

Mamata Writes Fifth Letter to EC, Alleges Voter Harassment in SIR Process

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has written a fifth letter to the Election Commission of India (ECI), alleging widespread harassment of voters during the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls. In her latest communication addressed to Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar on Monday, Banerjee accused the Commission of ignoring statutory corrections made over the past two decades and forcing voters to re-establish their identity without valid grounds. In the letter, the chief minister claimed that documents submitted by voters during the SIR process were not being acknowledged properly. She alleged that in several cases, no receipts or proof of submission were being issued, and later the same documents were marked as "Not Found" or "Unavailable in records". As a result, names of eligible voters were allegedly being deleted from the electoral rolls, causing serious distress and disenfranchisement.

PG 3



Rs. 3
KOLKATA

TUESDAY 13 JANUARY, 2026
PG-8, YEAR-12, ISSUE-223
(RNI NO.: WBENG / 2014 / 56803)
WEBSITE: WWW.LIVE7TV.COM

Morning India



Hundreds of pilgrims from across the country were seen heading towards Gangasagar in a crowded vessel on the Muriganga river on Monday.

PM Modi, German Chancellor Merz begin talks, pay tributes to Mahatma Gandhi

MI News Service, Ahmedabad : Prime Minister Narendra Modi and German Chancellor Friedrich Merz began their visit to Ahmedabad on Monday morning at the Gandhi Ashram, and after paying homage to Mahatma Gandhi there, they proceeded to the Sabarmati Riverfront for the inauguration of the International Kite Festival 2026. Chancellor Merz arrived here early on Monday morning on a two-day maiden official visit to India. Sabarmati Ashram, also known as Gandhi Ashram, was established by Mahatma Gandhi in 1917. It was home to Gandhi from 1917 until 1930 and served as one of the main centres of India's freedom struggle. At the historic Gandhi Ashram on the banks of the Sabarmati River in Ahmedabad, both the dignitaries paid floral tributes to the statue of Mahatma Gandhi. Later Prime Minister Modi inaugurated the International Kite Festival-2026 at



Prime Minister Narendra Modi and German Chancellor Friedrich Merz visit Sabarmati Ashram during the German leader's maiden India trip, in Ahmedabad.

Sabarmati Riverfront and enjoyed kite flying with German Chancellor Friedrich Merz for some time.

At the kite festival, PM Modi and Merz interacted with women

artisans and understood the process of making kites. After the inauguration, both the leaders took a ride on the ground in an open vehicle and even tried their hands at

“Their discussion will also focus on further intensifying cooperation in trade and investment, technology, education, skilling and mobility, while also advancing collaboration in important domains of defence and security, science, innovation and research, green and sustainable development, and people-to-people ties

a statement from the Prime Minister's Office

flyng kites As many as 135 kites from 50 countries and nearly 1,000 kite enthusiasts from India are participating in the International Kite Festival-2026 in Ahmedabad, according to a Gujarat government release.

As part of the festival, the kitists have already visited places like Rajkot, Surat, Dholavira (in Kutch) and Statue of Unity (Narmada) during the last two days and enthralled

Continued on page 3

Ex-VP Dhankhar admitted to AIIMS after two bouts of unconsciousness

MI News Service, New Delhi : Former Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar was admitted to the All-India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) here on Monday after he fell unconscious twice on January 10, officials said. Dhankhar, 74, will undergo an MRI, the officials said. On January 10, he had "two bouts of unconsciousness" when he went to the washroom, they said. "Today, he had gone to AIIMS for a checkup when the doctors insisted that he

Continued on page 3

ED files second writ petition before Supreme Court over I-PAC raids

MI News Service, New Delhi : The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Monday filed a second writ petition before the Supreme Court against the "wrongful restriction" of its officers during raids at the I-PAC office and its director's residence in Kolkata last week. The petition was filed by the Assistant Directors at the Enforcement Directorate -- Nishant Kumar, Vikram Ahlawat, and Prashant Chaudhary -- against West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, Director General of Police (DGP) Rajeev Kumar, Kolkata Police Commissioner Manoj Verma, and Deputy Commissioner Priyototo Roy. The ED alleged "wrongful restraint" while conducting search operations in Kolkata on December 8, in the alleged coal pilferage scam.

"The search at the residence of Pratik Jain had commenced at 06.20 AM, and when the search was in progress and the documents had been taken into possession, the CM along with Commissioner of Police - Mr Manoj Kumar Verma - illegally and unauthorisedly barged into the premises, and after placing the concerned officers conducting the search in wrongful restraint, took away all the documents and digital devices, like laptop and mobiles, from the possession of the officers who had taken them for the purpose of seizure and left the premises with a trunk load of files," the probe agency has reportedly written in the petition. It further said that they also took the laptop of the ED officer and returned it after two hours. "The taking of the laptop and keeping it in their



“The taking of the laptop and keeping it in their possession for two hours also amounts to theft

The probe agency said in its 160-page petition

possession for two hours also amounts to theft," the probe agency said in its 160-page petition.

"During the search proceedings around 12:40 pm, the aforementioned state authorities/police officers took away the documents collected and indexed by the ED officers. Moreover, the backup of the computer system and email was also stopped midway, and the state security officers took away the said computer system. The storage device of the security cameras installed in the premise was also taken in possession by the state security and police officers. The state security and police officers also took away the mobile phones of the employees of Indian PAC Consulting Private Limited present at the premise. As a result of the above events, nothing was seized from the premises and no data backup could be taken by the

Continued on page 3

ISRO's PSLV-C62 rocket deviates from flight path, misses orbit

MI News Service, Sriharikota : ISRO's PSLV-C62 rocket carrying 16 satellites, including a foreign Earth Observation satellite, "encountered an anomaly", the space agency said on Monday, signalling the possible failure of the mission. Disturbances in the rocket and later deviation from flight path was observed when strap-on motors were providing thrust

“it is a setback as the satellites did not reach the intended orbit at 512 km in space and all satellites lost in space may be drifting as space debris

A former top ISRO scientist

during the flight's third stage to propel the vehicle to the intended altitude, space agency chairman V Narayanan said adding a detailed analysis has been initiated to identify the cause. The mission of placing the satellites in the intended orbit could not be achieved and all the 16 satellites were lost in

Continued on page 3

'No country more essential than India' US ambassador-designate Sergio Gor

MI News Service, New Delhi : No country is as essential as India for Washington and both sides are actively engaged in firming up a trade deal, US ambassador-designate Sergio Gor said on Monday. Real friends can disagree, but always resolve their differences in the end, he said in his arrival speech while referring to the friendship between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Donald Trump.

"India is the world's largest nation. So it's not an easy task to get this across the finish line, but we are determined to get there," he said at a ceremony attended by US embassy employees here. "No other nation is as essential to the United States as India", said Gor while announcing that Washington and New Delhi are set to restart their next round of trade deal talks from tomorrow itself on Tuesday.

Gor, who is also the Special Envoy to South and Central Asia at the US Embassy, said that US President Donald Trump may visit India by next year. "The United States and India are bound, not just by shared interests but by a relationship anchored at the highest levels. Real friends can disagree but always resolve their differences in the end," he said in his arrival speech. He noted that while trade is very important for



Newly appointed United States Ambassador to India Sergio Gor, center, greets officials upon his arrival at the US Embassy, in New Delhi.

“India is the world's largest nation. So it's not an easy task to get this across the finish line, but we are determined to get there

Sergio Gor US ambassador-designate

New Delhi and Washington's relationship, both nations also continue to work closely together on other very important areas such as security, counter-terrorism, energy, technology, education, and health. "I have travelled all over the world with President Trump, and I can attest that his friendship with Prime Minister Modi is real," Gor stressed. The US ambassador-designate said the purpose of his appointment is to take the partnership between our two

nations to the next level before Trump visits India by next year.

"This is the intersection between the world's oldest democracy and the world's largest democracy. During my last dinner with him, President Trump recounted his last visit to India and also his great friendship with the great Prime Minister of India. I hope the President will be visiting us soon, hopefully in the next year or two. President Trump has a habit of calling at 2 am in the morning, and with the time difference in New Delhi, it might work out pretty well," he added.

Gor emphasised the importance of the strategic relationship with India and said he intends to pursue an ambitious agenda. "No partner is more essential than

Continued on page 3

Mamata pays homage to Swami Vivekananda on his Birth Anniversary



MI News Service, Kolkata: West Bengal Chief minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday paid homage to Swami Vivekananda on his Birth Anniversary, being celebrated as the National Youth Day, saying "Swamiji believed that the youth are the architects of a nation's destiny." Extending her "warmest greetings to the patriotic young men and women of our country" on the occasion, the Chief minister in a message through her X handle said today "On the occasion of the National Youth Day, which is celebrated on the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda, I extend my warmest greetings to the

Continued on page 3

Haldiram's Prabhji®

Khushiyon Ki Asli Mithaas

Bhujia

Khatta Mitha

Kaju Barfi

Gulab Jamun

Soan Papdi

Chat Pata

Rasgulla

Haldiram Bhujiawala Limited
Regd. Office : P-420, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, VIP Road, Kolkata - 700 052
Burrabazar : 9, Jagmohan Mullick Lane, Kolkata - 700 007



Large number of pilgrims made their way towards Gangasagar in South 24 Parganas on Monday.

Mamata saddens by the demise of Marxist and PDS co-founder founder Samir Putatundu at aged 74

MI News Service, Kolkata: West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday condoled the passing away of Marxist and co-founder of Party of Democratic Socialism (PDS) Samir Putatundu in a private hospital in the city on Sunday night.

Putatundu, who broke away from then ruling CPI(M) along with party comrade Saifuddin Chowdhury and founded PDS in 2001, died around 11 15 PM after prolonged illness. Admitted a week ago in the hospital on EM Bypass following cardiac complications, Putatundu was 74.

Condoling the death of the Marxist, state chief minister Mamata Banerjee said she had very fond memories with Putatundu and other PDS comrades during the movement of Singur and Nandigram against the illegal land acquisition of the poor farmers.

"I am very sad by the demise of one of the powerful left leaders and his death as if I have lost someone very dear and near to me" Banerjee said on her X handle.

"I have many fond mem-



ories of interacting with him and other PDS comrades when we together fought against the land acquisition at Singur and Nandigram.

A prominent figure in the Left movement and was an influential CPI(M) leader," Banerjee said.

There were no words to console Anuradha and the others, "yet I am always by their side," she said.

Putatundu was an influential leader of the Left movement and was chief of the CPI(M) of South 24 Parganas, but his departure from the ruling in 2001 over the ideological differences also doomed his political importance rapidly.

Putatundu, along with CPI(M) leader Saifuddin Chowdhury, founded the PDS but the new outfit could not make success at all in the electoral battle and evaporated with the passing of time.

Three Lawrence Bishnoi gang members arrested

MI News Service, Howrah: Howrah city police on Sunday night arrested three alleged members of the notorious Lawrence Bishnoi gang from the premises of Howrah, triggering a major breakthrough in a high-profile inter-state criminal case. The arrested accused have been identified as Karan Pathak, Tarandeep Singh and Akashdeep Singh, all residents of Punjab.

According to senior police sources, the trio is suspected to be directly involved in the murder of a kabaddi player in Punjab last month. Following the killing on December 15, the accused had reportedly gone underground, prompting an intensive manhunt by the Punjab Police's Special Task Force (STF). Investigators revealed that after the murder, the three accused fled Punjab and travelled to Kolkata via Gangtok in an apparent attempt to evade arrest. They are believed to have been hiding in and around the city for several days. Acting on specific intelligence inputs, police learned that the suspects were attempting to flee Kolkata by train from Howrah station late on Sunday night. Upon receiving the tip-off, the Punjab STF alerted the Golabari police station under Howrah City Police. A joint operation was immediately launched, and the station premises were placed under heightened surveillance. The suspects were identified and apprehended before they could escape.



Ashok Kumar Chakraborty, alias Mana Chakraborty, a senior leader of the All India Trinamool Congress in North Kolkata, expressed his views on the occasion of Swami Vivekananda's 163rd birth anniversary. Social workers Khawaja Khairuddin alias Laddu, Mohammad Nizamuddin alias Raju, Manoj Karmakar, Sheikh Noor Hussain alias Rocky, Mohammad Rashid, and Mohammad Junaid were also present.

Chandannagar Police Commissionerate Organises Commissioner Cup Football Final and 'Run for Health 2026'



MI News Service, Hooghly: On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda, the Chandannagar Police Commissionerate organised two major events at the East Ground in Chinsura.

The day began with 'Run for Health 2026', a fitness awareness run conducted in two cat-

egories—5 kilometres and 10 kilometres. A large number of participants took part in the race, highlighting the importance of physical fitness and healthy living.

Later in the afternoon, the final match of the Commissioner Cup 2025-26 Football Tournament was held at 3 pm.

The match was formally inaugurated with the playing of the national anthem.

Police Commissioner Amit P. Javalgi, along with several senior police officers and other distinguished guests, was present at the venue. The dignitaries interacted with the players, shook hands with them on the field, and encouraged them ahead of the final clash.

At the prize distribution ceremony, the winning football team was awarded 50,000, while the runners-up team received 25,000, along with several other important prizes.

The events were organised to promote sportsmanship, physical fitness and community engagement reflecting the ideals of Swami Vivekananda.

Polerhat Palli Sangha's Football Match

Nurul Islam Khan Football, the greatest game of the Bengalis, has a glorious tradition that has been flowing since time immemorial. Evidence of this can be found in the vast areas of Bengal. On Saturday, Polerhat Palli Sangha followed this path. On this day, a day-night football tournament was organized by the club. The football field, the home ground of the Palli Sangha club, was overflowing with spectators. Countless football lovers thoroughly enjoyed this beloved game. A total of eight teams participated in the tournament. Ultimately, Gazipur Young Star Club emerged victorious and became the champion. Garagari Kazi Naz-



rul Sangha secured the second position in the final. To encourage the players, former popular Indian football team player Nasir Ahmed, Kolkata Police DC DD Nurul Absar, DC Gautam Kumar Das, Professor Dr. Abu Farah Haque, renowned

elocutionist Ranu Guha, Chairman of Polerhat Palli Sangha Firoz Hossain and others were present at the field. The event was managed by the club's secretary Kazi Abdul Momin, and the commentary was provided by Professor Shajahan Biswas.

Vivekananda Sporting Club Salutes Monk of the Ages



MI News Service, Kolkata: On the occasion of the 164th birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda, an unveiling ceremony of a bust statue of

Swami Vivekananda was held at the premises of Vivekananda Sporting Club (16 Feet), near Behala Shakuntala Park, under Ward No. 128 of the Kol-

kata Municipal Corporation. The inaugural programme was graced by Revered Swami Surottomanandaji Maharaj of Barisha Ramakrishna Math and local municipal representative Partha Sarkar. The installation of the statue was made possible through the initiative of Baidyanath Chatterjee, for which the club extended its heartfelt gratitude through convener Dilip Dutta and Pankaj Sarkar.

In an interview, Councillor Partha Sarkar praised the local residents and members of the club for their dedicated efforts and assured them of his continued support in the future. The event, as observed and reported on the spot by senior journalist Tapas Roy, witnessed enthusiastic participation from local residents and club members alike.

Bengal

Gangasagar Sees 45 Lakh Pilgrims; Tight Security, Transport in Place

Suman Ganguly, Gangasagar: Around 45 lakh pilgrims have visited Gangasagar in South 24-Parganas since January 1 this year to take the holy dip at the confluence of the Ganga and the Bay of Bengal and offer prayers at the Kapil Muni Ashram, said State Minister for Power and Housing Aroop Biswas on Monday.

Addressing a press conference at Sagar Island, the minister noted that pilgrim turnout is expected to rise further in the coming days, particularly around Makar Sankranti. He added that two pilgrims, one each from Uttar Pradesh and Haryana, were airlifted to Kolkata after falling seriously ill.

To ensure safety and smooth movement, an elaborate security and crowd-management plan has been implemented. More than 15,000 police personnel are de-

ployed across the mela area. Security arrangements include 54 watch-towers, seven advance teams, 15 anti-crime patrolling teams, 14 foot patrolling teams, 13 missing person squads, two sniffer dogs, 16 river patrolling teams, and 28 coordination teams working round the clock.

For effective crowd control at the bathing ghats, 698 drop gates have been installed. Additionally, 54 km of barricades, 42 police assistance centres, special directional signage, and colour-coded lighting systems have been set up. Of the 84 pilgrims reported missing, 80 have been reunited with their families.

A major attraction this year is the "Banglar Mandir" theme, offering replicas of iconic religious sites, including Digha's Jagannath Temple, Kalighat, Dakshineswar, Tarapith, Mahakal Temple, Cooch Behar's Madan Mohan Temple, Belur Math,

and a miniature Durga Angan.

Transport arrangements have been significantly scaled up. 21 jetties are ferrying pilgrims, with around 3,600 buses from Babughat to Lot No. 8, 300 buses from Kachuberia to Sagar, along with 13 barges, 45 vessels, and 120 launchers. However, diversion of buses has led to concerns over reduced public transport in Kolkata and adjoining areas. Emergency measures include deploying idle buses and additional services on key routes, with private operators urged to bring non-operational vehicles back.

Additional infrastructure and special train services will remain operational until January 16, 2026, covering the peak rush period, transforming Sagar Island into a vibrant confluence of cultures, faiths, and regions from across the country.

Grand Procession Held to Mark Swami Vivekananda's 164th Birth Anniversary

MI News Service, Hooghly: On the occasion of Swami Vivekananda's 164th birth anniversary, a grand procession was organized by the Champdani City Trinamool Congress from Champdani Manjushri to Palta Ghat More.

The procession was led by Champdani Municipality Chairman Suresh Mishra and MLA Arindam Guin, accompanied by Vice Chairman Vinay Kumar, Shirampur Hooghly Youth Trinamool President Priyanka Adhikari, councillors, Youth leader Rahul Roy, and hundreds of Trinamool Congress workers and supporters. The life and teachings of Swami Vivekananda were highlighted throughout the event.

Swami Vivekananda, born Narendranath Dutt on Jan-



uary 12, 1863, in Kolkata, was the son of Vishwanath Dutt, a renowned lawyer of the Calcutta High Court, and grandson of a scholar of Sanskrit and Persian. From a young age, he was passionate about reading and writing. At 25, he left home to become a sadhu, dedicating his life to philosophy, reli-

gion, history, social sciences, art, and literature. He had a deep interest in the Vedas, Upanishads, Bhagavad Gita, Ramayana, Mahabharata, Puranas, and other Hindu scriptures.

Swami Vivekananda famously said, "In any society, the conscious class of society, the writers or literati,

are the torchbearers and teachers of society. School education ends, but learning continues throughout life. Books and writers play a crucial role in this. In our country, writing and composition have continuously flourished with Indianism and nationalism."

He also emphasized that education should focus on building human character, not merely imparting knowledge. According to Swamiji, the purpose of all education is the expression of the inherent perfection of man, though he criticized the British education system for promoting only external knowledge and Western influences, neglecting the holistic development of children.

Ahead of the upcoming assembly elections, Bangla Paksha held a massive rally for the rights of Bengalis

Nurul Islam Khan

Bangla Paksha held a massive rally in Dharmatala, Kolkata, ahead of the 2026 assembly elections. Thousands of Bengalis came from various districts. On Sunday, the streets of Kolkata reverberated with the slogan "Joy Bangla". Great enthusiasm was seen surrounding this grand rally. In BJP-ruled states, Bengali migrant workers are constantly being beaten and killed on a daily basis, suspected of being Bangladeshi. There are plans to snatch away their voting rights under the pretext of SIR (Special Intensive Revision). On the other hand, in this Bengal, outsiders have established their dominance over jobs, markets and capital. This grand rally was held to protest against this. It was stated that even though the organization will not contest the elections, the issues of Bengali rights will be fought for in the elections.

Beyond Hindu-Muslim, Gita-Quran, temple-mosque politics, the rally addressed multiple demands including jobs for Bengalis, work for Bengalis, and security for Bengali migrant workers. A call was given to build Bengal. The meeting highlighted



the fact that there is no Bengali regiment in the Indian Army, despite the blood of Bengalis was shed for independence India. A demand was made for 90% reservation for sons of the soil in jobs, work and tenders.

Why are two crore outsiders plundering and exploiting Bengal? The question was raised. A message was given to the political parties that appeasement of Hindi and Urdu will not be tolerated here. A warning was issued that no Bengali's name should be excluded through SIR. Unconditional citizenship for refugees was also demanded. The issue of canceling the voter cards of individuals who have voter cards in two

states was also raised. The discussion also included the demand for a Bengali MLA from Jamuria, the birthplace of Rabindranath Tagore and Kazi Nazrul Islam. If an outsider MLA contests, Bangla Paksha will protest against them.

General Secretary Professor Garg Chatterjee said, "Even if Bangla Paksha is not contesting the elections, Bangla Paksha will play a decisive role in the Bengal assembly elections. The fight for the interests of Bengalis and the fight to secure jobs for Bengali migrant workers in Bengal will continue." He raised the twin demands for reservation for the sons of the soil.

Organizational Secretary Kaushik Maiti said, "Despite its financial limitations, Bangla Paksha held such a large rally." He stated that making the Bengali language mandatory is essential to ensure jobs, employment, and business opportunities for Bengalis. In their speeches at the rally, two female speakers, members Karabi Roy and Priya Mitra, highlighted the issue of women's safety. Besides Bengalis, representatives from indigenous communities such as the Rajbanshi, Lepcha, Santal, and Rabha were also present.

A Confluence of Service and Devotion for Gangasagar Pilgrims at Near Kolkata Railway Station

MI News Service, Kolkata: On the initiative of the Akhil Bharatiya Goswami Sabha, West Bengal, Kolkata, a grand and well-organized Gangasagar Pilgrims' Service Camp has been set up to facilitate devotees traveling to Gangasagar.

Giving life to the sacred saying — "Sab Tirtha Baar-Baar, Gangasagar Ek Baar" ("All pilgrimages again and again, but Gangasagar once"), and with the boundless grace of God and the collective support of society, this service camp has been established within the Kolkata Railway Station area.

The service camp was formally inaugurated by the revered Shri Tribhuvan Puri Ji Maharaj.

Under his guidance, protection, and blessings, this service camp has been continuously, systematically, and successfully operating



for the past thirteen years. The camp will run for a full one week, concluding on 16 January.

Through this camp, Gangasagar pilgrims are being provided with free tea, refreshments, meals, and dignified accommodation.

In addition, for unwell travelers, medicines, first aid, ambulance services, and other essential medical facilities are being made available with full preparedness.

Furthermore, starting this

year, special arrangements have also been ensured for pilgrims' accommodation at Gangasagar itself at Om Bhavan, Gangasagar.

The entire responsibility of this service initiative is being carried out under the able guidance of the organization's founder Shri Dharmanath Ji Bharti, revered in society as "Bhishma Pitamah", along with his close associate Chittaranjan Giri. Under their leadership, all members of the organization are

devotedly engaged— with body, mind, and resources—to making this service mission a success.

Office-bearers of the organization stated that the primary objective of this service camp is to make the Gangasagar pilgrimage safe, smooth, and convenient for devotees.

Thousands of pilgrims are benefiting from these services and are expressing high appreciation for this selfless and humanitarian initiative of the organization. On this occasion, the esteemed members of Akhil Bharatiya Goswami Sabha (West Bengal)—

Shri Surendra Giri, Shri Akhilesh Bharti Ji, Santosh Giri, Raj Kumar Giri, Shashi Giri, Jalandhar Giri, Nitendra Giri Ji, Sachin Giri, Shri Ganesh Giri, Shri Kanhaiya Giri, Shri Ashok Bharti, and many other distinguished dignitaries were present.

New insulin introduced to reduce diabolic patients' sufferings

MI News Service, Kolkata: We have a new year gift for all type 1 and type 2 diabetic patients who are on insulin therapy. And it is inhaled insulin which can be a replacement of conventional injectable insulins. A long wait is over and it is a immense good news for Diabetic patients.

Many of our Diabetic patients are afraid of pushing insulin injections themselves because of pain due to injections, though modern insulin pen are very much easy to handle and having less painful due to thin needle. So, initiation of insulin is delayed, as a result diabetes remains uncontrolled. So numbers of diabetes related complica-



tions are on the rise notably eye problem, kidney problem, nerve problem, heart problems etc.

Hope inhaled insulin using same technique as inhaler used for Asthma or chronic bronchi-

tis will solve this problem and many diabetes patients will start it according to guidance by their diabetologists, so that Diabetes can be controlled easily and diabetes-related compli-

cations can be avoided.

There are two types of insulin- one is basal insulin or long acting insulin which is pushed at bedtime to control fasting blood sugar, another is prandial insulin pushed before meal to control post meal blood sugar rise. Inhaled insulin is a replacement of prandial insulin but not basal insulin. It is very easy to use for patients also. Only downside of this inhaled insulin is that it may not work in patients having asthma, chronic bronchitis, smokers and any chronic disease involving lung because absorption of insulin will be erratic and patients may not get desired blood glucose control.

Abhishek Pays Homage To Swami Vivekananda

MI News Service, Kolkata: Trinamool Congress national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee paid homage to Swami Vivekananda, both through a social media post and by visiting his ancestral house on Simla Street as part of the party's programme. In his message, Abhishek Banerjee said Swami Vivekananda's thoughts continue to illuminate India's moral and intellectual conscience. He emphasised that Swamiji's message of "service to humanity is service to the divine" remains profoundly relevant, especially at a time when identity-based divisions are being amplified. Abhishek banerjee wrote, "On the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda, I bow in reverence to a towering soul whose thoughts continue to illuminate India's moral and intellectual conscience. His call for strength rooted in compassion, for faith anchored in reason and for service driven by empathy remains profoundly relevant even today. Swamiji reminded us that to serve humanity is to serve the divine. At a time when divisions are amplified and identities weaponised, Swami Ji's message of universal brotherhood and harmony among faiths stands as a timeless guide."

'No country more essential than India' US ambassador-designate Sergio Gor

From PG 1 India. In the months and years ahead, it is my goal as ambassador to pursue a very ambitious agenda. We will do this as true strategic partners, each bringing strength, respect, and leadership to the table," he said. Speaking on the ongoing negotiations of the India-US trade deal, Gor acknowledged that it was a challenging task and said he was determined to get it across the finish line. "Many of you have asked me for an update on the ongoing trade deal negotiations. Both sides continue to actively engage. In fact, the next call on trade will occur tomorrow. India is the world's largest nation. So it's not an easy task to get this across the finish line," he said. Gor also announced that India will be a member of the Pax Silica alliance. "I am pleased to announce that India will be invited to join this group of nations as a full member next month," he said. The Pax Silica alliance is a US-led strategic initiative to build a secure, resilient and innovation driven silicon supply chain.

Ex-VP Dhankhar admitted to AIIMS after two bouts of unconsciousness

From PG 1 should get admitted for tests," an official said. Dhankhar had blacked out on multiple occasions in the past, including in the Rann of Kutch, Uttarakhand, Kerala and the national capital while attending public events as the Vice President. Dhankhar, also a former Governor of West Bengal, had quit as the Vice President on July 21 citing health grounds.

Mamata pays homage to Swami Vivekananda on his Birth Anniversary

From PG 1 patriotic young men and women of our country." She said "Swamiji believed that the youth are the architects of a nation's destiny. Our government is committed to empowering them with education, skills, and opportunities to lead them into a new era of progress. Let us resolve to 'Arise, Awake, and Stop not until the goal is reached.'" and Stop not until the goal is reached."

Mamata Banerjee Writes Fifth Letter to EC Alleges Voter Harassment in SIR Process

MI News Service, Kolkata: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has written a fifth letter to the Election Commission of India (ECI), alleging widespread harassment of voters during the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls. In her latest communication addressed to Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar on Monday, Banerjee accused the Commission of ignoring statutory corrections made over the past two decades and forcing voters to re-establish their identity without valid grounds.

In the letter, the chief minister claimed that documents submitted by voters during the SIR process were not being acknowledged properly. She alleged that in several cases, no receipts or proof of submission were being issued, and later the same documents were marked as "Not Found" or "Unavailable in records". As a result, names of eligible voters were allegedly being deleted from the electoral rolls, causing serious distress and disenfranchisement. Banerjee described the revision process as



"fundamentally flawed" and warned that if the current methodology continued, the names of any voter could be removed arbitrarily at any time. She further alleged that errors during the digitisation of the 2002 voters' list, including the use of artificial intelligence, had led to the exclusion of genuine voters and created widespread confusion.

Raising procedural objections, the chief minister questioned why voters were being called for hearings despite having already been

mapped with the 2002 electoral rolls. She specifically cited cases where voters were summoned because the age difference between parents and children was recorded as 18 or 19 years, calling such actions unnecessary and unjustified. "In such cases, there is no requirement to issue hearing notices," she wrote, urging the Commission to immediately stop what she termed as voter harassment. This latest letter follows another communication sent by Banerjee just two days ear-

lier, in which she objected to the manner in which hearing notices were being issued under the SIR exercise. In that earlier letter, she had made serious allegations, claiming that the revision drive had already resulted in 77 deaths, four attempted suicides, and 17 cases of hospitalisation due to stress and illness.

According to Banerjee, the process was being carried out without adequate planning, leading to fear, intimidation, and an excessive workload on field-level staff. She alleged that over-reliance on technical data without proper human verification was compounding the problem. "I am deeply shocked and disturbed by the manner in which the Election Commission of India appears to be relentlessly harassing ordinary citizens," she wrote. The chief minister appealed to the Commission to immediately intervene and ensure that voters are not deprived of their democratic rights due to procedural lapses. The Election Commission has not yet issued a formal response to the latest letter.



Firefighters battle a blaze after a fire broke out at shops outside Baghajatin railway station in south Kolkata.

ISRO's PSLV-C62 rocket deviates from flight path, misses orbit

From PG 1 space, ISRO sources said adding this was the second consecutive PSLV mission failure during the third stage. A similar, previous attempt in May 2025 (PSLV-C61-EOS-09) also did not succeed due to "motor pressure issue," and there was a fall in the chamber pressure of the motor case. A former top ISRO scientist said it would take some time for the space agency to collect data, analyse, understand what happened and make necessary corrections. It is expected that ISRO would officially release the findings in the days to come, he said requesting anonymity. To a query, he said, "it is a setback as the satellites did not reach the intended orbit at 512 kn in space and all satellites lost in space may be drifting as space debris." As the 22.5-hour countdown concluded on Monday morning, the 44.4 metre tall four-stage rocket lifted off as scheduled at 10.18 am from the spaceport here. The mission was to deploy a primary Earth Observation satellite and multiple co-passenger satellites into a 512 km Sun-Synchronous Orbit, after a flight journey of about 17 minutes. The automatic launch sequence commenced following approval from the mission director. ISRO scientists provided real-time updates as the vehicle as-

cended. The initial phases of the flight proceeded according to plan.

However, after the announcement that the "third stage ignited", an uneasy calm took over the Mission Control Centre. In his address at the centre, Narayanan said: "The PSLV is a four-stage vehicle with two solid stages and two liquid stages. The performance of the vehicle up to the end of the third stage was expected. Close to the end of the third stage we are seeing more disturbance in the vehicle and subsequently, there was a deviation observed in the flight path." Confirming the mission's failure on its 'X' handle, ISRO said, "The PSLV-C62 mission encountered an anomaly during the end of PS3 (third stage) of the vehicle. A detailed analysis has been initiated." However, the space agency did not provide more details. Later, in a brief press conference, Narayanan, who is also the Secretary of Department of Space, said, "As all of you are aware, today we attempted PSLV-C62/EOS-N1 mission... the mission could not proceed in the expected (flight) path. That is the information right now available." Further, he said: "We are going through the data and with the data collected from all the ground stations and once the data analysis is completed, we shall come back to you."



AITC National General Secretary Abhishek Banerjee garlanded and paid tribute to Swami Vivekananda at his house in Kolkata.

ED files second writ petition before Supreme Court over I-PAC raids

From PG 1 team of the Directorate of Enforcement," it added. The State Police have filed four cases against the ED on the day of the high-voltage face-off during the search operations in Kolkata. The ED has also appealed to the Supreme Court to stay these cases against its officials. The ED raided 10 premises -- six in West Bengal and four in Delhi -- as part of a 2020 case registered by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) against a coal-smuggling syndicate led by Anup

Majhi, alias "Lala", who allegedly stole and illegally excavated coal from the Eastern Coalfield leasehold areas in and around Asansol in Paschim Bardhaman district. A hawala operator linked to coal smuggling allegedly facilitated transactions of tens of crores of rupees to the Indian PAC Consulting Private Limited, the registered company of political consultancy firm I-PAC, the probe agency has said. The I-PAC is also one of the entities linked to hawala money, the ED has alleged.

DRDO Successfully Tests Indigenous Third-Generation MPATGM



MI News Service, Kolkata: The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully conducted a flight test of a third-generation Fire-and-Forget Man Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile (MPATGM) with top-attack capability. The test was conducted against a moving target at the KK Ranges in Ahilya Nagar, Maharashtra, marking a major milestone in India's indigenous missile development programme. The MPATGM has been developed by DRDO's Defence Research & Development Laboratory (DRDL), Hyderabad, in collaboration with several sister laboratories. The missile incorporates cutting-edge indigenous technologies, including an Imaging Infrared (IIR) homing seeker, an all-electric control actuation system, an advanced fire control system, a tandem warhead, a high-performance propulsion system and a modern sighting system. Key contributing laboratories include Research Centre Imarat, Hyderabad; Terminal Ballistics Research Laboratory, Chandigarh; High Energy Materials Research Laboratory, Pune; and Instruments Research & Development Establishment, Dehradun. To simulate a realistic battlefield scenario, the target tank was equipped with a Thermal Target System developed by Defence Laboratory, Jodhpur.

TMC Launches 'Digital Jodhdha' Campaign Ahead of 2026 Polls

MI News Service, Kolkata: The battleground of politics in West Bengal is rapidly shifting from the streets to smartphone screens, and the Trinamool Congress has stepped up its digital push ahead of the crucial 2026 Assembly elections. According to party sources, the ruling party has appointed at least 10 "digital warriors" per booth to counter opposition narratives and strengthen its presence across social media and digital platforms.

Officially branded as "Ami Banglar Digital Jodhdha" (I am Bengal's Digital Warrior), this initiative aims to create a well-organised, trained, and proactive digital force capable of responding swiftly to political attacks, misinformation, and alleged propaganda targeting the state and its leadership. The party believes that political battles today are no longer confined to rallies, protests, Parliament, or Assembly floors, but are increasingly being fought on mobile screens and social media timelines. Trinamool Congress national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee has repeatedly stressed the im-

portance of the digital space in modern political discourse. He has accused "anti-Bengal forces" of spreading misinformation and running sustained smear campaigns on social media platforms. Addressing these concerns, the party has decided to sharpen its digital strategy by making it more professional, coordinated, and grassroots-driven.

As part of this initiative, a special workshop and conference of digital warriors will be held on Monday at Milan Mela in Kolkata. Abhishek Banerjee is scheduled to personally interact with party workers who have been actively fighting online political battles across platforms such as Facebook, X (formerly Twitter), Instagram, and YouTube.

During the session, discussions will focus on content creation, narrative building, fact-checking, and rapid response mechanisms. Party insiders say Abhishek will provide clear guidance on how to effectively highlight the Trinamool government's development initiatives and welfare schemes. A key

focus will be on taking the government's 15-year performance report—described by the party as a "development report card"—to every household through digital outreach. Emphasis will also be placed on promoting the government's achievements in social welfare, infrastructure, education, and health sectors.

Political observers note that the Bharatiya Janata Party was the first in India to demonstrate the electoral power of social media during the 2014 Lok Sabha elections, when Narendra Modi's campaign leveraged digital platforms extensively. Since then, IT cells have become an integral part of political organisations across the spectrum. While Trinamool Congress already has an IT cell in place, the new programme signals Abhishek Banerjee's intent to further decentralise and strengthen digital campaigning down to the booth level. The digital warriors will not only promote the party's narrative but will also be tasked with countering BJP's messaging and highlighting issues where the opposition can be politically challenged.

Countdown Begins for 49th International Kolkata Book Fair 2026



A press conference was held in Kolkata to announce the 49th International Kolkata Book Fair and the Kolkata Literature Festival (KLF), scheduled to be held in January.

MI News Service, Kolkata: The countdown has begun for the 49th International Kolkata Book Fair 2026, with just ten days left for its inauguration at Boimela Prangan in Salt Lake. As per sources, the fair will be formally opened by the West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee in the presence of eminent Argentine author Gustavo Canzobre and H.E. Mariano Agustin Caucino, Ambassador of Argentina to India, who will attend as Special Guests of Honour along with several authors, dignitaries and state ministers. The International Kolkata Book Fair 2026 will feature more than 1,000 participants, with around 20 countries from across the globe taking part. Senior Citizen's Day,

titled 'Chiro Tarun', will be observed on January 30, while Children's Day will be celebrated on February 1. The fairground will have nine entry and exit gates, including two inspired by Argentine architecture, along with gates and pavilions named after noted cultural personalities. Cultural programmes will mark the birth centenaries of Salil Chowdhury and Dr Bhupen Hazarika. For the first time, the venue will be directly connected by Metro from Howrah to Karunamoyee and Central Park, with extended services till 10 pm. Digital initiatives, medical facilities, green partnerships and daily book lotteries will add to the attractions. The fair will also host the 12th Kolkata Literature Festival on January 24 and 25.

SC Issues Notice to ECI Over SIR in Bengal

MI News Service, Kolkata: The Supreme Court on Monday issued a notice to the Election Commission of India (ECI) in connection with a plea challenging the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the electoral rolls in West Bengal. The notice was issued following petitions filed by Trinamool Congress Rajya Sabha MPs Derek O'Brien and Dola Sen, raising concerns over alleged irregularities in the voter list revision process. The matter came up for hearing before a division bench comprising Chief Justice of India Justice Surya Kant and Justice Jyotsna Banerjee. The bench took up the petitions separately filed by the two MPs, who questioned the manner in which the SIR exercise is being conducted in the state. Senior advocate Kapil Sibal appeared before the court on behalf of the petitioners.

During the hearing, Kapil Sibal alleged serious lapses and procedural irregularities on the part of the Election Commission in carrying out the SIR process. He informed the court that many of the instructions related to the revision exercise were allegedly being communicated through WhatsApp messages, which, according to him, amounted to institutional impropriety. Sibal argued that such a mode of communication undermines transparency and accountability in an exercise as sensitive as voter list revision.

Name Change
I, Kakoli Biswas (Old Name) D/o Bipul Biswas Residing at Rabindranath Colony, 1 No Ward, Kalyani, District - Nadia, Pin - 741235, West Bengal, India, have Changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Kakali Biswas (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public Kolkata vide affidavit Dated 09-01-2026. Kakoli Biswas (Old Name) and Kakali Biswas (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Dulal Singha (Old Name),Son Of Arjun Singha,Residing At 82 Ajay Nagar,Dumdum,South Dumdum (M), Motihheel, North24 parganas - 7000 74, West Bengal, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Dulal Chandra Singha (New Name) Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 09/01/2026.Dulal Singha And Dulal Chandra Singha Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, Aditi Chatterjee (Old Name) W/o Tapash Roy Residing at 38/4, Raipur Road, P.o - Regent Estate, District - Kolkata, Pin - 700092, West Bengal, India, have Changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Aditi Chatterjee Roy (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public Kolkata vide affidavit Dated 09-01-2026. Aditi Chatterjee (Old Name) and Aditi Chatterjee Roy (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Sk Rahim S/O Late Sk Abdulla & Amina Begum Residing at 18/2/H/3,Mominpur Road,P.S. Ekbalpore,Kolkata-700023.That My Voter id no.WB/23/147//429215 me & my father's name was wrongly recorded as Ramesh Panja S/O Mangal Panja. But My & My father's actual name is Sk Rahim S/O Late Sk Abdulla recorded in my birth certificate issued by K.M.C. vide an affidavit before the LD,Judicial Magistrate 1st class at Alipore,date-09.01.2026.affidavit no.2867.That Sk Rahim S/O Late Sk Abdulla and Ramesh Panja S/O Mangal Panja both are the same and one identical person.

NAME CHANGE
In the birth certificate, (Regn. No-3869 Dated 28-01-1998 Dhanyakuria B.P.H.C) the name appears as Abdul Salim, S/o-Moktar Ali. On 17-09-2025, in Barasat, before the 1st Class Judicial Magistrate's court, through affidavit no. 5773, I declare that Abdul Selim Mondal, S/o-Moktar Ali Mondal & Abdul Salim, S/o- Moktar Ali is the same & identical person.

NAME CHANGE
In birth certificate (Regn no-899, dt of Resi 17-04-1995 Dhanyakuria B.P.H.C) my name has been recorded as ABDULLA, s/o MOKATAR ALI MONDAL & MSD KOHINUR MONDAL. On 17-09-2025 vide affidavit no 5762 before the court of 1st Class Judicial Magistrate, Barasat I affirm that ABDULLA MONDAL, S/O MOKTAR ALI MONDAL & ABDULLA, S/O MD. MOKTARUL MONDAL & my mother KOHINOOR BIBI & MSD KOHINUR MONDAL is the same & one identical person.

NAME CHANGE
I, BABU RAM MONDAL, S/O.- Late Tarak Mondal, residing at Vill.- Kalikapur, P.O.-Maljishpur, P.S.-Shasan, Dist. North 24 Parganas, Pin 743423, W.B., do hereby declare that inadvertently my name has been written in my Voter identity Card being No. WB/13/092/261462 issued by the Election Commission of India as AJIT MONDAL. On 10/02/25 vide affidavit no 566 before the Court of 1st Class Judicial Magistrate, Barasat, I affirm that BABU RAM MONDAL & AJIT MONDAL is the same and one identical person.

NAME CHANGE
I, Tarak Mukherjee, S/o.- Lt. Shib Sankar Mukherjee (Aadhar & Voter ID Card), R/o- Present-5030/B, Shiromoni Para Road, P.O.- B.D. Sapan, P.S.- Khardah, Dist- Purg. (N)-700116, Permanent Add.- Vill.-Deulvira, P.O.- Naba Deulvira, P.S.-Indpur, Dist.-Bankura-722136, WB, declare that my & my Father's actual name & surname has been recorded in P.P.O. as Tarak Nath Mukhuti & S/o. Shib Sankar Mukhuti, vide Affidavit Sl. No.54, dtd. 25.11.2025, in the Court of Ld. Judicial Magistrate, 1st Class, at Barrackpore, 24 Pgs. (N). That, Tarak Mukherjee & Tarak Nath Mukhuti and Lt.Shib Sankar Mukherjee & Shib Sankar Mukhuti all are the same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Dhananjay Adak, S/O- Lt. Kanailal Adak, residing at Vill.- Machinan, P/O- Gopalnagar, P/S- Golaghat, Dist- Purba Medinipur. That in my D/R Card & Land record my name has been recorded as Dhananjoy Adak & Sannyasi Adak Which are incorrect. So vide Affidavit before the Ld. 1st class J.M at Tamluk dt- 07/08/2019 (No.6856) that Dhananjay Adak & Dhananjoy Adak & Sannyasi Adak are same and one identical person.

NAME CHANGE
I, DIPANKAR NASKAR, S/o Balaram Naskar, residing at Vill.- Chapnamari, P.O.- Nayabad, P.S.- Narendrapur (Sonarpur), Dist.- South 24 Parganas, Kolkata-700 160, do hereby declare in my daughter DIPTI NASKAR's Birth Certificate (Registration No.285 dated 16.02.2016 issued by Rajpur- Sonarpur Municipality) my name has been inadvertently recorded as BABU SONA NASKAR which is my nick name in place of my actual & original name is DIPANKAR NASKAR. On 11/01/2021 vide affidavit no. 2137 before the Court of 1st Class Judicial Magistrate, Baruipur I affirm that DIPANKAR NASKAR & BABU SONA NASKAR is the same & one identical person.

Name Change
I, S Mukherjee (old name) S/o Late Subodh Mookherjee , Residing at Colonels Farm , Thero, Hanamon Dhar, Near Talpukur,Gokulpur, PO: Chanditala, Hooghly,Pin 712702, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Subrata Mookherjee (new name), as declared Before The Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 09/01/2026. Subrata Mookherjee (new name) and S Mukherjee (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Mobarek Mal (Old Name),Son Of Khairuddin Mal,Residing At Marakpur,Prithiba Habra, North 24 Parganas-743704, West Bengal, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Mo-barock Hossain Mal(New Name) Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 09/01/2026.Mobarek Mal And Mo-barock Hossain Mal Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, Snigdha Banerjee Dey(Old Name), Wife Of Saudip Banerjee, Residing At 79/4 A.P.C Roy Road,33/13 Kamal Park Birati, Kolkata - 7000 51,West Bengal, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Snigdha Banerjee(New Name) Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 09/01/2026. Snigdha Banerjee Dey And Snigdha Banerjee Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I,Jamat Ali (Old Name),Son Of Ray-han Mondal,Residing At Vill-Tola, Po-Baidyapur, Ps-Kalna, Bardhaman- 713122,West Bengal, Have Changed My Name And Shall Hence forth Be Known As Jamat Ali Mondal(New Name) Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 08/01/2026.Jamat Ali And Jamat Ali Mondal Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, Kalpana Datta (Old Name), D/O Baidya Nath Chandra,Residing At Flat No-2c,Be-12/3, Deshbandhu Agar, Bidhanagar-700059,West Bengal,Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Kalpana Duttta(New Name) Vide An Affidavit No 1093 Sworn Before The Ld 1st Class Judicial Magistrate At Kolkata On 20/12/2018.Kalpna Datta And Kalpana Datta Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, Sayani Basu (Old Name),Wife Of Sourav Basu,Residing At Mearber Road,Chhinsuraah, Hooghly- 712101,West Bengal,Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Sayani Datta Basu (New Name) Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 12/12/2025. Sayani Basu And Sayani Datta Basu Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, Nazma & Najma(Old Name), Wife Of Nehru Khan, Residing At Chak Alampur, Po-Alampur Ps-Nodakhali, South 24 Parganas-743318, West Bengal, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Nazma Bibi(New Name) Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 08/01/2026. Nazma & Najma(Old Names) And Nazma Bibi(New Name) Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, Jagadish Saha (old name) son of Pyari Mohan Saha, residing at Ward No. 18, Agartala College Road, Shibnagar, Agartala, Tripura - 799004, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Jagadish Chandra Saha (new name) as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata dated 09/01/2026. Jagadish Saha (old name) and Jagadish Chandra Saha (new name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Shamim Akhtar (Old Name) S/o Neyamatullah Residing at 6/1, B L No 05, Kankinara, Bhatpara (M), District - North 24 Parganas, Pin - 743126, West Bengal, India, have Changed my name and shall henceforth be Known as Md Shamim Akhtar (New Name) as declared before the Notary public Kolkata vide affidavit no 005 Dated 09-01-2026. Shamim Akhtar (Old Name) and Md Shamim Akhtar (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Sahidul Islam Molla (Old Name) S/o Late Eman Ali Molla Residing at Vill - Dharsa Mokartapur, P.o - Kadampukur, P.s - Rajarhat, District - North 24 Parganas, Pin - 700135, West Bengal, India, have Changed my name and shall henceforth be Known as Sahidul Molla (New Name) as declared before the Notary public Kolkata vide affidavit Dated 09-01-2026. Sahidul Islam Molla (Old Name) and Sahidul Molla (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Rajeev Agarwal (Old Name) S/o Chand Prasad Agarwal Residing at Flat No-2A, 34G, Shib Krishna Dob Lane, Po.- Kangurgachi, Ps.- Phool Bagan, District - Kolkata, Pin - 700054, West Bengal, India, have Changed my name and shall henceforth be Known as Rajeev Kumar Agarwal (New Name) as declared before the Notary public Kolkata vide affidavit Dated 09-01-2026. Rajeev Agarwal (Old Name) and Rajeev Kumar Agarwal (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

NAME CHANGE
I, Zeba Raj, W/o. Lt. Raj Mohammed, R/o.- 7A, Rajab Ali Lane, P.S.-Ekbalpur, Kol-23, WB, declare that my Son's Nafees Raj actual DOB-19.02.2007 has been wrongly recorded in ISCE - Delhi, (Class -10) in the year of 2024 Loyola High School Admit Card as 19.05.2008, vide Affidavit No. 77646, dtd. 20.12.2025, in the Court of the Ld. Judicial Magistrate(1st Class) at Alipore, Kol-27. That Nafees Raj, actual DOB-19.02.2007 & Nafees Raj, wrong DOB-19.05.2008 both are the same & one identical person.

Bihar jewellers to bar sales to customers wearing BURQA, HIJAB

MI News Service, Patna: Jewellery shops across Bihar may refuse entry and sales to customers whose faces are covered, citing security concerns amid a spate of robberies and soaring prices of precious metals.

The Bihar unit of the All India Jewellers and Goldsmith Federation(AIJGF) said it has asked its members not to display or sell ornaments to customers who enter shops wearing hijabs, burqas, naqabs, scarves, masks or helmets unless their faces are visible for identification. Announcing the decision, Ashok Kumar Verma, president of the AIJGF Bihar, said the directive was "purely driven by security considerations" and was not aimed at any particular community or religious group. "We have decided not to sell items to customers who enter with their faces covered. Unless the customer's face is visible for identification at the time of purchase, their entry into the shop will be restricted," Verma told re-

porters in Patna. Clarifying the scope of the move, Verma said the rule would apply equally to men and women.

"The federation is not imposing a ban on hijab or burqa. We are only requesting customers to show their faces for identification. This applies to everyone, including men who cover their faces with scarves or helmets," he said. Jewellers argue that the measure has become necessary in view of repeated thefts involving masked criminals. "If customers enter jewellery shops with their faces covered, we cannot identify them. The move will also help police ascertain identities through CCTV footage in case of any theft," Verma said.He cited recent incidents to underline the concern, including a robbery in which ornaments worth about Rs 25 crore were looted from a jewellery outlet in Bhojpur district in March last year, and another robbery at a jewellery shop in Siwan district in November.

Malaysia woos Bengal travellers

MI News Service, Kolkata: Malaysia Airlines' growing network, inviting travellers to discover both new destinations and familiar favourites. Travellers can connect seamlessly to global cities including Sydney, Seoul, and Shanghai, as well as regional escapes such as Cebu, Siem Reap, and Krabi via sister airline Firefly from KLIA Terminal 1. This is further enriched with Malaysia Airlines' Bonus Side Trip (BST) programme, which transforms stopovers into opportunities to discover Malaysia - from the cultural charm of Penang to the pristine beaches of Langkawi - positioning Kuala Lumpur as a welcoming gateway to journeys across Asia and beyond as part of Visit Malaysia 2026. Guests flying on Malaysia Airlines' next-generation A330neo aircraft to destinations including Tokyo, Bali, Melbourne, Sydney, and Auckland can look forward to an enhanced onboard experience designed around comfort and thoughtful details. The aircraft features ergonomically designed seats and large, high-definition in-flight entertainment screens, delivering a more comfortable and seamless journey and supporting the airline's continued fleet modernisation efforts.

Name Change
I, Neel Chakraborty, S/oTroy Chakraborty, residing at Active Acres Tower -5A Flat-5C,54/10 D C Dey Road ,Po & Ps -Tangra,Kolkata -700015,have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Neil Joseph Chakraborty as declared before the First Class Judicial Magistrate at Alipore Court vide affidavit no. 9615, dated: 20.05. 2025.Neel Chakraborty and Neil Joseph Chakraborty is the same and one identical person.

Name Change
I,Troy Joseph Chakraborty,S/o Late Sitesh Chakraborty, residing at Active Acres Tower -5A Flat-5C,54/10 D C Dey Road ,Po & Ps -Tangra, Kolkata -700015,have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Troy Chakraborty as per the declaration affirmed before the Learned First Class Judicial Magistrate at AliporeCourt, via Affidavit No. 8806dated 17.06.2025. Troy Joseph Chakraborty and Troy Chakraborty are one and the same identical person.

Name Change
I, Mahasin Mondal, declare that my minor son Rahamat Ali (son old name), residing at Habibur South, P.O.- Habib, P.S.- Ranaghat, Nadia, West Bengal, India, I have changed my son name and he shall henceforth be known as Rahamat Ali Mondal (son new name), as declared Before The Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 09/01/2026. Rahamat Ali Mondal and Rahamat Ali both are same and one identical person (my son).

Name Change
I, Sikha Bera (Old Name),Wife Of Nikhil Kumar Bera,Residing At Vill-Gholdigrui, Po - Gholdigrui,Ps-Pursurah,Hooghly Rural-712401, West Bengal,Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Sikha Rani Bera(New Name) Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 09/01/2026.Sikha Bera And Sikha Rani Bera Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I,Susanta Ghosh & Sushanta Kumar Ghosh (old name) son of Late Sudhir Kumar Ghosh, residing at 531/3, RAJA RAM MOHAN ROY ROAD,P.O-BARISHA, KOLKATA- 700008.,West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Susanta Kumar Ghosh (new name), as declared Before The Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 09/01/2026. Susanta Kumar Ghosh (new name) and Susanta Ghosh & Sushanta Kumar Ghosh (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Abdur Rafik Khan, son of Late Moharali Khan, residing at Vill - Ghumi, Po - Chakpatli, Ps - Hasnabad, North 24 parganas - 743426(Parnanent Address) and Katiarbag,Cham-pakurMatia, North 24 Parganas - 743291,West Bengal(Present Address),have changed my mother name Pachi Bibi(Old Name) to Neharjan Khan(New Name) and she shall henceforth be known as Neharjan Khan vide an affidavit No 32241 sworn before the Ld 1st Class Judicial Magistrate at Basirhat on 19/12/2025.Pachi Bibi and Neharjan Khan both are the same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Md Tanweer Rahman,Residing At 1472/1 West Chowbaga,Block A, Flat-1f,Kolkata - 700105,West Bengal,Do Herby Notified That My Father Sk Doma Shall Henceforth Be Known As Md Sayeed Rahman Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Ld 1st Class Judicial Magistrate At Alipore On 08/01/2026.Sk Doma And Md Sayeed Rahman Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.



Thousands of pilgrims are heading towards Gangasagar from across the country on Monday, for a week-long pilgrimage at the confluence of Bay of Bengal.

CRPF Deployed at ED's New Town Office After I-PAC Row

MI News Service, Kolkata: Security has been significantly tightened at the CGO Complex in New Town, which currently houses the Enforcement Directorate (ED), following recent developments linked to the I-PAC controversy. After the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) shifted out of the premises, the complex had no deployment of central armed forces and security was being handled by a private agency. However, in the aftermath of the I-PAC-related incident, the Union Ministry of Home Affairs has decided to enhance security by deploying Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel in place of the private guards.Sources clarified that there is no official link between the CRPF deployment and the alleged "confrontation" at the I-PAC office, describing the timing as coincidental. Officials said the decision was taken considering the sensitive nature of several ongoing ED investigations. Important documents, including confidential records related to multiple high-profile cases, are stored at the CGO Complex, prompting the need for en-



A police vehicle outside the Loudon Street residence of I-PAC chief Pratik Jain

hanced protection. The private security agency has been relieved of its duties and CRPF personnel have been stationed at both entry points of the complex. A total of 12 CRPF jawans—six at each gate—have been deployed. Senior officials of the ED and CRPF recently held a coordination meeting, during which the decision to induct central armed forces was finalised, sources said. The move comes shortly after the controversial I-PAC episode and Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's allegation that party-related files were forcibly taken away.

Meanwhile, the ED has summoned neighbours of I-PAC founder Prashant Jain as part of its ongoing investigation. Jain resides on Loudon Street in south Kolkata. Residents of his apartment complex, as well as occupants of adjacent buildings, have been asked to appear before ED officials. Sources said the agency is seeking details on what residents may have observed or heard during the search operation, including the movement of officers and the identities of individuals who entered the premises.

The Kolkata Police have

Justice Sujoy Paul Appointed Chief Justice of Cal HC

MI News Service, Kolkata: Justice Sujoy Paul has been appointed as the new Chief Justice of the Calcutta High Court, ending his tenure as the Acting Chief Justice. The Supreme Court Collegium formally approved his name for the post during its meeting held on January 9. Justice Paul had been discharging the responsibilities of Acting Chief Justice following the retirement of Justice T.S. Sivagnanam, who demitted office as the Chief Justice of the Calcutta High Court

Before Justice Paul took over as Acting Chief Justice, the position was held by Justice Soumen Sen. Justice Sen was subsequently recommended for appointment as the Chief Justice of the Meghalaya High Court. After the recommendation was implemented, Justice Sujoy Paul was entrusted with the responsibility of Acting Chief Justice of the Calcutta High Court, which he continued to hold until his formal elevation. Justice Sujoy Paul was born into a Bengali family but spent most of his early life in Madhya Pradesh. He completed his schooling at L.S. Jha Model School before pursuing higher education in Jabalpur. He obtained his undergraduate and postgraduate degrees from Rani Durgavati University, Jabalpur, and later completed his Bachelor of Laws (LLB), laying a strong academic foundation for his legal career.

After practising as an advocate for several years, Justice Paul was appointed as a judge of the Madhya Pradesh High Court at Jabalpur in 2011. He served the court for more than a decade, gaining recognition for his judicial acumen and administrative experience.

Winter Tightens Grip as Temp Drops Ahead of Makar Sankranti

MI News Service, Kolkata: The weather mood across West Bengal has changed once again, with winter making a noticeable comeback from Monday after a brief pause. As the cloud cover associated with a low-pressure system over Sri Lanka gradually cleared, cold northerly winds regained strength across the region, leading to a sharp drop in temperatures. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has indicated that this spell of cold weather is far from over, with a stronger bout of winter conditions likely to grip the state around the time of Makar Sankranti.

On Monday morning, Kolkata recorded a minimum temperature of 12.4 degrees Celsius, marking a significant fall from Sunday's minimum of 15 degrees Celsius. According to weather officials, the return of unhindered northerly winds has played a crucial role in bringing down temperatures across south Bengal. The mercury is expected to dip further over the next two days, intensifying the chill during early morning and late-night hours. Fog is also set to be a key weather feature in the coming days. The IMD has forecast light to moderate fog across most parts of the state during the early morning hours. Several districts in south Bengal are already witnessing patchy fog, and in some areas, foggy conditions may persist till late morning, affecting visibility on roads and rail routes. The drop in temperature is not confined to the state capital alone. Several districts have recorded much lower minimum temperatures, signalling a widespread cold spell. On Monday, Kalyani recorded a minimum temperature of 7.5 degrees Celsius, while Sriniketan registered 8 degrees. Barrackpore and Berhampore reported minimum temperatures of around 10 degrees



Celsius. Meteorologists have warned that western districts of the state could experience minimum temperatures between 7 and 10 degrees Celsius over the next few days. The Alipore Meteorological Office has stated that temperatures across south Bengal are likely to fall further as Makar Sankranti approaches. During the festival period, cold conditions are expected to intensify, with the winter chill firmly setting in across both urban and rural areas. In Kolkata and its adjoining regions, minimum temperatures are expected to hover between 11 and 13 degrees Celsius, while colder conditions may prevail in interior districts. Weather experts have confirmed that the influence of northerly winds will continue throughout the week, ensuring that winter remains dominant in the state. Although no drastic drop in temperatures is expected in Kolkata beyond current levels, the overall cold feel is likely to persist, especially during night and early morning hours. Residents have been advised to take precautions against the cold, particularly the elderly and children. With foggy mornings and falling temperatures, commuters may also face disruptions during early hours. For now, all indications suggest that winter has returned to Bengal in full swing, and the bone-chilling cold is here to stay for at least the next several days.

Truck Crashes Into Railing on Red Road, Driver Injured

MI News Service, Kolkata: A major road accident was reported early Monday morning on Red Road, one of Kolkata's busiest thoroughfares, after a goods-laden truck lost control and rammed into the road-side railing. A significant portion of the railing was damaged in the impact, while the truck was left badly mangled. The driver was trapped inside the vehicle and had to be rescued by emergency personnel. He was later admitted to SSKM Hospital with multiple injuries. According to eyewitnesses, the incident took place at dawn, when the city was still enveloped in dense winter fog. The truck was travelling at a considerable speed along Red Road when it encountered a bus approaching from the opposite direction. In an attempt to control the vehicle and avoid a collision, the driver reportedly lost control, causing the truck to veer off and crash forcefully into the railing before coming to a halt after moving a short distance further.

The accident narrowly missed the statue of Dr B.R. Ambedkar, located close to the crash site. Eyewitnesses said that had the truck moved a little further, it could have struck the statue directly. The close call sparked concern among commuters and passers-by who gathered at the spot shortly after the incident. Police from the Maidan police station rushed to the scene soon after receiving information about the crash. Fire brigade personnel were also called in to assist with the rescue operation. As the driver was trapped inside the severely damaged cabin, rescuers had to cut open the truck's window to pull him out. The injured driver sustained several wounds and was immediately shifted to SSKM Hospital for treatment. Doctors treating him stated that his condition is stable and he is currently out of danger.

The accident caused temporary disruption to vehicular movement on Red Road during the early morning hours. Traffic was halted for some time as rescue and clearance operations were underway. Police later removed the damaged truck from the road and cleared debris from the crash site, following which traffic movement was gradually restored to normal. Authorities have launched an investigation to ascertain the exact cause of the accident. Preliminary inquiries are examining factors such as speed, visibility due to fog, and possible mechanical failure. Fire and police officials are jointly assessing the circumstances surrounding the incident.

The mishap once again highlights concerns over road safety during early morning hours, particularly in winter when low visibility and high speeds increase the risk of accidents on major city roads.

itel Partners with Lallantop to Present Bihar Adda - A Mega Cultural Festival for All

Patna : itel, one of India's leading tech brands of India, has partnered with Lallantop as a co-sponsor for the Lallantop Bihar Adda. The on-ground public forum brought together for an open conversation with audiences from across Bihar. The Bihar Adda brought together an impressive lineup of prominent voices from cinema, education and popular culture, creating an electrifying atmosphere for attendees. The much-awaited mega-event took place on 10th January at the iconic Babu Sabhagar in Patna's Gandhi Maidan and was inaugurated by the Chief Secretary of Bihar, Shri Pratyaya Amrit. The star student event was also graced by the presence of deputy Chief Minister of Bihar, Shri Samrat Chowdhary.

Famous actors like Pawan Singh, Pulkit Samrat and Amrapali Dubey lit up the stage, while captivating performances by social media star Satish Ray and RJ Anjali left the crowd enthralled. Building on the momentum of past events, this year's Lallantop Adda drew a massive footfall from students, young professionals, creators, and families - adding yet another memorable chapter to the event's vibrant legacy. The event was a live, interactive platform that reflected the region's socio-political pulse through candid discussions, storytelling, and audience engagement. itel's association with the Lallantop Bihar Adda closely aligns with its broader commitment of building deeply resonant connections with consumers through culturally relevant platforms. This partnership between itel and The Lallantop Adda is a testament to itel's dedication towards empowering masses of Bharat by providing access to durable and reliable technology.

About itel
Established over 16 years, itel is a reliable smart life brand for everyone. Adopting "Enjoy Better Life" as its brand philosophy, itel's mission is to provide budget-friendly consumer electronic products to everyone. It democratizes technology by giving entry to technology and connectedness to consumers without prior access to it. After more than 16 years of development, itel has expanded its presence in more than 50 emerging markets globally. itel has a product portfolio of smartphones, TV, accessories, electric, speakers, home appliances and laptop products and in 2021, it ranked No.1 Global Smartphone brand under \$75 and No.1 feature phone brand.

Males born to obese moms more likely to develop health issues as adults: Research

WASHINGTON DC [US] : Males born to obese mothers are more likely to be overweight at birth and suffer metabolic issues later in life, such as liver disease or diabetes.

The way that male sex hormones activate pathways in the developing liver is partly to blame.

That's the finding from a new study led by University of South Australia (Unisa) researchers looking at the impact of maternal obesity on fetal liver androgen signalling.

Male fetuses of obese pregnant women have different signals that are activated by male sex hormones in the liver, which encourages them to prioritise growth at the expense of their health.

Unisa researcher Dr Ashley Meakin says androgens give men their male characteristics and are crucial in their development, but if there are too many, male fetuses grow too large, causing not only problems at birth, but impacting liver function as an adult.

Female fetuses exposed to excess testosterone from an obese pregnancy are wired to switch off the androgen pathway in the liver, restricting their growth and lowering the risks of metabolic disorders in adulthood.

"We know there are sex differences in metabolic disorders in later life in response to maternal obesity," DrMeakin says.

"Men are more prone to non-alcohol fatty liver diseases and diabetes as an adult if their mother is obese during pregnancy and their birth weight is above 4 kg (9 lb 15 oz).

"They are genetically wired to prioritise androgens because it supports the development of male characteristics - including size - but too much androgen is bad."

Study lead author Professor Janna Morrison, Head of the Early Origins of Adult Health Research Group at Unisa, says it's a fine balance for women getting the right nutrition in pregnancy to ensure optimal conditions for their unborn child to flourish.

"There are also risks for offspring being malnourished during pregnancy," she says. "If you are too little, too big, born too early, or a male, you are more vulnerable to negative outcomes later in life. You need the Goldilocks pregnancy: you must be the right size, born at the right time."

Prof Morrison says unless society changes its approach to nutrition, it will be an uphill battle to reduce obesity and associated health issues, from the womb into adulthood.

"As a society, we urgently need to address obesity. If children were taught early on about the importance of healthy eating, it would carry through into adulthood, including during pregnancy, where the right nutrition is so important."

DrMeakin says in the intervening period, supplements that address nutritional imbalances in pregnancy could provide the fetus with the best chance of optimal development.

The liver androgen signalling study, recently published in Life Sciences, is among a series of studies by Prof Morrison and colleagues that investigates the impact of maternal under- and over-nutrition on the placenta, heart, lung, and liver.

Study finds how weight loss could reduce chances of severe infections in diabetic people

WASHINGTON : According to new research, weight loss therapies may lower the risk of severe flu cases and other infections in patients suffering from diabetes.

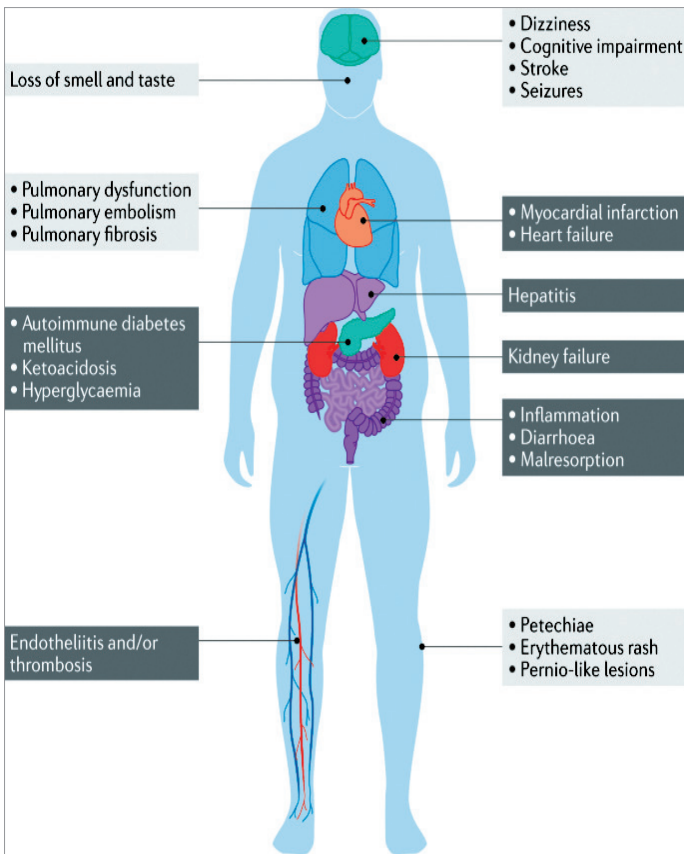
The research will be presented at the annual meeting of the European Association for the Study of Diabetes (EASD) in Madrid, Spain (9-13 September).

The study by Rhian Hopkins and Ethan de Villiers, of the University of Exeter Medical School, University of Exeter, Exeter, in the United Kingdom, there is evidence to support the link between severe illnesses and a higher BMI. In contrast, there was no evidence that mild hyperglycaemia contributes to the likelihood of a severe infection.

Hopkins says: "Up to one in three hospitalisations in people with diabetes are for infections and people with diabetes are twice as likely to be hospitalised with infections than the general population. They are also at high risk of readmission."

"Previous studies have found that a higher BMI and poor blood sugar control are associated with severe infections. However, these studies have been observational and so haven't been able to prove that the links are causal."

"If one or both of these factors can be shown to be causal, it may be possible to design interventions to lower the risk of severe infections in those at high risk, such as people with diabetes." The new study used data from the UK Biobank, which holds medical and genetic data on around 500,000 people in the UK, to explore the effect of higher BMI and poor blood sugar control on hospitalisation for bacterial and viral infections. The 486,924 participants were classified into three groups: those with a record of hospitalisation for a bacterial infection, such as pneumonia or a urinary tract infection, (n=64,005) or a viral infection, such as flu, (n=14,562) and an infection-free control group (n=408,357). A higher BMI was found to be associated with hospitalisation with infections. The



The objective of the 'DAWN' Scheme-2025 is to protect youth from drug abuse : Judicial Commissioner



Ranchi : Under the guidance of Hon'ble Mr. Justice-cum-Executive Chairman, JHALSA, Mr. Sujit Narayan Prasad, and under the leadership of Hon'ble Judicial Commissioner, Ranchi, Mr. Anil Kumar Mishra-1, the legal awareness programme to protect youth from drug abuse, under the NALSA Scheme 'DAWN-2025', concluded today, January 12, 2026. On the occasion of the closing ceremony, a special youth conference and seminar were organized, in which Hon'ble Judicial Anil Kumar Mishra-1, Mr. Atul Gera, Head of Life Savers NGO, Mr. Shariq Umar, Superintendent NCB, Mr. Rakesh Raushan, Secretary, DLSA, Mr. Prashant Kumar Verma, Registrar-cum-Judge-in-Charge, members of LADCS, renowned artist and director of Kalakriti School, Mr. Dhananjay Kumar and students of Kalakriti School, stu-

dents of Kasturba Gandhi Girls' School, PLVs and others were present. The closing ceremony was inaugurated by lighting the lamp. The stage was managed by the DLSA Secretary and the anchoring was done by Roshni Sharma.

The Hon'ble Mr. Justice said that the legal awareness program under the NALSA DAWN Scheme-2025, which ran from January 5, 2026 to January 12, 2026, to protect youth from drug abuse, concluded today with the celebration of National Youth Day. Today, the students present should draw inspiration from the teachings of Swami Vivekananda so that they can strengthen the values of discipline, character, and service. The Honorable Judicial Commissioner also discussed with the children present the dangers of drug abuse and its harmful effects.

It is noteworthy that the Honorable Justice himself presented certificates and shields to the students of Kalakriti School and Kasturba Gandhi Girls' School. Other dignitaries on the stage also presented certificates to the children.

In the painting competition at Kasturba Gandhi Girls' School, Kanke, Ranchi, Jaya Kumari received the first prize, Shweta Kumari the second, and Kritika Kumari the third prize and certificates. In the essay competition (senior section), Sandeepa Kumari Bedia received the first prize, Tanu Kumari the second, and Dipshikha Kumari Bedia the third prize and certificates. In the essay competition (junior section), Roshni Kumari received the first prize, Lakshmi Kumari the second, and Namrata Kumari the third prize and certificates, which were presented by the Honorable Justice and the chief guests on the stage.

It is also worth mentioning that the students of Kasturba Gandhi Girls' School organized a painting exhibition, where the Honorable Justice and other guests viewed the artwork on display. The children also explained their artwork.

It should be noted that under the NALSA 'Dawn' Scheme-2025, more than 7375 programs were organized during the seven days of Youth Week, and more than 2,18,750 people participated in the NALSA 'Dawn' Scheme-2025 and took a pledge against drug abuse.

This information was provided by DALSA Secretary, Mr. Rakesh Roshan.

BIS committed to enhancing quality, safety in Ayurveda through robust standardisation



New Delhi : The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), under the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, has reaffirmed its commitment to enhancing quality and safety in Ayurveda through robust standardisation.

The BIS successfully organised a national-level workshop in collaboration with the Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE) through its Division of Ayurveda, Centre for Integrative Medicine and Research.

The event, exclusively designed for faculty members, researchers, start-ups, and industry representatives engaged in the Ayurveda sector, witnessed the participation of nearly 180 delegates from across the country. It marked a significant milestone in the collective journey towards strengthening quality, safety, and global acceptance of Ayurveda. "BIS is committed to

Raghavendra Naik, Scientist-C, BIS, emphasised the importance of interdisciplinary research, strong academia-industry partnerships. He also called for targeted capacity-building initiatives to create a sustainable and collaborative ecosystem involving academia, industry, and policymakers for Ayurveda standardisation.

strengthening quality and safety in Ayurveda through robust and inclusive standardisation mechanisms," said Shrishti Dixit, Head of the AYUSH Department, BIS. She highlighted that standards form the foundation of trust, which is essential for the international recognition and wider adoption of Ayurveda.

The workshop theme, inspired by BIS's guiding motto "Manakah Patha

Pradarshaka" highlighted the critical role of standards in harmonising classical Ayurvedic wisdom with modern scientific and regulatory frameworks.

"The workshop represents an important step toward bridging traditional knowledge with contemporary requirements through structured and meaningful standardisation," said Jayant Deopujari, Chairperson of the Ayurveda Sectional Committee, BIS.

He underscored the collective responsibility of all stakeholders to position Ayurveda as a globally trusted healthcare system.

Dr. Sharath K Rao, Pro Vice-Chancellor - Health Sciences, MAHE, Manipal, stressed the urgent need for standardisation in traditional systems such as Ayurveda. He assured full institutional support from MAHE and its various divisions in advancing this national initiative of the government.

The discussions focused on multi-disciplinary collaboration, the role of standards in nurturing Ayurveda start-ups, and the responsibility of the industry in driving quality and compliance. Participants actively engaged in open discussions, sharing innovative ideas and practical insights on advancing standardization in Ayurveda.

Raghavendra Naik, Scientist-C, BIS, emphasised the importance of interdisciplinary research, strong academia-industry partnerships. He also called for targeted capacity-building initiatives to create a sustainable and collaborative ecosystem involving academia, industry, and policymakers for Ayurveda standardisation.

Weight loss surgery is more effective in controlling hypertension rates: Study



LOS ANGELES [US] : According to a study published today in the Journal of the American College of Cardiology, bariatric surgery is more effective at controlling hypertension rates, or high blood pressure, in people with obesity and uncontrolled high blood pressure, than blood pressure medication alone.

People who had bariatric surgery had a lower BMI and were on fewer drugs after five years while maintaining normal blood pressure levels than those who solely used antihypertensive medications.

According to the CDC, the U.S. obesity and hypertension rates in adults are 41.9 per cent and 45.4 per cent, respectively.

Obesity is a proven risk factor for cardiovascular disease and a key contributor to high blood pressure, both of which can increase the chance of a heart attack, stroke, and heart failure.

"In clinical practice, obesity is an overlooked condition. As a consequence, there is a frequent failure in approaching obesity as a crucial step for mitigating the risk of important cardiovascular risk factors including hypertension," said Carlos Aurelio Schiavon, MD, FACS, lead author of the study and a surgeon specializing in bariatric surgery at Heart Hospital and BP Hospital in Sao Paulo.

Researchers in this study looked at the impact of treating obesity to lower high blood pressure. While there are new medications to treat obesity, long-term adherence to medication can be challenging.

This study looks at bariatric surgery as a better long-term solution to control obesity and, as a result, high blood pressure.

The GATEWAY trial included 100 people (76 per cent of which were female) who had a body mass index (BMI) of around 36.9 kg/m2. All participants had hypertension and were using at least two medications.

People with previous cardiovascular events and poorly con-

trolled Type 2 diabetes were excluded. Subjects were assigned to either Roux-en-Y gastric bypass with medical therapy or medical therapy alone and the primary outcome was reduction of at least 30 per cent antihypertensive medications while maintaining blood pressure levels less than 140/90 mmHg at five years.

At five years, BMI was 28.01 Kg/m2 for those who received bariatric surgery and 36.40 Kg/m2 for those on medical therapy alone. People who had bariatric surgery had an 80.7 per cent reduction in the number of medications they were taking compared to a 13.7 per cent reduction in those only using medical therapy.

Hypertension remission, defined as controlled blood pressure without medications, was 46.9 per cent in those who underwent bariatric surgery compared to 2.4 per cent in those on medical therapy alone.

"Our results underscore the importance of approaching obesity in reducing hypertension rates," Schiavon said.

Limitations of the study included that it was a single-centre, open-label study with a small sample size and there was loss of follow-up in some patients.

In an accompanying editorial comment, Michael Hall, MD, MSc, professor and chair of the Department of Medicine at the University of Mississippi Medical Center, said the study provides important long-term data on the benefits of gastric bypass on weight loss and blood pressure control, but questions remain.

"Further studies assessing the threshold for bariatric surgery in people with obesity, optimal timing of bariatric surgery in obese people with cardiometabolic diseases, type of bariatric surgery and comparative studies of obesity pharmacotherapies and bariatric surgery are needed to clarify the optimal treatment pathways for this common and growing disease," he said.

More Amrit Bharat Express trains to run from West Bengal

MI News Service, 12 Jan 2026, Kolkata: Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will flag off new Amrit Bharat Express trains on 18.01.2026 viz. Santragachi - Tambaram Amrit Bharat Express, Howrah - Anand Vihar Amrit Bharat Express and Sealdah - Banaras Amrit Bharat Express.

Amrit Bharat Express is a new generation train introduced for affordable, safe and long distance inter-state travel. Designed with modern, state-of-the-art amenities, the Amrit Bharat Express trains ensure enhanced passenger comfort, convenience and a superior travel experience.

1) 16107/16108 Tambaram - Santragachi - Tambaram Amrit Bharat Express
16107 Tambaram-Sant-

ragachi Amrit Bharat Express will leave Tambaram every Friday at 15:30 hrs and will reach Santragachi at 20:15 hrs, the next day. In the return direction, 16108 Santragachi - Tambaram Amrit Bharat Express will leave Santragachi every Saturday at 23:55 hrs and will arrive Tambaram at 10:00 hrs, the third day.

The train will have stoppages at Chennai Egmore, Sulerpet, Nellore, Ongole, Chirala, Tenali, Vijayawada Jn, Eluru, Rajahmundry, Samalkot, Anakapalle, Duvvada, Pendurthi, Kothavalasa, Vizianagaram, Srikakulam Road, Palasa, Brahmapur, Balugaon, Khurda Road, Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Jaipur Keonjhar Road, Bhadrak, Balasore and Kharagpur

2) 13065/13066 Howrah - Anand Vihar - Howrah Amrit Bharat Express

13065 Howrah-Anand Vihar Amrit Bharat Express will leave Howrah every Thursday at 23:10 hrs and will reach Anand Vihar at 02:50 hrs, the third day. In the return direction, 13066 Anand Vihar - Howrah Amrit Bharat Express will leave Anand Vihar every Saturday at 05:15 hrs and will arrive Howrah at 10:50 hrs, the next day.

The train will have stoppages at Asansol, Durgapur, Bardhaman, Bandel, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya, Bhabua Road, Sasaram, Dehri On Son, Anugraha Narayan Road, Gaya, Koderma, Parasnath, NSCB Gomoh, Dhanbad, Varanasi, Jaunpur City, Sultanpur, Maha-

raja Bijli Pasi (Nihalgarh), Lucknow, Shahjahanpur, Bareilly, Moradabad, Gajraula, Hapur and Ghaziabad

3) 22588/22587 Banaras - Sealdah - Banaras Amrit Bharat Express

22588 Banaras-Sealdah Amrit Bharat Express will leave Banaras every Sunday, Tuesday and Friday at 22:10 hrs and will reach Sealdah at 09:55 hrs, the next day. In the return direction, 22587 Sealdah- Banaras Amrit Bharat Express will leave Sealdah every Monday, Wednesday and Saturday at 19:30 hrs and will arrive Banaras at 07:20 hrs, the next day.

The train will have stoppages at Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya, Patna, Jasiidih, Madhupur, Asansol and Durgapur

Amrit Bharat Express Trains Driving Bengal's Next Rail Revolution

MI News Service, 12 Jan 2026, Kolkata: Indian Railways' growth story has often been told through iconic landmarks, high-speed ambitions and marquee inaugurations. Yet, the true measure of a national transport system lies in how consistently it serves the everyday traveller. The Amrit Bharat Express trains are an affordable and reliable Rail connectivity, linking far-off regions often separated by geography and opportunity.

Conceived as a special offering of the Amrit Kaal, the Amrit Bharat Express brings seamless, non-AC long-distance travel to the common passenger at fares of less than 500 per thousand kilometres. For millions who depend on Indian Railways for work, education and livelihood, it offers modern facilities without the burden of high fares.

Amrit Bharat Express trains emphasise comfort and seamless Rail connectivity for its passengers. Their design reflects a new approach to Rail travel, one that prioritises passenger convenience, energy efficiency and environmental responsibility. As an indigenous train, Amrit Bharat Express also strengthens the spirit of Atmanirbhar Bharat, showcasing home-grown engineering aligned with India's operational needs.

Speaking at the launch of the service, the Prime Minister described the Amrit Bharat

Express as the country's latest modern train, following the Vande Bharat Express and Namo Bharat Rapid Rail. Together, the three represent a broader transformation underway in Indian Railways, one that is now translating into tangible benefits for everyday passengers across regions. On the 17th and 18th January, the Nation will see a leap in this journey of modernisation with the launch of Amrit Bharat Sleeper trains. With an aerodynamic design and the capability to run at speeds of up to 180 kmph, these world-class trains will reduce travel time for long-distance journeys.

Till now, 30 Amrit Bharat Express train services have been operating in the country since the service was first launched in December 2023. On 17th January 2026, Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will flag off a series of Amrit Bharat Express trains from West Bengal to different parts of the country. Tentative names of Amrit Bharat Express trains announced for West Bengal are:

1. New Jalpaiguri - Nagercoil Amrit Bharat Express
 2. New Jalpaiguri - Tiruchirappalli Amrit Bharat Express
 3. Alipurduar - Bengaluru Amrit Bharat Express
 4. Alipurduar - Mumbai (Panvel) Amrit Bharat Express
- Stretching from the sub-Himalayan foothills in West Bengal to the southern tip of

the country in Tamil Nadu, the New Jalpaiguri - Nagercoil Amrit Bharat Express will traverse multiple linguistic, cultural and economic zones. For migrant workers, students, traders and families, it is set to become a dependable link.

Equally significant is the New Jalpaiguri - Tiruchirappalli Amrit Bharat Express, which links North Bengal with central Tamil Nadu's educational and manufacturing centres. By offering a direct and affordable option on a corridor traditionally dependent on fragmented connections, the service simplifies long-distance travel for thousands who routinely travel between eastern India and the south.

Similarly, the Alipurduar - Bengaluru Amrit Bharat Express will strengthen links between the Doars region in West Bengal and the southern industrial ecosystem in Karnataka. Alipurduar's strategic location near international borders and forested terrain has often translated into isolation. A direct Amrit Bharat Express to Bengaluru will serve as an economic and social link for the people of the region.

Completing this eastern arc is the Alipurduar - Mumbai (Panvel) Amrit Bharat Express, which reflects east-west integration. Mumbai remains India's most established commercial centre, while Panvel is emerging as a major transit and logistics hub. For business

passengers from North Bengal and adjoining regions, a direct, comfortable train to Panvel, Mumbai, will reduce travel uncertainty at affordable fares.

From a technical perspective, the Amrit Bharat Express places strong emphasis on safety and passenger comfort. Semi-automatic couplers reduce noise and jolts during coupling operations, while deformation tubes help absorb impact in the event of accidents. Push-pull technology enhances operational efficiency and performance.

Passenger-focused features include foldable snack tables, mobile and bottle holders, radium floor strips, comfortable seating and improved berths. Toilets are equipped with electro-pneumatic flushing systems, automatic soap dispensers and fire suppression mechanisms, with special provisions for divyangjan passengers. Fast charging points for every passenger and a pantry car further enhance long-distance travel comfort.

With a focus on operational reliability and affordability, these modern trains cater to the largest segment of Indian Railways' passengers, those who travel far, often and out of necessity. By directly linking New Jalpaiguri and Alipurduar with Nagercoil, Tiruchirappalli, Panvel (Mumbai) and Bengaluru, Indian Railways is underlining its role as the Lifeline of the Nation.

Railways Carrying Tomorrow Across West Bengal & Assam

MI News Service, 12 Jan 2026, Kolkata: A sustained transformation is unfolding across eastern and north-eastern India. In Assam and West Bengal, Railways are emerging as critical instruments of regional integration and inclusive mobility, empowering economic growth.

In Assam, Railways are connecting terrain to opportunity. For a region once challenged by distance and difficult terrain, the change has been profound. More than 416 kilometres of new Railway tracks have been laid in the last five years alone, strengthening links between trade centres and remote communities. Today, Assam's rail network stretches across 2,571 route kilometres and over 4,199 track kilometres, quietly stitching together economies to everyday life.

Electrification has added a new rhythm to this network. Nearly the entire Railway system in Assam is now electrified, bringing cleaner operations and smoother journeys. Trains that once ran on diesel now glide end to end on electric traction. The Dibrugarh-Kanyakumari Vivek Express and the Dibrugarh-New Delhi Rajdhani Express are living examples of this transition, offering faster and more energy-efficient long-distance travel that carries Assam more confidently into the national mainstream.

Stations, the public face of the Railways, are also finding new identities. Fifty stations across Assam are being renewed under the Amrit Bharat Station

Scheme. Haibargaon, the first to be completed, opened in May 2025 as a symbol of this shift. Its open spaces, upgraded waiting halls and accessible facilities reflect a broader belief that travel should be dignified, safe and welcoming. Lifts, escalators and Wi-Fi connectivity across more than two hundred stations are changing what passengers can expect from everyday rail journeys.

Safety and sustainability have moved to the centre of planning. Road bridges and underpasses have eased congestion at crossings. Level crossings have been closed to make travel safer. The deployment of India's first AI-based intrusion detection system in elephant corridors reflects a rare blend of conservation and technology, protecting wildlife while safeguarding rail operations. Alongside this, Assam has joined the semi high-speed era with the Guwahati New-Jalpaiguri Vande Bharat Express, a quiet signal that the North East is no longer on the margins of modern rail travel.

West Bengal reflects a parallel story of rapid transformation. Here, the Rail network has been expanding with an urgency that mirrors the state's dense population and industrial pulse. Since 2014, more than 1,362 kilometres of new lines have been added, a length longer than the entire rail network of the United Arab Emirates. New connections like the Mandar Hill Rampurhat have reshaped mobility in interior districts,

while the Haldibari border link has reopened international corridors that once defined the region's trading spirit.

Doubling and Third Line projects have relieved pressure on busy routes, allowing suburban, freight and long distance services to move more smoothly. Gauge conversions have removed old bottlenecks, enabling trains to run faster and more reliably across previously constrained sections. These improvements are quietly influencing how people commute, how goods move and how industries plan their logistics.

Station redevelopment has emerged as one of the most visible signs of change. One hundred and one stations in West Bengal are being transformed under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme. Three of them were inaugurated in May 2025, offering passengers upgraded platforms, better circulation areas and modern amenities that make stations feel less like transit points and more like public spaces. At the same time, nearly ninety thousand crore rupees worth of railway works are underway across the state, shaping new corridors, safer systems and future-ready infrastructure.

The Kolkata region has also seen a major expansion of metro Rail, adding more kilometres in just over a decade than it did in the four decades before that. New generation trains such as Vande Bharat and Amrit Bharat Express services are bringing speed and comfort to

corridors that connect Bengal with the rest of the country, strengthening economic and social ties across states.

West Bengal stands at the threshold of its next leap, where improved coordination and streamlined land processes can quickly translate sanctioned projects into on-ground milestones. Entire corridors meant to serve industrial belts, coastal regions and rural interiors are still waiting to be built. These gaps underline a simple truth that development moves fastest when central vision and state execution move in step.

Together, Assam and West Bengal reflect two powerful faces of India's rail transformation. One shows how a region long shaped by geography can be gently opened through steady connectivity. The other shows how a populous and industrial state can be re-energised through modern corridors and upgraded stations. In both, the Railways are becoming more than infrastructure. They are becoming enablers of access, opportunity and dignity of travel.

The East is no longer waiting at the margins. With expanding rail corridors and renewed stations, it is stepping into the centre of India's growth story, where movement becomes momentum and connectivity becomes confidence. From the Brahmaputra to the Bay of Bengal, Railways are quietly building the next chapter of the East.

Essay, Drawing and Elocution Competitions Organised in Malda Schools Ahead of the Launch of India's First Vande Bharat Sleeper Train

MI News Service, 12 Jan 2026, Malda: Under the guidance of *Shri Manish Kumar Gupta, Divisional Railway Manager, Malda*, and the supervision of Shri Indrajot, Senior Divisional Personnel Officer, Malda, an *Essay, Drawing and Elocution Competition* was organised across several prominent schools in Malda — including *Barlow Girls' High School, Ramakrishna Mission School, Shishu Bihar English Academy, St. Xavier's High School and other schools* The programme was conducted in connection with the upcoming inauguration of *India's first Vande Bharat Sleeper Train, to operate between Howrah and Guwahati (Kamakhya)* thereby strengthening the link between the Eastern Region of West Bengal and the North Eastern Region of Assam.

The competitions aimed to raise awareness among students about the importance of modern railway infrastructure, technological innovation, and the transformative



impact of the Vande Bharat Sleeper Train on long-distance travel, regional connectivity, and national integration. The central theme highlighted the pride associated with the nation's first sleeper version of the Vande Bharat train and its significance for passengers of Eastern and North Eastern India.

A large number of students participated enthusiastically, showcasing their creativity, knowledge and communication skills. Their colourful drawings, thoughtful essays, and impactful speeches reflected a strong understanding of Indian Railways' continuous efforts toward modernisation and improved passenger experience.

*The initiative also sought to inspire young minds to embrace the vision of "Viksit Bangla, Viksit Bharat", *promoting the message of unity, development and transformation so they may emerge as the architects of a progressive India.

Teachers and school authorities appreciated the initiative and encouraged students to actively engage in nation-building activities through such programmes. The event concluded with appreciation for all participants and reaffirmed Eastern Railway's commitment to involving youth and fostering awareness about major milestones in Indian Railways.

Fire Incident Near Baghajatin Station; DRM Sealdah Issues Safety Appeal to all

MI News Service, 12 Jan 2026, Kolkata: Incident overview Earlier this morning, a fire broke out in a shop adjacent to the Baghajatin Railway Station premises. The blaze caused immediate panic among commuters and locals; however, after the swift intervention of the Fire Services and Railway officials, the fire was brought under control before it could spread further into the station area. No casualties and no any movement affected have been reported, although the shop sustained significant damage.

Divisional authority in coordination with local authorities, has initiated a formal enquiry. Preliminary assessments suggest that the storage or use of inflammable materials might have played a role.

This incident brings back memories of a similar fire that occurred in the past near Santoshpur Station. In that instance, fires in unauthorized or adjacent shops led to massive operational disruptions and posed a severe threat to railway infrastructure and passenger safety.

In light of this morning's event, all are requested for..

- Avoid Inflammable Materials and Strict instructions have been issued to refrain from using or storing highly flammable substances within or adjacent to station premises.
- To protect railway assets any fire near the tracks or station buildings endangers expensive Railway assets, including signalling systems and overhead wires, which are vital for train operations.
- Passenger safety is priority, one act of negligence can lead to a major catastrophe, causing immense hardship and risk to thousands of daily passengers.

Divisional Railway Manager, Sealdah Sri Rajeev Saxena, also stated the safety of our passengers is our top priority. Using fire near railway tracks is not only illegal but also dangerous. It can damage railway property, disrupt operations, and endanger the lives of passengers and railway personnel. We urge everyone to be mindful of their actions and help us ensure a safe travel experience for all.

Sealdah Division, is committed to ensure the safety and security of its passengers and employees. We urge everyone to cooperate with us in preventing such incidents and promoting safe travel for all.

East Coast Railway Registers Growth in Freight Loading

MI News Service, 12 Jan 2026, Bhubaneswar: East Coast Railway has recorded encouraging performance in freight loading during the current financial year, reflecting sustained demand across key commodity groups and improved logistics efficiency. During the period up to December, East Coast Railway achieved a total freight loading of 209.97 million tonnes, registering a growth of 11% over the corresponding period of last year. The performance also shows a 4% increase over the set target, highlighting consistent operational momentum.

Commodity wise performance indicates notable growth in several segments. Loading of fertilizers increased significantly by 40%, while finished steel registered a growth of 31%. Iron ore loading rose by 20%, and food grains recorded an increase of 16%, underscoring the Railway's crucial role in supporting agriculture and core industries. Coal, the principal commodity, maintained steady performance, ensuring uninterrupted supply



Coal India paid heartfelt tributes to Swami Vivekananda on his birth anniversary, commemorating the life and legacy of one of India's greatest visionaries. Chairman B. Sairam, along with Director (HR) Dr. Vinay Ranjan, CVO B. K. Tripathy and senior officials of Coal India, offered floral tributes in remembrance of his timeless ideals. Swami Vivekananda's teachings on justice, dignity and social empowerment continue to guide and inspire the organisation. His vision of service to humanity reinforces Coal India's commitment to integrity, courage and responsible nation-building, as it strives to contribute meaningfully to the progress and welfare of society.

Trump declares himself as 'Acting President of Venezuela' on Truth Social

MI News Service, New York: US President Donald Trump described himself as the "Acting President of Venezuela" in a Truth Social post, using a picture of his purported Wikipedia profile on Monday, January 12.

The post on Truth Social on Sunday has Trump's official portrait and then the designation "Acting President of Venezuela, "Incumbent January 2026."

It also has his designation as the 45th and 47th President of the United States, who assumed office on January 20, 2025.

Earlier this month, the US carried out a "large-scale" strike against Venezuela, cap-

turing the country's leader, Nicolas Maduro, who, along with his wife Cilia Flores, was flown to New York, where they were indicted on narco-terrorism conspiracy charges.

Trump has said that the US will "run Venezuela until we can do a safe, proper and judicious transition. We can't take a chance that someone else takes over Venezuela who doesn't have the interests of Venezuelans in mind."

Venezuela's vice president and oil minister, Delcy Rodriguez, was formally sworn in as the country's interim president last week.

Trump had said that the interim authorities in Venezuela will be turning over between 30 and 50 million barrels of "high-quality, sanctioned oil" to the US, which will be sold at its market price.

"That money will be controlled by me, as President of the United States of America, to ensure it is used to benefit the people of Venezuela and the United States! I have asked Energy Secretary Chris Wright to execute this plan immediately. It will be taken by storage ships and brought directly to unloading docks in the United States."

Head of Gaza militia claims responsibility for killing of senior Hamas cop

MI News Service, Gaza: Hosam al-Astal, a former Palestinian Authority security officer who leads an anti-Hamas militia group that he says has Israel's backing, claims responsibility for the killing of senior Hamas police officer Ahmed al-Astal in nearby Mawasi this morning. "We announce today the as-

sassination of the head of investigations in Khan Younis," the head of the group based near southern Gaza's Khan Younis says in a video message posted to his Facebook page.

He threatens to keep targeting Hamas officials and points to guns and ammunition that he says are spoils of his mi-

lita's battles. Pointing to a faint red stain on a semi-automatic rifle, he says, "this is blood of the Hamas dogs and pigs."

Hamas's interior ministry announced this morning that the police officer was killed in a drive-by shooting from a car occupied by "agents of the Israeli occupation."

Russia condemns British official's statement on "abducting" Putin

MI News Service, Moscow: The Russian Foreign Ministry on Sunday rebuked British Defence Secretary John Healey's remarks about "abducting" President Vladimir Putin.

Maria Zakharova, the ministry's spokesperson, called the remarks "the obscene fantasies of British deviants" during an appearance on the Russian TV channel TV Tsentr.

On Friday, Healey said he would "take Putin into custody and hold him accountable for war crimes" when asked by Ukrainian media which world leader he would like to abduct

Ukrainian president seeks extension of martial law, mobilization

MI News Service, Kiev: Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on Monday submitted bills to the parliament proposing the extension of the country's current martial law and mobilization, the parliament's press service reported.

If approved, both measures would be extended for an additional 90 days, until May 4.

5 killed, several injured as blast hit police vehicle in NW Pakistan

MI News Service, Islamabad: Five policemen were killed and several others injured in a bomb attack on a police vehicle in Pakistan's northwest Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) province on Monday, police officials said.

The incident happened when an improvised explosive device exploded near an armored police vehicle in the Gomal area of Tank district of the province, according to the police officials in the area.

The police vehicle was destroyed, killing policemen, in-

cluding a senior police officer, while injuring three passers-by.

Following the blast, police cordoned off the area and launched a search operation in the surroundings to arrest the culprits.

No group has claimed the attack yet.

Taking notice of the attack, KP Governor Faisal Karim Kundi said that the terrorists cannot dampen the nation's morale as the country would continue its fight against terrorism.

Cuban FM demands U.S. stop detaining Maduro illegally

MI News Service, Havana: Cuban Foreign Minister Bruno Rodriguez on Sunday demanded that the United States stop illegally detaining Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro and his wife.

"It has been eight days since the brutal kidnapping of the legitimate president of Venezuela, Nicolas Maduro Moros, and his wife Cilia Flores," said Rodriguez on X.

"We demand that the U.S. government put an end to this illegal detention, respect his immunity, stop the judicial and media farce that this trial has turned into and ensure his life and care," he added.

"We call on the international community to join this just demand, to preserve international law, as well as the life, justice and rights of President Maduro and his wife," said the diplomat.

Iran declares 3 days of national mourning for "martyrs" killed in protests

MI News Service, Tehran: Iranian government declared on Sunday three days of national mourning for "martyrs" killed in recent protests, state broadcaster reported.

The move came amid rising fatalities from two weeks of nationwide unrest, which Iran has

blamed on the United States and Israel.

Semi-official Tasnim news agency reported that at least 111 members of Iran's security forces have been killed in clashes since the protests initially erupted over a sharp depreciation of the rial and sweeping subsidy reforms.

WASHINGTON SUNDAR RULED OUT OF NZ ODIS; BADONI GETS MAIDEN CALL-UP

MUMBAI : The BCCI confirmed that all-rounder Washington Sundar will miss the rest of the ODI series against New Zealand due to side strain.

The BCCI called up the 26-year-old Ayush Badoni as Sunder's replacement, handing him his maiden national call-up.

Badoni, who has played 27 List A games, scoring 693 runs and chipping in with 18 wickets, will link up with the squad in Rajkot, the venue for the second ODI, starting on Wednesday. "India all-rounder Washington Sundar reported an acute onset discomfort in his left lower rib area while bowling during the first ODI against New Zealand at the BCA Stadium, Vadodara, on Sunday. He will undergo further scans, following which the BCCI Medical Team will seek expert opinion. Washington has been ruled out of the remaining two matches of the ODI series. "The Men's Selection Committee has named Ayush Badoni as his replacement. Badoni will link up with the squad in Rajkot, the venue for the second ODI," the BCCI said in their statement. This is the second injury blow that India have suffered for the ODI series after Rishabh Pant, who was ruled out just a couple of days before the first ODI in Vadodara. The wicketkeeper-batter was ruled out of the ODI series after suffering a side strain last week, with Dhruv Jurel replacing him in the squad. Tilak Varma, who underwent surgery for a groin injury, was ruled out of the first three T20Is of the five-game series that is set to begin on January 21 at the Vidarbha Cricket Association Stadium in Nagpur. This is a significant setback for the hosts, especially with the home T20 World Cup upcoming. Currently, the all-rounder is also part of India's World Cup squad, but it remains uncertain whether the dependable yet injury-prone Sundar will recover in time for the T20I series.

IOA executive committee reactivates National Olympic Academy, launches NOED programme

NEW DELHI : The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) has significantly advanced India's Olympic efforts by launching the National Olympic Education and Development Programme (NOEDP) and formally reactivating the National Olympic Academy (NOA).

These decisions were made during the IOA Executive Council meeting on January 8, 2026, and were unanimously approved by the IOA General House at its Annual General Meeting on January 9, 2026, both meetings held in Ahmedabad.

The initiatives showcase the IOA's renewed commitment to athlete-centred development, Olympic education, and strengthening institutional capacity, all in line with international best practices, the IOA informed in a release on Monday.

The National Olympic

Education and Development Programme (NOEDP) has been conceived as a comprehensive national framework to deliver structured education and development programmes across the Olympic ecosystem. The programme will be implemented in collaboration with National Sports Federations (NSFs) and State Olympic Associations (SOAs), ensuring wide outreach and grassroots-to-elite impact.

The key focus areas of the NOEDP include promoting Olympic values, education and ethics, ensuring holistic athlete development with strong emphasis on welfare and career transition support, building the capacity of coaches, officials, administrators, and support personnel, strengthening governance, leadership, and professionalism within sports bodies, and implementing



long-term athlete development models that are aligned with international standards.

The National Olympic Academy (NOA) has been reactivated as a key part of this initia-

tive, serving as India's main hub for Olympic education, research, and dialogue. In addition to its academic and institutional functions, the NOA will collaborate directly with athletes to support their educational requirements, personal growth, leadership development, and comprehension of the Olympic movement, all alongside their athletic careers.

The IOA General House unanimously ratified P. T. Usha, President of the Indian Olympic Association, as the President of the National Olympic Academy, and Gagan Narang, Vice President of the IOA and Olympic medallist, as the Director of the same academy. Under their leadership, the National Olympic Academy will work closely with the International Olympic Academy (IOA) in Olympia to ensure India's Olympic education programmes

adhere to the Olympic Charter and international standards. This partnership will promote knowledge sharing, joint initiatives, research projects, and involvement in worldwide Olympic education activities forums.

The Indian Olympic Association noted that launching NOEDP and reactivating the NOA represent a significant milestone in building a values-driven, athlete-centric, and future-ready Olympic ecosystem in India, one that combines education, excellence, and ethical governance across all levels.

In a firm pledge to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah, and India's vision of a Viksit Bharat, the IOA remains dedicated to athletes in the Olympic movement and enhancing the institutions that support sports nationwide.

Sarfraz Calls on Fans as He Begins New Chapter with Chennai Singams in ISPL 3

PATNA : Hard-hitting batsman Sarfraz Khan, popularly known as 'Baahubali' and '6 King' a native of Siwan district in Bihar, is all set to make a strong impact for Chennai Singams in the upcoming season of the Indian Street Premier League (ISPL). Born on 2nd July 1999, Sarfraz's cricketing journey is rooted in the by lanes of his village, where he began playing tennis-ball cricket during his school and college days.

After completing college in 2016, Sarfraz started playing competitive cricket outside his village around 2017-18. Interestingly, his journey has been exclusively with the tennis ball. "I have never played leather-ball cricket. Since childhood, we played tennis ball cricket in the village, often without proper grounds," he shared.

Known for his explosive batting, Sarfraz explained that his approach has evolved with the format and conditions. "Back in Bihar, we used to play 16- and 20-over matches where you needed to build an innings. But when I started playing outside, especially in Maharashtra, the game was much shorter and demanded power-hitting," he said. With



teams often slotting him as an opener, Sarfraz has embraced the role of an aggressive striker. "The first thought in my mind is always power. With timing and full swing, especially on big grounds, that's how you clear the ropes."

Sarfraz, whose favourite shot is the pull shot, believes it gives

him the most satisfaction as a batter. "All shots feel good, but the pull shot gives a special feeling from within," he smiled.

Having represented Tiigers of Kolkata in the previous season, Sarfraz is now enjoying his stint with Chennai Singams and credits the franchise for introducing him to a more professional environment. "The fitness tests and activities here are very different. I've already started seeing improvement in my game within just 4-5 days," he mentioned, adding that fitness will play a crucial role in the future of tennis-ball cricket.

The upcoming season will be played in Surat, a new venue for ISPL Season 3. While Sarfraz has previously played tournaments in Chiklhi near Surat, this will be his first appearance at the ISPL stadium in the city. "I'm very excited to play here. It's a new ground and a new challenge," he said.

Sharing a message for his supporters, Sarfraz appealed to fans from Siwan and the large cricket-loving community in Surat to come out and support the team. "If you can come to the stadium, please watch the matches live. If not, show your love on Chennai Singams' social media and keep supporting us."

From Tarakeswar to national spotlight: Jagat Sarkar retained by Chennai Singams ahead of ISPL Season 3

KOLKATA : Sarkar's journey from the heart of West Bengal's tennis ball cricket circuit to national recognition continues, with Chennai Singams retaining the Bengal opener ahead of Season 3 of the Indian Street Premier League (ISPL).

The 30-year-old left-handed batter from Tarakeswar, around 60 km from Kolkata, has been retained for ₹20.02 lakh, making him one of the most prominent players from West Bengal to secure continuity in the league as it enters its next phase.

Bengal has long been regarded as one of India's strongest hubs for tennis ball cricket, and Sarkar is a product of that ecosystem. Having played competitive tournaments across the state for nearly a decade, he built his reputation through consistent performances in local and inter-district competitions before breaking into the national spotlight through ISPL.

"Tennis ball cricket is massive in Bengal. There are tournaments almost every week," Sarkar said. "The competition here prepares you mentally. If you can perform in Bengal, you can perform anywhere."

ISPL's pan-India reach and primetime television exposure have helped players like Sarkar showcase Bengal's street-cricket depth on a larger stage. A regular participant in tournaments across

India and overseas, including the United Arab Emirates, Sarkar is also a brand ambassador for aa bats and 7070 Sports, brands closely associated with the tennis ball cricket community.

Introduced to the game by his elder brother, Sarkar grew up batting by default. "My brother was a bowler, so I was always asked to bat. That's how I became an opener," he recalled.

One of the defining moments of Sarkar's career came in 2021, when he won the Best Batsman award at the Big Bash tournament in Mumbai, his first major event outside West Bengal. The tournament featured teams from eight states and marked his arrival on the national circuit.

Sarkar featured for Chennai Singams in earlier editions of ISPL, providing attacking starts at the top of the order. With his retention confirmed, expectations will be higher as he looks to shoulder greater responsibility in Season 3.

"I'm very happy to be retained. Chennai is my favourite team in both ISPL and the Indian Premier League," said Sarkar, a long-time admirer of MS Dhoni.

For West Bengal's thriving tennis ball cricket community, Sarkar's retention serves as another validation of the state's ability to consistently produce talent capable of succeeding on a national stage.

WOMEN'S T20 WC 2026 TICKET SALES CROSS 2017 ODI WC TOTAL: REPORT

NEW DELHI : Ticket sales for the upcoming ICC Women's World Cup in England have already surpassed the total for the 50-over showpiece in 2017, underscoring the growing popularity of the women's game.

England will host the 10th edition of the ICC Women's T20 World Cup in June and July. Five months before the opening match on June 12, more than 1,00,000 tickets have been sold, according to the BBC.

In 2017, the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup final at Lord's, which England won on home soil, sold out, the first time a traditionally male-orientated sport had filled England's biggest cricket stadium for a women's match.

The upcoming T20 showpiece event marks the biggest ICC Women's T20 World Cup yet, with 12 teams, more than ever before, vying for the coveted trophy.

The 12 teams will be divided into two groups. Group 1 features multiple-time champions Australia, 2024 finalists South Africa, Asian heavyweights India and Pakistan, along with two teams from the Global Qualifier.

Group 2 includes hosts England, defending champions New Zealand, Sri Lanka, former winners West Indies, and the other two teams from the Global Qualifier.

The top two teams from each group will advance to the semi-finals, scheduled for 30 June and July 2 at The Oval, with the grand finale at Lord's on July 5. The tournament spans 24 days and features 33 matches across seven iconic venues - Edgbaston, Hampshire Bowl, Headingley, Old Trafford, The Oval, Bristol County Ground and Lord's. The Global Qualifier gets underway in Kathmandu, Nepal, from January 18 to February 1, bringing together 10 teams competing for the four final places at the event in England and Wales. The qualifier will be hosted across Kathmandu. New Zealand are the reigning T20 World Cup champions, having claimed the title in 2024 after defeating South Africa in the final.

Diwakar Singh Re-elected President of Jharkhand State Rifle Association

JAMSHEDPUR : Mr. Diwakar Singh was re-elected unopposed as President of the Jharkhand State Rifle Association (JSRA) at the Association's Annual General Meeting (AGM) held on January 11, 2026, at Hotel N.H. Hill, Pardih, Jamshedpur.

The AGM began at 11 am, during which the proceedings of the previous year's AGM were approved. Following this, Secretary General Uttam Chand presented a detailed report on the Association's activities. The income and expenditure statement for the financial year 2025-26 was discussed and unanimously approved. Messrs Gobind Agrawala & Associates were appointed as auditors for the year 2025-26.

Mr. Singh informed the House that the election process for office bearers and executive committee members for the 2025-2029 term was initiated through an election notification issued on December 15, 2025, by Returning Officer Advocate Ravindra Kumar. The notification outlined the detailed election procedure, under which the elections were conducted.

Returning Officer Advocate Ravindra Kumar announced that all office bearers were elected unopposed. Besides Mr. Diwakar Singh as President, Uttam Chand was elected Secretary General, Nityanand Singh as



Honorary Treasurer, Vinay Kumar and Kumar Dev Ranjan as Vice Presidents, Madhur Agrawal as Joint Secretary, and Jayesh Amin and Mrityunjay Rai as Secretaries.

For the eight posts of Executive Committee members, 10 nominations were received, necessitating voting. Eight candidates were declared elected: Amar Kumar Sinha, Arvind Kumar Ojha, Azad Kumar Pathak, Gaurav Raj Singh, Mayuri Mukherjee, Nitish Kumar, Ranjan Kumar and Vivek Pankaj.

The election process was conducted under the supervision of an observer deputed by the Jharkhand Olympic Association, Mr. Anand Bihari Dubey. Addressing the AGM, Mr. Singh,

who is also a member of the Governing Body of the National Rifle Association of India (NRAI), thanked all members and district associations for reposing faith in him. He said a comprehensive plan would be prepared over the next four years to ensure that more shooters from Jharkhand win medals at the national level. He also expressed gratitude to the NRAI for its continued support and announced that the NRAI has decided to organise an NRAI National Coaches Course in Rifle and Pistol shooting in Jharkhand in March. He said the initiative would benefit local coaches and help shooters learn modern techniques in the sport.



KYRGIOS RUNNING OUT OF TIME FOR GRAND SLAM RUN, SAYS EX-AUS OPEN DIRECTOR

NEW DELHI : Former Australian Open director Paul McNamee has said the absence of Nick Kyrgios from the singles draw is unlikely to affect the tournament, adding that time is running out for the Aussie to have a run at a grand slam.

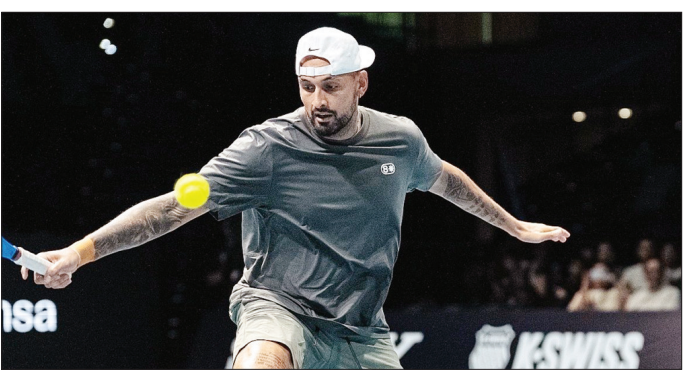
Last week, Kyrgios announced he would not be contesting the singles draw at this year's Australian Open owing to his ongoing fitness struggles. Instead, he will be partnering Thanasi Kokkinakis in the doubles.

Kyrgios played only five matches in 2025 before ending his season in March. He eased back into competition with a

series of exhibition matches in New York and Dubai last month, then received a wildcard for the Brisbane International, where he was ousted in the first round.

Moreover, Kyrgios and Kokkinakis were beaten by the French pair Sadio Doumbia and Fabien Reboul on Wednesday in the men's doubles second round in Brisbane.

"I think the Aussie Open is too big to worry about that anymore. He is not one of the guys in contention really. Best of five on hard courts, he's not ready for that. "He would have filled John Cain Arena for a few matches, but we have to understand time



is running out for Nick Kyrgios to have a run at a grand slam. Will we get to see that in Melbourne again? I hope we do next year.

Like (Novak) Djokovic, the clock has run down," McNamee said on SEN.

Kyrgios has endured a series

of serious injuries in recent years, which have seen his world ranking fall to 673 and leave him without a protected ranking. The former Wimbledon finalist has played in just one Grand Slam match since 2022.

He lifted the men's doubles title alongside fellow Kokkinakis at the 2022 Australian Open. He went on to reach Wimbledon final that year and the US Open quarter-finals.

Since losing the 2022 Wimbledon final to Novak Djokovic, Kyrgios has undergone wrist reconstruction and two knee surgeries. He has played only six professional singles

matches over the past three years, with none since Miami in March last year.

"Other than Alcaraz, there is no one you would rather watch play. The guy does cross the line, and he rubs people the wrong way. Some of the things he has done are shocking. Not excusable, but he is riveting to watch. His style is so unique. Without warming up he's serving aces. The guy is incredible talent," he added.

"He and Alcaraz are the two most talented players in the world for talent but he has health issues and body issues, and he has never had the make up of a

Lleyton Hewitt. I don't criticise him as much as others. Yes, he crosses a line, but who has everything?"

"He is true to himself. He is a bit crazy, he crosses a line, but he is true to himself and he is authentic."

"He is an enormous talent; we will miss seeing him. He and Kokkinakis have won it before, and this could be one of your last chances to see him," said McNamee. Kyrgios and Kokkinakis will be granted a wildcard in the men's doubles. The Australian Open main draw begins on January 18, with qualifying underway from January 12.