

From Cooch Behar, where the Trinamool Congress launched its 'Nabojowar Yatra' in 2023, the party's national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee on Tuesday renewed his call for a political battle, launching a sharp attack on both the Election Commission and the Bharatiya Janata Party. Beginning his visit with prayers at the historic Madan Mohan Temple, Banerjee later addressed a massive gathering at the TMC's 'RanaSankalp Sabha', positioning Cooch Behar once again at the centre of the state's political discourse. In a dramatic moment during his address, Banerjee sought to underline alleged irregularities in the voter list. He claimed that several individuals who have been officially marked as deceased in Election Commission records are, in fact, alive. To make his point, he called 10 such individuals onto the stage, including Ashwini Adhikari, Kajima Khatun, Murshid Alam, Azizur Rahman, and Tapan Barman. **PG 3**



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Blinkit drops '10-minute delivery' claim; Swiggy, Zepto may follow suit

 Firstly, delivery partners are not shown customer-facing time promises. There is no '10-minute' timer or countdown in the delivery app. 10-minute or faster deliveries are primarily due to our stores being closer to customers and not by higher speeds on the road

Deepinder Goyal
Eternal Group CEO

MI News Service, New Delhi : Eternally-owned quick-commerce firm Blinkit has dropped its '10-minute' delivery claim from all platforms amid nationwide growing concerns over delivery workers' welfare. It has revised the tag-line from "10,000+ products delivered in 10 minutes" to "30,000+ products delivered at your doorstep". Other quick commerce platforms, such as Swiggy and Zepto, may also follow suit after the intervention by the Union Ministry of Labour, which was concerned about the welfare of the delivery workers trying to meet such tight deadlines. The move follows discussions the labour ministry held with the quick commerce platforms to ensure greater safety, security and improved working conditions for gig workers. The promise of 10-minute delivery led to gig workers holding a nationwide strike on New Year's Eve in 2025, drawing attention to workers' health, safety and income.

To be sure, while the 10-minute delivery branding was still visible on the Google Play Store and iOS App store for Zepto, Instamart and BigBasket, there was no such branding for Blinkit.

In a recent post on X, Eternal Group CEO Deepinder Goyal had claimed that the 10-minute delivery promise does not pressure riders or lead to unsafe driving, as they are not shown the 10-minute timer on the app. "Quick commerce's 10-minute promise DOES NOT put pressure on gig workers, and it DOESN'T lead to unsafe driving. Why? The most common concern is that faster delivery promises translate into pressure on delivery partners to drive unsafely. That isn't how the system operates." "Firstly, delivery partners are not shown customer-facing time promises.



Amidst the hum of a thousands of footsteps, a trident (Trishula) adorned with Rudraksha beads stands as a symbol of faith at the Gangasagar Mela, on Sagar Island, in South 24 Parganas.

Pic: Prabir Bhattacharya

Mamata greets pilgrims visiting Gangasagar mela

MI News Service, Kolkata : West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Tuesday extended her greetings and best wishes to millions of pilgrims visiting the historic Gangasagar Mela, one of the country's largest and most revered religious congregations. Taking to Facebook, the Chief Minister shared a photograph from the pilgrimage site and wrote, "Wishing everyone Milan Tirth Gangasagar 2026," conveying her prayers for the well-being and fulfilment of devotees undertaking the sacred journey. Through a post on her social media platform, she stated, "Our government has given a new dimension to the Gangasagar Mela. The pilgrim tax imposed by the previous administration has been abolished. Now, pilgrims can visit the mela without paying any additional tax. Beyond that, numerous measures have been implemented for the comfort and convenience of devotees."

Recently, regarding the Mela, Mamata Banerjee also criticized the central government, noting the absence of support for this globally significant pilgrimage. "I hope the central govern-



ment's longstanding neglect and indifference toward this important mela will come to an end one day," she said. The Chief minister also pointed out that while the Kumbh Mela receives substantial allocations and support

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SC to ask state govts to pay heavy compensation for dog-bites

MI News Service, New Delhi

: Providing a new hope to the canine lovers of India, the Supreme Court on Tuesday said it will ask states to pay a "heavy compensation" for dog-bite incidents as it flagged its concern over the lack of implementation of norms on stray animals for the past five years. A bench of Justices Vikram Nath, Sandeep Mehta, and NV Anjaria said that even dog lovers and feeders will be held "responsible" and "accountable" for dog-bite incidents. "For every dog bite, death or injury caused to children or elderly, we are

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going to ask the state governments to pay heavy compensation, as they did not do anything on implementation of norms in the past five years. Also, responsibility and accountability will be fixed on those who are feeding these stray dogs. If you love these animals so much, then why don't you take them to your house. Why should these dogs

loiter around, bite and scare people?" Justice Nath said. The Supreme Court also said that it may order "heavy compensation" to be paid by



West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee addressing media at Nabanna to highlight problems related to SIR hearings in the state, on Tuesday

 Cuba does not aggress; it is aggressed upon by the United States for 66 years, and it does not threaten; it prepares, ready to defend the Homeland to the last drop of blood

Cuban President Miguel Diaz-Canel

amounts of OIL and MONEY from Venezuela. In return, Cuba provided 'Security Services' for the last two Venezuelan dictators, BUT NOT ANYMORE!" Trump wrote on Truth Social on Sunday. "THERE WILL BE NO MORE OIL OR MONEY GOING TO CUBA - ZERO!" he said before making the demand for a deal. Trump did not elaborate on what a deal with Havana could involve. The Cuban government has said 32 of its citizens were killed "in combat actions" during the US operation to capture Maduro. Diaz-Canel was quick to

reject external interference in Cuba's affairs. "Cuba does not aggress; it is aggressed upon by the United States for 66 years, and it does not threaten; it prepares, ready to defend the Homeland to the last drop of blood," said Diaz-Canel. In an apparent reference to Trump, he said those who turn everything into a business, "even human lives," have no moral authority to point fingers at his country. Earlier, Cuban Foreign Minister Bruno Rodriguez asserted that

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'We are talking to them, you will find out very soon': Trump on 'deal' with Cuba

MI News Service, Washington (DC)

: As the US President Donald Trump has claimed that the Caribbean nation of Cuba will soon "make a deal" with Washington, and that the US was "talking" to Havana, the Cuban top leader has pushed back the US president's warning that they would be cut off from the Venezuelan oil and money that it's relied on for decades. Though the US has claimed that they are "talking to Cuba", it was not immediately clear at what level the discussions are taking place. "No one dictates what we do," Cuban President Miguel Diaz-Canel tweeted on Monday on X, responding to Trump's insistence that the communist nation do a deal "before it's too late."

Cuba has long received mas-

sive aid packages from oil-rich Venezuela, but the capture of Venezuelan leader Nicolás Maduro during a US operation, and Trump's announcement that Venezuela will turn over 30 million to 50 million barrels of oil to the US, is expected to leave Havana with an economic challenge. "Cuba lived, for many years, on large



Op Sindoar is ready to deal with any misadventure effectively : Army Chief

MI News Service, New Delhi

: Operation Sindoar is only temporarily paused but is 'still on', and any possible misadventure by any adversary will be dealt with firmly and effectively. Army Chief Gen Upendra Dwivedi said here on Tuesday, sending a firm message to Pakistan. The Army chief, addressing a press conference, said the situation along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) with China has been stable, but it needs constant vigil. Extensively elaborating on various aspects of Operation Sindoar, Gen Dwivedi said it helped in resetting the strategic assumptions as the Indian military struck deep into Pakistan to dismantle its terror infrastructure and puncturing Islamabad's "longstanding nuclear rhetoric". "As you may be aware, Operation Sindoar remains ongoing, and a future misadventure will be resolutely responded to," the Army chief reiterated. Gen Dwivedi said the operation was India's calibrated and resolute response to cross-border terrorism, demonstrating readiness, precision, and strategic clarity. He also said that the Indian Army had mobilised its troops and was ready for ground offensives. "The situation along

the northern front remains stable, but needs constant vigil. Renewed contact, and confidence-building measures are contributing to the gradual normalisation of the situation," he said. "Concurrently, capability development and infrastructure enhancement are progressing through a whole-of-government approach," he added. The Army chief said the situation in Jammu and Kashmir remains sensitive but firmly under control.

Gen Upendra Dwivedi
Army Chief

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ISRO promises to bounce back after PSLV failure



Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) launches PSLV-C62/EOS-N1 Mission from the first launch pad of the Satish Dhawan Space Centre

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. There was a deviation observed in the flight path. We are analysing the data, and we shall come back at the earliest.

ISRO chairman V Narayanan

MI News Service, Sriharikota

: India's storied "workhorse" rocket stumbled again on Monday, and with it came a cascade of reactions - some refusing to call it a failure, some meeting the blow with quiet resilience, and others openly wondering whether strategically important missions are being sabotaged.

The Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV-C62), carrying the EOS-1N Earth-observation satellite and a cluster of commercial payloads, deviated from its planned path after "disturbances" at the end of the third stage, in the Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO) first mission of 2026. But the overwhelming feeling was ISRO will bounce back stronger, since the Indian space community has now endured two PSLV flights in a row.

ISRO chairman V Narayanan spoke moments after the anomaly, offering a precise accounting of what engineers were seeing in real time: "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. We are analysing the data, and we shall come back at the earliest," he said.

Later he admitted the "mission could not proceed in the expected path". The chairman's remarks match ISRO's public characterization that the disturbance emerged near the end of the third stage (PS3), prompting an immediate review of telemetry and propulsion performance. Some experts

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sive aid packages from oil-rich Venezuela, but the capture of Venezuelan leader Nicolás Maduro during a US operation, and Trump's announcement that Venezuela will turn over 30 million to 50 million barrels of oil to the US, is expected to leave Havana with an economic challenge. "Cuba lived, for many years, on large

amounts of OIL and MONEY from Venezuela. In return, Cuba provided 'Security Services' for the last two Venezuelan dictators, BUT NOT ANYMORE!" Trump wrote on Truth Social on Sunday. "THERE WILL BE NO MORE OIL OR MONEY GOING TO CUBA - ZERO!" he said before making the demand for a deal. Trump did not elaborate on what a deal with Havana could involve. The Cuban government has said 32 of its citizens were killed "in combat actions" during the US operation to capture Maduro. Diaz-Canel was quick to

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Devotees in large numbers are arriving at the Gangasagar Mela and taking a Holy dip at the sacred confluence of the River Ganga on Tuesday.



PIC: Prabir Bhattacharya

Housewife escapes as Elephant invades Jalpaiguri city

MI News Service, Jalpaiguri: An unprecedented wildlife intrusion plunged Jalpaiguri city into fear on Monday night after a wild elephant strayed out of the Baikunthapur forest and entered densely populated urban areas, forcing residents indoors and prompting an hours-long emergency operation by the forest department. According to forest sources, a group of three elephants emerged from the Baikunthapur forest late in the evening and entered the Karolabali tea garden on the city's outskirts.

IIT Bombay

MI News Service, Kolkata: Indian Institute of Technology Bombay has announced the launch of a Certificate in Generative AI, aimed at equipping professionals with hands-on skills to design and deploy real-world GenAI applications. The five-month, online certificate programme will be offered by the Technocraft Centre for Applied Artificial Intelligence in collaboration with Great Learning as the edtech partner, with registrations now open for the 2026 intake.

Nuvoco

MI News Service, Kolkata: Nuvoco Vistara Corp. Ltd., one of India's leading building materials companies, has launched NuvocoConcreto Tri Shield, a high-performance Ready-Mix Concrete engineered to enhance structural durability and longevity. Part of the company's flagship NuvocoConcreto portfolio, the newly introduced product is positioned as a three-in-one durability solution aimed at protecting buildings exposed to harsh environmental conditions across India.

Allied Blenders

MI News Service, Kolkata: Allied Blenders and Distillers Limited (ABD), India's largest domestic spirits company by volume, has appointed globally renowned Scotch whisky expert Dr. Martin Leonard as Consultant to advise on the commissioning of its malt distillery and the company's foray into single malt whisky.

Tata Motors

MI News Service, Kolkata: Tata Motors has reported strong commercial vehicle sales for the third quarter of FY26, touching 15,577 units in domestic and international markets. This marks a 21% rise from 95,770 units sold in Q3FY25. The company also registered 42,508 units sold in December 2025, up 25% from 33,875 units in December 2024.

Shyam Steel

MI News Service, Bhubaneswar: Shyam Steel has appointed Harmapreet Kaur, captain of the Indian Women's Cricket Team, as its brand ambassador, announced on January 7th. This collaboration aligns with Shyam Steel's philosophy of building a stronger India and focuses on promoting the Apna Ghar App, which aids homeowners. The partnership highlights the significance of women's roles in home-building and aims to enhance the company's inclusive approach, resonating with the campaign theme, "Strong Woman, Strong Steel, Strong India."

Pankaj Roy Cricket Academy Inaugurated

MI News Service, Berhampore: The Pankaj Roy Cricket Academy at LMET International School was inaugurated by former Indian cricketer Pranab Roy, son of the late Pankaj Roy, on Swami Vivekananda's birth anniversary. Pranab Roy said the academy would be unique and promised to personally oversee its functioning, visiting Berhampore at least once a month. School chairman Prakash Ghosh expressed the aim of producing players who could represent the Bengal cricket team. Advent Education founder Abhishek De Sarkar highlighted that students already participate in national-level tournaments and emphasized the need to build on this foundation to nurture future talent.

'Why would he demand money in my daughter's name?' Abhaya's parents explosive against Aniket



MI News Service, Barrackpore: This time, Abhaya's parents have made explosive allegations against Dr. Aniket Mahato. They questioned why Aniket would demand money in their daughter's name. Furthermore, Abhaya's parents clearly stated that they will not participate in any protest called by Aniket.

A young female doctor was raped and murdered at RG Kar Hospital. The incident sparked widespread outrage across Bengal. The police quickly arrested the accused, civic volunteer Sanjay Roy. He was tried in court and sentenced to life imprisonment. A large section of doctors launched a protest movement after Abhaya's death. Dr. Aniket Mahato, a doctor at RG Kar Hospital, was one of the prominent figures in that movement. Now, Abhaya's parents have expressed their anger against him.

Aniket had won his legal battle and secured a posting at RG Kar Hospital. However, Aniket now wants to leave his SR (Senior Resident) position at RG Kar Hospital. To be released

from his bond obligation, Aniket needs to pay 30 lakh rupees. He has appealed to the general public for financial assistance to raise this amount. Aniket also held a press conference regarding this matter.

Abhaya's parents have now expressed extreme anger regarding this matter. Abhaya's mother said, "We did not take kindly to what Aniket is doing. He fought hard and secured a posting at RG Kar Hospital. Instead of celebrating his victory, he gave it up. He told people he needed money. He said, 'I led

the Abhaya movement, give me money.'" Her straightforward question was, "Why would he ask for money in my daughter's name personally? We strongly oppose this." They also stated that they will no longer go to the CGO Complex at Aniket's behest. Abhaya's mother said, "We will go to the CGO office. We will go later. Abhaya's parents will never go under Aniket's leadership. We don't want any politics. Everyone will come with us when we call upon them, but we will not go with anyone else."

Landslide at an open-cast coal mine in Asansol: Three people died and two injured



MI News Service, Asansol: A mishap occurred during coal theft from an open-cast mine of a state-owned company! Several people were trapped when a landslide occurred in the mine in Asansol on Tuesday morning. Kulti BJP MLA Ajay Poddar said that the bodies of three people have been recovered from inside the mine. Two people have been admitted to the hospital in critical condition.

It was earlier feared that several people were trapped inside. Rescue operations began at the mine immediately after the accident.

Coal theft from open-cast mines is not uncommon in the vast area of Asansol. Many

people illegally enter these mines and extract coal, risking their lives. On Tuesday, several people had descended into the mine in the Barira area of the Kulti police station area. The mine is under the control of the state-owned company BCCL. A

landslide occurred in the mine during coal extraction.

As soon as the news of the landslide spread, locals gathered at the spot. BCCL officials also went to the scene. A police team also arrived. Rescue operations began with a JCB.

However, neither the police nor the mine authorities have officially stated how many people were trapped inside or how many casualties there were. Regarding this incident, the District Magistrate of West Burdwan, S Ponnambalam, said, "We are investigating what happened. We will be able to provide details on this matter only after the investigation is complete."

Craft Collective to host first craft & culture forum in Kolkata from Jan 29



From left to right: Subhradeep Das, Managing Partner, Red Strategy Partners, Avantika Jalan, Founder, The Red Bari and Ishan Pattanaik, Founder & Creative Head, Karu at an event.

MI News Service, Kolkata: Craft Collective will host its first Craft & Culture Forum in Kolkata from January 29 to February 1, 2026. This four-day event, organized by the Foundation for MSME Clusters with Cisco's support, aims to foster connections among artisans, designers, buyers, and institutions. The program will feature curated exhibitions, a marketplace, dialogue sessions, masterclasses, and cultural performances, highlighting participation from artisan clusters in Assam, Odisha, and Madhya Pradesh.

Police seized three trucks loaded with illegal sand

MI News Service, Kharagpur: In Chichira area of Jambani under Jhargram district, the police, while conducting a campaign against illegal sand, seized three trucks laden with illegal sand and arrested three people. The names of the arrested accused are Ashok Mahto, Vijay Baske and Shahabuddin Mia. Ashok is a resident of Bihar state. While

Vijay and Shahabuddin are residents of Jharkhand state. It is known that the police had received secret information from the informer. That three trucks laden with illegal sand and arrested three people.

When interrogated, the three truck drivers could not show any valid documents. The police seized all the three trucks and arrested the drivers of the three trucks. The police say that a continuous campaign is being conducted against illegal sand. The same police action. There is panic among sand mafias since.

Shankaracharya Flags Voter Roll Stress, Lang-Based Hate, and Bangladesh Violence at Gangasagar

MI News Service, Gangasagar: Jagadguru Swami Sri Nischarananda Saraswati, the 145th Shankaracharya of the Govardhan Peeth in Puri, on Tuesday expressed serious concern over the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in West Bengal, urging the Election Commission of India (ECI) to ensure that no eligible voter is deprived of their franchise during the process.

Addressing a press conference at Gangasagar, the Shankaracharya cited reports of individuals allegedly dying by suicide or falling critically ill due to stress linked to the SIR exercise. Terming such incidents "unfortunate and deeply

distressing," he said the revision should have been carried out over a longer period to prevent panic and anxiety among voters. "The sanctity of the democratic process must be protected. Any exercise related to electoral rolls should ensure that genuine voters are safeguarded and not subjected to unnecessary hardship," he added, emphasizing that administrative efficiency should not come at the cost of human suffering.

The Shankaracharya also condemned reports of Bengalis being allegedly assaulted or killed outside West Bengal, stating that language should never justify hatred or violence. "Killing people of other faiths is a grave anti-religious act, and those responsible must face the strictest punishment," he added.

Inter-state drug trafficking ring mastermind apprehended in Entally

MI News Service, Kolkata: Police had been searching for him for a long time. Finally, Enarul Sheikh, the kingpin of an inter-state drug trafficking ring, was caught in the police net. According to Malda district police sources, the notorious criminal was apprehended on Monday during a raid in the Entally police station area of Kolkata.

Acting on a tip-off, a special team of Malda police conducted a raid in Entally on Monday. They received assistance from the Kolkata Police. After a prolonged search, Enarul was caught red-handed.

Enarul, a resident of Malda, is one of the masterminds behind a massive drug trafficking ring that brings raw materials

for drug manufacturing from various states in the Northeast, produces brown sugar, and then smuggles it across the country. On Tuesday, Malda district Superintendent of Police Abhijit Bandyopadhyay said that the accused had made a profit of more than a thousand crore rupees through drug trafficking. He

had been wanted for a long time.

Recently, drug traffickers have been investing the proceeds of their drug trade in the construction industry. The accused is being produced before the Malda district court on Tuesday. An application has been made to the judge for a 10-day remand.

Police claim that Enarul's arrest is a major success in the state's anti-drug operation. At the same time, the possibility of the accused having links to Bangladesh is also being investigated. It has been learned that Enarul's gang is active in states like Bihar and Jharkhand. Enarul's gang was also involved in several 'gang wars' in the Kaliachak area.

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Gruesome killing in Cooch Behar: Police probe cannibalism motive

MI News Service, Cooch Behar: In a chilling incident that shocked the Dinhata subdivision, police have arrested a man in connection with the brutal murder of a crematorium resident, with investigators probing a possible cannibalism motive. The SDPO said, "The most surprising aspect is that there appears to be no conventional motive. The murder was committed simply to kill," the SDPO said. However, further investigation and witness accounts revealed deeply disturbing angle in criminal investigation.

The arrested accused has been identified as Firdous Alam.

According to police, the victim—an unidentified man who had reportedly been living in the

crematorium area for a year—was brutally killed and later brought near the accused's house, where the body was allegedly washed inside a toilet or cellar. Confirming the arrest, Dinhata SDPO Dhamman Mitra described the crime as exceptionally violent. "The murderer was committed in a very brutal manner. It is a gruesome killing," the SDPO said, adding that investigators have found "certain features indicating cannibalism."

The case came to light last Saturday when police recovered the body of an unidentified man from the crematorium area at Kursar Hat, Dinhata. The body bore multiple injury marks, particularly around the neck, leading police to suspect homicide.

Preliminary investigation suggests the murder may have taken place on Friday night. The location of the crime posed a major challenge for investigators. The

crematorium area is isolated, sparsely populated, and lacks CCTV surveillance. With no immediate witnesses or identification documents found on the deceased, police initially struggled to establish the victim's identity.

Local residents later informed investigators that the deceased had been residing in the crematorium premises for over a year and was believed to be mentally unstable. With no clear motive emerging in the early stages, police intensified local intelligence gathering.

Acting on information from a confidential source, investigators zeroed in on Firdous Alam and arrested him. During preliminary interrogation, police claim the accused confessed to the mur-

der. According to SDPO Mitra, the accused initially stated that there was no clear motive behind the killing.

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SC to ask state govts to pay heavy compensation for dog-bites

From PG 1

authorities in case of deaths due to stray dog bites, and also fix the accountability and liability of those feeding them. A two-judge bench of the Top court also said authorities had not done anything for 75 years while hearing the suo motu case related to the stray dogs issue. "It's clearly a failure on their part, for 75 years...And they have created a worse situation. That's what we want to put to the states to take them to task for this. For every dog bite, and every death or injury caused to a child or old or feeble person, we are likely to fix heavy compensation to be paid by the state, for not having done anything for the last 75 years," said Justice Nath.

"And also, liability and accountability on all those who claim that they are feeding dogs and want to protect them. Protect them, fair enough, you take them home. Keep them inside your campus, your house. Why should dogs be loitering around everywhere and frightening people, biting them, causing deaths, chasing?" Justice Nath asked. The remarks came as Senior Advocate Menaka Guruswamy, representing some animal shelters, drew the court's attention to parliamentary debates from the 1950s in which the issue of stray dogs was raised in the House for the first time.

Terming the stray dogs issue a "societal challenge," she said, "the most effective remedy is to ensure that the Animal Birth Control Rules are implemented in letter and spirit". Referring to the government's reply in Parliament in the 1980s on stray dogs in Delhi, she said the minister had stated that "NDMC has discontinued the practice of killing stray dogs, but this has not led to any significant increase in their numbers as the practice of sterilising stray dogs has been introduced." "So, this is the legislator himself saying killing does not reduce numbers, sterilisation does. Rules and the statute are a culmination of the legislature recognising approaches that did not work, killing dogs, and approaches that did work—sterilisation and humane treatment," Guruswamy said.

She also said data on animal bite data from 2019 to 2022 shows "staggering diminishing in the numbers post immunisation and sterilisation." "If the regulators did their job a little better, we would not have had the catastrophe we are living with now."

'We are talking to them, you will find out very soon': Trump on 'deal' with Cuba

From PG 1

country's "absolute right" to import fuel from economic partners without US interference and rejected Trump's claim that Cuba exchanged security services for Venezuelan oil and money. "The US is behaving like a criminal and uncontrolled hegemon that threatens peace and security not only of Cuba and this hemisphere but of the entire world," Rodriguez said. In subsequent comments aboard Air Force One, Trump told reporters the US was "talking to Cuba" but it was not immediately clear at what level discussions are taking place. In his comments Trump said that one of the topics he wanted addressing was "the people that came from Cuba that were forced out or left under duress." The US has long wanted regime change in communist Cuba, a country governed by a socialist political system since 1961, based on the "one state, one party" principle. A key supporter of regime change within Trump's cabinet is Secretary of State Marco Rubio, the son of Cuban immigrants who came of age immersed in Miami's exile community, rising politically within a culture where memories of the island and a deep fear of socialism remained powerful forces.

After summoning several eminent Bengalis over SIR hearings, the Election Commission has now issued notices to Tutu Bose and his family.



On the occasion of Makar Sankranti and Gangasagar Mela, the sacred 'Ganga Aarti' was performed at Gangasagar, South 24 Parganas, West Bengal, on Tuesday. Pic: Prabir Bhattacharya

Mamata Alleges Voter Deletions Blasts SIR Irregularities in Bengal

MI News Service, Kolkata: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Tuesday launched a sharp attack on the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls while addressing a press conference at Nabanna, alleging large-scale irregularities and deliberate attempt to disenfranchise genuine voters in West Bengal.

Banerjee said she hoped that the names of genuine voters would not be deleted, but alleged that the process was being misused. Drawing a comparison with Bihar, she pointed out that the final voter list there was published only after election dates were announced. "Here, inaugurations happen when elections come, and everything ends after polls. What kind of inauguration is this?" she questioned. The Chief Minister claimed there were reports of people being brought in during 2024 and certificates being issued in their names by officers from Odisha, allegedly without informing the police. Referring to the Citizenship

Amendment Act (CAA), she said members of the Matua community should not be forced to declare that they had come from Bangladesh in 2024 in order to vote. "There is no value of that CAA. I appeal to Matua voters to go to the BLO offices and ensure their names are included," she said. Banerjee also targeted leaders from other states, saying while they were welcome to visit Bengal peacefully, Bengalis were being harassed in "double-engine" BJP-ruled states. She instructed Booth Level Agents (BLA-1 and BLA-2) to remain alert, citing security concerns and the need to maintain peace in the state. Raising questions on border security, Banerjee asked which central agencies were responsible for controlling coal smuggling, hawala operations and cross-border movements. She alleged that some micro-observers and officials were acting in favour of the BJP, a charge she said was dangerous for democracy. "Catch the real thieves and

criminals," she urged. The Chief Minister accused authorities of cancelling government certificates selectively in Bengal, while similar actions were not taken in Bihar. She alleged that bulk voter documents were being seized in districts like Malda, Tamluk, Moyna and Barrackpore, and FIRs should be lodged wherever unauthorised papers were found. Banerjee questioned why micro-observers were deployed only in Bengal and not in states like Assam, Tripura, Manipur or Nagaland. She alleged that hearings were being rushed during the Gangasagar Mela, leaving nearly 70 lakh people unheard.

Claiming severe human impact, Banerjee alleged that due to the stress of deletions, 84 people had died, four had attempted suicide and 17 had suffered strokes. "The Election Commission and the BJP must take responsibility," she said, reiterating that democracy cannot function by deleting voters' names without due process or transparency.

SIR Summons to Tutu Bose, Son Spark Political Storm in Bengal

MI News Service, Kolkata: The ongoing controversy surrounding the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) hearings in West Bengal has taken a fresh turn with the Election Commission issuing summons to former Member of Parliament and former Mohun Bagan president Swapnanandan Bose, popularly known as Tutu Bose, along with his son Srinjoy Bose. The development has sparked strong political reactions, particularly from the ruling Trinamool Congress, which has accused the authorities of targeting prominent Bengali personalities.

According to sources, Swapnanandan Bose and his family members have been asked to appear before the SIR hearing at Ballygunge Government School on January 19. Srinjoy Bose, former MP and current Mohun Bagan secretary, has also been summoned. The move effectively brings the entire Bose family under the ambit of the SIR exercise, further intensifying the political debate around the issue. The summons has drawn sharp criticism from Mohun Bagan vice-president and senior Trinamool Congress leader Kunal Ghosh, who took to social media to express his outrage. In a strongly worded Facebook post, Ghosh described the action as harassment of one of Bengal's most respected sporting and entrepreneurial figures. He pointed out that Tutu Bose is currently unwell and wheelchair-bound, making it extremely difficult for him to attend the hearing in person.

After summoning several eminent Bengalis over SIR hearings, the Election Commission has now issued notices to Tutu Bose and his family.



Commissioner of Police, Bidhannagar, Mukesh, IPS, along with Tridib Kr. Chatterjee, General Secretary of the Guild, and Guild President Sudhangshu Sekhar Dey, conducted a ground visit to oversee preparations for the '49th International Kolkata Book Fair 2026' in Kolkata on Tuesday.

State Steps Up Nipah Response, Nadda Calls Mamata, Assures Full Support

MI News Service, Kolkata: A high-level health alert has been sounded across West Bengal after two healthcare workers tested positive for the Nipah virus, triggering widespread concern and prompting swift action from the state government. The development marks the emergence of the deadly virus in the state after nearly two decades. The two patients, both nurses employed at a private hospital in Barasat in North 24 Parganas district, are currently in critical condition and are undergoing treatment on ventilator support in a dedicated isolation ward. The outbreak was officially confirmed by Chief Secretary Nandini Chakraborty and Health Secretary Narayan Swarup Nigam during a recent press conference. They said the initial detection was made at the AIIMS Kalyani laboratory, following which samples were sent to the National Institute of Virology (NIV) in Pune for final confirmation. As a precautionary measure, the state health machinery has been placed

on high alert, with hospitals instructed to follow strict infection-control protocols. Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has been closely monitoring the situation and has directed the Health Department to take all necessary steps to prevent further transmission. Senior officials said surveillance has been intensified, isolation facilities expanded, and emergency medical infrastructure kept ready across districts. The state government has also activated three helpline numbers—9874708858, 9836046212, and 033-2333-0180—to assist the public and report suspected symptoms. In response to the evolving situation, Union Health Minister J.P. Nadda spoke to Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee over the phone and assured full cooperation and support from the Centre. Following the conversation, the Union Health Ministry deployed a National Joint Outbreak Response Team (NJOR) to Kolkata. The team includes experts from the National Centre for Disease Control

(NCDC) and the Department of Wildlife, who will work in coordination with state health officials to implement containment measures and trace the zoonotic source of the infection. An extensive contact-tracing operation has been launched across North 24 Parganas, Nadia, and Purba Bardhaman districts. One of the infected nurses is a resident of Katwa in Purba Bardhaman, while the other belongs to Nadia. Authorities are mapping their movements and identifying close contacts, who have been advised to remain under quarantine. Medical experts have urged citizens to remain cautious and avoid consuming fruits that appear bitten by birds or animals, as well as raw date palm sap, a known source of Nipah transmission. While political differences between the state and the Centre have surfaced during past health crises, officials said the current response reflects coordinated efforts to ensure public safety and prevent panic.

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CITY

Abhishek Launches Fierce Attack on BJP, EC in Cooch Behar Rally

MI News Service, Kolkata:

From Cooch Behar, where the Trinamool Congress launched its 'Nabojowar Yatra' in 2023, the party's national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee on Tuesday renewed his call for a political battle, launching a sharp attack on both the Election Commission and the Bharatiya Janata Party. Beginning his visit with prayers at the historic Madan Mohan Temple, Banerjee later addressed a massive gathering at the TMC's 'RanaSankalp Sabha', positioning Cooch Behar once again at the centre of the state's political discourse. In a dramatic moment during his address, Banerjee sought to underline alleged irregularities in the voter list. He claimed that several individuals who have been officially marked as deceased in Election Commission records are, in fact, alive. To make his point, he called 10 such individuals onto the stage, including Ashwini Adhikari, Kajima Khatun, Murshid Alam, Azizur Rahman, and Tapan Barman. "They are alive, yet their names have disappeared from the voter list," Banerjee said, accusing the authorities of attempting to deprive citizens of their fundamental right to vote. Questioning the intent behind the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) process, Banerjee asked whether



such efforts to allegedly strip people of their voting rights would go unanswered. He alleged that the SIR exercise was being misused to target Bengalis and undermine democratic rights in the state. Turning his attention to the BJP, the Trinamool leader revisited what he described as a series of unfulfilled promises made to the people of Cooch Behar. He cited assurances related to the formation of the Narayani Battalion, the establishment of a paramilitary training centre, and plans to develop the Madan Mohan Temple as an international tourist destination. Banerjee also mocked Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 2021 announcement to convert the Cooch Behar railway station into a sports hub, claiming that the signage marking the promise has since faded without any progress on the ground.

ICC, Maha Govt Sign MoU to Boost Industry Collaboration

MI News Service, Kolkata:

The Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC) and the Government of Maharashtra have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to enhance cooperation and strengthen engagement between Indian businesses and the State, focusing on investment facilitation, ease of doing business, and sustained industry-government dialogue. The MoU was signed by Dr P Anbalagan, IAS, Principal Secretary (Industry, Investment and Services), Government of Maharashtra, and Dr Rajeev Singh, Director General, ICC, in the presence of prominent business leaders. Dr Anbalagan said the partnership would reinforce Maharashtra's commitment to creating an investor-friendly ecosystem and strengthen engagement with industry and investors. Dr Singh added that ICC would act as a bridge between policymakers and business to support sustainable economic growth.

Under the MoU, ICC and the State Government will facilitate investor interactions, policy feedback, and structured engagements to support industrial development. ICC will organise annual business delegations to Maharashtra and host ministerial and business delegations at its events across India. Regular interactions between industry and the Government will enable direct feedback on regulatory processes, infrastructure, and ease of doing business initiatives. The MoU is effective immediately and will remain valid for two years, subject to review and mutual agreement.

Western disturbance likely to end dry spell in Kashmir

From PG 1

and the chance of snowfall is highest. However, the plains have remained without snow so far this season. The India Meteorological Department has forecast that the weather is likely to remain dry but cloudy till January 21. Meanwhile reports from Jaipur said severe cold conditions were recorded in several parts of Rajasthan over the past 24 hours, with mercury dropping to freezing 2 degree Celsius in Karauli, the Meteorological Department said on Tuesday. The Met centre said the weather remained dry across the state, while cold wave conditions were recorded at isolated places. Eastern Rajasthan witnessed light to moderate fog at several locations, with no immediate relief in sight, it said.

The revered Shankaracharya of Puri addresses a press conference at Gangasagar Mela ground on Tuesday. Pic: Prabir Bhattacharya

ISRO promises to bounce back after PSLV failure

From PG 1

ISRO should out rightly admitted that the mission had failed rather beating around the bush. Among the most affected was Hyderabad-based Dhruba Space, which had "so much riding" on PSLV-C62 through its Polar Access-1 (PA-1) stack, four satellites, five deployers, and ground infrastructure enabling seven missions for states and institutions across India and abroad. It had its signature on seven of the 16 satellites and was on the verge of making history. In the wake of the setback, Dhruba Space co-founder and CEO Sanjay Nekkanti issued a note that was strikingly stoic, reflecting the company's full-stack posture and its readiness to re-launch: "Space is inherently

complex, and India's NGEs have been steadily building space infrastructure at scale. Dhruba Space has built its vertically integrated full-stack capability by tapping into ISRO's legacy vendor ecosystem, building in-house infrastructure, and developing Space systems suitable for modular and scalable production. Dhruba Space has supported its customers by establishing critical ground segment infrastructure," he said.

Across space and launch segments, which involve multiple interdependent systems and processes, Dhruba Space has worked alongside ISRO, INSPACe, NSIL and other partners to enable customers with satellites, launch systems, and launch services.

Mamata greets pilgrims visiting Gangasagar mela

From PG 1

Bengal. Speaking on the occasion, recently Mamata Banerjee said the state government has given the Gangasagar Mela a new dimension by focusing on pilgrim welfare and infrastructure development. "Our government has taken several steps to ensure the comfort and safety of pilgrims," the Chief Minister said and highlighted that extensive arrangements have been made, including beautification of the Kapil Muni Ashram and the mela premises, improved roads, uninterrupted electricity supply, elaborate lighting, safe drinking water facilities, and comprehensive sanitation measures. The state has also strengthened transport connectivity by deploying adequate buses, vessels, launches, and jetties, along with dredging of river routes to ensure smooth movement. Medical facilities have been scaled up with hospitals, doctors, nurses, ambulances, and emergency response teams stationed across the area. Accommodation facilities for pilgrims, tight security arrangements, helipads, and helicopter services for emergencies have also been put in place. The Chief Minister recently visited the site to review preparations and laid the foundation stone for the proposed 'Gangasagar Bridge' over the Muriganga river. She said the nearly five-kilometre-long, four-lane bridge would be constructed entirely with state funds at an estimated cost of Rs 1,700 crore. Once completed, it will enable direct road connectivity to Gangasagar, significantly reducing travel time for pilgrims from Kolkata.

Name Change

I, SUKRUNNESSA BIBI W/o- MD ABDUR RAQIB Residing at Vill - Benipur, Post - Akheriganj, Ps - Ranitala, Dist - Mursidabad, Pin - 742135, West Bengal. That my Daughter (Old Name) MOSAMMAT TAHARIMA KHATUN Do hereby declare that I have Changed my Daughter name from MOSAMMAT TAHARIMA KHATUN To TAHARIMA KHATUN (New name) and hence forth my Daughter Shall be Known as (New name) TAHARIMA KHATUN in all purpose Vide an affidavit Sworn before the notary public at Berhampore Mursidabad On 12 January 2026, TAHARIMA KHATUN and MOSAMMAT TAHARIMA KHATUN both are same and one identical person.

Name Change

I, (Old Name) AMULLA KUMAR BISWAS S/o- NILKANTHA BISWAS Residing at, Vill - Patikabari, Post - Patikabari, Ps - Nakashpara, Dist - Mursidabad, Pin - 741126, West Bengal. Do hereby declare that I have Changed my name from AMULLA KUMAR BISWAS To AMULLA KUMAR BISWAS (New name) and hence forth I shall be Known as (New name) AMULLA KUMAR BISWAS in all purpose Vide an affidavit Sworn before the notary public Berhampore Mursidabad On 12 January 2026, AMULLA KUMAR BISWAS and AMULLA KUMAR BISWAS both are same and one identical person.

Name Change

I, (Old Name) MIJANUR RAHAMAN and MIJARUL SK is wrongly recorded in my Passport (N6276363) and Voter Card No- WOB-1274380, S/o- LATE AJIUL HAQUE Residing at, Vill - Mahalandi, Post - Mahalandi, Ps - Kandi, Dist - Mursidabad, Pin - 742136, West Bengal. Do hereby declare that I have Changed my name from MIJANUR RAHAMAN and MIJARUL SK To MD MIJANUR RAHAMAN (New name) and hence forth I Shall be Known as (New name) MD MIJANUR RAHAMAN in all purpose Vide an affidavit Sworn before the notary public Berhampore Mursidabad On 12 January 2026, MD MIJANUR RAHAMAN and MIJANUR RAHAMAN and MIJARUL SK both are same and one identical person.

Name Change

I, Shaik Kismat (Old Name) S/o Sk Dhanmulla Residing at Vill- Tangabani, P/o- Sadikpur, P/s- Ramnagar District- Purba Medinipur, Pin- 721446, West Bengal, India, have Changed my name and shall henceforth be Known as Sk Kismat (New Name) as declared before the Notary public Kolkata vide affidavit Dated 13-01-2026. Shaik Kismat (Old Name) and Sk Kismat (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change

I, Shaik Rahim (Old Name) S/o Sk Kismat Residing at Vill- Tangabani, P/o- Sadikpur, P/s- Ramnagar District- Purba Medinipur, Pin- 721446, West Bengal, India, have Changed my name and shall henceforth be Known as Sk Rahim (New Name) as declared before the Notary public Kolkata vide affidavit Dated 13-01-2026. Shaik Rahim (Old Name) and Sk Rahim (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change

I, Mina Devi, wife of Rakesh Kumar Singh, residing at 85, Lakshminarayana Road, 4th Floor-4B, B Garden, Howrah-711103, do hereby solemnly affirm and declare that Mina Devi and Mina Singh is same and one identical person via affidavit before the Court of Ld 1st Class Judicial Magistrate at Howrah dated 07 January 2026.

Name Change

I, Bikash Puley S/o, Late Subol Puley R/o. Khatni, Polba, Hooghly-712148, W.B., Do hereby declare that in my daughter's Aadhaar Card (xxxxxx 1373) where my daughter's name has been recorded as Bipasha Hazra D/o, Bikash Puley instead of her actual & correct name i.e. Radhesri Puley D/o, Bikash Puley. My daughter Radhesri Puley D/o, Bikash Puley & Bipasha Hazra D/o, Bikash Puley is the same & one identical person vide an affidavit no. 9942, sworn before Judicial Magistrate, Sadar, Hooghly court on 03/11/2025.

Name Change

I, Sk Giasuddin (old name) S/o, Sk Anwar, R/o, Simula, Dumurdaha, Balagarh, Hooghly-712155, W.B. do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Sk Giasuddin (New Name) and henceforth I shall be known as Sk Giasuddin in all purpose, vide an affidavit no. 13599 sworn before Judicial Magistrate, Sadar, Hooghly Court on 29/12/2025. I, Sk Giasuddin & Sk Giasuddin (S/o, Sk Anwar) both are same & one identical person. Sk Nasimuddin is my son.

NAME CHANGE

I, ELLA DE (Old Name) W/o- TAPAN KUMAR DE R/o- Vill- Basirhat Old Market, P.O + P.S- Basirhat, Dist- North 24 Pgs. Have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as ILA DE (New Name) vide Affidavit No. 557 sworn before the Notary Public Basirhat Court, dt. 13.01.2026. ELLA DE (Old Name) and ILA DE (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change

I, Osman Gani, S/o Riazuddin, resident of 13B Ibrahim Road, Khidderpore, Kolkata - 700023, that my father's name has been recorded differently in various records as Riazuddin, Sk. Riazuddin & Sk. Raju and all names refer to one and the same person i.e., my father vide Affidavit no. 3279 dated 09.01.26 affirmed before the Ld. Judicial Magistrate (1st Class), Alipore, South 24 Parganas, West Bengal. Henceforth my father's correct name shall be treated as RIAZUDDIN as mentioned in my Voter ID Card for all official purposes.

Name Change

I, Nirajan Das (Old Name) S/o, Late Khetra Mohan Das R/o, 33/1, Sister Nivedita Road, P.O, Rabindra Nagar, P.S. Dum Dum, Kol-65, Dist- North 24 Pgs, W.B. do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Nirajan Das (Old Name) to Nirajan Das (New Name) and henceforth I shall be known as Nirajan Das (New Name) in all purpose vide affidavit no. 7 sworn before the Notary Public at Barrackpore Court, 24 Pgs(N) on 7/1/26. Nirajan Das(New Name) & Nirajan Das (Old Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change

I, SUKRUNNESSA BIBI W/o- MD ABDUR RAQIB Residing at, Vill - Benipur, Post - Akheriganj, Ps - Ranitala, Dist - Mursidabad, Pin - 742135, West Bengal. That my Daughter (Old Name) MOSAMMAT TARMIMA KHATUN Do hereby declare that I have Changed my Daughter name from MOSAMMAT TARMIMA KHATUN To TARMIMA KHATUN (New name) and hence forth my Daughter Shall be Known as (New name) TARMIMA KHATUN in all purpose Vide an affidavit Sworn before the notary public at Berhampore Mursidabad On 12 January 2026, TARMIMA KHATUN and MOSAMMAT TARMIMA KHATUN both are same and one identical person.

Name Change

I, Nirajan Das (Old Name) S/o, Late Khetra Mohan Das R/o, 33/1, Sister Nivedita Road, P.O, Rabindra Nagar, P.S. Dum Dum, Kol-65, Dist- North 24 Pgs, W.B. do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Nirajan Das (Old Name) to Nirajan Das (New Name) and henceforth I shall be known as Nirajan Das (New Name) in all purpose vide affidavit no. 7 sworn before the Notary Public at Barrackpore Court, 24 Pgs(N) on 7/1/26. Nirajan Das(New Name) & Nirajan Das (Old Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change

I, Naseem Khan (Old Name) S/o Md Shamim Khan Residing at Z-3/114/4, Bagdi Para Road, P.s - Naditala, Naditala, District - Kolkata, Pin - 700044, West Bengal, India, have Changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Md Nasim Khan (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public Kolkata, vide affidavit no. 31/2026 Dated 13-01-2026. Naseem Khan (Old Name) and Md Nasim Khan (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change

I, Swapani Kumar Paul (Old Name) S/o Naseem Khan Paul Residing at 83/1, Rabiari Colony, North Dum Dum Municipality, P.o- Rabiari Colony, Ps- Airport, District- North 24 Parganas, Pin-700081, West Bengal, India, have Changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Swapani Paul (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public Kolkata, vide affidavit Dated 13-01-2026. Swapani Kumar Paul (Old Name) and Swapani Paul (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change

I, Mohammad Shazad (Old Name) S/o Mohammad Diljan Residing at QTR-MS-5/5, Near Masjid Road, Po-Burnpur, P.s- Hirapur, District- Paschim Bardhaman, Pin- 713225, West Bengal, India, have Changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Md Shazad (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public Kolkata vide affidavit dated 13-01-2026. Mohammad Shazad (Old Name) and Md Shazad (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change

I, Zahangir Sk (old name) son of Nur Islam Sekh, residing at VILL- Alipur Sekh Para, P.O- Daksin Alipur, P.S- Bishnupur, Dist- North 24 Parganas, Pin- 743503, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Zahangir Sekh (new name), as declared Before The Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 13/01/2026. Zahangir Sekh (new name) and Zahangir Sk (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change

I, Mahendra Megota (old name) S/o Mahabir Prasad Megota, residing at Uma Megota, 1/14 Vishal Apartment, Purba Medinipur, P.s- Alipur, District- Paschim Bardhaman, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Mahendra Kumar Megota (new name), as declared Before The Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 03/01/2026. Mahendra Kumar Megota (new name) and Mahendra Megota (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change

I, Dipali Musib (old name) wife of Arup Musib, residing at Vill- Kuchkuchia, P.o- P.S.- Bankura, Bankura, Pin- 722101, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Dipali Musib (new name), as declared Before The Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 13/01/2026. Dipali Musib (new name) and Dipali Musib (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change

I, Md Mushtaque @ Md Mushtaque Ahmed (old name) S/o Ahmed Sarif resident at Ward No.5, Debalpur, P.O+PS- Karagpur, Town- Dist- Paschim Medinipur, Pin- 721301, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Md Mushtaque Ahmed (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change

I, Rajique Tarafdar, Rajique Ali Tarafdar (Old Name) S/o Ajimabur Tarafdar Residing at Atghara Tarafdar Para, P.o- Rajbari Gopalpur, P.s- Baguati, District- North 24 Parganas, Pin- 700136, West Bengal, India, have Changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Rajique Tarafdar (New Name) as declared before the Notary public Kolkata vide affidavit dated 13-01-2026. Rajique Tarafdar, Rajique Ali Tarafdar (Old Name) and Rajique Tarafdar (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change

I, Chandan Mukherjee (Old Name) S/o Gopal Chandra Mukherjee & H/o Urmila Mukherjee residing at Address - 85, Ramkrishna Road Chatra Mampara, Sreerampur, Hooghly-712204, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed and shall henceforth be known as Chandan Kumar Mukhopadhyay (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata vide affidavit dated 13-01-2026. Chandan Mukherjee (Old Name) and Chandan Kumar Mukhopadhyay (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change

I, Rajendra Prasad (Old Name), Son of Bapuji Lal Gupta, Residing at Alhant Apartment, Flat-7, 113E, Dr. Suresh Chandra Banerjee Road, Belghata, Kolkata- 700010, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Rajendra Prasad (New Name) as declared Before The Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 13/01/2026. Lalit Kumar Keshan (new name) and Lalit Keshan (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change

I, Bina Devi (Old Name), Wife Of Rajendra Prasad Gupta, Residing At HI No-33, BI No-07, Moti Bhawan, Jagatdala, Barrackpore, North 24 Parganas-700136, West Bengal, India, have Changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Bina Devi (New Name) as declared Before The Ld. 1st Class Judicial Magistrate At Alipore, vide an affidavit dated 13/01/2026. Bina Devi and Rajendra Prasad Gupta Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change

I, Anuj Gupta (Old Name) S/o Ashok Kumar Gupta Residing at 25B, Camac Street, Camac Court 4th Floor, P.s- Shakespeare Sarani, District - Kolkata, Pin - 700016, West Bengal, India, have Changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Anuj Kumar Gupta (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public Kolkata vide affidavit dated 13-01-2026. Anuj Gupta (Old Name) and Anuj Kumar Gupta (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change

I, Anuj Gupta (Old Name) S/o Ashok Kumar Gupta Residing at 25B, Camac Street, Camac Court 4th Floor, P.s- Shakespeare Sarani, District - Kolkata, Pin - 700016, West Bengal, India, have Changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Anuj Kumar Gupta (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public Kolkata vide affidavit dated 13-01-2026. Anuj Gupta (Old Name) and Anuj Kumar Gupta (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change

I, Ashok Pakira (old name) son of Gunadhar Pakira, residing at Duttapur, Krishnarampur, Hooghly- 712702, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Ashok Pakira (new name) as declared before the Notary Public Kolkata vide affidavit dated 09-01-2026. Ashok Pakira (Old Name) and Sk Abdul Mohit (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change

I, Sk Abdul Mohit (Old Name) S/o Sk Anwar, R/o, Simula, Dumurdaha, Balagarh, Hooghly-712155, W.B. do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Sk Giasuddin (New Name) and henceforth I shall be known as Sk Giasuddin in all purpose, vide an affidavit no. 13599 sworn before Judicial Magistrate, Sadar, Hooghly Court on 29/12/2025. I, Sk Giasuddin & Sk Giasuddin (S/o, Sk Anwar) both are same & one identical person. Sk Nasimuddin is my son.

NAME CHANGE

I, ELLA DE (Old Name) W/o- TAPAN KUMAR DE R/o- Vill- Basirhat Old Market, P.O + P.S- Basirhat, Dist- North 24 Pgs. Have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as ILA DE (New Name) vide Affidavit No. 557 sworn before the Notary Public Basirhat Court, dt. 13.01.2026. ELLA DE (Old Name) and ILA DE (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change

I, Osman Gani, S/o Riazuddin, resident of 13B Ibrahim Road, Khidderpore, Kolkata - 700023, that my father's name has been recorded differently in various records as Riazuddin, Sk. Riazuddin & Sk. Raju and all names refer to one and the same person i.e., my father vide Affidavit no. 3279 dated 09.01.26 affirmed before the Ld. Judicial Magistrate (1st Class), Alipore, South 24 Parganas, West Bengal. Henceforth my father's correct name shall be treated as RIAZUDDIN as mentioned in my Voter ID Card for all official purposes.

Name Change

I, Nirajan Das (Old Name) S/o, Late Khetra Mohan Das R/o, 33/1, Sister Nivedita Road, P.O, Rabindra Nagar, P.S. Dum Dum, Kol-65, Dist- North 24 Pgs, W.B. do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Nirajan Das (Old Name) to Nirajan Das (New Name) and henceforth I shall be known as Nirajan Das (New Name) in all purpose vide affidavit no. 7 sworn before the Notary Public at Barrackpore Court, 24 Pgs(N) on 7/1/26. Nirajan Das(New Name) & Nirajan Das (Old Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change

I, SUKRUNNESSA BIBI W/o- MD ABDUR RAQIB Residing at Vill - Benipur, Post - Akheriganj, Ps - Ranitala, Dist - Mursidabad, Pin - 742135, West Bengal. That my Daughter (Old Name) MOSAMMAT TARMIMA KHATUN Do hereby declare that I have changed my Daughter name from MOSAMMAT TARMIMA KHATUN To TARMIMA KHATUN (New name) and hence forth my Daughter Shall be Known as (New name) TARMIMA KHATUN in all purpose Vide an affidavit Sworn before the Notary Public at Berhampore Mursidabad On 12 January 2026, TARMIMA KHATUN and MOSAMMAT TARMIMA KHATUN both are same and one identical person.

Name Change

I, Nirajan Das (Old Name) S/o, Late Khetra Mohan Das R/o, 33/1, Sister Nivedita Road, P.O, Rabindra Nagar, P.S. Dum Dum, Kol-65, Dist- North 24 Pgs, W.B. do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Nirajan Das (Old Name) to Nirajan Das (New Name) and henceforth I shall be known as Nirajan Das (New Name) in all purpose vide affidavit no. 7 sworn before the Notary Public at Barrackpore Court, 24 Pgs(N) on 7/1/26. Nirajan Das(New Name) & Nirajan Das (Old Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change

I, Pappu Kumar Dey (Old Name) son of Uday Kumar Dey, residing at VILL- Uttar Mathurapur, P.O- Khilapota, P.S. - Matia, DIST- North 24 Parganas, Pin- 74328, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Pappu Dey (new name), as declared Before The Notary Public at Basirhat, North 24 Parganas, vide an affidavit dated 23/12/2025. Pappu Dey (new name) and Pappu Kumar Dey (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change

I, Bishav Kumar Jana (Old Name), Son Of Parasuram Jana, Residing At Vill- Kuralbar, North Dum Dum Municipality, P.o- Rajaipur, P.s- Bhaginipur, Dist- Purba Medinipur, Pin- 721601, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and

Haryana Police crack down on gang culture, remove 67 songs glorifying organised crime

MI News Service, Chandigarh: In a decisive move to curb the growing influence of gang

EASTERN RAILWAY

The following E-tenders are invited by the Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (General), Eastern Railway, Sealdah, 2nd Floor, Remote Control Building, Eastern Railway, Kolkata-700014 in connection with the following works:- **Sl. No. 1, Tender No.: ELEG-OT-1277-2025-26-R**. Particulars of the work: Provision of Shed over Foot Overbridge at various stations over Sealdah division under Sr. DEN/I/Sealdah including all other ancillary works. **Tender Value: Rs. 1,39,77,797/-, Earnest Money: Rs. 21,990/-** **Sl. No. 2, Tender No.: ELEG-OT-1284-2025-26-R**. Particulars of the work: Running repairing contract of submersible pump & motor sets under jurisdiction of SSE/E/G/CI/NH for one year. **Tender Value: Rs. 18,06,373/-, Earnest Money: Rs. 36,100/-** **Sl. No. 3, Tender No.: ELEG-OT-1267-2025-26-R1**. **Particulars of the work:** Replacement of over aged air conditioner over Sealdah Division. **Tender Value: Rs. 97,66,298/-, Earnest Money: Rs. 1,95,300/-** **Completion period:** 08 months (For Sl. No. 1), 12 months (For Sl. No. 2) and 06 months (For Sl. No. 3). **Tender Publication Date on IREPS:** 09.01.2026 (For each). **Bidding Start Date:** 20.01.2026 (For each). **Tender Closing Date & Time:** 03.02.2026 at 14:00 hrs. (For each). Details of Tender Notice and corrigendum issued from time to time are available at website www.ireps.gov.in.

SDA-351/2025-26

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EASTERN RAILWAY

Following E-tender is invited online by Dy. CPM/ENG/GSU/Howrah, Eastern Railway, Howrah Division, New DRM Building, 4th Floor, Near Rail Museum, Howrah-711101 from tenderers having experience of similar nature of work and required financial capabilities including those registered with Irrigation/CPWD/SEB/MES or any public sector undertaking for the following work: **E-Tender No. 06_2025-26_Dated: 12.01.2026**. Name of work: Development of Bandal station with provision of 2nd entry & end to end 6M wide Foot Overbridge connecting all Platforms & circulating area. **Approx Cost: Rs. 14,40,81,853.81** **Earnest Money: Rs. 8,70,400/-** **Cost of Tender Form:** Rs. 0.00. **Completion Period:** Twelve (12) months. In case the date of closing mentioned in the notice inviting tender is declared a holiday/bandh/ strike on any account, the date of closing tender online will not be changed as the application in the website of IREPS does not permit submission of any offer after closing date and time of the tender. However, opening of tenders online will be done next working day. **Closing date and time of Tender:** 05.02.2026 at 12.00 hrs. The details of tender are available at website www.ireps.gov.in. Tenderers are requested to submit their offer online on the above website. Payment of EMD and TDC - Payment of Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) & Tender document cost, in respect of E-tendering, should be accepted through net banking or payment gateway only. **NOTE:** Fixed Deposit Receipt (FDR) will not be accepted as EMD for tenders invited on IREPS (e-tender portal). No manual offer will be accepted.

CON-63/2025-26

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EASTERN RAILWAY

e-Tender Notice No.: NIT/02/26/3, Dated: 12.01.2026. Principal Chief Materials Manager, 17, Netaji Subhash Road, 2nd Floor, Fairlie Place, Kolkata-700011, Eastern Railway invites e-Tender for supply of the following items: **Sl. No.; Tender No.; Description; EMD:** (1); 21251072A; Bogie centre pivot Top for BOXNHL etc.; Rs. 15,2690. **Tender Opening Date:** 10.02.2026, **Time:** 13:30 hrs (2); 16255037; Procurement of SCADA; Rs. 49,700. **Tender Opening Date:** 27.01.2026, **Time:** 13:30 hrs (3); 05251275; Procurement of PU Paints Kit Consisting of 7 Components; Rs. 46,180. **Tender Opening Date:** 05.02.2026, **Time:** 13:30 hrs (4); 04255054; Wheel set bearing with axle box to RDSO Drawing No. 1WVDH 140T 7-1038316, alt-1, (D=200), FAG-AVZ 200 Z 175747 A. Maks Schaeffer; Rs. 78,73670. **Tender Opening Date:** 02.02.2026, **Time:** 13:30 hrs (5); 05251300A; Procurement of Cylindrical Roller Bearing NJ-318 etc.; Rs. 10,2660. **Tender Opening Date:** 04.02.2026, **Time:** 13:30 hrs (6); 20251928; Rear Cover for Axle Box Roller; Rs. 123970. **Tender Opening Date:** 03.03.2026, **Time:** 13:30 hrs (7); 12525157; Supply, Installation & Commissioning of 25T EOT Crane etc.; Rs. 13,5400. **Tender Opening Date:** 10.02.2026, **Time:** 13:30 hrs (8); 15252005C; EOT CRANE Capacity 5T as per Specification no. ANNEXURE/EOTC/5T/KPA; Rs. 141400. **Tender Opening Date:** 29.01.2026, **Time:** 13:30 hrs. (9); 11251044; Procurement of Packing Ring for Wheel Tread Wear etc.; Rs. 27770. **Tender Opening Date:** 28.01.2026, **Time:** 13:30 hrs. (10); 20255027; High Horse Power Traction Motor (207 kW) for 25K VAC MEMUS; Rs. 200000. **Tender Opening Date:** 29.01.2026, **Time:** 13:30 hrs. (11); 12511271; Gangway Bridge Mounting etc.; Rs. 441900. (12); 07251153A; Procurement of Aluminium Chequered Sheet; Size: 3360 x 813 x 2.03 mm to RDSO's ST No. C-8217 (Rev. 2) of September 2013; Rs. 4174270. (13); 12510959; Procurement of Earthing cable complete (LHB type coaches) 70 sq. mm etc.; Rs. 104750. **Tender Opening Date:** 02.02.2026, **Time:** 13:30 hrs. (14); PSC Sleepers-RT-8746; Running Contract for Procurement of Wider PSC Sleepers-RT-8746; Rs. 500000. **Tender Opening Date:** 16.01.2026, **Time:** 13:30 hrs. (15); 22251625A; Tab/Cap Ruxolitbin 20 mg [Product should be available in the Manufacturing firm's approved product list of Railway Board] Item Code No.: M251204 AI 25-26, Rs. 0. **Tender Opening Date:** 27.01.2026, **Time:** 13:30 hrs. **Tender Cost:** Rs. 0 [For Sl. No. 1 to 15]. **NOTE:** All above mentioned tenders are e-tenders and all tenderers are requested to submit their bids on-line through the IREPS website at www.ireps.gov.in. For more details regarding the above mentioned tenders and other supply tenders please visit IREPS website.

STORES-62/2025-26

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EASTERN RAILWAY

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EASTERN RAILWAY

Tender No.: SDSTE-LHS-LCGATE-NDAE-26, Dated: 12.01.2026. Divisional Railway Manager, Eastern Railway, Howrah Division, New DRM Building, 4th Floor, Near Rail Museum, Howrah-711101, invites Open e-Tenders against Tender No.: SDSTE-LHS-LCGATE-NDAE-26 for the following work. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids upto closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. **Name of Work:** Howrah Division-Signalling work in connection with- Schedule A1- Construction of new Limited Height Subway in lieu of Level Crossing Gate No.18 by Railway's relieving girder under AEN/Nabdwip Dham. Schedule A2- Construction of new Limited Height Subway in lieu of Level Crossing Gate No.18 by Railway's relieving girder under AEN/Nabdwip Dham (Telecom). Schedule B1-Construction of new Limited Height Subway in lieu of Level Crossing Gate No.12A/1 by Railway's relieving girder under AEN/Nabdwip Dham . Schedule B2-Telecommunication Cost for construction of Limited Height Subway at Gate No. 12A/1 at Km. No. 53/33-35 between station Dhatigram-Samudram under jurisdiction of AEN/Nabdwip Dham. Schedule C1-Construction of new Limited Height Subway in lieu of Level Crossing Gate No.17/A by Railway's relieving girder under AEN/Nabdwip Dham. Schedule C2-Construction of new Limited Height Subway in lieu of Level Crossing Gate No.17/A by Railway's relieving girder under AEN/Nabdwip Dham (Telecom). **Bidding System:** Single Packet. **Advertised Value:** Rs. 35,22,844.70. **Earnest Money/Bid Security:** Rs. 3,02,600/- **Cost of Tender Document:** Rs. 0. **Period of Completion:** 12 months. **Validity of Offer:** 60 Days. **Date and Time of uploading Tender:** 12.01.2026 at 12:37 hrs. **Bidding Start Date:** 20.01.2026. **Tender Closing Date & Time:** 03.02.2026 at 15.00 hrs. The details are available at website www.ireps.gov.in

HWH-534/2025-26

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EASTERN RAILWAY

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EASTERN RAILWAY

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HWH-532/2025-26

Tender Notices are also available at websites : <a href="http://www.indianrailways.gov.in

Health is Wealth, Take Care of Your Health : Judicial Commissioner

Ranchi: Under the guidance of the Lt. Judicial Commissioner-cum-Chairman, Ranchi, Mr. Anil Kumar Mishra-1, and under the supervision of DLSA Secretary Mr. Rakesh Raushan, a free health check-up camp was organized today, January 13th, 2026, at the Conference Hall, 40 Courts Building, Civil Court, Ranchi, with the courtesy of Medanta Hospital, Ranchi. The free health check-up camp was inaugurated by the dignitaries present on the stage by lighting a lamp. The stage was conducted by DLSA Secretary Mr. Rakesh Raushan.

On this occasion, the Lt. Judicial Commissioner-cum-Chairman, Mr. Anil Kumar Mishra-1, Principal Judge, Family Court, Mr. Pawan Kumar, Additional Principal Judge, Family Court, Mr. Rajesh Kumar Singh, along with other judicial officers, Chief Judicial Magistrate, Mr. S.B. Sharma, DLSA Secretary, Mr. Rakesh Raushan, Registrar-cum-Judge In-charge, Rakesh Raushan, along with magistrates of the Civil Court, Dr. Aniket Sinha, Internal Medicine, Dr. C.B. Pandey, Cardiologist, Dr. Vikas Kumar Pathak, Marketing Manager, Pallavi Singh, Assistant Manager, Medanta, Ms. Binish Hussain, ECG Technician (Cardiac), Ashranti Soy and Gyaneshwari Rajak (Nursing Team) and others were present.

The Lt. Judicial Commissioner, Ranchi said that a free health check-up camp has been organized for the judicial officers, advocates, mediators, judicial employees, and PLVs of the Civil Court, Ranchi, with the courtesy of Medanta Hospital. In this health check-up camp, blood pressure tests, blood sugar tests, SPO2 testing, ECGs, weight checks, PFTs, and general

medical examinations and consultations for heart diseases are being conducted by doctors and the technical team from Medanta Hospital. Many people will benefit from this.

It is also worth noting that the doctors from Medanta Hospital provided several health tips and advice to those present.

This information was provided by Mr. Rakesh Roshan, Secretary of DLSA.



What Happens When a Romantic Escape Goes Terribly Wrong? Catch Hungama OTT's Prayagraj Ki Love Story to Find Out!

Hungama OTT, one of India's leading digital entertainment platforms, launched its latest original series, *Prayagraj Ki Love Story*, on January 8, 2026. Set against the soulful lanes, historic ghats, and timeless charm of Prayagraj, the series flips the idea of a romantic getaway on its head and turns it into a high-stakes survival story. Featuring a talented ensemble cast, including Gaurav Sharma, Ambika Vani, Pavitra Punia, and Manish Wadhwa, the show blends romance with suspense as a young couple finds themselves hunted in a city that suddenly feels unfamiliar.

At the heart of the story are Anshul Singh and Sonia Shukla, whose romantic escape takes a dark and dangerous turn when they unknowingly fall into the trap of a ruthless gang posing as protectors. What begins as trust soon spirals into deception, forcing the couple into a relentless chase through dense forests, narrow alleyways, and crowded marketplaces while trying to stay one step ahead of those determined to catch them. As fear closes in and danger lurks at every corner, their relationship is tested under pressure that allows no room for mistakes.

Talking about his role, Gaurav Sharma, who essays Anshul Singh, said, "Anshul is a sensitive and understanding boy, but he's also heavily influenced by social media. When things spiral out of control, his instincts take over. What I enjoyed most was showing that transition from comfort to crisis. Shooting across real locations in Prayagraj added honesty to every scene. You feel the chaos, and you feel the fear."

Speaking about the series, Ambika Vani, who plays Sonia Shukla, shared, "This was my first project, and I couldn't have asked for a more rewarding start. Sonia begins as someone in love and slowly becomes someone fighting for her life. That shift was emotionally intense. What stayed with me was her resilience. Even when everything is taken away, she doesn't give up on herself or on love."

Pavitra Punia, who plays Rajni Singh, shared, "Rajni is a complex character who does not fit into easy definitions. She's layered, unpredictable, and emotionally driven. *Prayagraj Ki Love Story* challenged me as an actor, especially with its mix of romance, thrill, and survival. Working with Hungama OTT again felt like a natural creative partnership." Veteran actor Manish Wadhwa said, "What sets this series apart is its emotional grounding. The fear feels real, the relationship feels lived in, and no one is purely right or wrong. That moral ambiguity gives the story weight."

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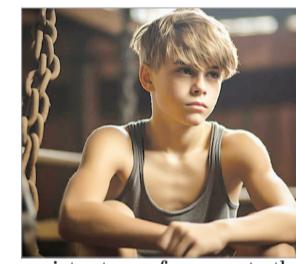
Researchers find link between adverse childhood experiences, muscle dysmorphia

Adolescents and young adults who had adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) prior to the age of 18 were shown to have a much higher likelihood of exhibiting signs of muscle dysmorphia, according to a recent study.

The findings were published in the *Clinical Social Work Journal*.

These new findings emphasize the need for greater understanding of the relationship between muscle dysmorphia, or the pathological pursuit of muscularity, and adverse childhood experiences (such as emotional abuse, sexual abuse, and domestic violence), as prior research has shown that over half of North American children and adolescents experience at least one adverse childhood experience in their lifetime.

"Those who experience adverse childhood experiences may engage in the pursuit of muscularity to compensate for experiences where they once felt inferior, small, and at risk, as well as to protect against future victimization," says lead author Kyle T. Ganson, PhD, MSW, an



assistant professor at the University of Toronto's Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work. "The experience of adverse childhood experiences may also increase body dissatisfaction, specifically muscle dissatisfaction, which is a key feature of muscle dysmorphia." Previous studies have shown that adverse experiences in childhood can lead to harmful health effects. While prior research has demonstrated that adverse childhood experiences are highly common in people with eating disorders and body dysmorphic disorder, few studies have looked at the association between adverse childhood experiences and muscle dysmorphia.

The study's researchers analyzed data from over 900 adolescents and young adults who participated in the Canadian Study of Adolescent Health Behaviors. In total, 16% of participants who experienced five or more adverse childhood experiences were at clinical risk for muscle dysmorphia, underscoring the significant traumatic effects that such experiences can have on mental health and well-being.

"Importantly, our study found that gender was an important factor in the relationship between adverse childhood experiences and muscle dysmorphia symptoms," says Ganson. "Boys and young men in the study who have experienced five or more adverse childhood experiences had significantly greater muscle dysmorphia symptoms when compared to girls and young women."

The authors note that boys and young men who experience adverse childhood experiences may feel that their masculinity was threatened from these experiences. Therefore, they engage in the pursuit of muscularity to demonstrate their adherence to masculine gender norms such as dominance.

Panchayat Advancement Index: Strengthening Data-Driven Decision-Making for rural transformation

Sushil Kumar Lohani

Across India's villages, a silent but powerful shift is underway. From a panchayat in Maharashtra installing CCTV and streetlights after scoring poorly on the "Women-Friendly Panchayat" theme to a village in Gujarat launching rapid sanitation drives after weak scores in the "Clean & Green Panchayat" category, the Panchayat Advancement Index (PAI) is beginning to reshape how grassroots development is planned and delivered. In many Panchayats, gaps noticed in PAI, such as low institutional delivery, poor waste management, or water scarcity, have directly triggered targeted interventions based on PAI scores.

These early use cases indicate a simple but powerful truth - when panchayats can see their strengths and weaknesses clearly, they act faster and more accurately. For decades, rural development in India relied heavily on manual reports, subjective perceptions and political priorities. Today, PAI brings a new model - transparent, data-driven & SDG-aligned, to the heart of rural administration.

Launched by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, the Panchayat Advancement Index is India's first countrywide framework to measure the progress of Gram Panchayats using objective indicators across critical areas relating to sanitation, health, governance, women's empowerment, infrastructure, environmental sustainability, etc., organised across nine themes of Localisation of Sustainable Development Goals (LSDGs) derived from 17 SDG goals. Logically, the attainment of SDGs at the national level will require actions at the local level where Panchayats can play a pivotal role. In this context, PAI provides an evidence-based mechanism for tracking progress in achieving the

LSDGs and thereby SDGs in rural areas.

The Panchayat Advancement Index (PAI) is computed through a robust, multi-step process using 435 unique local indicators across nine themes. While the Ministry of Panchayati Raj develops the indicator framework in consultation with other Ministries, Departments and State Governments, the actual data is collected by Gram Panchayats and concerned line departments through a common portal, pai.gov.in, at the GP level, which is then validated through several administrative layers, including Gram Sabha verification. The score for each theme is derived from these indicators on a 0-100 scale which, in turn, determine the overall PAI score (0-100), based on which Panchayats are classified into five grades for comparison.

The inaugural survey for the financial year 2022-23 revealed interesting insights: of the 2.16 lakh Panchayats who submitted validated data, none qualified as "Achievers" (scores above 90), 0.3% were "Front Runners" (75-89.99), 35.8% were "Performers" (60-74.99), while a majority of 61.2% were "Aspirants" (40-59.99), and 2.7% were "Beginners" (below 40). States like Gujarat and Telangana topped the chart with the highest number of high-performing panchayats.

Realising its immense potential in strengthening grassroots governance, state governments are disseminating PAI scores among various stakeholders through workshops at block, district and state levels. Panchayats have also started displaying the PAI scorecards outside their offices for transparency and citizen engagement. Discussions on PAI scores is also one of the agenda in the Gram Sabha meetings.

PAI's strength lies in its practical use.



Early signals show states like Gujarat using PAI scores for allocating special grants to weak Gram Panchayats to bridge critical gaps. Sikkim has decided to adopt the PAI score as a criterion for allocating performance grants under its 6th State Finance Commission. Across many states, PAI has become a key tool for evidence-based planning, helping Panchayats identify and prioritise focus areas in their Gram Panchayat Development Plans (GPDPs). Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Sikkim, Chhattisgarh, etc. are converting top-scoring Gram Panchayats as Panchayat Learning Centres, while States like Jharkhand, Bihar, Kerala, Punjab and Rajasthan are selecting such Gram Panchayats for curated exposure visits of PRIs. Several states now link PAI performances with recognition & awards. Maharashtra offers major awards under the Chief Minister's scheme; Sikkim and MP provide financial incentives, whereas Punjab, Jharkhand, UP, Arunachal Pradesh and Tripura felicitate high-scoring Panchayats at state-level events. PAI scores are increasingly embedded in structured training programmes and

field workshops. PAI has converted hard-to-understand social, economic, and environmental indicators into easy-to-understand themes that guides targeted planning and decision-making. Dashboards, scorecards, and digital tools assist in Panchayat-level governance that is based on evidence. However, PAI is still new; its first baseline report covers 2022-23, so there aren't many long-term case studies that show direct, measurable improvements. Due to uneven technical capacity, inadequate understanding of data points and inconsistent reporting systems, data quality varies across regions. Convergence among line departments and PRIs is improving but remains fragmented. These are not challenges, but opportunities. Learning from this, the Ministry has now simplified the process for PAI 2.0 by reducing the number of unique indicators from 435 to 119, adopting more relevant and refined indicators, and improving workflows, making data collection easier and of improved quality. The Ministry's clearer operational guidelines and easier processes have led to its adoption by almost all States/UTs, with more than 2.60 lakh panchayats participating in the second round against 2.16 lakh earlier, demonstrating a strong direction. A massive capacity-building programme has also been launched to improve the understanding of the indicators and data points among elected representatives, panchayat functionaries and line department staff. The transformative potential of PAI cannot be overstated. PAI democratises data, enabling citizens to hold their elected representatives accountable, thereby deepening democratic governance. It promotes transparency and encourages healthy competition among panchayats. As thematic PAI scores are derived from several indicators linked to various sectors, PAI, by design, encourages collaboration among ministries and departments to achieve better development outcomes. What sets the PAI apart is its alignment with the global SDGs and its innovative localisation of these goals (LSDGs) at the village level. The model truly internalises the SDG principles by measuring development through PAI scores, which makes it a unique and potentially global best practice. In sum, the Panchayat Advancement Index is a landmark initiative that redefines rural governance in India. It is a critical instrument to ensure that India meets its Sustainable Development Goals by 2030 through evidence-based, participatory, and decentralised development planning. As India strives for equitable growth and social justice in its pursuit of *Viksit Bharat*, the PAI stands as a beacon of hope, guiding panchayats from data to development, from insights to real impact. (Sushil Kumar Lohani is an IAS officer and currently working as Additional Secretary, Ministry of Panchayati Raj in Government of India)

TallyPrime 7.0 Strengthens Connected Capabilities and Simplifies Digitisation for MSMEs

Bengaluru: Tally Solutions Pvt Ltd, India's leading business automation software provider, today announced the launch of TallyPrime Release 7.0, marking five years of the TallyPrime platform. Since its inception, TallyPrime has been designed around one clear promise - make digitisation simple, reliable, and truly useful for MSMEs. This milestone release strengthens that mission by bringing together deeper integrations, smarter automation, and meaningful data-protection enhancements into a more cohesive, connected experience.

Over the years, TallyPrime has helped businesses navigate India's fast-evolving digital landscape, from e-invoicing and e-way bills to connected GST compliance and everyday financial operations. With features like Connected Banking and TallyPrime Cloud Access, businesses have enjoyed the flexibility to work from anywhere, transact securely, and engage with external systems effortlessly.

Release 7.0 sharpens this customer-centric vision even further by strengthening the core pillars MSMEs rely on every day: continuity, clarity, and control. Stronger SBI and Axis Bank integrations now enable MSMEs to manage payments, fetch balances and statements in real time, and reconcile instantly, all without leaving TallyPrime. These enhancements turn routine financial operations into quicker, more transparent, and more reliable experiences.

Tally's partnership-driven approach also continues with Bharat Connect for Business, built with NPCI Bharat BillPay Ltd. With automated invoice exchange and payment linkage between buyers and sellers, MSMEs can reduce manual effort and improve accuracy across their receivables and payables cycles.

Release 7.0 also brings the enhanced TallyDrive experience that keeps business data safer and more dependable. With upgraded encryption, stronger integrity checks, and a design philosophy that keeps data strictly in the business's control, TallyDrive underscores Tally's long-standing belief that connected workflows must never compromise privacy. Businesses can adopt digital practices with confidence, knowing their data remains secure, backed up, and always accessible.

Speaking about the milestone, Tejas Goenka, Managing Director, Tally Solutions, said:

"Over the last five years, TallyPrime has steadily expanded its connected capabilities, enhancing how businesses manage compliance, banking, and everyday operations. TallyPrime 7.0 is a natural extension of this journey, introducing smarter automation, deeper integrations, and enhanced privacy features. It reflects our belief that businesses today need connected digitisation, not complexity. This release strengthens the ecosystem we've been building, helping businesses operate with more continuity, transparency, and confidence."

With Release 7.0, Tally further reinforces its commitment to creating a secure, intuitive, and deeply connected platform, one that helps MSMEs make timely decisions, maintain continuity, and stay aligned with India's digital ecosystem. The updates ensure that connected services across compliance, banking, payments, and reporting work more cohesively, enabling MSMEs to run their businesses with ease and clarity. TallyPrime Release 7.0 will be available to all existing TallyPrime customers with an active license.

Vitamin D medicine do not protect children from bone fractures: Study

A large clinical research sponsored by Queen Mary University of London and the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health discovered that vitamin D supplementation do not strengthen bone strength or prevent bone fractures in vitamin D-deficient youngsters. The findings call into question widely held beliefs about vitamin D's benefits on bone health. Around one-third of children have at least one fracture before the age of 18. This is a major global health issue, as childhood fractures can lead to life years of disability and/or poor quality of life. The potential for vitamin D supplements to improve bone strength has attracted growing interest in recent years, based on vitamin D's role in promoting bone mineralisation. However, clinical trials designed to test whether vitamin D supplements can prevent bone fractures in children have not previously been conducted.

Working with partners in Mongolia, a setting with a particularly high fracture burden and where vitamin D deficiency is highly prevalent, researchers from Queen Mary and Harvard conducted a clinical trial to determine if vitamin D supplementation would decrease risk of bone fractures or increase bone strength in schoolchildren.

BRICS must commit to reformed multilateralism reflecting contemporary realities": EAM Jaishankar

MI News Service, New Delhi: External Affairs Minister (EAM) S Jaishankar on Tuesday called on BRICS to commit to a reformed multilateral system that reflects present-day global realities, stressing the need for more representative and inclusive international institutions.

Speaking at the launch of the BRICS 2026 logo, Jaishankar said the world is navigating multiple complex challenges, making the demand for a reinvigorated, inclusive, and effective multilateral order more urgent than ever.

"At a time when the world is also navigating multiple complex challenges, the call for a reinvigorated, inclusive, and effective multilateral order has never been more urgent. BRICS must commit to a reformed multilateralism that reflects contemporary realities, one where institutions like the United Nations, the WTO, IMF, and the World Bank are representative and inclusive," he



said.

Highlighting the role of BRICS in global economic cooperation, the EAM said the New Development Bank (NDB), founded by BRICS countries, has emerged as an important instrument promoting infrastructure development and sustainable growth among its members.

He said India remains committed to supporting efforts to further strengthen the bank as a credible, responsible, and financially sustainable institution. People-to-people exchanges will always remain an essential component of BRICS cooperation, and especially of our chairship, with continued emphasis on youth, culture, educa-

tion, sports, tourism, and academic interactions," the EAM said.

Reiterating India's approach to the grouping, Jaishankar said New Delhi views BRICS as a constructive platform for dialogue and development that complements the broader multilateral system.

"BRICS is guided by the principles of mutual respect, sovereign equality, and consensus," he said, adding that India will strive to make its chairship inclusive, practical, people-centred, and outcome-orientated.

He expressed confidence in continued cooperation, saying he looked forward to the support of all BRICS member states, partner countries, and other stakeholders as India prepares to assume the BRICS Chairship in 2026.

"I look forward to the cooperation and support of all BRICS members, partner countries, and other stakeholders as we work towards and together dur-

ing India's Chairship," the EAM said.

The acronym BRIC was first coined in 2001 by Goldman Sachs in their Global Economics Paper, "The World Needs Better Economic BRICs", based on analyses projecting that Brazil, Russia, India, and China would individually and collectively occupy a larger share of the global economy and become among the world's largest economies over the following decades.

In 2010, it was agreed to expand BRIC to BRICS, with South Africa joining at the 3rd BRICS Summit in Sanya in 2011.

The grouping expanded further in 2024, with Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, and the UAE becoming full members on January 1, 2024. Indonesia joined as a full member in January 2025, while Belarus, Bolivia, Kazakhstan, Cuba, Malaysia, Nigeria, Thailand, Uganda, and Uzbekistan were inducted as partner countries of BRICS.

Four killed after Russia's overnight strikes: Zelensky



MI News Service, Kyiv: At least four people were killed after Russia launched a massive overnight aerial assault on Ukraine, deploying nearly 300 attack drones along with 18 ballistic missiles and seven cruise missiles, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said on Tuesday.

In a statement posted on X, Zelensky said most of the drones used in the attack were Shahed-type unmanned aerial vehicles and that Russia once again targeted Ukraine's energy-generation facilities and substations, causing extensive damage to residential and civilian infrastructure across multiple regions.

According to the Ukrainian President, the Dnipro, Zhytomyr, Zaporiyzhia, Kyiv, Odesa, Sumy, Kharkiv, and Donetsk regions came under attack, and Russian strikes on a postal terminal in Kirovch in the Kharkiv region killed four people.

"Almost 300 attack drones, most of them Shaheds," along with 18 bal-

listic and 7 cruise missiles, were launched by the Russians against Ukraine last night. Once again, the main target of the strike was our energy-generation facilities and substations. Sadly, there has been extensive destruction of residential and civilian infrastructure," Zelensky said.

"Dnipro, Zhytomyr, Zaporiyzhia, Kyiv, Odesa, Sumy, Kharkiv, and Donetsk regions came under attack. With no military purpose whatsoever, Russia lobbed missiles at a postal terminal in Kirovch, Kharkiv region, killing 4 people," he added, offering condolences to the families and loved ones of the victims.

Russia's strikes on Ukraine's energy-generation facilities and substations are intended to deprive households of electricity amid a cold wave gripping the country.

Zelensky noted that the situation in the Kyiv region also remains difficult, with several hundred thousand households cur-

rently without electricity following the strikes. He said emergency services are operating on the ground and "Points of Invincibility" have been deployed to support residents affected by power outages.

Emphasising Ukraine's resilience, the President said that Ukrainians continue to support one another wherever Russia attempts to inflict destruction, adding that internal resilience is especially critical during winter.

"Points of Invincibility have been deployed. As always, wherever Russia tries to destroy, Ukrainians support one another, and internal resilience is what is most needed right now. Every such strike against life is a reminder that support for Ukraine cannot be stopped. Missiles for air defense systems are needed every day, and especially during winter," the Ukrainian President said.

The Ukrainian leader renewed his appeal for international support, stressing that every such strike is a reminder that assistance to Ukraine must continue, highlighting the daily need for air defence missiles, particularly in winter, and calling on the global community to respond with new aid packages.

Zelensky concluded that Ukraine expects accelerated deliveries already agreed with the United States and European partners, adding that Russia must learn that "cold will not help it win the war."

• 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.

• 22588/22587 Banaras -

Sealdah - Banaras Amrit Bharat Express

22588 Banaras-Sealdah

Bengaluru - Alipur Duar -

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.

• 16597/16598 SMVT Bengaluru Amrit Bharat Express

16597 SMVT Bengaluru-Alipur Duar Amrit Bharat Express will leave SMVT Bengaluru every Saturday at 08:50 hrs and will reach Alipur Duar at 10:25 hrs, the third day. In the return direction, 16598 Alipur Duar - SMVT Bengaluru Amrit Bharat Express will leave Alipur Duar every Monday at 22:25 hrs and will arrive SMVT Bengaluru at 03:00 hrs, the fourth day.

• 11031/11032 Panvel -

Alipur Duar -Panvel Amrit Bharat Express

11031 Panvel-Alipur Duar Amrit Bharat Express will leave Panvel every Monday at 11:50 hrs and will reach Alipur Duar at 13:50 hrs, the third day. In the return direction, 11032 Alipur Duar-Panvel Amrit Bharat Express will leave Alipur Duar every Thursday at 04:45 hrs and will arrive Panvel at 05:30 hrs, the third day.

• 27576/27575 Kamakhya - Howrah - Kamakhya Vande Bharat Sleeper Express

27576 Kamakhya Howrah Vande Bharat Sleeper Express will leave Kamakhya everyday (except Wednesday) at 18:15 hrs and will reach Howrah at 08:15 hrs, the next day. In the return direction, 27575 Howrah-Kamakhya Vande Bharat Sleeper Express will leave Howrah everyday (except Thursday) at 18:20 hrs and will arrive Kamakhya at 08:20 hrs, the next day.

Canada's PM Carney to visit India as a push for trade diversification amid US tariffs

MI News Service, Ottawa: With Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney stating that Ottawa, in order to diversify its global trade landscape, will be doubling their non-US exports by the next decade, Indian High Commissioner to Canada Dinesh Patnaik said that the Canadian PM is set to visit India in the coming weeks for the expansion of bilateral trade with New Delhi, after over two years of strained diplomatic relations.

Speaking to CBC's "Power & Politics", the Indian Envoy on Monday stated that Carney's visit to India is aimed at diversifying Canada's trading partners amid high tariffs imposed by the US on its largest trade partner. Both India and Canada are facing high tariffs imposed by US President Donald Trump on their exports: 50 per cent tariffs on India, 25 per cent of which is due to New Delhi's purchase of Russian Oil, and 35 per cent tariffs on Canada.

"In a shifting global trade landscape, Canada's new government is focused on what we can control. We're going to double our non-US exports over the next decade - to secure new opportunities for Canadian businesses, and create tens of thousands of new careers for Canadian workers," Carney said in a post on X on Monday. Patnaik, speaking to CBC said Carney's visit is expected after India tables its Union Budget on February 1, describing the renewed engagement as a sign that "trust is back in the system."

He added that diplomats are working to "catch up" on initiatives delayed due to a "slight gap" in relations. The diplomatic chill between the two nations began in 2023 when India expressed concerns over Canada's perceived leniency towards Khalistani separatist elements and former Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau allegations that Indian



agents were involved in the killing of NIA-designated terrorist Hardeep Singh Nijjar outside a gurdwara the same year.

Patnaik emphasised that the Indian government has denied any involvement, saying, "We have always said it's preposterous, absurd. It's something we don't do," and that "there is no case against the Government of India." The envoy further noted that Canada's approach is changing under the current leadership, stating, "There's a new prime minister who is changing the way Canada behaves," as quoted by CBC.

In November last year, Carney accepted Prime Minister Narendra Modi's invitation to visit India in early 2026 on the sidelines of the G20 Leaders' Summit in South Africa, according to a statement from the Office of the Prime Minister of Canada.

Following the return of high commissioners in August 2025, the two prime ministers agreed to increase diplomatic staffing to meet growing consular demand and strengthen people-to-people ties. They also agreed to support reciprocal knowledge transfer as part of ongoing engagement between the two countries.

US revokes over 100,000 visas of individuals involved in "criminal activity"



MI News Service, Washington:

The US Department of State has announced that it has revoked more than 100,000 visas, including thousands of student and specialised visas, as part of its ongoing efforts to strengthen domestic security and enforce immigration laws.

In a post on X, the Department of State said that the revocations include around 8,000 student visas and 2,500 specialised visas issued to individuals who had encounters with US law enforcement for criminal activity.

"BREAKING: The State Department has now revoked over 100,000 visas, including some 8,000 student visas and 2,500 specialised visas for individuals who had encounters with U.S. law enforcement for criminal activity," the post read.

The department further asserted that visa revocations and deportations are being used as tools to safeguard national security. "We will continue to deport

these thugs to keep America safe," the Department of State added in its post.

The development underscores the Trump administration's ongoing efforts to ensure compliance with its immigration laws and reinforces that visa holders must adhere strictly to all legal requirements during their stay.

Recently, the US Embassy in India warned visa holders, especially students, that breaking the United States' Laws can have serious consequences, leading to the revocation of the visa and even deportation from the US.

"Breaking U.S. laws can have serious consequences for your student visa. If you are arrested or violate any laws, your visa may be revoked, you may be deported, and you could be ineligible for future U.S. visas.

The department further asserted that visa revocations and deportations are being used as tools to safeguard national security. "We will continue to deport

South-East Asia marks 15 years since last case of polio, legacy drives broader public health gains

MI News Service, Delhi: 15 years after recording its last case of wild poliovirus, the WHO South-East Asia Region with a quarter of the world's population, continues to sustain its polio-free status while harnessing innovations and lessons from the polio programme to accelerate public health progress, an official statement said.

"This extraordinary achievement followed unparalleled efforts and demonstrates what can be accomplished and sustained through unwavering government leadership, a dedicated health workforce, and strong partnerships, including with communities," said Catharina Boehme, Officer-in-Charge, WHO South-East Asia Region.

On this date in 2011, an 18-month-old girl was paralyzed by wild poliovirus in Howrah, West Bengal, India. The extensive and intensive response that followed ensured that this remained the last case of wild poliovirus in the Region. Three years later, the WHO South-East Asia Region was certified polio-free on 27 March 2014. The Region continues to maintain strict vigil



against poliovirus importation and protect children through vaccination against a disease that once caused widespread paralysis and death, as per the statement.

In 2025, more than 50,000 stool samples were collected across the Region and tested through a network of 13 WHO-accredited polio laboratories, including national, regional and global reference laboratories. Surveillance across the Region continues to exceed the standards required to maintain polio-free certification.

Adding a further layer of sensitivity to detect any potential poliovirus transmission, environmental surveillance is being conducted at 93 sites among high risk population in five countries.

As per annual WHO/UNICEF Estimates of National Immunization Coverage (WUENIC), the Region has maintained high population immunity through consistently strong immunization coverage. Coverage with bivalent oral polio vaccine and at least one dose of inactivated polio vaccine has remained above 90% for many years, the statement read.

Even during humani-

Nepal issues advisory for Iran as protests intensify, authorities resort to use of force

MI News Service, Kathmandu: Nepal's Ministry of Foreign Affairs has issued an advisory for Iran as protests continue to rise, with authorities resorting to the use of force. Hundreds of protesters are hitting the streets against rising inflation and demanding reforms. Authorities have reportedly opened fire, with casualties recorded in the hundreds as of now.

In the wake of the situation, the Foreign Ministry said, "Nepali citizens currently living and working in Iran are advised to follow the security advisory of the competent authorities of Iran, stay indoors, remain alert, and exercise caution." Following it, the ministry has urged its citizens to halt travel amid the ongoing unrest. "Likewise, the Ministry urges all the Nepali citizens planning to travel to Iran to avoid their plan until the situation in the country returns to normal," the Foreign Ministry added.

The Nepali Foreign Ministry has also issued emergency contact details for assistance to its citizens. For emergency assistance, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Kathmandu, can be contacted on +977-014200182-85/+977-9862678437 or via email at waa@mofa.gov.np.

ICICI Bank | Regd. Office: ICICI Bank Limited, Landmark, Race Course Circle, Vadodara- 390007, Corporate Office: ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra-Kurla Complex, Bandra (E), Mumbai- 400051.

Branch Office: ICICI Bank LTD, Regional Processing Centre Bp-4, Technopolis Building, 4th Floor, Sector 5, Salt Lake, Kolkata, West Bengal- 700091

Notice for Disclosure of Legal Heirs of Deceased Borrower

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that Credit facility LBSG100005131957 was granted to Ms. Tulsi Saha and Ms. Prakriti Saha along with the deceased Mr. Moni Mohan Saha and Mr. Mrinmoy Saha by ICICI Bank Ltd. (The Bank). The said credit facility is secured by Ms. Tulsi Saha and Ms. Prakriti Saha along with the deceased Mr. Moni Mohan Saha and Mr. Mrinmoy Saha by creation of the security interest by way of mortgage, with respect to the property situated at

DEED NO. I-4277/18

Holding No. 2273, A.C. Road (South), R.S. And L.R. Dag No. 43/47, Layout Plot No. 79 Marked as "B", C.S. Khatian No. 23, R.S. Khatian No. 35, L.R. Khatian No. 17, Present L.R. Khatian No. 494, Touzi No. 16, Ward No. 17, Berhampore Municipality, Mouza 94 No. Bil Bishnupur, Thana Berhampore Town, Sub Registry Office Berhampore, District Murshidabad, West Bengal-Admeasuring area 3.3 Satak I.E. 0.033 Acre I.E. 2 Kotha I.E. 1440 Sq. Ft., North: 14 Ft. Wide Road, South: Layout Plot No. 91, East: 12 Ft. Wide Road, West: Layout Plot No. 78/A-1

DEED NO. I-4278/18

Holding No. 2273, A.C. Road (South), R.S. And L.R. Dag No. 43/47, Layout Plot No. 79 Marked as "A", C.S. Khatian No. 23, R.S. Khatian No. 35, L.R. Khatian No. 17, Present L.R. Khatian No. 494, Touzi No. 16, Ward No. 17, Berhampore Municipality, Mouza 94 No. Bil Bishnupur, Thana Berhampore Town, Sub Registry Office Berhampore, District Murshidabad, West Bengal-Admeasuring area 3.3 Satak I.E. 0.033 Acre I.E. 2 Kotha I.E. 1440 Sq. Ft., North: 14 Ft. Wide Road, South: Layout Plot No. 90, East: Layout Plot No. 79-B, West: Layout Plot No. 77/A

DEED NO. I-4279/18

Holding No. 2273, A.C. Road (South), R.S. And L.R. Dag No. 43/47, Layout Plot No. 79 Marked as "C", C.S. Khatian No. 23, R.S

2nd ODI: India eye series clincher in Rajkot as New Zealand look to bounce back

RAJKOT : Following a narrow four-wicket win in the series opener at Vadodara, India will now face New Zealand in Rajkot to try to clinch the series by taking an unbeatable lead in the three-match series. The two sides will lock horns at the Niranjan Shah Stadium, a typically batting-friendly surface, where the BlackCaps will aim to level the series while the hosts will aim to grab a 2-0 lead.

India's playing XI for the second ODI will witness at least one change after Washington Sundar was ruled out of the remainder of the series following an injury. The all-rounder was replaced by Ayush Badoni in the squad as the 26-year-old received his maiden ODI call-up. Captain Shubman Gill faces a typical 'selection dilemma' after several fringe players stepped up under pressure.

The first match showed that although veterans like Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma remain crucial,

the inclusion of relatively inexperienced players like Harshit Rana is changing the team's tactical approach. As the action shifts to Rajkot, the team management must decide whether to maintain the successful lineup or rotate bowlers to reduce their workload.

India clinched their eighth consecutive ODI win over New Zealand since 2023. At home venues, they have now secured eight straight ODI victories against New Zealand since 2017.

The ODI series opener also saw India successfully chase the second-highest target against New Zealand, behind the 316 runs achieved in Bengaluru in 2010.

New Zealand responded strongly in the first game. It appeared they were done for when Kohli and Iyer were dominating, and India looked poised to win easily with a comfortable margin. However, the BlackCaps demonstrated great resilience before India secured the victory.



Rohit Sharma scored the first runs for India but was dismissed in the Power-play, while Gill had a slow start against the new ball but regained his rhythm after Kohli came in to support him.

India's No. 3 entered with con-

fidence, aggressively facing the bowlers and hitting boundaries, establishing a strong partnership of over 100 runs with the captain. Following Gill's dismissal, Shreyas Iyer maintained the same aggressive approach, forming another

steady partnership with Kohli and ensuring India stayed in command. Then, Kyle Jamieson entered the scene and took three wickets in just seven balls to dismiss Kohli and Iyer, putting New Zealand right back into the game.

INDIA : Rohit Sharma, Shubman Gill (c), Virat Kohli, Shreyas Iyer, KL Rahul (wk), Nitish Kumar Reddy, Harshit Rana, Kuldeep Yadav, Arshdeep Singh, Mohammed Siraj, Prasidh Krishna, Rishabh Pant, Yashasvi Jaiswal, Ravindra Jadeja, Ayush Badoni

NEW ZEALAND : Devon Conway (wk), Will Young, Henry Nicholls, Daryl Mitchell, Glenn Phillips, Michael Bracewell (c), Zakary Foulkes, Nick Kelly, Josh Clarkson, Michael Rae, Kyle Jamieson, Mitchell Hay, Adithya Ashok, Kristian Clarke, Jayden Lennox

With Washington injured, Rana was sent in before him, delivering a useful cameo that eased the pressure on wicketkeeper-batter KL Rahul. Even after Rana's dismissal, a hobbling Washington walked out to the middle, and together he and Rahul guided India home with an over to spare.

New Zealand threw everything they had at India and pushed them all the way, but in the end, they just lacked that extra bit of firepower in the crunch moments.

The Kiwis demonstrated resilience with both bat and ball. After a solid beginning, a mid-innings slump nearly derailed

them, but Daryl Mitchell's steadiness led them to a competitive score.

With the ball, they kept fighting and pushed the match until the second last over. India, on the other hand, will recognise they could have been more precise across all aspects of the game and will aim to improve in the second match on Wednesday.

When: Wednesday, Jan 13, 1:30 PM IST

Where: Niranjan Shah Stadium, Rajkot

Where to watch: Star Sports Network for live TV broadcast and JioHotstar for live streaming

NORWAY CHESS SHIFTS TO OSLO AFTER 13 YEARS IN STAVANGER

OSLO : After thirteen years in Stavanger, Norway Chess and Norway Chess Women will be hosted in Oslo, with Deichman Bjorvika acting as the primary venue, the organisers said on Tuesday.

The event is scheduled from May 25 to June 5. Since its inception in 2013, Stavanger has hosted Norway Chess.

"Norway Chess would not have become the event it is today without the cross-party political support and the generous welcome we have received in Stavanger. We would like to extend our sincere thanks to the City of Stavanger, which has stood by us all the way, especially in the development of Norway Chess Women, a pioneering women's tournament with equal prize conditions," said Kjell Madland, founder and CEO of Norway Chess.

Norway Chess will be held for the 14th time, and Norway Chess Women for the 3rd time. Carlsen has taken part in every edition and has won seven of them.

"We see great opportunities in establishing Norway Chess in the nation's capital. Oslo is an international meeting place and gives us a unique opportunity to reach an even wider audience, among spectators, partners, and new generations of chess enthusiasts," says Benedict Westre Skog, COO of Norway Chess.

Magnus Carlsen is the first player to publicly confirm his participation in Norway Chess 2026. The organisers' remaining participants will be announced in the coming weeks, along with the line-up for Norway Chess Women.

Founded in 2013 with the ambition to bring together the world's best chess players. Over the years, it has consistently attracted the world's best players, including Magnus Carlsen, Fabiano Caruana, Hikaru Nakamura, and Alireza Firouzja.

Since 2024, the tournament has also welcomed leading female players such as Ju Wenjun, Anna Muzychuk, and Humpy Koneru.

In total, 18 of the highest-rated players in chess history have competed in Norway Chess.

Norway Chess combines classical games with faster time controls and Armageddon tiebreaks to ensure that every match has a winner.

Six players compete in each tournament - Norway Chess and Norway Chess Women. Double round-robin, ten rounds in total. Each player faces every other player twice - once with white, once with black.



2026 India Open Badminton: Lakshya Sen wins all-Indian clash with Ayush Shetty; Treesa-Gayatri, Hariharan/Arjun advance



before wrapping the match without much ado.

"The first match in any tournament is very important, and the conditions were a bit tricky. Since this is a big hall, we were thinking that the conditions would be slow, but the shuttle was travelling fast. Also, it's quite cold, and I was happy that I was warmed up well for the start of the match," said Sen, who will now face Nishimoto in the second round.

With the India Open 2026 moving to a much bigger stadium this year, the focus on the opening day was on the all-Indian clash between Sen and Shetty. The 24-year-old Indian Oil Corporation employee stepped on the accelerator from the very start as he opened up a 7-1 lead in the first game, dominating the net exchanges, and did not allow his young opponent to settle down.

It was only at the end of the first game that Shetty began to find his rhythm and won six straight points to close the gap from 6-17 to 12-17, but that was too little too late.

Shetty started well in the second game as he opened up a 5-1 lead with Sen, this time struggling to control his strokes due to the side-way drift. But then the 2021 World Championships bronze medallist used his stick smashes to make the tall Shetty bend and followed it up with a tap to kick-start his comeback in the game.

The Indian combination will now face seventh seeds Li Yijia and Luo Xu Min of China, who defeated Francesca Corbett and Jennie Gai of the USA 21-12, 21-8.

Also advancing to the second round were the men's doubles pairing of Hariharan Amsakarunan and MR Arjun, as they defeated the Malaysian combination of Ong Yew Sin and Teo Ee Yi 21-15, 21-18 in the opening round. They will next face fourth

seeds Liang Wei Keng and Wang Chang of China.

Meanwhile, Shruti Mishra and Priya Konjengbam, finalists in women's doubles in National Championships, saved a total of five match-points but could not convert the one match point they earned to go down 21-11, 20-22, 24-22 in an hour and eight minutes against Lui Lok Lok and Tsang Hiu Yan of Hong Kong China.

Facing the World No. 31 Hong Kong combination, Shruti and Priya fought back from a game down to save a match point in the second game and forced a decider.

In the third and final game, the Indian combination was for an all-attack strategy to save four match points and even earned one themselves.

But a lucky net chord helped the Hong Kong pairing to save that match point, and then two drive errors meant that the Indians were ousted in the opening round itself.

Former World Champion PV Sindhu, men's singles stars Kidambi Srikanth and HS Prannoy will kick off their campaign on Wednesday. Third seeds in men's

doubles, Chirag Shetty and Satwiksairaj Rankireddy, received

a walkover in the opening round after the USA's Chen Zhi Yi and Presley Smith withdrew.

IMPORTANT RESULTS:

Men's singles: Lakshya Sen bt Ayush Shetty 21-12, 21-15; Chi Yu-Jen (Tpe) bt 6-Alex Lanier (Fra) 21-17, 21-19; Brian Yang (Can) bt 4-Chou Tien Chen (Tpe) 21-19, 21-11; Victor Lai (Can) bt Toma Junior Popov (Fra) 21-12, 16-21, 21-8

Women's singles: 7-Ratchanok Intanon (Tha) bt Riko Gunji (Jpn) 21-19, 21-15; 6-Putri Kusuma Wardani (Ind) bt Michelle Li (Can) 21-12, 20-22, 21-15

Men's doubles: Hariharan Amsakarunan/MR Arjun bt Ong Yew Sin/Teo Ee Yi (Mas) 21-15, 21-18; Christo Popov/Toma Junior Popov (Fra) bt Choong Hon Jian/Haikal Muhammad (Mal) 21-11, 20-22, 24-22

Women's doubles: Treesa Jolly/Gayatri Gopichand bt Ong Yew Sin/Teo Ee Yi (Mas) 21-15, 21-11; Lui Lok Lok/Tsang Hiu Yan (Hkg) bt Shruti Mishra/Priya Konjengbam 21-11, 20-22, 24-22

Mixed doubles: Hiroki Midorikawa/Nami Matsuyama (Jpn) bt Dhruv Rawat/K Maneesha 21-9, 21-10

SAI's Target Asian Games Group (TAGG) to power India's karate push ahead of 2026 Asiad

NEW DELHI : A bronze medal in a top-level karate competition abroad is fuelling India's aspirations for the sport in the upcoming Asian Games in Japan, with intervention by the Sports Authority of India (SAI) helping practitioners of the sport dream big.

Alisha Subudhi's historic bronze medal at the World Karate Federation (WKF) Series A Karate Championship in Tbilisi, Georgia, has highlighted that structured support towards non-mainstream sports disciplines can reap major benefits if constant backing persists.

The Sports Authority of India (SAI), particularly through the Target Asian Games Group (TAGG) scheme, has been supporting combat sports disciplines like karate, where India has not delivered major results at the highest international level in the past.

Alisha, supported via the TAGG scheme, became the first Indian woman to medal at a Karate 1 - Series A event, defeating her Croatian opponent 8-0 in the bronze medal contest this month. A robust high-performance ecosystem was created through efforts from SAI through targeted funding, elite coaching exposure, and intensive national camps.

SAI had funded a senior National Coaching Camp in Lucknow in November-December 2025, putting forward assistance of Rs. 1.2 crore under the ANSF scheme under the Assistance to National Sports Federations (ANSF) scheme, featuring 48 athletes.

The 45-day camp, held at the SAI Regional Centre, Lucknow, focused on match simulations, tactical sharpening, psychological conditioning, and recovery protocols. Alisha was a part of the camp.

"I especially thank TAGG for giving the financial support and organising an excellent national camp in Lucknow towards our preparation for the WKF Series A," the 23-year-old Alisha said in a release issued by SAI.

In the absence of a recognised National Sports Federation for karate, the Sports Authority of India ensured uninterrupted athlete preparation by constituting a Karate Organising Committee to manage selection trials, camps, and international exposure, ensuring that performance pathways remained intact.

The committee had also conducted Open National Selection Trials in the Senior Category from 12-14 October at the SAI Training Centre in NEHU Campus, Shillong. The trials were fully managed by the Karate Organising Committee of SAI, ensuring compliance with international norms, anti-doping rules, and videography-based evaluation.

With major competitions like the Asian Games looming later this year, the sustained backing through TAGG and SAI-led national camps is expected to play a decisive role, especially in non-mainstream sports where India has not been able to make a mark internationally in the past.

Men's T20 World Cup: Four Pakistani-origin US cricketers denied visa to travel to India: Report

MUMBAI : Four Pakistani-origin cricketers, who were picked to be part of the United States team, have been denied visas to visit India, which now threatens their participation in next month's Twenty20 World Cup, a news report claimed on Tuesday.

One of the players told Telecom Asia Sport that he, along with three others, has been denied visas to travel to India for the T20 World Cup, which is being jointly hosted by India and Sri Lanka.

"Yes, it is true that three Pakistani-origin players are denied an Indian visa, which means we are unable to feature in the Twenty20 World Cup," pacer Ali Khan told www.telecomasia.net in a video message.

The other three players named in the 20-man USA squad for the T20 World Cup are Shayan Jahangir, Mohammad Mohsin, and Ehsan Adil, the report claimed.

According to the report, all three were born in Pakistan but are now US citizens. Under India's visa rules, all Pakistan-born people have to apply for a visa using their passport from their country of birth.

The issue means eight countries will be affected by this problem, besides the USA, players from the UAE, Oman, Nepal, Canada, England, Zimbabwe, and the Netherlands have players of Pakistani origin.

Ali was born in Sheikhpura and played three Tests and six ODIs for Pakistan between 2013 and 2015. He migrated to the USA four years ago and plays for Kingsmen USA. Khan was born in Attock in Punjab, Shayan in Karachi, and Mohsin in Mingora in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP).

The report also claimed that the issue has haunted



but everyone has to go through that phase. No one can stay at the top forever. There will be anger and frustration, but try to snap out of it and do what is in your control, and leave the rest to God. Whenever God gives you a chance, use it wisely," he added.

Rahul played a fiery knock in the first ODI at the BCA Stadium. He finished the game in style by



ed Pakistani-origin players in the past, too, with Zulfiqar brothers -- Sikander and Saqib -- denied a visa in 2019, while another player, Shiraz Ahmed's visa delayed for the 2023 World Cup. Australia's opener Usman Khawaja (2017) and England spinners -- Rehan Ahmed and Shoaib Basheer (2024) -- have also faced visa problems in the past.

Sources in the International Cricket Council have said they are helping teams in acquiring visas, but the latest issue has increased their workload.