

**WEBSITE: WWW.LIVE7TV.COM**





Leader of the Opposition in West Bengal, Suvendu Adhikari, along with other leaders and activists, took part in a protest rally over recent incidents in Bengal in Kolkata on Sunday.

Political storm in Burdwan over alleged I-PAC vehicle

**MI News Service, Burdwan:** A late-evening roadside confrontation involving a vehicle allegedly linked to political consultancy firm I-PAC (Indian Political Action Committee) and bearing a board reading “Government of West Bengal” has triggered a political storm in Burdwan, with opposition parties questioning the misuse of government identity and official insignia.

The incident occurred on Saturday night, shortly after 7.30 pm, at the Baranilpur crossing on Old GT Road. According to allegations made by Congress leader Gaurav Samaddar, a white car attempted to hit his motorcycle while he was on the road. Samaddar, a member of the Pradesh Congress Committee and president of the district INTUC, said he blocked the vehicle and confronted its occupants. Videos of the confrontation, recorded live by Samaddar and later widely circulated on social media, show a tense exchange on the middle of the road as locals gathered around the vehicle. The video has since gone viral, fuelling widespread outrage and political controversy. Samaddar alleged that the vehicle was being driven by a very young boy, “possibly a minor,” and claimed that the occupants identified themselves as I-PAC workers. He questioned why a privately operated political consultancy vehicle was displaying a board marked “Government of West Bengal” and alleged that the car again attempted to hit him during the confrontation. “I repeatedly asked why a government board was being used on a private vehicle, but they refused to give any explanation,” Samaddar claimed. He



later called the police and lodged a formal complaint, demanding action for reckless driving, impersonation, and misuse of government identity. Police arrived at the spot and assured that the matter would be investigated. Officers reportedly recorded visual evidence and accepted the written complaint. A senior police official said the allegations would be verified and appropriate legal action taken if violations were found. The incident has drawn sharp political reactions. Trinamool Congress district general secretary Bagbul Islam said, “A complaint has been filed. The police will investigate the matter. Let the law take its course.” The BJP, however, launched a scathing attack. Party leader Mrityunjay Chandra questioned the legitimacy of the vehicle’s markings. “How can an I-PAC vehicle carry a ‘Government of West Bengal’ board? Are I-PAC workers now treating government property and authority as their own?” he asked. The controversy has once again raised uncomfortable questions about the blurred lines between the ruling party, private political strategists, and the use of official symbols. As the video continues to circulate widely, pressure is mounting on the administration to clarify whether government identity was misused and who authorised its display on a non-government vehicle.

CM’s 15-Year Performance Highlights Message of National Unity Under ‘Unnayoner Panchali’

**MI News Service, Kolkata, 11 Jan.26 :** West Bengal is a state where most of the people never have any kind of secret about their personal, religious, or religious beliefs. You can also guess from the fact that whether it is young or old, children or elders, rich or poor, if someone’s foot accidentally touches another person’s body, people immediately start kissing. This act shows what is the status of a person. This happens only by keeping in mind the devotion. Such an example must have happened to you while walking on the road, bus, or train, which will not be seen in any other state. Then we can guess from this that someone who loves a person so much that if one’s feet accidentally touch each other, then they start kissing, then how can that person humiliate you in the name of any other reason,



caste, religion, or religion? “This is our Bengal” which can also be called “Proud Bengal”. Even today, if you go to different parts of the state and see, you will find that people may have different religious affiliations, but when it comes to any festival, people of all religions celebrate it together. Today, the Chief Minister of the state has also maintained this tradition, that too with devotion and respect. The assembly elections are to be held in the state of West Bengal this year, a few months are left, and political activities

are also being seen before that. Meanwhile, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has instructed the Trinamool Congress leaders, MPs, MLAs, Chairman, Vice Chairman, Councilors, Panchayat Pradhans, Trinamool Congress workers and supporters of the entire state to go among the people and enumerate our fifteen years of development work and performance one by one. It has also been emphasized that wherever you go, first worship in a temple of that area and then go among the people. If there is a

dargah nearby, then go and visit there too. In this context, Bansheria Municipality Vice Chairperson Silpi Chatterjee was seen giving another outstanding performance today. Today, she performed the “Unnayon Panchali” ceremony in ward number 12. First, she worshiped in a nearby temple. After that, she went straight to the dargah of Zafar Khan Ghazi, the oldest and most historical durga here, with her Trinamool Congress supporters, most of whom were women Trinamool Congress workers and supporters. She put on a veil at the dargah and offered prayers. That too with great devotion and respect. After that, she went to the residential area and was seen counting the development work done during Mamata Banerjee’s fifteen-year government one by one.

Woman dragged off toto, brutally assaulted in Deganga

**MI News Service, North 24 Parganas:** A disturbing incident of alleged domestic violence spilled onto a public road in Deganga on Sunday, where a young woman was reportedly dragged off a toto, thrown to the ground and assaulted in full public view, even as her minor child cried beside her. The incident has triggered widespread outrage in the area and prompted a police investigation. The victim, identified as 27-year-old Sabina Khatun, was allegedly assaulted in the Kartikpur area under Deganga police station limits. According to her complaint, the attack was carried out by her in-laws, including her brother-in-law and sister-in-law’s husband, following a long period of alleged harassment. Sabina told police that her husband had left her two years ago and begun living separately with another woman. Since then, she claimed, neither her husband nor her in-laws provided any financial support for her or her five-year-old son.

Principal found dead in school, 8th BLO death shakes state

**MI News Service, Murshidabad:** In a chilling incident that has once again brought the spotlight on alleged administrative pressure linked to voter list revision work, the body of a school headmaster and Booth Level Officer (BLO) was recovered from inside a school building in Murshidabad’s Bhagwanga on Saturday. This marks the eighth reported death of a BLO in the state, intensifying political and administrative concern.

The deceased, Hamimul Islam, was the headmaster of Paikmari Char Krishnapur Boys School under the Ranitala police station area. He was also serving as the BLO for the East Alaipur booth under Kharibona Gram Panchayat. His hanging body was found inside a classroom of the school where he worked. According to family members, Hamimul left home on Saturday morning as usual but failed to



return even after school hours. Alarmed by his prolonged absence, relatives began searching for him and eventually went to the school premises. There, they discovered his body hanging inside a room. Police from Ranitala police station rushed to the spot upon receiving the information. The body was recovered and taken to Nasipur Block Primary Health Centre, where doc-

tors declared him dead. The body has been sent for post-mortem examination, and an investigation has been initiated to ascertain the exact cause of death. Family members have alleged that extreme work pressure drove Hamimul to suicide. His brother, Farmanul Islam, said that the deceased had been under severe mental stress for several days. “My brother was overwhelmed by the burden of his duties as a BLO along with his responsibilities as a headmaster. The pressure of Special Intensive Revision (SIR) work pushed him to take this extreme step,” he alleged. Police officials stated that all aspects of the case, including the family’s allegations, are being examined. “This is an unnatural death. We are investigating the circumstances thoroughly,” a senior officer said. The incident has added to a growing list of BLO deaths

across the state. According to available data, eight BLOs have died so far, five of them allegedly by suicide. In each case, families have cited excessive pressure related to SIR and election-related duties as the primary cause. The issue has also triggered political reactions. The ruling Trinamool Congress has repeatedly accused the election machinery of imposing unbearable workloads on grassroots-level officials. On Saturday, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, in her fifth letter to Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, expressed deep concern over the deaths and called for urgent intervention. As questions mount over the working conditions of Booth Level Officers, the death of Hamimul Islam has once again underscored the human cost of administrative pressure, turning a routine school building into the site of a profound tragedy.

Congress delegation visits Champahati blast site

**MI News Service, South 24 Parganas:** A day after a powerful explosion ripped through a factory in Champahati, killing one worker and leaving several others injured, a delegation of the Indian National Congress on Sunday visited the blast site and launched a sharp attack on alleged safety lapses and the pace of the police investigation.



flammable gunpowder was stored right next to the site without adequate safety measures. This tragedy was waiting to happen,” Chatterjee said, holding both the factory management and the administration responsible for the fatal lapse. The Congress leader also raised serious questions over the handling of the investigation by Baruipur police. He expressed surprise at what he termed the “unusually slow pace” of the probe, demanding transparency and swift accountability. “An incident of this magnitude cannot be brushed aside. The police must clarify who permitted such storage and under what conditions,” he said. Police officials, meanwhile, stated that an investigation is underway to determine the cause of the explosion and to ascertain whether safety norms were violated. Forensic teams have examined the site, and further action will be taken based on their findings.

CPM begins hill 'rights protection' outreach in Darjeeling district



**MI News Darjeeling :** The Darjeeling district CPM launched its “Adhikar Raksha Abhiyan (campaign to protect rights)” in the hills on Saturday. Saman Pathak, the secretary of the party’s Darjeeling district committee, said the campaign was a part of the CPM’s broader “Bangla Bachao Abhiyan (Save Bengal movement)” aimed at reconnecting with people ahead of the upcoming Assembly elections.

“This campaign is an extended initiative of our ‘Bangla Bachao Abhiyan’, which is already underway across the state. Through this new campaign, we are trying to reconnect with hill residents. Our main objective is to understand how people in the hills have been suffering due to unemployment and lack of development since 2009 under both the BJP and Trinamool,” Pathak said.

On Saturday, the campaign began in the Thurbo division and Mirik subdivision’s Nandalalgaon. Mirik subdivision was among the worst hit in last October’s landslides and heavy rain. The disaster claimed at least 12 lives in different parts of the subdivision.

Around 100 CPM workers participated in the drive in Thurbo and Nandalalgaon. They also visited Jamansingh, Bahadurgaon and Ninth Mile areas, and interacted with nearly 350 families. According to Pathak, residents expressed ire over unemployment, inadequate infrastructure and “neglect” of tea workers by both the state and central governments. “The outreach will continue across the hills,” the CPM leader said, urging people to support the party.

Newborn dies, family alleges brutal negligence at Serampore hospital

**MI News Service, Hooghly:** A horrifying account of alleged medical negligence and inhuman treatment has emerged from Serampore Walsh Government Hospital, where a newborn baby died shortly after birth, triggering tension and outrage among family members who accused the hospital of gross mismanagement and cruelty during delivery.

The incident involves Reena Devi, a resident of the Bangur Park Rail Gate No. 2–Rishra Rail Gate No. 11 area, who was admitted to Serampore Walsh Hospital on the night of January 9 after going into labour. According to the family, Reena had been under medical supervision earlier, and a specific date had already been fixed for her operation. As per schedule, she was admitted when labour pains began. She delivered a baby boy in the morning, and family members initially believed the delivery had gone well. However, they alleged that the hospital authorities did not inform them about the health condition of the new-

born or the mother for several hours. Late at night, the family was suddenly informed that the newborn had died. The body was handed over only the next afternoon. Even then, the family claimed, the hospital failed to clearly disclose the condition of the mother, who was allegedly kept isolated and not allowed to meet her relatives. What followed was chaos and tension inside the hospital premises, as grieving family members accused the authorities of delaying a necessary caesarean section, which they believe could have saved the child. A relative of the patient made chilling allegations, stating, “My patient was fine when we admitted her. Later, we were told she was bleeding, but no operation was being done. I was sitting outside the OT when I saw them pushing down hard on her chest. Is this how deliveries are conducted? They climbed on her chest. She was screaming in pain. They made her half-dead. Only after that did they say the baby was not coming out and that a caesarean

would be done.” The family alleged that despite repeated pleas, timely surgical intervention was denied, leading to the tragic death of the newborn and severe trauma to the mother. As tensions escalated, police from Serampore police station were deployed at the hospital to control the situation. However, the family claimed that they received no clear explanation or response from the hospital authorities regarding the sequence of events or the medical decisions taken. The incident has once again raised disturbing questions about the quality of maternal healthcare, accountability, and patient safety in government hospitals. Police sources confirmed that the matter is being looked into, while the hospital authorities have so far remained silent. As the mother continues to recover amid trauma and grief, the family has demanded a thorough inquiry into the alleged negligence, warning that justice must be delivered for a tragedy they say was entirely preventable.

Civic chief steps down on Abhishek nudge: Rabindranath Ghosh quits Cooch Behar post

**MI News Service, Cooch Behar :** Trinamool Congress veteran and former state minister Rabindranath Ghosh on Saturday resigned from the post of Cooch Behar municipality chairman almost two months after the district party leadership asked him to do so.

Ghosh, a prominent face of Cooch Behar politics for decades, submitted his resignation letter to the SDO. Confirming the development to , Ghosh said he stepped down following instructions from the party’s national general secretary and MP Abhishek Banerjee. Abhishek is scheduled to visit Cooch Behar on January 13.

“I am a loyal soldier of the party. I have always followed the party’s instructions to the letter. Now I need to focus more on organisational work. The Assembly elections are approaching, and strengthening the party’s organisation is our main objective,” Ghosh said.

Newborn’s body found on Ganga bank in Nadia’s Nabadwip



**Dipankar Edbar, Nabadwip (Nadia) :** The body of a newborn baby was recovered from the banks of the Ganga under the Gouranga Setu at the Forest Danga area in Nabadwip on Saturday afternoon, triggering tension among local residents.

According to police sources, some locals spotted the infant lying motionless near the

riverbank and alerted others, following which a crowd gathered at the spot. Nabadwip police reached the area soon after being informed and recovered the body, which has been sent for post-mortem examination.

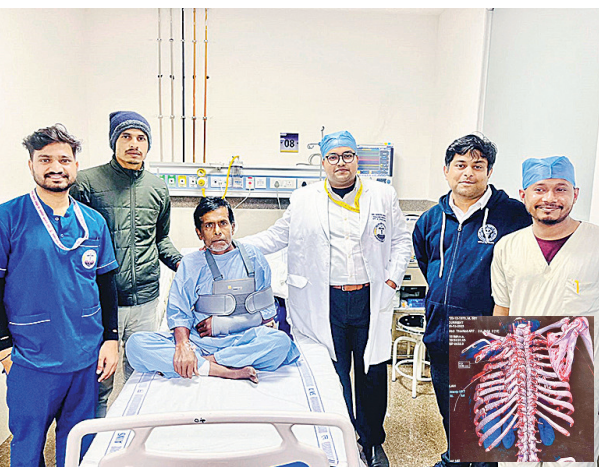
The area where the body was found is relatively secluded. However, a local farmer claimed that while working in his field, he noticed a four-wheeler entering the area. He alleged that a few people got down from the vehicle, hurriedly left the baby near the riverbank and fled. Residents expressed shock over the incident, especially as the Ganga banks witness heavy foot-fall during the winter season with picnickers frequenting the area. Locals questioned how such a brutal act could take place in broad daylight in a populated zone. Police have initiated an investigation to trace those responsible.

AIIMS Kalyani saves critically injured Rail accident victim with rare chest wall reconstruction

**Dipankar Edbar, Kalyani :** Doctors at AIIMS Kalyani have successfully saved the life of a 50-year-old man who was brought to the hospital in a near-fatal condition following an alleged railway track accident, using an advanced and rarely performed surgical reconstruction of the rib cage and lung.

Bhairav Ghosh was rushed to the emergency department on December 20 with massive injuries to the chest and spine. He was in shock and struggling to breathe, with a large accumulation of blood and air in the left side of his chest, multiple broken ribs forming a “flail chest”, a torn lung, a shattered shoulder blade and a fracture in the cervical spine.

The trauma team immediately secured his airway, inserted a chest tube



to drain the blood and air, and began blood transfusions and fluid resuscitation. These emergency measures stabilised him and bought critical time for further treatment.

On December 25, a multidisciplinary surgical team performed a major open-chest operation to re-

pair the lung and rebuild the severely damaged rib cage. Surgeons approached the fractured ribs from the back of the chest, close to the spine-a technically demanding method that allows precise reconstruction. Multiple pre-shaped metal plates and locking screws were

used to stabilise the ribs. In a rare and innovative step, where ribs were too shattered to hold screws, doctors anchored a specially designed plate to the transverse process of the T5 vertebra to restore chest wall stability. This eliminated the flail segment, allowed the lung to re-expand and enabled normal breathing.

The surgery was led by Dr Pranay Kabiraj and Dr Debmoj Ghatak, assisted by Dr Manoj Kumar and Dr Pulkrit, with anaesthesia provided by Dr Aziz and Dr Anuja.

Following surgery, Mr Ghosh was managed in the intensive care unit, where he was gradually weaned off the ventilator, treated for a chest infection and given specialised care for post-trauma delirium. ICU care was provided by a team that included Dr

Anjum Naz and Dr Abhijit Kumar, while physiotherapists and nurses began early breathing exercises and mobilisation.

AIIMS Kalyani bore the full cost of the implants and hospital care, ensuring that treatment decisions were based purely on medical need.

After nearly three weeks of coordinated trauma, surgical and intensive care, Mr Ghosh was discharged on January 11, walking independently and breathing on his own.

Hospital authorities said the case reflects the growing capability of AIIMS Kalyani to deliver complex, life-saving trauma care locally, under the overall supervision of Director Prof Dr Arvind Sinha and Medical Superintendent Prof Mahuya Chattopadhyay.



PM Modi and German Chancellor Merz set for talks amid rising geopolitical tension

**From PG 1**  
been on an upswing. With the easing of export control and expeditious clearing of cases, defence exports from Germany to India have increased. Both sides have a joint working group on counter terrorism. Germany will be deploying a German Navy liaison officer in India's Integrated Fusion Centre – Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR). There has been speculation that India and Germany may finalise an inter-governmental agreement during Merz's visit for supplying six stealth submarines to the Indian Navy. German defence major ThyssenKrupp Marine Systems (TKMS) and Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd (MDL) are holding price negotiations with the defence ministry for an Euro 5 billion deal to supply six stealth submarines to the Indian Navy. The deal is being billed as one of the biggest 'Make in India' projects in recent years.

The India-German relations are also expanding in a number of other areas, including education, energy, skill development, culture, people-to-people exchanges and technology. In 2024, the two sides launched the Indo-German green hydrogen roadmap that was aimed at supporting India's ambition for production, usage and export of green hydrogen. The experts said enhancing cooperation in critical technologies may also figure prominently in the talks between Modi and Merz. India and Germany firmed up a strategic agenda to enhance Indo-German partnership in the 21st century in 2000. The strategic partnership completed 25 years last year. Since 2011, the top leadership of the two sides has been undertaking a comprehensive review of cooperation through the Inter-Governmental consultation (IGC framework). The seventh IGC was held in New Delhi in 2024.

**PM Modi to visit Andamans to participate in Netaji's 129th birth anniversary celebrations**

**From PG 1**  
projects in the area, he said. "The preparation for the PM's visit the islands have already taken up, though it is in the preliminary stage," a senior police officer said. There will be a series of cultural events at the stadium, the officials said, adding that the local administration is planning to invite renowned singers to perform at the stadium on the occasion of 'Parakram Diwas'. The Prime Minister had named two islands - 'Shaheed' (Neil Island) and 'Swaraj' (Havelock Island) - to honour Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's unparalleled services to the nation. Modi had also named the 21 unnamed islands of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands after 21 Param Vir Chakra awardees. The proposed memorial on Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose at Dweep (Ross Island) will have a museum-cum-interpretation corner, a ropeway, a laser and sound show, a guided heritage trail through the island's historical buildings, a theme-based children's amusement park and a food and resto-lounge for tourists.

**Doval's call for revenge 'deeply unfortunate', says Mehbooba**

**From PG 1**  
ideology of hate and normalise violence against Muslims." Calling for REVENGE in the 21st century over centuries-old events is merely a dog whistle, inciting poor and uneducated youth to target a minority community already facing an onslaught from all sides," she said.



(L) The Apeejay Kolkata Literary Festival 2026 hosted a compelling session titled "M.S. Swaminathan: The Man Who Fed India", featuring Priyambada Jayakumar in conversation with author, poet, and editor Shobha Tharoor Srinivasan at the Alipore Museum in Kolkata. (R) Veteran CPI(M) leader Subhashini Ali along with Senior CPM leader and former MP Brinda Karat during a recent panel discussion at the Apeejay Kolkata Literary Festival 2026, in Kolkata.



Mamata Condoles the Sudden Demise of Prashant Tamang

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee expressed deep grief over the sudden passing of Darjeeling-born singer Prashant Tamang, popularly known for winning Indian Idol. Tamang passed away on Sunday at Dwarka Hospital in Delhi at the age of 43. Sharing her sorrow on social media, Mamata wrote, "Saddened by the sudden and untimely demise today of Prashant Tamang, the popular singer of Indian Idol fame and an artist of national renown. His roots in our Darjeeling hills and one-time association with Kolkata Police made him particularly dear to us in Bengal. I convey my condolences to his family, friends, and countless followers." Mamata highlighted Tamang's special connection with Bengal, noting that his origins in the Darjeeling hills and his association with Kolkata Police made him especially close to the state. The Chief Minister's heartfelt message reflected the singer's significance beyond music, as a proud son of Bengal's hill region.

Born in January 1983, Tamang



showed a passion for music from a young age. While working with the police, he auditioned for Indian Idol in Mumbai and won the competition in 2007. Over the years, he established himself in the Nepali music industry and appeared in the web series Paatal-Lok 2. Tamang fell ill after a musical performance in Delhi on Saturday and was admitted to Dwarka Hospital, where he passed away on Sunday morning. His untimely death has left fans, colleagues, and the entertainment community mourning.

Mamata's condolence message reinforced Tamang's special place in the hearts of Bengalis, emphasizing his dual identity as a talented musician and a son of the Darjeeling hills with ties to Kolkata Police.

Police Seize I-PAC Chief's Register, Question Staff After ED Raid

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** Police have seized the entry register book of the residential complex housing I-PAC chief Pratik Jain as part of their ongoing probe into the controversial Enforcement Directorate (ED) raid at his Loudon Street residence. At the same time, notices have been issued to several residents and staff members of the complex for questioning, including the facility manager, sources said.

Investigators are examining whether ED officials had signed the gate register maintained by security personnel at the time of entering the premises to conduct the search. As part of this verification process, statements of three security guards deployed at the complex have already been recorded. The facility manager has been served a notice seeking details of all remaining security guards, including their names and duty rosters for the relevant period. Police officials said they also intend to record statements of multiple residents of the housing complex to reconstruct the sequence of events on the day of the raid. Notices have been issued asking them to appear before investigators and cooperate with the inquiry. In addition, statements of staff working inside Pratik Jain's residence, including domestic help and personnel responsible for security arrangements, have reportedly been recorded by the police. These statements are expected to help establish a clearer timeline of when ED officials arrived, how they entered the premises, and whether standard procedures were followed.

According to sources, ED officials began their search operation at Pratik Jain's flat on Loudon Street at around 6:15 am on Thursday.

However, Kolkata Police were formally informed about the search nearly five hours later, reportedly through an email sent by the central agency. The delay in intimation has emerged as a key issue in the subsequent confrontation between state police and ED officials. Soon after learning about the search, senior Kolkata Police officers rushed to the spot in multiple phases. The Deputy Commissioner (South) also visited the residence and attempted to speak with ED officials. Allegations have since surfaced that ED officers and Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel engaged in pushing and shoving with state police officers at the gate. Sources further claimed that CRPF personnel raised batons and aggressively confronted senior Kolkata Police officials during the altercation, escalating tensions at the site.

Free Health Check-up Camp Held at Vidhanpally on Swami Vivekananda's Birth Anniversary



**MI News Service, Kolkata:** On the occasion of Swami Vivekananda's birth anniversary, a free health check-up camp was organized on Saturday, January 11, at Vidhanpally near Belur Station under the initiative of the Dr. Nikhil Prasoon Foundation. From early morning, a large number of local residents were seen gathering at the

camp. Along with general health check-ups, eye examinations were also conducted, and necessary medicines were distributed free of cost. People of all age groups, from children to the elderly, benefited from the camp. Many economically disadvantaged residents, in particular, expressed satisfaction after availing themselves of these services.

The All India Seishinkai Shitoryu Karate Do Federation organised Black Belt Award Ceremony



**MI News Service, Kolkata:** The All India Seishinkai Shitoryu Karate Do Federation organised a prestigious Black Belt Award Ceremony in Kolkata, breaking age stereotypes by honouring senior citizens, including women above 60 years of age, for their achievements in karate. The event showcased karate as a lifelong discipline that transcends age and gender. More than 500 karate practitioners participated, including over 200 women and several senior karatekas, reflecting the growing acceptance of martial arts as a path to physical fitness, mental well-being, and self-confidence. The ceremony strongly emphasised inclusivity, intergenerational learning, and women's empowerment through self-defence training.

Kunal Ghosh Alleges ED Raid on I-PAC Was Directed by Union Home Ministry

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** The Enforcement Directorate's (ED) recent raid on political consultancy firm I-PAC has sparked a fresh political storm in West Bengal, with the Trinamool Congress alleging direct involvement of the Union Home Ministry in the operation. Senior TMC leader and state general secretary Kunal Ghosh on Sunday claimed that the ED, which functions under the Union Ministry of Finance, was effectively acting on instructions from the Union Ministry of Home Affairs during the raid. Backing his allegation, Ghosh shared a screenshot on social media purportedly showing a conversation between two individuals. According to the screenshot, one person claims to have learned from Saket Kumar, an aide to Union Home Minister Amit Shah, that a team of 13 ED officials along with a deputy director had travelled from Delhi to Kolkata. The message further mentions that a cyber expert named Gulshan Rai and another official from Maharashtra were also part of the group, and that they were summoned to the CGO Complex for an urgent meeting by the Home Ministry. Ghosh alleged that the same ED team subsequently con-



ducted the raid at the I-PAC office and residence of its founder Pratik Jain, suggesting that the operation was carried out on the instructions of the Home Minister's office. "If this conversation is true, it raises serious questions. Were the ED's movements being controlled by the Union Home Ministry? This matter requires a thorough investigation," Ghosh wrote in his post. The TMC has consistently claimed that the ED raid was part of a larger political conspiracy orchestrated by Amit Shah. Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee had earlier accused central agencies of attempting to seize Trinamool Congress hard disks and strategic documents under the guise of a search operation. Ghosh's post, party leaders say, lends weight to those allegations.

Alipore Zoo hippo lost mobility, undergoing infrared physiotherapy

**From PG 1**  
help restore strength in the animal's legs," the official said. The hippo is currently undergoing physiotherapy using infrared rays, he elaborated. The radiation helps activate nervous tissues and is commonly used to treat muscle pain, joint pain, and nerve-related conditions in both humans and animals. According to zoo sources, infrared therapy has previously shown positive results at Alipore Zoo. Earlier, a sambar deer that had suddenly lost the ability to walk due to a

nerve disorder recovered after undergoing infrared ray therapy for about a month. Similar treatment was also successfully administered to several deer at the zoo's deer enclosure, he said. A member of Alipore Zoo's medical board said efforts are underway to revive the hippo's nerves through infrared therapy. "At this stage, it is difficult to say how long the treatment will take. However, if the nerves respond, we are hopeful that the animal will regain the ability to walk," the veterinarian added.

AKLF 2026 Pays Tribute to the Legendary M.S. Swaminathan, The Man Who Fed India

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** The Apeejay Kolkata Literary Festival 2026 hosted a compelling session at the Alipore Museum titled 'M.S. Swaminathan: The Man Who Fed India', which is also the title of the recently published biography written by his niece, Priyambada Jayakumar, who was in conversation with author, poet, and editor Shobha Tharoor Srinivasan to reflect on the life and legacy of the pioneering scientist widely known as the Father of India's Green Revolution. The discussion traced how M.S. Swaminathan's work with high-yielding crop varieties and farmer-focused scientific interventions transformed India's food security landscape, altering the nation's trajectory in the decades following Independence. Drawing from her biography, Priyambada Jayakumar spoke about the personal convictions, institutional battles, and the deeply human stories that shaped his journey. During the session, Priyambada Jayakumar powerfully observed, "While Gandhi gave us freedom from colonialism, M.S. Swaminathan gave us freedom from hunger." The audience also got to learn that the 'Evergreen Revolution', a partnership that erstwhile US President Barack Obama had announced with India in 2010 to improve global food security and sustainability, explicitly drew from M.S. Swaminathan's later ideas. This initiative aimed to build on the successes of the original Green Revolution while tackling its environmental issues. She highlighted a defining episode from the biography: for seven weeks, Swaminathan knocked on farmers' doors in Pantnagar, Uttarakhand, carrying hybrid seeds in his pocket, trying

ing to convince sceptical farmers to try something new. Finally, one farmer agreed, not because of promises, but because Swaminathan came on Sundays with his family, unpaid, demonstrating genuine commitment. "That one leap of faith actually changed India's fortunes," she noted, explaining how this single farmer's trust sparked the widespread adoption that led to India's granaries overflowing with grain by the late 1960s. Shobha Tharoor Srinivasan brought a writer's lens to the session as a moderator through questions of legacy and the craft of biographical writing, discussing with Priyambada how to balance objectivity with affection, and myth with humanity. She also underscored the relevance of revisiting agricultural history today, especially as concerns around sustainability, climate stress, and food systems return to the forefront. The concluding audience interaction reflected on the global resonance of Swaminathan's work, his friendship with Verghese Kurien, and the enduring lessons his life offers the next generation, that sparked imagination and curiosity. This was followed by 'Fun with History', an interactive session with Norm Coady for middle school students from Classes 6 to 8, demonstrating how history can be made accessible, entertaining, and relevant to young minds. The AKLF Poetry Café, presented in association with Alliance Française du Bengale at Alipore Museum, featured 'An Evening of German Poetry, Milestones and Highlights', co-presented with Max Mueller Bhavan/Goethe Institut, offering audiences a journey through German poetic traditions.

Govt should refrain from hiking income tax surcharge on super-rich in Budget: say Experts

**From PG 1**  
important as the rates when the objective is to retain capital and talent," Marwah added. She said the wealth tax was abolished in 2015 because collections did not justify the administrative effort involved, and from an administrative perspective, the surcharge has generally been viewed as more efficient and less litigious than the wealth tax. "With the government now having access to robust data trails through GST, CRS agreements and other systems, policymakers may continue to see surcharge adjustments as a relatively simpler option compared to asset-based valuation regimes," Marwah said. Shardul Amarchand Mangaldas & Co Partner Gouri Puri said increases in tax rates could encourage capital flight and discourage entrepreneurship and job creation. Moreover, reintroducing a wealth tax would revive concerns about administrative complexity and compliance costs. "Capital flight is a genuine risk since mobile fami-

lies can re-domicile to other jurisdictions with lower rates. There is always global competition to keep tax regimes investor-friendly, and harsher taxes in India may discourage investment and push capital away," Puri added. Deloitte India Partner Alok Agrawal said in Budget 2023, the government cut the highest surcharge rate for individuals with income above Rs 5 crore from 37 per cent to 25 per cent. This reduction brought down the maximum marginal tax rate for such taxpayers from about 42.7 per cent to 39 per cent. This change applied from 1 April 2023, for FY 2023-24 (AY 2024-25) onwards and was applicable only under the new tax regime. "So, it seems unlikely that the government would hike this once again within a short span of 3 years," he said. Agrawal said as far as wealth tax is concerned, there has been a lot of speculation since the last couple of years before the Budget announcement.

PM Modi leads Shaurya Yatra offers prayers at Somnath temple

**From PG 1**  
banners across the city bore the festival's name and slogans such as 'Akhand Somnath and Akhand Bharat'. The entire circle, facing the temple complex, was illuminated with lights and floral decorations, presenting a striking sight. "It's a celebration of the spirit of Somnath and you can see the joy among the people on this occasion," Kotecha stated further. Even as sections of the crowd departed after 'darshan', cultural programmes and the drone show, more visitors poured in, including a large number of women who braved the early January chill with enthusiasm. Harsh Shah, who visited the temple complex close to midnight with family members, said, "Somnath baba is pulling people and we also came to see the decorations and lights."

A nearly 15-minute drone show featuring several thematic formations, including huge images of Lord Shiva and a 'shivling', and a 3D depiction of the Somnath temple, followed by a dazzling display of fireworks, was an instant show stealer. One of the drone formations also depicted the destruction faced by the historic temple over the centuries, as well as its rise and resilience.

After Independence, efforts to restore the temple were undertaken by Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. A key milestone was achieved in 1951 when the restored Somnath temple was formally opened to devotees in presence of the then President Rajendra Prasad. The Somnath temple is one of the 12 'jyotirlingas' — holy sites associated with Lord Shiva — in the country.



# Government to pay Rs25,000 to road rescues

**MI News Service, New Delhi:** In a landmark initiative to address India's growing road accident crisis, the Union Government is set to launch PM-Rahat, a scheme providing cashless treatment for accident victims and incentives for rescuers. The program, approved by the Union Finance Ministry, is expected to be formally announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, possibly on March 1, ahead of the elections.

India records one death every three minutes on its roads, making it the country with the highest number of road accident fatalities in the world. Recent trends show that two-wheelers account for more deaths than four-wheelers, with young riders aged 18-24 being the most affected. Under PM-Rahat, victims admitted to hospitals after an accident will receive



seven days of completely cashless treatment, ensuring families do not bear any medical expenses during critical initial care. The scheme also aims to tackle the widespread

reluctance of bystanders to assist accident victims due to fear of police entanglements or disputes over hospital bills. To encourage prompt intervention, PM-Rahat will reward

rescuers with ₹25,000 and a medal, provided the injured person is admitted immediately to the hospital and survives. Officials emphasized that the award is contingent upon the life of the patient being saved. "The objective is simple: To save lives without delay and recognize those who step forward in moments of crisis," said a senior government official. Road safety experts have welcomed the move, noting that timely intervention often makes the difference between life and death in accident cases. With India witnessing a surge in road accident deaths, PM-Rahat is expected to incentivize public participation in emergency response, streamline hospital admission, and provide much-needed relief to victims and their families, while also cultivating a culture of civic responsibility.

# Winter Wonderland Hits Jangalmahal

**MI News Service, Purulia:** In an extraordinary turn of weather, parts of western Purulia witnessed what locals are calling "snow" over the weekend, leaving residents both astonished and awed. For the first time in years, the fields and haystacks of Jhalda and surrounding areas were blanketed with a white layer of frost-like snow, a phenomenon rarely observed in this part of West Bengal.



frost, forming a delicate, crystalline layer over the straw. "This is unlike anything we have seen before," said locals gathered to witness the spectacle. "It feels as if we are experiencing snowfall in Jhalda, not Kashmir or Darjeeling." While the unusual white blanket offered a picturesque sight for many, it also exacerbated the hardships faced by the elderly and children, who struggle to cope with the biting cold. Residents report difficulty in venturing outdoors in the early hours, as the severity

of the frost rivals winters in regions far north. Meteorologists confirm that this is not actual snowfall but a case of ground frost, occurring when water vapor freezes into fine ice particles due to a sudden drop in temperature. A similar event was reported in 2019 in Begunkodar, which briefly captured social media attention. As Purulia grapples with this record winter chill, the rare phenomenon has sparked both wonder and concern, highlighting the region's vulnerability to sudden cold snaps.

# Kalna hospital steps up with advanced CCU

**MI News Service, Purba Burdwan:** Kalna Subdistrict Hospital is set to significantly strengthen healthcare services for residents of Kalna and surrounding areas with the upcoming launch of a 24-bed Critical Care Unit (CCU), a major step toward providing advanced medical treatment closer to home. The new facility is expected to greatly improve the hospital's ability to manage critically ill patients who previously had to be referred to distant urban hospitals.

The announcement was made during a review meeting chaired by Swapan Debnath, Minister of State for Livestock and Chairman of the Patient Welfare Association. The meeting was attended by hospital superintendents, senior doctors, nursing staff, and officials from the Public Works Department, who assessed the progress of ongoing infrastructure projects. According to Debnath, nearly 90 percent of

the construction work for the CCU has already been completed, and efforts are underway to ensure its early operational launch.

"This Critical Care Unit will dramatically enhance the hospital's treatment capacity," Debnath said. "Our goal is to modernize healthcare infrastructure and ensure that people in Kalna and nearby regions receive timely, quality, and advanced medical care without unnecessary delays." He emphasized that strengthening district-level hospitals is key to reducing pressure on major city hospitals. In addition to the CCU, another important development is underway at the hospital. Work has begun to connect the old isolation ward with the medicine department, a move that will increase bed capacity and allow for better patient management. Hospital officials noted that this integration will help streamline services and improve overall efficiency in patient care.

# Regulation Of Trains Due To Developmental Works In Adra Division

**MI News Service, Kolkata, 11 Jan.26 :** The following trains will be regulated due to developmental works in Adra division:

Cancellation of Trains

1) 6 8 0 4 6 / 6 8 0 4 5 Asansol-Adra-Asansol MEMU will remain cancelled on 13.01.2026, 14.01.2026 & 16.01.2026

2) 6 8 0 5 3 / 6 8 0 5 4 Adra-Barabhum-Adra MEMU will remain cancelled on 15.01.2026 & 18.01.2026

3) 6 8 0 7 7 / 6 8 0 7 8 Adra-Bhaga-Adra MEMU will remain cancelled on 18.01.2026

4) 6 8 0 6 1 / 6 8 0 6 2 Adra-Asansol-Adra MEMU will remain cancelled on 12.01.2026 & 15.01.2026

5) 68056 Tatanagar-Asansol MEMU will remain

cancelled on 13.01.2026

Short Termination/ Short Origination of Trains

1)18019/18020 Jhargram-Dhanbad- Jhargram Express, journey commencing on 12.01.2026, 14.01.2026 to 16.01.2026 & 18.01.2026 to be short-terminated at/short-originated from Bokaro Steel City.

(2) 13503/13504 Bardhaman-Hatia-Bardhaman MEMU Express, journey commencing on 12.01.2026, 14.01.2026 to 18.01.2026 to be short-terminated at / short-originated from NSCB Gomoh.

(3) 68060 Asansol – Barabhum MEMU of journey commencing on 13.01.2026 to be short-terminated at /short-originated from Adra.

(4) 63594/63593 Asansol -Purulia- Asansol MEMU journey commencing on 12.01.2026, 13.01.2026, 15.01.2026 & 18.01.2026 to be short-terminated at/short-originated from Adra.

(5) 68055Asansol – TatanagarMEMU journey commencing on 13.01.2026 to be short-terminatedat Adra

(6) 68055/68056 Asansol - Tatanagar - Asansol MEMUjourney commencing on 17.01.2026 to be short-terminated at/short-originated from Adra

Diversion of Train

1) 18601 Tatanagar –Hatia Express, journey commencing on 14.01.26 & 17.01.2026 will run on diverted route via Chandil-GundaBihar - Muri.

# Three Bengal BLOs Take Own Lives Amid SIR Pressure

**MI News Service, Bankura:** The ongoing Special Identification and Review (SIR) exercise has sent shockwaves across West Bengal as three primary school principals, serving as Booth Level Officers (BLOs), reportedly took their own lives under immense work pressure. The tragic incidents highlight mounting concerns over the mental and emotional toll on teachers entrusted with election-related responsibilities.



In Murshidabad, Hamimul Islam, headmaster of Char Krishnapur Boys Primary School in Ranitola, was found dead in a school room on Saturday night. Residents say Hamimul, who was working as the BLO of a booth in Purba Alaipur village, did not return home after school. Family members allege that he was under severe stress due to his SIR duties. The police recovered his body and sent it for autopsy. Simultaneously, in Bankura, Haradhan Mandal, also a primary school principal and the BLO of booth 206 in Ranibandh, was found hanging in a classroom after failing to return home. A suicide note recovered at the scene read, "I can't take the pressure anymore. I am responsible for the work of the BLO. Forgive

me." Family members indicated that Mandal had been struggling with depression, exacerbated by the heavy workload of SIR responsibilities. Earlier, in Krishnanagar, Nadia district, Rinku Tarafdar, 54, a part-time teacher and BLO of booth 201 in Chapra Bangalji, also ended her life. In her suicide note, she cited the Election Commission and the inhuman demands of the SIR work as reasons for her tragic decision. Tarafdar, a resident of Shashitola, Krishnanagar, had been balancing teaching duties with the added burden of election administration in a Muslim-majority area. These successive tragedies have raised alarm among educators and political observers alike, sparking debates over the mental health risks associated with SIR and other election-related administrative pressures. The incidents underline the urgent need for systemic reforms and psychological support for frontline educators who are now being thrust into high-pressure civic roles. Police investigations are ongoing in all three districts, and families of the deceased have demanded accountability, stressing that the victims were overburdened and unsupported in their roles.

**Name Change**  
I, Uttam Mondal (Old Name) S/o Late Haribar Mondal Residing at Bagpota Road Sonali Park, Saruna, District - Kolkata, Pin - 700061, West Bengal, India, have Changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Uttam Kumar Mondal (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public Kolkata vide affidavit Dated 09-01-2026. Uttam Mondal (Old Name) and Uttam Kumar Mondal (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

**Name Change**  
I, Sk Hidayatullah (Old Name) S/o Late Sekh Akbar Ali Residing at Suratsingpur, P.o - Kankrakuli, Ps - Dhaniakhali, District - Hooghly, Pin - 712302, West Bengal, India, have Changed my name and shall henceforth be Known as Sekh Hidayatulla (New Name) as declared before the Notary public Kolkata vide affidavit Dated 09-01-2026. Sk Hidayatullah (Old Name) and Sekh Hidayatulla (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

**Name Change**  
I, Pashupatinath V, (Old Name) S/o Swaminathan Viswanathan Residing at Cascades, Tower -3, Flat-802, Unirworld City, Opposite Karigori Bhawan, Newtown, Action Area -3, Vtc+Po - New Town Action Area-III, District - North 24 Parganas, Pin -700160, West Bengal, India, have Changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Pashupatinath Viswanathan (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public Kolkata vide affidavit no 14/2026 Dated 09-01-2026. Pashupatinath V, (Old Name) and Pashupatinath Viswanathan (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

**Name Change**  
I, Alam Ara Rahaman (old name) W/o Salim Rahman residing at 55 Bright Street 1ST Floor, PO-Circus Avenue, PS-Karaya, Kolkata-700017, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Alam Ara Rahman (new name), as declared Before The Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 09/01/2026. Alam Ara Rahman (new name) and Alam Ara Rahaman (old name) both are same and one identical person.

**Name Change**  
I, Shabnam Khatoon (old name) wife of Jamil Ahmad, residing at 13/H/16, Braum Field Row, P.O.- Alipore, PS.- Ekbalpore, Kolkata-700027, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Shabana Khatoon (new name), as declared Before The Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 09/01/2026. Shabana Khatoon (new name) and Shabnam Khatoon (old name) both are same and one identical person.

**Name Change**  
I, Mosaraf Molla, Son Of Abdul Aziz Molla Residing At Paschim Para, Po- Dakshin Gobindapur, Dhemedan Malla, Ps - Baruipur South 24 Pgs-700145, Do Hereby Notified That My Father Aziz Molla (Old Name) Shall Henceforth Be Known As Abdul Aziz Molla (New Name) Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 09/01/2025. Aziz Molla And Abdul Aziz Molla Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.

**Name Change**  
I, Abhijit Kumar Shaw (Old Name) S/o Ajay Kumar Shaw Residing at Mayurakshi Apartment, 288, Gopal Lal Thakur Road, Po+Ps - Baranagar, District - Kolkata, Pin - 700036, West Bengal, India, have Changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Abhijit Shaw (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public Kolkata vide affidavit Dated 08-12-2025. Abhijit Kumar Shaw (Old Name) and Abhijit Shaw (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

**Name Change**  
I, Hafizul Islam (Old Name) S/o Abubakar Mondal Residing at Vill - Jashakati, P.o- Jashakati, Ps - Baduria, District- North 24 Parganas, Pin- 743401, West Bengal, India, have Changed my name and shall henceforth be Known as Hafizul Islam (New Name) as declared before the Notary public Kolkata vide affidavit Dated 09-01-2026. Hafizul Islam (Old Name) and Hafizul Islam (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

**Name Change**  
I, ROOP DEYBISWAS, BISWAS ROOP DEY (Old Name) S/o Chhabi Dey Biswas Residing at 172/B, Picnic Garden Road, Vtc+Po- Tiljala, District- South 24 Parganas, Pin- 700039, West Bengal, India, have Changed my name and shall henceforth be known as ROOP DEY BISWAS (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public Kolkata vide affidavit no 13/2026 Dated 09-01-2026. ROOP DEYBISWAS, BISWAS ROOP DEY (Old Name) and ROOP DEY BISWAS (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

**Name Change**  
I, Farha Rahaman (old name) D/o Sk Sarwar Ali, W/o Fardeen Rahman residing at 55 Bright Street 1ST Floor, PO-Circus Avenue, PS-Karaya, Kolkata-700017, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Farha Rahman (new name), as declared Before The Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 09/01/2026. Farha Rahman (new name) and Farha Rahaman (old name) both are same and one identical person.

**Name Change**  
I, Tapan Kumar Naskar (Old Name), Son Of Ratan Chandra Naskar Residing At, DL-A-3-Fr, FL-N/E, 172 Picnic Garden Road, Tiljala, Vtc & Po-Tiljala, South 24 Parganas-700039, West Bengal, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Tapan Naskar(New Name) Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 07/01/2026. Tapan Kumar Naskar And Tapan Naskar Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.

**Name Change**  
I, M K Kwan (Old Name) As Per DL No Wb01 1970015910), Son Of Slui Khew Kwan, Residing At 1040, Laskarhat Uatterpara 3rd Lane, Tiljala, Kolkata-700039, West Bengal, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Wen Chien Khan (New Name) Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The DL 1st Class Judicial Magistrate At Alipore On 08/01/2026. M K Kwan And Wen Chien Khan Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.

**Name Change**  
I, Rajkumar Ghosh, Slo Lt. Rabindranath Ghosh, RID at Vill. Uttar Belemath, P.O.- Belemath, P.S.- Santipur, Dist-Nadia, W.B. Pin- 741402. Vide affidavit Sworn before the Court of Ld. Judicial Magistrate 1st Class at Ranaghat on 07/01/26. That I, Rajkumar Ghosh, Raj Kr. Ghosh and Raju Ghosh am The Same and One Identical Person.

**Name Change**  
I, Birendra Kothari (Old Name) S/o Somarender Path Kothari Residing at 27, Badri Das Tempal Street, Po - Shyam Bazar, Ps - Maniktila, District - Kolkata, Pin - 700004, West Bengal, India, have Changed my name and shall henceforth be Known as Biren Kothari (New Name) as declared before the Notary public Kolkata vide affidavit Dated 09-01-2026. Birendra Kothari (Old Name) and Biren Kothari (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

**Name Change**  
I, Sujata Saha (Old Name) W/o Jayanta Saha Residing at 2/A, Gosainpara Lane, Po - Hatkhola, Ps - Shyampukur District - Kolkata, Pin - 700005, West Bengal, India, have Changed my name and shall henceforth be Known as Tanushree Saha (New Name) as declared before the Notary public Kolkata vide affidavit no 6 Dated 08-01-2026. Sujata Saha (Old Name) and Tanushree Saha (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

**Name Change**  
I, Fardeen Rahman (old name) son of Salim Rahman, residing at 55 Bright Street 1ST Floor, PO-Circus Avenue, PS-Karaya, Kolkata-700017, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Fardeen Rahman (new name), as declared Before The Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 09/01/2026. Fardeen Rahman (new name) and Fardeen Rahaman (old name) both are same and one identical person.

**Name Change**  
I, Arun Kumar Sharma (Old Name), Son Of Bishnudeb Sharma, Residing At 129 Surendra Nath Banerjee Road, Kolkata- 700013, West Bengal, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Arun Sharma (New Name) Vide An Affidavit No \* Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On \*\*01/2026. Kartik Patra And Kartik Ch Patra Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.

**Name Change**  
I, Shakil Mohammed & Mohammad Shakil (old names), S/O Abdul Qayum, residing at 27/B, DEBENDRA CHANDRA DEY ROAD, TANGRA, KOLKATA-700015, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Md Shakil (new name), as declared Before The The Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 09/01/2026. Md Shakil (new name) and Shakil Mohammed & Mohammad Shakil (old names) all are same and one identical person.

**Name Change**  
I, Rajkumar Ghosh, Slo Lt. Rabindranath Ghosh, RID at Vill. Uttar Belemath, P.O.- Belemath, P.S.- Santipur, Dist - Nadia, W.B. That -my actual date of birth is 02/04/1976. But In Some document where my date of birth has been recorded as, 31/12/1987. Vide. A ffidavit Sworn before the court Of Ld. Judicial Magistrate 1st Class at Ranaghat on 07/01/26. That Every where my actual date of birth is 02/04/1976.

**Name Change**  
I, Anup Bhuwalka (Old Name) S/o Narayan Das Bhuwalka Residing at 34, Jelia Para Lane, Po- Salkia, Ps - Golabari, District - Howrah, Pin- 711106, West Bengal, India, have Changed my name and shall henceforth be Known as Anup Kumar Bhuwalka (New Name) as declared before the Notary public Kolkata vide affidavit Dated 09-01-2026. Anup Bhuwalka (Old Name) and Anup Kumar Bhuwalka (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

**Name Change**  
I, Sekh Hidayetulla S/o Late Sekh Akbar Ali Residing at Suratsingpur, Po- Kankrakuli, Ps- Dhaniakhali, District- Hooghly, Pin- 712302, West Bengal, India, that my deceased father who previously known as Sk Akbar Ali (Old Name) shall henceforth be known as Sekh Akbar Ali (New Name) as declared before the Notary public Kolkata vide affidavit dated 09-01-2026. I declare that my deceased father Sk Akbar Ali (Old Name) and Sekh Akbar Ali (New Name) is same and one identical person.

**Name Change**  
I, Salim Rahaman (old name) son of Haji Bazarul Rahman, residing at 55 Bright Street 1ST Floor, PO-Circus Avenue, PS-Karaya, Kolkata-700017, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Salim Rahman (new name), as declared Before The Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 09/01/2026. Salim Rahman (new name) and Salim Rahaman (old name) both are same and one identical person.

**Name Change**  
I, Kartik Ch Patra (Old Name), Son Of Late Debendra Patra, Residing At Krishna Nagar, Po- Arisanda, Purba Medinipur- 721139, West Bengal, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Kartik Patra (New Name) Vide An Affidavit No \* Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On \*\*01/2026. Kartik Patra And Kartik Ch Patra Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.

**Name Change**  
I, Jamil Ahmed (old name) son of Md Suleman, residing at 13/H/16, Braum Field Row, P.O.- Alipore, P.S.- Ekbalpore, Kolkata-700027, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Jamil Ahmad (new name), as declared Before The Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 09/01/2026. Jamil Ahmad (new name) and Jamil Ahmed (old name) both are same and one identical person.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I, Abhishek Chowdhury, S/o Swapan Kumar Chowdhury, aged 40 years, residing at Koustri Housing 501 G T Road Mahesh Serampore, have corrected my father name from Swapan Chowdhury/Swapan Kumar Chaudhuri/Swapan Kumar Chowdhuri to Swapan Kumar Chowdhury vide Affidavit No 1085 dated 10-11-2025, issued by Court of 1<sup>st</sup> class Magistrate Sadar Hooghly. So all names belong to same identical person and shall be known as Swapan Kumar Chowdhury for all purposes

**Name Change**  
I, Samsul Haque (Old Name) S/o Sk Jahur Alam Residing at 61C/1B, Elliot Road, P.o - Park Street, P.s - Park Street, District - Kolkata, Pin - 700016, West Bengal, India, have Changed my name and shall henceforth be Known as Sk Samsul Haque (New Name) as declared before the Notary public Kolkata vide affidavit Dated 09-01-2026. Samsul Haque (Old Name) and Sk Samsul Haque (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

**Name Change**  
I, Sk Hiralal (Old Name) S/o Sk Abdul Rahaman Residing at Dedd-hara (Majer Para), P.o - Dedd-hara, Ps - Dhaniakhali, District - Hooghly, Pin - 712302, West Bengal, India, have Changed my name and shall henceforth be Known as Sk Hiru Lal Ali (New Name) as declared before the Notary public Kolkata vide affidavit Dated 09-01-2026. Sk Hiralal (Old Name) and Sk Hiru Lal Ali (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

**Name Change**  
I, Utpal Gayen (Old Name) Son Of Kartick Chandra Gayen, Residing At Gayen Para, Jadababati, P.O. - Maju, P.S.- Jagatballyapur, Dist- Howrah, Pin- 711414, West Bengal, India, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Utpal Kumar Gayen (New Name) As Declared Before The Notary Public At Kolkata Dated 09/01/2026. Utpal Gayen ( Old Name) And Utpal Kumar Gayen (New Name) Both Are Same And One Identical Person.

**Name Change**  
I, Abubakkar Begg (Old Name), Son Of Mirja Riyamud Begg, Residing At Vill-Tupchibar, Po & Ps-Patashpur, Purba Medinipur-721439, West Bengal, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Mirja Abubakkar Beg (New Name) Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 08/01/2026. Abubakkar Begg And Mirja Abubakkar Beg Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.

**Name Change**  
I, Aanuip Jagdish Agarwal (old name) son of Jagdish Prasad Agarwal, residing at Lake View Apartments P-266, B-Block, Lake Town, Po-Lake Town, P.S.- Lake Town, Dist.- Bidhanagar, Pin-700089, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Aanuip J Agarwal (new name), as declared Before The Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 09/01/2026. Aanuip J Agarwal (new name) and Aanuip Jagdish Agarwal (old name) both are same and one identical person.

# Shocking home robbery: Dismissed IAS officer targeted

**MI News Service, Pune:** In a dramatic incident that has sent shockwaves through Pune, dismissed IAS officer \*\*Pooja Khedkar\*\* and her family were allegedly tied up and robbed by a domestic worker who drugged them with sleeping pills. The shocking episode reportedly took place at the Khedkar family bungalow on Baner Road late Saturday night. According to police

sources and a statement given by Pooja to authorities, the maid, a Nepalese national recently employed by the family, mixed sedatives into the family's dinner. After consuming the food, all three members fell unconscious. The accused then tied them up and fled with mobile phones and other valuables. Pooja managed to free herself later and alerted the police using another phone. No formal written complaint has been filed as of yet. The incident comes amid a series of controversies surrounding Pooja Khedkar. Previously appointed as Additional District Magistrate (ADM) of Pune, she was dismissed following allegations of abusing power, including the misuse of Maharashtra government stickers and red lights on her personal vehicle.

**Name Change**  
I, Mohammed Shamimuddin (Old Name) S/o Late Md. Nizamuddin residing at 81, Pikhana 2nd Lane, Ps- Golabari, Dist- Howrah - 711101 have change and henceforth shall be known as Mohammad Shamimuddin (New Name) as declare befor Ld. Executive Magistrate (1st Class) at Howrah vide affidavit No. 19830/25 dated 25.12.2025. That Mohammed Shamimuddin (Old Name) & Mohammad Shamimuddin (New Name) both are same and one identical person i.e., myself.

**Name Change**  
I, Poulami Santra Talukdar (Old Name) W/o Avrup Talukdar Residing at 1/1B1, Ramkrishna Naskar Lane, Po+Ps - Belaghata, District - Kolkata, Pin - 700010, West Bengal, India, have Changed my name and shall henceforth be Known as Poulami Santra (New Name) as declared before the Notary public Kolkata vide affidavit Dated 09-01-2026. Poulami Santra Talukdar (Old Name) and Poulami Santra (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

**Name Change**  
I, Samsunara Begam (Old Name) W/o Sk Hiru Lal Ali Residing at Dedd-hara (Majer Para), P.o - Dedd-hara, Ps - Dhaniakhali, District - Hooghly, Pin - 712302, West Bengal, India, have Changed my name and shall henceforth be Known as Musammam Samsunara Kazi Bibi (New Name) as declared before the Notary public Kolkata vide affidavit Dated 09-01-2026. Samsunara Begam (Old Name) and Musammam Samsunara Kazi Bibi (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

**Name Change**  
I, Sanat Kumar Mallick (Old Name) S/o Late Tarapada Mallick Residing at EF 43, 1943 Rajdanga, Main Road, P. Majumder Bridge, Kasba, Vtc+Po- E.K.T, District - Kolkata, Pin- 700107, West Bengal, India, have Changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Sanat Mallick (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public Kolkata vide affidavit Dated 07-01-2026. Sanat Kumar Mallick (Old Name) and Sanat Mallick (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

**Name Change**  
I, Goutam Roy (Old Name), Son Of Manindray Roy, Residing At Netajinagar Kalony East Kapte Para Road Bhatpara, Ps-Jagatdal-743127, West Bengal, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Gautam Ray (New Name) Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 06/01/2026. Goutam Roy And Gautam Ray Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.

**Name Change**  
I, Sabana Khatoon (old name) wife of Jamil Ahmad, residing at 13/H/16, Braum Field Row, P.O.- Alipore, P.S.- Ekbalpore, Kolkata-700027, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Shabana Khatoon (new name), as declared Before The The Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 09/01/2026. Sabana Yeshmin Bibi (new name) and Sabina Yeshmin (old name) both are same and one identical person.

**Name Change**  
I, Sabina Yeshmin (old name) wife of Abubakkar Ali, residing at Choto Ganti, Narayanpur, North 24 Pgs-700132, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Sabina Yeshmin Bibi (new name), as declared Before The The Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 09/01/2026. Sabina Yeshmin Bibi (new name) and Sabina Yeshmin (old name) both are same and one identical person.



Himanta Sarma  
should be mindful  
of his language:  
Imran Masood  
over Hindu  
PM remark

MI News Service, New Delhi: Congress MP Imran Masood on Sunday criticised Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma for his remark that India, being a Hindu nation, will always have a Hindu Prime Minister. Masood said such statements have no basis in the Constitution and stressed that religion should not determine who holds constitutional positions. He also said that, as a Chief Minister holding a constitutional post, he should be “mindful of his language.” Masood said, “Is this written in the Constitution? This seems practically impossible, but nothing like this is written in the Constitution. Even a Sikh became Prime Minister here. A person’s position of power cannot be determined by religion here. He is the Chief Minister, a constitutional post; he should be mindful of his language.”

A day earlier, Sarma responded to Owaisi’s “hijab-clad woman as PM” statement, which he had given a day earlier, saying that even though it is constitutionally possible, India, being a Hindu nation, will see a Hindu person becoming the Prime Minister of the country. While addressing the media, Sarma said, “Constitutionally, there is no bar. Anyone can become the Prime Minister. But India is a Hindu nation, Hindu civilisation, and we will always believe, and we are extremely confident that the Indian Prime Minister will always be a Hindu person.” On Friday, Owaisi said that one day a hijab-clad daughter will become the Prime Minister of India, highlighting the inclusivity of the Indian Constitution. Speaking at the election meeting in Solapur, Maharashtra, Owaisi argued that such inclusivity is not offered in Pakistan’s constitution, which restricts people of other religions from holding top posts.

Sugarcane Juice seller  
from Kerala turns travel  
dreams into reality, vis-  
its 10 countries

MI News Service, Kannur: For the past 30 years, Hashim VP, a native of Pappinisseri, has been selling sugarcane juice in front of the Jawahar Municipal Stadium in Kannur, quietly turning his small roadside business into a gateway to the world. What began as a modest means of livelihood gradually became the source of his greatest passion – travelling. He has travelled to 10 countries so far. Over the years, Hashim has travelled to Israel, Palestine, Jordan, Egypt, Iraq, Malaysia, Thailand, Azerbaijan, Turkey, and Saudi Arabia, turning his love for travel into a life-long pursuit. He now plans to visit China in the coming months, accompanied by his wife and elder brother. Speaking to ANI, Hashim said, “I travelled to 10 countries so far, including Israel, Palestine, Jordan, Egypt, Iraq, Malaysia, Thailand, Azerbaijan, Turkey, and Saudi Arabia. The last trip I did was to Turkey; it is beautiful. Now, after 3 months, I’m planning to visit China.” With the income earned from selling sugarcane juice, Hashim has explored destinations far beyond his hometown, always accompanied by his wife Haseena.

His first international journey gave him an experience that opened the doors to more adventures. Since then, he has travelled extensively across India and ventured abroad to ten countries. Recalling the beginning of his journey, the 67-year-old said that his first trip to Delhi was in 2012. At the time, June and July were off-season for his business, and he would usually close his shop and stay at home.



Union Minister Kiren Rijiju attends the FIFA World Cup trophy tour by Coca-Cola, in New Delhi.

Fadnavis promises AI to track illegal  
Bangladeshis; 10,000 new buses for city

MI News Service, Mumbai: Maharashtra Chief Minister and BJP leader Devendra Fadnavis, along with Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and BJP National General Secretary Vinod Tawde, on Sunday launched the Mahayuti alliance’s manifesto for the upcoming Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) elections. Addressing the gathering, Fadnavis stated that his government aims to identify and deport illegal Bangladeshis in Mumbai, claiming the highest number have already been deported. He added that an AI tool to track them will be ready in six months and promised the addition of 10,000 BEST buses to the city’s roads, criticising previous leaders for failing on these issues.

He said, “We’ll free Mumbai from Bangladeshis. We’ve deported the highest so far. With AI, we’ll identify and deport 100% Bangladeshis. AI tool will be ready in six months. Soon, there will be 10,000 BEST buses on the roads. We’ll identify and deport illegal

Bangladeshis. Don’t worry about those leaders who’ve failed.” The State Election Commission in Maharashtra has announced elections to 29 municipal corporations across the state, including the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corpora-



tion (BMC), Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC) and the PimpriChinchwad Municipal Corporation (PCMC). Polling will be held on January 15, with counting scheduled for January 16. On January 8, the 12 suspended Congress corporators from Maharashtra’s Ambarnath municipal council on Thursday joined the Bharatiya Janata Party. BJP,

in a rare move, entered into an alliance with Congress to gain control over the Ambarnath municipal council to keep out its ally Eknath Shinde’s Shiv Sena. Shiv Sena won the highest number of 27 seats, just four shy of a majority in the 60-member House. BJP, on the other hand, won 14 seats, Congress won 12, Ajit Pawar’s NCP won 4 seats, and two seats went to independent candidates, prompting BJP to ally with Congress and Ajit Pawar’s NCP.

BJP also formed a similar alliance with Asaduddin Owaisi’s AIMIM and several other parties in the Akot Municipal Council in Akola district. Following the alliance, Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Sanjay Raut called out the BJP for “their double standards” of giving a slogan of “Congress-free India” and then entering into an alliance with them to secure a majority in the Ambarnath municipal council. He also criticised the BJP for being in alliance with Ajit Pawar’s NCP, stating that Ajit Pawar does not believe in Veer Savarkar’s ideology.

AAP appoints  
Valmiki Naik  
as Goa State  
President



MI News Service, Panaji: The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Sunday appointed Valmiki Naik as its Goa state president. The party also released a list of new office bearers for its Goa unit.

The decision was approved by the party’s Political Affairs Committee, according to an official notice issued on January 11. As per the announcement, Gerson Gomes has been named State Working President, Prashant Naik will serve as State Organisation Secretary, and Sandesh Teleikar Dessai has been appointed State Senior Vice President. The party wished the newly appointed leaders success in their new roles. The development comes days after Amit Palekar resigned from the party, citing “self-respect and clarity”.

In a post on X, Palekar shared his resignation letter written to the party’s national convener, Arvind Kejriwal and the party’s in-charge for Goa, Atishi and wrote, “I am resigning from the @AamAadmiParty today. This decision comes after deep introspection and with a clear conscience. Positions matter less than principles. Power matters less than purpose. I choose to stand by my convictions and the people of Goa. The journey continues.”

Before his resignation, Palekar was relieved of his role as the Goa unit president following the party’s poor performance in local body polls. In a letter dated January 5, Palekar said he had resigned from the primary membership of the party. “I did not enter public life in pursuit of posts or positions. I joined the party believing in its promise of an alternative political culture, one anchored in transparency, internal democracy, and respect for grassroots voices. Over time, however, it became increasingly difficult to reconcile these ideals with the way decisions are presently taken and communicated.” “When dialogue and consultation are limited, and decisions flow only from the top, it does not weaken individuals but strains institutions. For a movement that set out to redefine democratic functioning, this divergence has been deeply disheartening,” he added.

"Tubelight in his head":  
AIMIM's Owaisi slams  
Himanta Sarma over  
Hindu PM remark

MI News Service, Nagpur : All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul-Muslimeen (AIMIM) chief Asaduddin Owaisi on Sunday launched a sharp attack on Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, saying there was a “tubelight” inside the head of the BJP leader and accused him of not understanding the Constitution. His remark came after Sarma responded to Owaisi’s “hijab-clad woman as PM” statement, which he had given a day earlier, saying that even though it is constitutionally possible, India, being a Hindu nation, will see a Hindu person becoming the Prime Minister of the country.

Addressing reporters, Owaisi said, “There is a ‘tubelight’ in his head. He took an oath on the Constitution. Where is this written in the Constitution?... Pakistan’s Constitution mentions that person of just one community can become the PM and President of that country. In our country, Babasaheb Ambedkar gave the Constitution. He was more intelligent and educated than Himanta Biswa Sarma.” “Unfortunately, people who do not understand the Constitution and its spirit that this country does not belong to just one community. It is the beauty of this country that it is for those people who do not believe in God. He (Assam CM) has a petty mindset. So, he says such petty things,” he said.

A day earlier, Himanta Biswa Sarma, while addressing media persons said, “Constitutionally, there is no bar. Anyone can become the Prime Minister. But India is a Hindu nation, Hindu civilisation, and we will always believe, and we are extremely confident that the Indian Prime Minister will always be a Hindu person.”



A protester holds a placard during a statewide bandh called by social groups and political organisations over the Ankita Bhandari murder case, in Dehradun.

"BJP doing politics of hatred": Punjab CM  
Mann over alleged doctored video of Atishi

MI News Service, Bathinda: Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Sunday accused the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) of spreading hatred and playing politics of religion in the state. He criticised the BJP for allegedly misrepresenting former Delhi Chief Minister Atishi’s speech in the Delhi Assembly and said such actions aim to incite people and spread misinformation. Addressing a press conference here, Mann said, “BJP is doing politics of religion, politics of hatred. They are attempting to incite religious sentiments in Punjab through actions which could not even be thought of.” “In the Delhi Assembly, Atishi’s voice was used, and they gave subtitles arbitrarily, attempting to pass it off as disrespect for Guru Sahib. Forensics examined the video and gave a report that she did not even utter the word ‘Guru’,” he added. Mann claimed that the BJP had done similar things in



the past, dubbing one slogan as something entirely different, since their policy was to “instigate people and spread misinformation”.

“This is the disgusting mindset of the BJP. They had been doing this in the past, too. One slogan is raised, and it is dubbed as something entirely different. Their policy is to instigate people and spread misinformation. I strongly condemn this. It is they who actually did sacrilege by mentioning the names of Gurus in the subtitles. They are anti-Punjab and hate Punjabis a lot,” the Punjab CM said. Earlier, Aa-

m Aadmi Party (AAP) Delhi President Saurabh Bhargava, along with other party leaders, reached Raj Ghat in the national capital to protest against the BJP over the alleged circulation of a doctored video of Delhi Leader of the Opposition (LoP) Atishi. AAP MLA Jarnail Singh accused the BJP of conspiring to divert attention from key issues concerning the national capital. “The BJP government has resorted to a very cheap conspiracy to sideline the real issues of Delhi in this assembly session. The opposition had to ask the government so many questions pertaining to the issues of the people of Delhi, but a conspiracy by a BJP MLA, in which he doctored a video of LoP Atishi, is an example of their corrupt thoughts,” Singh said.

According to a forensic report dated January 9, the word “Guru” was not uttered by Atishi in the audio clips circulating on social media, a release said.

‘Save MGNREGA’: Cong-  
workers hold symbolic  
fast in Varanasi

MI News Service, Varanasi: Congress workers on Sunday staged a protest under the banner ‘MGNREGA Bachao Sangram’ at Townhall Park of Maidagin in Uttar Pradesh’s Varanasi. Uttar Pradesh Congress President Ajay Rai, along with party workers, held a symbolic fast against the repeal of MGNREGA and the introduction of the new Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) (VB-G RAM G) near the Mahatma Gandhi and Bhimrao Ambedkar statue.

Speaking to ANI, the UP Congress chief said, “We are on a fast. Around the Mahatma Gandhi and Bhimrao Ambedkar statue, we are sitting on a fast. This government ended the MGNREGA law, and to protest that each of our Congress workers is sitting on the streets. We want to remove those who want to remove Mahatma Gandhi’s name.” Emphasising that the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) wants to take away the “rights of the people”, Rai said the Congress party will not allow that to happen, which is why the protests are occurring. He also alleged that the police had been deployed to create disruptions in the fast, even as far as stopping the opposition leaders at their homes.

“They want to even suppress our fast. But, still, each of our Congress workers will fight for the rights of the poor people, and we will bring back their rights to them,” he said. Claiming that the name of the new scheme, “G RAM G”, is a way for the ruling BJP to spread “false” propaganda, he emphasised that it was Mahatma Gandhi who felt more connected to “Lord Ram”, even describing the

leader’s death incident as an example.

He said, “The name (of the new scheme) is G RAM G, the people of the BJP are spreading false propaganda, but the name Mahatma Gandhi was kept after a lot of contemplation by our party. What were the last words of Mahatma Gandhi, when he was murdered by the Sangh people by Nathuram Godse? His last words were ‘hey ram, hey ram, hey ram’, he remembered Lord Ram only.”

He also described the party’s future plans for rallies across the state, noting that Rahul Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi, Mallikarjun Kharge, and other national leaders will attend the main rally in Lucknow. “We will not let the name of Mahatma Gandhi be forgotten. There will be a historic rally in which Beneras will conduct its rally on January 8, then there is Mathura, Ayodhya, Gorakhpur, Prayagraj, Sitapur on January 24, it will end in Ramabai Ambedkar Maidan in the form of a historic rally, which is going to be held in Lucknow in which Rahul Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi, Mallikarjun Kharge and all the national leadership will be there. We will have a rally in Benaras from January 8. Obviously, there will be a presence of national leadership, and there will be a big rally,” he said.

On January 3, Congress announced a nationwide three-phase agitation titled “MGNREGA Bachao”, after the Centre’s newly enacted VB-G RAM G Act. President Droupadi Murmu gave assent to the VB—G RAM G Bill, 2025, marking a significant milestone in the transformation of rural employment policy, as per a release by the President’s Secretariat.

“Modi govt attempting to cover up  
scale of its incompetence”: Jairam  
Ramesh on air pollution issue

MI News Service, New Delhi: Congress leader Jairam Ramesh on Sunday, while flagging the air pollution issue, accused the Centre of downplaying its health impacts, arguing that it is not just ignorance on the part of the government but an attempt to mask administrative failure, negligence, and incompetence. In a post on ‘X’, Ramesh issued a statement calling air pollution a nationwide public health emergency and saying the Modi government’s response has been grossly inadequate and ineffective.

“Twice so far in Parliament – first on 29th July 2024 and then on 9th December 2025 – the Modi Government has tried to downplay the health impact of air pollution. The Modi Government is not blind to the truth, it is only attempting to cover up the scale of its incompetence and negligence,” said the statement. Citing a report from the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA) has now confirmed what was always India’s worst-kept secret – that the air quality is a nation-wide, structural crisis for which the Government response is exceedingly ineffective and inadequate. Using satellite data, the study found that nearly 44 per cent of Indian cities – that is 1,787 out of 4,041 statutory towns assessed – have chronic air pollution, with annual PM2.5 levels consistently exceeding the national standard over five years (2019-2024, excluding 2020),” the statement said. Congress General Secretary (communications) said the government must overhaul the National



Clean Air Programme (NCAP). “The Government must drastically increase the funds made available under the NCAP. The current budget, inclusive of NCAP funding and the 15th Finance Commission’s grants, is about Rs. 10,500 crores, spread across 131 cities! Our cities need at least 10-20 times more funding – NCAP must be made a Rs. 25,000 crore program and spread across the 1,000 most polluted towns in the country. NCAP must adopt the measurement of PM 2.5 levels as the yardstick for performance. NCAP must reorient its focus to key sources of emissions – burning of solid fuels, vehicular emissions, and industrial emissions,” read the statement.

Meanwhile, the national capital woke up to a windy and chilly Sunday morning, with the temperature recorded at 6.6 degrees Celsius and a thin layer of smog affecting visibility across several areas. Air quality showed some improvement, with the overall Air Quality Index (AQI) falling to the ‘poor’ category from the ‘very poor’ category. The city’s average AQI stood at 298, according to data from the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).



# Study reveals how infertility treatment can double risk of postpartum heart disease

**NEW JERSEY :** Infertility treatment patients were twice as likely to be hospitalised with heart disease in the year following delivery as spontaneously conceived patients, according to a study conducted by Rutgers Health experts using more than 31 million hospital records.

Infertility patients were 2.16 times more likely to be hospitalised for hypertension, or dangerously elevated blood pressure than normally conceived patients. "Postpartum checkups are necessary for all patients, but this study indicates they are particularly important for patients who undergo infertility treatment to achieve a conception," said Rei Yamada, an obstetrics and gynecology resident at Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School and lead author of the study. The study authors say their results support standards of care that now call for an initial postpartum checkup three weeks after delivery, standards that some health systems have yet to adopt. Much of the elevated risk came in the first month after delivery, particularly for patients who developed dangerously high blood pressure. "And these results aren't the only ones to indicate



that follow-up should occur early," said CandeAnanth, chief of the Division of Epidemiology and Biostatistics in the Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology, and Reproductive Sciences at Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School and senior author of the study. "We have been involved in a series of studies over the past few years that have found serious risks of heart disease and stroke to various high-risk patient populations within those initial 30 days after delivery - risks that could be

mitigated with earlier follow-up care." The study analyzed the Nationwide Readmissions Database, which contains nationally representative data on about 31 million hospital discharges and readmissions per year. The database contains diagnosis codes, which let researchers find specific populations and identify reasons for readmission. The researchers used data from more than 31 million patients who were discharged following delivery from 2010 to

2018, including 287,813 patients who had undergone any infertility treatment. Although infertility treatment predicted a sharply elevated risk of heart disease, the study authors said the relative youth of infertility treatment patients kept their overall risk fairly low. Just 550 of every 100,000 women who received infertility treatment and 355 of every 100,000 who conceived naturally were hospitalized with cardiovascular disease in the year after delivery. The cause of the elevated risk of heart disease associated with infertility treatment remains unclear. The increase in heart disease could stem from the infertility treatments themselves, the underlying medical issues that made patients infertile or some other cause. "Looking forward, I'd like to see if different types of infertility treatment and, importantly, medications are associated with different risk levels," said Yamada. "Our data gave no information about which patients had undergone which treatment. More detailed information might also provide insight into how infertility treatment impacts cardiovascular outcomes."

# Researchers discover new biomarker to diagnose Alzheimer's in asymptomatic stages



**BARCELONA, SPAIN :** A novel biomarker for Alzheimer's disease in its asymptomatic phases has been discovered by a recent study headed by the Molecular and Cellular Neurobiotechnology group at the Institute for Bioengineering of Catalonia (IBEC) and the University of Barcelona. The molecule is called miR-519a-3p, and it is a microRNA that has been directly connected to the expression of the cellular prion protein (PrP<sup>C</sup>), which is dysregulated in patients with Alzheimer's disease and other neurodegenerative illnesses. The hunt for stable, readily observable biomarkers in biofluids, such as microRNAs, presents a chance to identify Alzheimer's early on when the disease is asymptomatic. This condition, which affects over 35 million people globally, might be diagnosed and treated far more effectively with early detection. The expression of some microRNAs is known to be deregulated in Alzheimer's patients. However, this is the first time that this microRNA has been specifically linked to the decrease in cellular prion protein production during disease progression.

"Currently, tests to diagnose Alzheimer's disease are usually carried out after the onset of symptoms, when there is already underlying cognitive impairment. We believe that the detection of this microRNA may help to establish additional criteria for a more accurate diagnosis in the early stages of the disease," explains IBEC principal investigator Jose Antonio del Rio, full professor at the Faculty of Biology and the Institute of Neurosciences of the University of Barcelona (UB) and co-leader of the study. The study also comparatively analyses the presence of the biomarker in samples from other neurodegenerative diseases: If our goal is to use miR-519a-3p as a biomarker to detect Alzheimer's dementia in hypothetically healthy people, it is essential to ensure that its levels are not altered in other neurodegenerative diseases. In our study, we compared the levels of this biomarker in samples from other tauopathies and Parkinson's disease, confirming that the changes in miR-519a-3p are specific to Alzheimer's disease," said IBEC senior researcher Rosalina Gavin, UB associate professor and co-leader of the study.

# Researchers find association of autism spectrum disorder, disrupted developmental dopamine

**PENNSYLVANIA :** According to recent research, dopamine is essential for the growth of neurons. Researchers have shown that autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and disrupted impaired developmental dopamine signalling are related.

Their findings open the door for future targeted therapies by highlighting the significance of researching developmental signalling pathways to comprehend the aetiology of ASD. Their research is published by Elsevier in The American Journal of Pathology. Lead investigators Lingyan Xing, PhD, and Gang Chen, PhD, Key Laboratory of Neuroregeneration of Jiangsu and the Ministry of Education, Co-innovation Center of Neuroregeneration, NMPA Key Laboratory for Research and Evaluation of Tissue Engineering Technology Products, Nantong University, explained, "While dopamine is commonly recognized as a neurotransmitter, its significance in the developmental aspects of autism is largely unexplored. Recent studies have highlighted the crucial roles of dopamine and serotonin in development and their importance in the construction of neural circuits." "In addition, studies have indicated that the use of dopamine-related drugs during pregnancy is associated with an increased risk of autism in children. Armed with these tantalizing clues, we embarked on a mission to bridge the gap between dopamine's known functions and its potential impact on neurodevelopmental disorders, particularly autism. Our quest was to uncover a novel therapeutic target that could revolutionize the way we approach autism treatment." Investigators studied the role of disrupted dopaminergic signaling in the etiology of ASD by integrating human brain RNA sequencing transcriptome analysis and a zebrafish model, recognized for its high degree of conservation with humans. To analyze the developmental deficits in ASD systematically, two large publicly available data sets were retrieved from



the National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI) Gene Expression Omnibus database and RNA sequencing data from Arkinglab. Transcriptome analysis of human brains revealed significant correlations between changes in dopaminergic signaling pathways and neural developmental signaling in patients with autism. This suggests a potential link between disrupted developmental dopamine signaling and autism pathology. To explore this link further researchers used the zebrafish model to study the effects of disrupted dopaminergic signaling on neural circuit development. They found that perturbations in developmental dopaminergic signaling led to neural circuit abnormalities and behavioral phenotypes reminiscent of autism in zebrafish larvae. The study also uncovered a potential mechanism by which dopamine impacts neuronal specification through the modulation of integrins. Dr. Chen commented, "We were surprised by the extent of the impact that dopaminergic signaling has on neuronal specification in zebrafish, potentially laying the groundwork for circuit disruption in

autism-related phenotype. Furthermore, the unexpected involvement of integrins as downstream targets of dopaminergic signaling provides new insights into the mechanisms underlying neurodevelopmental disorders." Dr. Xing concluded, "This research sheds light on the role of dopamine in neural circuit formation during early development, specifically in the context of autism. Understanding these mechanisms could lead to novel therapeutic interventions targeting dopaminergic signaling pathways to improve outcomes in individuals with autism and other neurodevelopmental disorders." ASD is a developmental disorder that usually manifests itself in early childhood. Although clinical outcomes vary greatly from case to case, autism is characterized by both a restricted interest in social interaction and repetitive behavior. This coincides with disruptions in brain connectivity shown by diffusion tensor imaging. Studies have shown that several neurodevelopmental processes may be affected in ASD, including neurogenesis, neural migration, axon pathfinding, and synaptic formation, all of which can lead to neural circuit disruption.

# High folic acid, low B12 may affect fetal brain development in mice: Study

**Washington :** Folate is a B vitamin that is essential for preventing neural tube abnormalities such as spina bifida. Folic acid, a synthetic version of folate, has been added to vitamins, breakfast cereals, and other items in the United States and more than 80 other countries to guarantee that pregnant women get enough of it. However, new research reveals that there might be such a thing as too much folic acid. In a study published in Communications Biology, a Nature publication, researchers from the UC Davis School of Medicine and the UC Davis MIND Institute showed that imbalances in folic acid and vitamin B12 can alter brain development in mice. "There's no doubt the introduction of folic acid diet fortification has been beneficial, substantially lowering the incidence of neural tube defects," said Ralph Green, distinguished professor in the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine and co-senior author of the study. "However, too much folic acid may have detrimental impacts on brain development, and that's something we need to sort out."

Concerns about folate deficiencies and neural tube defects, which can lead to stillbirths, paralysis, cognitive disabilities and other issues, peaked in the 1990s. At the time, the Food and Drug Administration and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention revised guidelines to ensure people who were pregnant got the necessary amounts. Green played an important role in developing these standards. However, the timing of folate during pregnancy is tricky. The neural tube forms early in pregnancy and usually closes about 28 days after conception. This meant targeted folate supplements would likely arrive too late. The solution was to fortify foods and vitamins with folic acid, the synthetic form of folate, to ensure pregnant people received enough. In the decades since folic acid fortification began, neural tube defects have declined dramatically. During that same time, the prevalence of neurodevelopmental conditions such as autism and attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) increased. Epilepsy rates rose as well. The



researchers wanted to explore whether there is a possible link between these increases and excessive folic acid. Green notes that folic acid fortification may be an imperfect solution. "The food industry has been adding folic acid to breakfast cereals, snack foods, and vitamins, and that has likely increased intake above recommended guidelines," Green said. "The safe upper limit for folate is 1,000 micrograms per day. The National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey data showed that a substantial percentage of women's diets were above that limit."

The consequences of high folic acid and low B12 Green and colleagues have been studying this issue for several years. In a 2020 paper published in Cerebral Cortex, the group showed that both folate overabundance and deficiency could cause neurodevelopmental issues in mice. In the new study, the team investigated the effects of high folic acid intake, B12 deficiency and high amounts of a natural folate -- folinic acid -- that may act differently than folic acid. The body needs B12 to recycle and adequately use folate.

The investigators supplied a group of mice before and during pregnancy with a controlled diet containing normal levels of folic acid and B12 and four separate groups with diets that either included: - high folic acid - low B12 - high folic acid with low B12 - high folinic acid Using multiple imaging techniques, the offspring of these pregnancies were examined with a focus on the development of the cerebral cortex, the primary brain structure associated with important cognitive and emotional func-

tions. The cerebral cortex is central to a range of psychiatric disorders, particularly those that first appear in childhood. "These different dietary conditions appear to influence the way neurons arise in the developing brain," said KonstantinosZarbalis, professor of pathology and laboratory medicine, faculty member of the UC Davis MIND Institute and co-senior author. "With high levels of folic acid or B12 deficiency, there was a change in neural development. Cortical neurons that usually emerge during a later stage of brain development were produced over a longer period of time and required a longer period to settle in and assume their proper position in the developing brain. In addition, both high folic acid and B12 deficiency appear to cause many neurons to develop fewer interconnections," Zarbalis said. The exception was folinic acid, the natural folate. Even though it was given at the same high levels as folic acid, there were virtually no consequences to developing mouse brains. As researchers expected, the group given a diet

that combined high folic acid with low B12 showed the most pronounced neurodevelopmental abnormalities. While these results are intriguing and may eventually be linked to human pathology, the authors stress the need for abundant caution. Animal models differ from humans in key ways, including metabolic rates and the efficiency with which they process folic acid. In ongoing work, the team is investigating the effects of folic acid and B12 in human brain organoids (3D cell clusters that incorporate several neural cell types). This research may provide better insights into how these nutrients affect human biology. "There's a lot of complexity in how the body responds to folic acid, vitamin B12 and folinic acid. We are at the early stages of determining how these elements interact," Zarbalis said. "Ultimately, we would like to find a definitive answer for how much folate, and what form, is optimal to avoid neural tube defects and other potential brain health issues."



in disease burden to non-communicable diseases such as cardiovascular ones, cancer and diabetes, and exposure to associated risk factors including obesity and high blood pressure, will have the most impact on the next generation. This shift was analysed to increase an individual's years lived with disability or YLDs. Disease burden is the impact of a health problem on a given population, measured through varied indicators such as deaths, disability, or financial costs. Therefore, as the disease burden shifts from that of communicable ones to non-communicable health problems, people are expected to live longer, but with more years spent in poor health, the researchers said. They said that healthy life expectancy around the world, referring to the number of years one could expect to live in good health, will increase by 2.6 years in the coming years - from 64.8 years in 2022 to 67.4 years in 2050. For India, the study has projected that by 2050, on average, men could have a life expectancy of over 75 years, while that for women could be almost 80 years. Healthy life expectancy, however, was projected to be over 65 years for both men and women in India. Drawing on the work of more than 11,000 collaborators, the GBD 2021 includes more than 607 billion estimates of 371 diseases and injuries and 88 risk factors in 204 countries and territories, according to the IHME.

# Sleep apnea symptoms linked to memory, thinking problems: Study

**MINNEAPOLIS:** People with sleep apnea may be more likely to have memory or thinking problems, according to a preliminary study that will be presented at the American Academy of Neurology's 76th Annual Meeting in April this year. The presentation will be made on April 13-18, 2024, in person in Denver and online. The study found a favorable relationship but did not determine whether sleep apnea causes cognitive deterioration. Sleep apnea is when people stop and restart breathing repeatedly during sleep which can lower oxygen levels in the blood. Symptoms include snoring, gasping and breathing pauses. People with the disorder may also experience morning headaches or have trouble focusing on tasks. "Sleep apnea is a common disorder that is often underdiagnosed, yet treatments are available," said study author Dominique Low, MD, MPH, of Boston Medical Center in Massachusetts, and a member of the American Academy of Neurology. "Our study found participants who had sleep apnea symptoms had greater odds of having memory or thinking problems." The study involved 4,257 people. Participants completed a questionnaire asking about sleep quality as

well as memory and thinking problems. For sleep, participants were asked about snoring, gasping or breathing pauses in their sleep. For memory and thinking, participants were asked questions related to difficulty remembering, periods of confusion, difficulty concentrating or problems with decision making. Of all participants, 1,079 reported symptoms of sleep apnea. Of those with symptoms, 357 people, or 33 per cent, reported memory or thinking problems compared to 628 people, or 20 per cent of people without sleep apnea symptoms. After adjusting for other factors that could affect memory and thinking problems, such as age, race, gender and education, researchers found that people who reported sleep apnea symptoms were about 50 per cent more likely to also report having memory or thinking problems compared to people who did not have sleep apnea symptoms. "These findings highlight the importance of early screening for sleep apnea," said Low. "Effective treatments like continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP) machines are readily available. Quality sleep, along with eating a healthy diet, regular exercise, social engagement and cognitive stimulation.



U.S. launches large-scale **strikes** on ISIS targets in Syria

**MI News Service, Washington:** U.S. Central Command said Saturday that its forces conducted large-scale strikes against multiple Islamic State (IS) targets across Syria. "Today, at approximately 12:30 p.m. Eastern Time, U.S. Central Command forces, alongside partner forces, conducted large-scale strikes against multiple ISIS targets across Syria," the command posted on X. The command said these strikes were part of Operation Hawkeye Strike, which was launched and announced on Dec. 19 in response to a deadly IS attack on U.S. and Syrian forces in Palmyra, Syria, on Dec. 13. In the attack, a lone IS terrorist carried out an ambush, killing two U.S. soldiers and one U.S. civilian interpreter. The strikes are "part of our ongoing commitment to root out Islamic terrorism against our warfighters, prevent future attacks, and protect American and partner forces in the region," U.S. Central Command said, adding that U.S. and coalition forces "remain resolute in pursuing terrorists who seek to harm the United States."

'Arab blood isn't cheap': Hundreds Protest outside Netanyahu's office over crime wave

**MI News Service, Jerusalem:** Hundreds of protesters gather outside the Prime Minister's Office to protest how the police have handled crime in the Arab community under National Security Minister Itamar Ben Gvir.

Protesters chant in Arabic: "Hey police, hey police, Arab blood isn't cheap," and call to "free Tarabin [al-Sana], a town that was subject to a 12-day police raid until this morning, in which one resident, Muhammad Hussein Tarabin, was shot dead by an officer at his front door.

Israel closed out last year with a record number of 252 Arab citizens killed in violent crime-related incidents, marking its deadliest year in that community to date.

Less than two weeks into the new year, killings are continuing at a high rate, with 16 Arab homicide victims in less than two weeks. Tensions between demonstrators and



A young protester holds up a sign that reads: 'Police force of criminals' during a demonstration against how police have handled crime in Arab society, outside the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem, January 11, 2026.

the Border Police securing the scene at the PMO are high, as officers form a human barrier between the protest and reporters.

Police horses and a water cannon are stationed close to the demonstration. While some attendees come from Arab locales in northern and central Israel, the vast majority are from the Negev, as police continue a con-

troversal crime crackdown in Bedouin towns.

The protest is organized by the Higher Follow-Up Committee, the leading Arab-Israeli umbrella organization. Most of the Knesset's Arab lawmakers were present at the demonstration, including Ra'am chairman Mansour Abbas, Hadash chairman Ayman Odeh and Ta'al chairman Ahmad Tibi.

OIC reject Israel's recognition of Somaliland, calls it 'dangerous precedent'

**MI News Service, Jeddah:** The Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) on Saturday, January 10, rejected Israel's recognition of Somaliland and reaffirmed its support for Somalia's sovereignty. The decision was taken during the 22nd Extraordinary Session of Foreign Ministers at the General Secretariat headquarters in Jeddah.

Delivering the opening address, OIC Secretary-General Hissein Taha said the meeting was convened at a highly sensitive moment to address what he described as serious developments affecting Somalia's sovereignty and territorial integrity. "Israel's move constitutes a dangerous precedent, a flagrant violation of international law, and a direct threat to regional security and stability," Taha said.

Taha emphasised the need for a unified, clear,



and firm Islamic position in support of Somalia, grounded in the OIC Charter, international law, and relevant United Nations resolutions. On December 26, 2025, Israel officially recognised Somaliland as an independent and sovereign state, becoming the only country in the world to do so.

On January 7, its Foreign Minister Gideon Saar visited Somaliland and held talks with President Abdurahman Mohammed Abdul-

lah in the capital Hargeisa. Later, he posted this on his X page: "We are determined to vigorously advance relations between Israel and Somaliland." Foreign Minister Gideon Saar with Somaliland's president Abdurahman Mohammed Abdullah (right)

As many as 21 Muslim countries, including Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Iran, Egypt and Indonesia, censured Saar's visit, released a joint statement saying Saar's visit violated Somalia's sov-

ereignty and territorial integrity. "The visit undermines international law and the United Nations Charter. It encourages secessionist ideas, potentially leading to instability in an already fragile region," the statement read and reiterated their support for the sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of Somalia.

During his address, the Secretary General called on Israel to initiate the second phase of the ceasefire agreement reached with Hamas in October 2025, leading to a comprehensive and permanent halt to hostilities and a complete withdrawal from the Gaza Strip. He stressed the need to prevent the displacement of Palestinians, facilitate their return, open all crossings, ensure the unimpeded delivery of humanitarian aid, and hold an international conference in Cairo for Gaza's reconstruction.

Voting for 2nd phase of Myanmar's general election concludes

**MI News Service, Yangon:** Voting for the second phase of Myanmar's multi-party democratic general election concluded on Sunday afternoon.

Voting began at 6 a.m. local time on Sunday. At 4 p.m., an election official at a polling station in Yangon's Latha township announced the closure of the polling station.

Following the closure, election staff at the polling station, in the presence of domestic and international media, candidates, and observers, counted the votes, including advance votes, for seats in the Pyithu Hluttaw (Lower House), Amyotha Hluttaw (Upper House), and State and Region Hluttaws (State and Region Parliaments).

The second phase of the election was held in 100 townships across 12 of the 14 regions and states. In the Yangon region, it was held in 16 townships, including the townships of Latha, Bahan, Kyimyindaing and Kawhmu. Myanmar's multi-party democratic general election is being held in three phases, with the first phase held in 102 townships on Dec. 28 last year, and the third phase scheduled for Jan. 25 this year



in 63 townships.

Following the first phase of the election, the Union Election Commission (UEC) announced the lists of over 100 elected representatives to the Pyithu Hluttaw, more than 30 to the Amyotha Hluttaw and over 100 to the State and Region Hluttaws.

Zaw Min Tun, leader of the Information Team of Myanmar's National Defense and Security Council, said on Sunday, "We will convene the parliament in March. In April, the new government will take office. We will do it according to the same format as before."

The UEC said that about 5,000 candidates from 57 political parties are competing in the three phases of the election, adding that it plans to set up over 21,000 polling stations across the country for all three phases of the general election.

Syria government forces said to detain 300 Kurds, evacuate 400 fighters from Aleppo

**MI News Service, Damascus:** Syrian government forces evacuated more than 400 Kurdish fighters from the last district in Aleppo to fall to the army, and detained 300 Kurds, an interior ministry official tells. The official, speaking on condition of anonymity, says "360 fighters and more than 59 wounded" were evacuated from the Sheikh Maqsd neighborhood to the Kurds' de facto autonomous zone in the northeast, and 300 other Kurds, including members of the security forces, were detained. An AFP correspondent reports buses filled with men leaving Sheikh Maqsd under escort by government forces during the night.



Trump says Iran 'in big trouble'; US watching protests 'very carefully'

**MI News Service, Washington:** President Donald Trump said Iran is "in big trouble" as protests spread across the country, saying the US is closely monitoring developments and warning Iranian authorities against using lethal force.

"Iran's in big trouble. It looks to me that the people are taking over certain cities that nobody thought were really possible just a few weeks ago," Trump told reporters at the White House. "We're watching the situation very carefully."

Noting his previous warning to Tehran, he said, "If they start killing people like they have in the past, we will get involved." "This is something pretty incredible that's happening in Iran. It's an amazing thing to watch," he said. "They've done a bad job. They've treated their people very badly, and now they're being paid back."

Trump added that any US response would not in-



volve troops on the ground but would focus on measures that would "hit them very hard where it hurts."

Since late December, Iran has seen waves of protests because of a steep decline in the value of the Iranian rial and deteriorating economic conditions. The demonstrations started Dec. 28 near Tehran's Grand Bazaar and later expanded to several cities. The country has been offline for more than 12 hours, according to internet watchdog NetBlocks.

Yemen forms **supreme military** committee under Saudi-led coalition

**MI News Service, Aden, Yemen:** Yemen's Presidential Leadership Council (PLC) announced Saturday the formation of a Supreme Military Committee under the command of the Saudi Arabia-led coalition, signaling a new phase of military preparedness amid stalled peace efforts with the Houthi group.

In a televised address aired by state news agency Saba, the PLC's chairman Rashad Al-Alimi said the newly formed military committee would be tasked with preparing, equipping, leading and supporting all pro-government military forces, should the Houthis continue to reject peaceful political solutions.

Al-Alimi attributed Yemen's years-long crisis to the Houthi takeover of state institutions, accusing the group of refusing dialogue. "The suffering of our people is the result of the militia's coup and its refusal to engage in nego-



tiations," he said.

"I call on those who have gone astray to surrender their weapons, return looted property, and rejoin the state, which belongs to all Yemenis," Al-Alimi said.

The announcement follows recent tensions between the Saudi-backed Yemeni government and the Southern Transitional Council (STC) allegedly backed by the United Arab Emirates, which escalated into clashes and heavy strikes in southern Yemen. The Yemeni leader said

US, Israel will be **targets** if America strikes, says Iran

**MI News Service, Tehran:** The Parliament speaker in Iran on Sunday warned that the US military and Israel will be "legitimate targets" if America strikes the Islamic Republic, as threatened by President Donald Trump.

The comments by Mohammad Bagher Qalibaf represent the first to add Israel into the mix of possible targets for an Iranian strike.

Qalibaf, a hard-liner, made the threat as lawmakers rushed the dais in the Iranian parliament, shouting: "Death to America!"

Iran's parliament met Sunday to discuss the ongoing protests shaking the nation, with lawmakers at one point rushing to the front of the assembly to chant: "Death to America!"

The show in the parliament, controlled by hard-liners, comes as Iran's theocracy struggles to contain the demonstrations, now two weeks old.

Lawmakers later chanted other slogans in support of the government. Nationwide protests challenging Iran's theocracy reached the two-week mark Sunday, January 11 as the death toll in violence surrounding the demonstrations reached at least 116 people killed, activists said.

The US-based Human Rights Activists News Agency gave the new figure, saying arrests had reached more than 2,600 people as well. The agency has been accurate in mul-



iple rounds of unrest previously.

Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has signalled a coming clampdown, despite US warnings from President Donald Trump that America could intervene to protect peaceful demonstrators.

Tehran escalated its threats on Saturday, with the Iran's attorney general, Mohammad Movahedi Azad, warning that anyone taking part in protests will be considered an "enemy of God", a death-penalty charge.

Dozens of **protests** against ICE held across U.S. California

**MI News Service, Los Angeles:** From California's capital city Sacramento to the town of Sonora, and from San Francisco to Los Angeles, dozens of protests against the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) were held across the U.S. state on Saturday.

The protests, dubbed "ICE OUT For Good," were organized by a network of several groups, including the American Civil Liberties Union and the 50501 Movement, which organized mass demonstrations in all 50 U.S. states almost every month last year.

In Pasadena, a neighboring city of Los Angeles, more than 500 protesters gathered at a corner near

city hall, chanting "No ICE, No KKK, No Fascist USA" to the accompaniment of car horns and cheers.

According to a 50501 Movement statement issued Friday, at least 32 people died in ICE custody in 2025. Saturday's actions followed two recent incidents -- a federal officer shot and killed Renee Good, a 37-year-old mother of three in Minneapolis, and another agent shot and wounded two people in Portland, Oregon earlier this week.

"We're here to recognize that this country needs to turn itself around and we're reaching out to the citizens of the San Gabriel foothill communities to join us in protesting. The specific reason is to mourn the passing of an innocent lady who sacrificed her life for the cause," activist Dias Alan told Xinhua on Saturday.

U.S. urges Americans to leave Venezuela "immediately" due to risks

**U.S. urges Americans to leave Venezuela "immediately" due to risks**

**MI News Service, Washington:** The U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Consular Affairs on Saturday warned that as international flights have resumed, U.S. citizens in Venezuela "should leave the country immediately."

The bureau said in a post on X that the security situation in Venezuela "remains fluid" and there are "reports of groups of armed militias, known as colectivos, setting up roadblocks and searching vehicles for evidence of U.S. citizenship or support for the United States."

U.S. citizens are advised to "remain vigilant and exercise caution"



when traveling by road and to monitor airlines' communications and websites for updated information. "Venezuela has the highest Travel Advisory level -- Level 4: Do Not Travel -- due to severe risks to Americans, including wrongful detention, torture in detention, terrorism, kidnapping, arbitrary enforcement of local laws, crime, civil un-

rest, and poor health infrastructure," the bureau said.

The United States launched a large-scale military operation against Venezuela in the early hours of Jan. 3, taking by force Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro and his wife. The strikes have drawn worldwide condemnation and concern.

Death toll rises to 8 in **gas explosion** in Pakistani capital



**MI News Service, Islamabad:** The death toll from a gas explosion at a wedding house in Pakistan's federal capital, Islamabad, has risen to eight, including a newlywed couple, while 11 others were injured, local authorities said on Sunday.

The explosion occurred at around 2 a.m. local time inside a residential building where a wedding ceremony was underway, triggering panic and damaging nearby structures, said Deputy Commissioner Islamabad Irfan Nawaz Memon.

"So far, 19 people trapped under the debris have been rescued," the official said, adding that the injured were shifted to the hospital for treatment.

Rescue officials said at least four houses in the surrounding area were affected by the blast.

Authorities said the exact cause of the explosion will be determined following a detailed investigation.

Chairman of the Senate of Pakistan Yusuf Raza Gilani expressed deep grief over the incident that occurred during a wedding, calling it "heart-wrenching" as celebrations turned into mourning for a family.

He conveyed condolences to the bereaved families and voiced concern over recurring gas cylinder explosions, urging relevant departments to strictly enforce safety measures, ensure compliance with laws and raise public awareness to prevent such tragedies.

X 'accepts mistake' on Grok AI issue, assures to comply with Indian laws: Sources

**MI News Service, New Delhi:** Microblogging site X has accepted its mistake and assured it will comply with Indian laws after the IT Ministry warned the Elon Musk-led social media platform on the Grok AI obscene content issue, government sources said on Sunday, January 11.

Around 3,500 pieces of content have been blocked, and over 600 accounts deleted, according to sources. X has accepted its mistake, and said it will comply with Indian laws, sources said, adding that in future, the platform will not allow obscene imagery.

Earlier, the government had asked X for details, including specific action taken on obscene content



linked to Grok AI, and measures to prevent a repeat in future, after it found the response submitted by the platform to be inadequate.

In its response after the first notice was issued to it, X had outlined the strict content takedown policies it abides by when it comes to misleading posts and

those related to non-consensual sexualised images.

While the reply was long and detailed, it had "missed" key information, including takedown details and specific action that was taken on the Grok AI obscene content issue, and measures to prevent it in future.

On January 2, the IT

Ministry issued a stern warning to X over indecent and sexually-explicit content being generated through the misuse of AI-based services like 'Grok' and other tools.

X's 'Safety' handle, last Sunday, said it takes action against illegal content on its platform, including Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM), by removing it, permanently suspending accounts, and working with local governments and law enforcement as necessary. "Anyone using or prompting Grok to make illegal content will suffer the same consequences as if they upload illegal content," X had said, echoing the stance taken by Musk on illegal content.



# 1st ODI: Daryl Mitchell’s 84 helps New Zealand set 301-run target for India



**VADODARA :** Daryl Mitchell was New Zealand’s star batter, as his 71-ball 84 helped the side reach a decent 300/8 in 50 overs and over-come the Indian bowlers’ late carnage in the first ODI of the three-match series at the Kotambi International Stadium (BCA).

After being put in to bat, New Zealand started quietly and slug-gishly, with openers Devon Conway and Henry Nicholls pro-ceeding cautiously. However, once they picked up pace, the Indian bowlers’ struggles began as they failed to get the first break-

through. Mohammed Siraj, Prasidh Krishna, Harshit Rana, Washington, and Kuldeep Yadav all faced the heat as the openers reached their half-centuries off consecutive deliveries in the 20th over. The two went on to share an unbeaten 100-run stand, the first 100-plus opening stand for New Zealand away from home since 2019, as the Kiwis scored 104 runs in 20 overs without losing a wicket.

Building on momentum, Nicholls (62) smashed Rana for two consecutive boundaries in the

22nd over, but the fast bowler had the last laugh as brilliant glove-work by KL Rahul brought an end to the New Zealander’s innings. Rana also dismissed Conway (56) when he returned to bowl the 24th over, leaving the two set openers back in the hut.

The visitors failed to get going thereafter as the Men in Blue kept striking at regular intervals, leav-ing no scope for run-scoring. Siraj got his first wicket of the day in the 28th over when he dismissed Will Young (12), as New Zealand reached 153/3 in 30 overs, man-

aging only 49 runs in 10 overs. While the opening pair added 117 runs, India fought back with three wickets to halt their momentum.

Kuldeep soon joined the pacers in the celebrations as he picked up Glenn Phillips (12), adding to the BlackCaps’ woes. Mitchell Hay gave his side some respite with quick runs on the scoreboard, but Prasidh Krishna cut his innings short as the former was bowled out for a 13-ball 18.

While wickets kept falling at one end, Daryl Mitchell kept his good form going and raced to a slow half-century, anchoring the team’s innings against the domi-nant-looking Indian bowling unit. But back-to-back wickets of Michael Bracewell (run out for 16 by Shreyas Iyer) and Zakary Foulkes (1) showcased some clutch bowling by the hosts as the Kiwis struggled to add runs in the death overs. While Daryl aimed to finish strongly, Krishna ended his innings by dismissing him in the 48th over, helping India maintain their dominance as the World No. 3 ODI batter walked back scoring a well-made 84.

A poor fall from over Krishna saw Kyle Jamieson and debutant Kristian Clarke score 12 runs off it, as New Zealand reached the 300-run mark, finishing at 300/8.

**Brief Scores:** New Zealand 300/8 in 50 overs (Daryl Mitchell 84, Henry Nicholls 62, Devon Conway 56; Mohammed Siraj 2-40, Harshit Rana 2-65) against India.

# Daniil Medvedev beat Brandon Nakashima to win Brisbane International



**BRISBANE :** Russian tennis star Daniil Medvedev made a com-manding start to the new season by clinching the Brisbane International title on Sunday, pro-duc-ing a straight-sets victory over Brandon Nakashima. The top seed defeated his American oppo-nent 6-2, 7-6(1) to lift the trophy at the ATP 250 event.

This victory holds special sig-nificance for the 29-year-old, marking his 22nd tour-level crown. Daniil Medvedev also holds a unique stat. All 22 of his titles have been won at different tournaments. The win also served as redemption for the former World No. 1, who had previously fallen short in the Brisbane final in 2019.

The championship clash lasted one hour and 34 minutes, charac-terised by heavy hitting from the baseline. While Medvedev cruised through the opening set, the sec-

ond proved more complicated. He missed two opportunities to close out the match on his serve at 5-4, allowing Nakashima back into the contest. However, Medvedev quickly reset his focus, dominat-ing the tie-break to secure the win.

Medvedev dedicated the win to his family. He also explained that the long travel distance prevented his family from joining him, meaning he missed a significant personal milestone.

"I want to dedicate this to my family. My daughter had a birth-day when I was here, so I dedicate it to her first birthday."

Medvedev’s form has been on an upward curve since October, when he ended a lengthy title drought in Almaty under the guid-ance of new coaches Thomas Johansson and Rohan Goetzke. By winning on Sunday, he became the first top seed to claim the Brisbane title since Roger Federer in 2015.

For Nakashima, the defeat ended a strong week in which he had not dropped a set prior to the final. The former Next Gen ATP Finals champion was seeking his second career title but could not overcome Medvedev, who now holds a 3-0 lead in their head-to-head series. With this triumph, Medvedev has joined Novak Djokovic and Jannik Sinner as the only active players to possess 20 or more tour-level trophies on the surface.

# Sabalenka defends Brisbane International crown, clinches 22nd career WTA title



**BRISBANE :** World No. 1 Aryna Sabalenka successfully reclaimed her Brisbane International crown, defeating Marta Kostyuk 6-4, 6-3 in 1 hour and 18 minutes at Pat Rafter Arena on Sunday.

The Belarusian won the trophy without dropping a set all week. This was Sabalenka’s fifth title in Australia and the 22nd overall of her career, pushing her past Victoria Azarenka for the third-most WTA Tour titles among active players, behind Venus Williams and Iga Swiatek.

"It's super special... I'm happy to start this season on a very high note. Yeah, happy with the level I was able to show throughout this week," she said.

Sabalenka also

became one of only three women to defend the season-opening WTA 500 title, joining Serena Williams and Karolina Pliskova on the tournament’s illustrious hon-our roll. Moreover, she is ranked third among active players for most tournament victories among active players, trailing only Venus Williams (with 49) and Iga Swiatek (with 25), as per WTA stats. Sabalenka imposed pres-sure early on as she charged to a 3-0 first-set lead. But Kostyuk came alive, winning three straight games to level the set at 3-all. But recovery was brief for the 23-year-old, as Sabalenka elevated the intensity, converting the sec-ond of five break points to secure



the 40-minute first set, WTA reports. Sabalenka soon held all momentum, building a streak of six straight games as she took control of the second set, holding a 3-0 lead. She punctuated her hold for 4-1 with a combination drop shot plus crosscourt fore-hand winner, then served out the match comfortably a few games later. "First of all, I just want to congratulate Marta and her team on an incredible start to the season. I wish you all the best this season. It seems like it is going to be great tennis, and I hope that we are going to meet each other many more times in finals," said Sabalenka, who has not lost a set in five matches against.

# EZ Inter-University Soccer: Ranchi University Crowned Champions



**PC JHA**

**RANCHI:** Ranchi University etched its name in history with a spirited and memorable triumph at the East Zone Inter-University Football (Men) Championship 2025-26, clinching the title with an impressive all-round perfor-mance.

Dominating the Super League stage, the host university secured six points to emerge champions and emphatically establish its sporting supremacy on home turf.

In the decisive Super League encounters, Ranchi University defeated Adamas University 1-0 in a closely contested match. Another key fixture between the University of Calcutta and Bardhaman University ended in a 1-1 draw. In a separate encounter, Adamas University registered a 2-1 victory over the University of Calcutta. In the final standings, Bardhaman University finished second with five points, while Adamas University secured third place with four points. Throughout the tournament, all participating teams displayed commendable sportsmanship, discipline and high technical skill.

The closing ceremony was graced by Jharkhand Health Minister Irfan Ansari as the chief guest. Congratulating the players of Ranchi University on their his-toric achievement, he said sports are vital not only for physical fit-ness but also for mental well-being.

He emphasized that regular participation in sports helps main-

tain good health and keeps sever-al diseases at bay, urging the youth to make sports an integral part of their lives.

Among the distinguished guests present on the occasion were Keshav Mahato Kamlesh, Rajesh Thakur, Labour Commissioner Avinash Krishna and other eminent personalities.

The winners and runners-up were felicitated by Vice-Chancellor Dr D.K. Singh, DSW Dr Sudesh Kumar Sahu, Sports Coordinator Dr Rajesh Gupta, CCDC Dr P.K. Jha, Financial Advisor Ajay Kumar, Controller of Examinations Dr Sanjay Kumar Jha, Dr Ajay Prakash, Dr Ajay Lakra, Dr Amar Kumar Chaudhary, Dr Dinesh Oraon, Dr Arun Kumar, Pankaj Chaturvedi, Punjab National Bank Manager Pradeep Kumar, Dr Bande

# 14 Indians with superior personal bests to event records set for Mumbai Marathon

**MUMBAI :** As the Mumbai Marathon enters its twenty-first year, the fast and furious field will see as many as eight men and six women, all of whom hold person-al bests superior to the current event records for Mumbai, taking the starting line-up on Sunday.

Ethiopians Hayle Lemi Berhanu (2:07:32) and Anchialem Haymanot (2:24:15) have held the event records since 2023. The Mumbai Marathon, a World Athletics Gold Label Road Race, offers substantial prizes. The top three finishers in both men’s and women’s categories will earn USD 50000, USD 25000, and USD 15000 respectively, from a total prize pool of USD 390,238. Additionally, there is a USD 15,000 bonus for those who set new event records in their cate-gories. The men’s line-up for 2026 includes Merhawi Kesenet from Eritrea, who was runner-up here last year, behind his countryman Berhane Tesfay. Kesenet is the top favourite this time for the title. However, it will not be an easy task, as the field also includes some of the finest marathon run-ners of our time. Uganda’s 2023 World Champion, Victor Kiplangat; South African Stephen Mokoka; and Ethiopians Bazezew Asmare and Tadu Abate Deme are other hot contenders for the top spot. Another Ethiopian, Tesfaye Demeke, who was fortunate to make it to the podium with a third-place finish last year, will

also be returning to improve his ratings this year.

Asmare holds the fastest time of 2:04:57, set four years ago when he finished third in the Amsterdam Marathon, a shade ahead of Cherop’s 2:05:00 win-ning time in the Toronto Marathon in 2019. Kiplangat (2:05:09 - 2022), Deme (2:05:38 - 2023), Debela (2:05:46 - 2019), and another Ethiopian runner, Kelkile Gezahegn (2:05:56 - 2018), are all logged with sub-2:06 times against their names, making the top prize among the men highly competitive.

Though Kesenet’s best to date remains 2:06:36 (2021), a tactical approach can yield better results in a marathon. When Media Deme Armino finished third last year, there was a host of other top-rated runners from Kenya and Bahrain to challenge her all the way. However, this year’s line-up mostly featured her country-mates, which will be a remarkable relief for Medina to dream big in Mumbai. The 2026 women’s field includes three runners near 2:21. Zinah Senbeta clocked a world-class 2:21:05 to win in Lyubliana in 2023. Incidentally, her marathon debut was in Mumbai four years earlier, where she finished seventh. In 2021, Yeshi Chekole posted 2:21:17 to finish third in the Zurich Marathon de Sevilla in Spain. She had another third-place finish (2:23:26) in the Korean city of Incheon less.

# Legacy still unbreakable; true icon of the game: Wishes pour in from fraternity as Dravid turns 53

**NEW DELHI :** Rahul Dravid, former head coach of Team India and one of cricket’s most esteemed figures, celebrated his 53rd birthday on Sunday and trib-utes flooded in from the cricket community, including former players, franchises, and the BCCI, all offering their congratulations to the legendary cricketer.

Dravid represented India in 164 Tests, 344 ODIs, and one T20 International, scoring over 24,000 international runs since his debut in 1996. He retired from all for-mats in 2013 and served as India’s head coach from November 21 to June 2024. During his tenure, the team won the T20 World Cup 2024 and reached the final of the ODI World Cup 2023.

"509 international matches, 24,208 international runs, 48 international centuries. Winning Head Coach of ICC Men’s T20 World Cup 2024. Here’s wishing #TeamIndia great Rahul Dravid a very happy birthday," the BCCI captioned a photo of Dravid.

Former Indian cricketer Harbhajan Singh commended



Dravid’s composure in high-pres-sure scenarios and expressed that playing with him was a privilege.

"Heartiest birthday greetings to Rahul Dravid, the Wall of Indian cricket. Playing alongside him was a privilege every teammate cher-ished. When the pressure was highest, his calm presence in the dressing room and at the crease gave the rest of us confidence. Wishing him good health, happi-

ness, and many more years of making a difference to the game he loves," the former spinner tweeted on X.

Shikhar Dhawan praised Dravid’s elegance and cricketing intelligence while wishing him a happy 53rd birthday. "Happy birthday, Rahul bhai. Your calm, class and cricketing mind have inspired generations. Have a fan-tastic one," Dhawan wrote.

IPL 2025 champions Royal Challengers Bengaluru also joined in wishing their first skipper. "Our first Royal Challenger. Our first leader. Forever our Bengaluru boy. Wishing a very happy birth-day to one of Indian cricket’s finest, a true icon of the game, and the former #TeamIndia head coach, Rahul Dravid," RCB wrote on X.

Five-time IPL champions Chennai Super Kings wrote, "Built as the wall at the crease, to build generations of cricketers. Super birthday, Rahul Dravid. Your legacy is still unbreakable."

Rajasthan Royals posted a photo of Rahul Dravid praising Vaibhav Suryavanshi’s perfor-mance in IPL 2025, when he was the team’s coach, and wrote, "Unforgettable. Happy birthday, Rahul Dravid."

Mumbai Indians shared a photo of Rohit Sharma and Dravid holding the T20 World Cup 2024 trophy on X, writing, "Happy birthday to everyone’s favourite, The Great Wall of India."

# Rohit Sharma surpasses Chris Gayle for most sixes by an ODI opener

**VADODARA :** India’s charismatic batter Rohit Sharma created history on Sunday, becoming the opener with the most sixes in ODI cricket as he achieved the land-mark during the first match of the ongoing ODI series against New Zealand at the Baroda Cricket Association Stadium.

Chasing a target of 301 runs, Rohit opened the innings with captain Shubman Gill. After a slow start, the 38-year-old hit the first maximum in the sixth over against Ben Foulkes. The former captain continued his momentum in the next over and sent Kyle Jamieson’s back-of-a-length deliv-ery into the stands. With this, Rohit also completed 650 sixes in international cricket, becoming the first player to achieve the milestone. Rohit, however, was not able to convert the early start into a big innings as he got out in the ninth over off Kyle Jamieson’s ball. He scored 26 runs off 29 balls, hitting three fours and two sixes. Rohit has now hit 329 sixes as an opener in ODIs, surpassing West Indies great Chris Gayle, who has 328 maximums to his



name. The Indian star had already broken Shahid Afridi’s record for the most sixes in ODI cricket last year during the South Africa series. Rohit was in great touch last year as well. The right-hander slammed 650 runs in 14 ODI innings from as many match-es, with one not out. His personal best was 121 not out. He is cur-rently the number one batter in the ICC rankings. Speaking of the match, after winning the toss, India elected to field first. New

Zealand got off to a confident start as openers Devon Conway and Henry Nicholls laid a strong founda-tion. Their 100-plus stand put the Indian attack under sustained pressure.

India, however, responded well as the innings pro-gressed, tightening their lines and striking at key moments to wrest back control. Regular wickets in the middle overs slowed New Zealand’s momentum and pre-vented them from fully capitalis-ing on the platform provided .