

# The Telegraph



## HITMAN HETMYER

Moving up to No. 3 makes  
WI batter a bigger threat P13



## CHANGING GEARS

Why Anubhav Sinha wants  
to make a comedy I2

## AGE TESTS

And why you need  
to take them P11



30 PAGES

CALCUTTA WEDNESDAY 25 FEBRUARY 2026 ₹ 6.00; with 8 pages Telekids ₹ 8.00

XXCL

www.telegraphindia.com

### IN BRIEF

#### Tata Sons deferment

■ **CALCUTTA:** The board of Tata Sons on Tuesday deferred a decision on the re-appointment of Natarajan Chandrasekaran as chairman for a third term, sources said, signalling potential differences within the holding company. According to the sources, Noel Tata, the chairman of Tata Trusts, has set several conditions for the reappointment of Chandrasekaran. **BUSINESS**

#### Louvre head quits

■ **PARIS:** Laurence des Cars, the first female president of the Louvre Museum, resigned on Tuesday, less than three months after an audacious theft raised thorny questions about security at one of the world's most famous museums.

#### Nod to Kerala

■ **THIRUVANANTHAPURAM:** The Union cabinet on Tuesday approved the Kerala government's proposal to rename the state Kerala. **NATION**

Get judicial staff from Odisha, Jharkhand if needed: SC

## Outside hands for Bengal SIR

OUR BUREAU

**New Delhi:** The Supreme Court on Tuesday told the Calcutta High Court Chief Justice to enlist, if necessary, the services of judicial officers from the neighbouring states of Odisha and Jharkhand for the verification of voter identity so that the post-SIR final rolls of Bengal can be published on February 28.

The apex court passed the direction after receiving a report from Chief Justice Sujoy Paul of the high court that if each of the 250 judicial officers who had been deployed from within Bengal attended to 250 cases per day, it would take another 80 days to dispose of the 50 lakh cases being scrutinised for "logical discrepancies" and those in the "unmapped category".

The top court rejected the Bengal government's apprehension that judicial officers from Odisha and Jharkhand



Poll staff scrutinise documents during an SIR hearing in Birbhum on January 29. (PTI)

may not be conversant with Bengali. The state was represented by senior advocate Kalyan Banerjee.

The bench headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant said the two states were part of the erstwhile Bengal Presidency, and therefore such a problem might not crop up.

The written order passed

by the bench, which included Justice Joymalya Bagchi and Justice Vipul M. Pancholi, said the Calcutta High Court Chief Justice had highlighted the "enormity of the exercise to be undertaken in verification of approximately 50,00,000 cases of 'logical discrepancy' unmapped category".

The Supreme Court took note of the "time constraints" and ordered that the "catchment area of judicial officers" be increased. It passed the following directions:

■ In addition to the judicial officers already assigned the task, the Chief Justice of Calcutta High Court will be entitled to draw officers from the ranks of civil judge (senior division) and civil judge (junior division) having experience of not less than three years. This will ensure that an "adequate and reasonable pool" is created to undertake the pending verification work "on a war footing".

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4 ►

## Aadhaar to stay, fraud grouse for govt: Court

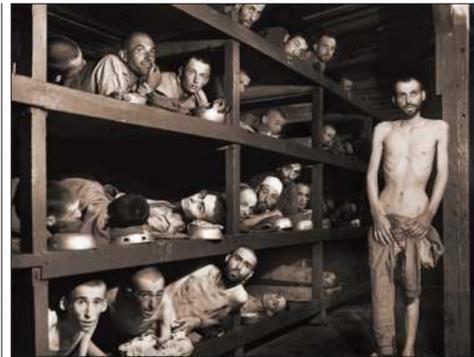
OUR BUREAU

**New Delhi:** The Supreme Court on Tuesday refused to entertain an application seeking to prohibit the use of the Aadhaar card for voter identity verification during the ongoing SIR drive.

The court asked the petitioner, Ashwini Upadhyaya, to approach the Centre with his complaint that fake Aadhaar cards were being issued to Bangladeshis and Rohingya immigrants in the border states, particularly Bengal.

The court asserted that as long as the Aadhaar remained a valid document for proving a person's identity under Section 23 of the Representation of the People Act (RPA), 1950, it cannot be excluded from the SIR. The court, however, made it clear that the Aadhaar cannot be furnished as proof of citizenship.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4 ►



Survivors at the Buchenwald Concentration Camp after being freed by the Allied Forces on April 16, 1945. File picture

## Nazi trackers: Bookbinders

CLAIRE MOSES

**London:** Bookbinders and restorers in the 1930s and '40s used their craft to help the Nazi regime create a database that was used to persecute and kill Jews and others who were deemed racially impure, a British researcher has found.

Key to building this database were church, civil and synagogue records, which were often hundreds of years old and damaged beyond legibility when the Nazis came

to power in 1933.

By tasking professionals with cleaning up these documents, which held information about millions of people, the Nazis gained access to generations' worth of material — which they used to target specific population groups, the new research shows.

The findings are the result of more than two decades of work by Morwenna Blewett, an expert in conservation history.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 ►

## Paved: Road from Veda study to engineering

BASANT KUMAR  
MOHANTY

**New Delhi:** The All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) wants all its approved colleges to treat students from the Vedic education system on a par with their peers from regular school boards for admission to engineering courses.

Many academics wondered whether students from the Vedic education system, whose learning is focused on memorising ancient scriptures and texts, would be able to cope with the rigours of engineering courses. The academics also feared a dilution in the overall standard of technical education because of what they believed was a tendency among private engineering colleges to pass as many students as possible.

Technical education regulator AICTE has written to the vice-chancellors of technical universities, state governments and the heads of nearly 9,000 approved institutions.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6 ►



# ~200 women lose their lives to cervical cancer in India every day.

Speak to your Gynaecologist, Pediatrician or Family Physician  
about HPV-related cancer and disease prevention, including vaccination

Chat to know more



Issued in public interest for awareness only



For most people, HPV clears on its own, But for those who don't clear the virus, it can cause certain cancers and diseases  
The American journal of tropical medicine and hygiene, tpmd250396. 11 Nov. 2025  
National Cancer Registry Programme, India. JCO Global Oncology. 6. 1063-1075.  
Copyright © 2025 Merck & Co. Inc. Rahway, NJ, USA and its affiliates. All rights reserved.  
MSD Pharma, Wework Enam Sambhav, C-20, G Block BKC, Bandra East, Mumbai 400051.  
www.msindia.com

Image for representation purpose only

IN-GSL-01646  
2/12/2026 - 2/9/2028

# The Telegraph



## HITMAN HETMYER

Moving up to No. 3 makes  
WI batter a bigger threat P13



## CHANGING GEARS

Why Anubhav Sinha wants  
to make a comedy I2

## AGE TESTS

And why you need  
to take them P11



30 PAGES

CALCUTTA WEDNESDAY 25 FEBRUARY 2026 ₹ 6.00; with 8 pages Telekids ₹ 8.00

XXCL

www.telegraphindia.com

### IN BRIEF

#### Tata Sons deferment

■ **CALCUTTA:** The board of Tata Sons on Tuesday deferred a decision on the re-appointment of Natarajan Chandrasekaran as chairman for a third term, sources said, signalling potential differences within the holding company. According to the sources, Noel Tata, the chairman of Tata Trusts, has set several conditions for the reappointment of Chandrasekaran. **BUSINESS**

#### Louvre head quits

■ **PARIS:** Laurence des Cars, the first female president of the Louvre Museum, resigned on Tuesday, less than three months after an audacious theft raised thorny questions about security at one of the world's most famous museums.

#### Nod to Kerala

■ **THIRUVANANTHAPURAM:** The Union cabinet on Tuesday approved the Kerala government's proposal to rename the state Kerala. **NATION**

Get judicial staff from Odisha, Jharkhand if needed: SC

## Outside hands for Bengal SIR

OUR BUREAU

**New Delhi:** The Supreme Court on Tuesday told the Calcutta High Court Chief Justice to enlist, if necessary, the services of judicial officers from the neighbouring states of Odisha and Jharkhand for the verification of voter identity so that the post-SIR final rolls of Bengal can be published on February 28.

The apex court passed the direction after receiving a report from Chief Justice Sujoy Paul of the high court that if each of the 250 judicial officers who had been deployed from within Bengal attended to 250 cases per day, it would take another 80 days to dispose of the 50 lakh cases being scrutinised for "logical discrepancies" and those in the "unmapped category".

The top court rejected the Bengal government's apprehension that judicial officers from Odisha and Jharkhand



Poll staff scrutinise documents during an SIR hearing in Birbhum on January 29. (PTI)

may not be conversant with Bengali. The state was represented by senior advocate Kalyan Banerjee.

The bench headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant said the two states were part of the erstwhile Bengal Presidency, and therefore such a problem might not crop up.

The written order passed

by the bench, which included Justice Joymalya Bagchi and Justice Vipul M. Pancholi, said the Calcutta High Court Chief Justice had highlighted the "enormity of the exercise to be undertaken in verification of approximately 50,00,000 cases of 'logical discrepancy' unmapped category".

The Supreme Court took note of the "time constraints" and ordered that the "catchment area of judicial officers" be increased. It passed the following directions:

■ In addition to the judicial officers already assigned the task, the Chief Justice of Calcutta High Court will be entitled to draw officers from the ranks of civil judge (senior division) and civil judge (junior division) having experience of not less than three years. This will ensure that an "adequate and reasonable pool" is created to undertake the pending verification work "on a war footing".

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4 ►

## Aadhaar to stay, fraud grouse for govt: Court

OUR BUREAU

**New Delhi:** The Supreme Court on Tuesday refused to entertain an application seeking to prohibit the use of the Aadhaar card for voter identity verification during the ongoing SIR drive.

The court asked the petitioner, Ashwini Upadhyaya, to approach the Centre with his complaint that fake Aadhaar cards were being issued to Bangladeshis and Rohingya immigrants in the border states, particularly Bengal.

The court asserted that as long as the Aadhaar remained a valid document for proving a person's identity under Section 23 of the Representation of the People Act (RPA), 1950, it cannot be excluded from the SIR. The court, however, made it clear that the Aadhaar cannot be furnished as proof of citizenship.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4 ►



Survivors at the Buchenwald Concentration Camp after being freed by the Allied Forces on April 16, 1945. File picture

## Nazi trackers: Bookbinders

CLAIRE MOSES

**London:** Bookbinders and restorers in the 1930s and '40s used their craft to help the Nazi regime create a database that was used to persecute and kill Jews and others who were deemed racially impure, a British researcher has found.

Key to building this database were church, civil and synagogue records, which were often hundreds of years old and damaged beyond legibility when the Nazis came

to power in 1933.

By tasking professionals with cleaning up these documents, which held information about millions of people, the Nazis gained access to generations' worth of material — which they used to target specific population groups, the new research shows.

The findings are the result of more than two decades of work by Morwenna Blewett, an expert in conservation history.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 ►

## Paved: Road from Veda study to engineering

BASANT KUMAR  
MOHANTY

**New Delhi:** The All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) wants all its approved colleges to treat students from the Vedic education system on a par with their peers from regular school boards for admission to engineering courses.

Many academics wondered whether students from the Vedic education system, whose learning is focused on memorising ancient scriptures and texts, would be able to cope with the rigours of engineering courses. The academics also feared a dilution in the overall standard of technical education because of what they believed was a tendency among private engineering colleges to pass as many students as possible.

Technical education regulator AICTE has written to the vice-chancellors of technical universities, state governments and the heads of nearly 9,000 approved institutions.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6 ►



# ~200 women lose their lives to cervical cancer in India every day.

Speak to your Gynaecologist, Pediatrician or Family Physician  
about HPV-related cancer and disease prevention, including vaccination

Chat to know more



Issued in public interest for awareness only



For most people, HPV clears on its own, But for those who don't clear the virus, it can cause certain cancers and diseases  
The American journal of tropical medicine and hygiene, tpmd250396. 11 Nov. 2025  
National Cancer Registry Programme, India. JCO Global Oncology. 6. 1063-1075.  
Copyright © 2025 Merck & Co. Inc. Rahway, NJ, USA and its affiliates. All rights reserved.  
MSD Pharma, Wework Enam Sambhav, C-20, G Block BKC, Bandra East, Mumbai 400051.  
www.msdiindia.com

Image for representation purpose only

IN-GSL-01646  
2/12/2026 - 2/9/2028

Kyiv vows to fight on as the war turns 4

Zelensky seeks allies' backing

Kyiv: President Volodymyr Zelensky urged Ukraine's allies on Tuesday to sustain their support for its four-year-old battle against Russian invasion...



A woman mourns in front of a grave at a cemetery in Chernihiv, Ukraine, on Tuesday. (Reuters)

benefits of membership before it has introduced all the many economic, democratic and judicial reforms required for full accession.

"Russians must learn that Europe is a union of independent nations and millions of people who do not tolerate humiliation and will not accept violence," Zelensky said.

Zelensky has repeatedly urged allies above all to tighten sanctions on Russia's economy and send Kyiv more weaponry, particularly air defence missiles.

But in a televised statement, Zelensky criticised nations still buying Russian oil for helping to fund the conflict. "Putin has not achieved his goals. He has not broken the

Ukrainian people. He has not won this war," he said.

Zelensky said Ukraine would not betray the sacrifices made by its people just to bring an end to the conflict. "We cannot, we must not, give it away, forget it, betray it." Nearly 6 million people have left Ukraine and more than 3 million are displaced within its borders...

Russia nuke ire

Russia accused Ukraine on Tuesday of trying to obtain a nuclear weapon with help from Britain and France, an allegation Kyiv called an absurd lie.

A French foreign ministry spokesperson said the allegation was "blatant disinformation". A spokesperson for British Prime Minister Keir Starmer said: "There's no truth to this."

Zelensky has previously criticised Kyiv's decision to give up its former Soviet nuclear arsenal in the 1990s without obtaining proper, binding security guarantees. But Kyiv has said it does not seek to re-acquire nuclear weapons, and respects all international treaties.

'El Mencho' tracked by following his lover

JAMES WAGNER

Mexico City: To find Mexico's most-wanted kingpin, security officials said, they did not follow the money or the trail of drugs. Instead, they said they followed his lover.

It was she, the authorities said, who led them into the wooded mountains of Jalisco state, to the cabin where Nemesio Oseguera Cervantes — the notorious cartel leader known as El Mencho — was hiding since at least Friday.

Quickly, a high-stakes plan was in motion to capture the head of the Jalisco New Generation Cartel, a man long considered one of the country's most ruthless criminal figures, Mexican officials said on Monday during a news conference.

The operation culminated in a vicious firefight that killed several suspected cartel members, and by Sunday morning, Oseguera was dead after being fatally wounded in a shootout with Mexican authorities, the government said.

Once news of his death became public, Mexico erupted.

The stunning operation appears to be a major victory in Mexico's new offensive against drug cartels, one that could help reduce pressure from US President Donald Trump, who has been threatening strikes in Mexico against the same criminal groups. But it also plunged the country into chaos, as armed groups retaliated in 20 of the country's 32 states. They attacked securi-

ty forces, blocked highways and set fire to supermarkets, banks and vehicles. At least 62 people in total were killed.

Gen. Ricardo Trevilla Trejo, Mexico's defence secretary, described the government's account of the raid in some detail during Monday's news conference, crying as he spoke about the security forces who lost their lives in Sunday's operations.

"They accomplished their mission," he said. "What did we show? The strength of the Mexican state."

Oseguera formed the Jalisco cartel just over 15 years ago after he broke away from the rival Sinaloa Cartel. The cartel's activities include drug trafficking, extortion, kidnapping and migrant smuggling, and Oseguera had a reputation for attacking security forces and terrorising communities. The US state department had offered a \$15 million reward for information leading to his arrest.

His death marks the first time in recent years that the Mexican military has killed a top cartel leader in the country.

The operation began on Friday, when Mexican intelligence officials tracked a man close to one of Oseguera's "romantic partners", as General Trevilla described her. He said the man had taken the woman to see Oseguera in Tapalpa, Jalisco state, the colonial town in the countryside of the cartel's stronghold.

The next day, the woman left the cabin, but Oseguera



Soldiers work at a site on Monday where the operation to capture cartel boss Nemesio Oseguera was carried out outside the town of Tapalpa in Mexico. (Reuters)

ty forces, blocked highways and set fire to supermarkets, banks and vehicles. At least 62 people in total were killed.

They moved in to the small city of Tapalpa early Sunday morning. Once the forces made themselves known, General Trevilla said Oseguera fled, while a battle broke out between the troops and the cartel boss's security team.

His associates had a "large amount of weaponry", General Trevilla said, noting that armed forces found seven long weapons and two rocket launchers. "It was a very violent attack," he added. Mexican authorities fought back and eight suspected cartel members were killed.

The Mexican special forces then tracked Oseguera and another group of his associates to a nearby wooded area, Gen-

ported to a medical facility in Guadalajara, General Trevilla said. Their bodies were eventually sent to Mexico City instead.

During Monday's news conference, President Claudia Sheinbaum quietly reminded General Trevilla to keep details sparse regarding the intelligence on Oseguera and his inner circle. The general noted that while Mexican officials spearheaded the intelligence on Oseguera's partner and his team, "additional information" provided by US authorities helped pinpoint his exact location.

Antonio Morales Diaz, the mayor of Tapalpa, said in an interview on Monday that he did not know the notorious cartel leader was staying there. The town is a tourist destination for those seeking a cabin getaway or hiking in the woods, he said.

Morales Diaz said that around 7am on Sunday, he noticed seven helicopters, two drones and a small plane overhead, so he reached out to state authorities to find out what was happening. He said he did not know then that it was the military operation against Oseguera.

"This situation is shocking," he said, noting that his municipality still had four roads blocked by rubble and burned vehicles as of midday Monday. "We don't like it, and we wouldn't have wanted something like this to happen in our town, but these are things beyond our control."

New York Times News Service

ADVT

DEAR WEEKLY LOTTERY ₹1 CRORE WON BY DARJEELING RESIDENT



Mr. RAHUL KUMAR SINGH from DARJEELING, WEST BENGAL has won ₹1 Crore as first prize in Dear Weekly Lottery in the draw held on

21.11.2025. His winning ticket number is 96K 85105. He has submitted his prize-winning ticket along with the prize claim form to Sikkim State Lotteries. "I have never thought of winning One Crore rupees of prize money from Dear Lottery when I have purchased the tickets. Buying Dear Lottery tickets for few tens of rupees becomes a practice of several people wherein the chances of winning several other prizes are also makes us happy. All my wishes to Dear Lottery," said the winner.

\*Winner detail taken from Government website.

Iran nears arms deal with China

London: Iran is close to a deal with China to purchase anti-ship cruise missiles, according to six people with knowledge of the negotiations, just as the US deploys a vast naval force near the Iranian coast ahead of possible strikes on the Islamic Republic. The deal for the Chinese-made CM-302 missiles is near completion, though no delivery date has been agreed, the people said.

This comes days after Financial Times stated in a report that Iran has agreed a secret \$500 million arms deal with Russia to acquire thousands of advanced shoulder-fired missiles.

The supersonic missiles have a range of about 290km and are designed to evade

shipborne defences by flying low and fast. Their deployment would significantly enhance Iran's strike capabilities and pose a threat to US naval forces in the region, two weapons experts said.

Negotiations with China to buy the missile weapons systems, which began at least two years ago, accelerated sharply after the 12-day war between Israel and Iran in June, according to the six people with knowledge of the talks, including three officials who were briefed by the Iranian government as well as three security officials. As talks entered their final stages last summer, senior Iranian military and government officials travelled to China, including Massoud Oraei, Iran's deputy defence minister, according to two of the security officials.

Deal-ready: Minister

Iran is ready to take any necessary steps to reach a deal with the US, Iranian deputy foreign minister Majid Takht-Ravanchi said on Tuesday, as the two countries prepare for a fresh round of talks. The talks are set to take place on Thursday in Geneva, a senior US official said on Monday.

"We are ready to reach an agreement as soon as possible. We will do whatever it takes to make this happen. We will enter the negotiating room in Geneva with complete honesty and good faith," Takht-Ravanchi said. Reuters

Football over fear for Bengalis

SUDESHNA BANERJEE

Calcutta: With less than four months to go before the 2026 FIFA World Cup kicks off its Guadalajara leg at Estadio Akron on June 11, an eruption of cartel violence in the Mexican state of Jalisco has unsettled residents, including a small but closely knit Bengali community.

Sunday's military operation that eliminated drug cartel boss El Mencho triggered retaliatory violence across parts of Jalisco. Vehicles were torched, highways blocked, and gunfire echoed through neighbourhoods. While official reports later indicated that civilian casualties were minimal compared to the scale of the crackdown, fear spread quickly, particularly with global attention fixed on Guadalajara as a World Cup host city.

Yet among the 80-odd Bengalis settled in Mexico's second-largest city and thriving IT hub, anxiety has not translated into panic. "Not a single civilian was killed (later reports suggest just one civilian casualty among at least 62 fatalities)," said Ipsita Saha, a Durgapur girl living in Mexico for a decade. "And the government stepped in to bring things under control within six-seven hours," added Ratul Ganguly, an IT professional from Rajarhat who left for Mexico four years ago.

But both admitted to The Telegraph that Sunday was unnerving.

Ratul was on a weekend retreat in the hill town of

Mazamitla in a group of five. "We had planned to return on Sunday night. But during breakfast, we heard of the military operation against the drug lord El Mencho and his death on the news. There has been no cartel violence in Mexico in the last 10 years. On enquiry, we heard they had blocked all entry points to the city. And for the first time, they had even invaded the city of Guadalajara."

This led them to decide to stay at their Airbnb. Curfew was to be imposed from 2pm. "So we went out in search of supplies. Since the gang members were torching the convenience stores, the government had ordered them to shut. A stray grocery store was open where tourists like us had gathered for food supplies."

After a couple of hours, around 12.30pm, they started hearing gunfire. "It was a series of shots, possibly from a machine gun. A blast followed. We panicked, wondering if they would enter our premises too. Our Mexican tour guide stood in vigil on the ground floor of our two-storied premises, asking us to lock ourselves in upstairs," Ratul recalled.

The group logged into the Jalisco government website, which was sharing minute-to-minute updates and switched on the local news on TV. "The federal government also published an app which helped us keep track of the situation. A police Instagram page used CCTV footage from across Guadalajara to show the situation in every locality."



An empty street in Guadalajara on Monday morning. Picture by Ratul Ganguly

Once the army was deployed around 2pm, the unrest slowed down. But pictures were still coming in, showing the havoc wreaked by then. "A Mexican friend had clicked a huge fire in Colima, an hour and a half away from us, denting our confidence to return home."

In the city, Ipsita's husband, Abhishek Ghosh, had gone shopping at a retail grocery chain, Soriana, right under their building. "The encounter that killed the drug lord had taken place 60km from our place at Tapalpa. But once it became known that the cartel, on their social media page, had sworn to seek revenge on the streets, all shops began to close shutters. We were asked to pay for whatever we had picked up and vacate the shop."

On Monday morning, both families listened to President Claudia Sheinbaum's media conference, where she declared that all roadblocks on highways had been cleared and it was safe to travel. "So

we left around 1pm, making our way past a series of burnt vehicles which bore witness to the violence unleashed the day before," Ratul said.

Entry to the city meant making it past 12-15 National Guard vehicles stationed along the approach with uniformed officers carrying out security checks. "That actually gave us confidence. They even assured us that the city had been cleaned of disruptors," he said. Roads in the city centre remained empty on Monday. Schools were shut, but were expected to open on Wednesday.

Praising the local people, Ipsita recalled hearing how Indian Christians who were at mass on Sunday morning were sheltered indoors along with the locals when the doors of the church were shut, fearing trouble. "Later, the locals even escorted the Indians on the way home. They are respectful of foreign nationals, especially Indian culture," she said.

Both highlighted Mexico's progress and rising GDP in the last 10 years. Admitting that such an incident in the run-up to the tournament might trigger a security alarm, Ipsita pointed out that the military operation was aimed at cleaning the system, and the effort deserved global support rather than criticism.

Both families have applied for World Cup match tickets. "Tickets are costly, starting at 30,000 Pesos. One peso equals ₹5.30 or so. Still, we can't miss this chance to watch a World Cup in our own city," Abhishek said.

Nazi trackers: Bookbinders

FROM PAGE 1

Blewett was working as a conservation fellow at the Worcester Art Museum in Massachusetts in 2004 when a question came to her: What had happened to the art restorers who did not flee Nazi Germany during World War II?

She pondered the question while sorting through an old filing cabinet in the museum's basement — where, as she recalled in a book published this month, Art Restoration Under the Nazi Regime: Revelation and Concealment, the "warm, dark air smelt faintly of cigarettes, coffee and engine oil".

Soon, she had expanded on her query: "How did the Nazi regime intend to use conservation and restoration to achieve its aims?"

The answer, she discovered, was that paper restorers and bookbinders in Nazi Germany had helped the regime track down people's Jewish ancestry by conserving and cleaning up old records from churches, as well as from synagogues and civil registers.

Dr Blewett said that, by

publishing her book, she hoped to shed light on this part of the Holocaust, which she called "one of the longest and most insidious of all National Socialism's projects to exploit the field of conservation and restoration".

Her focus on bookbinders and restorers reinforces the idea that the Nazis were helped "from the ground up" by many disparate facets of German society.

"It just gives us the cogs of how the regime relied on myriad professions and myriad methods in their move toward genocide," Dr Blewett said in a phone interview. "A move towards genocide is always piecemeal and it has to be supported by even the most obscure and niche professions."

One of Dr Blewett's key findings was that the restorers often used techniques that were not focused on preserving the integrity of an object, which left the records damaged. Their primary aim, she found, was not posterity, but to recover information, which goes against a fundamental principle of the profession, Dr Blewett said.

"The preservation of certain types of cultural material — documents listing births, baptisms, marriages and deaths — came to be viewed by the authorities as essential to the process of scrutinising the 'racial' background of past generations," Dr Blewett wrote in her book.

Restorers — who, like all other citizens under the Nazi regime, had to register and prove their racial purity if they wanted to keep working and function as members of society — were aware that the cleaned-up records were being used to prove people's backgrounds, Dr Blewett said.

"It was publicly known," she said about the restoration effort, adding that people often went to churches themselves to try to prove that they were not Jewish and to obtain what Dr Blewett described as an "Aryan pass".

The methods experts used to clean up the documents varied in complexity depending on how damaged they were, Dr Blewett said. Once the materials had been made legible, the Nazis collected the materials from churches and pho-

tographed them. In some instances, the information was then sent to Nazi agencies.

"Those restorers knew what they were doing," Dr Blewett said. "They knew it was about accumulating information to kill people."

Dr Blewett's research has contributed to the historical record by "widening that lens on complicity" and showing how the Nazis weaponised documentation, said Christine Schmidt, the acting co-director of the Wiener Holocaust Library in London.

Historians have long worked to understand the psychology and motivations of the ordinary people who helped facilitate the Holocaust.

Often, when people think of the Nazis, they envision well-known individuals like Adolf Hitler or Joseph Goebbels, the Nazi propaganda chief, Holocaust historian Dr Schmidt said. They think of judges, police officers and other officials in uniform. What they do not think about, she said, is "what somebody in a studio could do with a church register".

New York Times News Service

Advertisement for 'Shobash Bangla' magazine, featuring Bengali text and an image of the magazine cover.

# 'Canada axe' hangs on Rana

**Toronto:** Ahead of Prime Minister Mark Carney's visit to India, the Canadian government is pushing to revoke the citizenship of the Pakistan-born Tahawwur Hussain Rana, accused of playing a key role in the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks.



**Tahawwur Hussain Rana**

Rana, 64, is a Pakistan-born Canadian national and close associate of one of the main conspirators of the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks, David Coleman Headley, a US citizen.

Documents obtained by Global News show that immigration officials have notified Rana that they intend to strip him of the Canadian citizenship he acquired in 2001.

He immigrated to Canada in 1997 and was later convicted in the US for plotting to attack staff at a Danish newspaper.

Rana, one of the master-

minds of the 26/11 attack which killed 166 people, was extradited from the US to India in April 2025.

In its decision, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) wrote that Rana's citizenship was being revoked not for terrorism, but because he lied in his application form, the report said.

When Rana applied for citizenship in 2000, he claimed to have lived in Ottawa and Toronto for the previous four years, with only a six-day absence from the country, the IRCC wrote in a report.

An RCMP investigation, however, determined he had actually spent almost that entire time in Chicago, where he owned several properties and businesses, including an immigration firm and a grocery store.

The revocation decision accused him of "a serious and deliberate deception", and said his "lack of respect for the citizenship laws of Canada" had led immigration officials to wrongly grant him citizenship.

An immigration department spokesperson told Global News that cancelling citizenship for misrepresentation was "an important tool for maintaining the integrity of Canadian citizenship".

# Kerala Story makers reject HC preview

**CYNTHIA CHANDRAN**

**Thiruvananthapuram:** The makers of *The Kerala Story 2* on Tuesday rejected Kerala High Court's request for a preview of the film on Wednesday.

When the case was taken up again during the post-lunch session on Tuesday, the makers informed the court that they were not ready to show the film before its release on Friday.

The high court deferred the matter until Wednesday to take a final call on the movie after the petitioner challenged the censor certificate issued by the Central Board of Film Certification.



# DEPRESSION IS A DISEASE LIKE ALL OTHERS; ACCEPT IT

- Dr. Hiranmay Saha, Renowned Psychiatrist

At present, a silent epidemic is spreading across the world, known as depression or mental illness. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), by 2030 it will become the number one health problem globally. In our country alone, more than 50 million people are already affected by it. It not only affects your mind, but also has a toxic impact on your body, career, and relationships.

**Is depression just "feeling sad"?** Absolutely not. Persistent sadness is depression. Depression tends to increase during serious illnesses such as diabetes, heart disease, or cancer. Its extreme outcome can push a person toward suicide. Yet, due to social stigma and fear of embarrassment, we hesitate to speak up.

**Why does this happen?**  
 • Imbalance of brain chemicals (serotonin, dopamine) or genetic factors.  
 • Conflict or strain in relationships. Loss of a loved one.  
 • Work pressure or financial crisis, childhood trauma.  
 There can be many reasons behind

depression, but it can also occur without any apparent cause.

**Recognize the symptoms.**  
 1. Do you constantly suffer from sadness, hopelessness, or unexplained fear? Do you feel like talking to no one? Have you lost interest even in your favorite activities or hobbies? Do you feel irritable, exhausted, and joyless?  
 2. Have you been experiencing lack of sleep or a significant loss of appetite? Has your sexual desire decreased?  
 3. Do you feel unwilling to work? Are you struggling with procrastination? Do you feel

anxious and fearful? Do you keep feeling worthless?  
 4. Are thoughts of self-harm or suicide repeatedly coming to your mind? If such conditions continue for more than two weeks, then you may be suffering from depression. Consult a doctor. **There is a way back from darkness! Remember, depression is not a weakness; it is an illness.** If treatment is started at the right time, recovery is possible. Everyone must come forward to increase awareness about mental health. **Be aware yourself, save others. You are not alone in this fight!** Issued in the public interest by "Global Mental Health Foundation"

|| 5th Death Anniversary ||

**Late Kumkum Banka**  
 03rd December 1955 - 25th February 2021

*Time has moved on, yet not a single day goes by without her presence being felt in our thoughts, our prayers, and in the values she lovingly instilled in us. Her kindness, strength, and unconditional love continue to guide our lives. The memories she created remain our greatest treasure, and her blessings are the light that leads us forward.*

**Gautam & Nicky, Siddharth & Namrata, Anand & Rashmi**

**KSE**  
 The World of T&D Hardwares  
**KSE Electricals Pvt. Ltd.**

## SIKSHA 'O' ANUSANDHAN

# SAAT-2026

**Empowering students for a brighter future**

- Electrical and Electronics Engineering
- Electronics and Communication Engineering

**B.TECH PROGRAMMES IN ELECTRONICS DESIGN**

**APPROVAL & RECOGNITIONS**

- Approved by UGC and AICTE
- Re-accredited by NAAC with A++ Grade
- Granted with Category-1 Graded Autonomy by UGC
- NBA Accredited Programmes

**NIRF INDIA RANKINGS 2025**

- 15<sup>th</sup> Best in University Category
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Best in Engineering Category

**INTERNATIONAL RANKINGS 2026**

- Ranked in QS World Rankings 2026
- Ranked in Times World Rankings 2026

**To apply for admission through SAAT, Please visit: [www.soa.ac.in](http://www.soa.ac.in)**

An **ABP** initiative

admissiontree@abp.in      90735 28655

**OmDayal Group**

**DELHI PUBLIC SCHOOL RUBY PARK, KOLKATA**

**DPS RUBY PARK SHINES AGAIN!**

*Congratulations*

**99.790%ile**

**BISHWADYA MAJUMDER**

**99.843%ile**

**SARTHAK PALAI**

**99.941%ile**

**SUKRIT MAJUMDAR**

**99.835%ile**

**PARTHIV PAL**

**99.757%ile**

**DEEPTARKA SAHU**

**Toppers of JEE Main 2026 (Session 1)**

**99.672%ile**  
ARSHI SAHA

**99.477%ile**  
SAMPRIITI SAHA

**99.462%ile**  
DHRUV RANA

**99.429%ile**  
ARONYAK PAL

**99.361%ile**  
AGNIJ DAS

**99.353%ile**  
AHMAD RAZA KHAN

**99.319%ile**  
SRUTI DAS

**99.289%ile**  
ABHIK GARAI

**99.274%ile**  
UJAN CHATTERJEE

**99.248%ile**  
SHRUVODARSHI MANDAL MALLICK

**99.248%ile**  
JYOTIRADITYA DEB

**99.244%ile**  
SWAPNIL BHATTACHARYA

**99.213%ile**  
VAIBHAV BAID

**99.151%ile**  
DEBARSHI GHOSH

**99.102%ile**  
ARCHYA CHAKRABORTY

**>99%ile >95%ile >93%ile**

20 Students      96 Students      116 Students

And many more...

☎ (033) 6644 5024/30/50

🌐 [www.dpskolkata.com](http://www.dpskolkata.com)

📍 254 Shanti Pally, RB Connector, Kolkata-700107

**OmDayal Group**

**VMC Vidyamandir Classes** SINCE 1986

**IIT JEE | MEDICAL | FOUNDATION**

*Congratulations*

**ACHIEVERS OF JEE MAIN 2026 (Session 1)**

VIDYAMANDIR CLASSES KOLKATA

**99.8431076%ile**

**SARTHAK PALAI**

**99.6725097%ile**

**ARSHI SAHA**

**99.4621552%ile**

**DHRUV RANA**

**99.3617308%ile**

**AGNIJ DAS**

**99.2484323%ile**

**JYOTIRADITYA DEB**

**99.2131706%ile**

**VAIBHAV BAID**

**99.1518453%ile**

**DEBARSHI GHOSH**

**>99%ile >95%ile**

7 Students      20 Students

And many more...

☎ +91 8100 555 444

🌐 [www.vidyamandirkolkata.com](http://www.vidyamandirkolkata.com)

📍 KASBA: 406, Fourth Floor, The Chambers. Opp. Gitanjali Stadium, Kolkata 700107

## IN BRIEF

## Mumbai pollution curb bid

■ **MUMBAI:** The Maharashtra government has issued over 1,000 stop-work notices to construction sites in Mumbai for violating pollution-control norms, environment minister Pankaja Munde told the Assembly on Tuesday. Flying squads have issued 1,981 showcause notices since October as part of the city's "Clean Air" initiative. **PTI**

## Airport project

■ **NEW DELHI:** The Centre on Tuesday approved a ₹1,677-crore civil enclave project at Srinagar airport, including a 71,500sqm terminal capable of handling 10 million passengers annually. **PTI**

## Rajkot demolitions

■ **RAJKOT:** More than 1,300 structures along the Aji river were demolished as the Rajkot municipal corporation continued a massive drive against illegal settlements, officials said on Tuesday. **PTI**

## Three missing

■ **AURANGABAD:** Three people were reported missing after a car reversed off a bridge and fell into a Jayakwadi dam canal near Paithan on Monday, police said. Only the driver has returned so far. A search operation is underway. **PTI**

## Experts flag regulatory oversight, poor aircraft maintenance

## Air angst: 3 mishaps in 24 hours

OUR BUREAU

**New Delhi:** Three aviation emergencies within 24 hours have cast domestic air travel in an unflattering light and raised serious questions about aircraft maintenance and regulatory supervision.

Seven people on board an air ambulance were killed after it crashed near Simaria in Jharkhand's Chatra district on Monday evening. On Tuesday morning, a helicopter crashed into the sea near the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, and a SpiceJet flight from Delhi to Leh made an emergency landing after facing a technical issue.

The accidents have set off discussions on flight safety, prompting aviation experts to flag poor aircraft maintenance and gaps in monitoring by the understaffed Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).

## Air ambulance crash

A Redbird Airways-operated Beechcraft C90 air ambulance headed to Delhi from Ranchi crashed on Monday evening at Simaria in Bariatu, killing all seven people on board, including the two pilots.

This is the second fatal incident involving a non-scheduled operator within a month. An aircraft operated by VSR Ventures had crashed near Barauni on January 28, killing Maharashtra deputy chief Minister Ajit Pawar and four others.

Ranchi airport director Vinod Kumar told PTI that inclement weather could have led to the air ambulance crash. The aircraft lost contact with air traffic control (ATC) about 20 minutes after departure from Ranchi airport at 7.11pm. According to the DGCA,



Police inspect the Pawan Hans helicopter that crashed into the sea off the Andaman coast on Tuesday. (Social Media via PTI)

the pilots were able to establish contact with the Calcutta ATC and requested a deviation owing to bad weather. The aircraft lost communication and radar contact with Calcutta and around 100 nautical miles south-east of Varanasi at 7.34pm.

## Helicopter accident

A Pawan Hans helicopter carrying seven people crashed into the sea just 300 metres from its scheduled landing at Mayabunder helipad in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands on Tuesday, officials said.

All five passengers and two crew members were rescued from mid-sea and admitted to a hospital.

The crash occurred around 9.30am after the chopper took off from Rangat in the North and Middle Andaman district, officials said.

"A preliminary inquiry revealed that there was some technical snag, and the pilot made a crash-landing on the sea," a senior civil aviation official said.

## SpiceJet glitch

A Boeing 737 aircraft belong-

ing to SpiceJet headed for Leh returned to Delhi and made an emergency landing after developing a glitch in the engine on Tuesday, according to sources.

"The flight returned to Delhi after experiencing a technical issue. The aircraft landed safely in Delhi, and all passengers were disembarked. There was no fire warning in the cockpit," a SpiceJet spokesperson said.

## Lapses

Captain C.S. Randhawa, president of the Federation of Indian Pilots, underlined poor aircraft maintenance and regulatory oversight. "Redbird and VSR have poor safety records. Internal air safety of certain operators is poor, causing such accidents," he told **The Telegraph**.

Another aviation professional, who did not want to be named, said the DGCA was facing an acute staff crisis and several officials lacked domain expertise. The professional suggested engaging retired aviation specialists or people with knowledge of the sector

to curb such incidents. disclose critical safety information on their websites, including aircraft age and maintenance history. "This ensures that customers are fully informed about the standards of the aircraft they charter," the DGCA said.

Emphasising that safety must remain the utmost priority, the DGCA said the pilot-in-command's decision to divert, delay or cancel a flight was final and must be respected by operators.

Noting that weather-related accidents often resulted from poor judgement, the DGCA directed operators to establish real-time weather update systems and ensure strict compliance with established standard procedures. Recurrent training of pilots must place greater emphasis on weather awareness strategies and decision-making in uncontrolled environments, the regulator said.

The DGCA clarified that safety lapses could not only be blamed on pilots, adding that managers and senior officials of operating companies would be personally held responsible for systemic non-compliance.

The watchdog said it would conduct random audits of cockpit voice recorders and check details such as fuel records and technical logs to detect unauthorised operations or falsification of data.

It also warned of licence suspensions of up to five years for pilots violating flight duty time limitations (FDTL) or attempting to land below safety minima (visibility and cloud base limits). The DGCA said it would also scrutinise the maintenance of aircraft by non-scheduled operators.

The DGCA said it was also planning to implement a safety ranking mechanism for all non-scheduled operators.

## Cong ire &amp; rift over AI arrest

PHEROZE L. VINCENT

**New Delhi:** Top Congress leaders have slammed the Centre for the arrest of the party's youth wing chief after a day-long questioning on Monday in connection with the "shirtless" protest at the venue of the AI summit in the capital.

A former Indian Youth Congress (IYC) president said internal politics had prevented it from taking a more militant stance on the arrest.

Uday Bhanu Chib, the national president of the IYC, is the eighth person to be arrested for the protest at the summit last week against Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the US trade deal. Police have called it a "deep-rooted conspiracy" and booked them for criminal conspiracy, assaulting a public servant, unlawful assembly, rioting, promoting enmity between different groups, and imputations and assertions prejudicial to national integration.

A Congress delegation led by Ajay Maken on Tuesday submitted a memorandum to Delhi lieutenant governor V.K. Saxena, seeking "re-

straint and proportionality in enforcement" of the law.

Rahul Gandhi wrote on X: "The arrest of Youth Congress President Uday Bhanu Chib and other IYC comrades for bringing this truth before the country is proof of dictatorial tendencies and cowardice..."

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said the IYC workers had "boldly confronted" the Modi government.

Current and former IYC leaders this newspaper spoke to could not recall the last time a national head of the sword arm of India's oldest party had been arrested.

A former IYC president told **The Telegraph**: "Nobody had the guts to do this to a Youth Congress president, even when we were not in power... There seems to be a loss of vitality in the organisation after internal elections were introduced (in 2007-08). Activists are too busy fighting each other to fight the BJP."

The IYC on Tuesday held a satyagraha against the arrest, on the laws of its office on Raisina Road. In the evening, they attempted to march towards Parliament, but were stopped at the police barricade.

## Resolution against summit protest

OUR BUREAU

**New Delhi:** The parliamentary standing committee on communications and information technology, chaired by BJP MP Nishikant Dubey, on Tuesday adopted a resolution obliquely condemning the Youth Congress's "shirtless" protest at the AI Impact Summit last week, brushing aside strong objections from Opposition members.

The resolution, which did not name the Congress, was passed by voice vote, with 10 NDA MPs backing it and six Opposition members voting against it. Opposition MPs recorded their dissent, accusing Dubey of politicising the panel and alleging that the resolution had been introduced without prior consultation, sources said.

Congress, Trinamool Congress, Shiv Sena (UBT) and Samajwadi Party members voted against the motion.

Undeterred by the dissent, Dubey later took to X to flaunt the passage of the resolution. "Today, despite opposition



Nishikant Dubey

from the Opposition parties, the Parliamentary Committee on Information & Technology condemned the incident of blatant misconduct that occurred on February 20...," he posted. He also shared the text of the resolution on his handle, adding: "Hum gundagardi ke khilaf hain (We are against hooliganism)."

The BJP MP from Godda in Jharkhand has frequently targeted the Congress and the Nehru-Gandhi family. He has moved a substantive motion seeking termination of the Lok Sabha membership of Opposition leader Rahul Gandhi, accusing him of colluding with anti-national forces. The resolution is likely to be taken up during the second half of the budget session of Parliament commencing on March 9.

The resolution commended Modi for the successful organisation of the AI summit before condemning what it termed an "unfortunate incident" at the venue on February 20.

## 'Disruption anti-national'

OUR BUREAU

**New Delhi:** A group of 277 former high court judges and retired army and police officers on Tuesday condemned the "shirtless" protests by Indian Youth Congress workers last week during the AI Impact Summit in Delhi, terming it "an anti-national disruption" designed to signal instability to global investors and partners.

"The recent unpardonable spectacle at the India AI Impact Summit 2026, where members of the Indian Youth Congress staged a 'shirtless' protest within the corridors of Bharat Mandapam, is a grotesque betrayal of national dignity. At a time when the world's most influential tech leaders, global CEOs, and international delegates gathered to witness India's ascent as a primary architect of the future, this scripted tantrum served only to defame the country on the global stage.

"By choosing a high-level diplomatic and technological forum to execute a crude, exhibitionist stunt, the organisers have proven that their brand of politics prioritises personal

opics over the prestige of the Republic," the joint statement said.

The signatories to the statement include former Delhi High Court judge S.N. Dhir and former Tripura director-general of police B.L. Vohra. According to the statement, the protest was not a spontaneous expression of dissent but a premeditated act of sabotage.

"Entering a secure, international venue under the guise of legitimate participants using QR codes, only to strip and engage in vulgar sloganeering, is a breach of both security and basic decorum. Such behaviour is not 'activism' — it is 'an anti-national disruption' designed to signal instability to global investors and partners.

"For any political entity to use an international summit as a backdrop for a 'topless' ruckus is to tell the world that India is a land of chaos rather than a sophisticated global power. It mocks the hard work of our scientists, the aspirations of our engineers, and the hospitality of 1.4 billion citizens who take pride in hosting the world," the statement said.

## Kashmir Pandits seek shield after terror threat

MUZAFFAR RAINA

**Srinagar:** A group representing non-migrant Kashmiri Pandits has sought "decisive preventive measures" to ensure the community's safety against the backdrop of threats from suspected militants, while also urging the UN rights body and other international organisations to monitor the situation.

The Kashmiri Pandit Sangarsh Samiti (KPSS) has uploaded on social media a purported letter, which it said was issued by "so-called Falcon Group of The Resistance Front (TRF) — widely recognised as a Pakistan-backed terror proxy."

The authenticity of the letter could not be independently verified.

BJP leader Sunil Sharma said he had seen the letter vowing "to target Kashmiri migrants and civilians". He said he could not confirm whether the letter was authentic, warning that those behind

it would be hunted down. The BJP leader said it was not 1990 when Kashmiri Pandits were forced to leave, adding that Prime Minister Narendra Modi was responsible for their security.

The letter has warned of bloodshed against alleged attempts at politicising issues such as tourism or the return of migrants. It carries no specific threat to non-migrant Pandits.

The KPSS, in a post on X, said the alleged threat represented "a calculated attempt to undermine peace and communal harmony in Kashmir."

"Such groups thrive on fear and instability, repeatedly projecting the peaceful and indigenous Kashmiri Pandit minority as symbolic targets to sustain their violent relevance," it said.

"At a time when democratic governance led by the BJP asserts normalcy in Jammu & Kashmir, these recurring threats expose serious gaps

in preventive security and administrative responsiveness," it added.

The group said the "continued indifference displayed by sections of the system under the ministry of home affairs and the government of Jammu and Kashmir raises troubling questions about minority protection mechanisms."

The group stated that the situation raised a serious human rights concern that warranted international attention.

"We urge the United Nations Human Rights Council, Amnesty International, and Human Rights Watch to closely monitor developments affecting minority safety in Kashmir," the KPSS said. It also requested "the constitutional pillars of this democratic sovereign nation to safeguard the minorities living in this part of the world."

The group urged the high court Chief Justice to take suo motu cognisance of the issue.

## 'Sold India' claim on US deal at farmers' rally

OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

**New Delhi:** The Congress, at its first public meeting against the India-US trade deal, focused on its claim that Prime Minister Narendra Modi was blackmailed into issuing the joint statement with Washington because of the Epstein files and the criminal investigation related to the Adani group in America.

Lok Sabha Opposition leader Rahul Gandhi said at the Kisan Mahachaupal in Bhopal on Tuesday: "For four months, nothing moved (on the trade deal due to India wanting to protect agriculture). Then suddenly, Narendra Modi called and sold off India's farmers. Sold off the garment industry. Gave all our data to America. Why? The first reason: Millions of Epstein files are locked in America, 30 lakh files. It contains emails, messages, videos, everything. It has not been released.

"Hardeep Puri's name has been released as a threat. The message is, 'Brother, if you don't listen to us, then the contents of these files will be revealed... Modiji, tell the country what is your relationship with Anil Ambani. Anil Ambani is in the Epstein files."

"The second threat is that Adaniji has a criminal case against him in America... The target of the American case is not Adani. The target of that arrow is Narendra Modi."

He added: "The US Supreme Court said it would cancel the tariffs Trump has imposed worldwide. And they did. Upon hearing this, other countries said, 'Look, the Supreme Court has cancelled it, so we're cancelling the deal too.' But Narendra Modi didn't utter a word... He can't do it because of the threat of Epstein, and Adani's criminal case hanging over their heads."

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge took a dig

at Union agriculture minister and former Madhya Pradesh chief minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan.

"A leader here was formerly the chief minister. He always said, 'I am a farmer...' But I ask, now after going to Delhi why don't you speak out about the mistakes Modi is making? Sir, this is against the farmers, this is against the labourers. This is against our country. Why aren't you speaking out about this, Mr Chouhan?"

"If you want to protect the interests of the workers and the farmers, you should fight Modi. They've driven you out of here and taken you there. You don't do anything," Kharge said.

Referring to the renaming of the MGNREGA, Kharge said: "His (Modi) only job is to change names... They're filled with such madness, and their foreign policy is useless. They don't do the things they should, but they've abandoned the good they should do."

## Centre nod to rename Kerala as Keralam

CYNTHIA CHANDRAN

**Thiruvananthapuram:** The Union cabinet on Tuesday approved the Kerala government's proposal to rename the state Keralam.

The decision, which comes ahead of the Assembly elections, was taken at a meeting of the cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at Seva Teerth, the new PMO complex, Union minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said.

Modi hailed the decision, saying it reflects the will of the people of the state. "It is in line with our efforts to strengthen the connect with our glorious culture," he said in a post on X.

The Kerala elections are due in April, with the tenure of the 140-member Assembly ending on May 23.

After the cabinet's approval, the President will refer the Kerala (Alteration of Name) Bill, 2026, to the Kerala Assembly for its views under the proviso to Article 3 of the Constitution.

After the Assembly replies, the central government will seek the recommendation of the President for the introduction of the Kerala (Alteration of Name) Bill, 2026, to alter the name of Kerala to Keralam in Parliament, an official release said.

Asked why the renaming bill was set in motion just ahead of the Assembly elections, Vaishnaw said the Modi cabinet took decisions without keeping elections in mind.

"Decisions for setting up rail corridors and starting Vande Bharat trains in Kerala were taken when elections were not there. Elections will be held, but all decisions which are in the interest of the country will be taken," he said.

The Assembly passed a resolution on June 24, 2024,



Narendra Modi

to alter the name of Kerala to Keralam.

"The name of our state is 'Keralam' in Malayalam language. States were formed on the basis of language on the 1st day of November, 1956. The Kerala Piravi Day is also on the 1st day of November," the Kerala Assembly resolution says.

"Since the time of National Independence Struggle, there has been a strong demand for the formation of United Kerala for the people speaking Malayalam language. But in the First Schedule to the Constitution the name of our state is recorded as 'Kerala'. This Assembly unanimously appeals to the central government to take urgent steps as per Article 3 of the Constitution for modifying the name to 'Keralam,'" it added.

Thereafter, the Kerala government requested the Centre to take necessary steps to amend the First Schedule of the Constitution to change the name of Kerala to Keralam according to Article 3.

Article 3 provides for the alteration of names of existing states. According to Article 3, Parliament may by law change the name of any state.

Additional reporting by PTI

## Bengal SIR

FROM PAGE 1

■ If the Calcutta High Court Chief Justice feels that further human resources will be required to complete the process, "he is at liberty to approach" the Chief Justices of the high courts of Jharkhand and Odisha seeking serving or former judicial officers for the verification work in Bengal.

■ The travel, boarding, honorarium and other incidental expenses of such officers shall be borne by the Election Commission of India. "The learned Chief Justices of the Jharkhand and Orissa High Courts are requested to sympathetically and urgently consider any request that may be made by the Hon'ble Chief Justice of the Calcutta High Court in this regard"

■ If the verification exercise cannot be completed by February 28, the EC can go ahead and publish the final list and follow it up with supplements. "Such supplements shall be published on a continuous basis as soon as the pending exercise is completed in part or in full".

The matter will be heard again on March 10.

## Aadhaar

FROM PAGE 1

"If Aadhaar is fraudulently procured on an industrial scale, it has to be statutorily regulated. The solicitor-general of India is present here. You (petitioner) make a representation to the Union government to amend the RPA. This cannot be a discussion before our forum always. If you say Aadhaar had been fraudulently procured on an industrial scale, then it requires to be statutorily regulated," a bench of Chief Justice Surya Kant, Justice Joyymalya Bagchi and Justice Vipul M. Pancholi told Upadhyaya.

The bench made the oral observation after Upadhyaya opposed the court's reiteration of its September 2025 direction, in its order on Tuesday relating to the Bengal SIR, that the Aadhaar card be accepted as proof of identity during the SIR verification process.

The petitioner submitted that Aadhaar should not be considered by poll officials as several hundred Bangladeshis and Rohingya Muslims who had been caught by police for illegally entering India had been found to be in possession of fake Aadhaar cards issued by the authorities in Bengal.

## EC, state panels to synergise laws

PHEROZE L. VINCENT

**New Delhi:** The Election Commission of India and the state election commissions have passed a resolution to "synergise" their laws, even as a joint parliamentary committee mulls legislation to hold simultaneous polls in India.

In the first National Round Table Conference of ECI and State Election Commissioners to be held since 1999, a national declaration was passed "unanimously" to this effect on Tuesday, an Election Commission spokesperson said.

The Election Commission, appointed by the Centre, holds Assembly, parliamentary, presidential and vice-presidential polls. The SECs, appointed by the states, hold panchayat and municipal elections.

The declaration says: "ECI and SECs will work together to synergise the laws relating to the elections to panchayats and municipal bodies with those relating to the elec-

tions to Parliament and state legislatures.

"In national and constitutional interest, ECI suggested to work out mutually acceptable mechanisms and legally viable frameworks to synergise with all SECs across the country for all possible election processes, including the sharing of ECINET, EVMS, electoral rolls and the world-class infrastructure at IIDEM (ECI training institute)."

Simultaneous polls were not mentioned in the resolution.

A high-level committee under former President Ram Nath Kovind examined the proposal in 2023-24 for simultaneous polls and a single voter list for parliamentary, Assembly and local body elections.

The only Opposition member on the committee — Congress's then Lok Sabha leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury — declined to participate. The party and other Opposition forces opposed the proposal.

॥ वंदे श्री ऋषभं वीरं ॥



**INAUGURATION BY**

**MAMATA BANERJEE**

**HON'BLE CHIEF MINISTER, WEST BENGAL**

**In the august presence of**

**JANAB FIRHAD HAKIM**

**HON'BLE MAYOR, KMC**

**SMT MALA ROY, HON'BLE MP**

**SHRI SUBRATA BAKSHI - HON'BLE MP**

**SHRI ASHIM KUMAR BOSE - MMIC, KMC**

## **HISTORIC MILESTONE FOR 'SAKAL JAIN SAMAJ'**

With immense pride, we share that the Jain Manastambh at Ray Street, Bhawanipore is being inaugurated.



**25/02/2026**



**03:00 PM**



**Ray Street,  
Bhawanipore**

**ALL ARE INVITED**

**JITO KOLKATA CHAPTER & SAKAL JAIN SAMAJ**

## IN BRIEF

## Ratna Bhandar

■ **BHUBANESWAR:** The Odisha government announced the standard operating procedure (SOP) for preparing the inventory of the Ratna Bhandar, the treasure trove of the Shree Jagannath Temple in Puri. The administration said the exercise would be videographed and conducted under CCTV surveillance. The state will involve representatives from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the State Bank of India (SBI) in the inventory process.

## Rehabilitation

■ **GUWAHATI:** The Centre has approved 5,000 new houses for the rehabilitation of internally displaced persons in strife-hit Manipur. The sanction follows Union home minister Amit Shah and BJP national president Nitin Nambir's meeting with Manipur chief minister Yumnam Khemchand Singh on Sunday. The state has been authorised to sanction new houses for those whose PMAY-G-assisted homes were destroyed in the violence.

Mamata's Bangla salvo at Centre over Kerala nod  
BJP anti-Bengal, says CM

SNEHAMOY CHAKRABORTY

**Calcutta:** The Union cabinet's approval of Kerala's proposal to rename the state as Kerala on Tuesday handed Mamata Banerjee a weapon to attack the BJP, asking why repeated pleas to rechristen West Bengal as Bangla had gone unheeded.

"I would like to congratulate the brothers and sisters of Kerala on the occasion of renaming the state as Kerala. But it surprised me that the BJP did not change West Bengal to Bangla, despite the Assembly having passed the resolution three times. I think they did not change the name of our state because they are anti-Bengal," the Bengal chief minister said.

She once again explained why renaming West Bengal as Bangla was important for the youth and for her as the chief minister, since the state alphabetically comes last.

"The names of several states have been changed once the respective governments endorsed such proposals. However, this has not been the case in West Bengal. When our students go for exams or interviews, they are called at the end since the name of the state begins with 'W', which comes late alphabetically. I, too, face the same problem. I get the



Mamata Banerjee



Pinarayi Vijayan

chance to speak at the end, as I am the chief minister of West Bengal," she added.

In June 2024, the government of Kerala led by chief minister Pinarayi Vijayan, had unanimously passed the resolution in the Assembly for the second time, urging the central government to change the state's name to Kerala in all languages included in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution.

Soon after coming to power in 2011, Mamata first proposed changing the name of West Bengal to Paschim Bango. However, it was rejected by the central government.

In 2016, the state government passed a resolution on the floor of the Assembly with multilingual names — Bangla (in Bengali), Bangal (in Hindi) and Bengal (in English). However, in 2017, the Narendra Modi government rejected the proposal, objecting to having three different names for one state.

In 2018, the Bengal Assembly once again passed a resolu-

tion proposing to rename the state as Bangla in all three languages. Trinamool Congress MP Sukhendu Sekhar Roy also raised the demand in the Rajya Sabha in 2018. However, in 2019, the Union ministry of home affairs did not allow it.

"Based on the culture of the state, we wanted to rename West Bengal as Bangla. In this regard, we have passed resolutions twice in the Assembly. After we were told that the name of the state should be the same in Hindi, Bengali and English, we passed a resolution again to rename the state as Bangla in all three languages," Mamata said.

"Whenever I have met PM Modi and HM Amit Shah, I have raised this issue. However, much to my surprise, nothing has happened. I think they are not approving it because they are anti-Bengali. They disrespect the icons and the polymaths of Bengal. They use the word 'Bangla' only during polls for votes. That is why they have not agreed to rename the state," the chief

minister said.

She did not miss the chance to put the BJP and the CPM in the same bracket. "Kerala has been renamed since there is an alliance growing between the BJP and the CPM. The alliance is no longer unwritten after today. Why will Bengal always face deprivation?" Mamata asked.

The BJP, however, claims that by renaming the state, Trinamool and Mamata wanted to make people forget the history behind the formation of West Bengal.

"Everyone knows there is a history (partition) behind the formation of West Bengal. The TMC wants to make people forget that. If they are so interested in changing the name, let them make it Paschim Banga in all languages; then the state will be ahead of Tamil Nadu (in the alphabetical order)," said Debjit Sarkar, the BJP state chief spokesperson.

CPM central committee member Sujan Chakraborty said Mamata should not see a BJP-CPM pact in the renaming of Kerala as Kerala. "She is trying to find a conspiracy as is her wont. Renaming Kerala was a long-standing demand, and our question is why the BJP approved it ahead of polls. Mamata herself created confusion by proposing different names for the state at different times," said Chakraborty.

## TMC, BJP clash over SC order

SUBHASISH CHAUDHURI

**Calcutta:** A fresh political storm erupted in Bengal on Tuesday after the Supreme Court ordered engaging judicial officers from Jharkhand and Odisha to hasten the settlement of voter disputes arising out of the special intensive revision (SIR) of the poll rolls.

While the ruling Trinamool Congress hailed the order as a victory for Bengal, the BJP called it an embarrassment for the state government.

The Supreme Court order came amid a massive backlog of SIR-related disputes. At least 60 lakh cases are pending with judicial officers, prompting the apex court to state that the EC, if needed, may appoint judicial officers from neighbouring states to meet the February 28 deadline for the publication of the revised voter list.

"In an unprecedented move today, the Supreme Court was compelled to permit the deployment of judges from neighbouring states to address the massive bottleneck created by the Election Commission's sheer incompetence and administrative failure..." Trinamool said in an official statement.

"The ECI is so discredited, so incompetent, so discredited that the Supreme Court is forced to import judges from other states to finish what was

supposed to be their sacred constitutional job," the party said.

Trinamool leader Sagarika Ghose termed the Supreme Court order as "a big win for Bengal" and "big setback for the extremely compromised Election Commission".

In sharp contrast, the Bengal BJP called the order an embarrassment for the state government. "The apex court's order has once again proved that without the court's intervention at every stage, the smooth completion of the SIR exercise won't be possible in Bengal," Bengal BJP chief Samik Bhattacharya said.

He claimed that similar exercises elsewhere had been completed without controversy. "But Bengal is the only state with such constant controversies and disruptions," he said, alleging that the state government and the ruling party "did not want the exercise to conclude smoothly".

CPM leader Sujan Chakraborty argued that frequent court interventions in poll processes could set unsettling precedents. "Today's order proved that the EC tried to finish the SIR exercise hurriedly, with an aim to exclude voters.... Constant interference of the court is creating judicial precedents... it is weakening the foundation of democracy."



Gaurav Gogoi

## Centre gives Gogoi global goal

UMANAND JAISWAL

**Guwahati:** Assam Congress president Gaurav Gogoi, whom the ruling BJP has repeatedly accused of being a "Pakistani agent", has been nominated as the president of the India-Philippines Parliamentary Friendship Group, prompting the Opposition to question the credibility of the allegations against him.

In a two-paragraph letter issued on Monday, the Lok Sabha secretariat informed Gogoi of the group and his nomination as its president "for the period of the 18th Lok Sabha" by Speaker Om Birla.

In a post on X, the Lok Sabha secretariat said Birla had formed Parliamentary Friendship Groups with more than 60 countries, calling it a "landmark initiative" aimed at deepening legislative dialogue and strengthening structured parliament-to-parliament cooperation.

The move, it said, reinforces India's democratic outreach and complements traditional diplomacy through sustained engagement between elected representatives. It added that the initiative builds upon the Prime Minister Modi's post-Operation Sindoor multi-party outreach, which underscored bipartisan unity on matters of national interest and security.

## An honour: Opp

The letter has been seized upon by Opposition parties to poke holes in the allegations levelled by Assam chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and the BJP about Gogoi and his wife Elizabeth Colburn's alleged links with "enemy country" Pakistan. The development is also seen as a boost for the Congress ahead of the March-April Assembly polls.

Congress spokesperson Reetam Singh said on X that the appointment "constitutes a direct and unequivocal vindication of Shri Gaurav Gogoi's integrity and parliamentary standing", adding that the allegations against him had "no substance whatsoever".

The Assam Jatiya Parishad echoed the sentiment, with its spokesperson Ziaur Rahman saying Gogoi's appointment "sharply contrasts" with Sarma's attempts to brand him a "Pakistani agent", and called it an honour for Gogoi and a recognition of Assam's dignity.

## BJP reacts

Reacting to the appointment on Monday, Sarma said: "He (Gogoi) should have been given Pakistan. Had he been given India-Pakistan, it would have done well." A senior BJP spokesperson dismissed the appointment as a "routine, insignificant" exercise.

## Beyond status quo, a restless Bengal

BITAN SIKDAR

**Calcutta:** The formal debate on the Calcutta Club lawns on Saturday examined the motion — "In the Opinion of the House, Status Quo Has Been the Unmaking of West Bengal." Yet, beyond the spotlight and structured arguments of the galaxy of speakers, another debate was quietly gathering force.

Across the terrace, in the lounge and along the hallowed club's 119-year-old corridors, members and guests engaged in conversations that felt more urgent than the motion being debated. With Assembly elections nearing, the Sister Nivedita University presents Calcutta Club The Telegraph National Debate 2026 sought to reflect on Bengal's trajectory. But away from the stage, discussions were anchored firmly in the anxieties of the present and the uncertainties of the future.

Artificial intelligence surfaced as one of the dominant themes. Kinshuk Bardhan, general manager of IBM, dismissed the idea of AI as a looming threat. To him, it is already woven into daily life.

"AI is the next best thing the world has seen after computerisation or digitalisation. It is here to stay," he said. Rather than resisting it, Bardhan argued, young people must learn to harness it. Only then can they position themselves as active contributors to India's growth story, shaping policy, innovation and opportunity instead of



The audience listens to the debate on the Calcutta Club Lawns on Saturday.

Picture by Sanat Kr Sinha

fearing displacement.

From technology, conversations drifted to healthcare — and the mood turned sombre. Dr Ramaditya Ray, the club's social and cultural chairman, criticised what he described as the growing corporatisation of medical services in Bengal. High-end private hospitals, he said, often subject patients to a battery of expensive tests without necessarily arriving at clear diagnoses. The financial and emotional burden, he warned, weighs heavily on the lower middle class. "This has been a persistent problem for nearly two decades," Ray said, calling for accountability and stronger monitoring.

Healthcare concerns blended into a broader unease — the steady migration of Bengal's youth.

Sujoy Biswas, principal of Ram Mohan Mission High School, spoke of neighbourhoods such as Jodhpur Park, Lake Gardens and Salt Lake increasingly populated by elderly residents, as younger generations relocate to cities like Mumbai, Delhi, Noida, Gurgaon and Bengaluru. What troubled him more, he

said, was the mindset of those who leave and then encourage others to do the same, reinforcing the narrative of Bengal as a land of limited opportunity.

"No government can reverse this if the instinct is always to escape," Biswas said. He argued that young people must first see themselves as stakeholders in the state's future before demanding transformation.

Politics and federalism added yet another dimension.

Amitava Chaudhuri, a former United Nations adviser, questioned what he termed the excessive centralisation of power.

He advocated greater autonomy for states in managing education, administration and development, suggesting that a stronger federal structure would ultimately strengthen India. Drawing comparisons with Europe, he asked: "If such decentralisation works there, why not here?"

As teacups clinked and voices rose and fell in measured disagreement, these parallel conversations captured a mood perhaps more revealing than the formal debate itself. On the lawns, the question was whether stability had turned into stagnation — the audience seemed to agree as the motion was carried. In the corridors, the focus shifted to survival, aspiration and reinvention.

Between the structured arguments and the spontaneous exchanges, a more nuanced portrait of Bengal emerged — complex, concerned and searching for direction.



A yak stands amid the snow in Sandakphu on Tuesday

## Sandakphu snow in winter's tail

VIVEK CHHETRI

**Darjeeling:** Sandakphu experienced its first significant snowfall of this winter, albeit late, on Tuesday, while Darjeeling witnessed rain and hailstorm after an exceptionally long dry spell.

Chandan Pradhan, secretary of Singalila Land Rover's Association that ferries tourists from Maneybhanjyang to Sandakphu, said the region received a thick blanket of snow. "It's the first significant snowfall in Sandakphu this winter. Many vehicles could not reach Sandakphu due to slippery roads," said Pradhan.

A hailstorm lashed Darjeeling around noon following rain since 10.30am. Darjeeling and Sikkim had not received significant rainfall from October 4, 2025 onwards, which had left tea planters, farmers and residents worried.

India Meteorological Department (IMD) data states that Darjeeling received only 0.2mm of rainfall from January 1 to February 2, 2026, against a normal of 12.9mm, a rainfall deficit of 98 per cent.

## Courts receive hoax bomb explosion threats

SNEHAMOY CHAKRABORTY

**Calcutta:** Back-to-back emails threatening bomb explosions, sent to senior judges, rocked at least five Bengal courts, including one in Calcutta, on Tuesday at a time when judicial officers were extensively involved in presiding over the ongoing SIR process.

A source said the first email was sent to the official account of the district judge of West Burdwan in Asansol. Shortly thereafter, several courts, including the City Sessions Court in Calcutta, also known as the Bankshall Court, informed their respective police stations about similar emails.

An additional district judge's court in Durgapur, the district judge's court in Hooghly's Chinsurah, and the district judge's court in Murshidabad's Berhampore also received the threat mails. The emails said IED-type bombs had been installed on the court premises and could explode at any time.

The respective police stations immediately informed their superiors, and large police teams, along with bomb squad personnel, reached the spots to check whether there were any bombs inside or outside the courts. Most courts were vacated by the judges concerned, and legal proceedings were halted for over an hour until the police ensured that no explosives had been planted either inside the courtrooms



Bomb squad personnel at the Hooghly district court in Chinsurah on Tuesday.

Picture by Amit Kumar Karmakar

or outside.

Debabras Nath, the district judge of West Burdwan, told journalists: "The mail was likely a hoax. I ordered the court to be vacated purely as a safety measure."

A police source said the text of the emails was similar, and they were claimed to have been sent from Tamil Nadu. However, the police believe the source of the emails couldn't be confirmed until the IP addresses are traced through a proper investigation.

"We have to cross-check and verify the IP address to ascertain where it was generated. Police have already started a probe to trace the origin of the emails," said a senior police officer.

Most senior judges, including district judges, are part of the SIR process after the Supreme Court ordered their involvement. Many insiders suspect that the emails were sent to create panic among those judicial officers for vested interests.

Bengal chief electoral officer Manoj Agarwal said the state should ensure the

quality and security of judges involved in the SIR process. Chief secretary Nandini Chakraborty held a news conference in Nabanna and claimed that the Bengal government had been actively working to ensure their safety.

The BJP and the Trinamool Congress have put forward their own narratives regarding the emails and hoax bomb threats.

BJP leader and the leader of the Opposition, Suwendu Adhikari, accused Bangladeshi outfits such as Jamaat-e-Islami and demanded an NIA probe, alleging that those trying to protect infiltrators' names on the electoral rolls could be involved in the bomb threats.

"I think militant outfits from Bangladesh are involved in this threat mail, and those who want to keep Jamaat elements and Bangladeshi infiltrators in the electoral rolls in this state may be behind it. I demand that the NIA intervene in this incident," said Adhikari.

Trinamool spokesperson Arup Chakraborty, however, claimed that if a proper investigation was conducted, it would reveal the BJP's involvement in creating panic among judicial officers.

"Recently, two BJP workers were caught by local people for planting bombs on the railway tracks at the Nimtita railway station in Murshidabad. If a thorough investigation is conducted, the BJP's involvement may also be found here," said Chakraborty.

## Paved: Road from Vedas to engineering

FROM PAGE 1

The AICTE has asked to treat the Veda Bhushan and Veda Vibhushan certificates of the Maharshi Sandipani Rashtriya Veda Sanskrit Shiksha Board (MSRVSSB) as the equivalent of the Class X and Class XII pass certificates, respectively, of conventional boards.

Students of the MSRVSSB, started by the Maharshi Sandipani Rashtriya Ved Vidya Pratisthan, were so far not eligible to study engineering.

The syllabi for Veda Bhushan and Veda Vibhushan are loaded with content from the Vedas while integrating some elements of English, mathematics, science, social science and computer.

The eligibility criteria prescribed by the AICTE for admission to B.Tech courses include clearing Class XII with science subjects like physics, chemistry and mathematics.

The directive issued by AICTE adviser N.H. Sidalanga Swamy on January 28 says: "Higher Educational Institutions are advised to

ensure that students who successfully pass examinations conducted by the MSRVSSB and meet the eligibility criteria are considered at par with students of other recognised boards for the purpose of admission to higher education programmes."

The letter said the Association of Indian Universities (AIU), empowered by the government till last year to grant equivalence to various boards and varsities, had recognised Grade 10 and Grade 12 qualifications under the MSRVSSB as equivalent to those of the regular boards.

"In view of the above, the Ministry of Education, Government of India, recognises the Maharshi Sandipani Rashtriya Veda Sanskrit Shiksha Board (MSRVSSB) as a Regular School Board. Accordingly, the Certificates awarded by the MSRVSSB are equivalent to certificates issued by other Central/ State School Boards of India for the purpose of admission in higher education institutions and employment in Central/ State Government



The All India Council for Technical Education office in Delhi

organisations/ bodies," the letter said.

According to the website of the MSRVSSB, Vedic education is distinctly different from the conventional education system.

"In modern system, the emphasis is on conceptual clarity and understanding and memorisation is viewed negatively; whereas in Vedic education, complete memorisation and knowing the meaning is celebrated with excellence in merit. Vedic education primarily involves memorisation of the entire Samhita of a particular Veda Shakra, its recitation and per-

fect intonation of each Swara. It's called Vedic oral tradition, Veda recitation, wherein direct face-to-face learning is emphasised, with hours of continuous practice," the website says.

Prof. Onkar Singh, former VC of Uttarakhnad Technical University, said students with inadequate knowledge of science subjects would find it difficult to cope with engineering studies. "They will face several challenges in conceptual understanding. The medium of instruction will be an issue, too," he said.

Singh also feared a dilution in standards. "The syllabi of middle and secondary classes in school boards aim to maintain a particular standard. But the Vedic school boards are focused on Vedic education. The AICTE should have examined the syllabus, delivery of course content and the learning outcome of children from the Vedic boards before issuing orders to consider these pupils on a par with the students of other boards for admission to engineering colleges," he said.

He said colleges would start admitting students from the Vedic stream of education now as many seats remained vacant.

"Nearly 30 to 40 per cent of seats remain vacant in engineering colleges every year. Many engineering colleges will admit these Vedic board students. As the examination system is also compromised in many colleges, these students will complete the courses. Quite likely, a few of them will become faculty members and institutional leaders. Prima facie, it is a huge compromise with the standard of eligibility for engineering and technical education," Singh said.

A government official said the AICTE had issued similar instructions to its approved colleges earlier, too, but the response had been cold.

"The letter has been sent again to popularise the Vedic boards," the official said.

The Telegraph sent an email to AICTE chairman Yogesh Singh asking about the criticism of the decision. His response is awaited.

## Ajit Pawar son set to enter Rajya Sabha

OUR BUREAU

**New Delhi:** Parth Pawar, the 35-year-old son of late Ajit Pawar, appears all set to be elected to the Rajya Sabha with the NCP leadership deciding to field him for the biennial elections scheduled for next month, sources said.

He will replace his mother Sunetra Pawar in the Upper House. Sunetra has stepped in as the deputy chief minister in the Mahayuti government in Maharashtra following her husband's death in a plane crash on January 28.

Sunetra will contest the by-elections to the Baramati Assembly seat, which Ajit represented, NCP leaders said.

Elections to seven Rajya Sabha vacancies in Maharashtra are scheduled to be held on March 16. The ruling Mahayuti, comprising the BJP, Shiv Sena (Shinde) and the NCP (Ajit Pawar faction), has the numbers to win six of them. One of the seven vacancies



Parth Pawar. File picture

arose after the completion of the six-year-term of Pawar family patriarch Sharad Pawar, who heads the NCP faction that is part of the Opposition alliance. The Opposition can win one of the seven seats, but it's still unclear whether the senior Pawar, 84, was ready for re-election.

Party insiders said Parth's nomination reflected Sunetra's intent to consolidate control over the party following her husband's death and position her son as his political successor, limiting the influ-

ence of members of the Sharad Pawar camp.

Sources also indicated that the BJP, whose backing is crucial for Parth's election, was initially hesitant about his candidature but later relented.

"The BJP had reservations as Parth's name had surfaced in connection with the Mundhwa land-deal controversy. However, they softened their stance after it was confirmed that his name does not figure in the chargesheet," a senior NCP leader said.

The Mundhwa land deal pertains to the transfer of a 40-acre state government-owned plot in Pune to Amadea Enterprises LLP, in which Parth is a major partner. The state's economic offences wing recently filed a chargesheet in the case, but Parth's name was not included. A high-powered committee set up to probe the transaction is yet to submit its report.



## 3 JU STUDENTS BARRED FROM CAMPUS FOR 'ASSAULTING TEACHERS'

### GOOD MORNING

#### EVENT

■ An exhibition of Jogen Chowdhury's works, Debovasha, 2pm to 8pm.

#### Biker run over

■ ANANDAPUR: A biker died after a mini truck hit the vehicle at the Basanti Highway-Bantala Road crossing on Tuesday morning. Sudip Mondal, 27, suffered head injuries despite wearing a helmet, police said. He was declared dead at SSKM. The driver was detained.

### WEATHER

#### YESTERDAY

☀ Maximum: 26.8°C (-3.7)

🌙 Minimum: 19.2°C (-0.3)

☔ RAINFALL: Nil

💧 HUMIDITY: Max: 100%, Min: 57%

#### THE FORECAST

☀ Maximum 30°C

🌙 Minimum 19°C

☁ EXPECTED: Partly cloudy sky

🌅 SUNSET 5.39pm

🌅 SUNRISE 6.01am

🌙 RAMZAN TIMINGS

🌙 IFTAR 5.43pm

🌙 SEHRI 4.40am

## Elevators shut, elderly residents struggle to exit 13-storey building

# Flat fire on Southern Avenue

MONALISA CHAUDHURI

**Southern Avenue:** An eighth-floor apartment in a 13-storey residential building on Southern Avenue caught fire on Tuesday morning, leaving several elderly residents gasping for air.

Many residents had to be assisted out of the building after the power supply to the elevators was shut off as soon as the fire was reported. Most of the 104 apartments in the 49-year-old building are occupied by elderly Calcuttans whose children live elsewhere in India or abroad.

The fire broke out in the bedroom of an eighth-floor flat at Ananda, 116 Southern Avenue, when a window air-conditioner caught fire.

Pinaki Sarkar, 74, a retired engineer, and his wife Mili, 70, were preparing for lunch at the time. The couple, who own flats on both the first and eighth floors of the building, had temporarily shifted upstairs as their first-floor residence was undergoing renovation.

"I was in the living room and my help was in the kitchen when I heard a loud sound. I went to the bedroom and saw flames. The window AC had caught fire and fallen," said Mili Sarkar, standing outside their flat, 8H.



Ananda, on Southern Avenue, where an eighth-floor flat caught fire on Tuesday



Blackened walls around the eighth-floor apartment of Ananda where the fire broke out. Pictures by Bishwarup Dutta



An app cab that caught fire on Southern Avenue on Tuesday afternoon, shortly after the Ananda building blaze was reported

A large portion of the bedroom was gutted. "The saddest part is that our son's bed — the one he grew up using — has been completely gutted," she said.

The couple's son lives in the US and their daughter in Australia.

They managed to rush out before the flames spread further. The family lost a laptop and Pinaki Sarkar's wallet containing cards, which he later tried to block with the help of a neighbour.

Next-door neighbour Anju Majumdar, 80, whose daughter lives in Canada, was alerted by support staff. "Someone rang the doorbell and told me to step out immediately. By then, smoke had entered my flat," she said.

A staff member carried her down eight floors to safety. Four fire tenders were

pressed into service to douse the flames.

"The fire started inside an apartment on the eighth floor. The exact cause has yet to be ascertained," said an officer of the fire and emergency services department.

Residents and building staff acted as first responders before firefighters arrived.

"We used fire extinguishers and hose pipes to spray water, but there was so much smoke in the hallway that we couldn't reach the source of the fire," said Rabi Ranjan Gupta, secretary of the residents' association.

For many, the incident underscored the larger concern of evacuation challenges in a building where most residents are elderly.

"A majority of the flat owners are elderly people. Their children live outside Calcutta or abroad," said a resident. "My greatest fear is how they will come down from the upper floors if the elevators are shut during a fire."

Local MLA Debasish Kumar visited the building.

The incident comes a day after the outdoor unit of an AC caught fire on the fourth floor of Tower IV at the Urbana housing complex. That blaze was brought under control using the building's internal fire-fighting system.



Scattered clouds in the city sky on Tuesday afternoon. Picture by Bishwarup Dutta

## Early-morning showers cool city briefly

DEBRAJ MITRA

**Calcutta:** A spell of rain accompanied by gusty winds lashed Calcutta early on Tuesday morning, bringing the first showers in nearly four months.

Many residents slept through the rain, which arrived before dawn. It was not a gentle drizzle. The maximum wind speed recorded at Dum Dum around 4.45am was 42kmph, a Met official said. In Alipore, winds touched just over 30kmph around the same time. In this part of the world, winds exceeding 60kmph are strong enough to fell trees.

The showers, however, provided only temporary relief from the early-summer vibes. According to the forecast, temperatures are set to climb again from Wednesday.

On Tuesday, the rain and cloud cover led to a sharp drop in the day temperature. The Met office recorded a maximum of 26.8° Celsius in Alipore, down from 31.2° the previous day. The temperature was nearly 4° below normal.

The weather system responsible for the showers has weakened, and the city is likely to remain dry for now. Humidity levels are also expected to stay relatively low for at least a couple of days, Met officials said. The maximum temperature on Wednesday is likely to hover around 30° Celsius.

Between 8.30pm on Monday and 8.30pm on Tuesday, Alipore recorded around 6mm

of rainfall, most of it between 4.30am and 6am.

The last time the city received rainfall was on November 2 last year, though that spell was barely more than a drizzle.

"A trough extending from the Bengal coast to Andhra Pradesh was active. The system sent a lot of moisture inland. The heating of the land over the past few days combined with this moisture to form rain-bearing thunderclouds that brought gusty winds and rain," a Met official explained.

By the second week of February, the long winter phase had ended. Over the past few days, daytime temperatures had climbed to uncomfortable levels, accompanied by rising humidity.

Tuesday's rain offered a brief respite. Many early risers posted videos of the wet morning and overcast skies on social media. Children headed to school in raincoats.

"The rain did not last long, but most of the day remained cloudy. This explains the sharp fall in the maximum temperature," the official at the Regional Meteorological Centre in Alipore said. "The sun is expected to be bright again from Wednesday."

Apart from Calcutta, thundershowers were reported in several south Bengal districts, including Nadia, North and South 24-Parganas, Howrah, East Midnapore, Purulia and West Bardwan.

## GATHERING UNITES THROUGH ART IN SOLIDARITY AND PROTEST

# One Billion Rising to resist violence against women



A performance at the One Billion Rising event. Picture by Bishwarup Dutta

JHINUK MAZUMDAR

**Calcutta:** Women rose in solidarity — against injustice, against violence, and for one another.

Through poetry, dance, theatre and other art forms, they asserted their resistance to gender-based violence, rising for their bodies, their dignity and their souls.

The city observed One Billion Rising (OBR) at a programme outside the Academy of Fine Arts on Tuesday, with 15 organisations and hundreds of participants coming together to amplify their voices and demand an end to gender-based violence.

While violence against women has not been eliminated, those behind the movement said it has helped create visibility and awareness around women's issues and their right to assert themselves.

A 40-year-old survivor of domestic violence shared her story. After enduring abuse in her marital home, she returned to her natal family's house. Despite paying rent to stay in her own home, she faced further violence from her aunts.

"My father had passed away, and my mother did not have a say. My paternal aunts would torture me," she said. "I joined a feminist organisation, and today I live in that same house without paying any rent because that house is as much mine as it is theirs."

Organisations working for women's rights have witnessed a significant shift, with more women speaking out against abuse.

"Women are increasingly recognising signs of violence that were once normalised. They are talking about it and seeking help much earlier than before," said

Amrita Dasgupta, director of Swayam, a feminist organisation.

"One Billion Rising is about the strength of women. If one billion women are experiencing violence, then one billion of them rise, strike and dance," she said.

The global movement, initiated in 2012 by feminist activist Eve Ensler, calls for collective action to end violence against women. This year's theme — "Rise for our bodies, our earth, our future" — underscored the interconnected nature of violence, through caste, class, disability and socio-economic marginalisation. The message was clear: Resistance must be collective because oppression is layered.

Art became both expression and protest at the event.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

## UK eVisa goes live today: What's new

DEBRAJ MITRA

**Calcutta:** The UK immigration system is switching from physical visas to eVisas, starting Wednesday.

Applicants will still need to visit a Visa Application Centre (VAC) for an appointment and to submit their passport when applying for a visa, but passports will be returned the same day.

From Wednesday, transit visas will also become eVisas. On the eve of the transition, UK government officials met travel operators in south Calcutta to address their questions.

"Starting tomorrow, visitors will receive an eVisa. The change marks a significant improvement in the journey as applicants will only need to visit the Visa Application Centre once to provide biometric details and confirm their identities. Their passports will be returned. They won't be keeping your passports," said Bhaarat Dave, deputy head of mission at the British deputy high commission in Calcutta.

Anil Punjabi, chairman of the Travel Agents Federation of India (TAFI), eastern region, told Metro: "The travel agents have welcomed the transition. The biggest advantage is that the traveller will get to keep the passport. We also hope the processing time will come down in the future."

Metro was part of the interaction hosted by the federation. Based on the discussions, here's a low-down on the new system:

**Q: What is an eVisa?**  
A: An eVisa is a digital record of identity and immigration status — for example, the type of visa a person has or whether they have indefinite leave to remain in the UK (settlement). It also records the conditions of a visitor's status, such as whether they are allowed to work, study, or are simply visiting as a tourist.

**Q: What is changing from February 25?**  
A: From February 25, 2026, visitors (except British and Irish citizens) will get an eVisa only. This digital immigration status replaces visa vignette stickers in passports. For now, the expected processing time remains around 15 days.

**Q: What happens to an applicant's passport?**  
A: The VAC returns the passport on the same day as the appointment. This allows applicants to travel elsewhere if needed.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

## The Telegraph CLASSIFIED

**The Telegraph AIR SURCHARGE**  
TRIPURA: ₹6.00  
**ROAD / RAIL SURCHARGE**  
ASSAM: ₹3.00; NAGALAND: ₹3.00.

### CHANGE OF NAME

I, Enayettullah Khan, S/O Late Aatur Rahman Khan, R/O Shalukhali, P.S.-Sutahata, Purba Medinipur-721658, declare that my name was earlier recorded as Enayet Khan in my Voter ID; both names refer to one and the same person vide Affidavit No. 15682 dated 29.11.2025.

AN29AN123 00192360  
We, Prasennit Das (father) and Anindita Das (mother), parents of Prajjwal Das (Date of Birth: 26/12/2021), do hereby declare that we have changed the name of our son from Prajjwal Das to Hriyan Das vide Affidavit No. 5622 dated 11/02/2026. Henceforth, he shall be known and called as Hriyan Das for all purposes.

DR150070R15007 00192376  
I, Rajveer Mukherjee, son of Raja Mukherjee, residing at 26, Indra Roy road, near bhownanipore SBI Bank, Bhowanipore, Kolkata 700025, do hereby solemnly affirm and declare that, I have changed my name from gazette of india in 2023. Old name - Shovodeep

Mukherjee New name - Rajveer Mukherjee. That the reason of change of name is Astrological. My birth certificate and educational documents bears my old name Shovodeep and my aadhaar and pan card bears my new name Rajveer. That Rajveer Mukherjee and Shovodeep Mukherjee is same and one identical person vide Affidavit no. 40AA155271 date: 29/01/26, court: Howrah

DR150070R15007 00192311  
I, Ananta Narayan Chaudhuri, S/O Late Dr. Kumud Ranjan Chaudhuri, resident of 26, Sarat Bose Road, Basudhara, Flat No. 42, Kolkata-700020, W.B. That my actual and full name is Ananta Narayan Chaudhuri, S/O Late Dr. Kumud Ranjan Chaudhuri which has been recorded in my Aadhaar Card No. 4654 8495 9753, Voter Card No. DWK2034296. That in my Driving Licence No. WB01 19910754318 my name has been recorded as A.N. Chaudhuri S/O- Lt K.R. Chaudhuri in place of full name Ananta Narayan Chaudhuri, S/O Late Dr. Kumud Ranjan Chaudhuri & A.N.

DR150070R15007 00192320  
I, Ananta Narayan Chaudhuri Hereby declare that both Ananta Narayan Chaudhuri S/O Late Dr. Kumud Ranjan Chaudhuri & A.N. Chaudhuri S/O Late K.R. Chaudhuri is same and one identical Person. I

declared before the concern PVD for necessary Correction in the Court of 1st Class Judicial Magistrate at Kolkata vide affidavit no. 1588. dt. 20.02.2026.

DR150070R15007 00192370

### LOST & FOUND

Myself Keya Chatterjee lost chain dead of Settlement dated 1984 in name of Mr. Biresh Chatterjee and Mrs. Abira Chatterjee relating to property at 81/1/2 Tollygunge Road Kolkata- 700033, GD no. 1894 at Charu Market P.S., dt 23/02/26. If found please contact- 9831025100

DR150070R15007 00192307

### NOTICE

My clients Md. Arshad Islam, D/o. Late Nurul Islam of 3, Dedud Bux Lane, P.O.- Park Street, P.S. Taltla, Kol-16 and Ayesha Arshad, D/o. Md. Arshad Islam and W/o. Md. Shahbaz of 20/1D, Taltala Bazar Street, P.O. Entally, P.S.- Taltala, Kol-14 are going to enter into a Development Agreement with one Deboprasad Guin, S/o. Late Raghunath Guin of 10/3, Bechulal Road, P.S.- Entally, Kol-14 in respect of landed property measuring Five Cottahs under his sole and absolute ownership at Premises No.5, Andul Raj Road, Kol-26. If anybody has any objection/claim in respect of the aforesaid property and/or aforesaid contract, please contact me alongwith proper valid papers and documents within 30 days from the date of this notice,

otherwise thereafter, any objection/claim from any quarter shall not be entertained at any means.

Mrs. Sampa Sengupta Choudhury, Advocate

M: 9830603360

### TENDER

Kazi Nazrul University (KNU) intends to procure and install of Printer cum scanner at KNU, Asansol through Online e Tender. (https://wb.tenders.gov.in Tender ID: 2026\_DHE\_1010386\_1 Ref. No.: KNU/EO/TENDER/73/25-26 Date: 19.02.2026 Please visit www.knu.ac.in for details

Sd/- Estate Officer [Addl. Charge]

AF489AFF489 00192523

### ASTROLOGY



Vashikaran Property/Court Issue Secret Enemies Manglik/Maran Dosh remedies call Babuda. Belialgata/Gariahat: 9163736098

00192296

### Now advertise in

The Telegraph Classified

from home at your convenience.

Simply Call or WhatsApp on 99030 88888

anytime between 10am - 6pm

Payment can be made through

Credit Card,

Debit Card,

Internet Banking,

e-Wallet,

Cash Card,

Pay Zapp.

The Telegraph CLASSIFIED

**DISCLAIMER: ABP (P) LTD. or any of its agents assume no responsibility for the authenticity or reliability of any advertisement published in this newspaper. The advertisements carried in the newspaper are accepted in good faith.**

**RELISH THE REPEAT!**  
If you're a property owner or seeker, grab the opportunity right away! Advertise in The Telegraph Classified and your property ad will get a free repeat in t2 Classified on Wednesday!

ANYTIME BETWEEN 99030 88888  
MON-SAT 10AM-6PM  
CONTACT YOUR NEAREST AGENT. BOOK YOUR AD TODAY.

Anandabazar Patrika Ityadi, The Telegraph Classified and ABP Weddings Online Agents in your area		
Location	Contact Person	Phone No.
Agarpara	Baby Roy	9830478452
Alipore	Animesh Kumar Chowdhury	7044400205
Anwar Shah Road	Nilopal Chowdhury	9830038047
Baghajatin	Palash Nath	7890003333
Baguiati	Sandip Bagui	9830014618
Barrackpore	Apu Roy	9830478452
Behala	Pratap De	9830187381
Behala	We Make Us Advertising	8961591831
Belgharia	Apu Roy	9830478452
Buxarah	Dipten Sen	9830203559
Dunlop	Santanu Ray	9007110032
Ganguli Bagan	Dhananjay Mondal	9331085917
Garia Station	Jayanta Sarkar	9674187085
Gariahat	Prohalad Halder	8777741987
Jadavpur	Madhu Nath	7044279308
Kadamtala	Suvro Kundu	9836788158
Kankurgachi	Mrityunjoy Banik	9051762309
Karimpur	Amitava Biswas	9093685530
Kasba	Abhijit Das	9330858650
New Town	K. Basu Roychowdhury	9831020234
Park Circus	Oner Advertising	9433807378
Rajarhat	Natiq Masood	9883599000
Salkia	Anil Gupta	9830058308
Salt Lake, A.E. Market	Sujata Roy	9830478452
Shyambazar	Roy Chowdhury & Co.	9874463132
Sealdah	Devyani Dutta	8017090000
Sodpur	Suman Saha	9831630186
Survey Park	Prim Zone	8777437208
Tollygunge	Sudip Roy Chowdhury	9330363132
Uttarpara	Pradip Dey	9830364603

Multiple rounds fired; illegal arms access under scanner again

# Man shot at in cold-drink 'theft' row

MONALISA CHAUDHURI



The spot along Tiljala Road where Mohammad Niaz was shot at early on Tuesday. Picture by Bishwarup Dutta

**Park Circus:** An altercation involving a child allegedly stealing a bottle of cold drink from a grocery store led to a shooting at Park Circus early on Tuesday, leaving one person with multiple bullet injuries.

Mohammad Niaz, 23, who lives on Tiljala Road in the neighbourhood, suffered at least two bullet injuries to his legs, said officers of Beniapukur police station.

According to officers, Niaz has been admitted to the trauma care centre of SSKM Hospital. Though senior officers claimed that two rounds were fired, people in the neighbourhood said at least four to five rounds were fired.

"There was an incident of firing. The victim is undergoing treatment at SSKM Hospital. We are trying to arrest the accused, a local rough with a criminal background. During preliminary inquiry, it has emerged that there was an old enmity between the accused and the injured man," said joint commissioner (crime), Kolkata Police, Rupesh Kumar on Tuesday.

Residents said that the altercation began after a child allegedly stole a bottle of cold drink from a grocery shop on Monday evening.

The kid was caught, and a group led by Mohammad Salman, a local goon, started scolding him.

Niaz took the child's side and defended him.

"At this point, Salman started threatening Niaz. An altercation followed," said a resident who did not wish to be named. "The argument subsided soon," he said.

Hours later, around 1.30am, Salman and his men allegedly returned to the spot on motorcycles looking for Niaz.

They gathered outside Niaz's home and started calling him out of the house. A group of men pinned down Niaz as soon as he stepped out.

"I was overpowered. They threatened me. As I was trying to find a way to escape, someone opened multiple rounds of

fire. I slumped on the road and the men who did this escaped," said Niaz from his hospital bed.

The location where Niaz was shot at is close to Calcutta Na-

## GUN CRIMES TIMELINE

Recent firing incidents in Calcutta and its outskirts have involved smuggled firearms, resulting in both injuries and fatalities

### November 2025

**Haridevpur:** A 37-year-old homemaker was shot at in front of her home. The assailant fled.

### September 2025

#### Deshapran Sashmal Road:

Two men with their heads covered with helmets entered a gym shouting the name of the gym owner and fired two rounds on the reception floor. No one was injured.

### March 2025

#### Panihati:

Three bike-borne assailants opened fire in Panihati, injuring TMC functionary Vikas Singh and passerby Santu Das.

### January 2025

#### Naihati:

Goons chased

and shot businessman Santosh Yadav dead in Naihati.

### January 2025

#### Barrackpore:

A man named Mohammad Imdad was shot at near an abandoned godown.

### November 2024

#### Kasba:

An assassination attempt on TMC councillor Sushanta Ghosh in Kasba failed when a gunman's weapon malfunctioned.

### August 2024

#### New Town:

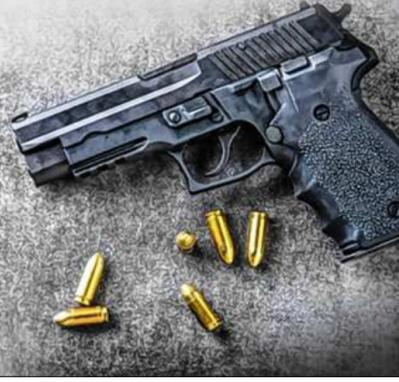
Brick kiln owner Nasiruddin Khan was shot dead by contract killers in New Town.

### July 2024

#### Lake Gardens:

A youth named Rakesh Kumar

Shah shot at his woman friend Nikku Kumari Dubey before committing suicide with the same gun. Dubey survived the attack.



tional Medical College and Hospital and is a stone's throw from Don Bosco School, Park Circus.

The incident of firing in the heart of Calcutta highlights the alarming accessibility of illegal arms to individuals, which leads to their improper

use throughout the city. People in the neighbourhood said Salman, a troublemaker, was infamous in the area for picking fights.

No one was arrested till late on Tuesday. Officers of Beniapukur

police station said raids were being conducted to arrest Salman and his associates.

"We are trying our best to arrest him (Salman). The victim is recuperating from his wounds," said a police officer.

## JU bars 3 students for 'assault on teachers'

SUBHANKAR CHOWDHURY

**Jadavpur:** Jadavpur University on Tuesday barred three students accused of assaulting teachers on February 20 from the campus.

These students will not be allowed to attend classes, appear for exams, enter the campus and participate in any institutional activities for a period of two weeks or till further orders with immediate effect, vice-chancellor Chiranjib Bhattacharjee said on Tuesday.

"An inquiry committee has been formed. Pending the outcome of the probe, they have been debarred. Next course of action will be decided based on the probe's outcome," Bhattacharjee said.

He said that if these students refuse to comply with the order, further action will be taken.

The decision was taken a day after the VC said "strong disciplinary action" would be initiated against the offending students.

A JU official said emails had been sent to the penalised students.

JU teachers — Rajeshwar Sinha and Lalit Mohakud — were injured on Friday when they tried to stop a fight between supporters of the SFI and We The Independents (WTI) over the election of student representatives for the varsity's internal complaints committee.

One of the teachers suffered blows to his eyes, triggering resentment among teachers who petitioned the VC on Monday for action against the offenders.

A teacher said instances of teacher assault were on the rise on the campus and demanded "stern action".

"Cases are on the rise because the university failed to take action against the offending students..." another said.

The VC said in a statement: "Such acts of aggression... are utterly unacceptable to the cherished values of respect, dialogue and sacred teacher-student relationship..."



The construction site on Lake Avenue, where explosions occurred on Tuesday. Picture by Bishwarup Dutta

## Cable snap triggers Lake Avenue blasts

OUR BUREAU

**Calcutta:** Several explosions were reported from an underground electricity cable on Lake Avenue on Tuesday morning, potentially caused by an earthmover that uncovered the cable during road work for the installation of underground drainage lines.

Manisha Bose, the councillor of Ward 87, said an earthmover had been deployed to dig the road when the explosions started.

"There was some flame. The fire brigade and the police came, but there were no injuries," she said. "It seems the explosions happened because of a short circuit," she said.

An engineer from the Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC) stated the digging of the road started on Tuesday.

"The earthmover may have unintentionally hit the electric cable, which led to the explosion. It was an error. It happens sometimes while doing underground repairs because there are so many utility lines underground in proximity to each other," said the engineer.

The CESC was immediately informed. Their engineers

soon arrived, KMC engineers said.

"We resumed the work in the presence of CESC engineers, and there was no problem later," said the KMC engineer.

A CESC official said that they received a call in the control room at 11.19am about the power supply going off at some homes in the neighbourhood.

"We restored the power supply in some of the homes by 12.08pm. Power supply was fully restored by 2pm," said Soumitra Ghosh, senior vice-president (distribution services), CESC.

"The road work snapped the cables, causing the disruption," he said.

A local shopkeeper said some residents rushed out on hearing the explosions. "Everyone was confused about what exactly happened," he said.

KMC sources said Calcutta's underground has a mix of multiple utility lines — water lines, drainage lines, electric cables, telephone cables and internet cables. In many places, there are no proper maps of underground utility lines, making fresh underground work a greater challenge.

## UK eVisa goes live

FROM PAGE 7

If the UK eVisa is approved in time, they can check it online and enter the UK from another country.

**Q: What does the change mean for visitors to the UK?**

A: With an eVisa, applicants only need to attend the VAC once to confirm their identity. There is no need to revisit to collect a physical visa.

Once the application is approved, applicants receive an email notification. They will be asked to create a UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) account to access their eVisa.

All eVisa holders — including dependants, children and the elderly — must create a UKVI account before travelling.

If the traveller's passport is correctly linked to their UKVI account, airlines and carriers can automatically confirm permission to travel via UK Home Office checks.

**Q: How to create a UKVI account?**

A: Go to [Gov.uk/eVisa](http://Gov.uk/eVisa) or follow the link in the decision notification and select "Create an Account".

Provide an email address and phone number to receive a security code.

Verify identity using passport details. This requires a smartphone to install an app and involves taking a photo of the applicant's face.

Create UKVI accounts for dependants or children if travelling as a family. The same email and phone number can be used for all.

Once set up, users can sign in anytime to check their eVisa or update details.

**Q: What are the benefits of eVisas?**

A: Streamlined application process; passports are returned the same day. Convenience: applicants can access and manage their data via their UKVI account anytime, anywhere.

Security: eVisas are more secure than physical documents and cannot be lost, stolen or tampered with.

**CHHATTISGARH STATE POWER GENERATION COMPANY LIMITED**  
(A Govt. of C.G. Undertaking)

NO.-03-03/TN-489/25-26/6660 Raipur dtd. 23/02/2026

**E-TENDER NOTICE NO. TN-489/25-26**

Online bids are invited by the undersigned through CSPCL e-bidding system (SAP-SRM) from experienced & reputed contractors for the Supply/work as mentioned below:—

S. No.	Tender no. /RF's no.	Description	Submission Date & time
1.	HW-615/25-26 8100049654 (With RLA)	AOH work of Boiler Pressure Parts of 210 MW ABL make Boiler of Unit No. 3, HTPS, Korba West.	23.03.2026 Up to 15:00 Hrs
2.	HW-616/25-26 8100049655 (With RLA)	Replacement Work of Primary Supper Heater Top Bank, Horizontal Re-heater Top & Intermediate Bank Coil of 210 MW ABL Boilers of unit no.3 of HTPS, Korba West during AOH of unit.	24.03.2026 Up to 15:00 Hrs
3.	DW-617/25-26 8100049656 (With RLA)	"Annual Maintenance Contract of C&I Control System like DCS & PLC and their Field Equipment at DSPMTPS, CSPGCL, Korba East	20.03.2026 Up to 15:00 Hrs
4.	CP-619 8100049668 (With RLA)	Manufacture & Supply of Conveyor Rollers for Coal Handling Plant of HTPS Korba West.	17.03.2026 Up to 15:00 Hrs

For details please visit our website <https://cspcl.co.in/cspgcl/tendernotices/> or our e-bidding portal:— <https://ebidding.cspcl.co.in:50724/tri/portal>

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (S&P-GEN) CSPGCL-RAIPUR

SAVE ELECTRICITY SAMVAD-469982

**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER**  
**RCD, ROAD DIVISION, JAMSHEDPUR, JHARKHAND**  
**e-Procurement Notice**  
**For National Competitive Bidding**  
**Short e-Tender Reference No. RCD/JAMSHEDPUR/354**  
**Date- 18.02.2026**

1.	Name of the work	STRENGTHENING/ROOF OF GHATSHILA TAMAKPAL ROAD (MDR 153) FOR YEAR 2025-2026 (LENGTH-1.594KM)
2.	Estimated Cost of Work (in INR)	Rs 1,45,37,974.00 (Rupees One Crore Forty Five Lakh Thirty Seven Thousand Nine Hundred & Seventy Four Only)
3.	Initial Bid Security (Rs In Lacs)	Rs 2.91 Lakh (Rupees Two Lakh Ninety One Thousand only).
4.	Initial Bid Security in the shape of	Initial Bid Security - As per SOP issued by Information Technology and e-Governance Department, Govt. of Jharkhand vide Letter No.120, Dt. 03.10.2023
5.	Cost of Bidding documents	Rs 10,000.00 (Rs Ten Thousand) only.
6.	Time of Completion	02 (Two Months)
7.	Date of Publication of Tender on website	23.02.2026 at 12.30 P.M.
8.	Start date of bidding	23.02.2026 from 12.30 P.M.
9.	Last date & Time for online bidding	11.03.2026 up to 02.00 PM.
10.	Type of Bid	Single envelope mode 11.03.2026
11.	Last date & time for receipt of Bid Security and other documents in Online form	Through e-tendering portal <a href="http://www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in">www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in</a> As per SOP issued by Information Technology and e-Governance Department, Govt. of Jharkhand vide Letter No.120, Dt. 03.10.2023
12.	Date & time for opening of Technical Bid	12.03.2026 at 3.30 PM by e-Procurement Cell, Office of the Chief Engineer (Comm), RCD, Jharkhand, 1 <sup>st</sup> Floor, Engineer's Hostel No.2, Near Dhurwa, Golchakkar, Ranchi
13.	Name & address of office Inviting tender	Executive Engineer, RCD, Road Division, Jamshedpur, Road No. - 1, CH Area. 0657-2227724
14.	Contact no. of Procurement officer	0651-2401010
15.	Helpline number of e-Procurement cell	0651-2401010

Above informations are only indicative. Detail NIT & SBD published on Tender portal shall be final and mandatory. Details can be seen on website <http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in>

Superintending Engineer  
-cum- Executive Engineer  
RCD, Road Division, Jamshedpur

PR 373503 Road(25-26)D

**झारखण्ड सरकार**  
**कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय**  
**ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, हजारीबाग**  
**ई- अल्पकालीन निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना**

ई-निविदा सं० :- RDSPL/SD/HZB/40/2025-26

1. कार्य की विस्तृत विवरणी :-

युग सं०	आईडेंटिफिकेशन संख्या / पैकेज संख्या	प्रखण्ड	योजना का नाम	प्राक्कलित राशि	अग्रघन की राशि	परिमाण विपन्न का मूल्य	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि
1.	RDSPL/SD/HZB/40/2025-26	बड़कामांव	बड़कामांव प्रखण्ड अंतर्गत पंचायत सांड के ग्राम-शिवाडीह के कुवाडाह खेल मैदान शिवाडीह के किनारे हजारी नदी में गार्डवाल का निर्माण।	30486800.00	609800.00	10000.00	12 माह

2. वेबसाइट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि - 02.03.2026

3. ई-निविदा प्रारंभ की तिथि एवं समय - दिनांक 02.03.2026 से दिनांक 10.03.2026 को अपराह्न 5:00 बजे तक

4. ई-निविदा खोलने का स्थान - कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय, ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, हजारीबाग

5. ई-निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय - 11.03.2026 अपराह्न 5:00 बजे

6. ई-निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले पदाधिकारी का नाम एवं पता :- कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, हजारीबाग

7. ई-निविदा प्रकोष्ठ का दूरभाष सं० - 9430154806

8. परिमाण विपन्न की राशि घट-बढ़ सकती है तदनुसार अग्रघन की राशि देय होगी।

9. निविदा शुल्क एवं अग्रघन की राशि केवल Online Mode द्वारा स्वीकार्य होगी।

10. निविदा शुल्क एवं अग्रघन की राशि का ई-मुद्रातान जिस खाता से किया जायेगा, उसी खाते में अग्रघन की राशि वापस होगी।

विस्तृत जानकारी के लिये वेबसाइट [www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in](http://www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in) एवं कार्यालय की सूचना पट्ट पर देखा जा सकता है।

कार्यपालक अभियंता  
ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, हजारीबाग

PR 373521 Rural Development(25-26)#D

**Jharkhand Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (JIIDCO)**  
(A Govt. of Jharkhand Undertaking)

**5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Udyog Bhawan, Ratu road, Ranchi - 834001 (Jharkhand)**  
**e-mail- [jiidcoltd@gmail.com](mailto:jiidcoltd@gmail.com), [www.jiidco.co.in](http://www.jiidco.co.in), Phone no. 0651-3512851**  
**CIN U45208JH2004GOI011078**

Letter no: -117 dated: -24.02.2026

**SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Call**  
(through e-procurement mode only-[www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in](http://www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in))  
**NIT No.- JIIDCO/26/Women Hostel/SBD/2025-2026**

Designation and Address of the Advertiser :- Chief Engineer, JIIDCO, 5th Floor, Udyog Bhawan, Ratu Road, Ranchi-834001  
:- Online through [www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in](http://www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in)

Bid No.	Name of work	Estimated Cost/ECV (Rupees)	Amount of Earnest money (E.M.D.) (Rupees)	Cost of BOQ (Non-refundable in Rupees)	Time of completion of work (Months)
1	2	3	4	5	6
01	Construction of 100 Bedded Working Women Hostel at Devipur, Deoghar (Near AIIMS), Jharkhand	9,58,56,319.00	9,60,000.00	11,800.00	18 months

7. Tender fee (non-refundable) & EMD is to be received through online mode only. Bidders can use internet banking facility for faster processing of Tender fee. Alternatively, Bidders can use NEFT/RTGS challan generated for the tender from <http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in>. Refund will only be issued to Originated bank account used for the payment of EMD. So, bidders are advised NOT to close the above Bank Account used for online payment NEFT/RTGS of EMD. No Hardcopy/Physical copy is required to be submitted for tender opening/evaluation. However, Department may ask original documents for verification before award of contract.

8. Bid Validity :- 180 days

9. Place of opening of Technical Bid :- JIIDCO, 5th Floor, Udyog Bhawan, Ratu Road, Ranchi-834001

10. For any information/complaints the department helpline no. M.b.no. 7004785102 may be contacted.

11. Further details can be seen on website- [www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in](http://www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in).

12. Any Corrigendum or Addendum will be notified on website- [www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in](http://www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in) only.

Note: (i) Any change can be seen on website [www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in](http://www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in)  
(ii) Any other information can be seen on [www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in](http://www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in)  
(iii) The estimated cost mentioned above in sl. No.6 column no. 3 is approximate which may increase or decrease.

PR 373566 Jharkhand Industrial Infrastructure Dev Co Ltd(25-26).D



The One Billion Rising programme. Pictures by Bishwarup Dutta

## One Billion Rising

FROM PAGE 7

A group of survivors performed a play asserting a woman's equal right to space in her natal family after marriage. Their message: if a married man can continue to live in his family home, a woman too has an equal right to live there with dignity.

Another group depicted the realities of online abuse, showing how women are routinely "trolled" for their appearance and behaviour. Violence, they emphasised, is no longer only physical; the virtual world has created new and insidious forms of harm.

"We protested against violence, but the language of our

protest is non-violent," said Sarbari Nag, a coordinator with Lake Gardens Women and Child Development Centre, one of the participating organisations. "Through the arts, we show that women have power, can achieve, and are not lesser than anyone."

The struggle against patriarchy and its web of injustice remains long. While awareness of physical assault has grown and is more readily recognised, subtler forms of abuse continue quietly.

"There is greater recognition of physical violence," said Dasgupta. "But psychological, emotional and financial control are still not acknowledged enough."

At 153 years of the service, protests against shrinking routes

# Tram lovers demand network revival

KINSUK BASU

Calcutta: A group of tram lovers renewed their demand for the restoration of tram routes in parts of the city where services remain suspended, while commemorating 153 years of tram service in Calcutta on Tuesday.

The first horse-drawn tram ran from Sealdah to Armenian Ghat in Calcutta on February 24, 1873, and the service remains the oldest operating network in Asia.

Tram enthusiasts asked why the city was regressing by reducing the network, while over 400 cities globally — from Melbourne to Zurich — were expanding their tram networks. “The tram network in Bordeaux, in southwestern France, has expanded to cover almost the entire city. The air quality has improved, and the streets have become more pedestrian-friendly,” said Debasish Bhattacharya, president of the Calcutta Tram Users’ Association, a group advocating restoration of trams in the city.

“The tram network in Calcutta, in contrast, is being reduced on baseless and flimsy grounds,” he added.

From 25 tram routes in 2015, the service is now available on just two routes, three years after Calcutta celebrated 150 years of tram service in 2023.

The services have shrunk because trams contribute to the city’s traffic congestion



Gitanjali, the vintage tram, on a special heritage run to mark the 153rd anniversary of Calcutta trams on Tuesday. (PTI)

and account for mounting losses, government officials said.

The state transport minister, Snehasis Chakraborty, has said that the state government will run trams only on one route — between Esplanade and Kidderpore.

Calcutta High Court has emphasised the need to preserve Calcutta’s trams and has even established an expert committee to safeguard the “heritage transport”.

“A committee has been set up, but the minutes of the meeting don’t always reflect what we, tram lovers, have to say,” Bhattacharya said.

“The state’s position on trams is largely based on the

observations of Kolkata Traffic Police officers. Once we become aware of the specific reasons presented by the police in court, we will present our view. The objections raised by the police are baseless and not backed by scientific reasoning,” Bhattacharya said.

Senior transport department officials said an earlier attempt to revive some routes in the city’s north had to be shelved following opposition from the police. “Kolkata Police officers have argued that

movement of trams on some stretches like Rabindra Sarani and Lalbazar Street impede traffic because the trams would move against the flow,”



Tram enthusiasts demand the resumption of services

said an official.

To mark the occasion, a tram ride from Gariahat to Shyambazar via Esplanade was organised on Tuesday. A vintage tram, Gitanjali, which was designed for routes like Tollygunge, where trams ran on grass-covered stretches,

was decked up, and tram lovers joined the celebrations, cutting a cake to mark the day.

OUR BUREAU

Phoolbagan: A young man riding pillion on a motorcycle died and the rider was injured after the two-wheeler skidded off EM Bypass near the Belehata crossing around 8.30am on Tuesday.

## Bike skids, son dies, dad hurt

The deceased was identified as Sagnik Dutta, 22. The rider was his father, Sudipta Dutta, 49, police said.

Sagnik suffered multiple injuries and died at a nearby private hospital around 9.10am, the police said. Sudipta injured his right hand and shoulder and is undergoing treatment at the hospital.

Both were wearing helmets, the police added.



**STATE BANK OF INDIA**  
STRESSED ASSETS RECOVERY BRANCH (SARB), GUWAHATI

**Authorised Officer's Details:**  
Name: Sri.Kreho Athlii, Chief Manager  
e-mail Id: sbi.18399@sbi.co.in,  
Mobile No: 708523263, 8804151560  
Landline No. (Office): 03612650328

**Address of the Branch:**  
Stressed Assets Recovery Branch,  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Signature Square, M.R.D Road,  
Bamunimaidam, Guwahati – 781021.  
Ph:03612650328, Mail :sbi.18399@sbi.co.in

**Appendix – IV-A**

**[See Proviso to rule 8 (6)]**

### SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

**E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization 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 possession of which has been taken by the Authorized 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” on **16.03.2026**, for recovery of **Rs. 82,16,618.00** as on **22.12.2023 + future interest and charges** due to the secured creditor from **M/s B.S Construction House**. The Reserve Price, earnest money deposit will be as under:-

**The Reserve Price, earnest money deposit will be as under**

**1. Property ID:** SBIN200069112034  
Reserve price is Rs.50,82,000 and earnest money will be Rs. 5,08,200.00.  
**Property Owned by:** Lt.Pranab Kumar Ray, S/o Late Bishunupada Roy  
Equitable Mortgage of 3 BHK Residential Flat bearing No “5D” on the 5th floor of the Six(G+5) Storied building named “MODERN ENCLAVE” vide Sale Deed No: 6544 dated 10.05.2013 situated at municipal holding no RGM/AS/92/BL-D/10-11, Bholanath Sarani, 92 Rajarhat Road, Chinar Park, Kolkata-700157. Total Super Built up Area Measuring of the said Flat : 1125 Sq. ft. with night stay open car parking space at ground floor.

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in State Bank of India, the secured Creditors website: <https://sbi.bank.in/web/sbi-in-the-news/auction-notices/sarfaesi-and-others> and <https://baanknet.com>

**Date: 23.02.2026**  
**Place: Guwahati**

**Sd/- Authorised Officer**  
**State Bank of India**

# JEE likely to be held after polls

SUBHANKAR CHOWDHURY

Calcutta: The state joint entrance examination (JEE) board is likely to conduct the exam for admission to the B.Tech programmes in engineering colleges after the Assembly elections are over, said a senior official of the board.

The new JEE board chairman, Gautam Paul, said that they would meet next week to discuss preparations for this year’s examinations.

The board, which usually publishes advertisements for the examination in December, has yet to come up with any time.

The new board chairman, who was appointed on Monday, said he would speak to the state administration about holding the examinations through which students are screened for 34,000 engineer-

ing seats. “The examinations are likely to be held after the Assembly elections,” said a senior board official.

The JEE is usually held in April.

The Election Commission has yet to announce the dates of the Assembly elections. The polls are likely to be held in April and May.

The forum of the private engineering colleges said the board must announce the examination dates at the earliest.

“Usually by this time, the process of filling out forms is completed. But the board is yet to publish the advertisement this year. The delay could be because the board did not have any chairperson over the past one-and-a-half months,” said Taranjit Singh, the president of the Association of Professional Academic Institutions.

“Now that the new chairperson has been appointed, we

hope that the dates will be announced soon,” he said.

The tenure of the previous chairperson ended in late December. The board in between was being run by the registrar.

The state higher secondary council brought forward the higher secondary examinations by a month this year in view of the elections.

“But the JEE board did not think of taking any such proactive steps...,” said a Jadavpur University teacher.

“When the board cannot function without a chairperson, why was the position left vacant?” the teacher asked.

In 2021, when the last Assembly elections were held, the Bengal JEE were held in July.

An education department official said they are awaiting the declaration of the poll schedules by the EC following

the publication of the final electoral rolls. “The examinations are unlikely to be held before the polls because students have to be given a month-long window to submit the applications online. This year, the board has not yet issued the advertisement. So the tests can be held only after the elections,” the official said.

Once the polling schedule is announced, the central armed police force will be deployed, who occupy the academic institutions — the JEE centres — during their period of stay. This process starts in the run-up to the polls, the official said. “This also negates the possibility of holding the tests before elections.”

Last year, B.Tech classes in Bengal started in October, two months after the usual schedule as court cases over OBC reservations delayed the publication of results.

## IN BRIEF

### ‘Delay’ in removal of body

■ **CALCUTTA:** A middle-aged man lying motionless on a platform bench at Dum Dum railway station on Monday night was taken to a hospital allegedly after two hours. Jawans from the Railway Protection Force (RPF) and Government Railway Police (GRP) arrived soon. “It was obvious the man had died. For a dead man, a railway doctor has to certify the death. The doctor’s arrival took time. The body was finally sent to RG Kar Medical College and Hospital around 11.30pm,” said an official of the GRP. Railway sources said the doctor came from Naihati.

### Holi special train

■ **CALCUTTA:** Railway authorities have decided to run a Holi special train between Kolkata (Chitpore) and Lalkuan in Uttarakhand. The train will leave Lalkuan at 1.35pm on every Thursday between March 5 and 26, reaching Chitpore at 11.55pm the next day. From Chitpore, the train will leave at 5am every Saturday between March 7 and 28 and reach Lalkuan at 3.45pm the next day. The train will have general second class, sleeper class and air-conditioning accommodations. Passengers can book from Wednesday, said an official.

TRIBHOVANDAS BHIMJI ZAVERI

SHE CHOOSES HER STORY

# Just hers

BANGLES • CHAINS • MANGALSUTRA

₹700 PER GRAM OFF ON GOLD RATE\* | 105% EXCHANGE VALUE of any old gold, from any jeweller, on purchase of Diamond Jewellery\*

KOLKATA: CAMAC - SARASWATI NIKET, 5 CAMAC STREET, NEAR THEATRE ROAD  
KANKURGACHI - NEAR PANTALOONS

**tbz**  
The original since 1864

कार्यालय नगर पालिक निगम, रायगढ़ (छ.ग.)

क्रमांक/10598/न.पा.नि./2026 रायगढ़ दिनांक : 24/02/26

॥ ई-प्रोक्वोरमेंट निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना ॥

नगर पालिक निगम, रायगढ़ द्वारा निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु ऑनलाइन (Online) निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है :-

क्र. क्र.	कार्य का विवरण	अनु. लागत राशि रु. (लाख में)	निविदा खोलने की अंतिम तिथि
1	386168 Supply and Replacement of Filter media and compressed air lateral pipe at (17MLD) Water Treatment Plant Chandmari Raigarh	31.96	18.03.2026
2	386169 ENGINEERING PROCUREMENT, SUPPLY & INSTALLATION OF SCADA COMPATIBLE POWER PUMP AT 17 MLD WTP & INTAKWELL WITH 03 MONTH TRIAL RUN.	144.70	18.03.2026
3	386174 ENGINEERING PROCUREMENT, SUPPLY & INSTALLATION OF SCADA COMPATIBLE BOOSTER PUMP AT VARIOUS ESR WITH 03 MONTH TRIAL RUN.	73.53	18.03.2026

उपरोक्त निर्माण कार्य की निविदा को सामान्य शर्तों, धरोहर राशि, विस्तृत निविदा विज्ञापित, निविदा दस्तावेज व अन्य जानकारी ई-प्रोक्वोरमेंट वेब पोर्टल <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in> से डाउनलोड की जा सकती है।

कार्यपालन अभियंता न.पा.नि., रायगढ़

कार्यालय, नगर पालिक निगम, कोरबा (छत्तीसगढ़)

ई-प्रोक्वोरमेंट आरएफपी सूचना

क्र. 1495/ज.प्र./2026 दिनांक : 19.02.2026

एकीकृत पंजीवन प्रणाली अंतर्गत सक्षम श्रेणी में पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों से निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु श्रेड्यूल अनुसार लमसम दरों पर E-tendering के माध्यम से आर.एफ.पी. आमंत्रित की जाती है :-

क्र.	कार्य का विवरण	अनुमानित लागत (रु.लाख में)	निविदा खोलने की अंतिम तिथि
1	Construction, Testing, Commissioning of all the Components of Improvement to Korba Water Supply Scheme with 03 Months Trial Run and 09 Months O & M. (DMF Fund) [1st Call]	2943.87	18.03.2026 (T. No. 185944)

उपरोक्त कार्य की आरएफपी की जानकारी ई-प्रोक्वोरमेंट वेब पोर्टल <http://eproc.cgstate.gov.in> से डाउनलोड की जा सकती है, साथ ही निगम के वेब साइट [www.korbamunicipal.in](http://www.korbamunicipal.in) एवं [www.korba.urbanecg.gov.in](http://www.korba.urbanecg.gov.in) पर भी देखी जा सकती है।

॥ स्वच्छ भारत निर्माण में योगदान दें ॥

अधीक्षण अभियंता  
नगर पालिक निगम कोरबा (छत्तीसगढ़)

**GGTF** India's Leading Trade Fair In Your City

Presenting Sponsor

**WOGUE FURNS**

# India Global GRAND TRADE FAIR

## Patuli Circus Ground, Kolkata

19 Feb. - 9 March, 2026 - 2 pm - 9 pm

**FOCUS SECTORS ON DISPLAY**

Furniture & Interior Products, International Products  
Apparels | Jewellery & Leather Products | Beauty & Cosmetics | Lifestyle Products | Electronic & Appliances  
Processed Food | Handicraft | Handloom | Jute Products

- 50,000 unique products
- Prime Location
- Extensive Media Publicity
- Impressive & Quality Footfalls
- High Volume of Matured Business

Co Sponsors: **Rossarc** HOME OF LUXURY | **MAT-X** | Surveillance Partner: **Cannon** | Organised by: **SHARAT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE** | **CCG Marketing & Services**

98304 40556  
70032 83585

KEEP IT OPEN

The New Delhi Declaration, signed by over 90 nations and organisations at the India AI Impact Summit 2026, articulates a shared commitment to shape Artificial Intelligence as a tool whose benefits must be distributed across societies rather than concentrated among a cluster of influential nation-states and corporations. Yet, democratising AI for social welfare, economic inclusion and human capacity building sits uneasily within a competitive global order. Advanced AI depends on scarce resources: high-end chips, large-scale computing infrastructure, proprietary data and specialised talent. These are treated as strategic assets by nations. AI firms, too, guard intellectual property to scale their advantages. As such, access to AI is shaped by market leverage, geopolitical heft and bargaining power.

The idea that AI can function as a public good thus requires scrutiny. By definition, a public good is non-rival and non-excludable. AI systems do not usually meet these criteria. Training and deploying models require finite compute and energy. Access to leading systems is restricted through pricing, licensing and infrastructure controls. Even open models demand capital, expertise and connectivity. The free-rider problem of public goods — people benefiting without paying for such goods — also applies to AI. Countries and companies may gain from shared safety research and common standards without contributing proportionately to costs or complying with constraints. It is therefore premature to conclude that AI can be turned into a public good in the truest sense.

However, certain components of AI, such as open benchmarks, safety protocols and interoperable digital infrastructure, can approximate public goods if supported by State finance. Whether that occurs depends on political will and sustained investment. Regulation is central to democratising AI as well. Effective oversight must address such concerns as opaque model development, cross-border deployment, liability for harm, data protection, competition, and the environmental costs of requisite infrastructure. Moreover, as deduction-based AI grows more capable of reasoning and autonomous action, control over such systems will determine where power resides. Democratization in this context demands mandatory audits, independent evaluation, transparency obligations and clear restrictions on high-risk applications. Public authorities will need to be armed with technical competence and legal authority to scrutinise advanced models. Without these guardrails, the language of shared benefit can actually mask continued concentration of capability. The NDD signals intent. The outcome of its pledge will rest on whether regulation and governance keep pace with technological enhancement.

KEY DOCUMENT

The spectre of terrorism has bled many corners of India over the decades. India has, at long last, responded with the nation's first ever national counter-terrorism policy and strategy. Christened PRAHAAR, the document, released by the Union home ministry, etches out not only the scale of the threat and its many textures but also underlines some of the pivots around which revolve India's responses. National anti-terror doctrines are not exactly novel. The United States of America as well as the United Kingdom have their own versions to address specific challenges.

Some elements central to PRAHAAR are of significance. The document specifies that India does not associate terrorism with religion, ethnicity or regions as a matter of policy. Unfortunately, this neutrality has not been reflected in the political and the electoral terrains as a result of which Indian Muslims have borne the brunt of demonisation after terror attacks. There have even been murmurs that some other forms of extremism have been brushed under the carpet. New Delhi's insistence on highlighting cross-border terrorism in PRAHAAR is absolutely correct given Pakistan's troublesome history in exporting the poison. These transborder tentacles have also lengthened the shadow of global *jihadi* outfits. What is of equal importance is PRAHAAR's documentation of the changing dimensions of terrorism. From the deployment of drones and robotic technology to the weaponisation of hacking and cyber modules, the *modus operandi* employed by terrorists and their patrons is undergoing a sea change. Social media has also turned out to be an effective platform for radicalisation. The misuse of these technologies and platforms must be resisted: but the challenge for India's government and security establishment is to accomplish this without infringing on civilian rights and privacy. PRAHAAR's decision to reach out to philanthropic entities and community support systems to deradicalise youth is wise. However, the policy seems to discourage public accountability. An annual assessment of this counter-terrorism doctrine is essential in a nation that has witnessed the curbing of liberties — individual and collective — on account of the prioritisation of the rhetoric of national security.

SCRIPSI

'Art is not a plaything.'

REBECCA WEST

India's options after the nixing of Trump's tariffs  
Second chance

RENU KOHLI

The US Supreme Court ruling — that the president had exceeded the authority vested under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act — has demolished the foundation of Donald Trump's tariff policy regime applied across countries since April last year. Trump has now been challenged from within the United States of America instead of abroad, and has retaliated with a 15% global tariff extending to all goods but critical minerals, some metals, and pharmaceuticals. Enforceable from yesterday, the new tariffs are legally permissible for up to 150 days. However, Trump has threatened trade investigations under yet another legal provision as well as more severe tariffs ahead. The immediate, reactionary response is unsurprising. It portends a prolonged period of destructive uncertainty with interim chaos. Nonetheless, without any legal anchoring of the bilateral deals struck under the past punitive tariff policy regime, this opens up possibilities to renegotiate the mutual commitments. What are the options for India?

It is well known that India's restrictive import regime and continuous purchases of Russian crude oil elicited exceptional tariff fire from Trump. This had resulted in a 50% tariff rate on India's exports, with 25% punitive levies last August for the purchase of Russian oil. It was only a fortnight ago, on February 6, that the two countries reached a framework for an interim agreement on reciprocal and mutually beneficial trade. The core elements of this, especially tariff levels, reciprocity, dilution of strategic autonomy and enforcement mechanisms, have caused enormous disquiet since. Even more so because the framework has raised more questions than answers with little clarity on many aspects that remain ambiguous.

The obvious question in this short context is whether the US Supreme Court ruling widens the space for India to rework some elements — perhaps the most fractious ones or those coerced into under the tariff duress — and modify these? Does it give India better leverage and bargaining strength?

There are several pointers in this regard. An important one is the deferment of the trade deal talks for which the Indian side was scheduled to visit the US this week: both sides are examining legalities to evaluate the implications. The significance lies in the emphasis upon legally-anchored trade agreements instead of relying on *ad-hoc* executive measures that could be unenforceable in the future. Seeking a sound legal foundation makes the direction of trade policy certain and predictable and, therefore, can be viewed as improving India's bargaining abilities. This, however, can only be speculated upon as most of these talks have been informal and through backchannels.

Renu Kohli is Senior Fellow, Centre for Social and Economic Progress, New Delhi. Views are personal



A second pointer is the provision in the interim agreement stating that should there be any changes to the agreed-upon tariffs of either country, the other country may modify its commitments. Many trade analysts have pointed to this, arguing the new tariff rate — 15% plus the most-favoured-nation rate of 3.3% — is standard across countries and gives no relative advantage to Indian exporters over their competitors. Indeed, it is a windfall for countries that faced higher levies (for example, China) and a disadvantage for those who struck deals at lower tariffs like the European Union. The latter has already demanded the US to stick to the agreed deal. This, too, is a pointer that all past deals may be up for re-examination.

The perceived leverage and negotiating strengths may not be expansive. For these are bounded by Trump's own proclivities — an enduring belief in import duties to regenerate America and its manufacturing as well as his determination to pursue similar objectives through other routes. This is evident from his quick direction to launch probes under Section 301: this deals with unfair trade retaliation and was the basis for most of Trump's tariffs upon China before the shift to universalised import restrictions under the IEEPA. More importantly, it aligns with his preference for selective sector- and country-specific trade actions to secure bilateral deals. In the past, it has survived legal challenges when well-justified. However, the process is long due to mandated formal investigations, hearings, and inputs from affected firms. There are more statutory tools: retaliatory tariffs for foreign burdens — disadvantaging US commerce.

There should be little doubt that Trump will not hesitate to shift to other levers. Or that he hasn't lost much leverage. Given India's singular marking out for his penal levies, the changed circumstances underline the delicate nature of reworking the framework for an interim agreement that was shared publicly two weeks ago. This may not be straightforward or easy. As indeed Mr Trump confirmed soon after the Supreme Court

ruling, there would be no changes to the announced US-India trade deal.

What extra concessions could then be secured in this context and the new situation? One concession that could be sought is a lower tariff than that of India's competitors for exporting advantages in the new configuration. This may not eliminate the asymmetric reciprocity of the February 6 framework — zero tariff on many US exports to India against an 18% reciprocal tariff rate on that by India — as it is difficult, at this point, to foresee the US reverting to its December 2024 effective tariff rate (~3% and threefold lower). A more critical question is if the mortifying shift in sourcing crude oil (away from Russia to other countries like Venezuela) and enforcement mechanisms can be diluted or mitigated. Speculation in this regard is extremely complicated because of its extremely provocative and geopolitical nature — it is difficult to perceive a concessional regain of India's strategic autonomy with the invalidation of the tariff lever deployed by Trump to browbeat the country.

Still, the enormous domestic challenges confronted by the US president cannot easily be dismissed. Twelve states and numerous businesses hurt by his restrictive tariff regimes are eager to secure refunds, implying a variety of further litigation and apparently little support for these tariffing policies. Using other tariff tools may not be easy for the president since the processes could be long-drawn.

There is, therefore, complete policy uncertainty on the direction of trade policy. This is evident in the noticeable caution and muted reactions of all countries and markets — they have not been celebratory or confident about the end of tariff volatility — while trade experts have sounded caution about a legal grounding for predictability. The interregnum provided by the US Supreme Court ruling gives a chance to step back and reformulate some core features of the mutual commitments in the interim agreement. Until the legal direction of US trade policy becomes clear, uncertainty about these will persist.

Central question

DEVASIS CHATTOPADHYAY

Across the post-pandemic world, cities are rethinking their centres. When a city's centre fails, it signals systemic breakdown, not cosmetic neglect. Chowringhee — Calcutta's centre — is not a peripheral street. It is a transit corridor, a commercial spine, a ceremonial address, and a crucial node in Calcutta's reputational image. And yet, today, Chowringhee is a contradiction the city has chosen to normalise.

What should have been Calcutta's ceremonial hub has become a space of congestion, visual hostility, and civic fatigue. Pavements dissolve into kiosks and cables; crossings turn unpredictable; structures rise without dialogue or restraint, with informal occupation proliferating in the absence of regulation.

In most metropolitan cities, the core is where regulation tightens and responsibility sharpens. London guards its West End, Whitehall, and Mayfair with near-ritual discipline. Paris protects sightlines and façades along its Grands Boulevards with an almost moral insistence on coherence. Mumbai continues to assert intent across its historic core: Fort, D.N. Road, Churchgate, Marine Drive. Even younger cities such as Singapore recognise that a city centre is symbolic of reputation, discipline, and dignity.

Calcutta's failure, by contrast, is not one of scale or resources but of attention and intention. That Chowringhee has been allowed to drift into disorder is not an accident of history, but a sustained abdication of civic will.

But Chowringhee was not conceived in disorder. Two centuries ago, she was imagined as one of the most deliberate urban statements the city could make. By the early nineteenth century, Chowringhee functioned as a regulated residential axis. Her scale was understood, uses negotiated, and social life carefully staged.

That order was documented.

When Samuel Smith's *The Bengal Directory and Annual Register*, or its variants, first appeared in 1825, it did not offer a modern street-

Devasis Chattopadhyay is a narrative history writer and columnist

by-street listing. Instead, it assembled the city through sections: official appointments, commercial houses, shipping, ecclesiastical establishments, military and medical services, and *bazars*. Between 1825 and 1858, Smith's directories recorded a Chowringhee that still functioned as a composed social corridor rather than a traffic funnel.

That confidence collapsed with the Great Revolt of 1857-58. What followed was recalcitrance.

When Thacker's *The Bengal Directory* appeared in 1864, Chowringhee shifted from a residential axis to a mixed-use spine. The bungalow world survived, but now alongside clubs, offices, hotels, and public buildings. By 1885, Thacker's *Indian Directory* replaced the Bengal-focused volumes and continued until 1960, documenting Calcutta not as a regional capital but as an imperial administrative hub, charting Chowringhee's passage from domestic order to institutional dominance. What follows after Independence is a different story altogether, one shaped not by documentation and discipline but by political turbulence and civic drift.

After 1960, the documentary record thins, but Chowringhee does not fall silent. What changes is intent. Planning yields to expediency; regulation to accommodation; traffic intensifies without redesign; pavements are surrendered piecemeal. Even the 1977 CMDA plan acknowledged severe deficits. What the city lacks today is not history, but attention. The disorder that now defines Chowringhee is not the result of organic growth but of forgetting how deliberately this street once evolved, and how carefully its changes were once recorded.

Chowringhee does not need restoration to a colonial past, nor preservation as a museum street. But it does need to be taken seriously again. History shows that order here was never accidental: it was planned, negotiated, and sustained. That knowledge matters, not as nostalgia but as evidence that disorder is not destiny.

The question is whether the city still believes its centre is worth governing with care, imagination, and dignity.

Learned guides

■ Sir — "Two exemplars" (Feb 21) by Ramachandra Guha rightly analysed how, across generations, people have abided by their *gurus* throughout their lives. It is an inherent human tendency for some to lead and for others to follow. The leaders, knowingly or unknowingly, influence their pupils. A true *guru* is genuinely learned, possessing astounding knowledge, yet he/she never seeks to dominate students with a hegemonic attitude. Such teachers share knowledge freely and are not egotistic about learning from students. Madhav Gadgil and André Bételle are role models not only for Guha but also for today's serious students irrespective of social background, national affiliation or academic discipline.

Hemanta Sasmal, Hourah

■ Sir — Experienced academics can offer young researchers direction and critical feedback, but can rarely act as *gurus*. This reflection is prompted by Ramachandra Guha's tribute to his two senior teachers, Madhav Gadgil and André Bételle, who never met but were aware of each other's scholarly practice through their mutual friend, Guha. As always, Guha brings fresh material for reflection by identifying 10 features that united his two *gurus*.

Reciprocal learning is rarely acknowledged in academia. Senior scholars can also benefit from younger colleagues' persuasiveness. Gadgil and Bételle practised



Love struck

■ Sir — Some omens are too striking to be dismissed or rationalised. The famed Lovers' Arch at Sant'Andrea in Melendugno, Puglia, Italy — it has long served as a backdrop for wedding proposals and has been cherished worldwide as a symbol of everlasting love — collapsed on Valentine's Day after heavy rain and strong winds thrashed the region. Its sudden fall on a day dedicated to romance seemed, to many, laden with symbolism. While romantics have mourned it as a 'devastating blow to the heart' or even a 'funeral' for love, the loss also stands as a stark metaphor for the fragility of the natural world and the mounting effects of climate change on it. If only climate-change deniers were romantics, they could have recognised the telling signs.

Saptarna Basu, Calcutta

this. They did not confine themselves to academic books and research papers; their scholarship reached citizens through newspaper writings as well.

Sukhendu Bhattacharjee, Hooghly

■ Sir — I have never met Madhav Gadgil but have read many of his books on conservation. His book, *A Walk Up*

*The Hill*, remains one of the best that I have read.

Alok Ganguly, Nadia

Strategic entry

■ Sir — India's entry into the Pax Silica alliance marks a shift from exclusion to inclusion in key technology coalitions ("Crucial deals", Feb 24). The challenge now

lies in meeting scrutiny and conditionalities that will test the country's industrial capacity. New Delhi is heavily reliant on Production Linked Incentive Schemes. But there are structural gaps. While telecom has advanced, battery manufacturing lags and upstream solar segments remain weak, highlighting the limits of capital subsidies without strong partnerships. Though Pax Silica promises trusted supply chains, it also brings stringent export controls and technology-transfer guardrails.

S.S. Paul, Nadia

■ Sir — By aligning with an America-led coalition that is focused on providing the infrastructure for Artificial Intelligence and critical minerals, India is attempting to secure its technological future. Its membership could boost domestic industrial goals by complementing initiatives such as India Semiconductor Mission, IndiaAI, and National Critical Mineral Mission. Being a member of the Pax Silica ecosystem will help



Multilateral strategy

India secure raw materials supply and advanced equipment, attract investment, and influence global tech and security standards.

Khokan Das, Calcutta

■ Sir — The entry into Pax Silica strengthens India's position in the global semiconductor supply chain. The partnership promotes secure sourcing of critical minerals. Economically, it can generate jobs, expand exports, and enhance India's digital sovereignty and its emergence as a major chip production hub.

R.S. Narula, Patiala, Punjab

■ Sir — In these turbulent times in the global economic order, when supply chains for critical minerals and chips have been monopolised by China, the initiation of Pax Silica is strategically welcome. Now that India is part of the alliance, we can hope to reduce dependence on China for critical mineral requirements. The future will rest on AI, electronics and critical-mineral-led development. As China surges ahead with centralised control over global supply chains, nations worldwide are feeling threatened. Resilience and diversity in supply partners along with self-reliance in national requirements are paramount today.

Kirti Wadhawan, Kanpur

On cleanliness

■ Sir — Sudipta Bhattacharjee deserves praise for

penning the article, "Civic pride" (Feb 20). It was enlightening to read about the impeccable civic sense of ordinary Mizos which keeps Aizawl and even the coaches of the Guwahati-Aizawl railway service litter-free and spotless. This has been achieved not through strict enforcement but through ingrained culture and values.

Like Bhutan, which has a 'no honking' policy, traffic in Aizawl remains silent. Unlike Bengali Hindus who tend to direct harsh words at Hindu migrants from erstwhile East Pakistan,



Spotlessly clean

Mizos practise an open-door policy for people of Zo ancestry persecuted in Myanmar or Bangladesh. The rest of India has much to learn from Mizoram.

Kajal Chatterjee, Calcutta

Letters should be sent to: The Telegraph, 6 Prafulla Sarkar Street, Calcutta 700001, tedit@abp.in



**THE TIP**

Add oats to your daily diet. It helps lower cholesterol and manage weight

## Are You Ageing Well?

Try these simple tests to find out, says Dana G. Smith



According to Stuart Phillips, a professor of kinesiology at McMaster University in Ontario, Canada, it's never too early to begin training for your later years. People naturally lose strength and muscle mass with age, so you want your starting point to be as good as possible. Getting a head start on training is "money in the bank", Phillips said.

Try these four tests to determine where you currently stand. If you don't perform as well as you might have hoped, don't worry — a few strength, conditioning and balance exercises, done regularly, can help you improve your score on each one.

**Sitting-rising test**

The goal with this assessment is to go from standing to sitting on the floor and back up again, using the least amount of support possible. The test is scored on a 10-point scale — five points for sitting down and five points for standing up — and you lose a point for every hand, knee or other body part you use to help yourself. Subtract a half point if you're unsteady or lose your balance.

Adults in their 30s and 40s should aim for a perfect 10, said Dr Claudio Gil Araujo, the dean of research and education at the Exercise Medicine Clinic in Brazil, who developed the test. Anyone over 60 who gets an 8 is "in very good shape", he said.

The test evaluates strength, power, balance and flexibility. Dr Araujo has also shown it's a predictor of mortality. A recent study of his looked at more than 4,000 adults ages 46 to 75 and found that, over the course of 12 years, the people who scored four or below on the sitting-rising test had death rates nearly four times as high as those who scored a 10. He said that was primarily because people with low scores were at a higher risk for falls.

**Walking speed**

How fast someone walks at their normal gait is "a very important indicator of functional ability and vitality", said Jennifer Brach, a professor of health and rehabilitation sciences at

the University of Pittsburgh, US. "It is predictive of future decline; it's predictive of mortality, nursing home placement, disability, a whole host of different things," she said.

To assess your walking speed, measure out 4 metres, or about 13 feet, on a straight, flat surface, and time how long it takes you to cover the distance. Remember, you're walking at your normal speed, not as fast as you can. People of all ages should aim for a gait of at least 1.2 metres per second, a little over three seconds total.

Brach recommended peo-

Testing one's balance is as simple as standing on one leg. Adults should aim for a minimum of 10 seconds

cardiovascular, musculoskeletal, vestibular (balance), sensory and nervous systems. A slower gait could indicate that there is a problem in any one of those systems, which will have to be investigated and addressed.

**Grip strength test**

Grip strength is also related to mortality. While that connection may seem far-fetched, experts say a grip strength test serves as a helpful indicator for how active a person is in their daily life.

"When you're using your hands more, it's probably be-

cause you're doing things more," said Cathy Ciolek, president of the American Physical Therapy Association Geriatrics. "You're carrying groceries, you're opening the car door, you're picking up a grandchild."

All of those things work your hands and the more you do them, the better your grip strength.

Grip strength is also important for maintaining independence with household tasks like cooking. (Think about pulling a heavy dish out of the oven.)

A doctor or physical therapist typically assesses grip strength using a special device called a dynamometer. To test yourself at home, try walking for 60 seconds while holding a heavy weight in each hand (also known as a farmer's carry), suggested Dr Nima Afshar, a physician at concierge medical practice Private Medical. Start with lighter weights and work your way up to heavier ones over time. If you experience hand or body pain, stop.

There aren't age-related norms for the farmer's carry like there are with dynamometer. But Dr Afshar said a 45-year-old man should aim to carry two 60-pound (27 kilos) dumbbells, a 65-year-old two 40-pound (18 kilos) dumbbells and an 85-year-old two 25-pounders (11 kilos). For a woman at those ages, goal weights are 40 pounds (18 kilos), 25 pounds (11 kilos) and 15 pounds (6.8 kilos) in each hand.

**Single-leg stand**

Just as strength naturally declines with age, so does balance. And that raises the risk for falls — a major cause of injury and death in older adults.

Testing one's balance is as simple as standing on one leg. Adults should aim for a minimum of 10 seconds on at least one side. For an added challenge, Dr Afshar recommended attempting the test with your eyes closed.

According to a study Dr Araujo published in 2022, 20 per cent of adults age 51 to 75 were unable to make it to 10 seconds. And those individuals had an 84 per cent higher chance of dying in the next seven years, possibly because they were unhealthier at the start of the study.

NYTNS

## Modern lifestyle and obesity



**YOUR HEALTH**  
DR GITA MATHAI

The reasons for obesity are multifactorial. However, affected individuals often blame themselves and are blamed by society for having no self-control, overeating the wrong kinds of food, being lazy and not exercising.

Obesity occurs when the calories consumed exceed those expended through physical and lifestyle activity. People tend to underestimate their calorie intake and overestimate their activity levels. Their diet often consists of fast food or home-cooked, high-fat, high-calorie meals. Sugary juices and sodas add significantly to total calorie intake, as they pack a high-calorie punch.

The modern lifestyle contributes to the problem. Houses are smaller, there may be no safe space to exercise and the demands of education or work are time-consuming. Television programmes and cell phones add to the issue. Mindless overeating can occur while being hooked on serials and other programmes.

Many children and adults are chronically sleep-deprived. This disrupts appetite-regulating hormones, such as ghrelin and leptin, leading to overeating.

A lot of people say that "Everyone in my family is fat." That may be true. While you may have inherited a slower but more efficient metabolism, it is often family members' shared food and exercise habits that play a larger role.

Obesity may also result from thyroid and other endocrine disorders or from prescribed medications like steroids and antidepressants.

New theories suggest that unhealthy gut microflora, altered by antibiotic use or poor dietary habits, may contribute to obesity.

Weight loss can be achieved in most people by creating a negative calorie balance through reduced food intake and increased physical activity. If time is a constraint, there are high-intensity 10-minute workouts available online. If all else fails, surgery, such as bariatric procedures or gastric banding, may be considered. Frightened of surgery? New anti-obesity medications, under physician supervision, are available as effective weekly injections or less effective daily tablets.

Lose weight, look good and stay healthy!

Everywhere you look in India, you can see overweight people. What used to be seen as a problem of urbanisation and ageing has now infiltrated all income and age groups. Culturally, obesity was once viewed as a sign of prosperity. So, unfortunately, it still does not carry much stigma, with little desire for intervention or awareness of the risks involved in being overweight.

A plump child looks cute but childhood obesity can lead to serious problems. It can cause non-insulin-dependent diabetes, high cholesterol and high blood pressure. Elevated lipids cause the buildup of fatty plaques and arterial blockages. Heart attacks and strokes are now occurring at younger ages, even in people who have barely crossed their thirties. Overweight children often grow into obese adults.

Fat boys may develop enlarged breasts, leading to depression, bullying and teasing in school. Girls often attain menarche early and may develop polycystic ovarian syndrome with complications such as irregular periods and excess facial hair. Both boys and girls may have to wear poorly-fitted clothes, may not be chosen for dance or annual day functions and may be left out of sports. Their gait may get altered and they will appear to waddle. Their knees and hips may not be able to support the extra weight, leading to early onset of pain in these overtaxed joints.

Overweight children can develop snoring and obstructive sleep apnoea with repeated dangerous pauses in breathing during sleep. While all children can develop allergies and wheezing, attacks are often more severe and prolonged in overweight ones.

Obesity reduces life expectancy by as much as 10-14 years. It behaves like a chronic disease with continuous, long-standing inflammation. It leads to heart disease and stroke, type 2 diabetes and increases the risk of developing endometrial, breast and colon cancers.

The writer has a family practice at Vellore and is the author of *Staying Healthy in Modern India*. If you have any questions on health issues, please write to [yourhealthgm@yahoo.co.in](mailto:yourhealthgm@yahoo.co.in)



ISTOCK.COM/DIMPLE BHATI

**admissiontree.in**

An ABP initiative

# School admission Get choice. Decide smart.



Scan to experience the convenience



Follow us on: [f](#) [@](#) [in](#)



### Silent Liver Disease: Should You Act Before Symptoms Appear?

Dr. Vijay Kumar Rai, MD DM FACC FASGE, Gastroenterology and Liver Specialist

The liver is one of the most vital organs in the human body. It detoxifies harmful substances, supports digestion, stores energy, and plays a central role in immunity. Yet, liver disease often progresses silently. Today, fatty liver disease has become a silent epidemic.

Diabetes, obesity, sedentary lifestyle, unhealthy diet, long-term medication use, and alcohol consumption all place continuous stress on the liver.

Warning signs that should never be ignored:

- ▶ Early fullness after small meals
- ▶ Swelling of abdomen or legs
- ▶ Yellowing of eyes or skin

Recurrent fever or persistent fatigue or loss of appetite. Vomiting blood or passing black stools. Many individuals attribute these symptoms to "acidity" or "gastric problems," while underlying liver damage continues to progress. Cirrhosis develops gradually over years as normal liver tissue is replaced by scar tissue. It does not happen overnight — and often becomes evident only when complications arise.

Experts emphasize that early detection significantly improves outcomes and may prevent life-threatening complications. Prevention strategies include: Regular health check-ups, Balanced diet, Physical activity, Alcohol moderation, Proper control of diabetes and blood pressure, The liver works silently. So does liver disease. Listening to subtle body signals can save lives.

Early screening can include: Liver Function Tests, Ultrasound examination, FibroScan when indicated, Viral hepatitis screening

For information – 9369120028



**admissiontree.in**  
An ABP initiative  
To enlist your school connect through  
90735 28655 (Mon - Sat | 10am - 8pm)  
62922 18603  
admissiontree@abp.in

**PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION, WEST BENGAL**  
161A, S.P. Mukherjee Road, Kolkata – 700 026  
INDICATIVE ADVERTISEMENT NO. 01/2026  
APPLICATIONS IN THE PRESCRIBED FORMAT ARE INVITED FOR DIRECT RECRUITMENT TO THE FOLLOWING POST  
NAME OF THE POST: LIBRARIAN, WEST BENGAL SECRETARIAT LIBRARY IN WEST BENGAL GENERAL SERVICE UNDER HOME & HILL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT, GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL  
Information in details regarding vacancies, submission of application forms, fees, closing date and others will be available in the Commission's website at: <https://psc.wb.gov.in>  
Place: Kolkata Date: 25/02/2026 By Order of the Commission Deputy Secretary

**MEET THE UNPUTDOWNABLES EVERY DAY OF THE WEEK**  
Every weekly feature of The Telegraph gives you an Unputdownable edge.  
KROWHOW | PORTFOLIO | YOU PLAN | WELLNESS | YOUNG METRO | BOOKS | REVIEW | GRAPHIC

**SOCIETY FOR TRIPURA MEDICAL COLLEGE & DR. B. R. AMBEDKAR MEMORIAL TEACHING HOSPITAL**  
(Registered under Societies Registration Act, 1860 having Registration No. 5770 of 2009)  
Hapania, Agartala-799014, West Tripura  
Telefax: 0381-237-3143/237-6657/237-4144  
Website: [www.tripuramedicalcollege.ac.in](http://www.tripuramedicalcollege.ac.in) Email: [tmc.agti@gmail.com](mailto:tmc.agti@gmail.com)  
No.F.3 (PO-87)P.G. Admission 2025-26/SFTMC/2025/ Dated: 24/02/2026  
**NOTIFICATION**  
This is for information to all concerned that the following Postgraduate seats of Tripura Medical College & Dr. BRAM Teaching Hospital are vacant for Stray Round of Tripura Postgraduate Medical Counseling, 2025. MS MD Biochemistry-2 seats, MD Community Medicine-2 seats, MS Ophthalmology-1 seat, MD Pathology-1 seat, MD Pharmacology-1 seat. Interested candidates of Tripura State Domicile and All India other than Tripura State Domicile may register their name in the portal of Tripura Postgraduate Medical Counseling, 2025 and may visit the website- [www.trmcc.admissions.nic.in](http://www.trmcc.admissions.nic.in) (Prof. Arindam Datta) Principal, Tripura Medical College & Dr. BRAM Teaching Hospital

**PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION, WEST BENGAL**  
161A, S.P. Mukherjee Road, Kolkata – 700 026  
INDICATIVE ADVERTISEMENT NO.02/2026  
APPLICATIONS IN THE PRESCRIBED FORMAT ARE INVITED FOR DIRECT RECRUITMENT TO THE FOLLOWING POST  
NAME OF THE POST: HEADMASTER / HEADMISTRESS IN ENGLISH MEDIUM GOVERNMENT HIGH MADRASAH UNDER MINORITY AFFAIRS AND MADRASAH EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL  
Information in details regarding vacancies, submission of application forms, fees, closing date and others will be available in the Commission's website at: <https://psc.wb.gov.in>  
Place: Kolkata Date: 25.02.2026 By Order of the Commission Deputy Secretary

**West Bengal State Rural Development Agency**  
(An Agency under P&RD Department) Govt. of West Bengal  
Joint Administrative Building, Block-HC-7, 6th Floor, Sector-III, Bidhannagar, Kolkata - 700106  
**ABRIDGED NOTICE**  
NIT No: 49/SRDA/N-1/2025-26/01(Mtc.) Dated 24.02.2026 and  
NIT No: 50/SRDA/N-1/2025-26/01(Mtc.) Dated 24.02.2026  
The Superintending Engineer, Presidency Circle - I, for and on behalf of WBSRDA, invites percentage rate tender for Construction/Repair/Upgradation of Rural Roads State funded road works in two cover system, work of Four (4) nos of road for NIT No: 49/SRDA/N-1/2025-26/01 (Mtc.) Dated 24.02.2026 and One (1) no of roads for NIT No: 50/SRDA/N-1/2025-26/01 (Mtc.) Dated 24.02.2026 under post DLP work for the district of North 24 Parganas. The list of important dates are given below. Details of which may be viewed in the website [www.wbtenders.gov.in](http://www.wbtenders.gov.in) Bid submission start date : 25.02.2026 at 17:00 Hrs., Bid submission End date : 19.03.2026 up to 16:00 Hrs., Pre-Bid meeting date : 02.03.2026 at 12.00 Hrs. onwards, Date of technical bid opening : 23.03.2026 at 11.00 Hrs.  
Superintending Engineer, Presidency Circle - I West Bengal State Rural Development Agency

**admissiontree.in** An ABP initiative 90735 28655

Emerging market economies remain susceptible to reversals of external capital flows for reasons beyond their control or due to global policy uncertainty

Poonam Gupta, deputy governor, Reserve Bank of India



## STOCK CHECK

Sensex intra-day movement

Open	83052.54	High	83079.51
Low	81934.73	Close	82225.92

9.15 am 4.00 pm

Previous 83294.66

## CURRENCIES

US \$	₹86.86
UK Pound	₹116.86
Euro	₹100.75

## INDICES

BSE		
Sensex	82225.92	-1068.74
Midcap	45532.90	-191.19
Smallcap	48708.77	-443.75
NSE		
Nifty	25424.65	-288.35
Next 50	69778.45	+55.35
Nifty 500	23304.60	-180.35

## Most active on NSE

Scrip	Price*	Traded value#
Infosys	1280	3556.96
HDFCBank	911.5	2866.23
ICICIBank	1385.5	2537.45
Embassy	418.0	2443.21
IDFCFirstBank	70.75	2257.83

\*IN ₹, #in crore

## COMMODITIES

Gold (10 gram in ₹)		
Pure	159550	+1500
Hallmark	152400	+1400
Silver (kg in ₹)		
Bar	266750	+1450
Portion	266850	+1450
Crude*	6111.00	+66
Copper#	1178.90	+8.45

\*per barrel in ₹; # per kg in ₹

## MONEY MARKET

	Yield (%)
Call rate	4.50 - 5.50
91-day T-Bill	5.28
1-year Gilt	5.60
5-year Gilt	6.40
10-year Gilt	6.68

## IN BRIEF

### Hike in raw jute MSP

**NEW DELHI:** The Union Cabinet on Tuesday approved a hike in the minimum support price (MSP) of raw jute by ₹275 to ₹5,925 per quintal for the marketing season 2026-27. The decision was taken by the cabinet committee on economic affairs, chaired by PM Narendra Modi. PTI

### TraI mandate

**NEW DELHI:** The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TraI) on Tuesday recommended auctioning the entire available radiowave spectrum while proposing lower entry barriers for new players and a uniform 35 per cent spectrum cap to safeguard competition in the telecom sector. PTI

### AC price hike

**NEW DELHI:** Voltas is expecting air conditioner prices to go up by 5-15 per cent this year owing to an increase in copper prices and the rupee weakening against the dollar, managing director Mukundan Menon said on Tuesday. PTI

### Sebi meet

**MUMBAI:** A high-level delegation led by Luxembourg finance minister Gilles Roth met the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) chairman Tuhin Kanta Pandey and discussed issues of mutual interest and cooperation, Sebi said in an X post. PTI

# Tata Sons defers call on chairman

OUR BUREAU

Calcutta: The board of Tata Sons deferred a decision on the re-appointment of Natarajan Chandrasekaran for a third term as chairman, signalling potential differences within the holding company of the coffee-to-cars-and-software conglomerate.



Natarajan Chandrasekaran

According to sources, Noel Tata, the chairman of Tata Trusts, which owns two-thirds of the corporate grouping, set a slew of conditions for the reappointment of Chandrasekaran, which ultimately led to the decision being deferred.

Chandrasekaran's term ends in February 2027, and the board of Tata Sons was discussing extending the same when a set of conditions was put forth by Noel Tata on Tuesday.

They said Noel Tata raised concerns about losses in certain group companies, and the conditions also include that there should be no addition of debt by Tata Sons, which would invite a situation where the group is forced to list on bourses. Sources said Noel Tata was also not in favour of the listing of Tata Sons and wanted a written commitment.

The meeting, held at group headquarters Bombay House, was a long one, and the agenda item on reappointment was discussed at length. Sources added that none of the four other directors, including Venu Srinivasan, Harish Manwani, Anita George and Saurabh Agrawal, had any issues with it.

According to sources, Chandrasekaran explained the challenges in making a firm commitment on the listing, explaining that the regulations will have to take its own turn.

Chandrasekaran, 62, received the backing of several board members who felt the losses at one group firm should not eclipse the group's overall performance or the chair's contribution over the years.

When Anita George, chairman of the nomination and remuneration committee, called for a vote, Chandrasekaran urged a deferral.

"I recommended that it should be deferred because that was the request by one of the directors," Chandrasekaran told reporters while emerging from the building in the evening. Declining to specify what transpired at the board meeting, he said "nothing changes" for Tata Sons.

Sources said Chandrasekaran wanted a consensus in the board meeting on his reappointment and to avoid a voting. Moreover, board decisions are not sacrosanct, as the resolutions passed needed to be approved by the shareholders at the general meetings. If Tata Sons representative was to vote against a board resolution, it would fail to pass in the AGM/EGM.

As a result, the backing of Tata Sons would be crucial to carry any board resolution to be effective, including the chairman's reappointment.

With inputs from PTI

# No change of heart on 15% rate: White House official

## New US tariffs come in at 10%

Washington: The United States imposed a new tariff from Tuesday of 10 per cent on all goods not covered by exemptions, the US Customs and Border Protection said, the rate first announced by President Donald Trump on Friday, rather than the 15 per cent he promised a day later.



Donald Trump

However, a White House official said on Tuesday that the administration is working to increase the rate on Trump's new, temporary global tariff to 15 per cent from the 10 per cent rate published on Tuesday.

The official said Trump has had "no change of heart" on his desire for a 15 per cent tariff rate.

The White House official

said there was no further detail on the timing of the tariff rate increase. CBP can only collect tariffs based on information published in formal presidential executive orders or proclamations.

In a notice described as intended to "provide guidance regarding the February

20, 2026 Presidential Proclamation," CBP said that, aside from products covered by exemptions, imports would "be subject to an additional ad valorem rate of 10 per cent".

### Confusion on lower rate

The move added to confusion surrounding US trade policy, with no explanation offered in the notice for why the lower rate had been used. *The Financial Times* quoted a White House official as saying the increase up to 15 per cent would come later. Reuters could not immediately confirm this.

"Remember that Trump is delivering the State of the Union address tonight, so it's possible we might get a better

sense of the next steps on tariffs," Deutsche Bank said in a note.

"Net-net we still think the effective tariff rate will fall this year and that the world post-SCOTUS will see lower tariffs than the pre-SCOTUS world," its analysts said, using the acronym for the Supreme Court of the US.

Despite the fact that a 10 per cent tariff is less punitive than had been expected, traders cited uncertainty about the trade outlook as one reason why European shares opened lower on Tuesday, although the pan-European STOXX 600 index .STOXX was later trading flat.



The WTO headquarters in Geneva. (Reuters)

# WTO panel for China PLI plea

New Delhi: The World Trade Organisation's dispute settlement body has set up a panel in a case filed by China against India over its measures in the automotive and renewable energy sectors, an official said on Tuesday.

The panel was set up as both sides failed to resolve the issue through a bilateral consultation process under the aegis of the WTO.

In October last year, Beijing alleged that certain conditions in India's Production Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes for advanced chemistry cell batteries, automobiles and the policy to promote the manufacturing of electric vehicles violate global trade rules by discriminating against Chinese goods.

"At the second request of China, the Dispute Settlement Body (of the WTO) agreed at its meeting to establish a panel to examine certain Indian measures in the automotive and renewable energy sectors," the Geneva-based official said.

In a communication to the World Trade Organisation (WTO), China has stated that consultations were held on November 25, 2025, and January 6, 2026, with a view to reach a mutually agreed solution. Unfortunately, those consultations failed to resolve the dispute.

Seeking consultation is the first step of the dispute settlement process according to WTO rules.

PTI

# FedEx files lawsuit for refund

PETER EAVIS

Washington: FedEx has filed a lawsuit demanding a refund of the US tariffs that the Supreme Court ruled were unlawful last week.

The lawsuit, filed in the US Court of International Trade, asks that Customs and Border Protection, the agency that collects tariffs, make the repayment to FedEx. The company is expected to be one of many that will sue for a refund.

FedEx did not state a dollar amount that it is seeking. Analysts say the emergency tariffs that the Supreme Court rejected, which President Donald Trump began imposing a year ago, had raised as much as \$175 billion for the US government.

"It was totally expected that they would do this, because there's probably millions and millions of dollars



ONE OF MANY?

on the line here for them," said Scott Lincicome, an economist at the Cato Institute, a libertarian think tank, referring to FedEx.

The administration's lawyers, in a motion submitted to the trade court last year, said the government would comply with an order to provide refunds if the tariffs were found to be unlawful. But Trump suggested last week that refunds would face a legal battle.

FedEx often makes customs payments to the government, acting as a so-called importer of record, and then typically passes along the charges to the recipients of the goods. "FedEx has taken necessary action to protect the company's rights as an importer of record to seek duty refunds," the company said in a statement on Monday. NYTNS

# India, Gulf Council begin FTA talks

NEW DELHI

India and the six-nation bloc of West Asian nations, the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), started negotiations for a proposed free trade agreement (FTA), an official statement said on Tuesday.

A joint statement was signed between the visiting secretary general of the council, Jaseem Mohammad Al Budaiwi, and commerce minister Piyush Goyal in New Delhi.

Al Budaiwi emphasised that the FTA will serve as an important tool to further strengthen trade and investment ties between India and GCC countries by infusing predictability and certainty for businesses.

### US trade talks

Goyal on Tuesday said "as soon as" there is more clarity in the situation at the tariffs front in the US, India will resume trade talks. A proposed



Piyush Goyal with Jaseem Mohammad Al Budaiwi, the secretary-general of the GCC, in New Delhi on Tuesday. (PTI)

meeting of the Indian and US chief negotiators, to be held in Washington this week, was rescheduled.

### Israel pact

India and Israel have started the first round of negotiations for an FTA with an aim to further boost commercial ties and promote investments, an official statement said on Tuesday. PTI

# CIL backs calibrated coal exchange rollout

OUR BUREAU

Calcutta: Coal India is in favour of a phase-wise introduction of the sale of coal through the coal exchange amid industry concerns that exposing long-term power assets to full market volatility could lead to electricity tariff fluctuations and uncertainty in energy security.

The setting up of the coal exchanges is expected to create an independent marketplace to transact coal through a transparent, competitive and efficient price discovery mechanism.

"We are reform-aligned, not reform-resistant. We support modernisation, but reform must be calibrated, phased and aligned with national energy security," said Coal India executive director (Information and communication technology) V.S. Maharaj at the Indian Coal Markets Conference organised by mjunction. Coal India



(From left) VS Maharaj, Vinaya Varma and (extreme right) Niladri Bhattacharjee in Calcutta on Tuesday

currently offers coal through its own e-auctions and fuel supply agreements with coal consumers.

Niladri Bhattacharjee, partner at Grant Thornton Bharat, said a coal exchange would work best in a supply-comfortable or surplus market environment.

"A surplus coal situation would be good for a coal exchange. It will keep prices in check despite market transaction charges and encourage the market to shift from its current direct-to-consumer

character," he said.

Meanwhile, mjunction services limited, a 50:50 joint venture between Tata Steel and SAIL, is looking to leverage its experience in coal auctions as it works on a plan to set up a coal exchange in India, a senior company official said.

"We have been in this space for the last 21 years. We understand the supply and demand scenario and the issues that need to be addressed in delivery and quality. We have been providing our suggestions and inputs to the coal ministry, and I am happy that most of our suggestions have been incorporated. We are in active discussions and are very keen to set up a coal exchange in the country," said Vinaya Varma, MD and CEO of mjunction.

The coal ministry floated draft coal exchange rules in December for public consultation following amendments to the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act.



ALL GUNS BLAZING

# Warner pores over new bid from Paramount

Bengaluru: Warner Bros Discovery said on Tuesday it was considering a new bid from Paramount Skydance without disclosing the value of the deal, as the CBS owner makes a last-ditch effort to thwart Netflix from buying the coveted Hollywood studio.

The latest offer is higher than Paramount's previous bid of \$30 per share in cash, or \$108.4 billion including debt, for the whole of Warner Bros, a source familiar with the matter told Reuters on Monday.

The offer followed a week of talks between the companies to address concerns that prompted the HBO parent to reject previous Paramount bids in favour of Netflix's \$27.75 per share, or \$82.7 billion, deal for its studio and streaming assets.

"The Netflix merger agreement remains in effect and the Board continues to recommend in favour of Netflix," Warner Bros said.

If Warner Bros decides the new Paramount bid is superior to the Netflix deal, the streaming pioneer will have four days to respond, according to the agreement announced in December.

Either deal will reshape the power structure of Hollywood by handing the suitor one of the industry's most coveted studios and an extensive content library, as well as major franchises such as "Game of Thrones", "Harry Potter" and DC Comics.

Reuters

# WORKFORCE EXPANDED A MODEST 2.3% IN FY26

## Tech set to grow 6.1%

MUMBAI

Despite geopolitics-inducing volatilities and changes in the landscape due to artificial intelligence platforms, the Indian tech sector is set to notch up a 6.1 per cent revenue growth in FY26 at \$315 billion, Nasscom said on Tuesday.

The IT industry body said it was able to add jobs in FY26, with 1.35 lakh new additions to take the overall number of direct employees to 59.5 lakh against 58.15 lakh at the end of FY25. The industry had added 1.33 lakh jobs on a net basis in FY25, which is set to grow to 1.35 lakh in FY26. The growth in net additions at 2,000 is one of the slowest in many years.

Nasscom president Rakesh Nambiar said there is

### REVENUE LOG

- Core IT services: Revenues are expected to grow to \$149 billion in FY26
- Business process management: \$59 billion
- Software: \$23 billion
- Engineering, research and development: \$63bn
- Hardware companies: \$21 billion

a non-linearity between job growth at 2.3 per cent and revenue growth at 6.1 per cent, but expressed satisfaction at the industry continuing to be a net employee generator.

Nasscom said even as the tech landscape undergoes changes, it expects employee additions to continue going ahead as well.

The body said over 20 lakh of the 59.5 lakh employees have been upskilled in AI, which includes up to 3 lakh on advanced AI skills. In the strategic review of the ongoing fiscal year, Nasscom estimated the overall AI revenues at \$10-12 billion in FY26, while Nambiar said not all companies report AI revenue.

Nasscom also upwardly reviewed its FY25 revenue to \$297 billion from the \$282.6 billion estimate given in the review ahead of the end of the fiscal-year in February last year. PTI

# The looming Taiwan chip disaster

TRIPP MICKLE

New York: Federal officials have for years tried to wean Silicon Valley from its dependence on Taiwan, an island democracy roughly the size of Maryland that makes 90 per cent of the world's high-end computer chips.

In secret briefings held in Washington and Silicon Valley, national security officials warned executives from companies like Apple, Advanced Micro Devices and Qualcomm that China was making plans to retake Taiwan, which Beijing has long considered a breakaway territory. A Chinese blockade of Taiwan, the officials said, could choke the supply of computer chips made on the island and bring the US tech industry to its knees.

Two presidents pursued different strategies to reduce that risk. President Joe Biden championed the CHIPS Act, offering \$50 billion in subsidies to boost



MIND THE GAP

domestic chip manufacturing. President Donald Trump instead leaned on tariff threats, pressing companies to buy more chips from US factories.

Progress has been slow. Chips produced in the United States can cost more than 25 per cent more than those made in Taiwan, and Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company (TSMC) remains technologically ahead of competitors such as Intel and Samsung. Many tech firms, focused on margins and market

competition, hesitated to shift suppliers. A 2022 report commissioned by the Semiconductor Industry Association estimated that cutting off Taiwan's chip supply would trigger the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression, shrinking US GDP by about 11 per cent and China's by 16 per cent.

Federal pressure has produced some movement. TSMC expanded its Arizona investment plans by \$100 billion. Nvidia agreed to buy more US-made chips. Intel secured federal support tied to restructuring efforts. Still, even chips manufactured in Arizona often must be sent back to Taiwan for advanced packaging.

Despite hundreds of billions in planned investment, the United States is projected to account for only about 10 per cent of global semiconductor production by 2030 — leaving Taiwan central to the world economy and America's technological future. New York Times News Service



C Vijayakumar in Mumbai on Tuesday. (Reuters)

# 'Transition to be painful'

Mumbai: Amid widespread concerns on jobs and the relevance of the nearly \$300 billion IT services sector, HCL Technologies MD and chief executive C Vijayakumar on Tuesday said the current transition will be "painful" because it involves humans.

However, he said this is not the time to write an obituary for the industry and the ability to manage complex enterprise technology architectures and domain understanding will ensure its relevance.

Vijayakumar said the industry will have to reinvent and added that investor concerns on IT stocks are "over-blown". PTI



XXCE

IN BRIEF

Player saves seagull

■ ANKARA: A footballer's quick thinking brought a seagull back to life after the bird was struck by a ball during a match in Turkey. The incident occurred during the Istanbul First Amateur League playoff final between Mevlanakapi Guzelhisar and Istanbul Yurdum Spor. Istanbul goalkeeper Muhammet Uyanik cleared the ball up the pitch and it struck a seagull, sending it plummeting to the turf. Captain Gani Catan admitted cardiopulmonary resuscitation and then handed the bird over to the medical staff. Reuters

Back for country

■ PRAGUE: Former captain Vladimir Darida has agreed to come out of international retirement to help the Czech Republic qualify for the World Cup. The 35-year-old Darida retired in 2021 after the Czechs were eliminated in the quarter-finals of the European Championship. AP

Stalemate

■ BHUBANESWAR: Odisha FC and Inter Kashi FC played out a goalless draw in an Indian Super League match here on Tuesday. PTI

Afghanistan coach

■ CALCUTTA: Richard Pybus has been appointed Afghanistan's head coach following the team's exit from the T20 World Cup. The Englishman takes over from Jonathan Trott, who was at the helm for four years. Our Bureau

THIS DAY THAT YEAR

1964: Muhammad Ali (then Cassius Clay) wins his first world heavyweight boxing title when Sonny Liston fails to come out for round seven at the Convention Center, Miami Beach.

2001: The legendary Don Bradman passes away at the age of 92.

2018: Norwegian cross-country skier Marit Bjorgen wins gold in the women's 30k at the Pyeongchang Winter Olympics, bringing career Games medal haul to 15, most won by any athlete in Winter Games history.

Tilak & Ishan take the first hits as Abhishek bowls left-arm spin

India need Plan B pill to fight flaws

SUDIPTO GUPTA

Chennai: How can cricket be defined? To answer that, one would have to pitch a counter question — which cricket are you talking about?

If you are referring to the OG version of it, it would simply be a laidback sport, usually meant for sunny afternoons, in which the batting team and the bowling team tried to outwit each other with skills and strategies. Even in the brutality of the Bodyline, the game and its beloved could afford romanticism.

But modern-day cricket is a beast. More so after the invasion of T20s. It's no longer a simple game. Romanticism has made way for machismo, while strategically, it has slipped so much into the technological domain that captains and coaches are slaves to data-driven match-ups.

T20 WORLD CUP

There's no denying that data is science, and science commands a following. But no amount of technological inputs can replace the human skills that cricket demands even to this day. And that is where the current Indian team is failing time and time again. Despite being an assortment of unmatched talents, Team India is fumbling when challenged. They are not thinking on their feet. It seems they do not have a Plan B either.

Whom would you blame for that? Coach Gautam Gambhir? Captain Suryakumar Yadav? Both to a large extent, but the others in the team cannot escape the allegations either.

Gambhir first. You do not need sources to tell you that his influence on the team's decisions is the biggest. But despite many a fall, some of them utterly embarrassing, it seems Gambhir hasn't been able to coach his players about the right way of dealing with a crisis.

After India's Test series loss to South Africa at home last November, a frustrated Gambhir had blasted his team. "Accountability and the game situation can never be taught. You can talk about skills, you can work on skills, you can keep talking about the mental aspect of the game, but ultimately when you go in, if you keep putting the team ahead of your own self, not thinking, 'this is how I play, and this is how I will get the results, I don't have plan B', so sometimes you will get these kind of collapses as well," the former India opener had said reflecting on the defeat. His words tell you that

he found the ailing nerve, but, given how his team has responded to tough challenges, it appears that they are yet to mend their ways.

In the Super Eight match against South Africa, India were six down with not even 90 on the board, six-odd overs were left chasing an almost 190-run target. Rinku Singh comes out to bat and tries to aim for the stars off the very second ball he faces and gets caught at long-on. With a win looking draped in impossibility, and he being the last recognised batter in the line-up, wasn't adding precious runs to the total to arrest the free-fall of the net-run rate a better idea? Was it not common sense? Shouldn't it have been Plan B for India once they realised the mountain was too steep to climb?

Or, take the case of picking Washington Sundar ahead of Axar Patel for the sake of match-ups. Okay, let's say it made sense, given the presence of two left-handers in South Africa's top three. But when those two — Quinton de Kock and Ryan Rickelton — were removed by Jasprit Bumrah, Washington was almost rendered jobless. It was as if the captain didn't know what to do with the off-spinner and so gave him just two overs to bowl, even when he had the third-best economy in the team on the day after Bumrah and Arshdeep Singh. Didn't Surya have a Plan B to better utilise a bowler whom he chose over the most reliable Axar?

And the less said about the team's disregard for opposition plans is better. Even after knowing that rival teams would pitch off-spinners to unsettle the Ishan Kishan-Abhishek Sharma duo, the think-tank didn't bother to tell them



Hardik Pandya (above) and Arshdeep Singh (top) at practice at the Chepauk on Tuesday. (Getty Images)

'listen, let's not fall into the trap, let's move on to a Plan B'. The two batters felt it was their divine duty to unleash hell on the opposition right from the word go and as a result, one of the two openers has been out for a duck in four of the five games India have played so far.

It's okay to lose a game. But when the driver doesn't alter his path or slow down

when there's a pothole in front of him, it's not an accident, it's suicide.

Fact is, the Indian team reeks of overconfidence. The theory of "we will play the way we have been playing in the last couple of years" comes across as a lazy response to challenges.

It's just another way of saying that, 'sorry, we don't have a Plan B'.

Batting order rejig highlight of practice

SUDIPTO GUPTA

Chennai: Had things gone according to script, the MA Chidambaram Stadium would have been the boiling pot of possibilities ahead of an India-Australia T20 World Cup clash. But though that isn't happening this year, there's no shortage of intrigue 48 hours ahead of India's second Super Eight match here.

Instead of Australia, it's Zimbabwe who will be padding up against the home team. But there's no way of playing down the contest. Neither can the Africans be shooed away as minnows, nor can the mighty defending champions be sure of their dominance.

Post the humiliation at the hands of South Africa, India stare at an unceremonious exit from the competition, even as the Zimbabweans, despite the hammering they were subjected to by the West Indies, weave dreams of a semi-final ticket from Group 1.

With the axe hanging treacherously over Team India's head, the Ishan Kishans and the Tilak Varmas swung their bats with sword-like ferocity at practice here on Tuesday.

But news isn't that Tilak, who is desperately seeking the route back to his street-smart batting style, was tonking ball after ball over the midwicket region at the Chepauk. A more interesting bit of information is that Tilak and Ishan Kishan were the first pair of batters to take the nets on Tuesday.

Adding some more twist to the almost five-hour-long practice session, the two were followed by Sanju Samson.

Where was Abhishek Sharma? He was bowling his left-arm spin instead. He did bat, but much later.

That's not all. Rinku Singh was absent from the training session, with sources claiming that he has returned home for a family emergency.

Are the events aligned for a change in Team India's plans for the crucial match against Zimbabwe, one that they need to win by a big margin?

If Rinku is not part of the XI, Samson will easily walk in. But the question is, which position will he bat in? Another way of putting it would be — what will be India's batting order on Thursday? That sounds more apt because, who knows, India might decide to rejig their order right from the top.

Tilak was the hands-down winner in terms of the big hits at practice on Tuesday, as some of his slog sweeps landed high up in the stands.

Who wasn't hitting them as sweetly at the nets? That would be skipper Suryakumar Yadav. One of his pulls was caught by Ishan in the adjoining net.



Captain Harry Brook during his 51-ball 100 in England's Super Eight win over Pakistan at the Palkele Stadium in Kandy on Tuesday. (Getty Images)

Brook ton seals England's place in last-four

Pallekele: Skipper Harry Brook played the most defining innings of his T20 career, smashing a 51-ball 100 to propel England into the semi-finals of the T20 World Cup with a narrow two-wicket victory over Pakistan.

Chasing 165 on a slightly difficult surface, England were 35/3 and then 58/4 before Brook almost singlehandedly carried them through with the two-time champions winning with five balls to spare.

Brook's innings was not only his best individual T20I score but also the highest by an England skipper in the history of the T20 World Cup. England have now reached their fifth straight T20 World Cup semi-final.

Batting at No. 3 for the first time, Brook showed admirable smarts during an innings that had 10 fours and four sixes as he picked his battles with precision.

He did not take any undue risks against Usman Tariq (2/31) and stood tall even as Shaheen Shah Afridi (4/30) wreaked havoc in his opening spell, during which he claimed three wickets.

Brook completed his maiden T20I century with a six and a chipped boundary over mid-off before getting bowled trying to go for a third big hit against Afridi. By then, he had ensured a last-four berth for England and received a warm handshake from the Pakistan pacer.

Earlier, Sahibzada Farhan

scored 63 off 45 balls as Pakistan scored a competitive 164/9. This was a must-win game for the Salman Aghale side, as their Super Eights opener against was washed out on Saturday.

Farhan's knock included seven fours and two sixes with the English spinners on target for the better part of the innings. Left-arm spinner Liam Dawson (3/24) was the pick of the England bowlers.

PTI

PAKISTAN	
S. Farhan	c Overton 63
S. Ayub	c Bethell b Archer 7
S. Agha	c Overton b Dawson 5
B. Azam	b Overton 25
F. Zaman	c Dawson b Rashid 25
S. Khan	run out 23
U. Khan	c Overton b Dawson 8
Mid Nawaz	b Dawson 0
S.S. Afridi	c Curran b Archer 2
S. Mirza	not out 2
Extras: (lb-1, w-3)	4
Total: (8 wickets, 20 overs)	164
Fall of wickets: 1/14, 2/27, 3/73, 4/122, 5/132, 6/146, 7/146, 8/149, 9/164	
Bowling: Archer 4-0-26-2, Dawson 4-0-24-3, Curran 3-0-24-0, Rashid 4-0-31-1, Jacks 2-0-27-0	

ENGLAND	
P. Salt	c Usman b Afridi 0
J. Buttler	c Usman b Afridi 2
H. Brook	b Afridi 100
J. Bethell	c Farhan b Afridi 8
T. Banton	c Usman b Tariq 2
S. Curran	c Nawaz b Tariq 16
W. Jacks	b Nawaz 28
J. Overton	st Usman b Nawaz 0
L. Dawson	not out 1
J. Archer	not out 5
Extras: (lb-1, w-3)	4
Total: (8 wickets, 19.1 overs)	166
Fall of wickets: 1/0, 2/17, 3/35, 4/58, 5/103, 6/155, 7/160, 8/161	
Bowling: Afridi 4-0-30-4, Salman 3-1-0-26-0, Ayub 2-0-21-0, Nawaz 3-0-26-2, Shadab 3-0-31-0, Tariq 4-0-31-2	
England won by 2 wickets	
MoM: Harry Brook	

CUP STANDINGS					
GROUP 2					
	P	W	L	NR	PT
ENG	2	2	0	0	+1.491 4
PAK	2	0	1	1	-0.461 1
NZ	1	0	0	1	0.000 1
SL	1	0	1	0	-2.550 0

Updated till Tuesday

Lanka may play semis at home

OUR BUREAU

Calcutta: Sri Lanka could play their T20 World Cup semi-final at the Premadasa Stadium in Colombo if they do not meet India and if Pakistan do not make the semi-finals.

In a communication to all stakeholders, the ICC has clarified the semi-final logistics after the Super Eight line-ups were finalised.

If Pakistan qualify for the semi-finals, they will play in Colombo on March 4. If Pakistan do not qualify, but Sri Lanka do and play anyone other than India, then Sri Lanka will play in semi-final 1 in Colombo.

However, if it's an India versus Sri Lanka semi-final, then it will be held in Mumbai on March 5.

In the event of neither Pakistan nor Sri Lanka qualifying, semi-final 1 will be played at Eden Gardens and semi-final 2 in Mumbai.

India will play their semi-final in Mumbai regardless of who they are drawn against unless it's Pakistan.

The ICC in a media release announced that tickets for the semi-finals and final were on sale from Tuesday. If the venue doesn't end up hosting a semi-final or the final for which tickets were purchased, the amount will be refunded to the ticket-holder.

LEFT-HANDED BATTER CREDITS TEAM SUPPORT FOR COMFORTABLE HEADSPACE

Hetmyer's solidity at No. 3 a boost for Windies

SAYAK BANERJEE

Calcutta: Shimron Hetmyer has lived up to the challenge of batting at No. 3 and looks like he has no plans to look back.

In the early part of his career, the left-handed Hetmyer batted at No. 3 on quite a few occasions. So, while it was not a new role to adjust to, the difference he has been able to bring in is his conversion rate.

In other words, Hetmyer's consistency in the slot is a factor behind the West Indies remaining unbeaten in their T20 World Cup campaign so far and that the former champions stand a decent chance to make the semi-finals as well.

The second T20I versus South Africa in Centurion earlier in January was the game where Hetmyer was promoted up to No.3. He responded with a 42-ball 75.

Since then, he has looked compact and provided a lot more solidity to the slot with his positive intent, something the Caribbean side had been missing for quite some time. The numbers, too, underline it — till his 85 against Zimbabwe at the Wankhede on Monday, Hetmyer tallies 342 runs from seven innings at No.3, averaging 57.

He was a tad fortunate in Monday's Super Eight clash as Zimbabwe dropped him on nine and 70 during his 34-ball knock. But that cannot take away the kind of assur-

ance he seems to be have in his game.

"It's a lot easier now because I've been doing it for a while. I understand the role better. I know how situations unfold, and having the backing of everyone in the team really helps. That support puts me in a much more comfortable headspace," Hetmyer said, about batting at No.3, after the Windies 107-run win over Zimbabwe.

For captain Shai Hope, having Hetmyer bat lower down the order is a waste of his abilities.

"The way he is batting, I think sometimes, he was kind of wasted down the bottom in the innings. He's such a good player, he can bat in all situations... (against) spin (and

pace." Hope said late on Monday. "To utilise him in that phase (No. 3), he comes out and plays with that freedom that we wanted him to play with. He's been an asset for us, especially in this tournament."

Minor tweak

In early 2025, Hetmyer tweaked a thing or two in his batting, which also appears to have benefited him. And the one who helped him make the necessary adjustments is former Mumbai and Surrey batsman Zubin Bharucha.

"He had a slightly closed bat face and also was taking the bat a little behind him. That was corrected quite quickly," Bharucha, who has worked with several inter-

national cricketers, told The Telegraph on Tuesday.

Hetmyer's bigger tests, however, will be on Thursday against South Africa in Ahmedabad before he comes across the likes of Varun Chakravarty and Jasprit Bumrah at the Eden on Sunday. "If Varun bowls the googly, he will have to go towards long-off or inside out more than going towards long-on or mid-wicket, which is his strength."

"Of course, if the ball doesn't turn (at the Eden), he can go anywhere. Plus, smaller boundaries to assist him," Bharucha explained.

"When facing (Lungi) Ngidi, he needs to look to play the slower one over long-off, cover or point."



Shimron Hetmyer at the Wankhede on Monday. (PTI)



Abhishek Sharma and (right) Tilak Varma during India's practice session in Chennai on Tuesday. The defending champions play Zimbabwe on Thursday. (Getty Images)

Mourinho's criticism of Vinicius disappoints Courtois; Arbeloa lauds Real forward's 'bravery'

# To attack or to defend is Enrique's dilemma



Kylian Mbappe during Real Madrid's training in Madrid on Tuesday, the eve of their Champions League playoff second-leg match against Monaco, in a picture posted on X

Paris: Paris Saint-Germain coach Luis Enrique may be unsure how to approach the second leg of the Champions League playoff against Monaco on Wednesday.

Although PSG is 3-2 ahead, protecting leads is not his style. But attacking too much against a technically strong Monaco side could expose his team to costly counterattacks.

## CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Coach Sébastien Pocognoli's Monaco has 13 goals in the past six games. Although two of those have been defeats, the attack is looking sharper.

PSG's defence looks weaker than last season — conceding against Monaco after just 55 seconds — and is not helped by uncertainty over the goalkeeper. Since Gianluigi Donnarumma's departure, Enrique has alternated between Matvei Safonov and summer signing Lucas Chevalier.

Pairing Ansu Fati and Folarin Balogun in attack

could be Pocognoli's best option. Their movement up front, allied to the runs of attacking midfielder Maghnes Aklouch, may stretch PSG's defence and leave space for midfielders behind.

Rapid counterattacks are Monaco's strength.

## Lucky charm

Every time Desire Doue has scored for PSG, the team has won. The 20-year-old forward looks to extend that winning run on Wednesday. Doue scored twice in the 3-2 first leg win after going on early for Ballon d'Or winner Ousmane Dembele, who is sidelined with a calf injury.

"It's a very good statistic. It's very pleasing," Doue said on Tuesday. "But you should also highlight that even when I don't score, the team wins very often."

After scoring against Monaco last week, Doue put his hands over his ears as if to show he couldn't hear criticism.



Desire Doue

"Because a lot of things happen in football. That celebration was personal," Doue said, "I try to wipe out all the noise from my brain and my memory."

## Angry goalie

Real Madrid goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois was disappointed with Jose Mourinho's criticism of teammate Vinicius Junior, who accused Benfica player Gianluca Prestianni of racism.

Courtois spoke on Tuesday, a day before Real hosted

Benfica in their second-leg playoff. Real's 1-0 win in Lisbon last week was overshadowed by Vinicius' allegation that Prestianni called him "monkey" after the Brazil forward scored and celebrated by the Benfica corner flag.

Prestianni denied racially insulting Vinicius but was provisionally suspended for one match by Uefa and will not play Wednesday's game at Santiago Bernabeu.

Mourinho, a former Real coach, said Vinicius shouldn't have provoked Benfica fans by dancing in front of the Benfica flag to celebrate his second-half winner.

Courtois said it wasn't right to use Vinicius' celebration to justify the alleged act of racism.

"Mourinho is Mourinho, and as a coach he will defend his club," Courtois said. "The thing that disappoints me is that he used Vini's celebration. He didn't do anything wrong. He celebrated like many of our rivals have."

Real coach Alvaro Arbeloa said that Vinicius had shown "great bravery and character" since the alleged insult directed at him.

"He has responded with courage, showing a huge personality and a lot of character... He is a fighter," Arbeloa said.

"He is a game-changing player and we need him to get back to have fun tomorrow (Wednesday)." AP, Reuters

## TODAY'S MATCHES

● Atalanta vs Dortmund (11.15pm IST). (Dortmund won 2-0 in first leg)  
● Juventus vs Galatasaray. (Galatasaray won 5-2 in the first leg)  
● PSG vs Monaco. (PSG won 3-2 in the first leg)  
● Real Madrid vs Benfica. (Real Madrid won 1-0 in the first leg)  
Kick-offs at 1.30am IST Thursday, unless otherwise mentioned  
Live on Sony Sports Network and SonyLIV

## Coach mum on Hakimi trial

Paris: Paris Saint-Germain coach Luis Enrique on Tuesday declined to comment on whether Achraf Hakimi's role as vice captain and his general position on the team would be affected by the fact that he will face trial on a rape accusation, which he denies.

Hakimi's trial is a matter for the courts, Enrique told reporters at a news conference.

"Today, a rape accusation is enough to justify a trial, even though I deny it and everything proves it's false," Hakimi said in a post on X.

"This is as unjust to the innocent as it is to the genuine victims."

"I calmly await this trial, which will allow the truth to come out publicly."

PSG is set to play Monaco on Wednesday.

Reuters

## Clashes fuel Cup worries

Tapalpa (Mexico): Maria Dolores Aguirre's family corner store has lived off tourism that has flowed into her charming cobblestoned town of Tapalpa, tucked away in the mountains of Jalisco state.

That was until gunshots erupted and helicopters flew overhead as the Mexican army killed the country's most powerful drug lord, just a few kilometres from her home.

Now, the 50-year-old Aguirre worries that the bloodshed will deal a blow to her livelihood and change towns like hers. It is something many in the western Mexican state are grappling with, from its Pacific Ocean beaches to its capital Guadalajara that will host matches in June for the 2026 Fifa World Cup.

"It's going to affect us. It's collateral damage," Aguirre said.

"The government is going to have to have a lot of security... The entire world just saw what happened and, of course, people are going to think twice about coming."

President Claudia Sheinbaum was asked at her daily news briefing on Tuesday what guarantees there are that World Cup matches will be held in Jalisco. "Every guarantee, every guarantee," she said, adding that there was "no risk" for fans coming to the tournament.

Fighting between the Jalisco New Generation Cartel and Mexican security forces raged on in a number of states Monday, fueling fears among many like Aguirre that there will be more violence to come.

AP/PTI



Benjamin Sesko scores Manchester United's winner during the Premier League match against Everton in Liverpool on Monday. (Getty Images)

# Sesko seals it for United

PREMIER LEAGUE	
EVERTON	0
MANCHESTER UNITED	1

Liverpool: Manchester United's Benjamin Sesko came off the bench to score a vital goal for the second game in a row as he fired the winner in a 1-0 Premier League win at Everton on Monday.

Sesko sealed an uninspiring clash at the Hill Dickinson Stadium in the 71st minute as he swept in a clinical first-time shot from Bryan Mbeumo's pass after a flowing counter-attack.

Victory sent Michael Carrick's United clear in fourth place on the table, three points ahead of Chelsea and Liverpool.

Sesko's goal was a rare moment of quality in a scrappy match in which United almost took the lead in the opening minutes when James Tarkowski cleared an Amad

Diallo effort off the line.

United keeper Senne Lamens was called into action late on to deny teenager Harrison Armstrong before keeping out Michael Keane's thunderous long-range effort.

This was not a polished display by United, but it continued caretaker coach Carrick's impressive impact since taking charge. He has now won five and drawn one of his six games.

"It was really important for us to win this game. It was really difficult," Sesko, who also scored a late equaliser against

TOP 5					
	P	W	D	L	F/A Pts
Arsenal	28	18	7	3	56 21 61
Man City	27	17	5	5	56 25 56
Aston Villa	27	15	6	6	38 28 51
United	27	13	9	5	48 37 48
Chelsea	27	12	9	6	48 31 45

Updated till Monday's match

West Ham United 13 days ago, said. "We were fighting. They were fighting. It was a really 50-50 battle but we managed it until the end and secured the win."

United have 48 points from 27 games, with Chelsea and Liverpool on 45.

Everton huffed and puffed but struggled to gain any real momentum until the latter stages and are now without a win in their last seven home games in all competitions and stay in ninth place in the table.

"I'm not happy with the scoreline, that's for sure," Everton manager David Moyes said. "You have to win games if you are going to keep moving on and we haven't been doing that, especially here."

"They got the one goal on the counter-attack and we put in a great effort to try and get the goal back but just lacked the quality to make it count."

Reuters

## Batters put J&K in strong position on opening day

Hubballi: A masterful unbeaten century from Shubham Pundir and a tenacious 88 from young Yawer Hassan saw Jammu & Kashmir seize control of the Ranji Trophy final, having reached 284/2 on the opening day.

Pundir, the 27-year-old left-handed batter, was batting on 117 at stumps and giving him company was Abdul Samad on 52, the duo having added 105 runs for the third wicket after skipper Paras Dogra retired hurt.

Pundir and Yawer had earlier stitched together a 139-run stand to lay the foundation for a big total against the eight-time champions, whose batters have a great record at this venue.

Pundir reached his hundred in style, smashing Shikhar Shetty for a six over deep mid-wicket. He marked reaching the landmark by removing his helmet and raising his arms in the direction of the dressing room.

On a pitch that is likely to break up as the game progresses, Jammu and Kashmir won a good toss, and Dogra's decision to bat first was on expected lines.

Playing in their maiden



Jammu and Kashmir's Shubham Pundir (right) and Abdul Samad run between the wickets on the first day of the Ranji Trophy final against Karnataka in Hubballi on Tuesday. (PTI)

Ranji final after an inspired run that saw them claim away victories against established teams such as Madhya Pradesh and Bengal in the knockouts, J&K lost Qamran Iqbal (6) early.

The opener poked at a Prasad Krishna delivery that straightened a bit to induce an outside edge for KL Rahul to complete a comfortable

catch in the slip cordon.

It was not easy out there in the middle and there were numerous plays and misses, and a few streaky edges too, but both Yawer and Pundir saw off the difficult period against the new ball.

Yawer and Pundir may not have looked the most fluent, but they were effective nonetheless, stitching together a big partnership for the second wicket while keeping the scoreboard ticking at around three runs an over.

The Karnataka bowlers — the three pacers and leg-spinner Shreyas Gopal — were disciplined with their line and length but didn't get any reward for their perseverance.

Shreyas, the season's leading wicket-taker with 55 scalps heading into the title clash, too beat the bat on a few occasions but did not taste success, even as Yawer and Pundir looked to go after him and never allowed him to settle into a rhythm.

**Brief scores:** Jammu & Kashmir 284/2 (Shubham Pundir 117 batting, Yawer Hassan 88, Abdul Samad 52 batting; Prasad Krishna 2/36) vs Karnataka. At Stumps, Day 1.

PTI

## India Women lose 1st ODI

Brisbane: Australia outplayed reigning world champions India to pick up a comfortable six-wicket win in the first Women's ODI here on Tuesday.

India were bowled out for 214, despite fifties from Smriti Mandhana (58 off 68) and captain Harmanpreet Kaur (53 off 84). Australia breached the target following fifties from skipper Alyssa Healy (50 off 70) and Beth Mooney (76 off 79).

Spinner Ashleigh Gardner was the standout bowler for the home team, returning with figures of three for 33.

The multi-format series is now locked at 2-2 with India winning the preceding T20 series 2-1. Following the three-match ODI series, a one-off Test will be played in Perth at the end of which Healy will call time on her career.

"The wicket didn't play the way we thought it would. We've been playing good cricket so it's not like we'll change much after one loss," said Mandhana

**Brief scores:** India Women 214 (Smriti Mandhana 58, Harmanpreet Kaur 53; Ashleigh Gardner 3/33). Australia Women 217/4 (Alyssa Healy 50, Beth Mooney 76). Australia Women won by 6 wickets.

PTI

## Gukesh bullish

Prague: After an early exit from the World Cup and an underwhelming performance at the Tata Steel Masters, world champion D Gukesh would be eyeing a turnaround when he spearheads India's challenge in the Prague International Chess festival starting here on Wednesday.

Seeded second in a young elite field, Gukesh will have his task cut out against the likes of top-seeded German Vincent Keymer and Uzbek Nodirbek Abdusattorov.

Keymer, ranked fourth globally in live ratings, is just ahead of Abdusattorov while Gukesh, ranked 10th, is the highest-rated Indian.

Keeping Gukesh company will be compatriot and defending champion Aravindh Chithambaram. PTI

## Arrived for 'Leger'

### STAR RACER

Calcutta: Trainer Adhiraj Singh Jodha's Derby winner Arrived (S. Antony Raj-up) is all set to stamp his authority over the gruelling 2,800m trip of the Calcutta St Leger, here, on Wednesday. There are only four runners in the fray and the improving Arrived may not disappoint.

### SELECTIONS

2pm: Lahina 1. Royal King 2. A Wink Annda Smile 3.  
2.30pm: Conjuror 1. Laguna Seca 2. Cigar Galaxy 3.  
3pm: Merlet 1. Fable 2. Eleanor 3.  
3.30pm: Surprise Fantasy 1. Marcolini 2. Grenoble 3.  
4pm: Cortado 1. Blinky Bill 2. Cache 3.  
4.30pm: Arrived 1. Gold Empire 2. Superstar 3.  
5pm: Hermod 1. Sea Eagle 2. Impressive Annie 3.

**SHETH BROTHERS BHAVNAGAR**

**AYURVEDIC KAYAM CHURNA | TABLET | GRANULES**

**Don't Gamble With New Remedies**

Avoid The Experiments, Choose 'Kayam', Trusted For Generations!

**NO CONSTIPATION**  
**NO ACIDITY**  
**NO GAS**

**100% Ayurvedic** | **No Side Effects** | **Over Night Action**

Available At Medical Shop, Ayurvedic Store & Major e-Commerce Platform | Buy Online : [shethbrothersstore.com](http://shethbrothersstore.com)  
Toll Free No: 1800 419 0807 | [contact@kayamchurna.com](mailto:contact@kayamchurna.com)

ANUBHAV SINHA WITH  
TAAPSEE PANNU

Wednesday  
25 February 2026

The Telegraph



XXCE

PRANTIKA  
DAS

P9

# ART AS PASSION



## LAMB'S HORSES

P8

SLOW HORSES

## EXPANDING HORIZONS

P10

● B'DAY, TECH, WATCHIT 2,3 ● WHATSUP, MUSIC 4, 11,12,13,14,15

#totalloverskheyebolo



# 40% OFF



- Crispy Chicken Nuggets
- Crunchy Chicken Poppites
- Pepper Garlic Chicken Fingers

\*Representative image only \*T&C Apply

Order Now @ [totalfoods.in](https://totalfoods.in)



Visit Your Nearest Total stores | 18th - 27th February 2026

SHAHID KAPOOR, SANYA MALHOTRA,  
DANNY DENZONGPA



This is a year of major career advancements. Expect promotions and new job opportunities. With careful planning, financial stability increases, ensuring a more secure financial phase. Pay close attention to your stress levels and prioritise self-care. Travel, whether for business or pleasure, will offer new perspectives and growth opportunities.

— Nita Chhotalal

ALSO: TEA LEONI, JAMES AND OLIVER PHELPS



#### HOME SWEET HOME

To new beginnings..  
To endless laughter and love in my first home and to embracing 2026 with arms wide open.  
Uploaded by @tarasutaria  
(Tara Sutaria)



#### MEMORIES

You see 3 people. I see one unit.  
In the second picture how i am looking at them is exactly how i feel about them.  
Grateful for my beautiful family. My warriors. My best friends.  
Uploaded by @ritabhari\_chakraborty  
(Ritabhari Chakraborty)

## TODAY'S TIPS by Nita Chhotalal



### ARIES

**DO** take steady, deliberate steps towards something you've been eager to initiate  
**DON'T** let frustration build if results take time to appear  
**EXPECT** gradual progress that strengthens confidence



### TAURUS

**DO** give attention to comfort, values, and practical priorities  
**DON'T** ignore subtle signs indicating a need for adjustment  
**EXPECT** a sense of security through mindful choices



### GEMINI

**DO** organise thoughts before expressing them, especially in important discussions  
**DON'T** speak impulsively or assume you have all the facts  
**EXPECT** clarity through thoughtful communication



### CANCER

**DO** create emotional space for yourself and choose supportive environments  
**DON'T** reopen emotional matters that are already resolved  
**EXPECT** emotional calm and reassurance



### LEO

**DO** lead with warmth and generosity rather than intensity  
**DON'T** expect instant recognition or praise  
**EXPECT** appreciation that arrives naturally



### VIRGO

**DO** focus on practical routines that enhance productivity  
**DON'T** criticise yourself for small delays or imperfections  
**EXPECT** a sense of order to return



### LIBRA

**DO** restore balance by being honest about your needs  
**DON'T** sacrifice inner peace to please others  
**EXPECT** harmony through clear boundaries



### SCORPIO

**DO** observe emotions carefully and respond with awareness  
**DON'T** act from suspicion or emotional intensity  
**EXPECT** emotional insight that brings relief



### SAGITTARIUS

**DO** stay open to new perspectives or learning opportunities  
**DON'T** rush into commitments without reflection  
**EXPECT** encouragement that lifts optimism



### CAPRICORN

**DO** focus on long-term goals while handling responsibilities patiently  
**DON'T** pressurise yourself to meet unrealistic standards  
**EXPECT** steady reassurance through consistency



### AQUARIUS

**DO** share your vision while remaining emotionally present  
**DON'T** disconnect when deeper understanding is needed  
**EXPECT** a meaningful insight or connection



### PISCES

**DO** trust intuitive nudges while staying grounded in reality  
**DON'T** drift into emotional confusion or indecision  
**EXPECT** gentle clarity and inner alignment

Nita Chhotalal is on [Facebook](#) @Divine Grace - Nita Chhotalal [Instagram](#) @mysticalguidancebynita

## TECH

### SAMSUNG TO ADD PERPLEXITY HOTWORD 'HEY PLEX' TO UPCOMING FLAGSHIP PHONES

Samsung has confirmed that its upcoming flagship smartphones, widely expected to form the Galaxy S26 series, will support a new Perplexity "hotword" — "Hey Plex" — as part of what the company describes as an "open and inclusive integrated AI ecosystem".

The addition places Perplexity alongside existing assistants on Galaxy devices. "Hey Google" has long been available on Android handsets, while Samsung's own "Hey Bixby" remains an optional wake phrase on its smartphones. With "Hey Plex" entering the mix, Galaxy users will effectively have three distinct hotwords operating on the same device.

According to Samsung, "Hey Plex" will activate Perplexity on "upcoming flagship Galaxy devices". That suggests Perplexity will be pre-installed rather than offered as a downloadable add-on.

The Perplexity agent will work across Samsung's core apps, including Samsung Notes, Clock, Gallery, Reminder and Calendar, and will extend to certain third-party applications, although Samsung has yet to name them. By embedding the assistant at system level, the company says it aims to enable multi-step workflows, allowing users to move between tasks without manually managing individual apps.

The company describes its approach as a "vision for a rich, open and integrated multi-agent ecosystem" within Galaxy AI. It cites internal data suggesting that nearly



File picture of Samsung Galaxy S25 Edge

eight in 10 users now rely on more than two types of AI agents, underscoring what it sees as growing demand for flexibility rather than allegiance to a single assistant.

Won-Joon Choi, president, COO and head of the R&D office for Samsung's mobile experience business, said the expansion is intended to offer greater choice in how users complete tasks. "Galaxy AI acts as an orchestrator, bringing together different forms of AI into a single, natural, cohesive experience," Choi said.

The announcement arrives just days before Samsung's next Galaxy Unpacked event unfolds on February 25.

Samsung and Perplexity have previously partnered to bring the company's AI search engine to Samsung televisions, and the latest development extends that relationship to the company's flagship mobile devices. Further information on supported models and specific features is expected to be revealed shortly.

Mathures Paul

### ASHA SHARMA STEPS INTO TOP GAMING ROLE AS MICROSOFT RESHAPES ITS XBOX LEADERSHIP

Microsoft's head of gaming, Phil Spencer, is retiring after 38 years in a range of roles at the company. He is best known for steering Microsoft's gaming division and the Xbox brand through a period of major change. His successor will be Indian-origin executive Asha Sharma.

Sharma most recently served as president of product development for Microsoft's CoreAI division. Before rejoining Microsoft in 2024, she was chief operating officer at Instacart and earlier vice-president of product at Meta.

Spencer joined Microsoft as an intern in June 1988. "It's been an epic ride and truly the privilege of a lifetime," he said in a note to staff.

He became head of the gaming division in 2014, taking over from Marc Whitten shortly after Satya Nadella assumed the role of chief executive, replacing Steve Ballmer.

Microsoft Gaming now faces growing pressure from rising costs linked to tariffs, intensifying competition and uncertain consumer spending. Last month, the company reported that gaming revenue fell by around 9.5 per cent in the December quarter.

The business also completed its \$69 billion

acquisition of Activision Blizzard in 2023, a deal that drew prolonged regulatory scrutiny across multiple markets.

Nadella confirmed Spencer's retirement in an internal memo. "Last year, Phil Spencer made the decision to retire from the company, and since then we've been talking about succession planning. I want to thank Phil for his extraordinary leadership and partnership. Over 38 years at Microsoft, including 12 years leading Gaming, Phil helped transform what we do and how we do it," he wrote.

During his tenure, Spencer worked across a wide range of products, including the CD-based Encarta encyclopaedia, Microsoft Money, Microsoft Works and Microsoft Picture It!. He became general manager of Microsoft Studios in 2008 before being promoted to corporate vice-president in 2009.

Microsoft also announced that president Sarah Bond will leave the company. Xbox Game Studios chief Matt Booty will move into the role of chief content officer, reporting to Sharma.

Sharma said the company would seek to refocus on its core audience. "We are recommitting to our Xbox fans and

players. We will celebrate our roots with a renewed commitment to console gaming, which has shaped who we are and connects us to the developers building ambitious experiences," she said.

Earlier in her career, Sharma spent two years in marketing at Microsoft before leaving in 2013.

Mathures Paul



Asha Sharma, executive vice-president and CEO, Microsoft Gaming

# WATCHIT!



**A dim-witted television host (James Franco) and his loyal producer (Seth Rogan) are enlisted by the CIA to assassinate the North Korean president (Randall Park) after being invited to conduct a prime time interview with the dictator himself. *The Interview*; STAR Movies, 9pm**

## ENGLISH

### MOVIES OF THE DAY

- Bad Boys, Ride or Die:** Sony Pix, 1pm
- Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny:** STAR Movies, 1.15pm
- Ghostbusters, Afterlife:** Sony Pix, 2.50pm
- Ice Age, Continental Drift:** STAR Movies, 3.45pm
- Thor, Love and Thunder:** STAR Movies, 5pm
- Master Z, Ip Man Legacy:** STAR Movies Select HD, 5.15pm
- Operation Red Sea:** STAR Movies Select HD, 6.45pm
- John Carter:** STAR Movies, 7pm
- Venom, The Last Dance:** Sony Pix, 7.10pm
- Bullet Train:** Sony Pix, 8.55pm
- The Interview:** STAR Movies, 9pm
- Red Sparrow:** STAR Movies Select HD, 9pm
- Predator:** STAR Movies, 10.45pm
- Bad Connection:** STAR Movies Select HD, 11.15pm

### SHOWSTOPPERS

- Sex and the City:** Colors Infinity, 6pm
- MF Ghost:** Zee Cafe, 6pm

- Entourage:** Colors Infinity, 7pm
- Cheat On Me If You Can:** Zee Cafe, 7pm
- Robson Green, Extreme Fisherman:** Sony BBC Earth, 7.15pm
- Elementary:** Colors Infinity, 8pm
- Grey's Anatomy:** Zee Cafe, 8pm
- Lonely Planet, Best Parks Ever:** Sony BBC Earth, 8pm
- Game of Thrones:** Colors Infinity, 9pm
- Pretty Little Liars:** Zee Cafe, 9pm
- Earth's Natural Wonders:** Sony BBC Earth, 9pm
- Peacemaker:** Colors Infinity, 10pm
- Two Broke Girls:** Zee Cafe, 10pm
- Inside the Factory:** Sony BBC Earth, 10.45pm

## BENGALI

### MOVIES OF THE DAY

- Sejo Bou:** Colors Bangla Cinema, 12.45pm
- Manik:** Colors Bangla, 2pm
- Hullor:** Colors Bangla Cinema, 4pm
- Sasurbari Zindabad:** Colors Bangla Cinema, 6.45pm
- Khiladi:** Colors Bangla Cinema, 10pm

## SPORT

- WTT Grand Smash - Singapore Smash, Day 4, Session 1 and 2 - live:** EuroSport, 10am
- New Zealand Women vs Zimbabwe Women, 1st T20 - live:** Sony TEN 1 & 1 HD, 11.30am
- Women's FIH Pro League, Australia vs China - live:** STAR Sports Select 2 & Select 2 HD, noon
- Men's FIH Pro League, Australia vs India - live:** STAR Sports Select 2 & Select 2 HD, 2pm
- South Africa Women vs Pakistan Women, 2nd ODI - live:** STAR Sports Select 2 & Select 2 HD, 5.25pm
- UEFA Youth League Soccer, Paris Saint-Germain U19 vs HJK Helsinki - live:** Sony TEN 1 & 1 HD, 6.30pm
- ICC Men's T20 Cricket World Cup, Group 2 - Sri Lanka vs New Zealand - live:** STAR Sports 1, 2, 1 HD & 2 HD, 6.50pm
- UEFA Youth League Soccer, Real Madrid U19 vs Chelsea U19 - live:** Sony TEN 1 & 1 HD, 8.30pm

# The Telegraph CLASSIFIED *Whats On!* WednesDélite

## PROPERTY

### FLAT PURCHASE/SALE

**বাণেশ্বরাট-তে** ২ রুম ফ্ল্যাট ৩ টে, VIP থেকে ৫ মিনিট দূরত্বে, ২২ থেকে ২৬ লাখে সরাসরি ক্রেতা যোগাযোগ ৮৯৬১৪৬০৪২৯

**FOR sale** 2/3 bed roomed flats nearing completion near Girish Park Metro. Call 9836466220, 9830936358.

**বর্ধমান** বাদামতলায় কার্জন রেসিডেন্সি তিন দিক খোলা 1341sqft 3BHK ফ্ল্যাট 110sqft পার্কিং একত্রে বিক্রি আছে। 9875555984

**বেলিয়াঘাটা,** সিআইটি রোড, কাকুরগাছি, উল্টোডাঙ্গা রোডের ওপর দোকান বা ব্যবসা উপযোগী ফ্ল্যাট চাই। M: 9038575101, 7003428184

**2BHK Flat,** 850 SQFT super build, 3Rd floor, Uttarpara, Hooghly. Immediately sale. Contact Number: 9748852667

**FOR SALE:** Prime 2BHK, 900 sq ft at BT Road, Jaffarpur More, Barrackpore. Excellent location. Call: 9971744977

**NEW Town AA1,** 3BHK, South Open, vastu compliance 1450 sqft HIG for sale @ 85L. Call - 8910045447, 6290033650

**FLAT for Sale** 36 Lac Kalikapur. Prince Anwar Shah Road Connector. 2 BHK 2nd Floor with Parking. M- 8240657818

**৭২০ বর্গফুট,** তিন তলা, আলো-বাতাসপূর্ণ ফ্ল্যাট, ৬ নং বাসস্ট্যান্ড সংলগ্ন, গড়িয়া। বাজার ও মেট্রো নিকটবর্তী। ২৮ লক্ষ (আলোচনা সাপেক্ষ)। M: 9433879587

**READY** 2/3, bedroom flat at Mahishbathan, Salt Lake, Sector-V. with all modern facilities. Ph. No- 8336087403/ 8336087413

**Ready to move** 2/3 BHK premium finished flat at Nayabad near New Garia rly station with lift, security, etc. M: 9888738883

**বরানগরে** নিয়োগ পাড়ায় রাজকুমারী স্কুলের কাছে সুরক্ষিত কমপ্লেক্সের তিনতলায় দক্ষিণ-পূর্ব খোলা 2BHK ফ্ল্যাট 900 sq ft, ঢাকা গ্যারেজ লিফট আছে, ফ্ল্যাটের কাছাকাছি বাজার, অটোরিক্ট, বাস মেট্রোরেলের সুবিধা আছে। মূল্য 40লক্ষ টাকা। M-9475439914, 8910600040

**বরানগরে** নিয়োগ পাড়ায় রাজকুমারী স্কুলের কাছে সুরক্ষিত কমপ্লেক্সের তিনতলায় দক্ষিণ-পূর্ব খোলা 2BHK ফ্ল্যাট 900 sq ft, ঢাকা গ্যারেজ লিফট আছে, ফ্ল্যাটের কাছাকাছি বাজার, অটোরিক্ট, বাস মেট্রোরেলের সুবিধা আছে। মূল্য 40লক্ষ টাকা। M-9475439914, 8910600040

**বরানগরে** নিয়োগ পাড়ায় রাজকুমারী স্কুলের কাছে সুরক্ষিত কমপ্লেক্সের তিনতলায় দক্ষিণ-পূর্ব খোলা 2BHK ফ্ল্যাট 900 sq ft, ঢাকা গ্যারেজ লিফট আছে, ফ্ল্যাটের কাছাকাছি বাজার, অটোরিক্ট, বাস মেট্রোরেলের সুবিধা আছে। মূল্য 40লক্ষ টাকা। M-9475439914, 8910600040

**বরানগরে** নিয়োগ পাড়ায় রাজকুমারী স্কুলের কাছে সুরক্ষিত কমপ্লেক্সের তিনতলায় দক্ষিণ-পূর্ব খোলা 2BHK ফ্ল্যাট 900 sq ft, ঢাকা গ্যারেজ লিফট আছে, ফ্ল্যাটের কাছাকাছি বাজার, অটোরিক্ট, বাস মেট্রোরেলের সুবিধা আছে। মূল্য 40লক্ষ টাকা। M-9475439914, 8910600040

**বরানগরে** নিয়োগ পাড়ায় রাজকুমারী স্কুলের কাছে সুরক্ষিত কমপ্লেক্সের তিনতলায় দক্ষিণ-পূর্ব খোলা 2BHK ফ্ল্যাট 900 sq ft, ঢাকা গ্যারেজ লিফট আছে, ফ্ল্যাটের কাছাকাছি বাজার, অটোরিক্ট, বাস মেট্রোরেলের সুবিধা আছে। মূল্য 40লক্ষ টাকা। M-9475439914, 8910600040

To book The Telegraph Classified please call • 7666700400

**উত্তরপাড়া** স্টেশন ও G.T রোডের কাছে 1st floor এ একটি সুসজ্জিত নতুন ফ্ল্যাট 2BHK 953 Sq.ft. লিফট সহ 35 লাখে ও একটি 305 Sq.ft. দোকান 25 লাখে বিক্রি আছে। M-7439951039

**PREMIUM** 3.5BHK, ready to move new housing complex, Tollygunge, 13th floor, 1835 sq.ft., 3lifts, 2staircases, south-east, covered parking. 1.4 Cr, 9007534422.

**Excellent** 3 bedroom flat at Naktala Above Lenskart and Katak Life 2nd floor main road facing 1850 sqft one car parking. Price 1cr 30lacs bank loan available. Call: 9874555703

**কোলকাতা** এয়ারপোর্ট ৩নং গেটের কাছে বেলঘরিয়া এক্সপ্রেসওয়ের পাশে এয়ারপোর্ট সিটি-২ তে সেকেন্ড ফ্লোরে ষাট লাখের মধ্যে দুই কামরার রেডি ফ্ল্যাট বিক্রয়। যোগাযোগ- 9432581110, (033) 25918222

**2BHK & 3BHK flat** available for sale with parking and lift facility under KMC near Dum Dum Metro in peaceful environment- 9230067390

**4 BHK East facing** Gr Flr flat at Motilal Nehru Road Dover Terrace Ballygunj Kol-29, Carpet area 1380 sqft plus Covered Garage 150 sqft carpet area. Large courtyard, servant toilet etc. Free hold property, first sale. Price 1.90 Cr. Contact: 9910791976

**1000 sqft** 2BHK, 2Bath, Flat near Parijat cinema (G.T Road) Salkia, Howrah for Sale/Tenancy for life. Ring 89818 00288 / 7044004134

**FLAT FOR SALE** 1st floor, in South Kolkata near Golpark, in a Gated Building Complex, 3 Bed 3 bath Drwaing Dining kitchen, store room, balcony, covered car park, total above 1700 super built, semi-furnished for sale. Mob. 9810647744

**HALTU** 2Bhk flat (725sqft) on 20ft road, nr Ramlal Bazar, 1st flr marble finished 3 side open, semi furnished, no garage 9903542658

**Sale vacant flat** at KV-PH-II Birati Belgharia Exp. way D-Type, 1510 sq.ft. 4 BHK, 4 Balcony, 4 Bath, 1 Car Park 2 lift, 5th flr. Rs. 85 Lac. (M) 9874746447/ 9962595763

**বাণেশ্বরাট** VIP থেকে 6 মিঃ হাঁটপথে Ground Flr এবং Mezzanine Floor সমেত 1100 Sqft. 3BHK Flat ও 220sqft কভার্ড গ্যারেজ বিক্রয় আছে। 9434875783

**AT Serampore** a River Side beautiful two side open 850 Sqft. flat for sale. 5 Minutes from station. 35 Lacs. No Broker. Fixed price. M+Wapp: 9433440691

**শান্তিনিকেতন** সামনে বড় বাগান নিয়ে 1BHK (400sqft) এবং 2BHK (750 sft) Flat তৈরি হচ্ছে। হস্তান্তর এক বছরে। 18 lakhs onwards. M- 98742 42270.

**GARFA** Flats with lift, RERA + Garrage Kabi Sukanta metro 5 mins. Each 840-1200 sqft @5000/-Also Rajpur NS Road 2 flats 710 Sq ft @2800/- 7980888955/ 9830081970

**NEAR** New Garia Metro, 1020 sft carpet, 3 rooms, drawing dining, 3rd floor (Top), without lift/garage, 20 feet road, flat for sale at 40 lakhs. 9831859485/9674052721

**বেহালা** টোরাঙ্গা J. L. Sarani Crossing -এ Posh Area -তে 3 BHK 1350 sq.ft. with Garage, 3rd floor flat sale. No Lift. M- 8777485394.

**2 BHK flat** with balcony, kitchen & 2 bathrooms (1st floor) for sale in rail vihar, near ruby hospital. Please contact-7439354067

**দমদম** নাগের বাজার মেডে 1/ 2/ 3BHK রেডি ফ্ল্যাট লিফটসহ বিক্রি। মেট্রো/ হাসপাতাল/ এয়ারপোর্ট ৫মিঃ @5000/- Per Sqft 9038575101, 7003428184

**2/ 3/4 BHK flat** Sale at Regent Estate/ Bhawanipur / Prime South Kolkata / Theatre Road @ 1 Cr to 6 Cr. Call: 9830028405/6.

**HOWRAH** Kadamtala Ground Floor 1BHK 378 Sq.ft. ready Flat in Complex, Commercial/ Residential for Sale @19 Lacs. M: 9830023471

**শান্তিনিকেতন** রথীন্দ্রপল্লী আদ্যাপীঠের কাছে ৮ কাঠা জমি (১০ লক্ষ/কাঠা) ও ৪ কাঠা জমিসহ ৯৫০ বর্গফুট একতলা বাড়ি (৮০ লক্ষ) বিক্রয়। M- 9748378919

**উত্তরপাড়া** স্টেশন ও G.T রোডের কাছে রাস্তার উপরে একটি 6 BHK G+3 ফুল মার্বেল ফিনিশ বাড়ি গ্যারেজ/দোকানসহ 1.30 কোটিতে বিক্রি আছে। M-7439951039

**শান্তিনিকেতন** প্রান্তিকে বড় রাস্তার ধারে শান্ত প্রাকৃতিক পরিবেশে 4.5 কাঠা জমির উপর একটি 2.5তলা নতুন গেস্ট হাউস বিক্রয় আছে ৫টি গাড়ি পার্কিং সহ 1.5 Cr ও শান্তিনিকেতন 45এ নির্বন্ধাট শান্ত পরিবেশে একটি দ্বিতল বাড়ির বিক্রয় আছে। 1.2 Cr. সকল কাগজ সহ যোগাযোগ 7029144186

**BAGUIATI** three-storied, marble-finished house with garage for sale, on a corner plot (within 18-foot roads on both sides). M-9123771318/ 9748612791

**ডায়মন্ডহারবার** লাইনে মগরাহাট স্টেশন সন্নিকটস্থ, চার (৪) বিঘা বাগান বাড়ী পুকুর সহ বিক্রয়। যোগাযোগ- 9874290747/ 9836029649

**ডায়মন্ডহারবার** লাইনে মগরাহাট স্টেশন সন্নিকটস্থ, চার (৪) বিঘা বাগান বাড়ী পুকুর সহ বিক্রয়। যোগাযোগ- 9874290747/ 9836029649

**বারুইপুর-** কামাল গাজী ই.এম বাইপাস সংলগ্ন 80'-90' ফুটেজ সহ 12-15 কাঠা জমি চাই। 8777864712/ 9830067652

**রুবি** হাসপাতাল থেকে 4 KM মধ্যে ছোট বড়ো বাস্ট মিউটেশন করা জমি পাওয়া যাচ্ছে। সত্ত্বর যোগাযোগ করুন। M: 7063352921

**কৃষ্ণনগর** কালেক্টারী অফিসের নিকটে বড় রাস্তার উপরে ২ কাঠা বাস্ট জমি বিক্রি আছে। প্রতি কাঠা 33 লাখ, দালাল নহে। ফোন- 9867779607.

**E.M Bypass Metro** Cash & Carry মুকুন্দপুর নয়াবনে 2/3/4/5 কাঠা ছোট বড় প্লটে জমি ও 2/3 BHK Flat বিক্রয় আছে। M: 9831550478.

**SALE** Building near 2 Katha at 9/3, Fern Road, Gariahat corner building with sanction plan contact 9432075586, 9830110471

**LAND** needed for Joint Venture near Action Area I, Action area II and Axis Mall. Broker Excuse. M-9836655206/ 8697061147, animeshghayen2@gmail.com

**LAND** required at Rajarhat, Madhyamgram, Kalyani Expressway and nearby for factories. Genuine owner please contact immediately- 8582835050/ 9748090025

**ঘটকপুকুর,** বনবিধী রিসোর্ট থেকে ৫ কিমি দূরে বাস রাস্তার উপর চারিদিক পাঁচিল ঘেরা বাস্ট জমি ৬৫ কাঠা, Ideal for Resort or plotting or Godown for Sale-8240124965

**CLEAR** Title occupied 9cottah land available for sale at attractive price area Jodhpur Park. Interested parties kindly contact: landjodhpurpark@gmail.com

**FLAT RENT/LEASE**

**RENT/SALE** Avidipta 1 C-Block 834 Sft 2BHK open CP 3rd Flr East & Garden facing. Rs 90 Lakhs. Call/ Whatsapp 7003232505/ 7003809130

**HOUSE RENT/LEASE**

**NEAR** Santoshpur Lake, Kol-75. Gr.Flr. of a house, 3 rooms+K&B, 1000sft, ideal for Office/ Coaching/ PG. Owner:8585048949

**৮** কোলঃ বেহালা সখের বাজার মেট্রো স্টেশন এর কাছে শীলপাড়া বাসস্টপ থেকে হাঁটপথ LIC বাজারের উপর বাড়ী ভাড়া দেবো 7600 টাঃ প্রতি মাসে 7003446896

**OFFICE RENT/LEASE**

**নরেন্দ্রপুরের** কাছে কামালগাজী মেডে শান্ত পরিবেশে 300 sqft ঘর Tution, গান/ ম্যাজিক বা অন্য Coaching Class এর জন্য ভাড়া দেওয়া হবে। 9444423363

**দক্ষিণেশ্বর** মন্দিরের পাশে বাস ট্রেন মেট্রো সুবিধায় Commercial space নামী সঃ/বেঃসঃ ব্যাঙ্ক/অফিস/Co./মল/ Diagonestic সেন্টারকে ভাড়া দেবো। 9903537116, 9875354296 (9-6)

**OFFICE** space/ commercial first floor-1240 sqft, 45,000/- station road, Chiriamore area, Barrackpore. Contact- 6289472972

**PAYING GUEST**

**দক্ষিণেশ্বর** মেট্রো ও রেল স্টেশন থেকে হাঁটপথে রামকৃষ্ণ পরমহংস দেব রোডে পুরুষ PG রাখা। একত্রে/ পৃথকে থাকার সুবিধা। কৌশিক ঘোষাল M: 9143007565

**AVAILABLE** Female PG, single/sharing with modern common bath rooms with other facilities, near Bijan Setu, Ballygunge. 9831225112

**SHOP GODOWN**

**16300** sqft godown available on rent dock level at Dankuni old Delhi Rd 25 ft height with 10 Kva power. Mob. 9051189555, 9830271361

**EM** Bypass মেট্রো ক্যাশ এ্যান্ড ক্যারীর নিকট পূর্বালিকে মুকুন্দপুর, কলি- 99 এ 150 sqft দোকান ঘর বিক্রয়। M. 6290804928

**INDUSTRIAL** Building for sale at Sankrail industrial park - G+3 Floors Each flr 3550 Sq. Ft. Ph: 8240979799

**NEAR** Infosys, Wipro, ITC @ Hatisala, 1/2/3 BHKs Commercial Showroom, Shops & Godown. For sale - 8240124965.

**হতিবাগান** মিত্রা সিনেমা হলের পাশে দোতলায় 530 sqft দোকান ঘর বিক্রয়। সত্ত্বর যোগাযোগ করুন। 9830392233

**বাঁকড়াতে** Commercial Space ফাঁকা আছে 500/800/1000/2000/ 4000sqft অফিস, দোকান, showroom, Godown ইত্যাদির জন্য যোগাযোগ করুন। M-9434440066

Now advertise in The Telegraph Classified from home at your convenience. **Simply Call or WhatsApp on 99030 88888**

anytime between 10am - 6pm Payment can be made through Credit Card, Debit Card, Internet Banking, e-Wallet, Cash Card, Pay Zapp.

**XAVATHON, WITH THE TELEGRAPH, MARKED ST. XAVIER'S COLLEGE'S FIRST COMMUNITY MARATHON. SNAPSHOTS...**

**St.** Xavier's College Kolkata hosted Xavathon, their first-ever community marathon, last month. The event, in association with **The Telegraph**, witnessed huge participation from students, alumni, faculty and staff members. Enthusiastic participants, including fitness and wellness enthusiasts, gathered on the

college grounds early in the morning to enroll in their preferred category. Participants chose from three different categories — 10km, 5km, and the Fun Run (3km), further subdivided into categories according to age and gender. The warm-up session encouraged participants to show some cool Zumba moves. It was followed by the flag-off at the campus.



An enthusiastic group comprising students, alumni, faculty and staff gathered on the college grounds in the early hours of the day to participate in the first edition of Xavathon



Dipak Kumar Barua, 77, was all smiles at the warm-up Zumba session before starting his run



Fr. Dipak Gomes, 80, said: "My health was not in good shape a few years ago, but striving for fitness even against the odds of illness has given me the courage to bounce back. I would encourage everyone participating in this marathon today to keep striving for good health."



"Xavathon 2026 is a collective movement that brings together students, alumni, faculty, and citizens in the shared pursuit of health, unity and purpose. This marathon is a new milestone in the Xaverian legacy. This maiden mini-marathon reflects the institution's continued commitment to holistic education, community engagement, and public well-being. Xavathon 2026 also pledges a tree-plantation drive, reinforcing our belief that every stride taken today should contribute to a greener tomorrow," said Rev. Fr. Dominic Savio, S.J., principal, St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Kolkata.



(L-R) Rev. Fr. Johnson Padiyara, S.J., vice-principal of St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Kolkata, Raghobpur Campus; Rev. Fr. Jeyaraj Veluswamy, rector, St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Kolkata; Rev. Fr. Dominic Savio, S.J., principal, St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Kolkata; and Chandan Roy Choudhury, president, Bengal Olympic Association; and Sanjib Koner, honorary secretary, St. Xavier's College Calcutta Alumni Association, flag off the runners for Xavathon



(L-R) Sojal Kumar, Pritam Das, and Kanhaiya Gir secured the second, first and third position respectively in the 10k male category



(L-R) Durga Barman, Priyanka Gupta, and Amrita Dutta secured the second, first and third position respectively in the 10k female category



Rev. Fr. Peter Arockiam, S.J. (third from left), vice-principal of Commerce (Evening), Management Studies and M.Comm, St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Kolkata, was awarded the trophy for the second rank in the 10km 50 and Above (male) category by Rev. Fr. Johnson Padiyara, S.J. and Rev. Fr. Dominic Savio, S.J.



Mimishaa Chakraborty secured the third position in the 5K female category



(L-R) Siddhant Maheshwari, Samraj Khan, and Hassan Matawala secured the second, first and third position respectively in the 5k male category



Manoj Kumar Verma, IPS, was the chief guest at the first edition of Xavathon. "It is always great to start the day with some kind of energising physical activity like running. While we celebrate and encourage consciousness for fitness, eco-consciousness should go side by side to ensure the health of our planet as well."

Anuj Gupta (left), student convener, shared the experience of conducting the first ever community marathon hosted by the college. "Xavathon 2026 was shaped by teamwork, dedication and the overwhelming support of the Xaverian community. I'm forever grateful to St. Xavier's College and the department of sports; this memory will always stay close to my heart," he said.



The student coordination team behind Xavathon comprised members of the department of sports, student volunteers and NCC cadets. Tiasha Pal, student convener, Xavathon, said: "As Xavathon 2026 came to a close, months of hard work and emotion came together in a moment of quiet pride. What began as a simple idea grew into an event of remarkable scale... as my final event at this college, I hope Xavathon 2026 becomes a lasting legacy for the years ahead." Feroza Mogrelia, director of sports, St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Kolkata, shared: "This marathon was more than a run — it was a journey of belief. This is St. Xavier's College, where holistic learning and growth is encouraged."

**Ankita Chandra**

Pictures courtesy: St. Xavier's College

উস্তাদ আমজাদ আলি খান-  
এর এককুসিভ সাক্ষাৎকার



দলাই লামার  
গ্র্যামি জয়ের  
নেপথ্যের  
কারিগর  
বললেন নিজের  
জীবন, সঙ্গীত ও  
আধ্যাত্মিকতার  
গল্প

রণজয়-শ্যামোপ্তির বিয়ে  
ঝামেলায় মিমি চক্রবর্তী-সোহম  
সাক্ষাতে:  
তাপসী পল্লু • শাম্বত চট্টোপাধ্যায়

২৭ ফেব্রুয়ারি  
২০২৬

কেউ জীবন বাঁচেন  
নিজের শর্তে, কিছু  
তোয়াক্লা না করে।  
কেউ বা বেছে নিয়েছেন  
সমাজ সেবা। কেউ ছেড়ে  
দিয়েছেন পারিবারিক  
বংশগরিমা, কেউ আবার  
পথভ্রষ্ট! অগস্ত্য নন্দ,  
ঈশান খট্টর, সুহানা খান,  
অনীত পড্ডাসহ হিন্দি  
সিনেমার এক ডজন  
নতুন তারার  
অজানা গল্প



আনন্দলোক

তারকাদের লাইফ, লাইক, ডিসলাইক

আরও জানতে [www.anandalok.in](http://www.anandalok.in) [www.facebook.com/anandalokmag](https://www.facebook.com/anandalokmag) [anandalok\\_abp](https://www.instagram.com/anandalok_abp) [@anandalok\\_ABP](https://www.twitter.com/anandalok_ABP)

আরও  
আনন্দ

An ABP initiative



admissiontree.in

Residential  
School in  
Dehradun



The Pestle Weed School  
Dehradun (CBSE)

ONLINE  
APPLICATION

Session 2026-27

Going on for  
Preschool  
to  
Class IX & XI



Scan here to fill up the  
application form

Follow us on: [f](https://www.facebook.com) [@](https://www.instagram.com) [in](https://www.linkedin.com)

An ABP initiative



admissiontree.in

Residential  
School in  
Assam



The Assam Valley School  
Assam (ICSE/ISC)

ONLINE  
APPLICATION

Session 2026-27

Going on for  
Class V  
to  
IX & XI



Scan here to fill up the  
application form

Follow us on: [f](https://www.facebook.com) [@](https://www.instagram.com) [in](https://www.linkedin.com)

# LEISURE

### B.C. by Johnny Hart



### Luann by Greg Evans



### Peanuts by Charles Schulz



### The Wizard of Id by Brant Parker and Johnny Hart



### Flash Gordon by Dan Schkade



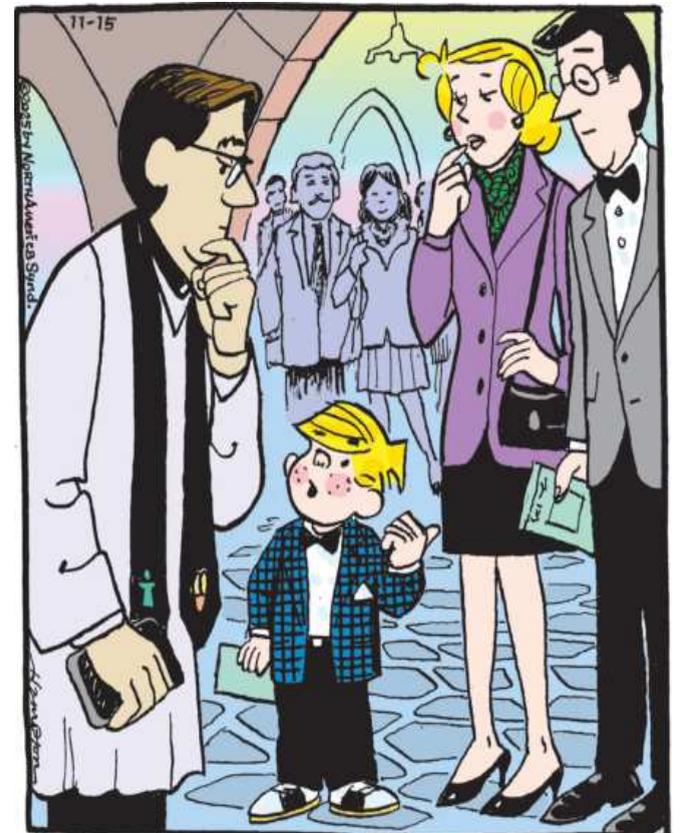
### Hagar the Horrible by Chris Browne



### Blondie by Dean Young



### Dennis the Menace



### Doonesbury Classics by Garry Trudeau



"MOM SAYS DAD USED TO BE COOL, BUT SHE'S PROBABLY JUST BEIN' NICE."





Gary Oldman in season five of *Slow Horses*, now showing on Apple TV

## APPLE TV'S *SLOW HORSES* THRIVES ON GARY OLDMAN'S WHISKY-SOAKED, FOUL-MOUTHED AND BRILLIANT JACKSON LAMB

If this is about a spot performance review, I have to tell you, I am absolutely killing it right now."

It is one of the many lines that have already earned cult status in Apple TV's *Slow Horses*, the sharpest, grubbiest and most consistently entertaining drama on television at the moment. Delivered with magnificently off-hand contempt by Gary Oldman — who plays the foul-mouthed, flatulent and faintly feral Jackson Lamb — it captures the show's genius in miniature. This is espionage stripped of glamour, scrubbed free of fantasy and left to fester in the stale air of bureaucratic exile.

If you imagine the spy trade as Martinis, casinos and impeccably tailored tuxedos, think again. At Slough House — the dreary dumping ground for disgraced MI5 officers — there are no Aston Martins and no baccarat tables. There are only paper trails, career dead-ends and the persistent smell of takeaway noodles. There are, incidentally, no horses either, should you be wondering about the title.

Lamb presides over this ragtag cohort of intelligence service rejects with the air of a man who has long since stopped pretending to care. His team — agents who have slipped up, stumbled publicly or simply embarrassed the service — have been put out to pasture. In the ruthless ecosystem of espionage, mediocrity can get you killed. At Slough House, it merely gets you ignored.

Yet, time and again, these overlooked misfits find themselves confronting the threats that the

polished operatives at Regent's Park cannot, or will not, handle.

After five minutes in Lamb's company, one begins to understand his particular brand of magnetism. As he once puts it, with typical delicacy, he is little more than "a babysitter for f\*\*\*-ups". And yet there is a strange charisma to him. Lamb has no filter, no patience and no interest in social niceties. He drinks two or three bottles of whisky a week. He insults with operatic fluency. He looks as though he has slept in the same crumpled suit since the fall of the Berlin Wall. But beneath the grime lies a mind several moves ahead of everyone else in the room.

So far, there have been five taut seasons, with sixth and seventh instalments already in the works. The most recent series opens, quite literally, with a bang: a far-right gunman opens fire outside a shopping centre. The show has never shied away from uncomfortable territory. Nationalism, radicalisation, institutional rot... all have been explored with a bracing lack of sentimentality since the first season.

Based on the razor-sharp *Slough House* series of novels by Mick Herron — season five draws from *London Rules* — the adaptation is overseen by Will Smith, not the Hollywood actor but the writer behind *The Thick of It* and *Veep*. The pedigree shows. The



Christopher Chung in the Apple TV show



Jack Lowden

dialogue crackles with menace and mordant wit in equal measure.

At the centre of the latest chaos is Roddy Ho, the preening, socially maladroit hacker played with scene-stealing precision by Christopher Chung. Roddy is the sort of man who believes himself to be a criminal mastermind while compulsively checking online forums for validation. His delusion is grotesque, occasionally infuriating and, against all odds, faintly endearing.

Yet it is Oldman who remains the gravitational force. His performance as Lamb may well be career-defining — no small claim for an actor who has already

### 10 JACKSON LAMB QUOTES

- You're being hurtful about my appearance. I might have to call HR.
- People are sent to Slough House for one of two reasons. One, they are an absolute loser. And two, they have unwillingly pissed someone off.
- At least my lot f\*\*k up on an epic scale, they're not run of the mill f\*\*k-ups like yours.
- It's not the hope that kills you. It's knowing it's the hope that kills you, that kills you.
- You people are slow. Bringing you up to speed is like trying to explain Norway to a dog.
- Going to the park is like being in Ikea. You can never get out of the f\*\*\*ing place.
- I'm not sure you can say dumb anymore. I think it offends the vocally impaired or idiots. I can't remember which.
- If you put me on a treadmill, you'll be done for manslaughter.
- I think they're a bunch of f\*\*\*ing losers. But they're my losers.
- If this is going somewhere — great, but I really don't need to know the ins and outs of a cat's a\*\*e.

Lamb himself appears perpetually horizontal, feet on desk, eyes half-closed. But that is when he is thinking hardest. While the sleek MI5 operatives play checkers, Lamb is playing chess in his head. His apparent indolence masks a razor-sharp strategic instinct.

Oldman has spoken warmly of Herron's creation. He relished the prospect of a spy drama without the prosthetics and marathon sessions in the make-up chair. "Great character, great stories, and a wonderful bunch of people to work with," he said in an interview with ABC News. The look, he notes, is mercifully straightforward: one suit, the occasional change of tie, a winter coat and a grubby mac for summer. Add broken veins on the nose, a hint of jaundice and generous quantities of grease in the hair, and Lamb is ready to shuffle into action.

### MORAL FOG

The members of Slough House behave as one might expect spies to behave — morally elastic, emotionally guarded, perpetually suspicious. And yet Lamb, for all his abuse, protects them fiercely. "They are a bunch of losers," he growls at one point, "but they are my losers." It is both insult and oath of loyalty.

River Cartwright, played by Jack Lowden, serves as a partial audience surrogate: ambitious, frustrated and quietly determined to prove himself. Over time, the show suggests that he belongs exactly where he is. Failure here is not an ending but a recalibration.

There are explosions and gunfire enough to satisfy any action purist, yet the true power of the series lies in its atmosphere. London is rendered in moody greys, claustrophobic corridors and dimly lit offices. It feels isolating, airless, bureaucratically suffocating. Every frame has cinematic weight. In an era when streaming platforms cancel promising dramas at the altar of algorithmic underperformance, Apple has shown rare faith. Quality, it seems, still counts.

There are minor quibbles. The six-episode British season can feel stinky; pacing occasionally wobbles when a plotline lingers too long. But these are trifles beside the cumulative effect. Each finale lands on a cliffhanger that all but compels immediate continuation.

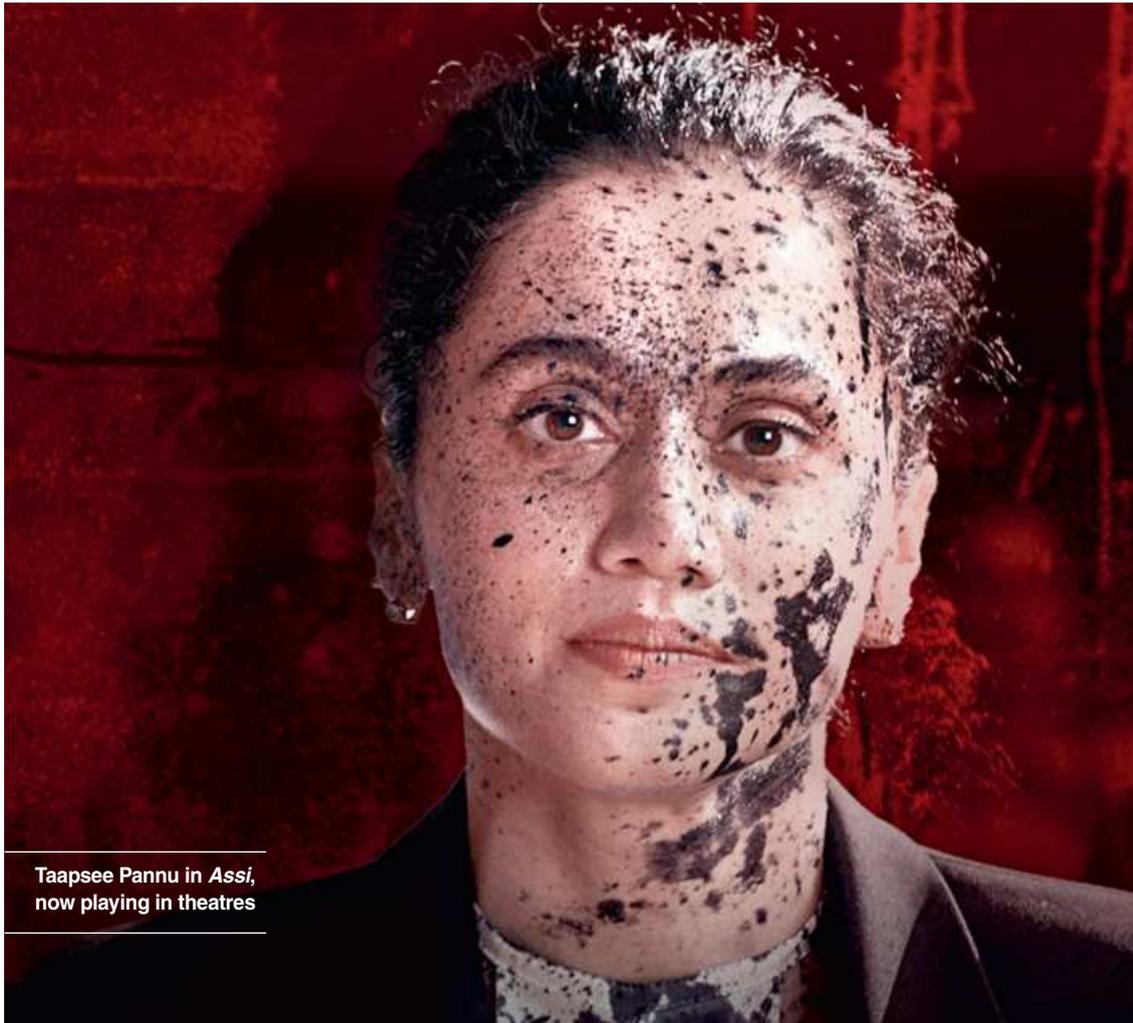
In Herron's novels — and faithfully mirrored onscreen — characters are defined less by authorial exposition than by how others perceive them. It lends the story an unstable, shifting texture. No one is entirely knowable; reputations are fragile things.

Bond may be fantasy. Lamb is something braver: a reminder that heroism often looks disreputable, that loyalty can hide beneath layers of cynicism, and that salvation sometimes comes from the margins. Pour yourself a stiff glass of Jameson, settle into the sofa and allow *Slow Horses* to work its grubby magic.

Gary Oldman is masterful. The writing is ruthless. And Jackson Lamb, who cheerfully admits he enjoys "boiling people's piss", may just be the most unlikely hero on television.

**Bond may be fantasy. Lamb is something braver: a reminder that heroism often looks disreputable, that loyalty can hide beneath layers of cynicism, and that salvation sometimes comes from the margins**

## 'I DON'T WANT TO BE KNOWN AS THIS DIRECTOR WHO PICKS UP A PROBLEM EVERY TIME AND MAKES A FILM' — ANUBHAV SINHA



Taapsee Pannu in *Assi*, now playing in theatres

**You have co-written the story with Gaurav Solanki. At any point, was there the apprehension that a story about crime against women didn't have a female perspective at the writing stage?**

Had Gaurav and I felt inadequate, we would have definitely engaged with a woman. In *Thappad*, I felt inadequate and I actively looked for a female co-writer (Mrunmayee Lagoo). In the case of *Assi*, we didn't feel the need for it. Gaurav is also a very balanced man. We ended up reading a lot of books about women, watching a lot of films about women. They didn't necessarily belong to the same landscape as *Assi*, but were more about how women felt in various situations.

I have spoken to a large number of women who have watched the film and they didn't contradict what we had written. I am sure there is a male gaze because I am, after all, a man. Like I can't claim that I fully understand caste tragedy just because I made *Article 15*. I am who I am, but we tried and we never felt we needed help.

**The *Assi* ensemble, as you mentioned, is primarily made up of people who have worked with you in the past. What made you pick Kani Kusruti for the role of Parima, in what is her Hindi film debut?**

referring to the number of rapes that are reported in the country every day.

As far as titles go, I always try to go to the core of the story and ask myself why I am making this film, and I try to look for a title there. That is how *Thappad* came about, though I know it theoretically sounds bad to call a film *Thappad* (smiles). Today, in hindsight, it sounds unaesthetic.

**As a filmmaker, are you still angry? Or have you left that behind now?**

I am very disappointed in the human race. There is no other way to say it. I am no longer angry, I am disappointed. We have now reached a stage where we are not even trying to be better. We are discussing missiles as if they are toys. There are wars going on, and even otherwise, people are fighting every day, with words or with weapons.

**What about the Hindi film industry disappoints you?**

First of all, it is not an industry. Let us accept that. We don't behave like an industry. This is a bunch of players operating individually. Dharma (Productions) is an industry, Yash Raj (Films) is an industry, T-Series is an industry. We all work in the same business, we live in the same city, but we are not an industry. I have never believed we are one.

**Will you ever make something like a *Ra.One* or even a *Tum Bin* again? Do you even want to?**

You never know. I am not saying yes or no. At some point, I may

**We don't behave like an industry. This is a bunch of players operating individually. Dharma (Productions) is an industry, Yash Raj (Films) is an industry, T-Series is an industry. We all work in the same business, we live in the same city, but we are not an industry**

Anubhav Sinha's *Assi* — a hard-hitting film that looks at rape and its ramifications — is now playing in theatres. Last week, Sinha — the man behind quality and impactful cinema like *Mulk*, *Article 15* and *Thappad* — was in Calcutta to promote his latest film. **t2** caught up with him for a candid chat at ITC Royal Bengal.

**The buzz was that you were making 'Mulk 2' and then *Assi* came out of the blue. How did that happen?**

Yes, there was talk that I was making 'Mulk 2' but I didn't react to it and the rumour died on its own. I made *Assi* in the meanwhile and while I chose not to talk about it myself, there was no hard and fast rule that others couldn't. Actors work on so many films at a time and go to different sets, so talk invariably comes out. But for *Assi*, somehow that never happened. My team knows I don't like to talk about a film until I have finished it or I am releasing it. So maybe they were following that. Hence, people were quite surprised when the first look came out.



Anubhav Sinha during the chat with **t2** at ITC Royal Bengal. Picture: Pabitra Das

**The film says that it is "based on everyday news". Was there a specific incident that triggered it?**

No, *Assi* shaped up as a film in my

head over a period of time, maybe a year or so.

**What have your biggest takeaways been from the experience of making *Assi*?**

I am very happy with the way we shot it and that is something that people are talking about. I am happy with the performances from the ensemble cast. I never set out to make an ensemble film but I have certain relationship privileges that I ended up using and they didn't mind (laughs).

I am very happy about the fact that I could "feel" like a woman while making it. That was a struggle initially but I became more of a woman making this film. I had already become a bit when I made *Thappad*. With *Assi*, the woman in me has woken up more... now I can see things from your viewpoint. I hail from Benaras but growing up, I saw both my parents having an equal say in everything... we weren't a patriarchal family. That has also influenced me a lot.

I really liked her in *All We Imagine is Light*. For *Assi*, I was talking to Mukesh (Chhabra, casting director) and describing the kind of girl I wanted for the role. I was sort of describing Kani without naming Kani... it was not a game, I wasn't aware that I was describing her! Mukesh said: "Kani Kusruti!" I jumped and said: "Yes!" The only hiccup was that she didn't speak Hindi at that time, so we rewrote the character to that of a Malayali woman.

**And you always wanted to name it *Assi*?**

No. There was some concern that since I am from Benaras, it may be thought that I am making a film on the Assi Ghat or on *mohalla Assi*. But I said: "The title never comes alone... it is always with an image, and then people will know it is not about Benaras or anything vaguely connected to it".

That is exactly what happened. We opened the trailer with the words: "80 per day, every day",

feel like doing a big commercial film. But it will be different from the commercial fare I have done in the past because I am now addicted to giving voice to a film.

In fact, I was just saying that after the release of *Assi*, I should just sit down and attempt to write 'Ra.One 2', or whatever it may be called. I may not do a good job, I may stop after the fifth page... or who knows, I may write a fantastic script! Maybe I should give it a shot. I haven't sat down till date to think about it.

**I would love to see you make a comedy...**

It is so interesting to hear you say this because I am writing one. It has sardonic comedy, not slapstick. I am working on three scripts right now, but I haven't decided which one I am making next. Normally, by the time I release a film, I know, but this time I don't. I feel the comedy one will be the next one, though.

I also want to change gears again. I don't want to be known as this director who picks up a problem every time and makes a film.

**I became more of a woman making this film. I had already become a bit when I made *Thappad*. With *Assi*, the woman in me has woken up more... now I can see things from your viewpoint**



## PRANTIKA DAS TALKS ABOUT QUIET BEGINNINGS, EXTENDING HER WINGS AND A FIERCE TURN IN ZORR

Long before zombie prosthetics, national reality shows and multilingual film sets, Prantika Das was simply a girl drawn to performance — instinctively, quietly, almost unknowingly. As a child, she trained in theatre under the late Saoli Mitra with Pancham Baidik. Five to six years of rehearsals, stage discipline and emotional immersion shaped her early understanding of craft. Performance was natural to her — but it wasn't yet a career plan. Her parents insisted on academics first. Art could wait. It didn't wait long.

In 2019, Prantika began modelling. Within a year, she won three beauty contests. Brand shoots followed. Television commercials came in. Momentum gathered quickly. At home, however, the transition wasn't seamless. Her father, protective and cautious, worried. Modelling felt unpredictable. So she hid parts of her journey then. When she was placed in the Top 10 of a beauty pageant and received gifts, she told her father they had come from a visiting relative. She softened truths, concealed opportunities —

not out of rebellion, but out of fear of worrying him. Today, he laughs about it.

### A MESSAGE THAT CHANGED EVERYTHING

Her entry into cinema came through an Instagram message. A Telugu production house had seen her modelling clips online. The film was *Sadaa Nee Premalo*. Seven days of workshop followed, and the first two days on set felt less like acting and more like survival. When the film released in 2022 and found its audience, she realised something important. Courage isn't the absence of fear — it is walking onto set despite it.

From walking alone onto a Telugu set to standing under national scrutiny on reality television, she had learned one thing — fear does not stop her. It sharpens her. And in *Zorr*, that sharpened edge finally found a canvas big enough to hold it. If her journey until now had been about survival, adaptability and quiet assertion, *Zorr* felt like confrontation — with fear, with image, with expectation.

In the horror-comedy, Prantika plays Saraswati, fondly called Suru

— a girl who looks delicate but is anything but. Glamorous, strategic, self-aware, Suru understands the room before the room understands her. She smiles sweetly, speaks softly, and calculates silently.

### THE GIRL IN THE MIRROR

Set against a zombie apocalypse, *Zorr* allowed her to step into chaos — blood, prosthetics, madness — and still remain composed at its centre. The climax, where her character transforms, demanded surrender: to make-up, to discomfort, to vulnerability. The first time she saw herself in full zombie prosthetics, she couldn't recognise the girl in the mirror.

Suru is charming and far sharper than she lets on. The horror-comedy gives her character both comic timing and narrative weight. "Suru is that girl we secretly envied in college," Prantika says. "She looks perfect, speaks great English, keeps everyone hooked — but she knows exactly what she's doing." Prantika, however, insists she's nothing like Suru. "Completely different. Maybe I relate to the love for make-up — that's it." Why *Zorr*? The zombie genre sealed the deal.

"I've always been drawn to fiction and sci-fi. Stories that don't exist in real life excite me. What I loved most was that my character drives the journey. It starts with her and ends with her. It's part of my growth. I just want to be known as an Indian actor."

A follower of the Eric Morris method, Prantika says Suru slowly took over her off-screen too. "I started talking like her even during lunch breaks. My co-actors made endless fun of me — especially the Bengali rosgolla jokes." The shoot was intense — little sleep, tight schedules, prosthetics. "When they showed me my zombie look, I was terrified. I couldn't recognise myself. It was grotesque — in the best way."

### BREAKING THE MYTH

Prantika acknowledges being stereotyped into glamorous roles. "There's this mindset and that needs to change." She's keen on de-glam roles, rom-coms, female action, and layered characters that allow performance beyond appearance. "I don't want to compromise on craft just to be visible. But visibility is important too. *Zorr* is fresh. A new take on zombies but made for everyone. Sometimes you just need to laugh, feel the thrill, and forget your stress. *Zorr* gives you that."

### THE INDUSTRY REALITY

Her schedule now moves between Hyderabad, Mumbai and Calcutta, depending on work. But she refuses to uproot herself entirely. "When I say I'm Bengali outside Bengal, people immediately assume culture, training, depth. That makes me proud." Home, for her, is not negotiable. Back in Bengali cinema, she worked in films like *Daroga Mamur Kirti*. She also made a brief appearance in *Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3*, which was a turning point in her career. Yet she speaks without illusion about the ecosystem. "In Mumbai or the South, you audition. You earn it. In Bengal, sometimes the structure isn't as clear."

Visibility becomes survival. Newcomers often take projects to remain present, to avoid disappearing in the gaps. "You do some work just to stay seen," she says. "Because if you disappear, you're forgotten."

### ADAPTABILITY AS IDENTITY

If one word defines her journey, it is adaptability. "I don't want boundaries," she says. "I want to extend my wings." For her, language is not limitation — it is expansion. She speaks about filmmaking technology with curiosity — AI integration, virtual production, evolving cinematic techniques. She wants to grow with the industry, not trail behind it. "One day," she says softly, "I want to direct. If I direct, it'll be something mythological or spiritual. Something different." It isn't a dramatic proclamation. It's a quiet promise. From theatre stages to South Indian sets, from modelling victories to national television, Prantika's journey has been steady, determined and expanding.

Arindam Chatterjee

## DEV INAUGURATES PREMIUM MULTIPLEX IN DURGAPUR



Dev

SVF Cinemas has introduced its most ambitious and technologically advanced property to date at Durgapur Junction Mall. The new multiplex marks a significant milestone in the brand's continued commitment to strengthening cinema infrastructure across Eastern India. Dev recently visited the property ahead of its opening and launched it, turning the preview into a celebratory moment for the fraternity and cinema lovers alike. After experiencing the auditorium and technology firsthand, Dev expressed his admiration for the scale, technical finesse, and premium ambience of the multiplex.

Engineered to deliver a next-generation cinematic experience, the property features Dolby Atmos immersive sound, 2K 3D Laser Projection, and a full-recliner auditorium, seamlessly combining cutting-edge technology with superior comfort.

The centrally air-conditioned multiplex has been meticulously curated to elevate every touchpoint of the movie-going journey from crystal-clear laser projection and multidimensional sound precision to designed recliner seating for comfort.

"Durgapur has been an extremely important market for us, and after the success of SVF Cinemas at Raj Sammilonee Mall, Benachity, we are proud to launch our second property in the city — this time with a far more premium and future-ready offering at Junction Mall. This is our most ambitious property yet, built with cutting-edge technology, luxury recliner experience, and one of the biggest screens in Eastern India. At SVF Cinemas, we remain committed to redefining cinema-going by bringing world-class theatrical experiences to high-growth markets like Durgapur," said Rudra Prosad Daw, vice president and business head, SVF Cinemas.

MUSIC

AN INDIAN CLASSICAL MUSIC CONCERT FEATURED A SYMPHONY OF STRINGS, RHYTHM AND SOUL BY FOUR MAESTROS

**S**amvaad, the annual flagship concert of the Akhil Bharatiya Sangeet Kala Ratna Sabha (ABSKRS) held on February 12 at GD Birla Sabhagar was a testament to the timeless appeal of

Indian classical music. With a packed auditorium filled with listeners of all ages, the instrumental concert featured four renowned classical maestros. Pandit Swapan Chaudhuri, a torchbearer of the Lucknow *gharana*, who has successfully

represented the Indian percussion legacy on global stages and mentored generations of musicians, awed the audience with his versatile tabla performance. Pandit Yogesh Samsi, one of the renowned disciples of the tabla legend Ustad Alla Rakha, livened up

the evening with his masterful beats. Also sharing the stage with their melodious pieces were Pandit Tarun Bhattacharya on the santoor, and slide-guitar exponent Pandit Debashish Bhattacharya. Snapshots.



Members of ABSKRS, along with tabla exponent Pt Tanmoy Bose (third from right), presented the Lifetime Achievement Award to Pt Swapan Chaudhuri (second from left), honouring his monumental contribution to Indian classical music and his role in carrying national musical styles to global audiences. "It is a great honour for me to have presented an instrumental piece tonight in the company of such maestros. Concerts like these prove that Indian classical music, even if it dates back to the early centuries, keeps rediscovering itself with every new generation of musicians and continues in its universal appeal," said Pt Swapan Chaudhuri.



Santoor recital by Pt Tarun Bhattacharya



Tabla recital by Pt Yogesh Samsi



Tabla recital by Pt Swapan Chaudhuri

ABSKRS founder Pt Debashish Bhattacharya, who also presented a melodious piece on the slide-guitar, said, "Samvaad is a symphony of the various *gharanas* and styles of Indian classical music. It has lived up to its name, as it has made way for a landmark dialogue between artistes from versatile instrumental fields, who are each acclaimed in their individual legacies and milestones."

Ankita Chandra

Pictures courtesy: The organiser

FOOD

t2 CHECKS OUT REGENTA ORKO'S NEW SKY DECK

**F**or years, Regenta Orko's Kolkata at Kasba has been a familiar name in the local hospitality scene. Now, rising above the city's restless energy, Sky Deck on Regenta introduces a new way to celebrate. Set beside a deep blue open-to-sky pool, this elevated venue is designed as an exclusive space for private gatherings that stretch long into the night.

Sky Deck is primarily curated for private bookings of 40 to 50 guests, making it ideal for intimate celebrations, milestone birthdays, corporate soirees and stylish social evenings. With intelligent timings from evening to the wee hours, the focus here is on thoughtfully designed packages rather than an à la carte format.

Unlimited packages start from ₹999, complemented by generous servings of starters between 6pm and 8pm. Guests can enjoy personalised services, chefs interacting at the table, and live cooking stations that add theatre to the evening. A resident DJ, unplugged live sessions, and a romantic candlelit area by the pool further elevate the ambience.

At Sky Deck you can enjoy a seamless blend of music, mixology, and curated indulgence with a view of the South Calcutta skyline.

**What:** Sky Deck  
**Where:** Regenta Orko's Kolkata, 621, Kasba  
**Timings:** 6pm-4am  
**Pocket pinch:** ₹999-plus (with alcohol)



The well-lit Sky Deck, adorned with warm lantern lights, beautifully illuminates the glass-covered space above, offering spacious seating arrangements by the pool.

Enjoy candlelit dinners by the pool, where soft flames flicker, creating an intimate ambience.



A vibrant kebab platter featuring juicy chunks of chicken *makhmali* kebabs, *seekh* kebab, fish kebab and chicken tikka.



Golden and crispy Beer Battered Fried Fish served piping hot with creamy mushy peas and spicy mayo on the side.



Veg Biryani with Sirka Piyaj is a traditional veg dum biryani made with exotic vegetables and ground spices.



A refreshing watermelon mocktail made with freshly blended watermelon, a splash of lime juice, and a hint of mint for that cooling twist.

A refreshing blend of citrusy orange and chilled tea, the Orange Ice Tea is perfectly balanced between sweet and tangy.

Rohini Chakraborty

Pictures: Sky Deck

## HARSH NEOTIA REVISITS THE ETERNAL BOND THAT HE SHARES WITH THE GANGES AND THE DEEP GRATITUDE THAT SWELLS IN HIS HEART

**H**arsha Neotia may be a seasoned entrepreneur, the chairman of Ambuja Neotia Group, running a business empire for decades, but his softer side, which appreciates all things culture, is perhaps most striking. Years of number crunching haven't dulled his cultural spirit or eroded the emotions that respond to the harmony of art, music, poetry and more.

When we called him on a quiet morning, right after the launch of Taj Ganga Kutir Resort & Spa (Singhalganjabad, Raichak, South 24 Parganas), Neotia was immersed in thoughts that led him to his "dearest Maa Ganga". "It was 1989 when I first stood on the land that would become Raichak on Ganges. A quest for a land on the riverbank, and after many visits to South 24 Parganas, I landed up in Raichak. I remember that morning clearly. There were no plans, no architects, no thought of hotels or clubs... I had come seeking a quiet piece of land, but what I discovered was something far more intimate.... The moment I stood beside the waters, I felt as though I had stepped into an old memory..." says Harsh.

Construction for Raichak on Ganges started in 1995 and opened to the public in 1997. Over the years, Harsh has been there innumerable times. "Whatever number of times I've been, I've often spent hours, if not a full day, doing almost nothing: sitting in a La-Z-Boy-style chair, watching the river and the life on the river, like boats and things like that, with a book in hand, maybe some music or having a cup of tea and just doing really nothing. And I have never found spending hours



Harsh Neotia loves relaxing by the river

on the river boring. Sometimes, even my staff would inquire if everything was okay!" he laughs.

He agrees that Raichak on Ganges was ahead of its time. "Yes, I think it was a bit ahead of its time. We obviously paid a price for that because it was a huge investment that didn't get the return. I don't think you can time everything perfectly. Farmhouses started coming up around Delhi, and some people in Mumbai used to go to Lonavala, Matheran and a few places. Around Calcutta, there was nothing. People did have *baganbadis*, but they were mostly in the Santiniketan area, and there were some in South 24 Parganas as well, but it was not organised. It wasn't really on the scale that we thought. Obviously, my initial excitement was probably



Raichak on Ganges

a little higher than the response we received," he says.

Now, a getaway is such a norm, we tell him. "It develops the region. One of my great satisfactions is that out of the 350-odd people who work there, almost 300 are local. They all cycle to work. They are also a little happier because then they can live with their families instead of coming to the city and, you know, being uprooted because obviously they won't have the economic capacity to bring the whole family here. And then some of them are already involved in farming. So, they need to be there also," adds Harsh.

Though he has always lived in Ballygunge, his pull for the river has been lifelong. "My great-grandfather used to live at Chittrakoot, where the Mandakini flowed. His house was not on the river, but it was very close to the river, and we would often go to feed the fish there. My uncle, Suresh Neotia, built a small house in Rishikesh on the banks of the river. And later, my Badi Ma, Bimla Poddar, also built her home and the institution called Jnana-Pravaha in Varanasi, which is also on the river.

And, of course, we were living in Calcutta, which was also near the river, but not on the river. Everyone enjoys some natural beauty: mountains, rivers. For me, the river has been a little more fascinating. The Ganga is even more fascinating because it has a spiritual aspect," says Harsh.

Following Raichak on Ganges, Ganga Kutir was born in 2007. "It was a much smaller piece of land, and it was more sort of prominently visible on the river. So we just had a design which was more like a little ashram, and we had a Sri Lankan architect (Channa Daswatte) who had helped us to get that vision. It was just a different expression," says Harsh.

In 2026, Harsh joined hands with The Indian Hotels Company Limited (IHCL) to reimagine Taj Ganga Kutir Resort & Spa in Raichak. "This place carries the same reverence with which our story began. Here, tranquility meets refinement, and the presence of the Ganges remains the eternal anchor," he adds.

The Dockyard Co. is another cool riverside property that is located on the banks of the Hooghly

river, which opened doors last year. "It's not only the river, but there were at least five or six trees which were 200 years old. And I said, 'My God, this is real history, living history here.' And then, of course, there was that Indenture Memorial site. When you put all this together, it becomes a compelling story. Of course, at that time, it looked like the back of beyond, and who would go there, etc. I said, doesn't matter, let's do something because we have trees, a river, and history. It's created by nature and by some historical events. Where else will you get all of this together?" he says.

Though he is not ruling out another riverside property, he is currently busy finishing projects in the Sunderbans, Lataguri, and Gorumara forest.

Variety is the spice of life. A mantra Harsh, the prudent businessman, lives by.

His relationship with the Ganges, like that of a mother and son, remains unchanged, though. "It doesn't really change in any significant manner. You mellow and mature, but your relationship with your mother is one of those things that, I mean, very rarely does it change. She still thinks you're the kid, no matter if you're 60 years old. Probably your relationship changes a little bit from being taken care of to caring for her.... It is a relationship of reverence, respect and humility. You just feel that it's flowing by blessing you in some manner," he says.

Saionee Chakraborty

Pictures courtesy: Ambuja Neotia Group

## MUSIC

**O**n the evening before Saraswati Puja, the grounds of Tala Prattoy turned into something far more than a neighbourhood celebration. The fourth chapter of Music in a Park unfolded under the open sky, drawing an eager crowd that arrived expecting melody but left with something far more immersive.

At the heart of the evening stood the Kazakhstan National Symphony Orchestra, guided by conductor Abzal Mukhitdin. Their sweeping arrangements carried the vastness of the steppes into the humid January air. Alongside them, the graceful movements of Ballet Gakku added a visual poetry that felt both distant and surprisingly intimate. For many in the audience, it was perhaps the first encounter with Kazakh artistic traditions performed live and certainly not something one expects at a city puja venue.

Yet the evening never felt divided between international and Indian. When violin legend L. Subramaniam stepped in, his instrument conversed effortlessly with the orchestra's lush soundscape. Kavita Krishnamurthy brought her unmistakable voice, weaving emotion into every note, while tabla virtuoso Tanmoy Bose grounded the collaboration with intricate rhythmic energy. The dialogue between strings, voice and percussion felt organic.

There was a devotional undercurrent to it all, presented right under the feet of the graceful Tala Prattoy Saraswati idol as an offering of learning and the arts.

## MUSIC IN A PARK 4.0 BOUGHT A RARE INDO-KAZAKH CULTURAL COLLABORATION TO TALA PRATTOY



Beneath the towering 26ft idol, the Kazakhstan National Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Abzal Mukhitdin, delivered a mesmerising performance that left the audience in awed silence, breaking into applause only after the final note.



Ballet Gakku from Kazakhstan presented a graceful performance of the traditional Kazakh Gakku dance, dressed in their vibrant customary attire.



"We strongly believe that Bengal has a culture that promotes bonding. On the eve of Saraswati Puja, this confluence of Indian and international culture sends out a message that music can foster bonding and can bring the whole world together," said Dhrubajyoti Bose Suvo, mentor and organiser of Tala Prattoy Music In a Park.



Kavita Krishnamurthy rendered the *Navagraha Symphony* and *Vande Mataram* in her soulful, resonant voice.



Percussionist Pt Tanmoy Bose joined the ensemble, sharing both the stage and his rhythmic brilliance with the fellow artistes.



Legendary violinist L. Subramaniam performed one of the evening's most captivating pieces — the *Isabella Violin Concerto*.

Rohini Chakraborty

Pictures: B Halder

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE INAUGURAL SESSION OF BULLPEN, XAVIER'S FINANCE COMMUNITY'S REAL-WORLD FINANCE APTITUDE CONTEST, WITH THE TELEGRAPH



(L-R) Panelists Ashwini Damani, Shubham Singhal and Rajat Arora



(L-R) Ayush Narnolia, joint secretary of Xavier's Finance Community; panel moderator Jimmy Tangree; Ashwini Damani; Amitava Roy, dean of Commerce (Morning); Rev. Fr. Peter Arockiam; Rev. Fr. Dominic Savio; Samrat Roy, teacher in charge of Xavier's Finance Community; Arijit Ghosh, teacher in charge of Xavier's Finance Community; Shubham Singhal and Rajat Arora

**W**ith the growing importance of digital media and the ever-expanding AI innovations in today's financial landscape, the youth are looking towards successful role models who can inspire them to navigate the elaborate, complex realms of modern corporate sectors and entrepreneurship. The Xavier's Finance Community brought together an expert panel of professionals from the world of education, enterprise and commerce for their annual flagship contest Bullpen, in association with **The Telegraph**, held on February 11 at St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Kolkata. Moderated by Jimmy

Tangree, the session saw guest speakers Ashwini Damani, Shubham Singhal and Rajat Arora share insights into the passion and purpose behind creating a successful venture and the dedication that goes into academic success.

Ashwini Damani, a finance professional with more than a decade's experience in the industry, emphasised the need to make smart, sustainable use of technology even when it grows to be indispensable from commercial operations with every passing day. "Today, AI has the potential to reduce us to commodities, as it compels us to consume passively without any inspiration for activity and productivity. However, it is

**Rev. Fr. Dominic Savio SJ, principal, St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Kolkata, said: "It is a pleasure to see such an enthusiastic gathering at Bullpen, a flagship initiative of the Xavier's Finance Community that continues to grow in stature each year. The event has become a benchmark for experiential learning, bringing together students, industry leaders, and academicians on a single platform."**



important for modern students to tap into the power of technology while developing their own cognitive skills simultaneously," he said.

Chartered accountant Shubham Singhal, a digital educator, recalled his early days of finding his niche and passion. "When I lost a job I was working at for a long time, I decided to revive my passion for teaching. I donated the amount received as fees from my first batch for I was not looking for remuneration but a bunch of kids who really want to listen to what I have to say... I am grateful to that first batch which took a chance on me and helped me find my true calling," he said.

Rajat Arora, founder of

DeeCee, an online commerce coaching platform, said: "During my preparation for the CA exams, I learned the most about consistency, determination and discipline... when I started teaching in a small classroom, I used to be very nervous to speak in front of a camera. But slowly, the audience started building, and as more students learned from me, it gave me purpose and confidence to achieve my own goals as well."

Bullpen has been designed to test students' aptitude in finance by presenting them with real-world financial challenges to navigate and encouraging them to build compelling pitches.

**Ankita Chandra**  
Pictures: B Halder

## IIHM'S RIGOLO WAS AN INTER-COLLEGE FEST INVOLVING AI INNOVATION, SUSTAINABILITY AND CREATIVITY. GLIMPSES...

**T**he International Institute of Hotel Management (IIHM), Kolkata, brought alive the spirit of innovation and youth with RIGOLO, an inter-college student fest. Held recently at the IIHM Global Campus, Salt Lake, the fest was designed as an intersection of technology, creativity and environmental consciousness, themed 'Where AI Sparks a Sustainable Future'.

Students from colleges across the city engaged in discussions and activities involving the evolving role of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in sustainability, creativity and hospitality-led innovation. The fest echoed IIHM's vision of shaping future professionals who are not only technologically proficient but also socially aware and creatively confident. Spanning two days, RIGOLO unfolded through a thoughtfully curated mix of intellectual challenges, artistic expression, and high-energy performances.

Among the standout events was Hack4Earth — AI Hackathon for Sustainability, which challenged participants to design AI-based solutions addressing environmental concerns. Sustainability met creativity in GreenAlchemy: The AI Mix-Off, a mixology

segment; Innovation on a Plate highlighted fresh perspectives in culinary thinking. Knowledge and analytical skills were put to the test through the GreenTech SDG Quiz and Dialectica, a stimulating debate forum.

Creative expression formed a core element of the fest, with performances such as EcoAI Street Play, RaagAI Rhapsody, and Rhythm & Resonance, demonstrating how technology and tradition can complement one another. Dance and music competitions like AI BeatBlitz, RoboRhythm Rumble, NeonGroove: The AI Dance Battle, and AI MotionMasters infused the campus with energy, celebrating the synergy between human imagination and digital innovation. The runway reflected the elegance of responsible design through EcoFusion Runway, a fashion showcase dedicated to eco-conscious aesthetics.

More than just a student fest, RIGOLO stood as a vibrant exchange of ideas and collaboration. By uniting AI, sustainability, and student ingenuity on one platform, IIHM Kolkata reaffirmed its commitment to experiential learning and holistic education.

**Tanesia Ghose Dey**  
Pictures courtesy: IIHM



Heritage College bagged the first prize in the fashion show titled 'AI and Humanity'



Students participated in Innovation on a Plate, a basket cooking segment



Twenty five city schools participated in Future Minds, a quiz segment on the Sustainable Development Goals



Students prepared mocktails in GreenAlchemy: The AI Mix-Off round

## NRAI PREMIER LEAGUE 4.0 WAS A FUN AND FIERCE COMPETITION FOR THE F&B FRATERNITY. t2 BRINGS YOU SNAPSHOTS...

**T**hree high-energy days of cricket between 12 owner teams, preceded by an extended 10-day staff league with 28 brand teams, creating nearly two weeks of sporting action and industry bonding, NRAI Premier League 4.0 was a sport and solidarity extravaganza. Held at Orchid Arena, this year saw 12 participating owner teams

including Elahi Knights, OG Steelbacks, Wah! Puchka Wonders, Asparagus Armada, Hashtag Challengers, Eatverse Allstars, Ozorians, Olterra Titans, Levels Legends, Chai Break, LMNOQ Vikings, and RRR Raiders — each bringing its own brand pride and competitive spirit to the field. “Like every year, this year too was a delight to host the event at Orchid

Arena and also participate in both Owner and Staff Leagues. More than a competition, it was a great coming together of different members of the restaurant fraternity and a great show of camaraderie,” said Kamran Ahmed Khan of OG Steelbacks, also the host for the event at Orchid Arena. “Here restaurant staff and owners play on the same team — competing,

bonding, and celebrating together. For teams from 28 restaurants, this annual league is more than sport; it’s the moment they wait for all year. The joy on court and the camaraderie off it is what makes the NRAI Premier League so close to our hearts,” added Rudresh Agarwal, NPL Commissioner, NRAI Kolkata. **t2** brings you the action.



The champions of the Owners’ League were the Elahi Knights team. “NRAI builds strong restaurants, and NPL builds strong teams — I feel proud to now be part of both. This was my first year with NRAI and also the first time I got a team, and the experience has been truly special. Beyond the win, what stood out was the sense of belonging and fraternity that the league creates, a platform to bond and strengthen our spirit. Winning the Gold Cup with Elahi Knights makes it even more memorable, but more than the trophy, it’s the relationships and team pride that we will carry forward,” said Waqas Parvez of Elahi Luxury Dining.



The winners for the Staff League were OG By The Lake captained by Aamir Ansari.



The runners-up for the Owners’ League were last year’s champions, OG Steelbacks.

“NPL is not just a cricket tournament, it is a celebration of our fraternity. As members of an industry, each of us is focused on building and strengthening our own brands, but initiatives like this remind us that we are part of a larger community that grows stronger together. The staff league, in particular, is extremely important to us. It makes teams feel included, valued and gives them a true sense of ownership of their brands. That inclusivity is what makes NPL a truly unique NRAI initiative, it brings restaurateurs and their teams on one common platform,” said Piyush Kankaria, NRAI Kolkata Chapter Head.



Best Bowler award went to Moosa Ahmed Khan (right) for OG Steelbacks for both owner and staff leagues, who was felicitated by Waqas Parvez.



Asif Ahmed handed over the Best Batsman award to Raafay Ahmed (right).



Muhammed Ahmed (right) was handed over the award for the Best Catch by Asif Ahmed.



Best Fielder was awarded to Bhavesh Goel by Kamran Ahmed Khan.



Tanay Raj Agarwal was felicitated by Piyush Kankaria, NRAI Kolkata Chapter Head, for most wickets taken.



Staff League Best Batsman and Player of the Tournament were Dulare Alam (second from left) and Kalam Ansari (second from right) from OG Steelbacks.



Aman Bansal (centre) was the Man of the Tournament, Owners League.



Virraj Keswani was the highest run scorer and Most Valuable Player of the Tournament, and he got the award from Himanshu Rohra.



One for the album! All team owners/representatives Rajeev Nathany, LMNOQ; Nikhil Chawla, Marbella’s; Harsh Kandoi, Eatverse; Vickey Uppal, MP Portfolio; Vedant Mimani, Ozora; Pritam Dutta, Asparagus Hospitality; Md. Tahir and Waqas Parvez, Elahi Luxury Dining; Ankit Tibrewal, Hashtag; Rudresh Agarwal, Olterra; Kamran Ahmed Khan, OG by The lake; and Deepak Kumar, Wah! Puchka.

**Zeba Akhtar Ali**

Pictures courtesy: NRAI Kolkata

WHATSUP

THE STYLE GROVE RETURNS WITH SPRING FLING, WITH t2! HERE'S WHAT TO EXPECT

The Style Grove, one of the most anticipated exhibitions in the city, will be back this Saturday, this time with Spring Fling 2026. The event will feature a conscious curation of distinctive finds that bring accessible fashion and accessories in line with the new year's trends.

Curated by Varsha Wadhwa Chirimar and Anisha Juneja, The Style Grove — Spring Fling in association with t2 will be centered around soft-girl-era silhouettes, timeless styles and one-of-a-kind discoveries designed to elevate every summer celebration.

Ahead of the event, curators Anisha and Varsha brought together some fashionistas, women who are excelling in their respective fields, for a special photoshoot celebrating style, individuality and spring-summer energy. The t2 exclusive preview shoot held at Roots, showcased an eclectic mix of summer prêt and statement accessories that will be featured at the upcoming exhibition. Glimpses...

**What:** The Style Grove — Spring Fling 2026, in association with t2

**Where:** Eastern Court, ITC Royal Bengal

**When:** February 28

**Expect:** This spring/summer edit is your ultimate destination for fashion and lifestyle finds — all under ₹30,000. From across the country and international labels, hidden gems and never-seen-before styles, the event promises an exclusive curation of effortless summer clothing — playful dresses, stylish co-ords, statement party fits, timeless classics, chic workwear, everyday fashion — glamorous accessories and more.

**Timings:** 10.30am to 7.30pm

**Organiser speak:** "What sets The Style Grove apart is our unwavering commitment to discovery. We take pride in introducing Calcutta to brands it hasn't experienced before — labels that are emerging, distinctive, and thoughtfully designed. Every edition is curated with intention, ensuring the city experiences fresh perspectives in fashion, accessories, and lifestyle.

Spring Fling 2026 continues that journey, redefining how Calcutta shops by bringing together originality, affordability, and trend-forward styles under one roof," said Anisha Juneja, co-curator, The Style Grove.



1



2



3



4



5



6



7



8



1 F&B entrepreneur Johanne Mantosh's outfit, a tropical chiffon dress by Raffine, screamed spring!

2 Philanthropist Shikha Metharamani looked summer ready in a white ensemble by Dramebaaz Co.

3 Dipti Sawalka, founder and director, Gourmet Design Company & Varak, oozed boss-lady vibes in this power-orange blazer and co-ord by Stribe, Singapore

4 Fashion designer Mehek Talreja styled her black OOTD with exquisite diamond and emerald jewellery by Ramesh Chandra Parekh Jewellers

5 Vidhi Beri, child nutrition and maternity wellness specialist, health transformation coach and author, slipped into a Bridgerton-style porcelain-print gown by Stribe, Singapore

6 Educator Jagriti Gupta looked cool-comfy in this white dress by Tamak

7 Nikhita Chopra, CEO of Cabcon India Limited, in a white laser-cut dress by Needle Ten, Mumbai, while Mahek Daga, founder of Soiree Fix, decked up in Wrapgame x PDS

8 YLF chairperson Saloni Sureka kept it minimal in a fail-safe classic black dress by Leh Studios

"Spring Fling 2026 is our ode to effortless summer style and accessible luxury. This edition is thoughtfully curated for the modern woman who wants elevated fashion under 30K — without compromising on individuality. We're especially excited about brands like Leh Studios, Aroka, Needle Ten, Raffine, Kaseenda, Manju Tomar, Ivory Rose, Stribe, House of Quadri, The Dramebaaz Co., and Ananya Goenka Bagaria, each bringing a distinctive aesthetic to Calcutta. From summer chic dresses and destination wedding looks to chic resort dressing and contemporary elevated daily wear, this showcase is about discovering pieces that feel personal, versatile, and truly special," said Varsha Wadhwa Chirimar (right) with Anisha Juneja, co-curators of The Style Grove.

Pramita Ghosh

Pictures courtesy: The Style Grove

