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Pappu Yadav arrested in 1995 forgery case after late-night drama

MI News Service, Patna : Independent Bihar MP Rakesh Ranjan, popularly known as Pappu Yadav, was arrested by the city Police on late Friday night from his residence in connection with a case dating back to 1995, officials said. High drama unfolded at Yadav's house in Mandir locality when a police team arrived to execute a warrant issued by an MP/MLA

Action has been taken in compliance with the court order. A trial process was going on in the court, in which the MP did not appear on the due date

Bhanu Pratap City SP.

court in the case registered under section 467 (forgery of documents) of the Indian Penal Code Yadav, who represents the Purnea Lok Sabha constituency, initially refused to accompany the police team, claiming they were carrying a warrant for the attachment of property but not for his arrest. In the complaint, the house owner alleged that his property was fraudulently taken by the MP to run his office. The case relates to a dispute registered at Gurdanibagh police station.

Complainant Vinod Bihari Lal alleged that his house was rented through deception and later used as a Member of Parliament's office, a fact he claims was concealed at the time of the agreement. "Action has been taken in compliance with the court order. A trial process was going on in the court, in which the MP did not appear on the due date," said City SP Bhanu Pratap.

A police team comprising 50 personnel arrived at his Mandir residence around 10:30pm and arrested him at 12:15am. Police first told the MP that they had come here to comply with the court's order. Yadav told police that he won't go at night asking the police officer to come in the morning. In the ensuing chaos, a large number of supporters gathered outside his residence and shouted slogans against the administration. There was also an altercation with the police as they demanded the police to show warrants. The Purnea MP alleged that an inspector named Deepak arrived in civil dress with a revolver in his waist. "This is a conspiracy to kill me. I won't go anywhere at night. The court had called

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Morning India

Mamata, Akhilesh allege 'targeted SIR deletions'

MI News Service, Kolkata : Amid the Election Commission's ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh, the Opposition parties have been up in arms over the contentious exercise, alleging that a section of voters are being targeted for "deletion" of their names in the rolls.

Already, Trinamool Congress (TMC) supremo and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has challenged the SIR in the Supreme Court – and even appeared in the apex court to argue her case in person – with Samajwadi Party (SP) chief Akhilesh Yadav also announcing his party's intention to move the top court. Alleging voter list manipulation through the SIR exercise, Mamata Banerjee repeatedly said at press conferences in Kolkata that "They (EC officials) are not accepting domicile certificates or any other documents of the state government. Why are they doing this? They (the Opposition BJP) are thinking that by doing such things, they will win Bengal. They are playing the same game in Bengal that they had played in Bihar or Maharashtra."

Echoing similar concerns at a



File Photo

press conference in Lucknow earlier this week, Yadav, repeating the charges made by Mamata Banerjee, alleged that the EC was targeting Muslims and other marginalised groups like Dalits and Other Backward Classes (OBCs), many of which make up the TMC and SP's core support base, at the behest of the BJP. Yadav claimed "targeted deletions" were taking place, particularly in those Assembly segments of both Bengal and UP where the BJP lost in the 2024 Lok

Sabha elections. "What was the margin? If we see the 2021 and 2022 Assembly polls in both the states, there was a shift of merely 5,000 votes to have an impact on the result?" Yadav said.

Sources in the SP and TMC said the parties are concerned about seats where the victory margin in previous UP and Bengal Assembly polls were low, and where a shift of 3,000-5,000

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Manipur limps back to normal after two days of violence



People travel as normal activity resumes after the violence broke out between security forces and the mob against the swearing-in of Manipur's new Deputy Chief Ministers, Nemcha Kipgen and Losi Dikho, in Churachandpur on Friday.

MI News Service, Imphal :

Near normalcy returned to the district, officials said.

Schools reopened and markets and business establishments have resumed activities, they said. The indefinite "public curfew" imposed by the Kuki Student Organisation (KSO) and other student organisations across the district from 6pm to 6am, will, however, continue.

Meanwhile, isolated incidents of armed clashes continued to take place in several peripheral villages of the hill district adjoining the valley, officials said. On Thursday night, a mob had barged into the mini-secretariat in Churachandpur town to protest the suspension of the constable. Siamalpaul was suspended after he was seen in a purported video with armed men, which had gone viral. There were reports of destruction and

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Amit Shah chairs meeting to assess development projects in J-K

MI News Service, Jammu : Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday chaired a high-level meeting to review the progress of development projects in Jammu and Kashmir, with a focus on infrastructure development and the implementation of key schemes in the Union territory, officials said. The

region by touring the forward outposts of the Border Security Force (BSF) at Gurnam and Bobiyon along the International Border in Kathua district on Friday. On his return from Kathua, Shah chaired a security review meeting, which, among others, was attended by Army Chief General Upendra

I held meetings in Jammu with the state of office-bearers and MLAs and MPs of J-K BJP. The BJP will continue working to ensure the ground-level reach of Modiji's development initiatives, while expanding the organisation to realise the vision of a developed Jammu and Kashmir, a secure Jammu and Kashmir

Union Home Minister Amit Shah

meeting, which took place at the Lok Bhawan here, was attended by J-K Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan, J-K Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo and DGP Nalin Prabhat, among others, the officials said.

Shah arrived here late Thursday night and kicked off his three-day visit to the

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Union Home Minister Amit Shah with Jammu and Kashmir LG Manoj Sinha and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah at a review meeting on development works in Jammu and Kashmir.

Trade agreement strengthens Make in India: PM Modi



X Great news for India and the USA! We have agreed on a framework for an Interim Trade Agreement between our two great nations

Prime Minister Narendra Modi

Bharat, we remain committed to building global partnerships that are future-oriented, empower our people and contribute to shared prosperity, the Prime minister said. He also welcomed the treaty saying it has been set up on a framework for an Interim Trade Agreement between India and the United States, and termed it as a great news for both the nations. On again thanking President Donald Trump for his personal commitment to strengthen ties PM Modi said the framework reflects the growing depth, trust and dynamism of the India-US partnership. He further said that the framework will deepen investment

and technology partnerships, strengthen resilient and trusted supply chains, and contribute to global growth. India remains committed to future-oriented global partnerships that empower people and promote shared prosperity, he said. Responding to the X post of Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, Piyush Goyal about the interim agreement between India and the US, PM Modi wrote on X "We have agreed on a framework for an Interim Trade Agreement between our two great nations. I thank President Trump for his personal commitment to robust ties between our countries. This framework will also strengthen resilient and trusted supply chains and contribute to global growth. As India moves forward towards building a Viks Bharat, we remain committed to building global partnerships that are future-oriented, empower our people and contribute to shared prosperity".

for women and youngsters," the Prime minister said. PM Modi said India and the United States share a commitment to promoting innovation, and this framework will further deepen investment and technology partnerships between the two countries. He said this framework will also strengthen resilient and trusted supply chains and contribute to global growth. "As India moves forward towards building a

He said this framework reflected the growing depth, trust and dynamism of the India-US partnership. "It strengthens 'Make in India' by opening new opportunities for India's hardworking farmers, entrepreneurs, MSMEs, StartUp innovators, fishermen and more. It will generate large-scale employment

India, a trusted partner of Malaysia for growth: PM

MI News Service, New Delhi / Kuala Lumpur :

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said India is seen as a "trusted partner for growth" and it was reflected in the recent trade deals it has agreed with various countries, including the UK, USA and EU. Addressing a community programme on his arrival at the Malaysian capital this evening here, PM Modi also said that the Indian diaspora continues to serve as a strong bridge between India and the South Asian nation of Malaysia. Referring to the trade deals India agreed with various countries, the Prime minister said India is seen as a "trusted partner for growth" "Trust has become India's strongest currency," PM Modi said, citing trade deals with the UK, UAE, Australia, New Zealand, Oman, the EU and the US during the past few months.

PM Modi also said both India and Malaysia know each other very well and it must be due to a large number of common words between Indian languages and Malay. "I am grateful for the warmth of the Indian diaspora in Kuala Lumpur. Our diaspora continues to serve as a strong bridge between India and Malaysia



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Prime Minister Narendra Modi

proud to have established the Thiruvalluvar Chair in the University of Malaya. We will now set up a Thiruvalluvar Centre to further strengthen our shared heritage," he said. PM Modi said Malaysia has the second-largest Indian-origin community in the world and there is so much that connects Indian and Malaysian hearts. "I shared with 1.4 billion Indians during my Mann Ki Baat radio address recently how over 500 schools in Malaysia teach children in Indian languages," he said. He also said that "India's success is Malaysia's success, and it is Asia's success". "That is why I say the guiding word of our

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Winter Strikes Back: Kolkata Records 14°C

MI News Service, Kolkata : Kolkata recorded a temperature of 14°C on Saturday, February 7, repeating the same figure as 14 days earlier on Saturday, January 24, in an unusual coincidence.

As winter prepares to bid farewell, it is still holding firm, keeping both daytime and nighttime temperatures below normal. According to the Alipore Weather Office, temperatures are expected to remain similar over the next 24 hours, with a possibility of light dew or fog in the early morning hours. Meanwhile, the weather in North Bengal shows no significant change. This winter season, the mercury has dipped to 14°C once again, reflecting the dominance of cold waves before the season ends. The influx of free-flowing northerly winds has contributed to the drop in temperature, making nights and early mornings particularly chilly. Southern districts of West Bengal are also experiencing lower-than-normal temperatures along with a forecast of fog, especially over parts of West Burdwan and Birbhum. Overall, the entire southern region remains dry, and there is no chance of rainfall in the next seven days. However, temperatures are expected to rise at the beginning of the upcoming week. In North Bengal, all districts are likely to experience light fog over the next three to four days, with some areas experiencing moderate fog at times. The minimum temperature is expected to remain steady over the next four to five days.

US finally removes 25 per cent tariffs on India for Russian oil purchases



Piyush Goyal holds press conference on India-US interim trade deal

Under the decisive leadership of PM @NarendraModi ji, India has reached a framework for an Interim Agreement with the US. This will open a USD 30 trillion market for Indian exporters, especially MSMEs, farmers and fishermen. The increase in exports will create lakhs of new job opportunities for our women and youth.

Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal

MI News Service, New Delhi / Washington (DC) : In a major development towards improving the bilateral ties with India, US President Donald Trump has removed the 25 per cent tariffs for purchasing Russian oil, citing that the country has undertaken "significant steps" and New Delhi has committed to stop directly or indirectly importing oil from Moscow.

"I have received additional information and recommendations from senior officials regarding India's efforts to address the national emergency described in Executive Order 14066. Specifically, India has committed to stop directly or indirectly importing Russian Federal

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Motorcycle collided with truck

MI News Service, Jalpaiguri: A motorcycle collided with a container truck parked on the road, resulting in the death of two riders and serious injuries to another. The accident occurred on Saturday morning on the Ambari-Hatimorh state highway near Manuanganj in Raiganj police station area of Jalpaiguri district. The deceased and the injured are reportedly residents of Raiganj.

According to local sources, three young men were traveling towards Hatimorh from Ambari on a motorcycle. At that time, their motorcycle collided with a large container truck in the Tubaigan area near Manuanganj. The container truck had lost control the previous night and had come to a stop some distance off the road. Locals suspect that the motorcyclists could not see the parked container truck due to fog on Saturday morning, which is believed to be the cause of the accident. Two young men died on the spot, and another young man was seriously injured. The deceased have been identified as Karnaadev Mandal and Shubhashish Oraon.

Illegal firearm seized, one arrested in Chapra



MI News Service, Chapra: A man was arrested with an illegal firearm and ammunition in Nadia's Chapra on Friday evening. The accused has been identified as Tapan Bala, a resident of Enginapuri in Nakashipara.

According to police sources, Bala was moving suspiciously on a motorcycle in the Banikahari Dhal area under Chapra police station limits on Friday evening. Acting on a tip-off, a police team conducted a raid in the area and detained him.

During a search, police recovered one country-made single-shot pistol and one live round of ammunition from his possession. As the accused failed to produce any valid licence for the firearm or ammunition, both were seized and he was placed under arrest. The motorcycle used by the accused has also been confiscated.

Confirming the arrest, Chapra Police Station IC Partha Pratim Roy said, "We received specific information between 6.30 pm and 7 pm that a person was roaming in the area with an illegal firearm. Acting swiftly, our team reached the spot and arrested him."

He added, "A search led to the recovery of a country-made one-shot pistol and one round of ammunition. Since the accused did not have any valid licence, the firearm and ammunition were seized and he was arrested under relevant sections of the law."

The accused will be produced before the Krishnanagar district court on Saturday.

Young Man Kills Neighbour with Sharp Weapon Over Alleged Illicit Relationship



MI News Service, Kharagpur: Late night on Friday, in Barikupi village of Narayangarh police station of West Medinipur district, a young man stabbed his neighbor to death with a sharp weapon on the charges of illicit relationship. The person died on the spot. While the police arrested the accused youth. According to the information received from the police and local sources, the name of the deceased is Kartik Shasmal (38 years). The name of the arrested accused is Abhay Hembram. It is known that Kartik was sleeping with his wife in his room after eating and drinking on Friday night. It is alleged that late at night neighbor Abhay Hembram suddenly entered his house with a sharp weapon. The accused continuously attacked Kartik, due to which he died on the spot. Seeing her husband lying in a bloody condition, Kartik's wife started screaming. Neighbors came running after hearing screams. Within some time, Narayangarh police station was informed about the incident. Police immediately reached the spot and recovered the body. The body was sent to Kharagpur Divisional Hospital for post-mortem. Initial investigation revealed sensational information that Abhay suspected that Kartik was having an illicit relationship with his wife for a long time. Investigators believe that this gruesome murder was committed out of anger and revenge. Police are investigating the incident.



State Minister, Department of Agriculture and Parliamentary Affairs Sovendeb Chattopadhyay and Assembly Chief Whip Nirmal Ghosh were seen interacting during the final session of the West Bengal Legislative Assembly in Kolkata on Saturday.

Honeybees attack secondary examination center!

MI News Service, Guskara: Students were taking their secondary school examinations. Parents were waiting in a makeshift shelter on the field outside the school. Suddenly, a swarm of bees attacked, causing everyone to scatter in panic. Several people had to be taken to the hospital after being stung by the bees. The incident took place in Guskara, East Burdwan.

On Friday, the secondary examinations were being held at Guskara PP Institution. According to local sources, a bee attack

occurred during the examination. Several guardians of the examinees were sitting on the school field. Swarms of bees attacked them. They flew in a buzzing sound, stinging one person after another. A stampede ensued in an instant. Besides the guardians, a traffic police officer on duty and several passersby were also victims of the bee attack. Chaos erupted in moments.

There was a beehive in a tree near the school field. It is suspected that the bees came out after some predatory animal or

bird disturbed the hive while trying to get honey. Seven guardians who were stung by the bees were taken to the Guskara Primary Health Center. After receiving first aid, they were given medication. Doctors have stated that everyone is out of danger.

Fortunately, no secondary school examinee was affected by the bee attack. The administration has issued a warning in the area and is looking into whether the beehive can be removed to prevent such incidents in the future.

60 women become self-reliant through an initiative by Sanskriti Social Welfare Foundation



MI News Service, Kolkata: The six-month tailoring training program conducted under the auspices of the Sanskriti Social Welfare Foundation at the tailoring training center in Varma Mines, Laxmi Nagar, concluded successfully today. On this occasion, certificates were distributed to the 60 women who completed the training, said Mumun Chakraborty, President of the Foundation.

The main objective of the program was to empower women for self-employment and make them self-reliant. During the training, the women were taught modern tailoring techniques, as well as garment design, repair work, and how to start a small-scale business.

The certificate distribution ceremony was attended by the organization's office bearers, trainers, and local dignitaries. Everyone appreciated the organization's efforts, calling it a significant step towards women's empowerment.

The Sanskriti Social Welfare Foundation is continuously playing an active role in education, skill development, and social service activities for the upliftment of the weaker sections of society. Laxmi Nagar Vikas Samiti, Shyam Sundar Prasad (President), Kuldeep Kaur, and Krishna Sardal were also present.

Madhyamik candidate appears for examinations from hospital bed in Fulia



MI News Service, Fulia: A Madhyamik examination candidate in West Bengal's Nadia district appeared for her board examinations from a hospital bed after falling seriously ill during the ongoing exams.

The candidate, Mahima Choudhury, a student of Phulia Balika Vidyalaya, had been allotted her examination centre at Phulia Shikshankalan High School. The Madhyamik examinations began on February 2. On February 3, while appearing for the examination, Mahima suddenly fell ill inside the examination hall. Despite having received the question paper, she began vomiting and her condition deteriorated rapidly.

She was immediately rushed to a nearby sub-health centre and later admitted to the Fulia Block Primary Health Centre. Medical examinations subsequently revealed that she was suffering from a serious viral infection.

Although there were no examinations scheduled on February 4 and 5, her health did not improve sufficiently. With the next examination scheduled on

February 6, the district administration and school authorities took special measures to ensure that the student did not miss her papers.

Under strict administrative supervision, arrangements were made for Mahima to sit for the examination inside the health centre itself. The examination was conducted under CCTV surveillance, with the presence of health department staff and women police personnel to maintain security and examination protocol.

Due to continued physical

weakness, Mahima was once again compelled to appear for the examination on Saturday, February 7, from her hospital bed. The paper scheduled for the day was Geography.

Officials said all necessary precautions were taken to maintain the sanctity of the examination while prioritising the student's health.

The incident has drawn attention to the special arrangements sometimes required to support examinees facing medical emergencies during crucial public examinations.

Against all odds, Nadia's Jyoti Joardar earns place in State School Games U-19 football team



MI News Service, Dhublia : Battling poverty as a constant companion, Jyoti Joardar of Tatta village in Dhublia has scripted an inspiring story by securing a place in the State School Games Under-19 football team.

Jyoti's father works as a carpenter at others' houses, while her mother is a homemaker. With no cultivable land, only their small homestead, the family survives on a modest income. Jyoti has one younger brother, a Class VIII student. Despite the financial hardships, Jyoti's pas-

sion for sports, especially football, has remained undeterred since childhood.

While studying at Dhublia Nivedita Vidyalaya, her inclination towards football caught the attention of her family. Encouraged by her interest, her father brought her to the Dhublia Shyama Prasad Shikshayatan ground, where coach Narayan Sengupta had begun training girls in football. It was there that Jyoti's formal football journey began.

Equally dedicated to academ-

ics, Jyoti scored an impressive 83 per cent in the Madhyamik examination, managing her studies alongside rigorous football practice. She is currently a Class XI student at Dhublia Shyama Prasad Shikshayatan and an active member of the school's National Service Scheme (NSS).

Following her selection to the State team, the school felicitated Jyoti with a bouquet. On behalf of the NSS unit, she was also presented with a tracksuit and jersey.

Headmaster Nur Mohammad Khan congratulated her on the achievement.

"Jyoti has immense talent. We

No One Will Be Spared If Unrest Erupts: Kolkata Police Commissioner Supratim Sarkar Visits Bhangar

MI News Service, Bhangar: IPS Supratim Sarkar visited Bhangar for the first time since assuming charge as the Kolkata Police Commissioner.

On Saturday, the CP held a closed-door meeting with all the police officers at the Bhangar division office. Bhangar Division's Deputy Commissioner Saikat Ghosh was present at the meeting, along with the officers-in-charge of various police

stations.

According to a police source, another police station will be inaugurated in Bhangar very soon. The Vijayganj Bazar police station is expected to be inaugurated within a few days. Besides discussing this, Supratim Sarkar inquired about the facilities and difficulties faced by the police personnel working in Bhangar. There was also a lengthy discussion

about handling recent political violence and disturbances in Bhangar. Police sources also revealed that the CP has given a message to the officers in charge in Bhangar that no kind of violence will be tolerated.

The police must be fully prepared to deal with any kind of unrest. Indeed, Bhangar has witnessed various disturbances throughout the year. Recently, incidents of bomb blasts have occurred in several areas. Besides, there have been clashes between the Trinamool Congress and the Indian Secular Front (ISF).

However, after the meeting, the Kolkata Police Commissioner declined to make any public comments while leaving the DC office for Kolkata. He only stated that he would speak in detail about the overall situation in Bhangar during his next visit.

Ragging at Purulia Medical College: Two Students Suspended, Barred from Hostel

MI News Service, Purulia:

The Purulia Medical College authorities have suspended two students accused in a ragging incident involving a first-year student for two years. Furthermore, the two accused medical students will never be allowed to stay in the college hostel again.

The parents of the victimized student expressed their satisfaction with the college's action announced on Saturday.

On February 1st, second-year student Rishabh Singh and fourth-year student Ayan Bagchi were accused of ragging first-year medical student Mehboob Islam after summoning him to their room in the hostel. Mehboob

alleged that several other senior students also beat him up at the behest of the two accused. Mehboob had to be treated at the hospital for his injuries.

Upon learning of the incident, Mehboob's family traveled from Domkal in Murshidabad to Purulia Government Medical College on Friday. They filed a written complaint of ragging with the college authorities. Mehboob's family also threatened legal action if the college did not take strict action against the two accused students.

Following the complaint, the medical college authorities launched an investigation. Finding evidence of ragging, disciplinary action was

taken against the two students. On Saturday, the college principal, Sabysachi Das, held discussions with the family of the victimized student.

The victimized student's mother, Molina Khatun, said, "Initially, our complaint was not taken seriously. Later, under pressure, the college authorities accepted our demands." We are satisfied with the disciplinary actions announced by the authorities against the accused," the victimized student said. He added that if a helpline number is launched and security measures are strengthened, no one else will fall victim to such harassment. He said, "I hope that in the future, no one will dare to engage in ragging."

No more advt for gutkha and paan masala on buses; NBSTC takes a 'tough decision' acknowledging losses

MI News Service, Siliguri:

The North Bengal State Transport Corporation (NBSTC) has decided that no advertisements harmful to health will be displayed on its buses anymore. Advertisements for gutkha, cigarettes, and other tobacco products currently displayed or painted on NBSTC buses will be removed within a few days.

Several years ago, to increase its revenue, NBSTC had invited tenders for advertising on its buses and awarded contracts to two companies. Since then, advertisements for products like soap, shampoo, and biscuits have been seen on the buses. However, advertisements for various gutkha companies were

the most prevalent. Recently, in compliance with various organizations and government regulations, the corporation decided that its buses would no longer carry advertisements for paan masala, gutkha, or cigarettes. The existing advertisements will be removed within a few days.

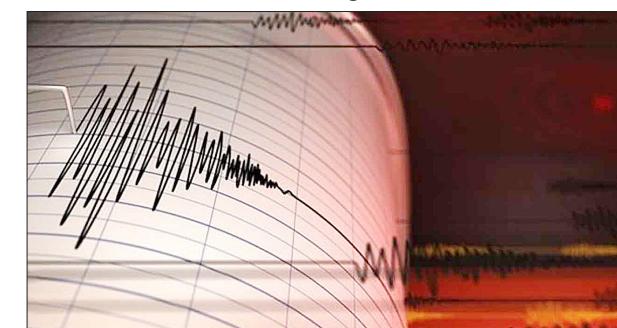
The North Bengal State Transport Corporation operates approximately seven hundred buses. According to corporation sources, about one hundred and fifty of these buses carry advertisements for gutkha or paan masala. Previously, they earned approximately 40 lakh rupees annually from these advertisements. Currently, that income has risen to 1 crore 25 lakh rupees. Despite this, the NBSTC authorities are taking this "tough decision" in the public interest. On Saturday, the corporation's chairman, Partha Pratim Roy, said, "There are government restrictions on the sale of paan masala or gutkha-like products. The existing advertisements will be removed within a few days.

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verticaments. Partha Pratim Roy said, "We have earned 1 crore 25 lakh rupees from these advertisements. However, advertisements that are harmful to people's health will no longer be seen on any of our buses. We have already started the process of removing these advertisements from the buses where they are currently displayed."

Dipankar Pillai, the Managing Director of North Bengal State Transport Corporation, said, "Pan masala is not a healthy product, so we will not encourage the marketing of such items. Advertising agencies have been requested to bring alternative advertisements instead."

13 Tremors in 24 Hours: Darjeeling and Large Parts of North Bengal Shaken by Sikkim Earthquake



MI News Service, Sikkim: A large area of Sikkim was shaken again within 24 hours. This time, the magnitude of the earthquake was 4.2 on the Richter scale. There have been no reports of casualties or property damage so far. However, the earthquake has naturally caused panic.

The earthquake was felt in Sikkim at 6:35 PM on Saturday. The tremors were also felt in Darjeeling, Kalimpong, Siliguri, and Jalpaiguri. The earthquake also struck in neighboring Nepal. Although the tremors lasted for a very short time, the intensity was strong. This time too, the epicenter was in Geyzing, Sikkim.

Notably, various parts of Sikkim

have experienced earthquakes repeatedly since Thursday night. Sikkim was shaken 12 times from Thursday night to Friday morning. The residents

of the hills are now terrified after another tremor was felt on Saturday evening. Some areas in the plains of this state also experienced the earthquake.

At 1:09 AM on Thursday night, the ground in Sikkim shook from north to south and east to west. The magnitude of the tremor was 4.5 on the Richter scale. That time too, the epicenter of the earthquake was approximately 10 kilometers beneath the surface in the Geyzing area of West Sikkim. The tremors were also felt across large parts of Darjeeling, Kalimpong, Siliguri, and Jalpaiguri. Earthquakes were also reported in Assam, Nepal, and China. A climate of panic prevailed in the state, from the hills to the plains, in the middle of the night. Since then, Sikkim has experienced 12 more earthquakes until Friday.

The funeral prayer of Pir Abdullah Siddiqui of Furfura has been completed



Nurul Islam Khan: The funeral prayer of Pir Abdullah Siddiqui of Furfura Sharif was completed on Friday. The crowd of common people was remarkable on this day. Thousands of people and devotees paid their last respects to the Pir. Ministers and prominent personalities from society were among those who attended the funeral prayer. Pir Hazrat Umar Siddiqui offered prayers at the funeral service. The late Pir's only son, Pirzada Maulana Sabwan Siddiqui, and two daughters, Hafsa and Samia, led the funeral prayer.

Pir Hazrat Maulana Sabwan Siddiqui passed away on Thursday morning at 3 AM. He was 70 years old. He is survived by his son, Pirzada Maulana Sabwan Siddiqui, and two daughters, Hafsa and Samia. His death has cast a shadow of grief over the community of his

followers. The funeral prayer of the Pir was completed after the Friday prayer on Friday. He received his education from Khareji and Furfura Senior Tithe Madrasah. He was renowned as an outspoken scholar. He

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West Indies and Scotland players during the national anthems ahead of their ICC Men's T20 World Cup match at Eden Gardens, Kolkata, on Saturday.

BTA unveils book to echo India's battle against TB

MI News Service, Kolkata: The Bengal Tuberculosis Association (BTA) officially launched a book named "From Seals to Survival: Echoes of the Unspoken Crusade Against TB in India" by Dr Bhaskar Mitra at the Kolkata Press Club on Saturday. The book offers a rare and compelling perspective on India's long and evolving fight against tuberculosis. The book presents India's TB awareness journey through medical philanthropy, documenting the government-issued postal seals and stamps released annually on October 2 to promote tuberculosis awareness. Spanning an extraordinary timeline from 1940 to 2025, the publication curates an extensive collection of TB seals that once served as powerful public health tools, carrying messages of prevention, responsibility, and hope to millions across the country. Dr Ranjan Das, Chairman, West Bengal Tuberculosis Association (BTA), said, "This book is not just a collection of postal seals but a powerful reminder of India's decades-long commitment to combating tuberculosis."

Pappu Yadav arrested in 1995 forgery case after late-night drama

From PG 1
me on Saturday. The Lok Sabha session was over and I arrived at Patna. I respect the court and will appear before the court at 11am on Saturday," said Yadav. But around 12:30am, the police team led by city SP Bhanu Pratap ultimately took him to the IGMS for medical checkup.

According to Singh, he will be kept in police custody at the Gardanibagh police station and after that he will be produced before the court and the police will take further action according to the court's direction. "Police can go to arrest any person at any time. If there is a warrant or attachment in the name of someone, then arrest can be made at any time. Just a little bit of care", the SP said. On the allegation of conspiracy to murder Pappu Yadav, SP Singh said, "We are just doing our job. The law has been worked out according to what it is saying, the law has been fully complied with and further action is being taken."

The MP-MLA court had issued an attachment order against three accused, including independent MP Rakesh Ranjan alias Pappu Yadav, in the case of fraudulently renting and threatening a house owner. Earlier, arrest warrants and advertisements had been issued for the presence of the three accused. The court has fixed the next date of hearing in the case for Saturday.

No End for Yubashree Despite Yubasathi Launch: Chandrima

MI News Service, Kolkata: Despite the launch of the Yubasathi scheme, the state government has clarified that the Yubashree program will continue, informed State Finance Minister (Independent Charge) Chandrima Bhattacharya. The announcement comes amid a flurry of criticism and misleading narratives by opposition leaders following the launch of Yubasathi, which targets unemployed youth. BJP leader Suvidhu Adhikari, for instance, mocked the scheme by calling it a "daily allowance of Rs 50." Responding to media queries, Minister Bhattacharya sharply countered, saying, "A country whose Prime Minister promises two crore jobs annually but fails to create employment for even two lakh people a year, and instead sells off public sector companies, has no right to lecture us about unemployment."

The Finance Minister further explained that the Yubashree program essentially functions as an unemployment allowance. Since its inception, it has benefitted 12 lakh young men and women, with a total disbursement of ₹180 crore. Eligible beneficiaries can



receive up to ₹1 lakh under this scheme, which is administered by the Department of Labour. On the other hand, Yubasathi has been specially designed to encourage youth who have completed their secondary education. Launched by Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, the scheme provides financial support for up to five years. Bhattacharya emphasized that receiving other education-related scholarships such as Kanyashree or the Vivekananda Merit Scholarship does not disqualify a candidate from benefiting from Yubasathi.

During the discussion, BJP legisla-

tor and economist Ashok Lahiri criticized the government, claiming, "The administration has done nothing for 15 years and is now distributing allowances just ahead of elections." Bhattacharya dismissed the remark, stating, "If a government of the people — mother, soil, and citizens — did nothing, how would the TMC repeatedly return to power under Mamata Banerjee? In 2011, 2016, and 2021, the TMC's seat count increased every time. Ashokbabu, rest assured, under Mamata Banerjee's leadership, this time the number of legislators will surpass all previous records. The Chief Minister herself has said that many of you will not return. In the tide of our government's social programs, you will simply be swept away." The statements reinforce the ruling party's commitment to youth welfare schemes even as election season approaches. Officials stress that both Yubasathi and Yubashree are integral to addressing unemployment and supporting economically vulnerable youth, while also countering opposition narratives that seek to undermine the initiatives.

Ramakrishna Math, Bagbazar Helps Unemployed Youth Become Self-Reliant Through Skill Training



MI News Service, Kolkata:

Ramakrishna Math, Bagbazar is helping unemployed young men and women gain skills and become self-reliant through various vocational training programmes conducted under the Ma Sarada Swamivara Kendra, with financial support from Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE). The certificate distribution and valediction ceremony for the 2025-26 training batch was held on Saturday at the Training Centre premises. Several job-oriented

courses were offered under the programme, including Phlebotomy Technician, Sewing Machine Operator, and Field Technician for AC and home appliances repair. According to the organisers, the main aim of the initiative is not only to award certificates but also to provide practical, hands-on training that prepares the participants for employment and enables them to earn a livelihood. A total of 90 successful trainees received their NSDC certificates during the ceremony.

Kolkata Police Commissioner Holds Crucial Meeting in Bhangar

MI News Service, Kolkata:

A few days ago, Supratim Sarkar assumed the charge of Kolkata Police Commissioner, and this marks his first visit to Bhangar since taking up the new responsibility. During the visit, he held a closed-door meeting with all police officials at the Bhangar Division office. Sources indicate that the meeting was attended by the Divisional Commissioner of Bhangar, Saikat Ghosh, along with all station officers (SOs) of the division. With elections only weeks away and political activity intensifying, Bhangar is once again in the spotlight, a scenario familiar to many in the region. Observers suggest that the presence of senior police officials in such a meeting carries significant weight given the recent tense atmosphere.

Recently, Bhangar Division has come under the administrative control of Kolkata Police. According to police sources, plans are already underway for the inauguration of a new police

station at Bijoyganj Market in Bhangar. Preparations for the station's launch are reportedly in full swing. The sources further reveal that Commissioner Sarkar discussed this development during the meeting, alongside reviewing the conditions and welfare of police personnel stationed in Bhangar. Despite being a formal administrative meeting, the issue of rising political violence in Bhangar was also addressed. Police sources indicate that the discussion on local unrest was extensive, highlighting the urgency of controlling incidents of violence ahead of the elections. The Commissioner delivered a clear and firm message to the police officers: no form of violence will be tolerated. Officers have been instructed to remain fully prepared to tackle any kind of unrest or disturbance. Following the meeting, Commissioner Sarkar returned directly to Kolkata from the Divisional Commissioner's office.

WBBSE Assures Timely Madhyamik Result Release

MI News Service, Kolkata: With the West Bengal Assembly elections approaching, political parties have intensified their poll preparations. As a result, the Madhyamik examinations were advanced this year. However, amid the ongoing exams, a key question has been troubling students and parents alike — when will the Madhyamik results be declared? Addressing this concern, West Bengal Board of Secondary Education (WBBSE) President Dr Ramanuj Gangopadhyay made an important announcement during the examination period.

On Saturday, the day of the Geography examination, Dr Gangopadhyay visited Shri Nanda High School and Dwaronda Chandimata High School in Bolpur to review the management and

security arrangements. He expressed satisfaction after inspecting the infrastructure and overall preparedness of the institutions. Notably, he had visited these schools last year as well and was pleased with the significant improvements made within a year. He said these schools could serve as role models for other institutions across the state. Speaking about the Madhyamik results, Dr Gangopadhyay stated that traditionally, the results are published within 90 days of the conclusion of the examinations, and this year will be no exception. He added that the exact date of result publication would be officially announced through a notification by the Board at a later stage.

The Board has enforced strict measures to prevent question paper

leaks. Mobile phones, smartwatches, calculators, Bluetooth devices and tablets have been completely banned inside examination centres. So far, no incidents of question paper leaks have been reported, which has reassured the Board authorities. The Madhyamik examinations began on February 2 and will continue until February 12. Exams are being conducted once a day, starting at 10:45 am and ending at 2 pm, with an additional 15 minutes allotted for reading the question paper. This year, a total of 9,71,340 candidates are appearing for the exams, including 4,26,733 boys, 5,44,606 girls, and one third-gender candidate. Across the state, examinations are being held at 2,682 centres, with state police deployed at each venue to ensure security.

Mamata, Akhilesh allege 'targeted SIR deletions'

From PG 1

votes could tilt the scales in the BJP's favour in the coming elections. An analysis of 2021 Bengal and 2022 UP Assembly polls, and their comparison with the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, shows there is a long list of such seats where the victory margin was less than 5,000 votes in the Assembly elections and where the leading party changed between the Assembly and 2024 Lok Sabha polls. While Bengal is due for the Assembly elections in March-April this year, UP will head to polls in early 2027. In the 2021 Assembly elections, in which the TMC swept the state by winning 215 of the total 294 seats and the BJP emerged as the main Opposition with 77 seats, there were 35 seats where the result was decided by a margin of less than 5,000 votes. Of these 35 seats, the BJP had won 22 and the TMC 12. An independent candidate defeated the BJP in the Kalimpong seat by 3,870 votes. Mamata Banerjee who had allegedly received less than expected votes in election from Nandigram — she later entered the Assembly by winning the Bhawanipur seat in a by-election through a landslide margin.

Amit Shah chairs meeting to assess development projects in J-K

From PG 1
and MLAs and MPs of J-K BJP. The BJP will continue working to ensure the ground-level reach of Modiji's development initiatives, while expanding the organisation to realise the vision of a developed Jammu and Kashmir, a secure Jammu and Kashmir," Shah posted on X after the meeting. The Home minister is scheduled to return to Delhi by tonight after the conclusion of the review meeting, the officials said.

Manipur limps back to normal after two days of violence

From PG 1
burning of properties in and around the Churachandpur district ministerial area. The official residence of the Deputy Commissioner was also torched by the riot mob around 1am on Friday. The ITLF has demanded that district SP Shivanand Surve and DC S Dharun Kumar should leave the district and be replaced by officers, preferably from Kuki

India, a trusted partner of Malaysia for growth: PM

From PG 1

friend from India joining us in Malaysia." Ibrahim told the gathering. The Malaysian Prime minister also recalled ancient ties between the two nations "long before embassies and trade agreements" came in vogue. "India or Bharat is among Malaysia's top trading partners. It is not only goods that move between us, but in 2025 over 1.5 million Indian visitors came to Malaysia," Ibrahim said. "I am proud to be a personal friend of Modi ji and India," the Malaysian Prime minister said.

US finally removes 25 per cent tariffs on India for Russian oil purchases

From PG 1

Accordingly, I have determined to eliminate the additional ad valorem rate of duty imposed on imports of articles of India." The additional 25% tariffs, according to the Trump administration, had been placed on India because of its purchase of Russian oil. The fact that similar tariffs were not imposed on Chinese goods, despite the fact that China imports significant amount of Russian oil, raised a lot of eyebrows in India. Trump's decision to sign the EO, is, however, part of a preliminary trade agreement the two countries reached earlier this week. Trump, in the EO, said the 25% tariff, meant to push India to stop buying Russian oil, is now gone, effective Saturday. He explained the decision in the EO by pointing to new commitments from India. Those include stopping direct or indirect imports of Russian oil, promising to buy more U.S. energy products, and agreeing to a 10-year framework to increase defence cooperation with the United States. As part of the same deal, Trump also promised to lower the overall tariff rate on Indian goods from 50 percent to 18 percent, by cutting the Russian oil-related tariff and reducing the separate 25 percent "reciprocal" tariff he had imposed earlier.

Manipur limps back to normal after two days of violence

From PG 1

Zo community." The ITLF also warned that if the suspension of policeman Siamalpaul was not withdrawn, "all government offices shall be closed" and both the DC and SP shall bear "responsibilities for any untoward incidents that may fall on them". A total shutdown called by the ITLF in Churachandpur on Friday hit normal life with streets and markets wearing a deserted look.

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE

ICICI Bank

Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd., BP-4, Technopolis Building, 4th Floor, Sector V, Salt Lake City, Kolkata West Bengal-700091

CIN No: L65190GJ1994PLC021012, www.icicibank.com

The Authorised ICICI Bank Officer under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued Demand Notices to the borrower(s) mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the Notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said Notice. Having failed to repay the amount, the Notice is issued to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken symbolic possession of the property described below, by exercising powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property. Any dealings with the property will be subject to charges of ICICI Bank Limited.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower(s) / Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs)	Name of Branch
1.	Nurjuman Sarkar/ Abul Hashnat Sarkar/ Humayun Manji, Mursidabad, Jagannathpur, Mursidabad District, Mursidabad, West Bengal Berhampore-742164/ LBBR00005847373/ LBBR00005874051	Sabek Dag No. 63/203, Hal Dag No. 150, Hal Kh. No. 91, Mouza. 20 No. Gobindapur Lekheraj, P.S. Mursidabad, A.D.S.R. Office, Lalbagh, District. Mursidabad, West Bengal Admeasuring an Area of 4 Satak/ Date of Symbolic 05/02/2026	October 14, 2025 17,93,103.34/-	Murshidabad
2.	Sekh Mostofa Ali/ Jaberun Bibi/ Andulya Paschim Medinipur Barrakulpur District Paschim Medinipur West Bengal Kharagpur-721301/ LBMDE00005388934	R.S. and L.R. Dag No. 544, Hal L.R. Khaton No. 82 and 55, J.L. No. 418, Mouza Andulya, Police Station and Registry Office Kharagpur, District Paschim Medinipur, West Bengal Admeasuring an area of 16 Decimals North: Sakh Mainuddin South: Seller Own Portion East: Guljan Nesa Bibi West: Profulla Das/ Date of Symbolic 06/02/2026	October 28, 2025 13,94,762.00/-	Paschim Medinipur

The above-mentioned borrower(s)/guarantor(s) is/are hereby issued a 30 day Notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold after 30 days from the date of publishing this Notice, as per the provisions under Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.

Date: February 08, 2026
Place: Mursidabad & Paschim Medinipur

Sincerely Authorised Officer
For ICICI Bank Ltd.

NAME CHANGE

I, MAHINUR RAHAMAN MOLLA (Old Name), S/o- RAMJAN MOLLA, R/o- VIII. + P.O- Ghosalati, P.S- Hasnabad, North 24 Parganas, PIN-743426. Have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as MAHINUR MOLLA (New Name) as declared sworn before the 1st Class Judicial Magistrate Basirhat Court affidavit No.- 6548/25 dt. 23-04-2025. MAHINUR RAHAMAN MOLLA (Old Name) and MAHINUR MOLLA (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change

I, Sankari Mondal, (old name) WO Jagadish Mondal, residing at RA-496, Milamgar, Salt Lake City, Sector - IV, P/S- Bidhannagar, Kolkata-700105. Have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Shankari Mondal (new name) as declared before the Ld.1st class J.M. at Bidhannagar vide Affidavit No.-257 dt/29/01/2026 Shankari Mondal (old name) & Shankari Mondal (new name) both are same and identical person.

Name Change

I, Md Khurshid S/o Ali Hussain residing at R.B.S. Road Chandrapara, Po-Angus, Ps-Bhadreswar, Dist-Hooghly, Pin- 712221, Wb. That my son Rehan Raza his birth certificate me & my wife name has been wrongly recorded as Md.Khurshid Ansari instead of Kulsam Begum declare before the Judicial magistrate 1st class Chandernagore. Date-02.01.2026. That Md.Khurshid Ansari and Md.Khurshid both are the same and one identical person. That Kulsam Begum and Kulsam Bagam both are the same and one identical women.

Change of Name

I, DIBYA MUKHERJEE S/o Late B.K. MUKHERJEE @ BIMAN KUMAR MUKHERJEE, residing at Malancha, Near L.I.C Office, Ward No.- 14, P.O.- Nimpura, P.S.-KGP (T), Dist.- Paschim Medinipur, PIN-721304, W.B. shall henceforth be known as DIBYA MUKHERJEE S/o Late BIMAN MUKHERJEE as declared In the Court of Ld. Judicial Magistrate (1st Class) at Kharagpur vide affidavit no.172 dated 06/02/2026. DIBYA MUKHERJEE S/o Late B.K. MUKHERJEE @ BIMAN KUMAR MUKHERJEE & DIBYA MUKHERJEE S/o Late BIMAN MUKHERJEE both are same and identical person.

Name Change

Closure Of Unauthorised Crossing Between Jayrambati-Bishnupur Section Enhances Rail And Public Safety

MI News Service, Kolkata,

7 Feb.26 : As part of its continued efforts to strengthen railway safety and prevent untoward incidents, Howrah Division of Eastern Railway has successfully closed an unauthorised crossing location between the Jayrambati-Bishnupur section on 06 February 2026.

The unauthorised crossing had been identified as an accident-prone location due to multiple risk factors, including frequent cattle movement, unauthorised vehicular access across the railway tracks, and regular train operations on the section. Despite earlier efforts, closure of the location could not be achieved owing to public agitation and traffic congestion. In the interim, several safety measures—such as installation of speed breakers, provision of a height gauge, and imposition of a 20 kmph speed restriction on trains—were implemented to mitigate risks.

This development marks the successful closure of one out of seven identified four-wheeler trespassing locations in the Division. The closure is expected to significantly enhance passenger safety, train operational safety, and protection of wildlife,



while also improving train punctuality and overall operational efficiency.

The remaining six unauthorised crossings have been planned for closure in a phased manner, reaffirming Howrah Division's commitment to strengthening field-level safety infrastructure and ensuring safe and uninterrupted train operations.

Eastern Railway appeals to the public to cooperate with safety initiatives and refrain from using unauthorised railway crossings. This train is being hailed as a "Blessing for West Bengal," bridging the gap between comfort and speed while honouring the cultural identity of the region.

A Taste of Bengal:

The most exciting update for passengers is the recent introduction of non-vegetarian food options. Understanding that food is the heart of Bengali culture, Indian Railways has curated a menu that feels like a home-cooked meal. While the train remains inclusive with high-quality vegetarian food, the new non-veg additions have been an instant hit.

A Plate of 'Pet Pujo': Vande Bharat Sleeper Debuts Authentic Bengali Non-Veg Feast for Travelers

MI News Service, Kolkata,

7 Feb.26 : Marking a monumental chapter in India's rail revolution, the country's first Vande Bharat Sleeper Express has officially embarked on its journey from Howrah to Guwahati. This world-class train is not just a milestone in engineering but a soaring success, recording over 100% occupancy since its debut run.

A heartfelt thanks is owed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnav, whose vision has transformed long-distance travel. This train is being hailed as a "Blessing for West Bengal," bridging the gap between comfort and speed while honouring the cultural identity of the region.



ready leads the nation in comfort and safety.

A Vision for "Sonar Bangla"

The progress does not stop here. In move that brings the dream of "Sonar Bangla" closer to reality, the 2026 Union Budget has delivered another magnificent gift to the state. The rail minister has announced a High-Speed Rail Corridor from Siliguri to Varanasi.

This upcoming corridor will be a gamechanger, slashing travel time to less than 3 hours. By connecting North Bengal to the spiritual heart of India at lightning speed, the government is ensuring that West Bengal remains at the forefront of India's economic and infrastructural growth.

IRCTC launches new Rail-Based Tourism Circuit for Eastern part of India titled "Divine East Temple Tour"

• Tour itinerary covering Varanasi, Kolkata, Gangasagar, Puri, Bhubaneswar, Konark, Chilika and Baidyanath Dham (Jyotirlinga) in 10 days.

• Bharat Gaurav Deluxe Tourist Train will depart from Delhi Safdarjung Railway Station on March 09, 2026.

• The prominent heritage sites, temples and beaches along with a holy dip at Gangasagar are the key attractions of this tour.

• The train can accommodate 150 tourists in three different categories i.e. AC I, II and III along with 02 restaurant cars which is a major attraction of this train.

MI News Service, Kolkata, 7 Feb.26 : Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation Ltd. (IRCTC), a Navratna Public Sector Enterprise under the Ministry of Railways, Government of India, has introduced a new tourism circuit titled "Divine East Temple Tour" on its Bharat Gaurav Deluxe Tourist Train. The thoughtfully curated 10-day rail-based journey offers devotees and travelers a unique opportunity to visit some of the most revered pilgrimage destinations along with culturally rich heritage sites across Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Odisha and Jharkhand.

The all-inclusive tour offering of IRCTC is a perfect mélange of religious and leisure tourism and is aimed at providing passengers with a seamless, safe and enriching travel experience.

The Bharat Gaurav Deluxe Tourist Train is equipped with modern amenities such as well-appointed cabins in AC III, AC II & AC I category, onboard restaurants serving hygienic vegetarian meals, enhanced safety and security features and dedicated tour managers.

IRCTC has launched this special train tour at a price of Rs. 1,06,940/- per person for 1AC class, Rs. 98,925/- for 2AC and Rs. 79,285/- for 3 AC Class. Package Price covers train journey in AC classes, Accommodation in AC Hotels, all meals (VEG ONLY), all transfer & sight-seeing in AC Vehicles, Travel Insurance and services of IRCTC Tour Managers etc. Bookings for the Divine East Temple Tour are open on IRCTC's tourism portal and through authorized IRCTC tourism offices across the country.

For further details, itinerary, and booking information, passengers may visit www.irctctourism.com/bharatgaurav or contact on Mobile no. 8287930299 (Praveena), 8287930484 (Subhasree), 8287930032 (Abhishek), 8595931047 (Monika) and 8882826357 (Praneet).

The journey will begin from Delhi Safdarjung and would cover Varanasi, Kolkata, Gangasagar, Puri, Bhubaneswar, Konark, Chilika and Baidyanath Dham before returning back to Delhi. The significant sites that shall be toured are Kashi Vishwanath Temple (Jyotirlinga) and Ganga Aarti at Varanasi, followed by a visit to the cultural capital of India, Kolkata, covering landmarks such as Victoria Memorial and other city attractions and significant temples like Kali Ghat (Shakti Peeth) and Dakshineswar Kali Mandir.

Day Excursion of the sacred shores of Gangasagar, including a holy dip at the Sagar Sangam and darshan at Kapil Muni Temple is the main attraction of this tour.

The journey continues to Puri, offering darshan at the revered Jagannath Temple, along with a tour of the comprehensive Odisha circuit including Bhubaneswar, Dhauli Shanti Stupa, Udayagiri and Khandagiri Caves, the Konark Sun Temple (UNESCO

Miscellaneous

World Heritage Site) and much more. The final spiritual destination of the tour is Baidyanath Dham (Deoghar), one of the twelve Jyotirlingas of Lord Shiva, before returning to Delhi Safdarjung on 18th March 2026, marking the conclusion of a memorable and spiritually enriching journey.

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The Bharat Gaurav Deluxe Tourist Train is equipped with modern amenities such as well-appointed cabins in AC III, AC II & AC I category, onboard restaurants serving hygienic vegetarian meals, enhanced safety and security features and dedicated tour managers.

IRCTC has launched this special train tour at a price of Rs. 1,06,940/- per person for 1AC class, Rs. 98,925/- for 2AC and Rs. 79,285/- for 3 AC Class. Package Price covers train journey in AC classes, Accommodation in AC Hotels, all meals (VEG ONLY), all transfer & sight-seeing in AC Vehicles, Travel Insurance and services of IRCTC Tour Managers etc. Bookings for the Divine East Temple Tour are open on IRCTC's tourism portal and through authorized IRCTC tourism offices across the country.

For further details, itinerary, and booking information, passengers may visit www.irctctourism.com/bharatgaurav or contact on Mobile no. 8287930299 (Praveena), 8287930484 (Subhasree), 8287930032 (Abhishek), 8595931047 (Monika) and 8882826357 (Praneet).

The journey will begin from Delhi Safdarjung and would cover Varanasi, Kolkata, Gangasagar, Puri, Bhubaneswar, Konark, Chilika and Baidyanath Dham before returning back to Delhi. The significant sites that shall be toured are Kashi Vishwanath Temple (Jyotirlinga) and Ganga Aarti at Varanasi, followed by a visit to the cultural capital of India, Kolkata, covering landmarks such as Victoria Memorial and other city attractions and significant temples like Kali Ghat (Shakti Peeth) and Dakshineswar Kali Mandir.

Day Excursion of the sacred shores of Gangasagar, including a holy dip at the Sagar Sangam and darshan at Kapil Muni Temple is the main attraction of this tour.

The journey continues to Puri, offering darshan at the revered Jagannath Temple, along with a tour of the comprehensive Odisha circuit including Bhubaneswar, Dhauli Shanti Stupa, Udayagiri and Khandagiri Caves, the Konark Sun Temple (UNESCO

World Heritage Site) and much more. The final spiritual destination of the tour is Baidyanath Dham (Deoghar), one of the twelve Jyotirlingas of Lord Shiva, before returning to Delhi Safdarjung on 18th March 2026, marking the conclusion of a memorable and spiritually enriching journey.

The all-inclusive tour offering of IRCTC is a perfect mélange of

Resumption of service of 63592/63591 Asansol-Bokaro Steel City-Asansol MEMU passenger

MI News Service, 7 Feb, 2026, Kolkata: It has been decided to resume the service of 63592/63591 Asansol-Bokaro Steel City-Asansol MEMU Passenger w.e.f 10.02.2026 as per following details. The train will run 6 days in a week except Sunday. Timings of regular run of 63591/63592 Asansol-Bokaro Steel City-Asansol MEMU Passenger will be as under:

63592 Asansol - Bokaro Steel City MEMU	Station	63591 Bokaro Steel City- Asansol MEMU	Time
07.00	d	Asansol	a 19.30
07.11/07.13	a/d	Burnpur	a/d 18.52/18.54
07.20/07.21	a/d	Damodar	a/d 18.43/18.44
07.28/07.29	a/d	Madhukunda	a/d 18.33/18.34
07.37/07.38	a/d	Muradil	a/d 18.25/18.26
07.45/07.46	a/d	Ramkali	a/d 18.16/18.17
07.53/07.54	a/d	Bero	a/d 18.07/18.08
08.02/08.03	a/d	Joychandi/Pahar	a/d 18.00/18.01
08.14/08.15	a/d	Gardhubeswar	a/d 17.47/17.48
08.28/08.30	a/d	Anara	a/d 17.42/17.43
08.37/08.38	a/d	Bagalia	a/d 17.31/17.32
08.47/08.48	a/d	Kustaur	a/d 17.22/17.23
08.54/08.55	a/d	Chharrh	a/d 17.15/17.16
09.05/09.35	a/d	Purulia	a/d 16.55/17.05
09.54/09.55	a/d	Gourinathdham	a/d 16.35/16.36
10.01/10.02	a/d	Chass Road	a/d 16.26/16.27
10.09/10.10	a/d	Garaijpur	a/d 16.18/16.19
10.24/10.25	a/d	Damrughutu	a/d 16.05/16.06
10.33/10.34	a/d	Pundag	a/d 15.58/15.59
10.44/10.45	a/d	Radhaqaon	a/d 15.48/15.49
11.15	a	Bokaro Steel City	d 15.40

The inaugural Special train 03592 Asansol-Bokaro Steel City MEMU will run from Asansol to Bokaro Steel City on 08.02.2026.

YSRCP slams CM over false claims on helipad land

MI News Service, Tadepalli: YSRCP Mangalagiri constituency coordinator Dontireddy Venareddy dismissed as "blatant lies" the Chief Minister's allegation that farmer land was forcibly taken for a helipad in Tadepalli during the YSRCP government.

Speaking to the media at the YSRCP central office in Tadepalli, he said the land in question has been under railway control for decades and that there is no evidence of any farmer cultivating it. He stated that the ruling government, unable to fulfil its promises to the people and facing criticism from the opposition, is resorting to mudslinging and misinformation to divert attention.

Venareddy stated that the helipad site originally belonged to the Railways and was later leased to EID Parry Limited, a fertiliser company. After the company shut down, the land was auctioned, but as per records, it remains railway and government land.

He stressed that no agricultural activity ever took place there. He further pointed out that 10.04 acres in Survey Nos. 223/226/C2 were already under the Collector's control in 2015, during the TDP tenure, as per RC No. 227, and had come into government possession well before YSRCP assumed power. Claiming that farmers were cheated despite this record is misleading and shameful, he said.

He clarified that the helipad was constructed strictly in accordance with Aviation Corporation norms to meet the Chief Minister's security and travel requirements, and that all necessary permissions were obtained during the YSRCP government. He asserted that no land was encroached upon and no injustice was done to any farmer.

Stating that the Chief Minister is indulging in diversionary politics, Venareddy said the government is attacking YSRCP only because it is being questioned over unfulfilled promises.

He urged the Chief Minister to stop false propaganda, focus on development, and use the mandate given by the people for the public good rather than engage in political blame-shifting.

Kuldeep Sengar moves SC seeking bail in custodial-death case

December 29, the Supreme Court stayed the High Court's order granting him bail.

Sengar has been in custody since April 13, 2018 and is serving a ten-year jail term in the custodial-death case of the Unnao rape victim's father.

He is also serving a life sentence in the minor's rape case. These cases arise from FIRs registered in 2018 at Makhi Police Station in Unnao, Uttar Pradesh and were decided by the District and Sessions Judge (West) at the Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi.

The background of the present case is that on June 4, 2017, the minor daughter of the victim was allegedly enticed on the pretext of being offered a job and taken to the house of appellant Kuldeep Singh Sengar, where she was raped.

The High Court noted that on April 3, 2018, the family of the minor rape victim had travelled to Unnao for a court hearing when her father, the victim in this case, was brutally assaulted by the accused persons in broad daylight.

The following day, the police arrested the victim (who is the father of the rape victim). Surendra, on allegations of illegal possession of arms. He subsequently succumbed to multiple injuries while in police custody on April 9, 2018.

EASTERN RAILWAY

NOTICE INVITING AUCTION

E-Auction Notice No. COM/ICAT/NEW PROJECT/CANTEEN/2025, Dated : 05.02.2026. E-Auction is invited by Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Eastern Railway, Howrah Division, New DRM Building, 4th Floor, near Rail Museum, Howrah - 711101 for allotment of one (01) Canteen at Howrah Station (A1 Catg) & one (01) Canteen at Magra Station (C Catg), one (01) Mobile Food van at Rampurhat Station (A Catg) & one (01) Mobile Food Van at Uttarpara Station (C Catg.) over Howrah Division for a period of 05 years. For more information visit www.iresp.gov.in through E-Auction Leasing Module. Details of the auction catalogue is as follows : Auction Catalogue No. MFV-Canteen-HWH; Seq. No.; Lot No./ Category; Description; Trips/Days; Close Date & Time; Turnover Required respectively: AA/1; MSS-HWH-HWH-STGen-56-25-1(Misc-Static-Services-Static General); Creation, Operation and Maintenance of Canteen for 05 years at Howrah Station, parcel area/near parcel shed-11; 1826; 18.02.2026, 13.30 hrs.; AA/2; MSS-HWH-MUG-STGen-68-26-1(Misc-Static-Services-Static General); Creation, Operation and Maintenance of Canteen for 05 years at Magra Station; 1826; 18.02.2026, 13.40 hrs.; 0; AA/3; MSS-HWH-RPH-STGen-44-26-1(Misc-Static-Services-Static General); Creation, Operation and Maintenance of Mobile Food van for a period of 05 years at Rampurhat Station; 1826; 18.02.2026, 13.50 hrs.; 0; AA/4; MSS-HWH-UPA-STGen-67-26-1(Misc-Static-Services-Static General); Creation, Operation and Maintenance of Mobile Food Van for a period of 05 years at Uttarpara Station; 1826; 18.02.2026, 14.00 hrs.; 0; Rate Unit: Annual Licensing Fee for Seq. No. AA/1 to AA/4 each. Min. Incr. (%): 0.2 for Seq. No. AA/1 to AA/4. EMD: 10% for Seq. No. AA/1 to AA/4.

HWH-594/2025-26

Tender Notice is also available at websites : www.er.indianrailways.gov.in / www.iresp.gov.in

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Communist Party CPI members took out a demonstration rally in support of 12th February- Bharat Bandh, in Bhubaneswar on Saturday.

Delhi CM takes strong view of Janakpuri accident; Issues eight-point safety directive to all departments

MI News Service, New Delhi: Taking a very strong view of the tragic accident reported in the Janakpuri area of West Delhi on Friday, the Chief Minister of Delhi, Rekha Gupta, has ordered immediate, time-bound action across all departments and executing agencies to prevent any recurrence of such incidents.

Expressing deep concern over lapses in safety arrangements at excavation and digging sites, the Chief Minister has directed strict enforcement of safety norms and fixed clear accountability on officers and contractors.

Following the Chief Minister's directions, the Chief Secretary has issued a comprehensive Office Memorandum mandating an eight-point safety framework to be followed without exception at all construction, repair and maintenance works involving digging or excavation of roads, footpaths and underground utilities across the National Capital Territory of Delhi.

The Chief Minister has taken a very serious view of the Janakpuri accident and made it clear that loss of life due to negligence is unacceptable. Public safety cannot be compromised under any circumstances. Accountability will be fixed, and strict action will follow wherever lapses are found," an official statement from the Delhi government said.

The directive applies to all departments and agencies under the administrative control of the Delhi government, including but not limited to the Public Works Department (PWD), Irrigation and Flood Control Department (IFC), Delhi Jal Board (DJB), Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD), New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC), power distribution companies (DISCOMS) and all other executing agencies and contractors.

As per the eight-point directive, all work sites must display proper and adequate warning signage prominently and sufficiently in advance of all approaches. Reflector lights, blinkers and luminous tapes are to be mandatorily installed around excavated areas and barricades, especially during night hours and in low-visibility conditions.

The Chief Minister has also ordered that strong, continuous and clearly visible barricading be ensured around the entire work site by all departments to prevent accidental access by pedestrians.

The background of the present case is that on June 4, 2017, the minor daughter of the victim was allegedly enticed on the pretext of being offered a job and taken to the house of appellant Kuldeep Singh Sengar, where she was raped.

The High Court noted that on April 3, 2018, the family of the minor rape victim had travelled to Unnao for a court hearing when her father, the victim in this case, was brutally assaulted by the accused persons in broad daylight.

The following day, the police arrested the victim (who is the father of the rape victim). Surendra, on allegations of illegal possession of arms. He subsequently succumbed to multiple injuries while in police custody on April 9, 2018.

ans, cyclists and vehicles. Barricades must be erected in a manner that eliminates the risk of accidents and ensures that no excavated material or open digging is visible to passers-by or causes dust pollution. Wherever required, departments have been directed to put in place safe pedestrian pathways and proper traffic diversion arrangements in coordination with the concerned authorities, ensuring minimal inconvenience while prioritising safety.

Importantly, the directive fixes clear responsibility for compliance on both the concerned field officers and the executing agencies or contractors. Engineers-in-charge and field engineers have been instructed to conduct regular inspections of all such work sites and ensure that prescribed safety measures are maintained throughout the execution period.

In a time-bound move, all departments and organisations have been ordered to carry out an immediate review of all ongoing and recently undertaken excavation and digging works within Delhi. A consolidated report detailing the locations of such sites, safety measures in place and corrective steps taken wherever deficiencies are noted must be submitted to the Chief Secretary's office within three days.

The Chief Minister has made it clear that the safety of citizens is paramount. No department or contractor will be allowed to cut corners, and enforcement on the ground will be closely monitored," the statement added.

The Delhi government reiterated its commitment to ensuring public safety and accountability, stressing that systemic corrective action will be taken with a sense of urgency.

In a significant move to enhance urban safety and environmental standards, the Chief Minister's Office (CMO) has issued comprehensive directives to all departments on excavation and digging sites.

Departments are required to install proper and adequate warning signage alongside reflectors, blinkers, or luminous tape to ensure visibility at all hours. To prevent accidents, the CM has ordered the installation of strong, continuous, and conspicuous barricades and has specifically instructed that excavated materials must be managed so they are not visible to passers-by and do not contribute to dust pollution.

Furthermore, the directives emphasise the creation of safe pedestrian pathways and the organisation of traffic diversion arrangements to minimise public inconvenience.

To ensure accountability, clear responsibility for compliance must be fixed for each project, supported by regular site inspections. As an immediate measure, all departments have been directed to review of all ongoing and recently undertaken excavation works and submit a consolidated report to the CMO within three days.

All departments have also been directed to immediately issue instructions to subordinate offices, field officials and executing agencies and contractors.

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"Pappu Yadav's arrest a police matter, comments without details not right": Kiren Rijiju on Rahul Gandhi's remarks

MI News Service, Patna: Union Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju on Saturday responded to Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's remarks over the arrest of Purnia MP Pappu Yadav, saying that the matter was a police case and comments should not be made without knowing the details.

Lok Sabha Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi alleged that Pappu Yadav was arrested for demanding justice in the death case of a NEET aspirant in a hostel in Patna. Gandhi, in a post on X, said that Yadav's arrest is "an act of political vendetta" aimed at intimidating the voices in connection with the case. He further accused the BJP-NDA alliance of attempting to "derail" the case and "harass the family" to protect the criminals.

Reacting to statements by Gandhi, Rijiju said the arrest was carried out by the police in connection with a case and should be seen in that context. "Who was arrested? MP Pappu Yadav was arrested. Well, if he was arrested, the police must have done it, right? If someone is arrested in a police case, how can anyone comment without knowing the details? That is not right. It must be a police case," Rijiju said to the reporters.

He added that while Pappu Yadav is a Member of Parliament, the government cannot interfere in police action.

Indian Coast Guard busts international oil smuggling syndicate in daring mid-sea operation

MI News Service, New Delhi: The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) busted an international oil cargo smuggling racket through a complex sea-air coordinated operation on February 6, officials said here on Saturday.

According to the ICG, the syndicate was involved in smuggling large volumes of cheap oil and oil-based cargo from conflict-ridden countries and transferring it mid-sea to motor tankers in international waters for profit. The racket was being operated through a network of handlers based in multiple countries, coordinating the sale and transfer of cargo between sea-going vessels.

Three vessels were intercepted by Indian Coast Guard ships about 100 nautical miles west of Mumbai on February 5. Following sustained rummaging, verification of

"He is our MP. I am the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs; he is a member of our Parliament. But if the police take action, what can I say about it?" Rijiju said.

Pappu Yadav, however, was arrested on Friday after he failed to appear in an alleged land dispute case dating back to 1995. The case is linked to the Gardanibagh police station and involves several sections of the Indian Penal Code, now corresponding provisions under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sahita. Ahead of his arrest, Yadav had expressed fear about his safety and said he wanted to go directly to court instead of the police station.

Meanwhile, the bail application of Independent Purnia MP Pappu Yadav will be heard on Monday, as Advocate Shivnandan Bharti said on Saturday, as he alleged questionable police action in the MP's arrest and confirmed that Yadav has been shifted to Patna Medical College and Hospital (PMCH) under judicial custody due to his deteriorating health.

Separately, responding to opposition claims that the government had failed to protect agricultural interests in the context of the 18 per cent tariff imposed by the United States under the interim India-US trade framework, Rijiju dismissed the criticism.

"The most alarming fact is that this incident does not appear confined to a single case. It points toward a terrifying conspiracy and a dangerous pattern, where more daughters are falling victim, and those in power sit with eyes shut to this horrifying reality. This is

documents, corroboration of

and verified the digital evidence, which led to their apprehension. Preliminary investigations revealed that the vessels frequently changed their identities to evade law enforcement agencies of coastal states. The vessel owners are reportedly based in foreign countries.

The Coast Guard said its technology-enabled surveillance systems initially detected a motor tanker engaged in suspicious activity within the Indian Exclusive Economic Zone, prompting a detailed digital investigation. Further data pattern analysis of vessels approaching the tanker identified two additional suspect vessels involved in the illicit mid-sea transfer of oil-based cargo, thereby evading significant duties owed to coastal states, including India.

Agriculture, dairy fully protected in India-US trade deal: Piyush Goyal

MI News Service, New Delhi: India has completely protected its agriculture and dairy sectors in the trade agreement with the US, Union Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal said on Saturday, February 7, adding that the trade pact will open a USD 30 trillion market for Indian exporters, especially Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME), farmers and fishermen.

"The agreement reflects India's commitment to safeguarding farmers' interests and sustaining rural livelihoods by completely protecting sensitive agricultural and dairy products," Goyal said during



ing a press conference.

No genetically-modified products will be allowed into India, he said, adding that staples like maize, rice, wheat, millets, and ragi will not see any impact. Fruits grown in abundance in India, including banana and citrus, will remain pro-

tected. Meat, poultry, dairy products, soya bean, sugar, and cereals will not be affected by the deal.

There will be significant benefits for the textile and leather sectors. Silk products have also been brought under zero duty, said the minister.

In the agriculture sector, several Indian products will now be exported to the US with zero duty. These include tea, spices, coconut oil, vegetable wax, areca nut, Brazil nuts, chestnuts, and a variety of fruits and vegetables, he said.

According to the minister, vegetable roots, cereals, barley, bakery products, cocoa products, sesame

seeds, poppy seeds and citrus juice will also face no reciprocal tariffs and will now enter the US market duty-free.

Gems and jewellery, as well as pharmaceutical products, will also enjoy duty-free access, boosting India's export competitiveness.

Key sectors that will benefit are aircraft parts, machinery parts, generic drugs and pharmaceuticals. Other items covered under zero duty include coins, platinum, clocks and watches, essential oils, some home decor items like chandeliers, seeds and inorganic chemicals and compounds.

Sambhal: Muslim teacher, headmistress suspended after Hindu groups object to Quranic verse in school

MI News Service, Sambhal: A fresh controversy has erupted in Sambhal district, Uttar Pradesh, after Hindu organisations protested the presence of a framed Quranic verse hanging above a classroom gate at a government primary school in Nagla Purva village, under Kurh Fatehgarh police station.

Members of Bajrang Dal and Vishwa Hindu Parishad reached the school upon learning of the display and demanded immediate action against the staff. They argued that religious symbols have no place in government educational institutions and accused assistant teacher Mohammad Nazim of imparting Islamic teachings to students—an allegation the teacher and several villagers firmly rejected.

"I am a government teacher and follow only the prescribed syllabus. No religious lessons were ever given to any child," Mohammad Nazim told reporters, calling the accusations baseless and motivated.

Videos circulating from the incident show activists aggressively questioning teachers, inspecting classrooms, blackboards, and books, while moving through the premises like an unofficial inspection team.

Protesters further alleged that posters of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, and Goddess Saraswati had been removed—claims denied by school staff.

Following a written complaint submitted in the presence of police, the framed verse was taken down. Basic Shiksha Adhikari (BSA) Alka Sharma swiftly suspended both the headmistress, Pushpa Jatav, and assistant teacher Mohammad Nazim,



stating that the matter violated school norms and an inquiry had been ordered. "Action has been taken as a precautionary measure," she said.

Critics, including local education activists and community members, have questioned the haste of the suspensions.

"Deciding punishment before a proper probe under pressure from street protests sets a dangerous precedent," one activist remarked. A local resident added, "This quiet village school had no prior complaints. The teacher seems targeted only because he is Muslim."

The episode has drawn parallels to a 2023 case in Mathura, where a Muslim headmaster was falsely accused of religious coercion; his suspension was later revoked after villagers and an inquiry cleared him.

Muslim community elders in Sambhal expressed concern over a recurring pattern, asking why similar scrutiny is not applied to other religious symbols in public spaces. As the official inquiry proceeds, questions linger over equal application of rules, administrative independence, and the impact of communal pressure on educators.

Owaisi fires back at Assam CM: "You're begging for two rupees while dreaming of the moon"

MI News Service, Hyderabad: AIMIM chief and Hyderabad MP Asaduddin Owaisi launched a fierce critique of Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma during a public rally in Nizamabad on Friday, accusing him of delivering repeated hate speeches targeting Bengali-origin Muslims, commonly referred to as "Miya" Muslims in the state.

Owaisi condemned Sarma's remarks as rooted in fear and prejudice, asserting that no government can be run on such grounds. He stressed that the Indian Constitution guarantees equality to all citizens irrespective of religion or community, and no authority—including a chief minister—can violate this principle.

Highlighting discriminatory rhetoric, Owaisi cited Sarma's alleged statements blaming "Miya Muslims" for rising vegetable prices or telling voters to "go to Bangladesh." He particularly mocked Sarma's reported comment urging people to short-change Muslim auto-rickshaw drivers: if the fare is ₹5, pay only ₹4.

Owaisi questioned the dignity of such pettiness from a sitting chief minister, noting that these Muslims—descendants of laborers brought by the British 150-200 years ago—are Indian citizens who speak Bengali and earn honest livelihoods.

Sarcasm peaked when Owaisi offered Sarma "two rupees" in alms, saying, "Himanta Biswa Sarma, I'm giving you these two rupees—will you take them? I



know you're a beggar for two rupees.

Should I transfer it to your account?" He contrasted this with the BJP's vision of a developed India aspiring to be the world's third-largest economy and a superpower—even building homes on the moon—yet refusing to pay "one rupee" to an auto driver.

Bengali-origin Muslims in Assam face socio-economic marginalization and are often labeled "outsiders" or "illegal immigrants." Sarma's comments, including intentions to "make the Miya people suffer" during electoral roll revisions and urging harassment, have drawn widespread criticism.

Rights activist Harsh Mander filed a police complaint in Delhi accusing Sarma of hate speech threatening constitutional values and minority rights. Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind has approached the Supreme Court, alleging the statements are communal, unconstitutional, and amount to hate speech from a high constitutional office.



Pir Abdullah Siddiqui of Furfura Darbar Sharif has passed away. Following his demise, his only son, Pirzada Shabab Siddiqui, was met at Furfura on Friday by Furfura Development Authority Chairman and Saptagram MLA Tapas Dasgupta. He was accompanied by AITC State General Secretary Pirzada Qasim Siddiqui, Pirzada Sahimuddin Siddiqui, Pirzada Syed Nazimuddin, and other dignitaries. During the meeting, discussions were held regarding preparations for the upcoming Isaa-e-Sawab ceremony to be organised at Furfura. The leaders stated that the sacred occasion is being observed in a memorable manner this year on the initiative of the state Chief Minister and assured that similar arrangements would continue in the future as well. Expressing his condolences, Tapas Dasgupta said that he had been informed about the demise in time, he would have attended the funeral. He added that he deeply regrets not being able to be present for the final rites.

US wants Russia, Ukraine to end war by summer, says Zelensky

MI News Service, Kyiv: The United States wants Russia and Ukraine to find a solution on how to end the war, the largest since World War II, before summer, President Volodymyr Zelensky says.

In remarks to reporters released by his office, Zelensky says that the United States has proposed a new round of talks between Kyiv and Moscow to take place in Miami next week and that Kyiv had agreed to that.

Ukraine and Russia concluded two days of US-brokered peace talks in Abu Dhabi this week without a major breakthrough.

UN concerned over ill-treatment of Palestinian returnees via Gaza's Rafah crossing

MI News Service, United Nations: UN humanitarians on Friday expressed concern over reports of ill-treatment of Palestinian returnees via the Rafah border crossing with Egypt, amid deadly Israeli attacks on civilians. The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) said that Israeli airstrikes, gunfire and shelling continue to be reported across civilian areas of the Gaza

The office said that civilians and civilian infrastructure must always be protected, and that they must never be targeted or used to shield military activities. The UN Development Programme reported transporting 21 returnees on Thursday from the Israeli checkpoint to Nasser Hospital in Khan Younis, where OCHA and its partners operate a reception area, bringing the number of returnees received since Monday to 98. The UN Human Rights Office (OHCHR) warned Thursday of a pattern of ill-treatment, abuse and humiliation of returnees by Israeli forces and by armed Palestinians allegedly backed by the Israeli military. "Accounts indicate that some of the armed Palestinians have been handcuffed and blindfolded returnees, threatened and intimidated them, conducted searches and stole personal belongings and money," said the OHCHR. "Upon arrival at the Israeli checkpoint, returnees described violence, degrading interrogations, and invasive body searches."

Regional countries welcome renewal of Iran-U.S. talks, call for further de-escalation

MI News Service, Cairo: U.S. and Iranian officials concluded a round of talks on Friday, with both sides agreeing to continue negotiations, on which regional countries have pinned high hopes to help steer the Middle East back from the brink of a wider war.

Regional countries welcomed the renewal of dialogue between Tehran and Washington, the first since U.S. strikes on Iranian nuclear facilities in June 2025, while urging steps toward a peaceful, lasting resolution of the nuclear dispute and cautioning against the risks of military escalation.

The talks focused exclusively on Iran's nuclear program, Araghchi said, adding that Tehran did not discuss "any other topics" with Washington, according to Iran's official IRNA news agency.

Araghchi noted that Iran had stressed that refraining from threats and pressure was a prerequisite for dialogue, adding that Tehran expected this principle to be observed to allow negotiations to continue.

Iran's state broadcaster IRIB said Omani Foreign Minister Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi held several meetings with both delegations, facilitating the exchange of views.



Following the talks, Araghchi admitted that the "very deep distrust" between Washington and Tehran posed a major challenge to the negotiations, adding that the mistrust would need to be overcome before a new framework for talks could be established to safeguard the Iranian people's interests.

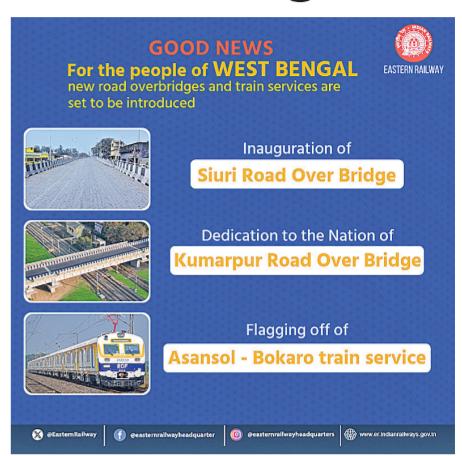
Iran's Mehr News Agency said Tehran rejected a U.S. demand for "zero enrichment," noting Friday's discussions centered on reducing Iran's existing uranium stockpile and described the talks as "more serious" than previous

Major Rail Infrastructure Boost In West Bengal: New Road Over Bridges And Asansol-Bokaro Train Service To Be Inaugurated

MI News Service, Kolkata, 7 Feb. 26: Ashwini Vaishnaw, Union Minister for Railways, Information & Broadcasting and Electronics & Information Technology, will inaugurate the Siuri Road Over Bridge, dedicate the Kumarpur Road Over Bridge to the Nation and flag off the new Asansol-Bokaro train service through Video Conferencing, along with Suvendu Adhikari, Leader of the Opposition, West Bengal Legislative Assembly, on 08.02.2026. These projects mark a significant step towards strengthening rail infrastructure, enhancing safety and improving regional connectivity in West Bengal and adjoining areas.

The newly constructed Road Over Bridge in lieu of Level Crossing No. 22B/T near Siuri Railway Station has been completed at a project cost of Rs 42 crore. The bridge will remove long waiting time at the level crossing, ensuring faster and smoother daily travel for residents of Siuri and adjacent areas. It will significantly enhance safety by eliminating a busy level crossing and reduce traffic congestion around Siuri station, improving mobility for students, workers and local commuters.

Another major infrastructure addition is the Road Over Bridge in lieu of Level Crossing No. 1Sp1/E between Barachak & Hirapur Yard Line, constructed at a cost of Rs 54.83 crore. Located on the important GT Road corridor, this bridge serves as a key link between the heart of Asansol city and large parts of Paschim Bardhaman district as well as Jharkhand. The ROB will facilitate faster and smoother movement of trade and traffic within the state and with neighbouring



states. It enhances safety on a heavily used route, reduces congestion around Asansol and improves daily commuting for students, workers and local residents.

On the same occasion, a train service between Asansol & Bokaro Steel City will be flagged off, strengthening rail connectivity between two major steel hubs of the country. Both cities host major establishments under SAIL, and the new service will directly benefit industrial workers, daily commuters and local residents. The train will run via Paschim Bardhaman and Purulia districts of West Bengal and Bokaro district of Jharkhand, enhancing both intra-state and inter-state mobility. The service is expected to cater to a large number of passengers from the two states, supporting regional economic activity and social connectivity.

US tariff decreased as India stopped importing Russian oil: White House

MI News Service, Washington:

A document from the White House showed that the US agreed to bring down the tariffs on Indian goods because New Delhi decided to stop importing oil from Russia. The development came in the backdrop of India and the US signing a trade deal that lowers Washington's tariff on India to 18 per cent from the previous 50 per cent.



ous threat. In response, it imposed a 25 per cent tariff on Indian goods because it was importing Russian oil at the time.

President Trump declared that upon receiving information and recommendations from top officials, India stopped directly or indirectly importing Russian oil to address the US' national emergency.

"I have determined that India has taken significant steps to address the national emergency," the document read, adding that in recognition of the act, the President decided to "eliminate" the additional tariff.

The order said that the United States had already declared a national emergency due to the "continued Russian Federation."

Efforts to undermine the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine."

The Biden administration, in 2022, issued an order banning the import of Russian oil and petroleum products from the United States, and has recently committed to a framework with the United States to expand defense cooperation over the next 10 years."

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T20 WC: Jasprit Bumrah misses tournament opener due to illness

MUMBAI : Senior pacer Jasprit Bumrah was unavailable for selection in India's opener 2026 T20 World Cup opener against the USA due to illness, said the BCCI in a statement on Saturday.

"Jasprit Bumrah was unavailable for selection for India's opening T20 World Cup fixture against the USA due to illness. The BCCI medical team is closely monitoring his condition."

As a result, Mohammed Siraj was added to the playing XI, who was recently drafted into the 15-player squad after Harshit Rana was ruled out due to a knee injury during the warm-up match against South Africa in Navi Mumbai on February 4. Mohammed Siraj last played a



T20I for India in July 2024 against Sri Lanka in Pallekele.

"Following consultations with a specialist and subsequent scans, the BCCI medical team deemed him unfit to participate in the tournament. The team management wishes him a speedy recovery. Mohd. Siraj will join the team as Harshit's replacement in the squad," BCCI had stated in its press release.

India also missed out on Sanju Samson and picked in-form Ishan Kishan as the first-choice wicket-keeper batter in the tournament opener. Earlier, USA won the toss and elected to bowl against India at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai on Saturday.

Ishan Kishan will open the

innings with Abhishek Sharma. Ishan scored 53 in the warm-up game against South Africa as an opener. He scored 103 as one drop against New Zealand in their last T20 game in Trivandrum.

Playing XIs:
India: Abhishek Sharma, Ishan Kishan (wk), Tilak Varma, Suryakumar Yadav (capt), Hardik Pandya, Rinku Singh, Shivam Dube, Axar Patel, Arshdeep Singh, Mohammed Siraj, Varun Chakravarthy
USA: Saitija Mukkamalla, Andries Gous (wk), Monik Patel (capt), Milind Kumar, Sanjay Krishnamurthi, Harmeet Singh, Shubham Ranjane, Mohammad Mohsin, Shadley van Schalkwyk, Saurabh Netravalkar, Ali Khan.

CLARKE LEADS OVERSEAS TEAM, NAGAL SPEARHEADS INDIAN CHARGE AT DELHI OPEN FROM FEB 16

NEW DELHI : Jay Clarke from Great Britain will lead a robust international lineup at the Delhi Open 2026, with Indian player Sumit Nagal headlining the local competitors. The ATP Challenger event is set to take place from February 16 to 22 here at the DLTCA Complex.

Nagal, India's leading singles player and the only Indian with direct entry into the singles main draw, will be a major highlight for local fans.

Nagal, a regular participant on the challenger circuit, has consistently played at the top level and will likely look to leverage the familiar conditions in New Delhi.

Over the years, the tournament has built a reputation for featuring strong fields and top-level competition, attracting players close to breaking into the top ranks of men's tennis.

Rohit Rajpal, President of the Delhi Lawn Tennis Association (DLTA), emphasised the tournament's significance for Indian tennis ahead of the event.

"The Delhi Open has firmly established itself as one of the most competitive and professionally run Challenger events in the region. Over the years, the tournament has played a critical role in bridging Indian talent with top international competition, giving our players the invaluable advantage of competing at home while offering fans the opportunity to experience world-class tennis at close quarters," Rajpal said.

The field also includes talented Japanese teenager Rei Sakamoto, his compatriot Rio Noguchi, and Kazakhstan's Beibit Zhukayev, highlighting a strong Asian presence.

"Equally important is the inspiration it provides to young players training at DLTCA and across the country, showing them that the pathway to the international stage is both real and achievable."

Talented Indian players Manas Dhamne and Karan Singh will compete in the singles qualifiers on February 15, adding domestic excitement to the tournament.



'It's time to focus on what's more important,' Brook ready to move on from nightclub incident

MUMBAI : England captain Harry Brook has admitted that the past few weeks have been difficult following the controversy around his visit to a Wellington nightclub, but added that he now wants to move on and focus on the T20 World Cup 2026, where he will captain the side for the first time in an ICC tournament.

England begins their T20 World Cup campaign against Nepal at the Wankhede Stadium on Sunday. However, their preparations have been affected by the attention around Brook's off-field issue.

The incident came to light in early January, when it was revealed that the 26-year-old had an altercation with a nightclub bouncer before leading England in a match against New Zealand in November. Brook apologised for his behaviour and also admitted later that he had lied to the media when he initially said no other England players were present.



Ahead of the World Cup start, Brook has admitted that the past few months have been rough for him.

"It has been pretty horrendous, to be honest, but that is part of it. It has just been tough. People have been able to support me around the group," he told the BBC.

Brook was fined by the England and Wales Cricket Board and issued a final warning for his conduct following the altercation with the bouncer.

Brook said the episode has taught him important lessons about leadership, and he will be more aware of his actions in the future.

"I've definitely learnt there's a hell of a lot more responsibility on your shoulders when you're captain. When you're a leader, you can't take that responsibility lightly," he said.

"You have got to lead from the front on and off the field, and anything you do can really turn against you, so you have got to be on the ball

pretty much all of the time," the skipper added.

Brook asserted that the situation has not affected his batting and he is in good touch ahead of the tournament. "Thankfully, I'm fairly good at hitting a ball, so I don't think it has affected me," he said.

"It's weird, as a professional sportsman, when you get out to the wicket, and you're a batter, everything just seems to float away, and you don't even know what's going on. All you're focusing on is that cricket ball," he added.

England are placed in the C group alongside the West Indies, Scotland, Nepal, and Italy as they aim for their third T20 World Cup title.

England comes into the World Cup in strong form, having won 10 of their last 11 T20 matches. They recently completed a 3-0 series win in Sri Lanka, where they will also play their Super 8 matches if they qualify.



SAFF U-19 Women's Championship: Jharkhand Girls Shine as India Defeat Bangladesh to Clinch Title

PC JHA

RANCHI/KATHMANDU :

Powered by an impressive performance from young footballers of Jharkhand, India clinched the SAFF Under-19 Women's Football Championship 2026 title after registering a commanding 4-0 victory over Bangladesh in the final.

The championship was organised by the South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) and held in Kathmandu, Nepal, from January 31 to February 7.

India dominated the tournament with disciplined play, technical superiority and attacking flair. In the final, India outclassed Bangladesh in all departments, with Jharkhand's Elizabeth Lakra also finding the back of the net to contribute to the emphatic win. Notably, six players from Jharkhand were selected in the Indian squad, underlining the state's growing prominence in women's football.

Four players—Elizabeth Lakra, Anita Dungdung, Suraj Muni Kumari and Vinita Horo—were part of the Residential Girls Football Training Centre run by the Jharkhand government at the Indo Stadium in Gumla.

Anushka Kumari from the Residential Girls Football Training Centre, Hazaribagh, and Divyani Linda from Star Warriors, Ranchi, were also included in the national team.

Throughout the tournament, the Indian team displayed outstanding consistency, defeating strong teams such as Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh on their way to lifting the title.

Following this remarkable achievement, Chief Minister Hemant Soren congratulated the players for their historic success. Sports Minister Sudhiva Kumar Sonu, Sports Secretary Manoj Kumar, Sports Director Asif Ikram, Jharkhand Olympic Association Secretary Madhukant Pathak, and Jharkhand Football Association General Secretary Gulab Rabbani also extended their congratulations, praising the players for bringing pride to the nation and the state.

The triumph has once again highlighted Jharkhand's significant contribution to Indian women's football and reinforced the importance of structured grassroots training programmes in nurturing young sporting talent.

BOXAM ELITE: 12 INDIANS ENTER FINALS AS SACHIN, LOVLINA LEAD CHARGE ON PENULTIMATE DAY

LA NUCIA (SPAIN) : Twelve Indians, including eight women and four men, will compete for gold on the final day of BOXAM Elite International 2026, following another session full of assured performances.

Leading the men's charge was Sachin (60kg), who extended his brilliant run with another dominant win over England's Jack Dryden. Over in the women's section, Olympic medallist Lovlina Borgohain (75kg) stormed through to the finals with a unanimous victory over Wales' Rosie Eccles.

Held in La Nucia, Alicante, Spain, the BOXAM Elite 2026 has featured over 200 boxers from 20 nations. India (12) is the most well-represented nation in Saturday's finals—ahead of heavyweights Kazakhstan (11), Ukraine (5), and hosts Spain (4) and is assured of at least one gold, with the Elite Women 54kg final being an all-Indian affair.

India's women continued their strong showing with commanding semifinal wins across divisions, headlined by the confirmation of a gold in the 54kg category, where Preeti and Poonam will face off for the title. Elsewhere, Manju Rani (48kg), Nitu (51kg), Priya (60kg), Arundhati Choudhary (70kg), and Naina (80kg) all advanced to the finals with emphatic victories, underlining India's depth and consistency across weight classes.

In the men's competition, India added further finalists through dominant displays from Deepak (70kg), Akash (75kg), and Ankush (80kg). Deepak produced one of the session's standout moments by forcing a first-round RSC against Kazakhstan's World Boxing Cup Finals' silver medallist Nurbek Mursal, while Akash and Ankush negotiated tough bouts against Kazakh opponents to seal their places in Saturday's gold-medal contests.

India's campaign also saw several boxers finish on the podium with bronze medals after falling at the semifinal stage, including Pranjal Yadav (65kg), Kajal (65kg), Sanamacha Chanu (75kg), and Mankirat Kaur (80kg) in the women's competition. Jaduman Singh (55kg), Mohammed Hussam Uddin (60kg), and Hitesh Gulia (70kg) secured bronze finishes in the men's draw.

