten indigenous paddy variety is finding its way back to the fields. Lakkhan Pramanik, a farmer from Harekrishnapur village in the Hogolbaria police station area, has been recognised with the Plant Genome Saviour Farmer Award for conserving 'Sankene', a rice variety once on the verge of extinction in West Bengal. The award, instituted by the Union Ministry of Agriculture, is conferred on only three farmers nationwide each year.

Mr. Pramanik's interest in traditional agriculture began early. Over the past seven to eight years, he has been cultivating and

preserving rare crop varieties, including Sankene, with support from Bidhan Chandra Krishi Viswavidyalaya (BCKV), the Krishi Vigyan Kendra in Nadia and the 'Banglar Krishi' initiative. He has also been instrumental in promoting Govindobhog rice cultivation and local-level marketing.

Explaining the cultivation process, Mr. Pramanik notes that Sankene is suited to waterlogged fields and can be grown without chemical fertilisers. Its production cost remains relatively low, around Rs. 2,500 to Rs. 3,000 per bigha, while the average yield per bigha is roughly four quintals. The rice, considered nutritionally rich, currently sells for about rupees 2,500 per quintal.

Mr. Pramanik applied for the national recognition in August 2023. The award was presented in November at the C. Subramanian Convention Centre of the Indian Agricultural Research Institute in New Delhi, along with a cash prize of ₹1 lakh.

Commenting on the achievement, BCKV Vice-Chancellor Ashok Kumar Patra said that conserving traditional seed varieties is vital for future research and resilience. "Such initiatives from farmers at the grassroots level will significantly contribute to the preservation of biodiversity and encourage further scientific inquiry," he said.



Candidates under the All Bengal Arabic Federation (ABAF) take part in a protest rally after the High Court stayed the results of the Primary and Upper Primary levels, in Kolkata on Wednesday.

Bengal govt avoiding action on airport mosque
because of Vote Bank :Sukanta Majumdar

MI News Service, New Delhi/Kolkata: Union Minister Sukanta Majumdar flagged security concerns over a mosque located in the operational area of Kolkata Airport, saying its presence has stalled runway expansion and should be relocated in consultation with the Airport Authority of India.

He alleged the West Bengal government was avoiding action due to "votebank" considerations.

Speaking to ANI, Majumdar said, "This is a long-standing demand. Because of this, the runway length is not being increased. Having a masjid at a place as sensitive as the airport, that too near the runway, is worrying. Masjid can be moved to another place, as is done in the UAE. A masjid is

a place where you offer namaz, unlike a temple, where an idol is consecrated. If the masjid committee thinks about the country, they should have a discussion with the Airport Authority of India. A new masjid can be built elsewhere... The Bengal government will not take action because it is their votebank..."

Meanwhile, West Bengal BJP MPs met Prime Minister Narendra Modi today to discuss preparations for the 2026 elections.

Earlier today, Prime Minister Narendra Modi met West Bengal BJP MPs in Parliament. He said the current situation in the state requires clear communication and public outreach, and the party must strongly counter what is happening on the ground, sources said.

Regarding preparations for 2026, the PM asked MPs to begin preparing detailed presentations and ensure complete groundwork for upcoming political planning and mobilisation.

The Prime Minister told BJP MPs from West Bengal that incidents like the assault on MP Khagen Murmu must be highlighted effectively so that people understand the violence attributed to the TMC.

Assembly elections are scheduled to be held in Assam, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, and Puducherry in 2026. The first election will be held in Assam. Assam has 126 assembly seats, Kerala has 140, Tamil Nadu has 234, West Bengal has 294, and the union territory of Puducherry has 30 assembly seats.



West Bengal Chief Mminister Mamata Banerjee is playing a drum in front of cheerful onlookers,during her visit to Gajol in Malda district on Wednesday.



West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee is enjoying a colourful dance by tribal women during her visit to Gajol in Malda district on Wednesday.

Cal HC Grants Age Relaxation for Non-Disqualified Non-Teaching Staff

MI News Service, Kolkata: The Calcutta High Court has directed age relaxation for non-teaching staff, including Group C employees and clerks, allowing them to appear in upcoming examinations. The court emphasized that only candidates who are not "tainted" will be eligible for this benefit. Justice Amrita Sinha remarked that the School Service Commission (SSC) cannot deny age relaxation to candidates who are not disqualified and that such concessions must be provided in the next recruitment process. The petitioners, who participated in the 2016 recruitment process for non-teaching posts but did not pass, had approached the court after the process was cancelled due to allegations of corruption. The Supreme Court had previously ruled that candidates who are not "tainted" are eligible to sit for the exam and must receive age relaxation. During the hearing, Justice Sinha instructed the commission to identify non-disqualified candidates and publish the list, ensuring transparency. Advocate Firdous Shamim highlighted that the final date for form submission has been extended to December 8 to allow these candidates to benefit from age relaxation. The court then formally ordered the commission to implement the age concession.

SC allows Sonali Khatun and her child's entry into India from Bangladesh on 'humanitarian grounds'

From PG 1 persons deported from West Bengal to Bangladesh. Earlier on Monday, the Supreme Court had asked the Union government to consider the possibility of bringing back Sonali and her son, emphasising the humanitarian nature of the case. Senior Advocate Sanjay Hegde had informed the Court that Sonali, daughter of respondent Bhodu Sekh, was pregnant at the time of deportation. Her eight-year-old son, Sabil, was deported with her. He added that separating the mother from her child would create further difficulties and noted that the children's father had also been deported. The court, however, made no observations on this point. Respondent Bhodu Sekh had approached the High Court seeking production of his daughter, son-in-law, and grandson, alleging they were illegally detained. He stated that he was a permanent resident of West Bengal and that his daughter and son-in-law were Indian citizens by birth who had migrated to New Delhi for lawful employment.

Mamata Expresses Relief as Cal HC Upholds 32,000 Teacher Jobs

MI News Service, Kolkata: The Calcutta High Court Division Bench on Wednesday delivered a verdict that secured the employment of 32,000 primary teachers in West Bengal, overturning a controversial previous ruling. The decision was met with immediate and strong delight from Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee. Speaking to reporters in Murshidabad after concluding her Malda tour, the Chief Minister gave her first reaction: "This is very good news. I am extremely happy. The humanitarian aspect of the primary teachers' situation has been considered, and their families have been saved. I am satisfied." The job cancellation order was previously passed by former Justice Abhijit Gangopadhyay, who has since resigned from

the judiciary to join politics and is now a BJP MP. The Chief Minister refrained from commenting on the former judge directly, stating, "I have nothing to say about anyone. I am just happy that the primary teachers have received justice and their families are secure." She further emphasized her government's priority: "Running to the court repeatedly and snatching people's jobs is wrong. Our job is to give jobs, not to take them away." The Division Bench, comprising Justice Tapabrata Chakraborty and Justice Ritabrata Kumar Mitra, not only upheld the jobs but also observed that the earlier ruling by former Justice Gangopadhyay constituted an "unwanted interference in the judicial system." On this observation, the Chief Minister maintained her

stance: "We respect the judiciary. Justice will take its own course. I am happy that the brothers and sisters who were employed have gotten their jobs back." Education Minister Reacts to the VerdictThe verdict was also hailed by the State's Education Minister, Bratya Basu. Shortly after the Division Bench order was pronounced, he posted on his X (formerly Twitter) account, "After today's Division Bench order of the Hon'ble High Court, I congratulate the Primary Education Board. The Single Bench judgment has been cancelled. The jobs of 32,000 primary teachers remain fully protected. Heartiest wishes to the teachers as well. Truth has prevailed."The recruitment process began in 2016 based on the 2014 TET (Teacher Eligibility Test). In

May 2023, the single bench led by former Justice Abhijit Gangopadhyay had ordered the cancellation of 32,000 appointments, though the teachers were allowed to continue working temporarily. The court had directed the state to initiate a new recruitment process within three months. This directive was challenged by the Primary Education Board in the Division Bench. The case was heard by a bench of former Justices Subrata Talukdar and Supratim Bhattacharya, and later by the bench of Justices Chakraborty and Mitra. The hearing concluded on November 12, with the verdict reserved until today, Wednesday. The Division Bench's ruling has brought significant relief and joy to the 32,000 primary teachers and their families.



Teachers were seen relieved and delighted after the Calcutta High Court ruled that 32,000 primary teachers will retain their jobs, overturning the earlier judgment passed by former Justice Abhijit Gangopadhyay on Wednesday

State Blames Centre for Soaring Egg Prices in West Bengal



MI News Service, Kolkata: With the onset of winter, the price of poultry eggs usually rises slightly, but this year, the increase has broken all previous records. The cost of a pair of eggs has surged to ₹15, prompting West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee to directly blame the central government for the steep price hike. Speaking to the media, Banerjee argued that the primary feed for chickens and ducks, which is supplied to farms across the state, has been increased by the Centre by 12 per cent annually. She claimed that this systematic rise in feed prices has been directly responsible for pushing up the cost of eggs

to unprecedented levels. "Why are egg prices rising so sharply?" asked Banerjee. "The main feed for poultry is being increased in price by 12 per cent every year by the central government. Those who talk loudly about eggs on social media should remember that we supply eggs to 12 other states. Why has the Centre increased the cost of poultry feed?" she added, sharply criticizing what she described as "uninformed commentary" on social media. The Chief Minister also highlighted the broader economic context and accused the central authorities of failing to provide adequate support to the state.

Cal HC Upholds Jobs of 32,000 Teachers, Overturning Previous Cancellation Order

MI News Service, Kolkata: The fate of 32,000 teachers in West Bengal was determined today by the Calcutta High Court Division Bench. Justices Tapabrata Chakraborty and Ritabrata Kumar Mitra delivered the verdict shortly after 2:00 PM, instructing that the jobs of the 32,000 primary teachers are to be retained and remain valid. The Division Bench observed that cancelling appointments after nine years of service would have an adverse impact. "We must consider the families of those who have been working for nine years," the bench stated. "The entire system cannot be damaged for the sake of those who were unsuccessful." The previous single-bench order, delivered by Justice Abhijit Gangopadhyay, had annulled the jobs, citing significant flaws in the entire interview procedure. However, the Division Bench, in its ruling today, articulated several key observations that led to the re-

versal: The Court had to consider the entire scenario when making its decision, factoring in the long service period. Justice Chakraborty stated that the Court could not conduct a 'roaming enquiry,' making a direct reference to the involvement of the CBI in the case. There was no question raised regarding the quality of education or teaching provided by the current job holders. The Court noted that there was no concrete proof that the examiner during the interview process received money to award additional marks. Therefore, it could not be conclusively stated that the entire interview process was flawed. Finally, the Court pointed out that the petitioners who brought the case were not employed in these positions. Consequently, the Division Bench ruled that the entire process could not be vitiated for the benefit of those who failed the selection process, thereby setting aside the single-bench judgment.

High Commissioner Riaz Hamidullah Urges Deeper Cooperation at MCCI Event

MI News Service, Kolkata: A high-level interaction was hosted by the Merchants' Chamber of Commerce & Industry (MCCI) on Wednesday, with H.E. M. Riaz Hamidullah, High Commissioner of Bangladesh to India. He was joined by Sikder Mohammad Ashrafur Rahman, Deputy High Commissioner of Bangladesh in Kolkata. High Commissioner Hamidullah pegged the true economic engagement between the two nations at a robust USD 25 billion to USD 28 billion, accounting for sectors like medical tourism and education. He cited improved port and logistics capacity as a key indicator of surging trade. Emphasizing the "organic" nature of the relationship, the envoy highlighted a 12% increase in trade over the last ten months, citing recent RBI figures.

He called for a recognition of mutual interdependence and urged the articulation of a "new canvas" for future cooperation. H.E. Hamidullah suggested local processing of raw jute in India and Bangladesh, noting its current use by industries like Airbus and automotive manufacturers in Europe.

He also requested viewing traditional handicrafts as a shared heritage, not just a commercial product. In a significant announcement, the High Commissioner confirmed that the Government of Bangladesh will facilitate Indians visiting their ancestral homes at a reasonable cost.

Additionally, a Bangla Chalachitra Utsav is planned for Delhi soon. Munish Jha-Jharia, Senior Vice President, MCCI, underscored Bangladesh's position as India's largest trading partner in South Asia, urging deeper cooperation in areas like textiles, apparel (cotton and MMF), border economic zones, and industrial parks. The session concluded with a Vote of Thanks proposed by Rajendra Khandelwal, Chairman, Council on Health & Wellness, MCCI.



Persons with disabilities participate in rally during International Day of Persons with disabilities in Kolkata on Wednesday.

Kashmir freezes as sub-zero temperatures drop further

From PG 1 bon fire and huddling together in front of the fire. The Shopian town in south Kashmir was recorded as the coldest place in the valley with the minimum temperature plummeting to minus 5.9 degree Celsius, while the mercury settled at minus 4.1 degree Celsius in north Kashmir's Kupwara. Similarly, South Kashmir's Kokernag recorded a low of minus 3.2 degree Celsius, officials said. The situation at the Pahalgam tourist resort in south Kashmir was no bet-

ter as it recorded a low temperature of minus 4.6 degree Celsius, while the Gulmarg skiing resort in north Kashmir recorded minus 4.6 degree Celsius. The state Meteorological Department said the weather is likely to remain unchanged and dry till Friday, when there is a possibility of a brief spell of light snow at isolated places in the higher reaches since late on Thursday night and early Friday morning. The MeT Office said while the weather would remain generally dry till December 7, another brief spell of light snowfall at isolated places in the higher reaches is also likely on December 9 and 10.

India sends huge relief materials and over 70 medics to cyclone-hit Sri Lanka

From PG 1 medicine, advanced medical equipment and deployable field facilities to support the country's ongoing rescue and relief operations," the statement said. Santhosh Jha, Indian High Commissioner to Sri Lanka handed over the relief materials to Major General Tiral de Silva of the Sri Lankan Army, the statement said. "The cargo also includes two fully equipped field hospitals designed for rapid deployment in emergency zones. One of these units is scheduled to be established in Welimada to support ongoing humanitarian operations. In addition, India has dispatched 73 medical professionals, including doctors, physicians, anaesthesiologists and other specialised personnel, to

provide on-ground medical support where most needed," the statement added. Meanwhile, the death toll continued to climb in Sri Lanka and reached 474 today, according to the latest official figures from the Disaster Management Centre. "An @IAF MCCC-17 transport aircraft with a self-contained, modular field hospital, over 70 medical & support personnel, and vehicles, landed in Colombo," External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar also said in a post on X The Indian High Commission in a social media post also said India has sent a "rapidly deployable field hospital" along with over 70 medical personnel to provide urgently required healthcare support in disaster-affected areas.

Kolkata to host 'Byabasayi Sammelan 2025'

From PG 1 Nepal and Bhutan. The 'Byabasayi Sammelan' will deliberate on modernising trade infrastructure, removing bottlenecks, and strengthening government-industry coordination, Poddar said. Delegations from all the 23 districts, including major commercial hubs and border trade points, are expected to attend the event. The CWBTA – the apex body of over 100 associations representing around 10 lakh traders – will also present its vision for boosting trade-led growth, during the event, Poddar added.

Name Change
I, ALIMA BEGUM (old name) W/O- RIJUAN HAQUE, residing at VILL- BANSKANAGAR, P.O-NATIPBURI, P.S-KHANAKUL, DIST-HOOGHLY, 712416, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as MST ALIMA BEGAM (new name), as declared Before The Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 03/12/2025. MST ALIMA BEGAM (new name) and ALIMA BEGUM (old name) both are same and one identical person

NAME CHANGE
I, ASHNOOR BEGAM, W/O- WADUT ALI SARDAR, D/o- LT KADER BAKSHA MONDAL, R/O- Vill., & PO-Jangalpur, PS-Baduria, 24 Pgs. (N), W.B. Have declared that my father KADER BAKSHA MONDAL and MOHAMMAD ABDUL KADER is the same and identical person vide Affidavit no. 6264/BC-1/25 dt. 01-12-25 before 1st Court Executive Magistrate Basirhat Class, 24 Pgs(N).

I, Sakila Bibi (Old Name), W/o Sofikul Islam, R/O- Taranagar, P.O-Bilborakopra, P.S- Lalgola, Dist- Murshidabad do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Sakila Bibi (Old Name) to Sakila Khatun (Correct Name) and henceforth I shall be known as Sakila Khatun in all purpose, vide affidavit no- 202 sworn before the Executive Magistrate at Lalbagh Court, Murshidabad on 02-12-2025. Sakila Bibi (Old Name) and Sakila Khatun (New name) both the names are same & one identical person.

Name Change
I, Siddhartha Agarwal, and Siddhartha Agarwala, Son Of Bhim Sen Agarwala Residing At P-495, Dum Dum Park, 4th Floor, Flat No-13, Kolkata-700055, West Bengal, Shall Hence Forth Be Known As Siddhartha Agarwal Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 03.12.2025 That Siddhartha Agarwal And Siddhartha Agarwala All Are The Same And One Identical Person

NAME CHANGE
I, Sohaib Akhtar (Old/Actual/ Correct Name), s/o Shamim Akhtar, r/o.- Z- 3/238/66, Bagdipara Road, P.S.- Nadial, Kol-44, Dist.-24 Pgs. (S), have change my name and shall henceforth be known as Shohab Akhter (New Name), vide Affidavit No. 73247 dated 02.12.25, before the LD 1st Class Magistrate at Alipore, Sohaib Akhtar (Old/Actual/ Correct Name) and Shohab Akhter (New Name) both are same person not different person.

NAME CHANGE
I, Zahida Khatoon, R/O- 35, Sir Syed Ahmed Road, Entally, Kol- 700014. Now I have changed my name & shall henceforth be known as Zahida Begum as declared before The Notary Public, Sealdah Court vide affidavit no. 11936 dated 21/11/2025 Zahida Khatoon & Zahida Begum are same and identical person.

NAME CHANGE
I, Swapan Mukherjee, R/O- Dharsa Pal Para, Near Pali Mondal, Haora (M. Corp), Dist.- Howrah, Pin-711112. Now I have changed my name & shall henceforth be known as Swapan Kumar Mukherjee as declared before The Notary Public, Sealdah Court, vide affidavit no. 213098 Dated 26/11/2025 Swapan Mukherjee and Swapan Kumar Mukherjee both are same and identical person.

NAME CHANGE
I, Abijeet Mazumdar at # 1011/10, CMDA Nagar, Mohanpur, Telenipara, Sewli, Kolkata-700121, I have changed my name from Abijeet Mazumdar to Abijeet Chander vide Affidavit Dt: 01/12/2025, Sworn before notary B.N.Sil, Barrackpore.

NAME CHANGE
I, Hiran Paul Gomes, R/O- Anil Abasan, Flat-1A, 163/2, Laxmi Narayan Road, PO -Rabindranagar, PS- Dum Dum, Barrackpore, Pin-700065, Kolkata, West Bengal, India. Now I have changed my name & shall henceforth be known as Paul Hiron Gomes as declared before The Notary Public, Sealdah Court, vide affidavit no. 207782 Dated 24/11/2025 Hiran Paul Gomes and Paul Hiron Gomes both are same and identical person.

Name Change
I, Devi Rani, spouse of No. 7763454 Rank Ex Sep Name Late Chand Gong Mukherjee resident of Vill.- Khuria, P.O.- Md Bazar, Dist.-Birbhum (WB), Pin- 731132 have change my Name & Date of birth from Devi Rani, 01-01-1950 to Debirani Mukherjee, 12-04-1948 vide Affidavit dated 19.11.25 before Executive Magistrate, Suri, Birbhum.

NAME CHANGE
I, Namita Das (Old Name) W/o. Gobinda Das, Residing of 120, Manoranjan Roy Nagar-B, A. K. Mukherjee Road near 34C Bus Stand, Baranagar, Noapara, Kolkata- 700 090,W.B., do hereby declare that I have change my name from Namita Das (Old Name) to Nomita Das (New Name) and henceforth I shall be known as Nomita Das(New Name) in all purpose vide affidavit (No-66) sworn before the Notary Public at CMM's Court Kolkata dated 02/12/25. So Nomita Das(New Name) & Namita Das (Old Name) both are same & one identical person.

Name Change
I, Swapan Chakraborty, Swapan Kr Chakraborty (Old Name) S/o Late Sisir Kumar Chakraborty Residing at 25/1, S.B Ghosh Road, Mandal Para, Po - Talpukur, Ps - Titagarh, District - North 24 Parganas, Pin - 700123, West Bengal, India, have Changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Swapan Kumar Chakraborty (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public Kolkata vide affidavit Dated 03-12-2025. Swapan Chakraborty, Swapan Kr Chakraborty (Old Name) and Swapan Kumar Chakraborty (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Md Kamrujjaman Molla (Old Name) S/o Majahar Molla Residing at Vill+Po - Hasimnagar, Ps - Falta, District - South 24 Parganas, Pin - 743513, West Bengal, India, have Changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Kamrujjaman Molla (New Name) as declared before The Notary Public Kolkata vide affidavit Dated 03-12-2025. Md Kamrujjaman Molla (Old Name) and Kamrujjaman Molla (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, P Iswar Rai (old name) S/o P Appana, residing at 77/2, Park Street, P.S.- Park Street, Kolkata- 700016, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as P Iswar Rao (new name), as declared Before The Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 03/12/2025. P Iswar Rao (new name) and P Iswar Rai (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, P Ravi Kiron Rao (old name) S/o P Iswar Rao, residing at 77/2, Park Street, P.S.- Park Street, Kolkata- 700016, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as P Ravi Kiron Rao (new name), as declared Before The Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 03/12/2025. P Ravi Kiron Rao (old name) and P Ravi Kiron Rao (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Meghalina Das Purkayastha (old name) S/o Biswarup Das Purakayastha, residing at 39A Prince Gulam Md Shah Road, P.O.- Golf Green, Kolkata, Pin - 700095, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Meghalina Das Purakayastha (new name), as declared Before The Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 01/12/2025. Meghalina Das Purakayastha (new name) and Meghalina Das Purkayastha (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Sujata Mondal D/O Late Sunil Paul, residing at 8/407, Kalidham, BLK-C-6, P.O.- Dum Dum, Barrackpore- 700028 West Bengal, India, declared that my father Late Sunil Kumar Paul (father old name), I have changed his name and he shall henceforth be known as Late Sunil Paul (father new name), as declared Before The Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 02/12/2025. Late Sunil Kumar Paul and Late Sunil Paul both are same and one identical person (my father).

Name Change
I, Haripada Sen (Old name) Son of Late Santosh Sen, residing at 23, Enclave Building Purba Sinthee Lane -B, South Dum Dum), P.S.- Nager Bazar, Dist- 24 Parganas (North), Pin-700030. West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Hari Sen (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata dated 28/11/2025. Haripada Sen (Old name) and Hari Sen (New name) both are same and identical person.

Name Change
I, Shahid Hossain (Old Name), Son of Late Abdul Qadir, Residing at 4C, Topsia 1st Lane, P.S.-Tiljala, Kolkata-700039, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Md Shahid Hussain (New Name), as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata on 03/12/2025. Shahid Hossain (Old Name) and Md Shahid Hussain (New Name), both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Md Niyamat Khan (Old Name), Son Of Haider Khan, Residing At Old Sitarampur, Po - Sitarampur, Kulti, Paschim Bardhaman- 713359, West Bengal, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Sandeep Kumar Tiwari (New Name) Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 03/12/2025. Md Niyamat Khan And Neamat Khan Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, Sandip Tiwary (Old Name), Son Of Late Harishchandr Tiwari, Residing At 5/7 Buroshib Talla Main Road, Bangur Complex, Kolkata - 700038, West Bengal, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Sandeep Kumar Tiwari (New Name) Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 18/11/2025. Sandip Tiwary And Sandeep Kumar Tiwari Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, Mohammed Hafiz Feroz Alam (Old Name), Son Of Md Faruk, Residing At 35a, Hossain Sha Road, Po & Vtc-Khirdipore, Kolkata-700023, West Bengal, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Md Hafiz Firoz Alam (New Name) Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 03/12/2025. Mohammed Hafiz Feroz Alam (Old Name) And Md Hafiz Firoz Alam (New Name) Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.

NAME CHANGE
I, Abhinaba Acharjee, S/o Jyoti Ranjan Acharjee, resident of 129/1, Ashoknagar, South Kantadanga, Champdani, P.S.- Bhadreswar, District-Hooghly, Pin-712221 do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Abhinaba Acharjee to Abhinaba Acharjee and henceforth I shall be known as Abhinaba Acharjee in all purpose, vide affidavit no. 7494 sworn before the 1st class judicial magistrate, Chandmageraom on 02/12/2025. Abhinaba Acharjee and Abhinaba Acharjee both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, (Old Name) MOTLEB SK S/o-HALIM SEKH Residing at, Vill -Utarpara, Post- Beldanga, Ps- Beldanga, Dist- Murshidabad, Pin-742133, West Bengal. Do hereby declare that I have Changed my name from MOTLEB SK To MATALEB SK (New name) and hence forth I Shall be Known as (New name). MATALEB SK in all purpose Vide an affidavit Sworn before the notary public at Berhampore Murshidabad On 02 Dec 2025, MATALEB SK and MOTLEB SK both are Same and one identical person.

Name Change
I,(Old Name) LALCHAND SK S/o-ETWARI SK Residing at, Bhagiratpur, Bhagiratpur - West Bengal, Pin- 742406, West Bengal. Do hereby declare that I have Changed my name from LALCHAND SK To LALCHAN SK (New name) and hence forth I Shall be Known as (New name) LALCHAN SK in all purpose Vide an affidavit Sworn before the notary public at Berhampore Murshidabad On 02 Dec 2025, LALCHAN SK and LALCHAND SK both are Same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, (Old Name) MATIJUL SEKH S/o-ULFAT SEKH Residing at, Vill -Basahari, Post- Chowrigacha, Ps-Berhampore, Dist- Murshidabad, Pin- 742405, West Bengal. Do hereby declare that I have Changed my name from MATIJUL SEKH To MATIJUL SK (New name) and hence forth I Shall be Known as (New name) MATIJUL SK in all purpose Vide an affidavit Sworn before the notary public at Berhampore Murshidabad On 02 Dec 2025, MATIJUL SK and MATIJUL SEKH both are Same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Nazeez Begam (Old Name) W/o Noor Alam Residing at 46/1, Gora Chand Road, Entally, District Kolkata, Pin - 700014, West Bengal, India have Changed my name and shall henceforth be Known as Najni Begum (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public Kolkata vide affidavit no 40/2025 Dated 03-12-2025. Nazeez Begam (Old Name) and Najni Begum (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Sk Sadique (Old Name) S/o Late Sk Abdul Rahim Residing at 52/1B, Bright Street, Circus Avenue, District - Kolkata, Pin - 700017, West Bengal, India have Changed my name and shall henceforth be Known as Sk Abdul Sadique (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public Kolkata vide affidavit no 39/2025 Dated 03-12-2025. Sk Sadique (Old Name) and Sk Abdul Sadique (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Tahima Bibi (Old Name) W/o Saiful Islam Residing at Bara Gobra, Po - Eojnagar, Ps - Basirhat, District - North 24 Parganas, Pin - 743293, West Bengal, India have Changed my name and shall henceforth be Known as Taima Bibi (New Name) as declared before the Ld. Judicial Magistrate (1st Class) at Barasat vide affidavit no 9249 Dated 27-11-2025. Tahima Bibi (Old Name) and Taima Bibi (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Tayeba Khatun W/o Bagbul Islam Residing at N00125 Saraberia, Po - Chakla, Ps - Deganga, District - North 24 Parganas, Pin- 743424, West Bengal India that my father who previously known as Md Sasher Ali, Sasher Ali (Old Name) shall henceforth be known as Mohammad Shaser Ali (New Name) as declared before the Ld. Judicial Magistrate (1st Class) at Barasat vide affidavit no 8905 dated 21-11-2025. I declare that my father Ali, Sasher Ali (Old Name) and Mohammad Shaser Ali (New Name) is same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Nahid Praween (Old Name) W/o Md Izhar Alam Residing at G-349/M, Meher Manzil Lane, Po+Ps - Garden Reach, District - Kolkata, Pin - 700024, West Bengal, India have Changed my name and shall henceforth be Known as Nahid Parween (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public Kolkata vide affidavit Dated 03-12-2025. Nahid Praween (Old Name) and Nahid Parween (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Shaikh Jainal Abedin (Old Name) S/o Late Abdul Audud Residing at Anantapur, P.o - Chanserpur, P.-Tamluk, District - East Medinipur, Pin - 721653, West Bengal, India have Changed my name and shall henceforth be Known as Jajnal Abedin (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public Kolkata vide affidavit Dated 02-12-2025. Shaikh Jainal Abedin (Old Name) and Jajnal Abedin (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Shaikh Jainal Abedin (Old Name) S/o Late Abdul Audud Residing at Anantapur, P.o - Chanserpur, P.-Tamluk, District - East Medinipur, Pin - 721653, West Bengal, India have Changed my name and shall henceforth be Known as Aishwarya Mitra (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public Kolkata vide affidavit Dated 03-12-2025. Aishwarya Mitra (Old Name) and Aishwarya Mitra (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Aiswarya Mitra (Old Name) D/o Agni Mitra Residing at Tower-33, Flat-1C, Genexx Valley Joka, District - Kolkata Pin - 700104, West Bengal, India, have Changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Prasanta Kumar Adhya (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public Kolkata vide affidavit Dated 03-12-2025. Prasanta Adhya (Old Name) and Prasanta Kumar Adhya (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Prasanta Adhya (Old Name) S/o Gorachand Adhya Residing at 89, Narasingha Dutta Road, Po - Khurdt Road, District - Howrah, Pin 711101, West Bengal, India, have Changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Prasanta Kumar Adhya (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public Kolkata vide affidavit Dated 03-12-2025. Prasanta Adhya (Old Name) and Prasanta Kumar Adhya (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

OPERATION SINDOOR was a trailer: ARMY CHIEF



MI News Service, New Delhi: India's army chief said that Operation Sindoor had been “just a trailer” and the country was fully prepared for future challenges.

“Operation Sindoor (against terror groups based in Pakistan and PoK) was just a trailer which ended in 88 hours. We are prepared for any circumstances in future,” General Upendra Dwivedi said. “If Pakistan gives a chance, we will teach it how to behave responsibly with a neighbouring nation.”

“All we are asking is to adopt a peaceful process, which we will cooperate with. Until then, we will treat terrorists and their sponsors alike,” Dwivedi said. “We will respond to those who encourage terrorists. Today, India is so accomplished that it is not scared of any blackmail attempts.” He added.

Underscoring how India

had “set a new normal” after the April 22 Pahalgam attack, Dwivedi said: “When a country encourages state-sponsored terrorism, it becomes a matter of concern for India. “India talks about progress. If someone creates obstacles in our course, then we will have to take some action against them. When we talk about the new normal, we have said that talks and terror can’t go together.”

On the lessons learnt from Operation Sindoor, Dwivedi underlined three points — integration between the forces, ensuring proper supplies for a drawn-out battle, and ensuring that decisions are taken at every level of the command chain.

“Whenever some operation happens, we learn from it. This time too we learned things. One of the things we learned was that we have very less (sic) time to make any decision, and take a decision at every level on time,” he said.

Stressing integration among the forces, the army chief said “today’s battles are multi-domain”. “Just the army cannot fight a battle, everyone has to fight together,” he said, and referred to the air force, navy and central paramilitary forces.



MI News Service, Kolkata: Eastern India is emerging as one of the country's most promising last-mile growth regions, supported by large-scale infrastructure upgrades and rising consumption in Tier II and Tier III cities. Express Industry Council of India's (EICI) Express Industry in India 2025 report, commissioned by EICI with KPMG in India as the knowledge partner, highlights that the region is benefitting from India's expanding highway network, improved rural connectivity and decentralised air cargo capacity.

National highways have increased from 91,000 kilometres in FY14 to 145,000 kilometres by mid-2024. India's rural road network now spans more than 733,000 kilometres. These developments are essential for enhancing delivery access across Eastern states including West Bengal, Odisha, Jharkhand and Bihar.

India has added 85 new airports in the last decade, many in Tier II and Tier III cities,

strengthening air cargo movement beyond metro locations. Tier II airport cargo share has risen from 18 percent to 24 percent, indicating growing participation of non-metro hubs in the domestic express network.

The report also notes that Tier III cities now contribute 40 percent of all e-commerce shipments in India. This trend is accelerating demand for last-mile efficiency in cities such as Bhubaneswar, Ranchi, Siliguri and Patna. As last-mile delivery accounts for more than half of total logistics cost, the region is witnessing increased adoption of hybrid delivery fleets, dark stores and micro-warehousing.

“Eastern India is poised to become a major engine of last-mile delivery growth. With stronger road and air networks, expanding Tier II and Tier III consumption and increasing e-commerce penetration, the region is entering a pivotal stage of logistics development,” said Vijay Kumar, CEO, Express Industry Council of India.

Kolkata to host ‘Scottish’ music

MI News Service, Kolkata: British Council and the Tollygunge Club are to jointly organise live performance of eminent Scottish musician Ruairidh Maclean (RuMac) at the Tollygunge Club in Kolkata on Thursday, 4 December 2025. Marking his first visit to India, this follows RuMac's performance at the Hornbill Festival 2025 in Nagaland, where the United Kingdom is a Country Partner for the festival's 26th edition.

An acclaimed accordionist and singer-songwriter, RuMac's work blends traditional Scottish folk influences with contemporary soundscapes, experimentation, and powerful storytelling. Known for compelling live performances and a genre-fluid approach, he is regarded as an exciting voice in contemporary music. Presented in partnership with the Tollygunge Club, RuMac's performance promises to offer audiences an engaging and high-energy musical experience.

Ahead of the performance, Dr Debanjan Chakrabarti, Director East and Northeast India, British Council, said, “We are delighted to welcome RuMac to Kolkata. His approach to music – deeply rooted in tradition yet boldly innovative – embodies the spirit of creative exchange that the British Council champions.”

Songit Bagrodia, President Tollygunge Club, added, “The Tollygunge Club is pleased to collaborate with the British Council to host RuMac's debut showcase in India.”

Cancellation Of Trains

MI News Service, Kolkata, 3 Dec.25 : Due to Track maintenance work on UP line between Dhatrigram & Samudragarh stations in Bandel – Katwa section , 180 minutes (from 02:05 hrs. to 05:05 hrs.) Traffic & Power Block has been planned on

05.12.2025. Consequently, 37741/37742 Bandel – Katwa – Bandel EMU local will remain cancelled on 05.12.2025.

Apart from this, due to Non –Interlocking work at Khana station in Howrah Division, 63550 Andal – Bardhaman MEMU will remain cancelled on 06.12.2025 & 07.12.2025.

Remarkable Increment In Earnings Of Ticket Checking By SER

MI News Service, Kolkata, 3 Dec.25 : South Eastern Railway has reported a notable shift in its Ticket Checking earnings. SER recorded ₹ 71.77 crore in earnings from ticket-checking drives from 01.04.2025 to 01.12.2025 this Financial Year (2025–26), as against 45.42 crore in the same period of Financial Year 2024–25 in registering a growth of 58% marking a strong performance supported by expanded vigilance campaigns, surprise inspections and the deployment of digital tools for on-board checking. From 01.04.2025 to 01.12.2025 current Financial Year, 10.47 Lakh cases have been detected as against 8.36 Lakh cases have been detected in the same period of previous Financial in registering a growth of 25%. Regular ticket checking drives have been conducted by Commercial Department of SER. A remarkable performance achieved by four ticket checking staff of South Eastern Railway from July 2025 to September, 2025. They have been felicitated by the General Manager, South Eastern Railway for their dedication, hard work and devotion to duty.

Shri Anil Kumar Mishra, General Manager, South Eastern Railway felicitated four Ticket Checking Staff at SER Headquarters, Garden Reach on 02.12.2025 for their dedication, hard work and devotion to duty. The four employees who have been felicitated are Shri Rajesh Kumar Yadav, Train



Anil Kumar Mishra, General Manager, South Eastern Railway felicitating four Ticket Checking Staff of SER at Headquarters, Garden Reach on 02.12.2025 for their dedication, hard work and devotion to duty.

Ticket Inspector/Howrah, Shri Nandan Kumar, Train Ticket Inspector /Ranchi, Shri Binay Kumar Prasad, Train Ticket Inspector/ Ranchi and Shri Debasish Sanfui, Sr. Commercial Clerk-cum- Ticket Clerk/Shalimar.

Shri Rajesh Kumar Yadav through his sheer hard work, commitment and dedication, detected 1065 ticketless/irregular travellers during the period from July, 2025 to September, 2025 and realized an amount of Rs. 7,14,570/- as Railway revenue. Shri Yadav is the highest earner among Amenities Staff for the period from July, 2025 to September, 2025 over S.E. Railway.

Shri Nandan Kumar through his sheer hard work, commitment and dedication, detected 3853 ticketless/irregular travellers during the period from July, 2025 to September, 2025 and realized an amount of Rs. 29,80,400/- as Railway revenue. Shri Kumar is the

highest earner among Squad Staff for the period from July, 2025 to September, 2025 over S.E. Railway.

Shri Binay Kumar Prasad through his sheer hard work, commitment and dedication, detected 3530 ticketless/irregular travellers during the period from July, 2025 to September, 2025 and realized an amount of Rs. 26,01,815/- as Railway revenue. Shri Prasad is the highest earner among Open Movement Staff for the period from July, 2025 to September 2025 over S.E. Railway.

Shri Debasish Sanfui through his sheer hard work, commitment and dedication, detected 916 ticketless/irregular travellers during the period from July, 2025 to September, 2025 and realized an amount of Rs. 9,16,540/- as Railway revenue. Shri Debasish Sanfui is the highest earner among Station Staff for the period from July, 2025 to September 2025 over S.E. Railway.

Railway plans to implement OTP based window tickets in tatkal within the next few days

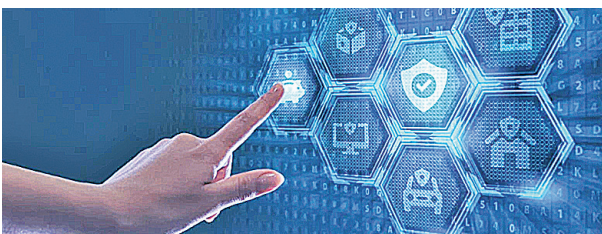
MI News Service, Kolkata, 3 Dec.25 : An OTP-based tatkal reservation system was proposed by railways to make the facility more convenient for common users.

First, the Railways introduced Aadhaar-based authentication for online Tatkal ticketing in July 2025. Second, an OTP-based online reservation system for all general reservations on the first day of booking was implemented in October 2025. Both initiatives have been successfully adopted by common users, ensuring greater transparency and convenience in the reservation process.

The Railways initiated a pilot project for an OTP-based Tatkal reservation system for tickets booked at reservation counters on 17 November 2025. The system has been extended to a total of 52 trains. Under this system, when booking a tatkal ticket at a reservation counter, the passenger receives an OTP on the mobile number provided in the reservation form. The ticket is confirmed only after successful OTP verification.

Within next few days, this OTP based tatkal reservation system at counters will be implemented for all remaining trains. This initiative is aimed at curbing misuse of the tatkal facility and ensuring that genuine passengers have better access to high-demand tickets. This marks a significant step towards enhancing transparency, passenger convenience, and security in railway ticketing.

Unclaimed assets: Centre, RBI plan unified portal



MI News Service, New Delhi: The finance ministry is working with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to build a single, consolidated portal that would allow savers and retail investors to recover unclaimed assets across multiple financial instruments, including dormant bank deposits, pension balances, equity holdings and unpaid dividends.

The initiative aims to streamline what is currently a fragmented, time-consuming process and bolster consumer protection in one of the world's fastest-growing retail investment markets.

The portal is expected to be launched soon, M Nagaraju, secretary of department of financial services said on Thursday, while speaking at a camp on 'Aapki Poonji Aapka Adhikar' (Your Money Your Right) organised by Punjab National Bank in New Delhi.

“The DFS is working with the RBI to develop a unified integrated portal...for across all the regulators and to be coordinated by the RBI,” he said. To recover unclaimed assets, RBI has launched the UDGM portal, while the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) and Insurance Regu-

latory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) have MITRA and Bima Bharosa portals, respectively.

The integrated portal would make it substantially easier for citizens to locate their unclaimed funds and provide convenience, transparency and trust.

On October 4, finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman launched a three-month nationwide awareness campaign on unclaimed assets in the financial sector.

Providing an update on recoveries, Nagaraju said the outreach and facilitation efforts have already enabled the return of ₹1,887 crore to rightful owners or their nominees.

Citizens often find unclaimed financial assets, including insurance policy claims, bank deposits, dividends, shares and mutual fund proceeds, hard to recover due to the rigorous and frustrating process they face at financial institutions.

During the campaign, citizens are expected to be given on-the-spot guidance on how to search for their unclaimed assets, update records and complete claim procedures. Digital tools and step-by-step demonstrations will be showcased.

Question answer session on safety of passengers in railway in Lok Sabha

MI News Service, 3 Dec 2025, New Delhi: In Lok Sabha on Wednesday DR. HEMANT VISHNU SAVARA questioned the Minister of RAILWAYS:

(a) whether any steps have been taken/are being taken by the Government to support the preservation and operation of coal-fired steam engines as heritage trains in the country and if so, the details thereof;

(b) the details of the plan of the Government to expand the use of coal-fired steam engines as heritage trains for the coming generation along with new routes or regions being considered;

(c) the details of the funding provided during the last three years by Railway to restore and preserve coal-fired steam engines for use as heritage trains;

(d) whether the Government has a strategy similar to Nilgiri Mountain Railway (NMR) Southern Railway to manufacture new coal-fired steam engines for other railway zones and if so, the details thereof;

(e) the details of the zones for which these coal-fired steam engines are to be produced along with the routes in these zones on which new coal-fired steam-engine trains proposed to be operated?

Answers from Minister Of Railways, Ashwini Vaishnav are

(a) to (e) At present, coal-fired steam engines are working in UNE-SCO accredited Mountain Railways, seasonal steam hauled trains and in charters in association with IRTC.

Budget allocation (in crore) for repairs and maintenance of Steam locomotive during last three years. Further, a work of developing maintenance facilities for heavy repairs of Heritage Rolling Stock at Steam Loco Heritage Shed, Rewari has been sanctioned recently at a cost of 79.99 Cr.

Dr. Mohammad Jawed questioned: (a) whether the Government has undertaken measures to enhance the safety of passengers in the Railways and if so, the details of such measures implemented during the last five years and those proposed to be undertaken in the near future;

(b) the details of railway accidents that have occurred during the last ten years, along with the number of lives lost and persons injured therein, year-wise; and (c) the key findings of the post-accident investigation reports during this period and the corrective steps taken by the Government to address the issues identified?

Answers are: (a) to (c): Safety is accorded the highest priority in Indian Railways. As a consequence of various safety measures taken over the years, there has been a steep decline in the number of accidents. Consequential Train Accidents have reduced from 135 in 2014-15 to 31 in 2024-25. It may be noted that the Consequential Train Accidents during the period 2004-14 was 1711 (average 171 per annum), which has declined to 31 in 2024-25 and further to 11 in 2025-26 (upto November, 2025). Another important index showing improved safety in train operations is Accidents Per Million Train Kilometer (APMTKM) which has reduced from 0.11 in 2014-15 to 0.03 in 2024-25, indicating an improvement of approx. 73% during the said period.

EASTERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice No. : 222-S/1W-11, dated 01.12.2025. Following e-tender is invited online by Sr. Divisional Engineer//Sealdah, Eastern Railway, Sealdah, Remote Control Building, Room No.-44, DRM Building, Kaizer Street, Kolkata-700014 for the following work : **Tender No. : TN-133-25-26. Name of the work :** (i) Provision for construction of new building at Canning running room and ladies room in existing running room of Namkhana & Canning including all ancillary works for Lakshmi Kantapur, Diamond Harbour, Namkhana and Canning existing running room in the Jurisdiction of Assistant Engineer/Baranipur/Sealdah. (ii) Provision of ramp facilities, toilets, SS hand rails, water booth, low height booking counter, tactile guiding and warning blocks leading to the edge of staircases etc. for Divyangjan person under Sr. Divisional Engineer//Sealdah. (iii) Ladies Changing Rooms for RPF Officers/staff under Sr. Divisional Engineer//Sealdah. **Tender Value :** ₹ 2,43,44,631.43. **EMD :** ₹ 2,71,700/- **Completion period for the work :** 12 (Twelve) Months. **Date and time of closing of tender :** 26.12.2025 at 15.00 hrs. **Date and time of opening of tender :** 26.12.2025 at 15.00 hrs. The Tender Documents and other details are at : **www.ireps.gov.in** The bidding is to be submitted through e-tendering on above website. Manual offers will be summarily rejected. As per Indian Railway Standard General Conditions of Contract 2022 cost of e-Tender Form is NIL.

(SDAH-282/2025-26) Tender Notice is also available at websites : **www.eindianrailways.gov.in** / **www.ireps.gov.in** Follow us at : **@EasternRailway** **@easternrailwayheadquarter**

e-Auction Notice for Parking Contract over Adra Division

For and on behalf of the President of India, Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager, South Eastern Railway, Adra is invites e-Auction for the following work. The details are as under: **Category: Parking. Auction Catalogue No.:** PARK97. **Lot No./Category:** PARKING-ADRA-BURN-TW-76-25-1 (Parking -Two Wheeler). **Auction Start (all Lots):** 13.12.2025 at 12.00 hrs. **Auction Close Date/Time:** 13.12.2025 at 12.30 hrs. **Note:** Prospective bidders are requested to visit e-Auction Leasing module on IREPS website (**www.ireps.gov.in**). For enquiries/clarification if any, please contact the office of the undersigned. (PR-910) **Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager, Adra**



Wednesday, on the sixth day of the district tour, TMC leader and minister Aroop Biswas supervised the work of SIR in Durgapur East and Durgapur West Assembly constituencies visited the vote protection camps in Durgapur, on the party's instructions. Minister Pradeep Majumder, District President and MLA Narendranath Chakraborty, and heads of the district's branch organizations were present with him.

Howrah Division Holds Yoga Session for Stress Relief and Holistic Wellness

MI News Service, 3 Dec 2025, Kolkata: A special Yoga Session was organised by Personnel department on Tuesday, 2nd December at the Assembly Hall of the New DRM Office, Howrah, with the objective of promoting well-being, stress relief, and mental clarity among officers and staff. The event was conducted by the Heartfulness Institute, which has been actively working to integrate holistic wellness practices into workplace environments.

The session saw enthusiastic participation from officers and staff of the DRM Office. Through simple yet effective techniques, the programme aimed to help employees incorporate short, mindful practices into their daily routines.

Participants were guided through Chair Yoga, focusing on gentle stretches designed



to improve posture, flexibility, and overall physical comfort during long working hours. This was followed by breathing exercises intended to enhance lung capacity, energise the body, and reduce stress.

The highlight of the programme was the Heartfulness Relaxation and Meditation segment, which enabled attendees to experience deep calmness, improved focus, and emotional balance. These practices are known to sup-

port mental clarity and contribute to a more harmonious work environment.

Regular yoga practice has been widely recognised for its benefits in improving physical health, boosting energy levels, and enhancing stress management. The session was well received by all present, and participants expressed appreciation for this initiative promoting workplace wellness and holistic development.

Dum Dum cantonment Metro station making life easy for Bangaon, Hasnabad and Barasat-bound passengers

MI News Service, 3 Dec 2025, Kolkata: Metro Railway has already started to provide suburban passengers fast, comfortable and smooth services from Dum Durr Cantonment Metro station which is cutting short their mundane travel time from their homes to work places and back. This was unthinkable a few years back. With the introduction of a suburban service for Bangaon from Dum Dum Cantonment station and extension of Hasnabad-Barasat local up to Dum Dum Cantonment station, more suburban passengers can now avail Yellow Line Metro services from Dum Dum Cantonment Metro station.

After the inauguration of the Noapara to Jai Hind Biman-bandar stretch of Yellow Line by Honourable Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi in the last August, commuting to and from airport has already become a cakewalk for thousands of air travellers. Apart from that, Dum Dum Cantonment Metro station is also gaining importance and becoming one of the important stations of Yellow Line providing suburban passengers the unique opportunity to travel with comfort and ease specially during morning and evening peak hours. This station has become another gateway to Kolkata for suburban passengers travelling to different parts of the city. Their long, arduous journey is steadily becoming a matter of past as this station of Yellow Line is providing a seamless connectivity between Metro Railway and Eastern Railway and passengers can now easily avail suburban services originating from Dum Dum Cantonment station or touching this station of Sealdah Division of Eastern Railway after getting down at Dum Dum Cantonment Metro station. This connectivity is providing a unique opportunity to passengers to change and avail Bangaon and Barasat Locals originating from Dum Dum Cantonment station of Eastern Railway during peak hours and vice-versa. It is saving valuable time, money as well as ensuring smooth, comfortable commuting and making their life easy. This is going to change further in the coming days.

Govt makes SANCHAR SAATHI APP optional

MI News Service, New Delhi: The central government said pre-installation of Sanchar Saathi on mobile phones is not mandatory, blinking on a debate that has been raging ever since news broke of the Department of Telecommunications' diktat to smartphone makers to pre-install the app on all devices.

The government has issued a fresh notification changing the earlier direction, it was reported on Wednesday.

Before the alert on the government decision was flashed by Union communications minister Jyotiraditya Scindia reiterated that Sanchar Saathi is not a surveillance tool but an unimpressed Opposition called the app the Pegasus for the common man.

Pegasus is an Israeli spyware. A case is pending in the Supreme Court that will decide whether there must be an investigation into the Narendra Modi government's alleged use of the spyware on journalists, activists and public officials including Opposition leaders.

In the Lok Sabha on Wednesday, Scindia repeated what he had said on Tuesday after a Reuters report revealed that the Department of Telecommunications had ordered that all smartphones in India must have the Sanchar Saathi pre-installed.

"Sanchar Saathi app se na snooping sambhav hai, no snooping hoga. [Neither is snooping possible nor will it happen through Sanchar Saathi," Scindia said said in response to Congress MP Deepender Singh Hooda's question.

He added that the ministry is open to reviewing and modifying its order on mandatory installation based on public feedback.

He did not dwell on how the government could push an app through without consent or without inviting feedback first. Asserting that the app is meant "for the protection of people", the minister stressed that consumers would retain choice.

"If a consumer has not been registered on the app, then the app will not be operational and one can also delete the app," he maintained.

urban passengers travelling to different parts of the city. Their long, arduous journey is steadily becoming a matter of past as this station of Yellow Line is providing a seamless connectivity between Metro Railway and Eastern Railway and passengers can now easily avail suburban services originating from Dum Dum Cantonment station or touching this station of Sealdah Division of Eastern Railway after getting down at Dum Dum Cantonment Metro station. This connectivity is providing a unique opportunity to passengers to change and avail Bangaon and Barasat Locals originating from Dum Dum Cantonment station of Eastern Railway during peak hours and vice-versa. It is saving valuable time, money as well as ensuring smooth, comfortable commuting and making their life easy. This is going to change further in the coming days.

Specially during morning and evening peak hours, the strategic location of Dum Dum Cantonment Metro station has become a boon for thousands of commuters. At present they can avail the less crowded Bangaon local originating from Dum Dum Cantonment station at 18.37 hrs. to go back to their homes in the evening. As Eastern Railway is introducing a new EMU service from Dum Dum Cantonment

for Bangaon at 20.05 hrs. from 04.12.2025, more suburban passengers are expected to avail this service after getting down at Dum Dum Cantonment Metro station during evening peak hours. They won't have to go to Sealdah station to catch crowded Bangaon local.

Apart from this, from 04.12.2025, one Hasnabad-Barasat EMU local is going to be extended up to Dum Dum Cantonment station. This train will reach Dum Dum Cantonment station at 19.51 hrs. Suburban passengers travelling in this train from places like Hasnabad, Basirhat, Barasat can easily avail Metro services to reach Behala or Joka during evening peak hours without bothering about traffic snarls. It is expected that this connectivity is going to become more popular and passenger friendly. With this new introduction and extension of suburban services of Eastern Railway and Metro connectivity at Dum Dum Cantonment station, commuters will be immensely benefitted during peak hours.

For the benefit of the commuters, Metro authorities are also gearing up to manage the expected rush in the coming days and taking all possible steps to make life and journey enjoyable for thousands of people.

have been returned to the consumers, 41 lakh mobile connections have been disconnected and 6 lakh frauds have been blocked."

Congress leader Pawan Khara questioned Scindia's claim that users can delete the app, arguing that government orders contradict verbal assurances. "They say something, they write something else and do something else altogether," Khara declared.

He said mandatory installation of the app "raises serious concerns" and accused the ministry of misusing "safety" as an excuse.

Addressing a press conference, Khara said: "What Pegasus was to VIPs of the country, Sanchar Saathi app is to common man; objective being spying on citizens."

The controversy escalated after a government order dated 28 November surfaced. The directive mandated all mobile phone manufacturers to pre-install the Sanchar Saathi app on every new handset sold in India, and to push it to existing devices through software updates.

The order also instructed companies to ensure the app is "readily visible and accessible" to users at first setup and that its features "are not disabled or restricted."

The order gave manufacturers 90 days to comply.

It triggered widespread outcry from political parties and social media users, who warned that the app could potentially read users' messages or facilitate government surveillance.

Recruitment Process On For 1,20,579 Vacancies Notified in 2024 and 2025; Railways Provided 5.08 Lakh Jobs in Last 11 Years: Ashwini Vaishnav

MI News Service, 3 Dec 2025, New Delhi: Occurrence and filling up of vacancies are continuous processes in Indian Railways considering its size,spatial distribution and criticality of operation. Adequate and suitable manpower is provided to cater to the regular operations, changes in technology, mechanisations and innovative practices. The vacancies arefilled up primarily by placement of indents by Railways with Recruitment agencies as per operational and technological requirements.

Presently recruitment of 1,20,579 vacancies has been taken up on Indian Railways as per annual calendar2024 and 2025.

During January to December 2024, ten Centralized Employment Notifications (CENs) for 92,116vacancies were notified for filling up of posts of Assistant Loco Pilots (ALPs), Technicians, Sub-Inspectors, Constables in Railway Protection Force (RPF), Junior Engineers (JEs)/ Depot MaterialSuperintendent (DMS)/ Chemical & Metallurgical Assistant (CMA),

Paramedical Categories, Non-Technical Popular Categories (Graduate), Non-Technical Popular Categories (Under-Graduate),Ministerial & Isolated Categories and Level-1 categories such as Assistants, Track Maintainers andPointsman.

2nd stage CBTs for the posts of ALP, JE/DMS/CMA and Non-Technical Popular Categories (Graduate)have also been completed.

Computer Based Aptitude Test (CBAT) for the post of ALP has also been completed. CBT for 32,438 vacancies for level -1 categories commenced from 27.11.2025 in 140 cities in 15languages. Physical Efficiency Test (PET) for 4,208 vacancies of Constable (RPF) commenced from13.11.2025.

Panels for more than 23,000 candidates for various posts including the posts of Technicians, JuniorEngineers, Paramedical Categories, Sub-Inspectors (RPF) and Assistant Loco Pilots have been finalised. The majority of them are in safety categories.

In addition, as per Annual

Calendar for the year 2025, seven Centralized Employment Notifications(CENs) for 28,463 vacancies have also been issued.

The RRB examinations are quite technical in nature entailing large scale mobilization of men andresources and training of manpower. Railway overcame all these challenges and successfully conductedthe recruitment in a transparent manner following all laid down guidelines. No instance of paper leakageor similar malpractice has occurred during the entire process.

Further, as a system improvement, the Ministry of Railways has introduced a system of publishing anannual calendar from 2024 for recruitment to various categories of Group 'C' posts. The introduction ofannual calendar is benefitting the aspirants in the following manner:-

- More opportunities for candidates;
- Opportunities to those becoming eligible every year;
- Certainty of exams;
- Faster Recruitment process.

Aparna Garg Assumes Charge as Member (Finance), Railway Board



MI News Service, 3 Dec 2025, New Delhi: Aparna Garg, an Indian Railway Accounts Service (IRAS) officer of the 1987 batch, took charge as Member (Finance), Railway Board on 01.12.2025. She is among the senior civil servants in theGovernment of India, with over 36 years of experience.

Garg has served in several key roles including Divisional Railway Manager, Mysore; Principalfinancial Advisor, Rail Wheel Factory; and Director General, IRIFM.

She is a Chevening Fellow and holds an Advanced Master's degree in Transport Economics from theUniversity of Leeds, U.K. She has also received executive training at the Bocconi School of Management,Milan; INSEAD, Singapore; and the Indian School of Business, Hyderabad.

Tourism, films can rejuvenate bilateral bond: B'Desh High Commissioner

MI News Service, Kolkata: "Tourism and films can certainly act as a positive catalyst in rejuvenating the Indo-Bangladesh business and cultural ties." said M. Riaz Hamidullah, the High Commissioner of Bangladesh to India.

He announced that Government of Bangladesh will facilitate visit by Indians to their ancestral homes in Bangladesh at reasonable cost. Government of Bangladesh is also planning to organise Bangla Chalachitra Utsav in Delhi, soon.

Hamidullah was interacting at Merchants' Chamber of Commerce & Industry (MCCI) in a special interacting session organized by MCCI.

Sikder Mohammad Ashrafur Rahman, Deputy High Commissioner of Bangladesh in Kolkata was also present at the occasion.

Exotic KONARK & SAND ART FEST commence

MI News Service, Puri: The 36th Konark Festival commenced with a captivating Odissi performance at the Sun Temple's open-air auditorium, while the 15th International Sand Art Festival opened simultaneously at Chandrabhaga Beach with stunning displays of creativity.

The dual five-day cultural extravaganza offers visitors the chance to witness the finest in classical dance and sand artistry.

Inaugurating the dance festival, chief minister Mohan Charan Majhi said: "The Konark Festival plays a crucial role in preserving and protecting the rich cultural heritage of our country. It is not merely a stage for performances. It provides a platform where artistes and enthusiasts from India and abroad can experience and celebrate our traditional art forms."

DRUCC meeting held at Asansol division

MI News Service, 3 Dec 2025, Asansol: The meeting of the Divisional Railway Users' Consultative Committee (DRUCC) of Asansol Division was held today in the Chanakya Meeting Hall of the DRM Office under the chairmanship of Shri Pravin Kumar Prem, Additional Divisional Railway Manager.

At the outset, Shri Marshall A. Silva, Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager, Asansol and Secretary, DRUCC, welcomed the members and presented an overview of the Division's achievements, including augmentation of passenger amenities, improved station illumination, commissioning of new Foot Over Bridges, platform upgrades and extensive track renewal works undertaken during the current financial year.

Addressing the meeting, Shri Pravin Kumar Prem stated that the Railways and DRUCC work collectively with the shared objective of enhancing passenger services and strengthening railway infrastructure. He expressed gratitude for the valuable inputs received from members and reiterated that DRUCC serves as a key interface between passengers and the



railway administration.

Seven members of the committee attended the meeting: Bishwadeb Bhattacharjee, John Milton, Harsh Vardhan Khaitan, Radhaballav Chatterjee, Prince Singhal, Ashutosh Mukherjee and Avinaba Mukherjee.

Members actively participated in discussions and expressed satisfaction over the initiatives of Asansol Division. Suggestions were received on train services, punctuality, stoppages, station cleanliness, circulating area improvements, ticketing facilities, passenger convenience and security arrangements. These were duly noted for further examination and action. Proposals for new train services on demand-based routes were also deliberated for feasibility assessment and onward submission to Zonal Headquarters and the Railway Board, wherever applicable.

Queries related to platform shelters, drinking water arrangements, escalator and waiting room maintenance, and last-mile connectivity were addressed by the ADRM and concerned branch officers.

The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks from Shri Pravin Kumar Prem, acknowledging the constructive feedback and active involvement of all DRUCC members.

Aircraft flies with 'lapsed airworthiness cert'; DGCA orders probe

MI News Service, New Delhi: Aviation regulator DGCA has reportedly launched an investigation into Air India after the airline allegedly operated an aircraft on eight commercial sectors without a valid airworthiness review certificate.

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) said it had

also grounded the aircraft in question.

The airworthiness review certificate (ARC) is an annually issued document that validates an aircraft's compliance with safety and airworthiness standards.

The DGCA did not specify the aircraft type, though the

REGULATION OF TRAINS FOR TRAFFIC & POWER BLOCK OVER SEALDAH DIVISION

Due to 3 hours 45 minutes Traffic and Power block from 23.45 hrs. of 04.12.2025 (Thursday) to 03.30 hrs. of 05.12.2025 (Friday) on Line No. 5 of Bridge No.1 (Km 0/18V-0/31V) between Sealdah & Bidhannagar Road stations over Sealdah Division, following trains will be regulated as under :

- Cancellation on 04.12.2025 (Thursday) : (1) 31447 UP Sealdah – Naihati Local & (2) 31450 Down Naihati – Sealdah Local. ● Short Termination and Short Origination : (1) 31542 Down Shantipur – Sealdah Local will be short terminated at Barrackpore on 04.12.2025 (Thursday) and 31511 UP Sealdah – Shantipur Local will be short originated from Barrackpore on 05.12.2025 (Friday). (2) 33858 Down Bangaon – Sealdah Local will be short terminated at Dum Dum Cantonment on 04.12.2025 (Thursday) and 33815 UP Sealdah – Bangaon Local will be short originated from Dum Dum Cantonment on 05.12.2025 (Friday). ● Rescheduling : 53171 UP Sealdah – Lalgaola Passenger will be rescheduled by 30 minutes i.e. will leave from Sealdah at 04.15 hrs. instead of 03.45 hrs. after the block cancelled on 05.12.2025 (Friday). There may be delayed in servicing in block period. Inconvenience is regretted.

Divisional Railway Manager, Sealdah

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আমোজনারমা সংকলিত বিজ্ঞপ্তি

১)মিডিয়া লীলা বাগ ওরফে লীলা বাগ দাস স্বামী মৃত্যুঞ্জয় বাগ ওরফে মৃত্যুঞ্জয় দাস ২)মিডিয়া বাগ ওরফে মিডিয়া বাগ ৩)মিডিয়া কলিতা বাগ ওরফে মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ৪)৩ ও এর পিতা মৃত্যুঞ্জয় বাগ ওরফে মৃত্যুঞ্জয় দাস ৫)কলিতা বাগ ওরফে মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ৬)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ৭)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ৮)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ৯)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ১০)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ১১)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ১২)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ১৩)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ১৪)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ১৫)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ১৬)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ১৭)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ১৮)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ১৯)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ২০)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ২১)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ২২)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ২৩)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ২৪)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ২৫)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ২৬)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ২৭)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ২৮)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ২৯)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ৩০)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ৩১)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ৩২)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ৩৩)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ৩৪)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ৩৫)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ৩৬)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ৩৭)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ৩৮)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ৩৯)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ৪০)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ৪১)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ৪২)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ৪৩)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ৪৪)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ৪৫)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ৪৬)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ৪৭)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ৪৮)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ৪৯)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ৫০)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ৫১)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ৫২)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ৫৩)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ৫৪)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ৫৫)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ৫৬)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ৫৭)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ৫৮)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ৫৯)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ৬০)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ৬১)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ৬২)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ৬৩)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ৬৪)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ৬৫)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ৬৬)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ৬৭)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ৬৮)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ৬৯)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ৭০)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ৭১)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ৭২)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ৭৩)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ৭৪)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ৭৫)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ৭৬)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ৭৭)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ৭৮)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ৭৯)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ৮০)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ৮১)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ৮২)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ৮৩)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ৮৪)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ৮৫)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ৮৬)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ৮৭)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ৮৮)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ৮৯)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ৯০)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ৯১)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ৯২)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ৯৩)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ৯৪)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ৯৫)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ৯৬)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ৯৭)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ৯৮)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ৯৯)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ১০০)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ১০১)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ১০২)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ১০৩)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ১০৪)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ১০৫)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ১০৬)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ১০৭)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ১০৮)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ১০৯)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ১১০)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ১১১)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ১১২)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ১১৩)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ১১৪)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ১১৫)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ১১৬)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ১১৭)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ১১৮)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ১১৯)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ১২০)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ১২১)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ১২২)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ১২৩)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ১২৪)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ১২৫)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ১২৬)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ১২৭)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ১২৮)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ১২৯)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ১৩০)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ১৩১)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ১৩২)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ১৩৩)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ১৩৪)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ১৩৫)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ১৩৬)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ১৩৭)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ১৩৮)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ১৩৯)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ১৪০)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ১৪১)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ১৪২)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ১৪৩)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ১৪৪)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ১৪৫)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ১৪৬)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ১৪৭)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ১৪৮)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ১৪৯)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ১৫০)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ১৫১)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ১৫২)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ১৫৩)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ১৫৪)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ১৫৫)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ১৫৬)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ১৫৭)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ১৫৮)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ১৫৯)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ১৬০)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ১৬১)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ১৬২)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ১৬৩)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ১৬৪)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ১৬৫)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ১৬৬)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ১৬৭)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ১৬৮)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ১৬৯)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ১৭০)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ১৭১)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ১৭২)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ১৭৩)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ১৭৪)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ১৭৫)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ১৭৬)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ১৭৭)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ১৭৮)মিডিয়া কলিতা দাস ১৭৯)মিডিয়া কলিত

Corporate Revival and Business Confidence: Key Themes Ahead of India's Legal Transformation

Ranchi: Mr. Akshat Khetan, Founder of AU Corporate Advisory and Legal Services (AUC), addressed the media at Radisson Blu Hotel, Ranchi, highlighting the expanding role of India's legal ecosystem in supporting distressed businesses, strengthening corporate governance and reshaping investor confidence in the evolving economic landscape.

During the interactive session, Mr. Khetan stressed that India's Insolvency, Corporate Governance and Regulatory frameworks have significantly matured over the past decade, creating a stronger foundation for business revival. He emphasized that timely legal intervention, board-level accountability, transparent processes and ethical decision-making are now indispensable for rebuilding trust across the corporate sector.

Drawing attention to the MSME sector, Mr. Khetan noted that although MSMEs form the backbone of India's industrial and employment ecosystem, they continue to struggle with persistent challenges such as limited credit access, delayed payments, inadequate restructuring mechanisms and low legal awareness. He highlighted that many MSMEs face business closure not due to operational failure but due to the absence of early legal guidance and the lack of institutional support to navigate financial distress. Strengthening the MSME legal ecosystem, he said, is critical to ensuring business continuity and preserving economic momentum.

Addressing the approach of financial institutions, Mr. Khetan emphasized the urgent need for banks to shift from a "recovery-driven" to a "revival-oriented" mindset. He noted that aggressive recovery actions including early invocation of legal enforcement often force the closure of viable enterprises, causing job losses and destroying long-term economic value. A revival-focused approach that



emphasizes restructuring, one-time settlements, mediated negotiations and phased repayment models can save thousands of businesses while also safeguarding the interests of lenders. "Revival over recovery must become the new philosophy, especially for MSMEs," he stated.

Highlighting AUC's contribution to India's emerging revival ecosystem, Mr.

Khetan shared several innovative revival and restructuring solutions developed by the firm. AUC's expertise includes sector-specific revival strategies, MSME-focused legal toolkits, customized debt-resolution models, AI-driven financial risk assessments and governance enhancement frameworks. These solutions, integrated with AUC's strong litigation and advisory capabilities, aim not only to stabilize distressed businesses but also to enhance investor trust and create long-term economic value.

"Corporate revival is not just about financial repair; it is about rebuilding confidence through transparency, accountability and strategic legal insight," Mr. Khetan said. "A strong legal ecosystem ensures that businesses can overcome distress, access investment and contribute to sustainable national growth."

The session concluded with a media interaction followed by dinner, reinforcing AUC's commitment to empowering businesses especially MSMEs with the legal tools and advisory support needed to navigate

Based in Mumbai's iconic Nariman Point, AUC is a trusted name in corporate and legal advisory. The firm's services span Corporate Strategy, Mergers and Acquisitions, Financial Advisory, Debt Syndication, Insolvency Management and Litigation. Known for its expertise in handling complex issues, AUC also advises on corporate fraud, white-collar crimes, banking litigations, taxation, distressed debts and dispute resolution. Its specialized services include digital forensics, cybersecurity, forensic audits, enterprise risk management and business process re-engineering.

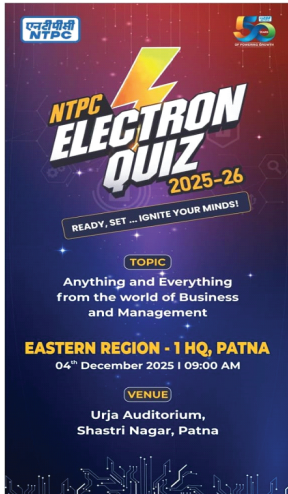
NTPC to Host Regional Round of Electron Quiz 2025 in Patna

Patna: NTPC, India's largest integrated power producer, is all set to conduct the Patna Regional Round of its flagship Electron Quiz 2025-26 on 4th December at the Urja Auditorium, Patna. The event marks the beginning of an intellectually charged competition aimed at identifying and inspiring India's next generation of innovators and problem-solvers.

A record-breaking 200 plus teams from leading engineering and management institutions of the region have registered for Patna round this year, reflecting the rising popularity of Electron Quiz, an initiative that NTPC has been organizing annually since 2004.

There are exciting prizes, Rs. 60,000 for the winning team, Rs. 40,000 for the runners-up, and Rs. 20,000 for the third position, along with a consolation prize of Rs. 8,000 for teams placed fourth to sixth.

The 2025-26 edition is being held across nine regional locations including Patna, culminating in the National Semi-Finals and the National Finale. The top two teams from each regional round will advance to the three National Semi-Finals. From there, the top two teams of each Semi-Final will qualify for the National Finale scheduled to be held at the Power



Management Institute, Noida on 19th December 2025.

The competition is organized for engineering and management students, with each team consisting of two members, the competition aims to enhance knowledge, promote critical thinking, and strengthen the connection between academic learning and real-world applications.

The event not only underlines NTPC's role as a powerhouse in the energy sector but also as a catalyst for shaping India's future thought leaders.

Nadda urges MPs to boost awareness, mobilise communities to eliminate TB

New Delhi, Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare JP Nadda sensitised the Members of Parliament from across party lines on the TB-Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan and urged them to boost awareness and mobilise communities to eliminate the world's most infectious disease.

In the first of a series of interactions with Parliamentarians, with a special focus on MPs from Uttar Pradesh, Nadda underscored the important leadership roles of the MPs in achieving the goal of TB elimination.

The MPs were informed about the campaign objectives, key activities being undertaken, and their role in supporting the campaign.

The Minister urged the MPs "to monitor the campaign in their respective constituencies, raise awareness and reduce stigma around the disease, and mobilise the community to actively participate in the campaign".

He also highlighted the progress the country made in tackling the TB burden.

"India's TB incidence (new cases emerging each year) reduced by 21 per cent -- from 237 per lakh population in 2015 to 187 per lakh population in 2024 -- over almost double the pace of the decline observed globally at 12 per cent, as per the World Health Organization's Global TB Report 2025," Nadda said.

"Similarly, India's TB mortality rate has decreased from 28 per lakh population in 2015 to 21 per lakh population in 2024, reflecting significant progress in reducing deaths due to TB," he added.

The MPs were also informed about several novel interventions that have been rolled out in the last 10 years, including the swift uptake of new technologies like AI-enabled hand-held chest x-ray machines and Truenat machines, the adoption of more effective, shorter treatment regimens, decentralisation of TB care through the network of Ayushman Arogya Mandirs, community engagement, etc.

"Further penetration of TB screening services and awareness generation at the ground level is crucial for the success of the TB elimination efforts," said Nadda, while encouraging the MPs to support these efforts to make it a Jan Andolan.

IIT Bombay study shows how TB bacteria shield themselves from antibiotics, stay alive longer

New Delhi : The bacteria Mycobacterium tuberculosis, which causes the world's most infectious disease Tuberculosis (TB), can survive antibiotic treatment and live longer by changing their outer fat coating, according to a new study led by researchers from the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay on Wednesday.

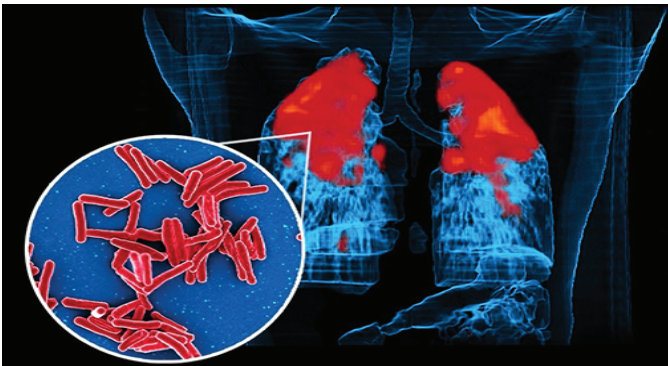
Even with effective antibiotics and widespread vaccination campaigns, TB continues to take lives.

Globally, 10.7 million people developed TB and 1.23 million died from the disease in 2024, while India carries one of the highest burdens -- over 2.71 million cases in 2024.

In the study, published in the Chemical Science journal, the researchers showed that the key to the bacteria's drug tolerance lies in their membranes -- complex barriers made mostly of fats, or lipids that protect the cell.

The team grew the bacteria under two conditions: an active phase, when the bacteria were dividing rapidly as they do in an active infection, and a late stage mimicking dormancy, as seen in latent infections.

When they exposed the bacteria to four common TB drugs: rifabutin, moxifloxacin, amikacin, and clarithromycin, the team found that the concentration of drugs needed to stop 50 per cent of bacterial growth was two to 10 times higher in dormant bacteria than in active ones. In other words, "the same



drug that worked well in the early stage of the disease would now be needed at a much higher concentration to kill the dormant/persistent TB cells. This change was not caused by genetic mutations, which usually explain antibiotic resistance," said Prof. Shobhna Kapoor from the Department of Chemistry, IIT-B.

Lack of mutations associated with antibiotic resistance in the bacteria confirmed that the reduced drug sensitivity could be linked to the bacteria's dormant state and most likely their membrane coats rather than genetic changes. Further, the team identified more than 270 distinct lipid molecules in the bacterial membranes, which showed clear differences between active and dormant cells.

While the active bacteria had loose, fluid membranes, the dormant ones had rigid, tightly ordered structures, indicating its defence mechanism.

"People have studied TB from the protein point of view for decades," said Kapoor.

"But lipids were long seen as passive components. We now know they actively help the bacteria survive and resist drugs," she added.

Next, the team found that the antibiotic rifabutin could easily enter active cells but barely crossed the outer membrane of dormant ones.

"The rigid outer layer becomes the main barrier. It is the bacterium's first and strongest line of defence," explained Kapoor.

If the outer membrane blocks antibiotics, weakening it could make the drugs work better.

"Even old drugs can work better if combined with a molecule that loosens the outer membrane," said Kapoor, noting that the approach makes bacteria sensitive to the drugs again without giving them a chance to develop permanent resistance.

India doubles down on domestic active pharmaceutical ingredient manufacturing

New Delhi : A total of Rs 4,763.34 crore worth investment has been made in the three and a half years under the scheme for Promotion of Bulk Drug Parks till September 2025, against an investment commitment of Rs 4,329.95 crore over the period of six years in greenfield projects, according to the government.

The PLI scheme for Bulk Drugs is aimed at avoiding disruption in supply of critical Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs) used to make critical drugs for which there are no alternatives by reducing supply disruption risk due to excessive dependence on single source. The scheme has a budgetary outlay of Rs 6,940 crore.

"Further, production capacities have been created for 26 KSMs/DIs/APIs, which were earlier primarily imported. The scheme has resulted in cumulative sales of Rs 2,315.44 crore reported till September 2025, including exports of Rs 508.12 crore, thereby avoiding imports worth Rs 1,807.32 crore," informed Union Minister of State for Chemicals and Fertilizers, Anupriya Patel, in a written reply in Rajya Sabha.

The PLI Scheme for Pharmaceuticals is aimed at enhancing India's manufacturing capabilities by increasing investment and production

in the pharmaceuticals sector and contributing to product diversification to high-value goods in the pharmaceutical sector and incentivises production of high-value medicines such as biopharmaceuticals, complex generic drugs, patented drugs or drugs nearing patent

expiry, auto-immune drugs, anti-cancer drugs, etc. as well as production of APIs/DIs/KSMs other than those notified under the PLI Scheme for Bulk Drugs.

It has a budgetary outlay of Rs 15,000 crore. As of September 2025, the committed investment of Rs 17,275 crore targeted over the six-year period of the scheme stands substantially exceeded with cumulative investment of Rs 40,890 crore made in three and a half years of scheme production period in both brownfield and greenfield projects.

Further, 726 APIs/KSMs/DIs are being manufactured under the scheme, including 191 which have been manufactured for the first time under the scheme. Cumulative domestic sales of APIs/KSMs/DIs produced under the scheme till September 2025 is worth Rs 26,123 crore and thereby contributing to import avoidance. The tenure of the scheme is till the financial year 2028-29, according to the minister.

Empowering Every Woman, Uplifting Every Community-A New Era of Nari Shakti in Amrit Kaal

Annpurna Devi

When women rise, the nation soars. In a society rooted in values of equality and justice, a woman's dignity must be non-negotiable. The Government of India, under the visionary leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has reaffirmed this belief by translating it into institutional frameworks through Mission Shakti—our comprehensive programme for safety, security, and empowerment of women. As Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has rightly said, "Our government places utmost importance on 'Samman' and 'Suidha' for women." These guiding words are not mere sentiments—they are the foundation on which the Modi Government has built robust institutional mechanisms for empowering women in every corner of India, under Mission Shakti.

At the heart of this effort are the One Stop Centres (OSCs), operationalised under the "Sambal" sub-scheme of Mission Shakti. Launched in 2015, these centres offer a unified response mechanism to women affected by violence, ensuring they do not suffer in silence or navigate fragmented support systems. Till date, with 862 OSCs functional across India, more than 12.20 lakh women have received integrated sup-

port, including legal aid, medical assistance, police facilitation, shelter, and psychological counselling—all under one roof.

From fear to freedom, from silence to support—OSCs are where healing begins. These centres represent a shift from reactive to proactive governance. Whether a woman faces violence in her home, workplace, or a public space, OSCs stand as a testament to the Modi government's resolve to support her recovery, dignity, and justice. Importantly, these centres are located within or near hospitals to ensure immediate access to medical care—a crucial first step in crisis response. Equally important is the Universalisation of the Women Helpline (181), which complements the OSCs by ensuring 24x7 assistance for women in distress. Functional across 35 States and UTs, the helpline has handled over 2.56 crore calls and aided more than 93.48 lakh women (till 30th September). Integrated with Emergency Response Support System (ERSS-112), the helpline bridges the gap between distress and relief.

To reinforce systemic accountability and fast-track justice, we have established 745 Fast Track Special Courts, including 404 exclusive POCSO Courts. These have resolved over 3.06 lakh cases to date, ensuring that justice



delayed is not justice denied. Every verdict delivered, every right restored—is a step towards a just and gender-equal Bharat. Justice delivery is no longer constrained by procedural delays, and every survivor can expect time-bound redressal.

In tandem, we are strengthening the grassroots with 14,658 Women Help Desks (WHDs) at police stations, of

which over 13,700 are led by women. These desks foster confidence among survivors to report crimes, supported by trained personnel sensitised to gender issues. The presence of women officers not only instils confidence but also strengthens institutional sensitivity and accountability.

We are also tackling human trafficking through 807 operational Anti-

Human Trafficking Units (AHTUs) and ensuring safe mobility through the installation of emergency surveillance systems in railways and road transport services under the Nirbhaya Fund. These interventions ensure that women can move safely, work fearlessly, and thrive in every sphere of public and private life.

This integrated approach is not limited to response but extends to prevention, rehabilitation, and empowerment. Through initiatives like Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP), we are changing mindsets and instilling the values of respect, equality, and opportunity. Through PMMVY and Sakhi Niwas, we are creating systems that value women not just as survivors but as stakeholders in the nation's progress. Our Sakhi Niwas hostels are providing safe and affordable accommodation to over 26,000 working women—many of them in urban and peri-urban areas, allowing them to pursue their dreams without fear.

Our strategy under Mission Shakti is built on convergence, coordination, and community ownership. With the introduction of SANKALP: Hub for Empowerment of Women, we have added a strategic layer to local implementation, enabling women to access multiple schemes through one platform. Over 27 lakh women have already bene-

fitted through these hubs, which serve as localised centres of empowerment and convergence. Violence against women is not just a women's issue; it is a national concern. Every OSC built, every helpline answered, and every case resolved reflects the collective commitment of the Ministry of Women and Child Development to create a Bharat where every woman lives with dignity, safety, and pride.

As we enter the Amrit Kaal—the golden era of India's growth and transformation—the empowerment of women is not just a goal, but a national mission. The vision of a Viksit Bharat by 2047 is incomplete without empowered women at the centre of it.

Nari Shakti is not a slogan. It is our strategy. It is our strength. It is our future. Women are the backbone of Viksit Bharat—as caregivers, change-makers, entrepreneurs, and leaders. Ensuring their dignity, safety, and opportunity is non-negotiable. Our journey continues—one empowered woman at a time, one safe space at a time. And with each step, we are building a stronger, safer, and more inclusive Bharat.

(The author is Union Minister of Women and Child Development, Government of India)

S. Korea's special counsel seeks 15-year prison term for ex-President Yoon's wife on corruption charges

MI News Service, Seoul: South Korea's special counsel team on Wednesday sought a 15-year prison term for Kim Keon-hee, wife of former impeached President Yoon Suk-yeol, on corruption charges.

The team of special counsel Min Joong-ki, leading an investigation into corruption allegations involving the former presidential couple, demanded the jail sentence for Kim, who has been held at a detention center since August, on charges of violating laws, including the capital markets act and the political funds act. The sentencing date was set for Jan. 28 next year.

Death toll from floods, landslides in Indonesia rises to 712

MI News Service, Jakarta: The death toll from recent floods and landslides across three provinces on Indonesia's Sumatra Island has risen to 712, with 507 people still missing, the National Disaster Management Agency (BNPB) said on Tuesday.

The agency reported that disasters have displaced about 1.1 million people in North Sumatra, West Sumatra, and Aceh provinces.

Rescue teams have faced difficulties reaching several villages on Sumatra Island, as floods swept away roads and destroyed bridges. Although helicopters and boats have been deployed, local authorities said deteriorating weather conditions and damaged infrastructure continue to hamper response efforts.

At the same time, efforts to restore telecommunications services are also being accelerated. The Ministry of Communication and Digital Affairs reported that more than 90 percent of transmission towers in flood- and landslide-affected areas in West Sumatra and North Sumatra have resumed operations.



The ministry is also accelerating efforts to restore telecommunications networks, ensuring residents can reconnect and access essential information. Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto said on Monday that the government's rescue and relief efforts are being carried out with

full force.

He stressed that Indonesia must respond effectively to climate change, adding that local governments should play a greater role in environmental protection and in preparing for future extreme weather events.

Indigo cancels over 70 flights due to crew shortages IST



MI News Service, Mumbai: IndiGo has cancelled over 70 flights, including those from Bengaluru and Mumbai airports, on Wednesday, mainly due to crew shortages, sources said. Scores of IndiGo flights were delayed at various airports, as the carrier struggled to get the crew for operating its flights, sources said. IndiGo said there have been cancellations and delays.

"We have had several unavoidable flight delays and some cancellations in the past few days due to various reasons, including technology issues, airport congestion, and operational requirements," the airline spokesperson said in a statement. "IndiGo has been facing acute crew shortage since the implementation of the second phase of the FDTL norms, leading to can-

cellations and huge delays in its operations across the airports," a source told PTI.

"The situation turned bad on Tuesday for the airline and the shortage turned worse on Wednesday with scores of flights cancelled and delayed from across airports in the country," the source said. IndiGo's on-time performance from six key domestic airports plummeted to 35 percent on Tuesday. In contrast, Air India clocked 67.2 percent, Air India Express 79.5 percent, SpiceJet 82.50 percent and Akasa Air 73.20 percent, according to the Civil Aviation Ministry website.

The latest flight duty time limitation norms, which entail increased weekly rest periods to 48 hours, the extension of night hours, and limiting

the number of night landings to only two, as opposed to six earlier, were initially opposed by domestic airlines, including IndiGo and Tata Group-owned Air India. But they were subsequently rolled out by the DGCA following the Delhi High Court's directives, albeit after a delay of over one year and in a phased manner and with certain variations to airlines like IndiGo and Air India. While the first phase of these FDTL norms came into force from July, the second phase, which restricted the night landing to two from six earlier, was implemented from November 1. The norms were originally to be put in place from March 2024, but airlines, including IndiGo, sought a step-by-step implementation, citing additional crew requirements.

The Gurugram-based airline currently operates around 2,100 domestic and international flights, and a significant chunk of them at night. As of December 2, IndiGo had a total of 416 planes in the fleet, with 366 of them in operations and 50 on ground, up from 47 last month, as per the aircraft fleet tracking website Planespotterspotter.com.

Seven Maoists, two DRF personnel cop killed in encounter in Chhattisgarh



MI News Service, Bijapur: Seven Maoists and two District Reserve Guard (DRG) personnel were killed in an encounter in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur district on Wednesday, officials said. Another jawan suffered injuries in the gunfight, they said, adding that the operation was still underway.

The gun battle took place in a forest of the Gangaloor area adjoining Dantewada district when a joint team of security personnel was out on an anti-Maoist operation, said Bijapur superintendent of police, Dr. Jitendra Yadav. Personnel belonging to the DRG and Special Task Force, both units of the state police, and CoBRA (Commando Battalion for Resolute Action- an elite unit of CRPF) were involved in the operation, he said.

So far, bodies of five Maoists have been recovered from the spot, the official said. "Two DRG personnel, Head Constable Monu Vadadi and Constable Dukaru Gonde, were martyred during the operation. Another jawan Somdev Yadav sustained injuries. He has been evacuated for treatment," he said. With the latest action, 269 Maoists have been killed in encounters in Chhattisgarh so far this year. Of them, 239 were eliminated in the Bastar division, comprising seven districts, including Bijapur and Dantewada, while 27 others were gunned down in Gariaband district, which falls in the Raipur division. Two Maoists were killed in Mohla-Manpur-Ambagarh Chowki district in Durg division

Saudi Arabia transfers USD 90 million to Palestinian Authority to ease financial crisis

MI news Service, Riyadh: The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has transferred USD 90 million to the Palestinian Authority (PA) as part of the Kingdom's continued support for 2025, amid growing concerns over the PA's financial stability and the impact of Israeli restrictions.

The tranche was handed over in Amman on Monday, December 1, during a meeting between Saudi Ambassador to Jordan and non-resident envoy to Palestine Prince Mansour bin Khalid bin Farhan Al Saud and Estephane Salameh, the Palestinian Minister of Planning and International Cooperation and Acting Minister of Finance, according to the Saudi Press Agency (SPA) and Wafa News Agency.

Prince Mansour said the move reflects the Saudi leadership's commitment to supporting the Palestinian government and helping it meet its financial obligations at a time of mounting economic and humanitarian pressures.

He noted that the grant also aims to strengthen the resilience of Palestinians and support key sectors, particularly health and education, as part of the Kingdom's sustained economic,



developmental, relief and humanitarian assistance.

He highlighted the Kingdom's recent diplomatic efforts as co-chair, alongside France, of the high-level international conference in New York on resolving the Palestinian question and advancing the two-state solution. The conference resulted in broader international recognition of the State of Palestine and renewed support for the two-state framework.

Salameh expressed deep appreciation for Riyadh's financial and political backing, describing the contribution as vital for easing the PA's severe financial crisis, which has been exacerbated by re-

cent Israeli measures, including the withholding of clearance revenues.

He conveyed the greetings of President Mahmoud Abbas and Prime Minister Mohammad Mustafa to King Salman and Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman in recognition of their continued support.

The transfer comes as the PA faces shrinking revenues, salary cuts and mounting fiscal pressure. In September, Saudi Arabia pledged an additional USD 90 million as part of an emergency international coalition formed to bolster the Palestinian Authority amid concerns over its stability.

Mass wedding in Gaza celebrates joy amid the city ruins



MI News Service, Khan Younis: Palestinians gathered in the ruins of southern Gaza to celebrate the mass wedding of more than 50 couples on Tuesday, December 2, a rare moment of hope after two years of devastation, death and conflict.

Weddings are a key part of Palestinian culture but have become rare in Gaza during the war, and a tradition that some couples have been able to restart in the wake of a fragile ceasefire.

Couples walked hand-in-hand past the crumbled buildings of southern Gaza in a line of other couples dressed in exactly the same way.

"Despite everything that has happened, we will begin a new life," said Hikmat Lawwa, one of the grooms getting ready to marry. "God willing, this will be the end of the war," he said.

As roaring crowds waved Palestinian flags in the southern city of Khan Younis, the celebrations were dampened by the ongoing crisis across Gaza. Most of Gaza's 2 million residents, including Eman and Hikmat Lawwa, have been displaced by the war, entire areas of cities have been flattened and aid shortages and outbursts in conflict continue to plague the daily lives of people.

"We want to be happy like the rest of the world. I used to dream of having a home, a job, and being like everyone else," Hikmat said. "Today, my dream is to find a tent to live in."

Eman, who was cloaked in a white, red and green traditional dress, said the wedding offered a small moment of relief after years of suffering. But she said it was also marked by the loss of her father, mother, and other family members who were killed during the war.

"It's hard to experience joy after such sorrow," she said, tears streaming down her face. "God willing."

The celebration was funded by Al Fares Al Shahim, a humanitarian aid operation backed by the United Arab Emirates. In addition to holding the event, the organization offered couples a small sum of money and other supplies to start their lives together.

Asim Munir Is A 'Radical Islamist', Wants War With India: Imran Khan's Sister

MI News Service, Rawalpindi: One of the three sisters of the jailed former Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan attacked the country's army chief, Field Marshal Asim Munir, claiming that he is a "radical Islamist" who "yearns for a war with India".

While speaking with Sky News on "The World with Yalda Hakim", Aleema Khan, Imran Khan's sister, said that Munir's "Islamic radicalisation" forces him to fight nonbelievers while criticising the country's first Chief of Defence Forces (CDF). She alleged, "Asim Munir is a very radicalised Islamist and Islamic conservative. This is the reason why he yearns for a war with India. His Islamic radicalisation and conservatism force him to fight against those who don't believe in Islam," Aleema said on the show.

"Whenever Imran Khan comes to power, you will see that he always tries to be friend India, and even the



BJP. Whenever there is this radical Islamist, Asim Munir, you will see that there will be war with India, and not just India, even the allies of India will suffer," she said. Claiming that her brother's thinking was of a "pure liberal" compared to Munir, Aleema appealed to the West to increase its efforts to free Imran Khan, whom she described as an "asset". Her interview comes amid mounting rumours about Imran Khan's health and claims by his family seeking proof that he is alive. According to a Pakistani news outlet, The Dawn, authorities at Rawalpindi's Adiala Jail allowed one of his other sisters, Uzma Khanum, to meet the former Prime Minister.

Israeli PM sends envoy for first economic contacts with Lebanon

MI News Service, Jerusalem: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has instructed an Israeli envoy to travel to Lebanon for a meeting with "governmental-economic officials," Netanyahu's office said Wednesday. It marks "a first attempt to lay the groundwork for relations and economic cooperation between Israel and Lebanon," the office said in a statement. No details were given on the timing and location of the meeting, nor the issues to be discussed.

The move comes amid nearly daily Israeli attacks on southern Lebanon, despite a ceasefire that came into effect in November 2024, ending months of cross-border fighting between Israel and Hezbollah. Israel and Lebanon, which remain technically at war, have no diplomatic ties and have long communicated only indirectly, usually through the UN or foreign mediators. The two countries reached a U.S.-brokered agreement in 2022 demarcating their maritime border, opening the door to offshore energy exploration, but political and security tensions have persisted, particularly along the shared frontier.

Humanitarians answer Gaza Civil Defense call for help: UN



MI News Service, United Nations: Amid continuing reports of Israeli attacks in all five Gaza governorates, UN humanitarian said on Tuesday that they answered a Civil Defense distress call and helped coordinate the rescue of injured people in Gaza City.

The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) said the rescues occurred on Monday in the Tufah neighborhood, following a distress call from Civil Defense teams. Details of the nature of the distress call were not available.

The World Health Organization said its team led the medical evacuation of 18 patients and 54 companions from Gaza for treatment abroad, adding that more than 16,500 patients still need life-saving care that is not available in Gaza.

OCHA said that with winter approaching, the humanitarian community in the Gaza Strip is working to scale up the delivery of assistance to people in need, including children, who have suffered immensely over the past two years.

In the past two months, humanitarian partners have provided, alongside the distribution of other essential supplies, tens of thousands of critical items to help prepare for colder weather, including shoes, clothes, blankets and towels, to children across the strip.

The humanitarian office repeated its call for the opening of all available border crossings and corridors, so that patients can seek treatment in the West Bank, and it stressed the need for unimpeded access for international emergency medical teams to enter Gaza.

Regulation Of Trains For Maintenance Work At Sealdah Division

MI News Service, Kolkata, 3 Dec.25 : Due to maintenance work, 225 minutes (from 23:45 hrs. of 04.12.2025 to 03:30 hrs. of 05.12.2025) Traffic & Power Block on line no. 05 of Bridge no. 01 between Sealdah & Bidhan Nagar Road stations has been planned. Consequently, following arrangements in train running have been made as under: **Cancellation of train on 04.12.2025:** 31447 Sealdah - Naihati local, 31450 Naihati - Sealdah local. **Short termination / Short origination:** 31542 Shantipur - Sealdah local will be short terminated at Barrackpore on 04.12.2025. 31511 Sealdah - Shantipur local will be short originated from Barrackpore on 05.12.2025. 33858 Bangaon - Sealdah local will be short terminated at Dum Dum Cantonment on 04.12.2025. 33815 Sealdah - Bangaon local will be short originated from Dum Dum Cantonment on 05.12.2025. **Rescheduling of Train on 05.12.2025:** 53171 Sealdah - Lalgaola passenger will leave Sealdah at 04:15 hrs. instead of 03:45 hrs. on 05.12.2025.

Global growth to slow to 2.6 pct in 2025: UN report

MI News Service, Geneva: Global growth will slow to 2.6 percent in 2025, down from 2.9 percent in 2024, due to growing pressure from financial volatility and geopolitical uncertainty facing global trade and investment, the United Nations Trade and Development (UNCTAD) said in a report released on Tuesday.

The UNCTAD's Trade and Development Report 2025 shows that shifts in financial markets affect global trade almost as strongly as real economic activity, influencing development prospects worldwide, said the UN trade body. The report said that despite potential gains from new technologies like artificial intelligence, global growth is projected to remain subdued in 2026, at 2.6 percent.

UNCTAD said that its projection was based on a global growth aggregate using market exchange rate (MER) weights rather than purchasing power parity (PPP) weights used by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), with the latter leading to a higher global growth forecast. The OECD on the same day predicted that global GDP growth will slow from 3.2 percent in 2025 to 2.9 percent in 2026.

UNCTAD Secretary-General Rebecca Grynszpan said the findings show how financial conditions increasingly determine the direction of global trade. "Trade is not just a chain of suppliers. It is also a chain of credit lines, payment systems, currency markets, and capital flows," she said.

The report said developing economies are forecast to grow by 4.3 percent in 2025, significantly faster than advanced economies. However, factors such as higher financing costs, greater exposure to sudden shifts in capital flows, and rising climate-related financial risks

advanced economies.

In addition, climate vulnerability adds to financial pressures, with countries repeatedly exposed to extreme weather paying an estimated 20 billion U.S. dollars more each year in interest.

UNCTAD called for a set of re-



limit the fiscal and investment space that developing economies need to sustain growth.

The report noted that many developing economies with small domestic financial markets rely on external borrowing at significantly higher rates of 7 to 11 percent, compared with 1 to 4 percent in major

forms to reduce financial vulnerability, improve predictability, and strengthen alignment among trade, finance, and development.

These measures include trade rule updates, policies to narrow data caps, international monetary system reforms, and the development of capital markets.

2ND ODI: BAVUMA, MAHARAJ AND NGIDI BACK AS SA OPT TO BOWL AGAINST UNCHANGED INDIA

RAIPUR : South Africa captain Temba Bavuma has returned to lead the side in the second ODI against India, as the visitors won the toss and elected to bowl first at the Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh International Stadium on Wednesday.

Apart from Bavuma, Keshav Maharaj and Lungi Ngidi are also back in the playing eleven for the clash where South Africa are aiming to level the series after losing the opening game in Ranchi by 17 runs. The trio coming in means Ryan Rickelton, Prenelan Subrayen and Otttniel Baartman are out of the playing eleven.

"We are hoping as the dew comes in, batting gets easier. Very hard to say what it's going to play like. There are a lot of positives (from the last game). We have to start well. Big, big game for us, chance to level the series," he said.

Skipper KL Rahul said India are unchanged in their playing eleven for the clash in Raipur,

KHAWAJA AVOIDS SANCTION FOR CRITICISM OF PERTH PITCH: REPORT

NEW DELHI : Australian opener Usman Khawaja has reportedly avoided punishment for his "piece of s**t" remark on the Perth Stadium pitch, which received a "very good" rating from the ICC after the Ashes opener was completed within two days.

Cricket Australia had issued Khawaja a 'please explain' request for his remarks on the Perth Stadium pitch, and the Sydney Morning Herald reported on Wednesday that the 38-year-old batter has escaped punishment.

"Usman's comments were not reflective of how the team viewed the pitch and Perth Stadium personnel are aware of this," a CA spokesperson was quoted by the masthead.

The opening Test in Perth saw 19 wickets fall on Day 1 as England were bowled out for 172, with Mitchell Starc taking career-best figures of 7-58, before Australia's batters collapsed to 121/9 at stumps. Day 2 saw 13 wickets fall and 380 runs scored as England were dismissed for 164 before Travis Head's remarkable 123 guided Australia to an eight-wicket victory and a 1-0 lead in the five-match series. The entire Test match lasted just 847 deliveries, making it the shortest Ashes Test by balls bowled since 1888. But, match referee Ranjan Madugalle rated the Perth wicket 'very good', which, under the ICC's four-tier rating system, is the highest ranking possible awarded to pitches with "good carry, limited seam movement, and consistent bounce early in the match. They do get better day two, day three, but day four they start to crack up again." A day after ICC has rated the playing surface for the first Ashes Test in Perth as 'very good', Khawaja offered a sharply different view and criticised the pitch for its variable bounce, saying, "Day one wicket at (Perth) is a piece of s**t, I'm happy to say that. It has been last year; it was this year."

Ashes: Stokes dubs Bashir as 'No 1 spinner' after Brisbane snub

BRISBANE : England captain Ben Stokes has reiterated Shoaib Bashir's position as the team's leading spinner, despite Will Jacks being selected instead for the second Ashes Test in Brisbane.

England have named their XI for the second Test of the Ashes series on Tuesday and called up Will Jacks for the pink-ball game to replace injured Mark Wood.

On the eve of the day-night match in Brisbane, Stokes stressed that the call was shaped by conditions and team balance rather than any loss of faith in Bashir.

"We tried to look at how we thought spin was going to be used, and there was a bit of a tactical element to it. Obviously Jacks's ability with the bat, to have that down the order for us is useful as well. But if it ever comes down to picking our best, No 1 spinner, selection will go the other way," Stokes told reporters here on Wednesday.

"If it comes down to picking our best spinner, he's the man. We thought this was the best XI for the conditions and the circumstances of the game, but he knows that if it comes down to picking our best spinner, he's the man," he added.

With England opting for Jacks' all-round skills, Bashir will turn out for the Lions in their unofficial Test against Australia A, also in Brisbane, beginning Friday. Jacks replacing Wood is the only change to the side that lost the first Test in Perth inside two days. Wood has been ruled out due to lingering discomfort in his left knee, for which he underwent surgery earlier in the year. Wood, however, remains with the squad and is targeting a return later in the series, with the third Test in Adelaide still two weeks away.



where a win will give them an unassailable lead. "Honestly, toss is the most pressure I've had. But we did really well in the last game.

They pushed us and we know what to expect. Before the series, we spoke about it, we expect dew every place we play. Put runs on the board, pick wickets early. Wicket looks good," he said.

From the North End, the square boundaries measure 67

Harshit Rana reprimanded for code of conduct breach in 1st ODI

DUBAI : India's pacer Harshit Rana has been reprimanded for the ICC Code of Conduct violation during his team's win against South Africa in the first ODI in Ranchi.

Rana was found to have violated Article 2.5 of the ICC Code of Conduct for Players and Player Support Personnel, which pertains to "using language, actions or gestures which disparage or which could provoke an aggressive reaction from a batter upon his/her dismissal during an International Match."

The incident happened during the 22nd over of South Africa's innings when Rana gestured towards the dressing room after dismissing Proteas batter Dewald Brevis.

It was considered that the action might have provoked an aggressive response from the batter, resulting in the pacer receiving one demerit point on his disciplinary record.

Rana's first offence in the past



24 months, and he admitted to it, accepting the sanction suggested by Richie Richardson from the Emirates ICC Elite Panel of Match Referees.

"Rana admitted the offence and accepted the sanction proposed by Richie Richardson of the Emirates ICC Elite Panel of Match Referees, so there was no need for a formal hearing," ICC said in a statement.

On-field umpires Jayaraman Madanagopal and Sam Ngajiski, third umpire Rod Tucker and fourth umpire Rohan Pandit levelled the charge.

Level 1 breaches carry a minimum penalty of an official reprimand, a maximum penalty of 50 per cent of a player's match fee, and one or two demerit points.

The hosts beat South Africa by 17 runs in an exciting series open-

metres, with the third man and fine leg ones being slightly shorter at 61m and 62m, respectively, while the straight boundary stretches to 74 and 75 metres, respectively.

In his pitch report, Shaun Pollock assessed the surface as patchy, noting cracks, dry spots and unevenness could make it two-paced and less conducive for high scoring. With the abrasive outfield likely to aid reverse swing and dew expected to play a role later in the evening, Deep Dasgupta felt chasing would be beneficial.

Playing XIs

India: Yashasvi Jaiswal, Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli, Ruturaj Gaikwad, Washington Sundar, KL Rahul (captain & wicket-keeper), Ravindra Jadeja, Harshit Rana, Kuldeep Yadav, Arshdeep Singh, and Prasidh Krishna

South Africa: Quinton de Kock (wk), Aiden Markram, Temba Bavuma (captain), Matthew Breetzke, Tony de Zorzi, Dewald

er to take a 1-0 lead. Batting first, India scored a solid 349/8, thanks to Virat Kohli's superb 135, his 52nd ODI century, and well-made fifties from Rohit Sharma (57) and KL Rahul (60).

South Africa's chase faltered early as Rana struck twice in the same over, removing Rickelton and de Kock. Arshdeep Singh added to the pressure by dismissing skipper Markram, leaving the visitors reeling at the top.

Middle-order resistance was provided by Matthew Breetzke, Tony de Zorzi, and Dewald Brevis, who established important partnerships, but Kuldeep Yadav consistently disrupted South Africa's momentum, finishing with four vital wickets.

Jansen's aggressive innings revitalised Protea hopes, and Bosch's resilient fifty kept the game alive until the final over with 19 runs needed. Nevertheless, Prasidh Krishna dismissed Bosch, securing India's narrow victory.

India celebrated additional success as veteran left-arm spinner Kuldeep Yadav advanced one spot to rank sixth among ODI bowlers. Meanwhile, the top spot in the T20I all-rounder rankings changed once more after the recent tri-series in Pakistan.

Pakistan secured the tri-series with a six-wicket win over Sri Lanka in the final, and opener Saim Ayub capitalised on the success by reclaiming his position at the top of the T20I all-rounders rankings.

Ayub initially claimed the top spot at the start of October but was recently overtaken by Zimbabwe veteran Sikandar Raza. However, his performance of 36 in the tri-series final, along with a crucial Sri Lankan wicket from four economical overs, helped the impressive 23-year-old regain one place and move back up to No.1.

Teammates Abrar Ahmed (climbing four spots to fourth) and Mohammad Nawaz (rising two spots to 11th) benefited from Pakistan's success in the tri-series as they improved their positions in the T20I bowling rankings.

Additionally, Nawaz advanced three places to fourth among all-rounders after being named Player of the Tournament.

Sri Lanka will be boosted by Kamil Mishara's performance in the tri-series, where he scored 169 runs over four innings and climbed from outside the top 100 to the 18th spot among T20I batters.

Moreover, three Bangladesh players also saw improvements after their recent 2-1 series victory against Ireland at home.

Parvez Hossain Emon rises 21 places to 38th, and Towhid Hridoy moves up five positions to share 42nd, as both make gains in the T20I batter rankings. Meanwhile, Mustafizur Rahman climbs two spots to eighth in the T20I bowler list.

South African players experienced significant improvements after their Test series sweep against India. Left-arm pacer Marco Jansen was the biggest winner, rising in both bowling and all-rounder rankings due to his strong performance in the 2-0 series victory.

Jansen achieved a new career-high rating by climbing five spots to fifth on the Test bowlers list. Meanwhile, teammate Simon Harmer surged 13 places to 11th after taking 17 wickets across two matches and earning Player of the Series honours.

Jansen advanced four spots to second in the Test all-rounders rankings. Meanwhile, teammates Kyle Verreynne (up three spots to 38th), Ryan Rickelton (up five places to 39th), and Tristan Stubbs (up 16 slots to 47th) all achieved notable increases in the Test batter rankings.

Most players went for numbers we had prepared for: UPW coach Nayar expresses satisfaction with WPL auction



NEW DELHI : UP Warriorz head coach Abhishek Nayar discussed the acquisition of key players, including Deepti Sharma and Sophie Ecclestone, at the recently concluded Women's Premier League (WPL) auction and expressed satisfaction at getting

Tryon, and Shikha Pandey, besides Deepti and Ecclestone, as they aim to clinch their maiden title.

Speaking on JioHotstar, Nayar shared his thoughts on their most satisfying bid of the auction, saying, "I think most players went for the numbers we had prepared for. But Sophie Ecclestone was a surprise for us. She's a marquee player and someone who has delivered for years. I had kept Rs 1.8 crore in mind, so getting her at Rs 85 lakh was a big surprise. I believe the timing worked in our favour."

Dubbed as one of the finest brains among all teams at the auction table, Nayar received praise from fans and experts alike after the Warriorz built a solid squad for the 2026 edition of the tournament.

Speaking on how effectively the team's auction plan was executed, Nayar stated, "I think, barring Amelia, whom we missed out on, we managed to sign almost everyone we bid for. Shree Charani was a last-minute choice;

she wasn't originally in our plan. We thought getting Sophie could be tough, and if (Sree) Charani came in alongside her, it would have been ideal since they bowl in different phases. Now that she didn't come, we'll reassess."

UPW, after releasing Deepti Sharma, bought back the all-rounder's services at a higher price, and Nayar stated that the think tank's approach was to wait and see how the auction unfolded, and Rs. 3.5 crore was the amount they had set for their first retention. With Deepti's name coming up first, UPW used their Right-to-Match option and got the World Cup-winner for Rs. 3.2 crore.

"You rarely get a player who has performed consistently for so many years. Our thought process was simply to see how the auction unfolded. In many ways, our first retention was at Rs 3.5 crore, so getting her was essentially a steal for us. Deepti was always a priority. It's a steal you don't often see in Indian cricket. We're always happy to have her back," Nayar noted.

Navneet Kaur, Jarmanpreet Singh to lead SG Pipers at Hockey India League

NEW DELHI : Hockey India League franchise SG Pipers have announced defender Jarmanpreet Singh and forward Navneet Kaur as captains of their men's and women's teams, respectively, for the upcoming season of the league.

Defender Jarmanpreet will lead the men's side, with Australian midfielder Ky Willott taking up the role of vice-captain.

On the women's team, star forward Navneet retains the captaincy, with Australia's Kaitlin Nobbs taking on the vice-captaincy ahead of her first season with the Pipers.

Last season, Jarmanpreet emerged as one of SG Pipers' standout performers. His impressive contribution to India's Asia Cup 2025 triumph further underscores his readiness to lead from the front.

"I want to thank our coaches and the management for giving me this opportunity. With a strong mix of junior and senior



players, we are confident in building a powerful team and are aiming to bring home the title," Jarmanpreet said.

Willott stepped up last season with his exceptional work rate, maturity on the ball, and ability to dictate play, attributes that now see him assume a formal leadership role. He comes into

the League on the back of playing an influential role in Hockey Club Melbourne's Hockey One title triumph on Sunday.

Excited to visit India and join the squad, men's team head coach Tim Odenaller said, "With his experience and dedication, Jarmanpreet will be able to guide the team to its highest potential.

Kohli closes in on Rohit to top ODI rankings after Ranchi heroics

DUBAI : India stalwart Virat Kohli is only 32 rating points away from overtaking his teammate Rohit Sharma to lead the ODI batting rankings after he scored his 83rd international century to rise in the ICC Rankings update released on Wednesday.

In the first ODI of India's three-match series against South Africa in Ranchi, Kohli, 37, scored an impressive 135 off 120 balls. His performance elevated him one place, now ranking fourth among ODI batters in the latest ICC Men's Player Rankings.

This brings Kohli's rating up to 751 points, placing him just 32 points behind teammate Rohit Sharma at the top of the ODI batter rankings. Kohli was the leading batter for over three years towards the end of the last decade but has not held the top spot since Pakistan's Babar Azam overtook him in April 2021.

Meanwhile, Rohit extended his lead at the top, surpassing second-placed Daryl Mitchell of New Zealand and Afghanistan's Ibrahim Zadran in third, while Kohli moved ahead of his teammate Shubman Gill to claim the fourth position, closing the gap on the former India captain at the top.

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Pakistan secured the tri-series with a six-wicket win over Sri Lanka in the final, and opener Saim Ayub capitalised on the success by reclaiming his position at the top of the T20I all-rounders rankings.

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Ky will be the vice-captain this season. Despite his age, he brings considerable experience from last season, making him well-equipped to support Jarmanpreet and guide the team to reach their full potential. In a few weeks, the team will see each other in India. They know what I expect and what to do to achieve the best result at the end of the competition." The women's team will see Navneet returning as captain, after a strong campaign where she led the attack, scored decisive goals, and showcased her influence in India's international outings. Supporting her will be Kaitlin , whose international pedigree, defensive awareness, and calm decision-making add tremendous balance to the squad. 2025 HIL winner Nobbs starred in Perth Thundersticks' triumph in the Hockey One Final on Sunday.

"Thank you, SG Pipers, once again for choosing me as the captain of the SG Pipers women's

team. I am confident that we will achieve strong results this season. Keeping in mind the shortcomings of last season, we planned for the auction alongside our head coach, Sofie and our Assistant Coach Helen Mary. I am sure that our preparation will reflect in our performances. Once again, thank you, SG Pipers, for placing your trust in me as captain," said Navneet.

Sofie Gierts, Head Coach of the Women's Team, said, "We have retained Navneet as captain because she consistently reflects the values, we want this team to stand for. Her integrity, calm intensity and exceptional hockey talent make her the ideal leader in a high-performance environment. We have also appointed Kaitlin as vice-captain; her guidance and experience, especially winning last year's HIL final, will be invaluable. She brings a leadership style that thrives under pressure while always supporting her teammates."