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Morning India

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 Manuaganj in Rajganj police station area of Jalpaiguri district. The deceased and the injured are reportedly residents of Rajganj.

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 Tutbagan area near Manuaganj. 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 Karnadev 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 Enginipur in Nakashipara.

According to police sources, Bala was moving suspiciously on a motorcycle in the Baniakhari 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 Barikbad 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 Sovandeob 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 with 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 organization announced that it will continue such training programs in the future. Narendra Kumar (General Secretary of Laxmi Nagar Vikas Samiti), Shyam Sundar Prasad (President), Kuldeep Kaur, and Krishna Sandal 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 Shikshaniketan 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, Dhubulia : Battling poverty as a constant companion, Jyoti Joardar of Tatla village in Dhubulia 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 Dhubulia Nivedita Vidyalaya, her inclination towards football caught the attention of her family. Encouraged by her interest, her father brought her to the Dhubulia 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 Dhubulia 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 are trying to support her in every possible way. Despite constant financial constraints, she has continued to move forward with determination. We are extremely happy about her selection to the State team," Khan said.

With dreams in her eyes and growing confidence in her stride, Jyoti Joardar now aims to scale greater heights, carrying the hopes of Nadia's Tatla village along with her.

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 oc-

curred 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. Meh-

boob 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, Sabyasachi Das, held discussions with the family of the victimized student. Following this, the punishment for the accused was announced. The principal of the medical college said, "I was in Kolkata due to health reasons. The responsibility of the principal was given to the hospital superintendent. After learning about the incident, I returned to the college as soon as possible and discussed the matter with the victimized student's family. We have taken the necessary steps against the two accused students. To prevent such incidents from happening in the

future, the college is launching a helpline number and increasing CCTV camera surveillance."

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.

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, Parthapratim Roy, said, "There are government restrictions on the sale of paan masala or gutkha-like products. Besides that, I have received complaints and grievances from various voluntary organizations and different sections of society requesting that we not display such advertisements." He stated that the two companies responsible for placing these advertisements have been instructed to remove them from the buses immediately. They have been encouraged to replace them with other ad-

vertisements.

Parthapratim 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."

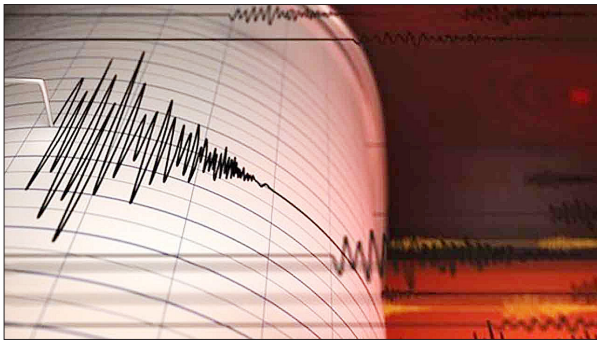
Dipankar Pillai, the Managing Director of North Bengal State Transport Corporation, said, "Pan masala is not a healthy product, so we will not encourage the marketing of such items. Advertising agencies have been requested to bring alternative advertisements instead."

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 Sik-



kim 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 Sawban Siddiqui, led the funeral prayer. Pir Hazrat Maulana Abdullah Siddiqui of Furfura Sharif passed away on Thurs-



day morning at 3 AM. He was 70 years old. He is survived by his only son, Pirzada Sawban Siddiqui, and two daughters. He had been ill for some time. His demise 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 Title Madrasah. He was renowned as an outspoken scholar. He

spoke about establishing national unity.

Besides attending meetings and religious gatherings, the Pir was also involved in many social service activities.

For several years, he offered the final prayer at the historic Isale Sawab of Furfura Sharif.

Throughout his life, he worked hard to serve the lineage of his grandfather. Pir Matiullah Siddiqui, the youngest son of Pir Baro Huzur, was also present. Countless Pirs attended.

They offered their condolences to the family. The passing of the Pir has created a great void in the subcontinent.

Kolkata's Pride: Imran Zaki, Abdul Qayyum Ansari Win Prestigious A1 Global TV UK International Award

MI News Service, Kolkata/Manchester : The A1 Global TV UK International Award 2026 was presented to honour exceptional contributions in the fields of education and social service. This year, the prestigious recognition was awarded to two eminent personalities from Kolkata — Imran Zaki for his outstanding work in education, and Abdul Qayyum Ansari for his lifelong dedication to social service.

A prominent name in Kolkata's education sector, Imran Zaki, founder of St. Stephen's School, has been tirelessly working to promote quality education and nurture young minds with values, discipline, and vision.

Equally inspiring is Abdul Qayyum Ansari, the General Secretary of Kolkata Muslim Orphan-



age, who has devoted decades to serving humanity and standing as a beacon of hope for countless underprivileged children.

Both awardees expressed their heartfelt gratitude to MA Ali, Asia and America Repre-

sentative of A1 Global TV UK, and appreciated his continuous efforts to promote sports and encourage children globally — a mission they described as truly praiseworthy.

Congratulatory messag-

es poured in from across the world. A1 Global TV UK Director Shahid Mahmood Raja, Princess Mufida Rayya Mubarak of Indonesia, World Meat Representative from Nigeria Obi Ugochukwu Stephen, Tony Taylor from New York, along with several other distinguished global personalities, extended their warm wishes and congratulations to Imran Zaki and Abdul Qayyum Ansari.

Speaking on the occasion, MA Ali said it was a matter of immense pride for A1 Global TV UK to honour individuals who are creating real change on the ground. He expressed confidence that the dedication and impact of Imran Zaki and Abdul Qayyum Ansari will soon earn them many more international recognitions.



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 philately, 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 IGIMS for medical checkup. According to Singh, he will be kept in police custody at the Gardaniyabagh 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 Rajesh 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 (Independently 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 Suwendu 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



Chandrima Bhattacharya 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, Baghbazar Helps Unemployed Youth Become Self-Reliant Through Skill Training



MI News Service, Kolkata: Ramakrishna Math, Baghbazar is helping unemployed young men and women gain skills and become self-reliant through various vocational training programmes conducted under the Ma Sarada Swanirvar Kendra, with financial support from Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE). The certificate distribution and validation 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 current 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.

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 Modi'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.

India, a trusted partner of Malaysia for growth: PM

From PG 1
folk dances, including Bharatnatyam, Kathak, Kathakali, Kuchipudi, Yakshagana, Lavani and Odissi. Both the Prime ministers who travelled to the venue in the same car, arrived on the stage amid slogans of 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai' and chants of 'Modi, Modi'. An announcement was made that the dance performance had entered the Malaysian Book of Records for the most number of performers in an Indian dance performance. "I am personally excited to have a great

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

Zo community." The ITLF also warned that if the suspension of policeman Siamlalpaul 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.

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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 property. 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 (Rs)	Name of Branch
1.	Nurjaman Sarkar/ Abul Hashnat Sarkar/ Humayun Manjil, Murshidabad, Jagann Roshanbagh, Murshidabad District, Murshidabad West Bengal Berhampore- 742164/ LBBER00005847373/ LBBER00005874051	Sabek Dag No. 63/203, Hal Dag No. 150, Hal Kh. No. 91, Mouza: 20 No Gobindapur Lakheraj, P.S. Murshidabad, A.D.S.R. Office, Lalbag, District, Murshidabad, West Bengal, Admeasuring An Area of 4 Satak/ Date of Symbolic 05/02/2026	October 14, 2025 Rs. 17,93,103.34/-	Murshidabad
2.	Sekh Mostafa Ali/ Jaberun Bibi/ Andulya Paschim Medinipur Bargokulpur District Paschim Medinipur West Bengal Kharagpur- 721301/ LBMDER00005388934	R.S. and L.R. Dag No. 544, Hal L.R. Khatian 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 Measuring Area 16 Decimals North: Sakhi Mainuddin South: Seller Own Portion East: Guljan Nesha Bibi West: Profulla Das/ Date of Symbolic 06/02/2026	October 28, 2025 Rs. 13,94,762.00/-	Paschim Medinipur

The above-mentioned borrowers(s)/guarantors(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: Murshidabad & Paschim Medinipur

Sincerely Authorised Officer
For ICICI Bank Ltd.

NAME CHANGE

I, MAHINUR RAHAMAN MOLLA (Old Name), S/o- RAJMAN 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 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) W/O- Jagadish Mondal, residing at RA-496, Milannagar, Salt Lake City, Sector - IV, P/S- Bidhanagar, Kolkata-700105. Have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Shankari Mondal (new name) as declared before the 1st class J.M. at Bidhanagar vide Affidavit No.-257 dt-29/01/2026 Sankari Mondal (old name) & Shankari Mondal (new name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Md. Khurshid S/o Ali Hussain residing at R.B.S. Road Chandanpara, 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 Md.Khurshid & Kulsam Begum instead of Kulsam Bagam 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.

Name Change
I, Md. Khurshid S/o Ali Hussain residing at R.B.S. Road Chandanpara, Po-Angus, Ps- Bhadreswar, Dist- Hooghly, Pin- 712221, Wb. That my son Md. Farhan Raza his birth certificate me & my wife name has been wrongly recorded as Khurshid Ansari instead of Md.Khurshid & Kulsam Begum instead of Kulsam Bagam declare before the Judicial magistrate 1st class Chandernagore. Date-02.01.2026. That 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.- Nimpora, P.S.-KGP (T), Dist.- Paschim Medinipur, PIN- 721304, Wb. 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 and DIBYA MUKHERJEE** both are same and identical person.

NAME CHANGE
I, Ram Sati Devi W/o Late Ram Kalewar Shwir DOB 01-01-1965 residing at 38/52, Fakir Bagam Lane, Howrah do hereby solemnly affirm and declare that my Correct & actual name is **Ram Sati Devi & DOB is 01-01-1965.** That my name inadvertently recorded in **Pension Payment Order Book** being **P.O. No. WB/HLO/15357 as Ramsati W/o Ram Kalewar** Shaw instead of **Ram Sati Devi & DOB** inadvertently recorded as **03-04-1966** in place of **01-01-1965.** That **Ram Sati Devi DOB is 01-01-1965** and **Ramsati** both the name is one and same identical person vide affidavit sworn Before in the Court of the Ld. 1st Class Executive Magistrate at Howrah on 03-02-2026.

Name Change
I, Sujata Ghosh w/o Sujit Saha, Residing at 73/A, North Natagarh, Nibedea Sarani, P.O. Pansila, P.S.- Ghola, District North 24 Parganas, Kolkata-700112, do hereby declare that my name is recorded as Sujata Saha in my Digital Ration Card (being No. GEN1219328556) in place of my name, Sujata Ghosh. That I'm Sujata Ghosh and Sujata Ghosh Saha are the same and one identical person. Vide an affidavit (SL No. 39) sworn before in the court of 1st class Judicial Magistrate at Calcutta on date 24/09/2025.

NAME CHANGE
I, Dilip Biswas (Old Name) S/o. Late Hemanta Kumar Biswas, R/o. West Nabanagar, Sukanta Path, North Dum Dum(M), P.O.-Birati, P.S.-Nimta, KOL-700051, Dist- North 24 Parganas. Do hereby declared that my name Dilip Biswas (Old Name) has been changed and henceforth be known as Dilip Kumar Biswas (New Name) as per affidavit (No.-69/25) of Notary Public at Barasat Court dated 19-11-25. So, Dilip Biswas (Old Name) & Dilip Kumar Biswas (New Name) both are same & one identical person.

Name Change
I, Biswanath Adhikary, S/o. Late Panchu Gopal Das, aged approximately 58 years, R/o. 9, Gobinda Mondal Lane, P.O. and P.S. Cossipore, Kolkata- 700002, West Bengal, Religion: Hindu, do hereby declare before the Judicial Magistrate (1st Class) Alipore, through an affidavit (No. 17324/2025) dated 07/11/2025 that my surname "Das" has been changed to "Adhikary". Both refer to the same and one identical person. From now on, I shall be known as Biswanath Adhikary.

Name Change
I, Subrata Adhikary, s/o. Late Rabindra Nath Adhikary, Aged approximately 58 years, R/o., 9, Gobinda Mondal Lane, P.O. and P.S. Cossipore, Kolkata - 700002, West Bengal, Religion: Hindu, do hereby declare before the Judicial Magistrate (1st Class), Alipore, through an affidavit (No. 17323/2025) dated 07/11/2025, that my surname has been changed from "Das" to "Adhikary". Both refer to the same and one identical person. From now on, I shall be known as Subrata Adhikary.

Name Change
I, Tama Mukherjee (Old Name), Daughter Of Tarak Palit, Residing At Kalikapur, Near- Bidrohi Club, P.O-Barasat, Dist- 24pgs(N)- 700124, West Bengal, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Tama Palit Debnath (New Name) Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 05/02/2026. Tama Mukherjee And Tama Palit Debnath Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, Ratan Agarwal (Old Name), Son Of Kedar Nath Agarwal, Residing At Senjuti Apartment 181/61, A B C Chatterjee Street, Lokenath Park Belgharia, North 24 Parganas- 700056, West Bengal, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Ratan Kumar Agarwal (New Name) Vide An Affidavit No 46 Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 06/02/2026. Ratan Agarwal And Ratan Kumar Agarwal Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I Wasim Raza, S/O Md Nizamuddin, R/O Near. Noori Masjid, Azad Nagar Bumpur, Po- Bumpur, Ps-Hirapur, Dist. Paschim Bardhaman, 713325, West Bengal, Shall Hence Forth Be Known As Md Wasim Raja, Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 11/02/2026, That Wasim Raza And Md Wasim Raja, All Are The Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I Ruksana Khatoun, W/O Sk Md Nasim, R/O Kishori Gali Hutton Road Asansol, Po- Asansol, Ps- Asansol South, Dist. Paschim Bardhaman, 713301, West Bengal, Shall Hence Forth Be Known As, Sk Md Nasim, Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 09/02/2026, That Ruksana Khatoun And Rokshana Khatoun, All Are The Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I Sekh Md Nasim, S/O Sekh Mohammad Islam, R/O Kishori Gali Hutton Road Asansol, Po- Asansol, Ps- Asansol South, Dist. Paschim Bardhaman, 713301, West Bengal, Shall Hence Forth Be Known As, Sk Md Nasim, Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 09/02/2026, That Sekh Md Nasim And Sk Md Nasim, All Are The Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I Alkama Sekh, S/O Sk Md Nasim, R/O Kishori Gali Hutton Road Asansol, Po-Asansol, Ps- Asansol South, Dist. Paschim Bardhaman, 713301, West Bengal, Shall Hence Forth Be Known As Alkama Sheikh, Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 09/02/2026, That Alkama Sekh And Alkama Sheikh, All Are The Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, Pooja Nitten Bihani (Old Name), Wife Of Nitten S Bihani, Residing At 26 Shakespear Sarani, Flat-4b, Kolklaata- 700017, Wb, West Bengal, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Pooja Bihani (New Name) Vide An Affidavit No 16 Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 06/02/2026, Pooja Bihant And Pooja Nitten Bihani Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.

NAME CHANGE
I, Vijay Kumar Poddar, S/o.- Lt. Jodhi Poddar, R/o.- Aswani Nagar Rajarhat Gopalpur(M), 24 Pgs (N)-7000159, WB, that my actual name has been wrongly recorded in my son's birth certificate as **Vijay Poddar**, vide Affidavit No. 2356 dtd. 03.02.2026, before the Ld.1st Class Judicial Magistrate at Kolkata, That, Vijay Kumar Poddar & Vijay Poddar, both are same person, not different person.

NAME CHANGE
I, KALPONA KUNDU (Old Name), W/o- BISWANATH KUNDU, R/o- VIII, + P.O.- Dhalitha, P.S.-Basirhat, North 24 Pgs., PIN- 743412. Have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as KALPANA KUNDU (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public Affidavit No. 363, Basirhat Court dt. 06-02-2026. KALPONA KUNDU (Old Name) and KALPANA KUNDU (New Name) both are same and identical person.

NAME CHANGE
I, BISHWANATH KUNDU (Old Name), S/o.- LT NANIGOPAL KUNDU, R/o : VIII, + Post-Dhalitha, P.S.-Basirhat, North 24 Pgs. Have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as BISWANATH KUNDU (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public affidavit no. 362, Basirhat Court dt. 06-02-2026. BISHWANATH KUNDU (Old Name) and BISWANATH KUNDU (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
ABUL QAIS, son of late Noorul Hoda, residing at 18/1/13, Girish Vidya Ratnya lane, PS Amherst Street , Kolkata- 700009, do hereby solemnly affirm and declare ABUL QAIS is my real name recorded in my Voter Identity card vide epic No. YMQ2901288, issued by the authority of election commission of India, Aadhaar card vide No. 5702 7478 8104, issued by the authority of unique identification, Govt of India, PAN card vide No/ AASPQ46840, issued by the Authority of Income Tax Department, Govt of India, Passport vide No-T8707460, issued by the authority of Republic of India. That ABDUL KAIISH was my nick name recorded inmyElectoral Roll -2003 as electoral, vide serial No-223, part No-45, under -84, Manigachi Assembly Constituency, and NOOUL HODA is the real name of my name of father recorded in my aforesaid voter identity card, Aadhaar card, PAN card and Passport but inadvertently the name of my father has been wrongly written as ABU TALIB recorded in the Electoral Roll Manigachi Assembly constituency, Darbhanga, Bihar. By an affidavit before the Ld. Judicial Magistrate 1st Class at Sealbadh on 03.02.2026 that ABUL QAIS and ABDUL KAIISH, NOOUL HODA and ABU TALIB are the same and one identical person.

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.



Following the closure, the location has now been fully secured through the erection of rail posts, effectively preventing unauthorised vehicular movement across the railway track. With the permanent closure of the crossing, the earlier speed restriction 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, as railway safety is a shared responsibility.

Second Single Line Intermediate Block Signalling Commissioned At Punsia Halt In Malda Division

MI News Service, Kolkata,

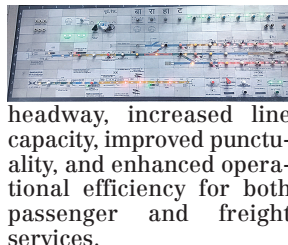
7 Feb.26 : Under the visionary leadership of Milind Deouskar, General Manager, Eastern Railway, and the guidance of Manish Kumar Gupta, Divisional Railway Manager, Malda Division, Eastern Railway has successfully commissioned Single Line Intermediate Block Signalling (IBS) at Punsia Halt on February 6, 2026.

This commissioning marks the second Single Line IBS in Malda Division, following the successful commissioning at Sanjha, and reflects the Division's phased and accelerated adoption of advanced signalling systems.

The IBS has been commissioned in the Barabhat-Tikani section with the objective of optimising block working and enhancing overall operational efficiency.

The commissioning was carried out smoothly without any disruption to train operations.

With the introduction of the new IBS, the long block section has been effectively divided into shorter block sections, resulting in reduced train



headway, increased line capacity, improved punctuality, and enhanced operational efficiency for both passenger and freight services.

Overall, IBS plays a vital role in improving capacity, safety, reliability, and efficiency of train operations without the need for major infrastructure expansion. The system has been equipped with SSBPAC (Solid State Block Proving Axle Counter) along with MSDAC (Multi-Section Digital Axle Counter), ensuring accurate and reliable train detection with enhanced safety and operational reliability. The installation reflects the adoption of modern, fail-safe, and maintenance-friendly signalling technologies.

The commissioning of the Single Line IBS at Punsia Halt further reinforces Malda Division of Eastern Railway's commitment to adopting advanced signalling solutions aimed at enhancing safety, efficiency, and overall operational performance.

Regulation Of Trains For Maintenance Work Over Howrah Division

MI News Service, Kolkata,

7 Feb.26 : In connection with Engineering, Over Head Equipment & Signal maintenance work over Howrah Division, Block has been planned on 08.02.2026. Consequently, following arrangements in train running have been made as under:

Cancellation of trains on 08.02.2026:

• From Howrah: 37249, 37331, 36823, • From Bandel: 37246, 37749, • From Barddhaman: 36834, • From Tarakeswar: 37332, • From Katwa: 37748, Moreover, 53009 Katwa – Azimganj passenger will be controlled enroute by 30 minutes.

SBI Mutual Fund launches Inves Tap Nxt

MI News Service, Kolkata:

SBI Mutual Fund (SBIMF) announced the launch of InvesTap Nxt, a next generation of its digital investment platform. The launch follows the recent introduction of SBIMF's AI-powered WhatsApp chat companion called "SmartAssist", which has now been enhanced and integrated into InvesTap Nxt.

Powered by advanced

AI, conversational investment journeys, and Wealth Index via Account Aggregator (AA) integration, InvesTap Nxt provides investors with a clearer and more personalised view of their financial portfolios. The platform delivers easy to understand insights and enables users to access their consolidated financial information across products and institutions, all within a secure, consent based framework.

A more intuitive and friendly investing experience with your personal AI assistant InvesTap Nxt introduces a conversational interface that enables investors to ask questions, explore investment options, and track portfolio performance in a simple and intuitive manner.

"With InvesTap Nxt, we are moving beyond transactions to meaningful financial conversations," said Nand Kishore, Managing Director & CEO, SBI Mutual Fund. The platform gives the investor a full perspective to make more insightful decisions. It supports guided journeys for product discovery with natural language capabilities.

A key feature of InvesTap Nxt is its integration with India's Account Aggregator ecosystem.

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 Vaishnaw, 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.

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 become an instant hit.



The Onboard Culinary Experience :
• Main Course: Fragrant Peas Pulao, crispy Bhaji, and traditional Bhaja Moong Dal.
• The Signature Choice: Fluffy Parathas served with either a delicate Chanar Dalna (for veg lovers) or a robust, spicy Chicken Kadai.

• The Sweet Finish: No Bengali meal is complete without Kheer Kadam, providing a sweet end to a world-class journey. This initiative highlights how deeply Indian Railways values the food habits of the people of West Bengal. The feedback has been overwhelming, with passengers praising the "extra feather in the crown" of a train that already leads the nation in comfort and safety.

A Vision for "Sonar Bangla"
The progress does not stop here. In a 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 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 (Deogarh), 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 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 (Prafulla), 8287930484 (Subhasree), 8287930032 (Abhishek), 8595931047 (Monika) and 8882826357 (Praneet).

FM proposes one-time measure to facilitate sales from SEZs to domestic mkt

MI News Service, New Delhi:

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Sunday proposed a special one-time measure to facilitate sales by eligible manufacturing units in special economic (SEZs) to the domestic tariff area at concessional rates of duty.

It was a demand from the industry as they were facing issues related to utilization of capacities in the SEZ units due to high tariffs

in the US. "To address the concerns arising about utilization of capacities by manufacturing units in the SEZs due to global trade disruptions, I propose, as a special one-time measure, to facilitate sales by eligible manufacturing units in SEZs to the DTA at concessional rates of duty," she said in her Budget speech.

The quantity of such sales will be limited to a prescribed proportion of their

exports. She said that necessary regulatory changes will be undertaken to operationalise these measures while ensuring level-playing field for the units working in the DTA.

The industry had earlier requested the Centre to permit them sale of products manufactured in SEZs in the domestic market on payment of duty foregone on inputs as that would help promote value addition.

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 (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 (Rs)	Name of Branch
1.	Borrower Abhishek Sarkar & (Guarantor) Abhishek Sarkar & Sumita Sarkar & (Mortgagor) Sumita Sarkar/ Represented By Proprietor Abhishek Sarkar Anandanagar, Chokrobarty South Dipanker Day & Alindra Bibeekananda Club West Bengal Jalpaiguri- 735224/ 262105001976	L.R. Dag No 7615, R.S. Dag No 3943, L.R. Khatian No. 2479 & 2480, J.L. No. 38, Mouza Bangkandi, Touzi No. 84, Pargana Dakshin Maynaguri, Thana, Bhumi Sanskar Kendra & A.D.S.R.O. Maynaguri, District Jalpaiguri, West Bengal, Owned By Sumita Sarkar (Admeasuring an area of 9 Decimol) North: Residence of Late Rukhal Chakraborty South: Dipanker Day & Alindra Chakraborty East: Residence of Shih Prasad Bagchi West: 12 Feet Wide Pakka Road/ Date of Symbolic: 04/02/2026	27/10/2025 & Rs. 46,21,564.00/-	Jalpaiguri

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: Jalpaiguri

Sincerely Authorised Officer
For ICICI Bank Ltd.

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			63591 Bokaro Steel City-Asansol MEMU		
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	Muradih	a/d	18.25/18.26	
07.45/07.46	a/d	Ramkanail	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	JoychandiPahar	a/d	18.00/18.01	
08.14/08.15	a/d	Gardhrubeswar	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	Chharrah	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	Garjajpur	a/d	16.18/16.19	
10.24/10.25	a/d	Damrugrhuat	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	Radhagaon	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 Vemareddy 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.

Vemareddy 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, Vemareddy 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.



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 (I&FC), 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 pedestri-

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 noticed must be submitted to the Chief Secretary’s office within three days.

The Chief Minister has made it unequivocally clear that any violation, laxity or non-compliance with these instructions will be viewed seriously. In the event of any accident, injury or loss of life attributable to negligence, strict disciplinary action will be initiated against responsible officers and agencies in accordance with rules, in addition to any other legal action that may be warranted.

All departments have also been directed to immediately issue instructions to subordinate offices, field officials and executing agen-

cies and to ensure regular monitoring and strict enforcement of these safety measures at all work sites.

“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 passersby 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.

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

MI News Service, Patna: Union Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijju 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, Rijju 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,” Rijju said to the reporters.

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

“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?” Rijju said.

Earlier today, Rahul Gandhi, in a post on X, wrote, “Standing firmly as the voice for justice for this daughter was fellow MP Pappu Yadav ji. His arrest today is clearly an act of political vendetta, aimed at intimidating and silencing every voice that demands accountability.”

“The suspicious death of an aspirant student for NEET in Patna under mysterious circumstances, and the entire sequence of actions that followed, have once again exposed the deep rot in the system. When the victim’s family demanded a fair investigation and justice, the same old BJP-NDA playbook came into play—derail the case, harass the family, and shield the culprits with the power of the state,” he said.

Rahul Gandhi expressed concern over the increased crime against women and criticised the government’s tendency to “sit with eyes shut to this horrifying reality.”

“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

not politics; it is a question of justice. It is a question of the honour and safety of Bihar’s daughters,” he 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 Sanhita. 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 Purnea MP Pappu Yadav will be heard on Monday, his Advocate Shivanandan 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, Rijju dismissed the criticism.

“When the details are known, the Congress party’s mouths will be locked (silenced),” Rijju said.

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

documents, corroboration of electronic data onboard the suspect vessels, and interrogation of crew members, ICG specialist boarding teams established the chain of events and the modus operandi of the smugglers.

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.

On February 5, ICG specialist teams boarded the vessels

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 vessels are likely to be escorted to Mumbai for further investigation and handed over to Indian Customs and other law enforcement agencies for necessary legal action.

The Indian Coast Guard said the operation, initiated through digital surveillance and enforced by its expanding maritime presence, once again underscores India’s role as a net provider of maritime safety and an enforcer of the international rules-based order.

Nij Narajole Gram Panchayat
Under Daspur-I Dev. Block
Harirajpur, Daspur, Paschim Medinipur

Notice Inviting e-Tender
e-Tender is invited for execution of 2 Nos. development work under 15th CFC Tied Fund vide e-Tender No.: **WBPMID/NGP/INT-17/2025-26**, Date : **06.02.2026**. Bid Submission Start Date (Online): **07.02.2026 at 06.00 P.M.** Bid Submission Closing Date (Online): **14.02.2026 up to 06.55 P.M.** Bid Opening Date (Online): **17.02.2026 at 11.00 A.M.** For all other details visit website www.wbtenders.gov.in and undersigned G.P. office.
Sd/-
Pradhan
Nij Narajole Gram Panchayat

Nischinda Gram Panchayat
Bally, Howrah

Re E-TENDER INVITING NOTICE
Re-Electronic Tenders are hereby invited from the bonafied and resourceful bidders for development works vide e-NIT No.- **16**, **Sl. No.- 2-3, 16**, **Sl. No.- 5, 16**, **Sl. No.- 14, 16**, **Sl. No.- 16- 2nd Call**, Published Date: **06/02/2026**. Date of Closing : **16/02/2026**. Date of Opening: **18.02.2026**. Details are available in <https://wbtenders.gov.in> & <https://etender.wb.nic.in> and Office Notice Board.
Sd/-
Pradhan
Nischinda Gram Panchayat

“ CONTRACT AT AF STN SALUA 2026-27”
The Station Commander, Air Force Station Salua invites sealed tenders to run the following contract at Air Force Station Salua for the period from **01 Mar 26 to 28 Feb 27** (The same may be renewed another term of **two years** on the basis of satisfactory performances). Interested persons may apply. (Ex-servicemen will be given priority).

Name of Contract & Monthly reserved rebate (Rs)	
1. Barber Shop : 1500+ Rent & Allied, 2. RO Plant : 2250+ Rent & Allied, 3. Photocopy and electrical / electronic repair Shop : 2500+ Rent & Allied, 4. Scrap Vendor : 1650/- (No Rent & Allied with no space provide), 5. Cable TV Operator & Broadband Connection : 4500/- (No Rent & Allied with no space provide), 6. Waste food collector : 5000/- (No Rent & Allied with no space provide)	
2. Tender forms will be available at SI Office, AF Stn Salua from 09 Feb 26 to 13 Feb 26 at a cost of Rs. 200/- on all working days between 0900hrs to 1300hrs. Sealed tenders are to be deposited in the tender box available at Sub guard room latest by cease work on 19 Feb 26 (R) 19 Feb 26. Concerned Tenders / Bidders are invited to witness the opening of sealed tenders by the board of Officers on 20 Feb 26 at 1200hrs.	
3. Successful bidders will have deposit security towards the payment of electricity and water charges, which would be equal to a minimum of three months' rebate. Sd/- Senior Administrative officer, Air Force Station, Salua	

REGULATION OF TRAINS FOR MAINTENANCE WORK OVER HOWRAH DIVISION

For engineering, overhead equipment and Signal & Telecommunication maintenance work in different sections of Howrah Division, Block will be required at day time on 08.02.2026 (Sunday). Consequently, the following trains will be regulated as under :

● Cancellation on 08.02.2026 (Sunday) : (1) From Howrah - 37249, 37331, 36823. (2) From Bandel - 37246, 37749. (3) From Bardhaman- 36834. (4) From Tarakeswar - 37332. (5) From Katwa - 37748. ● Rescheduling on 08.02.2026 (Sunday) : 53009 Katwa-Azinganj Passenger train will be controlled for 30 minutes enroute.

Special Note : Special or Late Running trains & any further newly introduced train/passenger trains/TOD during the block period, if any, will be controlled/diverted suitably enroute. Passengers are requested to follow the Public Address System of Stations. Inconvenience is regretted.

Divisional Railway Manager, Howrah
EASTERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice

The sealed tenders are invited from the agencies for the NIT no NIT REF NO-36/ CH-II B D O / 2 0 2 5 - 2 6 D T. 05.02.2026(Tender ID:- 2026_ZPHD_5011014_1 to 10), for more details please log into www.tenders.wb.gov.in or contact with office of the Chanditala II Development Block.

Sd/-
Block Development Officer
Chanditala-II Development Officer
Chanditala: Hooghly

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: L65190G1994PLC021012, 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.	Sk Md Basir./ Allauddin Sekh/ Dainhat, Paikpara Dainhat, M. Paikpara, Block Land & Land Reform Office Katwa, Thana Chowki And Registry Office Katwa, District Burdwan, West Bengal (Acquiring An Area Of 9 1/2 Satak (Acre): Same Day Purchaser Mohammad Sekh South: Gopal Saha East: Kshitinath Bhattacharjee West: Road/ Date of symbolic 03/02/2026	Dag No. 259, Khatian No. 79, J.L. No. 92, Touzi No. 10, P.o. Dainhat, Mouza Paikpara, Block Land & Land Reform Office Katwa, Thana Chowki And Registry Office Katwa, District Burdwan, West Bengal (Acquiring An Area Of 9 1/2 Satak (Acre): Same Day Purchaser Mohammad Sekh South: Gopal Saha East: Kshitinath Bhattacharjee West: Road/ Date of symbolic 03/02/2026	October 28, 2025 Rs. 40,99,428.00/-	Burdwan

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: Burdwan

Sincerely Authorised Officer
For ICICI Bank Ltd.

SBI STATE BANK OF INDIA, Stressed Assets Recovery Branch, (SARB) Pune : Vardhaman Building, 2nd Flr, Seven Loves Chowk, Shankarsheth Road, Pune- 42. Ph:020 - 26446043/44 Email : sbi.10151@sbi.co.in.

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/ charged to the Secured Creditor, the Physical Possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of State Bank of India, the Secured Creditor, will be sold on “As is Where is”, “As is What is” and “Whatever there is” basis on 26.02.2026 12:00 to 26.02.2026 16:00 for recovery respective amount, due to the State Bank of India (Secured Creditor) from the respective Borrower(s) and the Guarantor(s) as specified here under:

Name of Borrower(s)	Total dues for recovery	Description of the immovable properties	Reserve Price (in Rs.)	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) (in Rs.)	Date & Time for inspection of the properties
Mr.Arindam Bhattacharyya Address: B-38, Bondipur Road, Near Agrani Club, Mistripara, Kolkata 70, 700 070.	Rs. 18,43,274.00 (Rupees Eighteen Lakh Forty Three Thousand Two Hundred Seventy Four Only) as on 02.03.2023 with further interest incidental expenses, and costs etc. thereon	Property ID: SBIN101510520252 All that piece and parcel of property bearing 2 BHK Flat no. 301 admeasuring 38.55 Sq Mtrs i.e. 415 Sq. Ft. on 3rd floor, building no A-12, Xrbia Hinjewadi, Survey No. 38/2, 38/3, 39, 56 & 57, sanctioned layout Plot no. 22 to 29 & R-29, Mauje Dattawadi (Nere), Taluka Mulshi, District : Pune : 410506 Possession: Physical	Rs 13,40,000.00 (Rupees Thirteen Lakh Forty Thousand Only)	Rs 1,34,000.00 (Rupees One Lakh Thirty Four Thousand Only)	From 14.02.2026 12:00:00 To 14.02.2026 16:00:00

The e-auction will be conducted through Bank’s approved service provider M/s SISL Infotech Pvt. Ltd. at their web portal <https://baanknet.com>. The interested bidders shall ensure that they get themselves registered on the e-auction website and deposit earnest money in the virtual wallet created by service provider as per guidelines provided on <https://baanknet.com>.

The interested bidders who require assistance in creating Login ID & Password, uploading data, submitting Bid documents, Trainings/ Demonstration, Terms & conditions on online Inter-se Bidding etc., may visit the website <https://baanknet.com>.

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in State Bank of India, the Secured Creditor’s website <https://www.sbi.co.in/> and website <https://baanknet.com>.

Statutory Notice under Rule 8(6) of the SARFAESI Act : This is also a notice to the Borrower/Guarantor of the above loan under Rule 8(6) of the SARFAESI Act 2002 about holding of Auction for the sale of secured assets on above mentioned date.

Enquiry: Yashraj Enterprises, Mob. No. 9527212229, Abhay D Somkuwar, Chief Manager, Mob. No. 8275130684, Pravin Dalvi, Mob. No. 9881110809, Date : 08.02.2026 Place : Pune

Sd/- Authorized Officer
State Bank of India

EASTERN RAILWAY

NOTICE INVITING AUCTION

E-Auction Notice No. COM/CATG/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 - 711011 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.ireps.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.; 0; 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.**

Tender Notice is also available at websites : www.eer.indianrailways.gov.in / www.ireps.gov.in

Follow us at : @EasternRailway @easternrailwayheadquarter



Working with India in war on drugs : US

New York : In a major collaboration with Indian law enforcement in the war on drugs, US authorities have cracked down on online drug-traffickers linked to the country who are allegedly responsible for six overdose deaths in the US.

The US Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) said that they arrested four people in the US and seized 200 websites linked to a "transnational criminal organisation" (TCO) based in India during "Operation Meltdown".

"Leveraging its global reach, DEA actively collaborates with our Government of India law enforcement partners to identify, investigate, and dismantle dangerous criminal organisations that engage in these types of illegal drug trafficking operations," the agency said.

DEA Administrator Terrance Cole, announcing the crackdown, said: "This case demonstrates how foreign-based traffickers exploit our healthcare system, hide behind the internet, and use people inside the United States to move dangerous drugs under the guise of legitimate commerce."

The DEA and the US prosecutor's office for Eastern New York, based in Brooklyn, said they seized the websites, which they said were made to look like genuine pharmacy sites but were dispensing drugs illegally.

The DEA said that it had identified thousands of customers who used these online pharmacies, and it has sent more than 20,000 letters to the public requesting information in support of this ongoing investigation. dangerous drugs under the



President Donald Trump had made the war on illegal drugs, particularly fentanyl, a key goal. According to the US government, 73,000 people died of drug overdose in the US during the 12-month period ending in August. Trump threatened China, the major source of precursor chemicals for making fentanyl, with tariffs and other punitive actions.

guise of legitimate commerce."

The TCO, which the officials did not identify, had been under investigation since 2022 by the DEA field office in Colorado, the agency said.

Following that up, DEA field offices across the US conducted several raids from January 27, arresting the four people, who were also not identified, it said.

The DEA said that it also issued five

Immediate Suspension Orders (ISO) and one Order to Show Cause (OTSC) against the "pharmacies" that may have had some form of DEA registration. According to the DEA, the "online pharmacies" that it took down had US website addresses and professional-looking designs to falsely make them appear legitimate.

The counterfeit medications they dispensed "are often made with fentanyl or methamphetamine and taking them can lead to serious health risks, including harmful side effects, ineffective treatment, and even death", it said.

Investigators found that the online pharmacies and their co-conspirators illegally dispensed and shipped diverted medications, without valid prescriptions, to customers throughout the US, violating the Controlled Substances Act, the DEA said.

Through these operations, the drug traffickers were "dangerously infiltrating a closed system of distribution intended to keep patients safe" by requiring doctors' prescriptions, it said.

President Donald Trump had made the war on illegal drugs, particularly fentanyl, a key goal. According to the US government, 73,000 people died of drug overdose in the US during the 12-month period ending in August. Trump threatened China, the major source of precursor chemicals for making fentanyl, with tariffs and other punitive actions.

He said that involvement in drug trafficking was a major reason for removing Venezuela's former President, Nicolas Maduro.

Fake mental hospitals, insurance scam showcases China's struggle with ageing population



New Delhi/Beijing : Rise in fake mental hospitals, and insurance scams in China shines a spotlight on how the country is struggling to deal with its ageing population, according to a media report. The Diplomat reported a recent scam where private psychiatric hospitals were admitting patients on false pretenses to defraud the government out of vast quantities of medical funds.

Citing the Beijing News, the report noted dozens of psychiatric hospitals in Xiangyang and Yichang cities, which offer inpatient hospitalisation either for a small fee or for free.

This comes as treatment in China is usually covered by medical insurance programmes, where patients would generally be expected to pay at least a certain percentage of the cost of their treatment.

However, an undercover reporter recorded treatments worth about 140 yuan per day per patient and claimed reimbursement for most of that from government-run medical insurance. While some of these scam hospitals only had a few patients,

some had well over 100. The patients were mainly alcoholics and elderly people drawn in by the prospect of free food and shelter. In addition, the reporter found poor conditions in the hospitals, with physical and verbal abuse common. Patients were also forced into cleaning the hospital, bathing other patients, and performing other menial work.

Importantly, some hospitals also made it hard for patients to leave once they had been admitted, and it could stretch for years.

"This highlights the limitations of China's current elder care system, which assumes that the vast majority of elderly people will be cared for at home, by their families," the report said.

"Many of the elderly people recruited for the scam came from rural areas, where pensions are particularly tiny, and government services are weaker. Moreover, countless villages have been hollowed out as working-age people seek work elsewhere, leaving many rural elderly isolated from their families," the report said.

Study sheds light on antibiotic resistance, fitness landscapes



NEW MEXICO [US] : According to a recent study published in Science, E. coli bacteria may be significantly more capable of acquiring antibiotic resistance than scientists previously assumed.

Led by SFI External Professor Andreas Wagner, the researchers experimentally mapped more than 260,000 possible mutations of an E. coli protein that is essential for the bacteria's survival when exposed to the antibiotic trimethoprim.

Over the course of thousands of highly realistic digital simulations, the researchers then found that 75% of all possible evolutionary paths of the E. coli protein ultimately endowed the bacteria with such a high level of antibiotic resistance that a clinician would no longer give the antibiotic trimethoprim to a patient.

"In essence, this study suggests that bacteria like E. coli may be more adept at evolving resistance to antibiotics than we initially thought, and this has broader implications for understanding how various

never reach the pinnacle of evolutionary adaptation.

However, testing this theory has been exceedingly difficult until now due to the lack of experimental data on sufficiently large fitness landscapes.

To address this challenge, Wagner and colleagues used CRISPR gene editing technology to create one of the most combinatorially complete fitness landscapes to date for the E. coli dihydrofolate reductase (DHFR) protein.

What they found was surprising. The landscape had many peaks, but most were of low fitness, making them less interesting for adaptation. However, even in this rugged landscape, about 75% of the populations they simulated reached high fitness peaks, which would grant E. coli high antibiotic resistance.

The real-world implications are significant. If rugged landscapes like this are common in biological systems, it could mean that many adaptive processes, such as antibiotic resistance, may be more accessible than previously thought.

The result could ultimately lead to a re-evaluation of theoretical models in various fields and prompt further research into how real-world landscapes impact evolutionary processes.

"This has profound implications not only in biology but beyond, prompting us to reevaluate our understanding of landscape evolution across various fields," Wagner says. "We need to shift from abstract theoretical models to data-informed, realistic landscape models."

Poor eating choices are linked to poor mental health, risk of diabetes: Study

WASHINGTON DC : People with diabetes (Diabetes Mellitus) are two to three times more likely to suffer from depression than those who do not, according to the Centres for Disease Control.

Therapy, medicine, or both are currently available as treatment options. The scientific understanding of the multidimensional interplay between food, mental health, and diabetes, on the other hand, is still in its early phases.

The Mason researchers wanted to discover more about the relationship between nutrition, diabetes, and mental health.

According to two literature studies conducted by assistant professor Raedeh Basiri, poor nutrition plays a dual role in both the likelihood of acquiring Type 2 diabetes and the impact on mental health, including anxiety and sadness.

According to the findings, mental problems like depression and anxiety raise the likelihood of having Type 2 diabetes, and diabetes raises the risk of developing depression and anxiety. Nutritional therapies can help with both of these health problems.

"Our findings underscore the pivotal role of dietary choices in reducing the risks associated with both diabetes and mental health. The implications of these findings extend beyond the scientific community, as they hold promise for informing public health policies, health care practices, and dietary recommendations that can positively impact the general population, said Basiri, the lead author of the papers. "Ultimately, the research seeks to empower individuals to make informed and health-promoting dietary choices that can serve as a proactive strategy for the prevention and management of diabetes, as well as anxiety and depression," Basiri said. More specifically, the team's findings provide a comprehensive view of the relationship between dietary patterns, health outcomes, and the critical role of eating behaviour in the context of Type 2 diabetes and mental health. The team found that eating foods rich in fresh fruits and vegetables, whole grains, lean protein, and low-fat dairy is associated with a reduced risk of Type 2 diabetes and mental health disorders such as depression and anxiety. Conversely, a diet with a large number of processed foods was found to have a negative effect, increasing the susceptibility to type 2 diabetes, depression, and anxiety. Additionally, the research team found that a diet with energy-dense foods but lacking in essential nutrients, such as omega-3 fatty acids, vitamin D, vitamin E, vitamin B6, vitamin B12, folate, selenium, chromium, and magnesium, is associated.

Research reveals how plants determine where light is coming from

WASHINGTON DC [US] : Plants lack visual organs, so how do they know where light comes from? In an original study combining expertise in biology and engineering, the team led by Prof Christian Fankhauser at UNIL, in collaboration with colleagues at EPFL, discovered that a light-sensitive plant tissue uses the optical properties of the interface between air and water to generate a light gradient that is 'visible' to the plant.

These results have been published in the journal Science.

The majority of living organisms (micro-organisms, plants and animals) have the ability to determine the origin of a light source, even in the absence of a sight organ comparable to the eye. This information is invaluable for orienting oneself or optimal positioning in the environment. Perceiving where light is coming from is particularly important for plants, which use this information to position their organs, a phenomenon known as phototropism. This enables them to capture more of the sun's rays, which they then convert into chemical energy through the process of photosynthesis, a vital process which is necessary for the production of nearly all of the food we eat. Although the photoreceptor that initiates phototropism has long been known, the optical properties of photosensitive plant tissue have until now remained a mystery. A multidisciplinary study published in Science, combining the expertise of the teams of DrSc. Christian Fankhauser (full professor and director of the Integrative Genomics Centre in the Faculty of Biology and Medicine at UNIL), DrSc. Andreas Schuler (head of the Nanotechnology for Solar Energy Conversion group at EPFL's Solar Energy and Building Physics Laboratory) and UNIL's Electron Microscopy Centre uncovered.

Neeraj Pandey Issues Statement on Ghooskhor Pandat

Filmmaker Neeraj Pandey has clarified that Ghooskhor Pandat is a fictional cop drama and that the term "Pandat" is used only as a colloquial name for a fictional character. He stated that the film focuses on an individual's actions and choices and does not represent or comment on any caste, religion, or community. Emphasising his responsibility as a storyteller, Pandey said the film was made with sincere intent and solely for entertainment. Acknowledging that the title has hurt some viewers, he said the concerns are understood and respected. In response, the makers have decided to temporarily withdraw all promotional materials, maintaining that the film should be viewed in full and in its proper narrative context rather than through partial previews. Pandey added that he looks forward to sharing the film with audiences soon.



NSE Board Outcome on Upcoming IPO

Patna : The National Stock Exchange (NSE) has strengthened its IPO governance framework with the reconstitution of a dedicated IPO Committee to oversee and guide the listing process, as part of its preparations for an upcoming public offering. The reconstituted IPO Committee will be chaired by Shri Tablesh Pandey, Non-Independent Director. Other members include Shri Srinivas Injeti, Prof. (Dr.) Mamata Biswal, Justice (Retd.) Smt. Abhilasha Kumari and Prof. G. Sivakumar, all Public Interest Directors, along with Shri Ashishkumar Chauhan, Managing

Director and CEO of NSE. In a separate key decision, the NSE Board has approved the incorporation of a wholly owned subsidiary to establish a coal exchange, subject to regulatory approvals. The proposed entity may be named National Coal Exchange, Bharat Coal Exchange or India Coal Exchange, as cleared by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs. The move aligns with the proposed Coal Regulations, 2025, notified by the Ministry of Coal. The Board has also approved a capital infusion of up to Rs 100 crore in the proposed coal exchange subsidiary.

Our sense of taste helps us pace our eating: Study

CALIFORNIA [US] : It has been generally held that when you eagerly dig into a long-awaited dinner, signals from your stomach to your brain keep you from eating so much you'll regret it. A team of scientists at UC San Francisco recently decided to test the theory and the picture, it turns out, is a little different.

The team, led by Zachary Knight, PhD, a UCSF professor of physiology in the Kavli Institute for Fundamental Neuroscience, discovered that it's our sense of taste that pulls us back from the brink of food inhalation on a hungry day.

Stimulated by the perception of flavour, a set of neurons - a type of brain cell - moves into action to curtail our food intake.

"We've uncovered a logic the brainstem uses to control how fast and how much we eat, using two different kinds of signals, one coming from the mouth, and one coming much later from the gut," said Knight, who is also an investigator with the Howard Hughes Medical Institute and a member of the UCSF Weill Institute for Neurosciences. "This discovery gives us a new framework to

understand how we control our eating." The study was published in Nature.

It could help reveal exactly how weight-loss drugs like Ozempic work, and how to make them more effective.

Pavlov proposed over a century ago that the sight, smell and taste of food are important for regulating digestion. More recent studies in the 1970s and 1980s have also suggested that the taste of food may restrain how fast we eat, but it's been impossible to study the relevant brain activity during eating because the brain cells that control this process are located deep in the brainstem, making them hard to access or record in an animal that's awake.

New techniques developed by lead author Truong Ly, PhD, a graduate student in Knight's lab, allowed for the first-ever imaging and recording of a brainstem structure critical for feeling full, called the nucleus of the solitary tract, or NTS, in an awake, active mouse. He used those techniques to look at two types of neurons that have been known for decades to have a role in food intake. The team found that when they



put food directly into the mouse's stomach, brain cells called PRLH (for prolactin-releasing hormone) were activated by nutrient signals sent from the GI tract, in line with traditional thinking

and the results of prior studies. However, when they allowed the mice to eat the food as they normally would, those signals from the gut didn't show up. Instead, the PRLH brain cells

switched to a new activity pattern that was entirely controlled by signals from the mouth.

"It was a total surprise that these cells were activated by the perception of taste," said Ly. "It shows that there are other components of the appetite-control system that we should be thinking about."

While it may seem counterintuitive for our brains to slow eating when we're hungry, the brain is actually using the taste of food in two different ways at the same time. One part is saying, "This tastes good, eat more," and another part is watching how fast you're eating and saying, "Slow down or you're going to be sick." "The balance between those is how fast you eat," said Knight.

The activity of the PRLH neurons seems to affect how palatable the mice found the food, Ly said. That meshes with our human experience that food is less appetizing once you've had your fill of it.

The PRLH-neuron-induced slowdown also makes sense in terms of timing. The taste of food triggers these neurons to

switch their activity in seconds, from keeping tabs on the gut to responding to signals from the mouth.

Meanwhile, it takes many minutes for a different group of brain cells, called CGC neurons, to begin responding to signals from the stomach and intestines. These cells act over much slower time scales - tens of minutes - and can hold back hunger for a much longer period of time.

"Together, these two sets of neurons create a feed-forward, feedback loop," said Knight. "One is using taste to slow things down and anticipate what's coming. The other is using a gut signal to say, 'This is how much I really ate. Ok, I'm full now!'" The CGC brain cells' response to stretch signals from the gut is to release GLP-1, the hormone mimicked by Ozempic, Wegovy and other new weight-loss drugs.

These drugs act on the same region of the brainstem that Ly's technology has finally allowed researchers to study. "Now we have a way of teasing apart what's happening in the brain that makes these drugs work," he said.



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 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-

ected. 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.

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 Suwendu 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. 1Sp/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 neighbour-



ing 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.

According to a formal White House presidential executive order, titled, "Modifying duties to address threats to the United States by the government of the Russian Federation," President Donald Trump said, "India has committed to stop directly or indirectly importing Russian Federation oil, has represented that it will purchase United States energy 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."

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 to "protect its national security."

Later in 2025, the US determined that the emergency was ongoing and that Russia posed a seri-



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.

Effective from 12:01 am EST on February 7, "products of India imported into the United States shall no longer be subject to the additional ad valorem rate of duty of 25 percent," the President confirmed.

The President stated that the White House will monitor "whether India resumes directly or indi-

rectly importing Russian Federation oil." Trump also said that if the US Secretary of Commerce finds that India has resumed the import of Russian oil, multiple departments of the state will come together to advise the President on the action to be taken against India, "including whether I should reimpose the additional ad valorem rate of duty of 25 percent on imports of articles of India."

The Congress on Saturday, Friday 7, took a swipe at Prime Minister Narendra Modi over the interim trade agreement with the US, claiming the deal is against India's interests, and that all the "huglomancy and photo-ops" have not amounted to much.

Slamming the government, the Opposition party cited a White House release which said the US will now monitor whether India is importing oil from Russia, and said, "Naam Narendar, Kaam Surrender."

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 Zelenskyy says.

In remarks to reporters released by his office, Zelenskyy 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 humanitarian 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 Hospi-

tal 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 handcuffed and blindfolded returnees, threatened and intimidated them, conducted searched and stole personal belongings and money," said the OHCHR. "Upon arrival at the Israeli checkpoint, returnees described violence, degrading interrogations, and invasive body searches."



Pir Abdullah Siddiqui of Furfura Darbar Sharif has passed away. Following his demise, his only son, Pirzada Shaban Siddiqui, was met at Furfura on Friday by Furfura Development Authority Chairman and Saptagram MLA Tapan 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 Isaal-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, Tapan Dasgupta said that had he 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.

Talks with U.S. in Muscat "a good start," both sides agree to continue negotiations – Iranian FM

MI News Service, Muscat: The indirect talks between Iran and the United States in Oman's Muscat were "a good start," with both sides agreeing to continue negotiations in the future, Iran's Fars News Agency reported Friday, citing Iranian Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi.



Noting that the talks took place in "a positive atmosphere," Araghchi, heading the Iranian delegation, told reporters after the hours-long talks that the two sides will first hold consultations back in their capitals, and then decide how and when it will be regarding the next round of talks.

Meanwhile, according to a report by Iran's official news agency IRNA, Araghchi said the Friday talks focused solely on the nuclear issues, and that Tehran did not discuss "any other topics" with Washington.

The Iranian delegation had pointed out in the talks that refraining from threat and pressure is the prerequisite for any dialogue, Araghchi said, adding that Iran expects that this point "definitely be observed to prepare the ground for the talks' continuation." Also, Iran's state-run IRIB TV, quoting Araghchi as saying, reported that Omani Foreign Minister Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi held several meetings with the Iranian and U.S. delegations, help-

ing the two sides exchange their viewpoints.

The "very deep distrust" between Washington and Tehran formed in the past posed "a very big challenge to the negotiations, and we firstly have to overcome the pervading atmosphere of distrust and then, be able to design the framework for a new dialogue capable of safeguarding the Iranian people's interests," Araghchi noted.

Following the talks, Al Busaidi, the Omani foreign minister, wrote a statement on social media platform X, calling the talks "very serious" and "useful." The discussions helped clarify each side's position and identify potential areas for progress, he said, adding that the parties "aim to reconvene in due course, with the results to be considered carefully in Tehran and Washington."

Earlier in the day, IRIB TV reported that the talks ended "for now" in Muscat, and that the two delegations may return home, whereas Iran's Mehr News Agency reported that Iran rejected a "zero enrichment" demand during the talks.

The two sides centered on the dilution of Iran's existing uranium stockpile, Mehr reported, adding that the atmosphere of the talks was "more serious" than the previous rounds of talks between the two sides.

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 Tehran and Washington 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

rounds. Shortly after the talks concluded in Oman, the United States announced new sanctions aimed at curbing Iran's oil exports, targeting 14 vessels.

U.S. State Department spokesman Tommy Pigott said U.S. President Donald Trump remained committed to reducing Iran's oil and petrochemical exports under Washington's "maximum pressure" campaign.

Al Busaidi, the Omani foreign minister, described the discussions on social media as "very serious" and "useful." The Egyptian Foreign

Ministry said Egypt fully supports the renewed negotiations, stressing that "there are no military solutions" and that dialogue remains the only viable path forward. Cairo called for a constructive environment based on good faith and mutual respect to reach a sustainable settlement of the Iranian nuclear issue.

Saudi Foreign Minister Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud also welcomed the talks, voicing hope they would open a diplomatic path to ease tensions and promote regional stability. Qatar's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said that the country reaffirms its support for all de-escalation efforts, resolving conflicts through diplomatic means, and bolstering peace and regional stability.

Iraq also reiterates its full support for efforts to ease tensions and promote stability and security in the region, based on its belief in the importance of dialogue and diplomacy in resolving disputes, according to a foreign ministry statement.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres also welcomed the resumption of talks, expressing hope they would help reduce tensions and prevent a broader crisis, his spokesman said.

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: Saiteja Mukkamalla, Andries Gous (wk), Monank Patel (capt), Milind Kumar, Sanjay Krishnamurthi, Harmeet Singh, Shubham Ranjane, Mohammad Mohsin, Shadley van Schalkwyk, Saurabh Netravalkar, Ali Khan.



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 Indoor 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 Sudivya 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.

CLARKE LEADS OVERSEAS TEAM, NAGAL SPEAR-HEADS 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 DLTA 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 DLTA 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.



Jemimah joins Harmanpreet, Smriti, Deepti in women's central contracts Grade A: Report

NEW DELHI : All-format skipper Harmanpreet Kaur, star batter Smriti Mandhana and all-rounder Deepti Sharma have been retained in Grade A, while Jemimah Rodrigues has been promoted from Grade B in the women's central contracts, as per reports.

In the topmost category, a player earns Rs 50 lakh annually, while those in the B and C categories are paid Rs 30 lakh and Rs 10 lakh, respectively.

The BCCI has awarded central contracts to 21 players in the women's category, according to a Dainik Jagaran report.

Eight players, Pratika Rawal, Kranti Goud, Shree Charani, Harleen Deol, Kashvee Gautam, G Kamalini, Vaishnavi Sharma and Tejal Hasabnis are the new entrants in the central contract list.

Yastika Bhatia, Radha Yadav, Arundhati Reddy, Amanjot Kaur, Uma Chetry, and Sneha Rana have all retained



their central contracts.

The report stated that Renuka Thakur, Shafali Verma, Richa Ghosh and Sneha Rana have all been slotted in grade B, while grade C includes Radha Yadav, Amanjot Kaur, Pratika Rawal, Kranti Goud, Uma Chetry, Arundhati Reddy, Shree Charani, Yastika Bhatia, Harleen

Asian Rifle/Pistol C'ships: Elavenil wins gold, Shambhavi breaks junior record for top-of-the-podium finish

NEW DELHI : Olympian Elavenil Valarivan narrowly defeated Japan's Misaki Nobata to win gold in the 10m Air Rifle women's event. Meanwhile, Shambhavi Kshirsagar set a new record at the Asian Junior Finals and took gold in the junior category at the Asian Rifle/Pistol Championship 20206, held at the Dr. Karni Singh Shooting Range in New Delhi.

Meghana Sajjanar also made it to the podium with a bronze medal, and along with Manyata Singh and Aneeha Sharma, helped India achieve a clean sweep of the Junior women's medals.

India maintained their dominance in the championship, winning ten gold medals on the fourth day of competition, bringing their total medal count to 43, with 27 gold, 10 silver, and eight bronze. Ojasvi Thakur also earned gold in the women's youth category.

India began the day by dominating the podium in the 50m Men's Pistol event, with former 10m Air Pistol World No 1 Saurabh Chaudhary taking gold. He was followed by Kamaljeet Chaudhary and current World Champion Ravinder Singh, who won silver and bronze, respectively. Additionally, Yogesh Kumar secured gold in the junior category.

Elavenil was in fifth place after two series but gradually moved into the lead by the 18th shot. She maintained her composure to stay at the top, with Nobata Misaki and Meghana close behind. Arya Borse, who was in medal position until the 18th shot, missed out after scoring a low 9.8, followed by two 10.2's.



Nobata finished her finals with two consecutive 10.8s, while Elavenil achieved ten hits averaging 10.6 in the elimination stage, including one 10.9. The Indian team also secured gold with a combined score of 1892.6.

In the Junior finals, Shambhavi set a new Asian Junior record of 253.7, surpassing Isha Anil Taksale's 253.1 from Jakarta in 2024. She started strongly and maintained her lead to win gold, finishing with a four-point margin over Manyata Singh, who scored 249.7. Her last eight shots were 10.7, 10.7, 10.8, 10.8, 10.9, 10.5, 10.9, and 10.7, demonstrating her dominance. Aneeha Sharma

earned bronze with a final score of 227.5. Together, Shambhavi, Aneeha, and Sandrata Roy secured the team gold with a total score of 1884.2.

Ojasvi Thakur secured all the gold medals available for India on that day, winning the Youth category with a final score of 250.4. Sri Lanka's Umaya Ovitigala Withanage took silver, while Yasmin Figila Achadiat earned bronze. Ojasvi also teamed up with Anvii Vikram Rathod and Hrudya Shri Kondur to win the team gold with a score of 1890.6.

Other Results

50m Pistol Men

Gold - Saurabh Chaudhary

(India) - 563-12x

Silver - Kamaljeet Chaudhary

(India) - 561-16x

Bronze - Ravinder Singh (India)

- 559-10x

50m Pistol Men Team

Gold - India

Silver - Uzbekistan

Bronze - Vietnam

50m Pistol Junior Men

Gold - Yogesh Kumar (India) - 557-10x

Silver - Sodikjon Abdullaev (Uzbekistan) - 544-10x

Bronze - Guntajpreet Singh (India) - 542-7x

The medals for the mixed team event in Air Rifle will be awarded on Sunday.

'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 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.

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 (80-kg) in the women's competition. Jadumani Singh (55kg), Mohammed Hussam Uddin (60kg), and Hitesh Gulia (70kg) secured bronze finishes in the men's draw.

