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weather report

Kolkata Weather

21 °C | °F

Precipitation 5%

Humidity 43%

Wind 5 km/h

Mostly Sunny

Indian Indices

NIFTY 50		
25571.25	116.90	0.46
SENSEX		
82814.71	316.57	0.38
NIFTY BANK		
61172.00	432.45	0.71
NIFTY IT		
32004.05	-315.35	-0.98
NIFTY Auto		
27846.80	112.80	0.41

Gold Rates

Today gold price in Kolkata

1,59,280 1,46,000

»

Today gold price in Bangalore

1,59,280 1,46,000

»

Today gold price in India

1,59,280 (₹000) 1,46,000 (₹000)

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Mamata Government's SIR Obstructions Invite The Supreme Court Reprimand

ANIKET NASKAR



Kolkata, 22 February: Exasperated by the endless litany of complaints and allegations brought against the Election Commission of India by the Mamata Banerjee government in West Bengal regarding the conduct of Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in the state, in an unprecedented move on Friday, the Supreme Court of India finally stepped in to ensure a clean voter-list. A bench led by Chief Justice Surya Kant intervened decisively, ordering judicial oversight to break the deadlock and ensure a transparent, error-free voter list ahead of the upcoming polls. This "extraordinary" step underscores the Court's exasperation with the constitutional standoff that has stalled the process at a critical juncture. The Supreme Court bench expressed deep frustration with the protracted blame-game between the Mamata Banerjee-led West Bengal government and the Trinamool Congress (TMC) on one side, and the Election Commission of India (ECI) on the other, over the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls. Chief Justice Surya Kant minced no words, describing the situation as "an unfortunate scenario of allegations and counter-allegations which shows trust deficit between two constitutional functionaries—the state government and the Election Commission." The bench, also comprising Justices Joymalya Bagchi and Vipul M. Pancholi, noted that the SIR process was "stuck at the stage of claims and objections" for voters flagged under the "logical discrepancy" category, affecting millions. "We are disappointed to see this," the CJI remarked, highlighting the state's reluctance to provide competent Group A or B officers as Electoral Registration Officers (EROs), despite repeated directions. The Court's intervention came after sharp exchanges between senior advocates representing both sides. Kapil Sibal and Menaka Guruswamy for the state claimed sufficient officers were provided, while D.S. Naidu for the ECI countered that they lacked quasi-judicial competence. CJI Kant questioned the delays, stating: "We are not micro-observers… the court had expected cooperation rather than vague assurances." This public reprimand signalled the judiciary's impatience with what it views as politically motivated obstructionism by the TMC government. The court explained that the unprecedented judicial intervention under Article 142 of the Constitution was necessitated by the "extraordinary situation" that has arisen in Bengal due to trust deficit and non-cooperation between the ECI and the Bengal government. West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has been at the forefront of opposing the SIR, personally appearing before the Supreme Court. In an earlier hearing, she alleged, "This SIR is for deletion, not inclusion," claiming it disproportionately targeted women, migrants, and the poor through minor discrepancies like surname changes or spelling errors.



People take part in Shree Shyam Falgun Holi Dhwaja Nishan Shobha Yatra ahead of Holi festival, in Patna, Sunday.



Vice President CP Radhakrishnan pays floral tributes to queen Velu Nachiyar at Sivaganga Palace, in Tamil Nadu.

16 SIMs, 8 Phones, 1 Deadly Plot: How Pak-Backed Terror Plot Was Busted

Staff Reporter, New Delhi, 22 February: The Delhi Police's Special Cell foiled a major terrorist plot in an operation that lasted 10 days. They busted a terror module linked to Pakistan's Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and arrested eight suspects. Seven of them are Bangladeshi nationals. On February 7-8, posters with slogans like "Free Kashmir" and "Stop Genocide in Kashmir" appeared at several metro stations in Delhi and Kolkata. Security agencies were alerted, after which the Delhi Police's Special Cell was sent to investigate the matter.

Two suspects were arrested from West Bengal's Malda initially, identified as Umar Farooq and Robil ul Islam. Based on content found in their mobile phones, the police found clues about more suspects hiding in Tamil Nadu's Tiruppur district. In the next step, the police arrested two suspects from Uthukuli, three from Palladam, and one from Thirumuruganpoondi in Tiruppur district, identified as Mizanur Rahman, Mohammed Shabat, Umar, Mohammed Litan, Mohammed Shahid, and Mohammed Ujjal.

All of them had been working in garment units and used fake Aadhaar cards. Eight mobile phones and 16 SIM cards were recovered from them.Investigation revealed that the entire module was being managed from Bangladesh. A handler, Shabbir Ahmed Lone, was providing instructions. Sources said Shabbir was arrested in 2007 for plotting a suicide attack in India and was jailed. When he got out, he left India and joined the LeT.Shabbir set up his base in Bangladesh, and kept connections linked to Pakistan. The suspects arrested by the Delhi Police Special Cell were also in contact with another Bangladeshi handler, Saidul Islam, who is currently believed to be based in another country.

Investigative agencies recovered videos and photographs of reconnaissance of various locations from the accused's mobile phones. Some of the videos indicated attempts to buy weapons. Police suspect that these individuals were planning a major attack in various parts of the country. Intelligence agencies recently reported that the LeT was planning a major attack in India. It is believed that this plot was foiled in time. This operation by the Delhi Police Special Cell is still going on. Some other members of this module are reported to be on the run.

"AI Summit Turning Point For How World Will Use AI": PM Modi In Mann Ki Baat



Staff Reporter, New Delhi, 22 February: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday hailed the recently concluded AI Impact Summit held in New Delhi's Bharat Mandapam and said that through this, the world witnessed "Bharat's remarkable capabilities" in the field of artificial intelligence. India hosted the AI Impact Summit 2026 in New Delhi from February 16-20, focusing on human-centric AI, global cooperation, and ethical frameworks like the New Delhi Declaration. Addressing the 131st episode of his monthly radio programme, 'Mann Ki Baat', PM Modi said, "This is a strong platform to bring forth achievements of the country and its people. One such achievement was recently seen during the AI Impact Summit that was held in Delhi. Leaders, industrialists, innovators and people from the start-up sectors arrived in the Bharat Mandapam for this summit."

"This summit is a turning point in how the world will use the power of AI in the future. I got the opportunity to meet the world leaders and tech leaders. At the AI Summit Exhibition, I showcased many innovations to the world leaders," he said. During the summit, the Prime Minister noted that two products "impressed leaders from all over the world." The first was showcased at the AMUL booth, demonstrating how AI is assisting dairy workers in caring for their animals and managing their businesses. The second product, he mentioned, is related to culture, highlighting ways to preserve ancient knowledge, traditions, and scriptures while adapting them for future generations.

Mentioning the display of 'Sushruta Samhita' during the exhibition, PM Modi mentioned, "The first step showed how the image quality of the manuscripts was enhanced with the help of technology to make them readable. In the second step, this text image was made machine-readable. In the next step, the text was read by an AI Avatar. And then, in the next step, we also showed how this evaluation of knowledge can be translated into Indian and foreign languages with the help of technology."

"The world leaders showed great interest in learning about Bharat's ancient knowledge through a modern avatar," he added.The Prime Minister said that through this summit, the world "witnessed Bharat's remarkable capabilities in the field of AI". He mentioned that at this summit, India also launched three 'Made in India' AI models. "This in itself has been the biggest AI Summit to date. The enthusiasm and excitement of the youth for the summit were truly worth seeing. I congratulate all countries on the success of this summit," he added.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday hit out at Congress, accusing it of using a global event for its "dirty and naked politics" after its youth wing leaders staged a shirtless protest during the recent India AI Impact Summit in New Delhi. According to PM Modi, the protest showed how "ideologically bankrupt" and "impoverished" the grand old party has become.In a scathing jibe at Congress, PM Modi said, "You are already naked, then why did you feel the need to take off your clothes?" "What the Congress leaders did there shows how ideologically bankrupt and impoverished the oldest party of the country has become. Congress is busy defaming its own country. Some political parties within the country cannot digest India's success. We just witnessed the world's largest AI conference in India. But what did the Congress and its ecosystem do? The Congress turned a global event for India into a platform for its dirty and naked politics," the PM said while addressing a gathering in Meerut.

'Nobody has right to play God': Abhishek Banerjee targets for Election Commission's 'babu culture' in SIR row

CHITTAJIT DUTTA



Kolkata, 22 February: The Trinamool Congress on Saturday accused the chief electoral officer of dismissing certain issues the party flagged regarding the role of Electoral Registration Officers (EROs) during the ongoing special intensive revision of electoral rolls. "What is even more alarming is that when this serious anomaly was escalated to the chief electoral officer, West Bengal, through the district election officers, it was met with a cavalier and dismissive response wholly unbecoming of a constitutional office," said Abhishek Banerjee, the Trinamool general secretary and Diamond Harbour MP. "This is precisely the entrenched babu culture that has come to characterise the EC functioning, and stood implicitly rebuked by the Supreme Court only yesterday."

Abhishek claimed the EROs could no longer monitor the progress of the Assistant Electoral Registration Officers (AEROs) on the ECINet portal."This amounts to a triple violation," said Abhishek, who also shared some purported screenshots of WhatsApp group chats to illustrate his claim. The fresh salvo from the Trinamool came on the day when Justice Sujoy Paul, the Chief Justice of Calcutta High Court, met with state and central poll panel officials to sort out the SIR process. This was done on the Supreme Court's instruction, which wants the remainder of the SIR process to continue under the watch of judicial officers and former judges.

The Trinamool general secretary said denying access to the EROs violated Section 13 B of the Representation of the People Act. The Section 13B states that electoral rolls shall be prepared and revised by an electoral registration officer. "It also violated Section 13C of the Act, which states that AEROs are to "assist any electoral registration officer in the performance of his functions" and that they are subject to the control of the electoral registration officer," Abhishek said.He also said the Supreme Court had stated that the EROs will have the final say in the inclusion/exclusion of the voters in the final rolls.

"This violates the explicit intent of the Supreme Court's order on February 9. It also violated the SC's order on February 20, where the apex court made it clear under Logical discrepancy/Unmapped category, persons to whom notices were issued have submitted documents in support of their claims for inclusion in the voter list. These claims are required to be adjudicated, in a way, through a quasi-judicial process by the EROs," said Abhishek. Abhishek said the commission had stated on June 24, 2025 that the "ERO of each Assembly constituency shall be responsible for ensuring that no eligible citizen is left out and not ineligible person is included."

"This triple violation strikes at the very heart of constitutional governance by dismantling institutional checks and balances, creating fertile ground for arbitrary and unlawful deletion of voters at the discretion of AEROs," Abhishek said. "Nobody has the right to play God with the democratic rights of Bengal's voters."

Abhishek Banerjee on Saturday asked Trinamool Congress leaders in South 24-Parganas to strengthen booth-level organisation by building a proactive grassroots network and deepening proximity with common people in the backdrop of the ongoing SIR exercise.

The Trinamool national general secretary urged the leaders to channel public anger towards alleged harassment over the special intensive revision of the voter list into electoral support.

SIR strikes 1.7 crore voters off electoral roles in nine states and Union Territories

Staff Reporter, New Delhi, 22 February: Voter base in nine states and Union territories has shrunk by more than 1.70 crore following the publication of final electoral rolls as part of the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR), according to official data.

The data shared by the chief electoral officers of Gujarat, Puducherry, Lakshadweep, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Goa and Kerala on Saturday showed that their combined voter base stood at over 21.45 crore before the SIR exercise began on October 27 last year.

It shrunk to 19.75 crore after publication of their final electoral rolls this week, a net change of over 1.70 crore electors. While the exercise, which kept the Election Commission in the spotlight, has been completed in Bihar, it is currently underway in 12 states and Union territories covering nearly 60 crore electors.

The remaining 40 crore electors will be covered in 17 states and five Union territories.In Assam, a "special revision", instead of SIR, was completed on February 10.

Due to a variety of reasons, the SIR in the nine states and three Union territories have seen frequent tweaking in schedules. As in Bihar, political parties have approached the Supreme Court challenging the exercise in Tamil Nadu and West Bengal.

India, US Postpone Trade Deal Meet Amid Trump's Tariff Setback: Report

Staff Reporter, New Delhi, 22 February: India and Washington have decided to reschedule the official meeting over the interim bilateral trade agreement, so that both sides can factor in the implications of the US Supreme Court judgment striking down the Trump administration's tariff hikes, according to reliable sources. A three-day meeting between teams headed by the chief trade negotiators of the two countries was earlier slated to take place in the US on February 23. A senior official confirmed that the proposed visit of the Indian team to Washington to give the final touches to the bilateral trade deal will be held after the two countries have studied the latest developments that flow from the US Supreme Court judgment. A decision will be taken to set a new date for the meeting that is convenient for both sides, he added. US President Donald Trump on Saturday raised the global tariffs from 10 per cent to 15 per cent after the big setback in the Supreme Court on Friday. Taking to Truth Social, Trump wrote, "Based on a thorough, detailed, and complete review of the ridiculous, poorly written, and extraordinarily anti-American decision on Tariffs issued yesterday, after MANY months of contemplation, by the United States Supreme Court, please let this statement serve to represent that I, as President of the United States of America, will be, effective immediately, raising the 10% Worldwide Tariff on Countries, many of



which have been "ripping" the U.S. off for decades, without retribution (until I came along!), to the fully allowed, and legally tested, 15% level." The Supreme Court of the United States on Friday struck down President Donald Trump's sweeping reciprocal tariff measures, ruling that the executive branch exceeded its constitutional authority by using emergency powers to levy broad import duties. The judges, in a 6-3 verdict, held that Trump's aggressive approach to tariffs on products entering the United States from across the world was not permitted under a 1977 law called the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA). The ruling invalidates many, but not all, of Trump's tariffs. An angry Trump called the judgment a "disgrace" after being informed about it during a meeting with governors. He also said he had a backup plan. India will lower or remove tariffs on all US industrial goods and on many US farm and food items like dried distillers' grains, red sorghum for animal feed, tree nuts, fresh and processed fruits, soybean oil, wine, spirits, and more. The US will charge an 18% tariff on Indian goods, covering textiles and apparel, leather and footwear, plastic and rubber, organic chemicals, home decor, artisanal products, and some machinery. If the Interim Agreement is fully concluded, the US will end the reciprocal tariff on many Indian products, including generic medicines, gems and diamonds, and aircraft parts. Separately, the US will also remove tariffs on certain aircraft and aircraft parts from India. India will also address long-standing non-tariff barriers affecting US food and farm products, improving access for those items.

Calcutta High Court Sets Up Special Panel to Scrutinize SIR Documents in West Bengal

Staff reporter, Kolkata, 22 February : The Calcutta High Court has constituted a special committee to review documents related to the SIR process in West Bengal, marking a decisive step toward greater transparency and accountability.

The move comes amid mounting concerns and legal challenges surrounding the preparation and verification of SIR documents. Petitioners had approached the High Court alleging irregularities and inconsistencies in the compilation and handling of records. After hearing arguments from all sides, the court deemed it necessary to form an independent panel to examine the matter in detail.

According to court directives, the special committee will scrutinize the authenticity, procedural compliance, and documentation standards adhered to during the SIR process. The panel has been tasked with submitting a comprehensive report within a stipulated timeframe, ensuring that findings are based on factual verification rather than political narratives.

Legal experts view the development as a strong assertion of judicial oversight in administrative processes that impact public confidence. By appointing a dedicated body, the High Court has signaled that procedural integrity cannot be compromised, especially in matters that carry far-reaching implications.

The formation of the committee has also sparked political reactions across party lines. Opposition leaders have welcomed the court's decision, describing it as a necessary corrective measure. They argue that a transparent review will help dispel doubts and restore credibility. Meanwhile, representatives aligned with the state administration have expressed confidence that the inquiry will vindicate the existing procedures and demonstrate compliance with established norms.



Observers note that judicially monitored reviews often help de-escalate politically charged disputes by shifting focus to evidence-based assessment. The special committee's findings are expected to clarify contested aspects of documentation, verification mechanisms, and administrative accountability.

Court sources indicate that the panel may include experienced legal and administrative professionals capable of evaluating both technical and procedural dimensions of the SIR records. The aim, according to legal circles, is to ensure an impartial review that upholds constitutional principles and safeguards public interest.

The High Court has emphasized that the process must remain transparent and free from external influence. All concerned authorities have been directed to extend full cooperation to the committee, providing access to relevant files and records as required.

For many citizens, the development underscores the judiciary's role as a guardian of procedural fairness. As debates continue in political and public forums, the spotlight now shifts to the special committee and the outcome of its examination.

How Guards Abandoned Posts, Let 20,000 ISIS Affiliates Escape Syria Camp

Staff reporter, New Delhi, 21 February: About 15,000 to 20,000 people have escaped from Syria's Al-Hol camp, according to US intelligence agencies. The camp, once home to thousands of Islamic State families, saw security break down after Syrian government forces took control, The Wall Street Journal reports.

The Al-Hol facility in Syria's eastern desert housed over 70,000 people after the fall of the Islamic State's self-proclaimed caliphate in 2019, and had around 23,000 residents at the end of 2025, according to a report from the Pentagon's Inspector General. Security at the camp collapsed in recent weeks after Syria's government defeated the US-backed Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), which had guarded Al-Hol for years.

The Kurdish-led SDF said they were "compelled" to withdraw from Al-Hol due to international indifference and redeployment needs, leaving the camp vulnerable and contributing to escapes, as per CN News.

Security experts have long warned that the wives of Islamic State fighters were effectively raising the next generation of militants at Al-Hol.Western diplomats in Damascus reported that more than 20,000 people fled the camp within days amid rioting and escape attempts. Only 300 to 400 families remained at the beginning of the week, a diplomat said.US officials said the mass escape was partly due to mismanagement by Syria's government and a lack of careful control over the camp's large security perimeter. Last week, worsening conditions at the camp led detainees to riot, attack aid facilities, and injure a humanitarian worker, according to The WSJ.

The Syrian government, led by former jihadist President Ahmed al-Shara, acknowledged that many people left the camp and said it plans to monitor extremists and reintegrate them into society. The government blamed the chaos on SDF troops, saying they abandoned the camp during the January offensive, leaving it unguarded for hours.

The Islamic State has announced responsibility for several recent attacks on Syrian army personnel, describing these as part of a "new phase" of operations, Reuters reported. Remaining residents are being relocated to other camps such as Akhtarin camp in Aleppo province, with UNHCR ready to support relocations and provide assistance.

Promises Yet to Materialize: Family of Pahalgam Victim Still Awaits Government Job

Staff reporter, Kolkata, 22 February : Months after tragedy struck in the picturesque town of Pahalgam in Jammu and Kashmir, the family of a victim continues to wait for a government job that was publicly promised as part of rehabilitation and compensation measures. The delay has not only deepened their grief but also raised questions about the pace of administrative follow-through in cases involving victims of violence.

The victim, who lost his life in a shocking incident that sent ripples of sorrow through his hometown, was the sole breadwinner of the family. In the aftermath, authorities had assured financial assistance and a government job for one eligible family member, a measure often extended to support families grappling with sudden loss. While compensation was reportedly processed, the promised employment has yet to materialize.

Family members say they have repeatedly approached local officials, submitted necessary documents, and complied with procedural requirements, but tangible progress remains elusive. "We were told help would come soon. We are still waiting," a relative said, voicing both pain and frustration.The delay has brought renewed attention to the broader issue of rehabilitation promises made in the wake of high-profile tragedies. In many such cases, announcements of support offer immediate relief to grieving families and signal solidarity from the administration. However, bureaucratic hurdles and procedural delays often complicate implementation, prolonging uncertainty for those left behind.

Community leaders have expressed concern, urging the authorities to expedite the process and ensure that commitments are honored without further delay. They argue that beyond financial assistance, stable employment provides long-term security and dignity for affected families.Officials familiar with the matter have stated that the case is under consideration and that procedural clearances are being processed. They have cited verification protocols, departmental approvals, and eligibility assessments as part of the standard recruitment process. Assurances have been given that the family's application has not been overlooked.

The case has also sparked political commentary, with some leaders highlighting it as an example of administrative inertia. Others have urged patience, noting that recruitment procedures must comply with established norms to ensure transparency and fairness.For the grieving family, however, the wait feels heavy. In a modest home where memories of their loved one linger, the promise of a government job represents more than employment — it symbolizes acknowledgment, security, and a measure of justice in the wake of loss.

Residents of the victim's native area have shown solidarity, calling on the administration to act swiftly. Social activists emphasize that timely rehabilitation strengthens public trust and reinforces the state's responsibility toward citizens affected by violence.As days turn into months, the family's appeal grows more urgent. They are not seeking sympathy, they say, but fulfillment of a commitment that was made in their darkest hour.

Former Bengal DGP Rajiv Kumar Sends Legal Notice to Sukanta Majumdar, Political Tempers

Staff reporter, Kolkata, 22 February : Former Director General of Police Rajeev Kumar served a legal notice on state BJP president Sukanta Majumdar, escalating tensions between the ruling establishment and the opposition.

The notice, sent through legal counsel, reportedly seeks an unconditional apology and withdrawal of certain public statements allegedly made by Majumdar concerning Kumar's role during his tenure as the state's top cop. Sources indicate that the former DGP has termed the remarks "defamatory, baseless and damaging" to his personal and professional reputation.



Rajeev Kumar, a senior IPS officer who held several key positions before serving as West Bengal's DGP, has often been at the centre of political debates in the state. His tenure witnessed intense scrutiny amid high-profile investigations and administrative challenges. The latest legal move signals his intent to defend his record through judicial channels rather than public sparring.

Sukanta Majumdar, who heads the state unit of the Bharatiya Janata Party, has been vocal in criticizing past administrative decisions and law enforcement actions in Bengal. Party sources suggest that the comments in question were made in the context of broader political criticism, though they maintain that the statements were within democratic rights.The legal notice reportedly demands that Majumdar retract his remarks within a stipulated time frame, failing which civil and possibly criminal proceedings may follow. Legal experts note that defamation cases involving high-profile public figures often intensify political rhetoric, especially in an election-charged atmosphere.

Political observers view the development as yet another flashpoint in the ongoing rivalry between the state's ruling dispensation and the opposition BJP. The exchange underscores how administrative figures, even after retirement, continue to remain entwined in the state's fiercely contested political narrative.

Reactions have poured in from both camps. Leaders aligned with the ruling establishment have defended Rajeev Kumar, describing him as an experienced officer who served the state with distinction. They argue that unfounded allegations undermine the dignity of public institutions. On the other hand, BJP leaders have framed the notice as an attempt to stifle criticism, asserting that political discourse must remain open and transparent.

The legal fraternity suggests that if the matter proceeds to court, it could draw attention to past administrative controversies and rekindle debates over governance and accountability. Defamation law in India provides both civil remedies and criminal provisions, making such disputes potentially protracted and high-stakes.

Minakshi Mukherjee Enters Bengal Poll Fray, Signals Fierce Contest Ahead

Staff reporter, Kolkata, 22 February : The political temperature in West Bengal soared another notch as Left leader Minakshi Mukherjee officially announced her candidature for the upcoming West Bengal Assembly elections, setting the stage for a spirited contest in an already high-voltage electoral battle.

Minakshi Mukherjee, a prominent face of the CPI(M)'s youth leadership and known for her fiery speeches and grassroots activism, has emerged as one of the most dynamic leaders in the state's opposition politics. Her decision to contest has energized Left cadres, who see her as a symbol of renewed ideological assertion and youthful mobilization.

Party insiders say her candidature reflects a broader strategy to project assertive, ground-connected leaders capable of challenging both the ruling establishment and the principal opposition. Mukherjee has been vocal on issues ranging from unemployment and rising prices to governance and democratic rights. Her campaign is expected to highlight these themes while appealing to young voters and first-time electors.

Addressing supporters after the announcement, Mukherjee expressed confidence that people are seeking change and accountability. She emphasized the need to "restore democratic culture and ensure people-centric governance," striking a tone that blended optimism with sharp criticism of prevailing political narratives.



The constituency she will contest from is likely to witness intense campaigning, with major parties preparing to field heavyweight candidates. Political analysts believe her presence will inject fresh momentum into the Left's campaign machinery, especially among students and urban youth who have rallied behind her during protests and public movements in recent years.

The West Bengal Assembly elections are shaping up to be a multi-cornered contest, with regional and national parties vying for dominance. In this complex landscape, Minakshi Mukherjee's candidature adds an interesting dimension. Observers note that while the Left Front has faced electoral setbacks in recent cycles, leaders like Mukherjee represent an attempt to reconnect with grassroots sentiments and reassert ideological clarity.

Reactions from rival camps were swift. Leaders from the ruling party downplayed her impact, asserting that electoral outcomes hinge on organizational strength and governance track record. Meanwhile, the BJP described the development as part of routine political maneuvering, maintaining that voters are focused on broader national issues.

Yet among Left supporters, enthusiasm is palpable. Campaign preparations are already underway, with volunteers planning door-to-door outreach, public meetings, and social media engagement. Mukherjee's campaign is expected to emphasize transparency, employment generation, and democratic participation, issues that resonate strongly across segments of the electorate.

As Bengal heads toward another decisive electoral chapter, Minakshi Mukherjee's entry into the fray underscores the evolving dynamics of state politics. Whether her candidature will translate into electoral gains remains to be seen, but her presence undoubtedly intensifies the contest and amplifies the debate over Bengal's political future.



Today's Horoscope



ARIES: You experience a sense of freedom today. And in this mood you feel like doing all the things that you loved to do in your childhood. It is a nice time to take your family on an outing.



TAURUS: You have a hectic day ahead, says Ganesha. You will be immersed in your work all day long and will love doing so. A lot will get done by the end of the day.



GEMINI: It's time you took stock of your personal life. Is there someone you want to propose but are afraid to do so? Ganesha advises you not to let the fear of rejection stop you from making an effort.



CANCER: Ganesha says that this will be a unique and auspicious day for you. You will get clue and hints of this from morning itself. A religious ceremony in the house.



LEO : You will have to bear more responsibilities in the office. You need to carefully weigh your alternatives before making a decision. On the personal front.



VIRGO: Today is a mixed bag of values and pragmatism, says Ganesha, and if there were to be a competition for the most humanitarian person, you would be likely to win hands down.



LIBRA: It is very likely that you will arouse immense jealousy in others with your success and growth in business. Your business rivals may attempt to dent your credit worthiness in one way or the other.



SCORPIO: The grey strands on your head is not just a colour, but speaks about your experiences. Your wisdom will make you take appropriate decisions at work.



SAGITTARIUS: Today is a curiously interesting day for you. While you are always well-groomed, today, you may take that extra bit of care to look best and attract a lot of praise for that too.



CAPRICORN: If wasteful expenditure has left your bank balance a tad below what you had anticipated, you will have reasons to rejoice today, says Ganesha.



AQUARIUS: Do you wish to have a new car or any other property? Make the bookings today, as it is favourable day to make such purchases. You will prioritise your needs.



PIECES: Fear is a part and parcel of life, and while it can not be eliminated, it can certainly be tamed, and that is what you will be doing today. All your suppressed audacity will be on full display.

Armed Man Shot Dead After Forced Entry Into Donald Trump's Florida Home

Staff reporter, Washington, 22 February : An armed man who illegally entered the premises of US President Donald Trump's Mar-a-Lago estate in Florida was shot dead by Secret Service agents. The man carried a shotgun and a fuel can, sources said.

US Secret Service spokesperson Anthony Guglielmi confirmed the incident in a post on X."An armed man was shot and killed by US Secret Service agents after unlawfully entering the secure perimeter at Mar-a-Lago early this morning," Guglielmi said.

The Secret Service in a statement said the incident happened at 1.30 am today. He was in his early 20s.He was shot by Secret Service agents and a deputy from the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office (PBSO) following an unauthorised entry into the secure perimeter at Mar-a-Lago, the statement said.

"The individual, whose identity is being withheld pending notification of next of kin, was pronounced deceased. The individual was observed by the north gate of the Mar-a-Lago property carrying what appeared to be a shotgun and a fuel can," the Secret Service said.The incident, including the individual's background, actions, potential motive, and the use of force, is under investigation by the FBI, the US Secret Service, and the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office.

In accordance with agency policy, the involved Secret Service agents will be placed on routine administrative leave pending the outcome of the investigation, it said.

"They Bombed Innocent Civilians": Afghanistan Vows Retaliation After Deadly Pakistani Airstrikes

Staff reporter, Afghanistan, 22 February: Afghanistan and Pakistan have escalated sharply after Afghan authorities accused Pakistan of carrying out airstrikes that killed dozens of civilians, including women and children. The strikes, reportedly conducted in border provinces, have triggered outrage in Kabul and ignited fears of a wider regional confrontation.

Afghan officials condemned the bombings as a grave violation of sovereignty, alleging that residential areas were hit under the pretext of targeting militant hideouts. "They bombed innocent civilians," a senior Afghan spokesperson said, vowing a firm response. The government described the incident as an "unjustifiable act of aggression" and warned that such actions would not go unanswered.

Local reports from the affected districts painted a grim picture of destruction. Homes were reduced to rubble, families displaced overnight, and rescue workers scrambling through debris in search of survivors. Hospitals in nearby towns have been overwhelmed with the injured, as grieving relatives mourn the loss of loved ones.

Pakistan, however, defended its actions, claiming the strikes were aimed at militant groups allegedly using Afghan territory to launch cross-border attacks. Officials in Islamabad stated that intelligence-based operations were conducted against specific targets posing a threat to national security. They denied intentionally targeting civilians and expressed regret over any collateral damage.



The exchange has once again spotlighted the fragile security dynamics along the mountainous border, long a flashpoint for insurgent activity and military operations. Diplomatic channels between Kabul and Islamabad have reportedly been activated, but rhetoric from both sides remains heated.

Regional analysts warn that the situation carries significant risks. With historical mistrust and complex militant networks operating in the region, any escalation could destabilize not only bilateral ties but also broader regional security. International observers have called for restraint and urged both nations to resolve differences through dialogue.

Human rights organizations have demanded an independent investigation into the strikes, emphasizing the protection of civilian lives under international humanitarian law. They have called on both governments to prioritize transparency and accountability in determining the sequence of events and preventing further bloodshed.

Meanwhile, residents in the border provinces live under a cloud of fear. Many families have fled their homes, uncertain whether further airstrikes might follow. Aid agencies are mobilizing relief supplies, but access to remote areas remains challenging.

Dhurandhar 2 vs Toxic: RGV makes his choice, calls it a clash between two cultures



Staff Reporter, Mumbai, 22 February: Filmmaker Ram Gopal Varma has once again expressed his admiration for Aditya Dhar's blockbuster spy thriller Dhurandhar, featuring Ranveer Singh, highlighting his continued support for the film since its release in cinemas on December 5, 2025. Varma's renewed praise comes ahead of a notable box office competition between Dhurandhar: The Revenge and Geethu Mohandas Toxic: A Fairytale for Grown-Ups, starring Yash.

Varma has made his loyalty to the Dhurandhar franchise evident, sustaining his positive remarks on social media. He has maintained consistent support for the film both following its release and in the lead-up to the sequel's theatrical debut. In his lengthy post on X, the filmmaker highlighted the aspects of the film that impressed him, such as its gripping narrative, strong performances, and the directorial vision of Aditya Dhar.The filmmaker asserted that Dhuroxic is not a clash of "North vs South" or "Bollywood vs Sandalwood," but rather a confrontation between two cinematic cultures — "not of regions, but of cinema."

He further wrote, "The fundamental difference is that #respects the audience's intelligence, whereas #TOXIC assumes they are dumb (sic)."The filmmaker's endorsement is particularly notable as the two films, Dhurandhar 2 and Toxic, are set to premiere alongside each other, prompting widespread interest in their anticipated box office performance.

He contended that the Yash-led Kannada action franchise KGF targeted "the dumbness in the masses," while Dhurandhar appealed to their "intelligence." According to him, that distinction helped Dhurandhar achieve global success, even surpassing KGF: Chapter 2 (2022) worldwide to emerge as the fourth highest-grossing Indian film of all time at the global box office.

Towards the end of his post, Varma listed "10 savage brutal truths" while comparing Dhurandhar 2 and Toxic. One of his points contrasted "mindless hero worship" with allowing audiences to discover heroes through their moral choices within the story. He further wrote that Toxic featured action sequences that "mocked physics and insulted every school kid who studied Newton," whereas the action in Dhurandhar was "so raw and real that one can actually feel the punches." While Dhurandhar is led by Ranveer Singh, it also features an ensemble cast including Akshaye Khanna, Sanjay Dutt, Arjun Rampal, R. Madhavan, Sara Arjun, and Rakesh Bedi, among others.

India Today has learnt that the viral claims about the censor board certificate featuring Dhurandhar 2 (officially titled Dhurandhar: The Revenge) ratings are misleading. Sources close to the development told us that the certificate being circulated on social media belongs to the first part, not the second part of the film, which is scheduled to hit the screens in March.

The source clarified that the new certificate currently visible on the CBFC website is not for the theatrical release of Dhurandhar: The Revenge but for the television premiere of the first part, released in December, 2025. The source also confirmed that the second part of the Aditya Dhar directorial is yet to be submitted for certification, with the team continuing the shoot until last week. It was also explained to us why the certificate now circulating online reflects a different rating.



Bollywood actor Sanjay Dutt joins Sarojini Nagar BJP MLA Rajeshwar Singh for a roadshow launching an environmental campaign promoting green initiatives ahead of civic polls, in Lucknow, Sunday.

Samantha Ruth Prabhu has the same credo on praise and trolls

Staff Reporter, Mumbai, 22 February: Actor Samantha Ruth Prabhu interacted with fans on her Instagram Stories through an AMA (Ask Me Anything) session. While answering questions about her life, she opened up on handling negative comments on her social media accounts.When a fan asked Samantha, 'How do you feel reading comments on social media that might be positive or negative?' In response, the actor said, "Praise doesn't move me. Trolls don't either. But if you bring negativity into my home, I will block you. The same way I keep my space clean, I keep this page clean. Being blocked doesn't mean you affected me. It just means you're not welcome here."

On December 1, 2025, Samantha and filmmaker Raj Nidimoru tied the knot during a private wedding ceremony at the Isha Foundation in Coimbatore. The couple shared their happy news via Instagram, sparking a wave of excitement among their followers. This marriage follows Samantha's previous four-year union with actor Naga Chaitanya, which ended in 2021, while Raj was formerly married to Shhyamali De. The duo tied the knot in 2015 and are believed to have separated in 2022.

Meanwhile, Samantha has officially shared that her upcoming film, Maa Inti Bangaram, is set to release in theatres on May 15, 2026. The movie is a joint production by Raj Nidimoru, Samantha, and Himank Duvvuru. This release reunites the actor with director Nandini Reddy, marking their first major collaboration since the massive success of their previous hit, Oh! Baby. Samantha is also working with Raj & DK on Rakt Brahmand: The Bloody Kingdom. They had earlier collaborated on the Prime Video series – Citadel: Honey Bunny. The show also featured actors Kay Kay Menon, Saqib Saleem, Shivankit Singh Parihar, Kashvi Majmundar and others in pivotal characters. The first teaser trailer for Maa Inti Bangaaram was released on Friday, providing viewers with an early look at this upcoming family drama. Backed by actor-producer Samantha Ruth Prabhu, the film is set to deliver a story deeply rooted in emotion, resilience, and the everyday dynamics of family life. Audiences are introduced to a narrative that suggests a blend of intense drama and lighter, more understated moments, all set against a realistic backdrop intended to resonate with many. The teaser highlights the tone of the film, hinting at a protagonist whose journey is described as both fierce and soulful. As the teaser suggests, Samantha plays a housewife who is far more than that. Fierce and self-assured, she knows how to fight, takes down goons, and claims her own agency, even as her in-laws view her as a docile woman. There is clearly more to the actor's role than what meets the eye.



Maa Inti Bangaaram sees acclaimed filmmaker Nandini Reddy reuniting with Samantha after their previous collaborations. Reddy, known for her nuanced storytelling and her focus on strong female characters, brings her distinct style to this film. Their ongoing professional relationship is said to have fostered a sense of trust and authenticity within the creative process, adding an extra dimension to the film's vision. Speaking about the teaser release, Samantha earlier commented, "Maa Inti Bangaaram tells the story of a woman whose strength comes as much from her vulnerability as from her courage. Playing this character and nurturing this film as a producer has been an incredibly fulfilling journey for me. The world of this film rooted and emotional with a narrative style dedicated to being family first and slice of life whilst maintaining its quirky, edgy energy.

Chhaava's writer breaks silence after AR Rahman calls Vicky Kaushal-starrer 'divisive': 'I have not seen this kind of...'

Staff Reporter, Mumbai, 22 February: Over a month after Oscar-winning composer AR Rahman expressed that the criticism director Laxman Utekar's Chhaava received for being allegedly "divisive" had weight and that he also felt the same, the epic historical actioner's writer, Rishi Virmani, has stepped forward to react to these allegations. Claiming that it is almost impossible to alter a person's or a group's mindset with just a movie, he stated that he hadn't seen a film receive such levels of adulation in a long time. Maintaining that audiences have a mind of their own, Virmani noted that there have been quite a few instances where the masses contradicted filmmakers' theories, offering a movie a verdict that was the polar opposite of those predictions. "It is hard to believe that an entire mindset can be changed in just a couple of hours of screen time," he noted during a conversation with Zoom. He added, "I have not seen this kind of attachment of the audience towards a film in a really long time." Based on the life of Sambhaji, the second ruler of the Maratha Empire, Chhaava was an adaptation of the Marathi novel of the same title, written by noted author Shivaji Sawant. The story and screenplay of the Bollywood film were penned by director Laxman Utekar and Rishi Virmani, along with Kaustubh Savarkar, Unman Bankar, and Omkar Mahajan. Virmani also penned the film's dialogues. Maintaining that Sambhaji should have received cinematic honour and tribute long ago, he added, "I hope and pray that Chhaava and Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj make it to everyone's hearts, nationally and internationally." While Vicky Kaushal played Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj, Rashmika Mandanna portrayed his wife, Yesubai Bhonsale, and Akshaye Khanna took on the role of Mughal emperor Aurangzeb. Chhaava featured music and background score by AR Rahman, cinematography by Saurabh Goswami, and editing by Manish Pradhan. Mounted on a reported budget of Rs 130 crore, the movie grossed Rs 807.91 crore worldwide, according to industry tracker Sacnilk, becoming the third-highest-grossing Indian film of 2025, behind Dhurandhar (Rs 1,305.35 crore) and Kantara: Chapter 1 (Rs 852.36 crore). While the movie became a massive success, it also sparked a communal riot in Nagpur, Maharashtra. Eventually, Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis reportedly claimed that the "Chhaava movie ignited people's anger against Aurangzeb." In a conversation with the BBC Asian Network last month, AR Rahman also attested to the claims that the historical actioner was, in fact, problematic. "It is a divisive film. I think it cashed in on divisiveness, but I think the core of it is to show bravery. I had asked the director: 'Why did he need me for this film?' He replied, 'We need only you for this.' It is an enjoyable film, but definitely, people are smarter than that. Do you think people are going to get influenced by movies? They have something called internal conscience, which knows what the truth is, and what manipulation is."

Tamannaah Bhatia launches bootstrapped fine jewellery line; prices range from the Rs 90,000 to over Rs 11 lakh

Staff Reporter, Mumbai, 22 February: Twenty years after becoming an actor, and performing across the Hindi, Tamil, and Telugu film industries, Tamannaah Bhatia has now turned an entrepreneur. She's launched a fine jewellery line, completely bootstrapped, with its flagship store in Juhu, Mumbai. Tamannaah also plans to open stores in cities like Hyderabad, Chennai, and New Delhi, among others. The price range of Tamannaah Fine Jewellery starts at over Rs 90,000 and goes up to more than Rs 11 lakh. "The prices are extremely competitive, given everything in the market, the gold prices, the value that the product itself has. We've been conscious that India is a value-based consumer. They're informed consumers because even I'd shop for jewellery like that," Tamannaah said in a recent interview. "Buying jewellery is a part of our culture in India. So, fine jewellery is not just us buying for ornamentation. It's part-investment, part-emotion. It has so many elements," the actor-turned-entrepreneur told CNBC-TV18. She also argued that while clothes keep changing, fine jewellery is expected to outlive even its owners. "I might be able to pass on my jewellery. But I'll naturally let go of my clothes because I'll outgrow them. But your fine jewellery is going to actually stay beyond you," said Tamannaah Bhatia. She also claimed using mostly natural diamonds instead of resorting to lab-grown diamonds for her brand. She added that the price of lab-grown diamonds has already fallen by 80% ever since they entered the market. "The fact that natural diamonds come from the earth and are a little over a million years old, that gives them strength. That means something. Versus lab, which is a technology. As technology gets better, it's definitely going to be mass-produced. So, that day may not be far when lab-grown diamonds come out of a vending machine. Someday, it'll become mass. So, luxury and mass can't be the same thing," argued Tamannaah. She added that mass production is going to diminish the prices of lab-grown diamonds since they're man-made. Tamannah Bhatia also recalled how she's come a long way since she began working at the age of 15. She was then supported financially by her parents, particularly her father who continues to guide her financial decisions. It was only after she turned 18 that she became financially independent and began investing across various avenues, including jewellery and real estate. "For actors, especially, it happens a lot that you might be able to consistently make a lot of money. But if you don't save it at the right time or you don't find ways of multiplying it, you finally realize not much of it is left," confessed Tamannaah. On the acting front, Tamannah Bhatia was last seen in Vishal Bhardwaj's romantic thriller O Romeo. She'll be next seen in Vvan – Force of the Forest.

Rajpal Yadav says he is yet to check his phone and thank 'long list' of well-wishers after release from jail in cheque bounce case: 'My wife told me...'

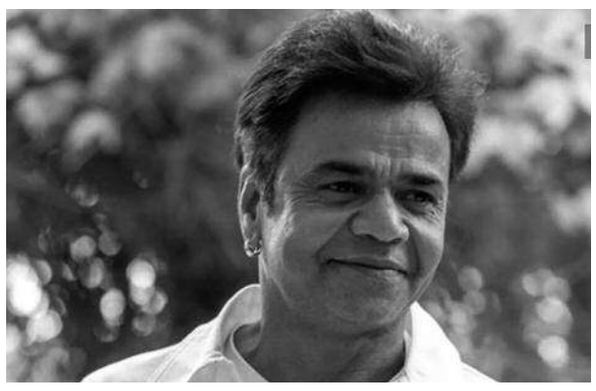
Staff Reporter, Mumbai, 22 February: Actor Rajpal Yadav walked out of Tihar Jail on Tuesday evening after the Delhi High Court permitted his temporary release from jail in a cheque bounce case. He was granted relief after submitting Rs 1.5 crore to the complainant. Yadav had sought bail citing a marriage in his family on February 19.

A couple of days later, he was seen dancing at his niece's wedding in his native village in Uttar Pradesh. In a new interview there, Rajpal once again expressed his gratitude to the fans and the film industry, including Mujhse Shaadi Karogi (2004) co-star Salman Khan, for their support, monetary and otherwise, which helped him endure the trying days inside Tihar Jail.

"I moved to Mumbai in 1997, and it's going to be 30 years in 2027," Rajpal Yadav told UP Tak, adding, "I've got so much love that thanking them is making them feel small. The audience across the world and all ages smile whenever they see me. And I smile back looking at them smile. I've spent half a century just smiling like that. I've lived over 500 lives through all the roles I've done across theatre, film, and television."

The actor also added that he's grateful to not only those who extended public support on social media, but even those who reached out to him or his wife Radha personally. "I thank everyone who poured in their support on social media. And those who haven't come on social media, and never will, there's a long list there too. When I got out of jail, my wife told me how many people have reached out personally. I haven't even checked my phone properly yet," said Rajpal.

He also heaped praise on his wife and how she's stood with him like a rock over the years. Rajpal added, "It's my good fortune that my wife has taught me how to conduct myself in life. It's been 23 years since we got married in 2003. After my mother, she's fulfilled my life's dream by raising my kids so well. She's educated the next generation. What can be better than that?"



Rajpal Yadav also thanked Nawazuddin Siddiqui for calling him a great support system during his struggling days in Mumbai, when the latter would eat every day at the former's home. "He didn't eat at my place. That was his home, his food. Because I got work thanks to him. There were 10-15 actors from different states, but it didn't matter who had work or who didn't. What mattered was that we all ate together, laughing every evening. He gave me the credit, that's his nobility. But none of that was mine. It was only his," said Rajpal.

The court has directed Rajpal to surrender his passport and not leave the country without prior permission. It also ordered him to remain present, either physically or virtually, on the next date of hearing on March 18. "When I got out of jail, I gave the whole country a byte very seriously that I'll give the context of this case with a proper legal team at a press conference. I may not speak about it again after that, but please give me some time to present my side of the story before you," added Rajpal.

Rajpal Yadav was recently imprisoned in Delhi's Tihar Jail after Delhi HIgh Court's verdict in the Rs 9 crore cheque bounce case. Earlier this week, he got bail. When Rajpal was imprisoned, many film celebrities offered to help him monetarily and the actor has now opened up about his time in prison, and why he raised a demand for a smoking section. He also spoke about those who came forward to offer him help, but the actor remained cagey about why he has been unable to repay his loan amount.

Nick Jonas serves 'jiju' goals wearing Priyanka Chopra's mangalsutra-inspired bracelet

Staff Reporter, Mumbai, 22 February: Nick Jonas, lovingly dubbed 'jiju' by Indians, has recently won hearts by flaunting wife Priyanka Chopra's mangalsutra wrapped around his wrist like a bracelet. In his latest Instagram posts, we can see the pop singer promoting Chopra's latest movie release, The Bluff, with great enthusiasm. But it was his accessory that caught netizens' eye.

Nick Jonas turned cheerleader for his wife, Priyanka Chopra, ahead of the release of her upcoming Prime Video film The Bluff by making a cocktail inspired by her character, Bloody Mary. In the video shared online, viewers also noticed that Nick was wearing a bracelet, which was actually a Nazariya bracelet, although many users mistook it for a mangalsutra worn as a bracelet. He later appeared with the same bracelet at the film's red-carpet premiere.

In the clip, Jonas is seen preparing the drink while speaking about the film. He said, "Guys, it is the premiere of Priyanka's film The Bluff on Amazon Prime. It is incredible; I have seen it twice. Her character name is Bloody M, so I will make a Bloody Mary."

The moment drew widespread attention on social media. One wrote, "Oh he is wearing mangalsutra bracelet yaar," while another commented, "He wears mangalsutra bracelet." Other comments read, "Jiju Mangalsutra bracelet," and "Mangalsutra bracelet, how cute."

Ahead of Priyanka Chopra's wedding in 2018, a similar confusion had surfaced online. Speculation grew that the actor had secretly married after she posted a photo wearing a bracelet that appeared to be a mangalsutra.



The rumours intensified until Chopra addressed them directly. She posted another picture on Twitter showing the same accessory and clarified in the caption that it was "an evil eye," not a mangalsutra. Her full caption read: "Hahahah! heights of speculation! This is an evil eye guys! Calm down! I'll tell u when I get married and it won't be a secret! Lol."

He then mixed the cocktail, adding a generous amount of Tabasco - something fans felt matched Priyanka's fiery on-screen persona. After finishing the drink, Jonas handed it to Chopra. She tasted it and said, "You have the best recipes." He captioned the post, "Bloody Maria for Bloody Mary.

Priyanka Chopra is currently busy with the promotions of her upcoming Hollywood film The Bluff. After being one of the top actresses in Bollywood, Priyanka has been making waves in Hollywood by headlining several international projects. Recently, in an interaction, Priyanka admitted that she often has to "bluff herself" into feeling confident when she enters a room full of people she doesn't know.

Speaking to India Today, Priyanka said, "If you're bluffing yourself to gain confidence that is absolutely normal and it is human behaviour. We all do it. When you talk to yourself into something and give yourself extra boost of confidence that you needed. I have needed that my whole career. I would tell myself that 'You own this room, Queen'. I don't, but I tell myself that so I walk that way and feel that way because all of us get nervous in new environments and meeting you people."

Editorial

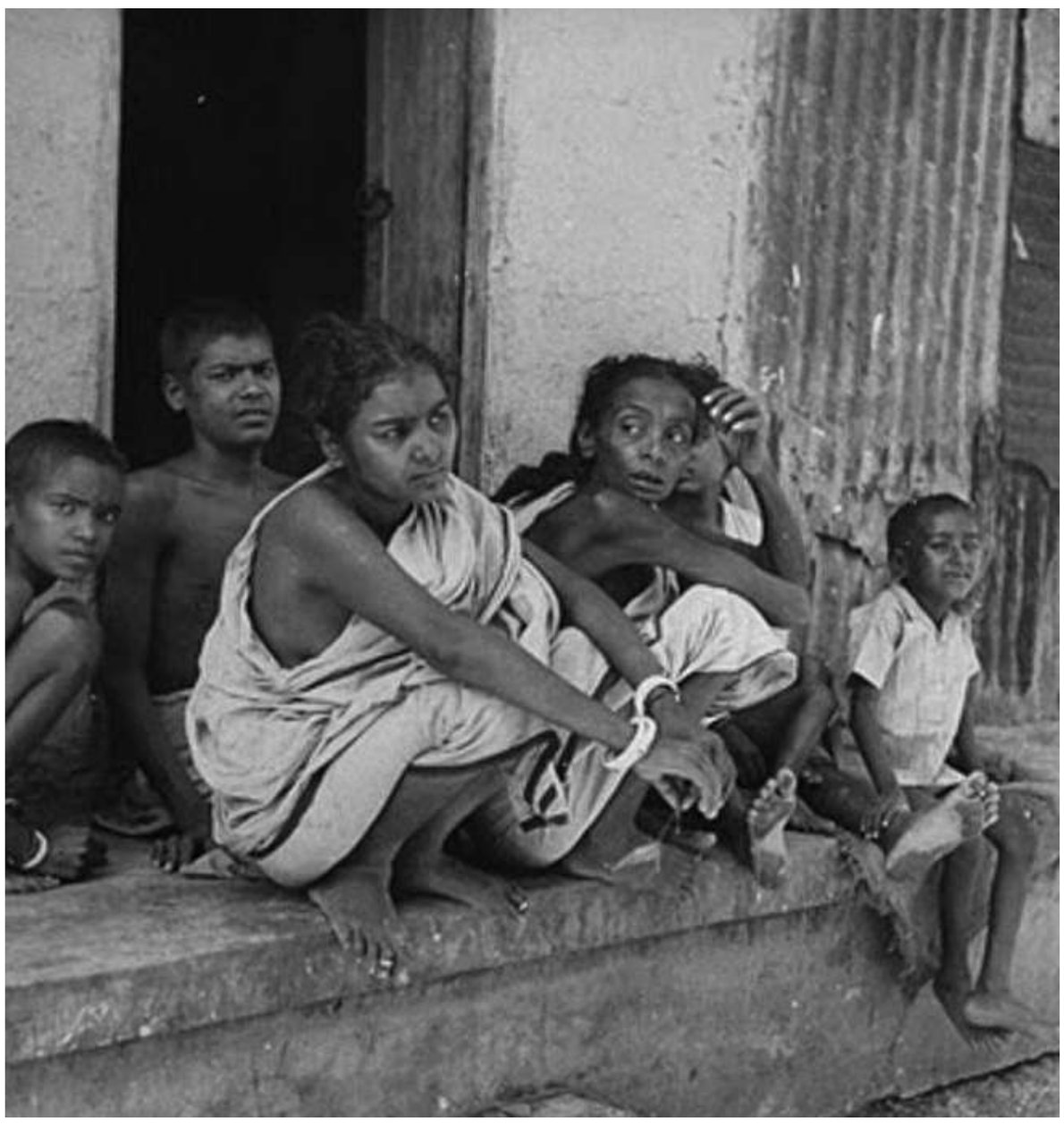
In Every Mother Tongue, a Universe: Celebrating Identity on International Mother Language Day

Every language is a heartbeat. It carries lullabies whispered in the dark, proverbs shaped by generations, and the unspoken warmth of belonging. On International Mother Language Day, the world pauses to honor this intimate bond between speech and soul—a reminder that humanity's greatest treasure is not gold or territory, but words shaped in the cadence of home. The observance, proclaimed by UNESCO, commemorates the historic Language Movement of 1952, when students in Dhaka sacrificed their lives defending the right to speak Bangla. That movement would eventually inspire the birth of Bangladesh and stand as a testament to the power of linguistic identity. Their courage echoes every February 21, reminding us that language is more than grammar and vocabulary—it is dignity. Across continents, thousands of languages bloom like wildflowers, each rooted in unique landscapes of memory and meaning. Yet many are endangered, fading under the weight of globalization and homogenization. When a language dies, an entire worldview disappears. Stories that once traveled by word of mouth vanish. Indigenous knowledge about forests, rivers and stars dissolves into silence.

Mother tongues are the first mirrors in which we see ourselves. They shape our earliest emotions, our ways of thinking, even our humor. A child learns empathy, discipline and curiosity in the rhythms of their native speech. Research consistently affirms that education in one's mother language strengthens cognitive development and confidence. Yet millions of children around the world still begin their schooling in unfamiliar languages, creating invisible barriers to understanding. The celebration of mother languages is not an argument against multilingualism. On the contrary, linguistic diversity enriches global dialogue. To cherish one's own tongue while learning others is to build bridges without erasing roots. Nations such as India, South Africa and Canada embody this mosaic of voices, where multiple languages coexist and inform national identity. In India, the constitutional recognition of 22 scheduled languages reflects a profound respect for diversity. From the lyrical grace of Bengali and Tamil to the robust rhythms of Punjabi and Marathi, each language carries centuries of literature, philosophy and resistance. Protecting these tongues is not merely a cultural duty; it is a democratic imperative. echnology presents both promise and peril. Digital platforms often prioritize dominant languages, sidelining smaller ones. Yet the same technology can archive oral histories, develop translation tools and amplify regional voices. Social media campaigns, podcasts and online publications now give marginalized languages renewed visibility. The challenge lies in ensuring equitable digital representation so that no voice is left behind. International Mother Language Day also invites introspection about cultural pride. Too often, colonial legacies and economic pressures have led communities to devalue their native speech in favor of global lingua francas. Fluency in international languages can open doors, but it should not require closing the door on heritage. True progress embraces both local identity and global connectivity. Governments and institutions bear responsibility in this endeavor. Policies that encourage mother-tongue education, fund translation initiatives and support local publishing can safeguard linguistic ecosystems. Universities can promote research into endangered languages. Media houses can spotlight regional literature and storytelling traditions. The arts remain powerful custodians of language. Poetry, cinema and music breathe life into words that textbooks alone cannot sustain. When a song in a native dialect resonates on a global stage, it affirms that authenticity transcends borders. Cultural festivals and literary fairs can further celebrate this vibrancy, turning preservation into celebration rather than obligation.Yet preservation must not become nostalgia. Languages evolve; they borrow and adapt. Youth slang, digital abbreviations and cross-cultural expressions are signs of vitality. The goal is not to freeze languages in time but to nurture their living pulse. On this day of reflection, let us remember that linguistic diversity is intertwined with human rights. The freedom to speak one's mother tongue is inseparable from the freedom to think and to belong.

Guardians of Memory:

Why the History of Bengalis Must Never Fade



The history of Bengalis—layered with renaissance, rebellion, resilience and relentless creativity—is not merely a regional chronicle; it is a luminous chapter in the broader narrative of the Indian subcontinent. To forget it would be to dim a vital light that has illuminated art, politics, philosophy and freedom struggles for over two centuries. The story of Bengal is one of awakening. In the nineteenth century, what historians describe as the Bengal Renaissance transformed the cultural and intellectual landscape of colonial India. Visionaries like Raja Ram Mohan Roy challenged orthodoxy and championed social reform. Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar fought for women's education and widow remarriage, embedding compassion within reform. And towering above the cultural firmament stood Rabindranath Tagore, whose poetry and philosophy transcended borders, earning global acclaim while remaining deeply rooted in Bengali soil.

Yet Bengal's history is not confined to literary brilliance. It is etched in the courage of revolutionaries and the sacrifices of freedom fighters. Subhas Chandra Bose embodied defiance against colonial rule, galvanizing masses with the clarion call of independence. The partition of Bengal in 1905 ignited one of the earliest organized mass movements against British policy, demonstrating how cultural pride could evolve into political action. The trauma of the 1947 Partition further reshaped Bengali identity, dividing geography but not spirit. Language has always been the heartbeat of Bengali consciousness. The defense of linguistic dignity has shaped history itself, most poignantly during the Language Movement in what was then East Pakistan, a struggle that later contributed to the birth of Bangladesh in 1971. That movement reaffirmed a universal truth: language is not merely a tool of communication but a repository of identity and aspiration. The artistic legacy of Bengalis continues to resonate. From the cinematic genius of Satyajit Ray to the soul-stirring melodies of Kazi Nazrul Islam, Bengal has enriched global culture with voices of extraordinary depth. Its painters, playwrights and thinkers have consistently pushed boundaries, blending introspection with innovation. The city of Kolkata, often described as the cultural capital of India, has long served as a crucible of debate and creativity.

But history is not solely a parade of luminaries. It is also the story of ordinary people—the farmers who tilled fertile deltas, the artisans who shaped terracotta temples, the teachers who nurtured generations of students. The social fabric of Bengal, woven from rural simplicity and urban intellectualism, reflects a unique balance of tradition and progress. Why, then, must this history be vigilantly remembered? Because memory shapes identity, and identity shapes destiny. In an era of rapid globalization and digital distraction, regional histories risk being overshadowed by homogenized narratives. When younger generations grow detached from their roots, they lose access to the moral and intellectual inheritance that once defined their community's strength. For Bengalis, that inheritance includes a tradition of questioning authority and embracing reform. The region has often stood at the forefront of progressive thought, advocating secularism, education and social justice. Forgetting this legacy could weaken the spirit of inquiry that has historically fueled innovation and activism.

Moreover, preserving Bengali history fosters unity within diversity. India's strength lies in its mosaic of cultures, each contributing distinct colors to the national canvas. Recognizing Bengal's contributions enhances, rather than diminishes, collective pride. The achievements of Bengalis in science, literature and politics are not isolated triumphs; they are threads woven into the larger tapestry of Indian and global heritage. Educational institutions, media and cultural organizations carry responsibility in this endeavor. Curriculum must present history not as dry chronology but as living narrative. Museums and archives should be supported to safeguard manuscripts, artifacts and oral histories. Literature and cinema must continue to reinterpret the past for contemporary audiences, ensuring that memory remains dynamic rather than static.

The act of remembrance is not nostalgia; it is affirmation. When Bengalis recall the resilience shown during famine, partition and political upheaval, they draw lessons in endurance. When they celebrate the renaissance spirit that challenged social injustice, they reaffirm commitment to equality and enlightenment. History also cautions. It reminds society of divisions that once caused pain and of ideologies that threatened harmony.

By remembering, communities learn to navigate the present with greater wisdom. Amnesia, by contrast, invites repetition of mistakes. In safeguarding the history of Bengalis, we safeguard a tradition of creativity, courage and compassion. We honor poets who dreamed beyond borders, revolutionaries who defied empire, and reformers who reimagined society. We preserve not only events but values—curiosity, resilience, empathy. As the world accelerates into an uncertain future, anchored memory becomes ever more essential. The story of Bengal is a testament to how culture can inspire change and how language can ignite liberation. To let that story fade would be to relinquish a vital compass.

When Captains Speak: A Boundary Line Drawn Between Politics and the Spirit of Cricket



In a nation where cricket is more than a game and often a metaphor for identity, resilience and pride, an extraordinary gesture has stirred both hope and debate. Fourteen former cricket captains from across the globe have penned an open letter to the Prime Minister of Pakistan, urging fairness and justice for Imran Khan—a man who once led Pakistan to its greatest cricketing triumph before stepping into the turbulent arena of politics. Their collective voice is not merely about one individual; it is a plea to rescue sport from the tightening grip of political crossfire. Imran Khan's journey is unique in modern history. As captain of Pakistan's national cricket team, he famously lifted the trophy at the Cricket World Cup, transforming a struggling side into world champions. That moment at Melbourne became part of Pakistan's collective memory, a symbol of belief against odds. Years later, he would channel that same conviction into politics, eventually rising to become the country's prime minister. His fall from power and the controversies surrounding his arrest and legal battles have deeply polarized Pakistani society. The open letter from former captains, however, seeks to transcend partisanship. It does not attempt to adjudicate political disputes. Instead, it frames its concern around principles—due process, dignity and the safeguarding of democratic norms. The signatories, veterans of cricketing wars and ambassadors of sportsmanship, remind Pakistan's leadership that justice must not appear selective or vindictive. When celebrated athletes step into politics, they do not forfeit their right to fairness. What makes this intervention remarkable is its symbolism. Cricket captains are custodians of discipline and unity. They understand that without rules applied impartially, the game descends into chaos. Their appeal echoes the ethos of cricket itself—a sport that prizes integrity as highly as victory. By speaking out, these former leaders have drawn a metaphorical boundary line, warning against the intrusion of political rancor into the sanctity of sport's legacy. Pakistan's cricketing history is intertwined with national pride. From legendary fast bowlers to mercurial batsmen, the sport has offered moments of joy in times of turmoil. When politics overshadows these achievements, it risks eroding a shared cultural treasure. The letter thus becomes more than an expression of solidarity; it is a defense of the game's unifying power. Critics may argue that athletes should refrain from political commentary. Yet history tells another story. Sports figures have often used their stature to advocate for justice and reform. When former captains—figures respected for leadership under pressure—raise their voices, they do so not lightly but with awareness of their influence. Their intervention suggests that the boundary between sport and society is porous, and that silence in moments of perceived injustice can be as consequential as speech. The deeper question is whether politics should so tightly grip sport that reputations built on fields of honor become casualties of power struggles. In many countries, cricket boards and sporting bodies have wrestled with political interference. Such entanglements can compromise meritocracy and damage credibility. The captains' letter implicitly warns against this slippery slope. For Pakistan, a nation navigating complex political currents, the message carries both caution and hope. It calls for institutions strong enough to handle dissent without descending into retribution. It reminds leaders that global perception matters. When international sports icons express concern, the world listens. At its heart, the letter is a reaffirmation of cricket's moral vocabulary—fair play, respect, and resilience. It evokes the image of a captain walking out for the toss, knowing that regardless of the outcome, the match must be contested within the spirit of the game. That spirit is now invoked in the political arena. Imran Khan remains a divisive figure. Admirers see him as a reformer challenging entrenched systems; detractors accuse him of governance failures and confrontational politics. Yet the captains' appeal does not demand political vindication. It asks only that the principles underpinning democracy—transparent trials, humane treatment, and impartial justice—be upheld.

There is also a poignant irony. The man who once united a team of diverse talents to conquer the world now finds himself at the center of a divided nation. The former captains, by invoking his cricketing legacy, subtly remind Pakistan of a time when collective belief overcame fragmentation. Ultimately, the open letter is not just about Imran Khan. It is about preserving the sanctity of sport from the corrosive effects of political vendetta.

Beyond the Campus Gates: Is the Galgotias University Incident a Mirror to a Deeper Malaise?



When a university makes headlines for the wrong reasons, it is tempting to treat the episode as an isolated lapse—a clash of tempers, a breakdown of discipline, an unfortunate misunderstanding magnified by social media. Yet the recent controversy surrounding Galgotias University invites a more uncomfortable question: was this merely a campus disturbance, or does it reveal a wider mindset quietly shaping our educational spaces?

Universities are meant to be sanctuaries of inquiry, debate and dissent. They are the arenas where ideas collide without fear, where youth challenge orthodoxy and institutions respond with dialogue rather than defensiveness. When conflict erupts within such spaces, the reflex to suppress, label or intimidate often says more about prevailing attitudes than about the specific trigger of unrest. The Galgotias episode, whatever its immediate provocation, has ignited debates about intolerance toward criticism, shrinking space for student voices and the uneasy relationship between authority and accountability. In the age of smartphones and instant virality, every confrontation is amplified. But amplification alone does not create discord; it merely exposes it. The deeper issue lies in whether institutions are prepared to engage constructively with dissent or whether they instinctively perceive it as defiance. Across India, campuses have increasingly become microcosms of societal polarization. Young minds absorb the anxieties, ambitions and divisions of the larger world. When disagreements escalate into hostility or when administrative responses appear heavy-handed, the campus ceases to be a laboratory of democracy and instead mirrors the fractures of the nation. The larger mindset at stake is one that conflates discipline with silence. Discipline is essential for any academic institution; chaos benefits no one. But discipline enforced without empathy breeds resentment. If students fear repercussions for raising grievances, genuine dialogue gives way to whispers and underground discontent. The result is not order but simmering unrest. Another dimension is the commodification of higher education. As private universities expand rapidly, brand image and reputation often take precedence. Negative publicity becomes an existential threat. In such an environment, the instinct may be to contain controversy swiftly rather than address its root causes transparently. When image management overshadows introspection, institutions risk prioritizing optics over ethics. The Galgotias controversy also compels reflection on the evolving student psyche. Today's students are more connected, more aware and more assertive than previous generations. They expect responsiveness and transparency. When expectations clash with rigid hierarchies, friction is inevitable. The challenge is not to suppress this assertiveness but to channel it productively.

Social media plays a pivotal role in shaping perceptions. A video clip, stripped of context, can inflame passions. Narratives form instantly, often before facts are verified. Institutions must therefore cultivate communication strategies rooted in openness rather than opacity. Silence in the digital era is rarely neutral; it is interpreted as guilt or indifference.

But to view the incident solely through the lens of administrative response would be incomplete. Society at large is wrestling with questions of tolerance, free expression and respect for difference. Universities, rather than being insulated from these debates, are often their frontline. If broader discourse becomes combative and unforgiving, campuses inevitably reflect that tone. The phrase "symptom of a larger mindset" suggests patterns beyond a single event. It implies that incidents recur because underlying attitudes remain unexamined.

Are we nurturing critical thinkers or merely credential seekers? Are we encouraging debate or demanding conformity? Are we equipping students with the courage to question and the humility to listen? Educational institutions must remember that authority commands respect when it demonstrates fairness and consistency. Students, too, bear responsibility to express dissent responsibly and engage in dialogue rather than disruption.

Mutual respect cannot be legislated; it must be cultivated. The path forward lies in restoring trust.

₹590 Crore Shock: IDFC First Bank Flags Massive Fraud in Haryana Government Accounts

IDFC First Bank has reported a staggering ₹590 crore fraud linked to accounts associated with the Haryana government. The disclosure has triggered intense scrutiny, with authorities racing to trace the flow of funds and identify those responsible for what is being described as one of the most significant financial irregularities in recent times.

According to official sources, the bank detected suspicious transactions during routine internal monitoring and compliance checks. The red flags reportedly pointed to unauthorized withdrawals and irregular fund transfers from accounts maintained for government-related purposes. Upon confirming anomalies, the bank promptly informed regulatory agencies and law enforcement authorities, setting the stage for a high-level investigation. The revelation has raised serious questions about financial oversight and internal control mechanisms within government-linked accounts. While preliminary findings suggest that forged documentation and possible collusion may have enabled the alleged fraud, investigators are carefully examining transaction trails to establish accountability.



Bank officials emphasized that customer deposits remain safe and that the institution has acted swiftly to contain any further exposure. The lender is said to be cooperating fully with investigative agencies, providing detailed transaction records and digital logs to aid the probe. The alleged fraud, amounting to ₹590 crore, is believed to have occurred over a specific period during which funds were systematically siphoned off. Experts indicate that such cases often involve layered transactions designed to obscure money trails, making forensic audits a critical component of the investigation. Financial analysts note that the incident underscores the growing importance of robust cybersecurity systems and multi-layered authentication protocols, particularly when handling large public funds. In recent years, banks have strengthened digital safeguards, yet complex fraud schemes continue to test institutional resilience.

The Haryana government has acknowledged the seriousness of the matter, assuring that strict action will be taken against those found guilty. Officials have indicated that internal reviews are underway to examine procedural lapses and reinforce safeguards in financial management systems.

Regulatory authorities are expected to evaluate whether any systemic weaknesses contributed to the breach. Observers suggest that the episode may prompt broader reforms in monitoring government accounts across banking institutions.

Markets reacted cautiously to the development, though analysts believe the long-term impact on the bank's financial health may depend on the outcome of the investigation and potential recovery measures. Provisions and insurance mechanisms, if applicable, could mitigate part of the financial exposure.

The incident serves as a stark reminder of the vulnerabilities that can arise even within structured financial systems. As investigators piece together the sequence of events, attention remains fixed on uncovering how such a large sum could move undetected for a period of time.

For now, the ₹590 crore fraud stands as a sobering episode in the nexus of banking and public administration. With accountability and transparency at stake, both the bank and the state machinery face mounting pressure to restore confidence and ensure that safeguards are fortified against future breaches.

IPO Rush Ahead: Investors Brace for 9 Public Issues Worth ₹4,400 Crore, Four Listings Next Week



Dalal Street is gearing up for a blockbuster week as primary markets prepare to witness a surge of activity, with nine public issues collectively aiming to raise around ₹4,400 crore. Alongside the fresh offerings, four companies are also lined up for listing, setting the stage for an action-packed stretch for investors and market watchers alike.

The robust pipeline reflects renewed investor confidence amid buoyant equity markets and strong retail participation. After months of steady momentum in the primary segment, the upcoming week signals a fresh burst of capital-raising activity across diverse sectors, including manufacturing, services, and technology-driven enterprises. Market analysts believe the timing is strategic. With benchmark indices holding firm and liquidity conditions remaining favorable, companies are seizing the opportunity to tap into investor appetite. The cumulative issue size of ₹4,400 crore underscores the scale of optimism in the market, as firms look to fund expansion plans, pare debt, and strengthen balance sheets.

The flurry of offerings is expected to draw participation from institutional investors as well as retail bidders, who have increasingly shown enthusiasm for IPO opportunities in recent months. Strong subscription trends seen in earlier issues have encouraged more companies to approach the capital markets. In addition to the nine public issues opening for subscription, four firms are scheduled to make their stock market debut next week. Their listing performance will be closely watched as an indicator of investor sentiment and market appetite. Positive listing gains could further fuel interest in the ongoing offerings, while muted debuts may prompt cautious bidding. Brokerage firms report heightened inquiries from clients seeking guidance on portfolio allocation amid the IPO rush. Experts advise investors to carefully evaluate fundamentals, valuations, and sector prospects rather than chasing short-term listing premiums. The primary market momentum also reflects broader economic resilience. Corporate earnings stability, steady domestic demand, and supportive macroeconomic indicators have combined to create a conducive environment for equity fundraising. Companies are leveraging this window to secure growth capital at competitive valuations.

However, market veterans caution that selectivity remains key. With multiple issues competing simultaneously for investor attention, oversubscription in some offerings may contrast with moderate interest in others. Diversification and thorough research are being emphasized as prudent strategies.

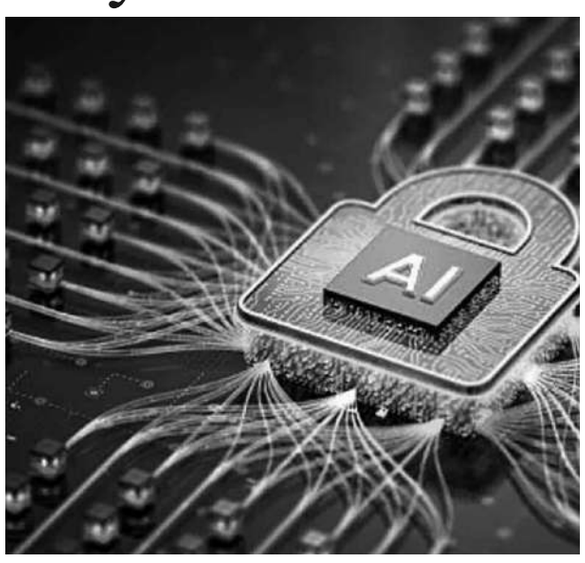
Regulatory oversight continues to ensure transparency and investor protection in the IPO process. Disclosures, risk factors, and use-of-proceeds details are under close scrutiny, reinforcing confidence in the system. As the week unfolds, Dalal Street is poised for heightened activity, with subscription numbers, grey market trends, and listing-day performances likely to dominate market conversations. The ₹4,400 crore fundraising drive marks yet another milestone in the vibrant revival of India's primary markets.

Claude Code Security Sparks Market Rout as Cybersecurity Stocks Lose Billions Overnight

A single announcement from AI powerhouse Anthropic was enough to send shockwaves through global markets, wiping billions of dollars off cybersecurity stocks in a matter of hours. The catalyst: a new artificial intelligence tool called Claude Code Security, designed to autonomously detect, analyze, and patch vulnerabilities in software systems with unprecedented speed and precision.

The unveiling of Claude Code Security marked a bold step into territory traditionally dominated by established cybersecurity firms. Built upon Anthropic's advanced large language model framework, the tool promises real-time threat detection, automated code review, and self-healing capabilities — features that analysts say could dramatically alter the economics of digital defense.

Investors reacted swiftly. Shares of several leading cybersecurity companies plunged sharply following the announcement, reflecting fears that AI-driven automation could disrupt existing business models. Market observers described the sell-off as a "knee-jerk but telling response," signaling how seriously investors are taking the competitive threat posed by AI-native solutions.



Claude Code Security is reportedly engineered to integrate directly into development pipelines, scanning millions of lines of code to identify weaknesses before they can be exploited. Beyond static analysis, it is designed to simulate potential attack vectors and recommend or implement fixes autonomously. In an era where ransomware attacks and data breaches have become commonplace, the promise of continuous AI-led vigilance appears both revolutionary and unsettling. Industry experts suggest that traditional cybersecurity firms may face mounting pressure to accelerate their own AI adoption strategies. While many companies already use machine learning to detect anomalies, the scale and autonomy claimed by Anthropic's new tool represent a significant leap forward. Supporters argue that the technology could democratize high-grade cybersecurity, making sophisticated protection accessible to smaller businesses that lack extensive security teams. Critics, however, caution that overreliance on automated systems could introduce new vulnerabilities if not paired with human oversight. Financial analysts note that the market reaction reflects more than immediate revenue concerns. It underscores a broader shift in how artificial intelligence is beginning to encroach on specialized professional services once considered insulated from automation. From coding assistants to automated compliance tools, AI is rapidly reshaping high-skill industries. Anthropic has positioned Claude Code Security as a complement rather than a replacement for existing security teams. Company representatives emphasized that human expertise remains critical in managing complex threat landscapes. Nevertheless, the efficiency gains promised by the tool have prompted speculation about reduced demand for certain manual security functions.

The timing of the launch is also significant. As global enterprises accelerate digital transformation, the scale of cyber threats has grown exponentially. Governments and corporations alike are searching for faster, smarter solutions to protect critical infrastructure and sensitive data.

Whether the initial market turbulence represents a te mporary adjustment or the beginning of a structural realignment remains to be seen. What is clear, however, is that AI's march into cybersecurity has entered a new phase.

Financial assistance to clubs to bring mobile-addicted youths to the field: Bapi Halder.



Mathurapur: MP from Mathurapur Lok Sabha constituency Bapi Halder has taken an important step to bring mobile-addicted youths to the field. With the financial support of Gangasagar Kapil Farmers Producer Company Limited and the initiative of MP from Mathurapur Lok Sabha constituency Bapi Halder, a meeting and financial assistance distribution ceremony was held this morning at Krishnachandrapur Vivekananda Community Hall of Krishnachandrapur Gram Panchayat in Block 1 of Mathurapur.

Present at the meeting were Mathurapur Lok Sabha MP Bapi Halder, Raidighi MLA Dr. Alok Jaldata, Mathurapur No. 1 Panchayat Samiti President and Block President Manabendra Halder, Mathurapur No. 2 Panchayat Samiti President Joy Bhushan Bhandari, Sundarban Police District Additional Superintendent of Police Zonal Kaustabhdipta Acharya, Mandir Bazar SDPO Prosenjit Das, BDO Somnath Manna, Sabuj Sangha leader Anshuman Das and other party leaders. From today's meeting stage, initially 51 clubs in 17 gram panchayat areas of Raidighi Vidhan Sabha constituency were handed over cheques of Rs 10,000 and two balls each.

After the program, Mathurapur Lok Sabha constituency MP Bapi Halder said, "This is our attempt to show them the path inspired by our leader Mamata Banerjee and our leader dear MP Abhishek Banerjee. Today, financial assistance and strength have been given to them to strengthen the club organizations.

The youth can take the village, block and society forward. Currently, the youth are addicted to mobile phones.

This is our initiative to make them field-oriented. We want the youth to be field-oriented, stand by the people and take th e club organizations forward."

Shark Tank-Famed Gully Labs Hit by Internal Fraud, Startup Loses ₹2 Lakh in Order Scam

Gully Labs, the homegrown streetwear startup that gained national attention on Shark Tank India, has reportedly suffered a financial setback of nearly ₹2 lakh after a newly hired employee executed fraudulent orders. The incident has sent ripples through the startup ecosystem, highlighting the operational risks that fast-growing companies often encounter as they scale. Gully Labs, celebrated for its bold designs and youth-centric branding, had emerged as a promising player in India's competitive fashion landscape following its television debut.

The exposure had boosted both brand visibility and sales, positioning the company as a rising name among digital-native apparel brands. According to sources familiar with the matter, the fraud came to light during an internal audit when irregularities were detected in order processing and payment records. The newly recruited employee allegedly manipulated the system to generate fake or unauthorized orders, resulting in financial losses estimated at ₹2 lakh. Company officials acted swiftly once discrepancies surfaced, initiating an internal review and tightening procedural safeguards. While the financial loss is not catastrophic, founders reportedly described the breach as a learning experience, underscoring the importance of robust internal controls even in early-stage ventures. Startups, particularly those riding a wave of rapid expansion after media exposure, often face pressure to onboard staff quickly to manage rising demand. Industry observers note that in the rush to scale operations, background verification and layered approval systems may sometimes lag behind business growth. Entrepreneurship experts suggest that the incident reflects broader challenges within India's booming startup ecosystem. As companies transition from small teams to structured organizations, establishing strong governance frameworks becomes essential to prevent internal vulnerabilities.

Gully Labs has reassured customers that business operations remain unaffected and that systems have been upgraded to prevent recurrence.

Dalal Street Braces for Volatility as Trump's 15% Tariff Move Rattles Global Markets

US President Donald Trump announced a sharp increase in tariffs to 15 percent, a move that has stirred fresh concerns across global financial markets. The unexpected escalation in trade duties has reignited fears of protectionism and potential ripple effects on international trade flows. Market participants anticipate heightened volatility as trading resumes, with export-oriented sectors likely to remain under pressure. Analysts say the tariff hike could impact global supply chains and weigh on investor sentiment, particularly in emerging markets like India that are closely linked to global trade dynamics. The announcement triggered immediate reactions in overseas markets, with investors reassessing risk exposure amid renewed trade tensions. Asian indices are expected to reflect caution in early trade, setting the tone for Indian equities. Traders suggest that benchmark indices may open on a weaker note, tracking global cues. On Dalal Street, sectors such as information technology, pharmaceuticals, and metals could see sharp movements depending on how the tariff hike affects US demand and currency fluctuations. Companies with significant exposure to the American market may face investor scrutiny, especially if higher tariffs dampen consumption or corporate spending in the US. Currency markets are also in focus. The Indian rupee may witness pressure if global risk appetite declines, potentially leading to capital outflows from emerging markets. Bond yields could react as investors seek safer assets amid uncertainty.

Market strategists, however, caution against panic. They point out that India's domestic growth story and strong macroeconomic fundamentals may cushion the impact. "While global trade tensions can create short-term turbulence, structural drivers of India's economy remain intact," a senior brokerage analyst observed.The tariff decision comes at a time when global markets were already navigating geopolitical uncertainties and fluctuating commodity prices. The renewed trade friction adds another layer of complexity, particularly for investors assessing global growth prospects.

Corporate earnings season and domestic policy developments will also influence market direction in the coming days. If companies report resilient numbers and policymakers signal stability, the impact of external shocks may be moderated.

Traders expect volatility-driven opportunities, with short-term investors likely to adopt a cautious approach. Defensive sectors such as FMCG and utilities could attract attention as safe havens if broader indices face pressure. Foreign institutional investor activity will be closely monitored.

Any signs of sustained selling could amplify market swings, while domestic institutional investors may step in to stabilize sentiment.

As the opening bell approaches, Dalal Street stands at a crossroads shaped by global trade rhetoric and investor psychology.

Name Change

I, MANNAN MANDAL S/o Late SIRAJUDAULA MANDAL residing at Vill.-Banglani, PO.-Bagangram Bazar, P.S. Bongaon, Dist. North 24 Parganas, Pin-712405 West Bengal, do hereby solemnly affirm & declare my actual name Mannan Mandal instead of Mannan Mondal and my father's actual name Sirajudaula Mandal instead of Sirajuddaula Mandal, vide an affidavit sworn before the Ld. Executive Magistrate at Bongaon, North 24 Parganas dated on 18/02/2026. MANNAN MANDAL S/o Late SIRAJUDAULA MANDAL and Mannan Mondal S/o Sirajuddaula Mandal both are same and one identical person.

Name Change

I, MANMATHA MONDAL S/O Lt. BRINDABAN MONDAL, Residing at Vill-Ranihati, PO-Ranihati, PS-Bagdah, Dist-North 24 Parganas, do hereby solemnly affirm and declare That Manmatha Mondal S/O Lt. Brindaban Mondal and Manmatha Mondal S/O Brindaban Mondal and Manmatha Mandal S/o Brindaban Mandal and Manmatha Mondal S/O Lt. Binod Mondal and Marmatha Mondal S/o Binod is one and same identical person having no difference vide an affidavit sworn before the Ld. Judicial Magistrate 1st Class at Bongaon, North 24 Parganas dated on 18/02/2026.

Name Change

I, Aungar Ali (old name) S/o- Rahim Sk residing at Baichitala, Madhyapara, Baichitala, Daulatabad, Dist-Murshidabad, Pin-742302 West Bengal, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from AUNGAR ALI to ANGAR ALI and henceforth I shall be known as ANGAR ALI (new name) in all purpose vide an affidavit sworn before the Notary Public at Murshidabad dated 20/02/2026. AUNGAR ALI (old name) and ANGAR ALI (new name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change

I, Suchitra Biswas (Old Name) W/O–Surath Haldar residing at Vill & PO-Kedarchandpur , PS-Nowda , Murshidabad, West Bengal 742133 do hereby declared that I have changed my name from Suchitra Biswas to Suchitra Biswas Haldar and henceforth I shall be known as Suchitra Biswas Haldar (new name) in all purpose, vide an affidavit sworn before the notary public Domkal court on 20/02/2026. My name Suchitra Biswas Haldar & Suchitra Biswas both are same and one identical person.

Name Change

I, Anjana Sarakr (Old Name) W/O–Ranjit Sarkar resident of Vill-Rustamnagar , Po-Nimtala Bazar , Ps-Haringhata , Dist-Ranaghat , West Bengal, Pin-741257 do hereby declared that I have changed my name from Anjana Sarakr to Anjana Sarkar and henceforth I shall be known as Anjana Sarkar (new name) in all purpose, vide an affidavit sworn before the notary public Domkal court on 20/02/2026. My name Anjana Sarkar & Anjana Sarakr both are same and one identical person.

Name Change

I, Soma Ghosh (Old Name) D/O–Sunil Ghosh resident of Vill-Patabukla , Po-Natna Pattabuka , Ps-Karimpur , Dist-Nadia , West Bengal, Pin-741122 do hereby declared that I have changed my religion from Hindu to Muslim & also I have changed my name from Soma Ghosh to Soma Khatun and henceforth I shall be known as Soma Khatun (new name) in all purpose, vide an affidavit sworn before the notary public Berhampore court on 20/08/2025.My name Soma Khatun & Soma Ghosh both are same and one identical person & my date of birth is 12/09/1993

Name Change

I, Pintu Biswas (Old Name) S/O–Debendranath Biswas resident of Tilakpur, Mahatpur, Chapra, Nadia, West Bengal, Pin-741164 do hereby declared that I have changed my name from Pintu Biswas to Pintu Kumar Biswas and henceforth I shall be known as Pintu Kumar Biswas (new name) in all purpose, vide an affidavit sworn before the notary public Domkal court on 20/02/2026. My name Pintu Kumar Biswas & Pintu Biswas both are same and one identical person.

Name Change

I, Sakirul Islam (Old Name) S/O–Hazrat Sk resident of Vill- Nutangram , Po-Talgachi , Ps- Murshidabad , Dist-Murshidabad , West Bengal, Pin-742149 do hereby declared that I have changed my name from Sakirul Islam to Sakirul Sk and henceforth I shall be known as Sakirul Sk (new name) in all purpose, vide an affidavit sworn before the notary public Domkal court on 20/02/2026. My name Sakirul Sk & Sakirul Islam both are same and one identical person.

Name Change

I SK ABDUL KADER and SEKH ABDUL KADER (Old Name) S/O Lt, SK ABDUL SUKUR, residing at, Vill-Hetesole, P.0 - Fulberia P.S-Garhbeta, Dist - Pashchim Medinipur, .W. B, Pin-No-721127. Have Changed my name and Shall henceforth be know as HAJI SEKH ABDUL KADER (New Name), As declared before the Ld. 1st class Judicial Magistrate Sadar Hooghly District Court Vide Affidavit (SL.NO 9811) Date 30-10-2025, SK ABDUL KADER and SEKH ABDUL KADER (Old Name) and HAJI SEKH ABDUL KADER (New Name) both one and the same are Identical person.

Name Change

I Ajijul Ali (old Name) S/o Sk Saugad residing at Vill- P.o-Marokhana, P.S-Khanakul Dist Hooghly, Pin-712417, W. B. Have changed my name and shall hence forth be know as Sekh Ajijul Ali (New Name) As declared before the Ld. 1st class Judicial Magestrate sadar Hooghly District court Vide Affidavit (SL-5483) Date 13.02.2026, Ajijul Ali (old Name) and Sekh Ajijul Ali (New Name) both one and the same are Identical person.

Name Change

I, SHAIKH ASMA RAFIQUE @ ASMA RAFIQUE SHAIKH @ SHAIKH ASMA RAFIK W/O- SK Jakir, resident of Sadarghat Road, Barabali Danga, P.O.- Sripally, P.S.- Burdwan, Dist.- Purba Bardhaman, West Bengal, PIN-713103, do hereby declare that I have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as 'ASMA RAFIQ SHAIKH' in all purpose vide affidavit No- 925, sworn before the Notary Public at Purba Bardhaman on 20/02/2026. That SHAIKH ASMA RAFIQUE, ASMA RAFIQUE SHAIKH, SHAIKH ASMA RAFIK and ASMA RAFIQ SHAIKH all are same and one identical person.

Allegations Rock Local Eatery as Biriyani Shop Owner's Wife Accused of Torturing Children Amid Affair Claims

Staff reporter, Kolkata, 22 February: The wife of a local biriyani shop owner was accused of subjecting children to physical and mental torture, reportedly in connection with a suspected extramarital affair. The incident has triggered outrage among residents and prompted swift police intervention.

According to preliminary reports, the matter came to light after neighbours noticed repeated cries and signs of distress from the children inside the residence attached to the eatery. Concerned locals alerted authorities, who subsequently reached the spot and initiated an inquiry. Medical examinations were conducted to assess the condition of the minors, and statements are being recorded as part of the ongoing investigation.

Sources familiar with the case claim that tensions within the family had been escalating for some time. Allegations suggest that domestic disputes linked to an alleged affair created a volatile atmosphere at home, which may have led to the children bearing the brunt of anger and frustration. Police officials, however, cautioned that all claims are being carefully verified and that conclusions will be drawn only after thorough investigation.

The accused woman has reportedly denied intentional wrongdoing, while investigators examine evidence including witness testimonies and medical reports. Authorities have registered a case under relevant sections pertaining to child protection and domestic violence. Officials emphasized that the safety and well-being of the minors remain the top priority.

Child rights activists have condemned the alleged abuse, calling for strict enforcement of protective laws to safeguard minors from domestic harm. They stressed that personal disputes or marital conflicts can never justify violence against children, who are among the most vulnerable members of society.

The local community has reacted with shock, particularly given the family's known presence through their popular biriyani outlet. Many expressed disbelief that such incidents could unfold behind closed doors in an otherwise bustling neighbourhood.

Law enforcement agencies have assured that the investigation will proceed impartially and transparently. If the allegations are substantiated, stringent legal action is expected to follow.

Authorities have also indicated that counselling and support services will be arranged for the affected children to help them cope with trauma.

The case underscores the often-hidden struggles within households where personal conflicts can escalate into abuse. Experts reiterate the importance of early intervention, community vigilance, and accessible support systems to prevent such tragedies.



Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta offers prayers at Kalighat Temple, in Kolkata.

Election Requisition of Private Buses Threatens to Stall Daily Commute, Operators Seek Urgent Government

Staff reporter, Kolkata, 22 February: Transport services across several districts may soon face significant disruption as private buses are being requisitioned for poll duty, triggering concern among commuters and strong objections from bus operators' associations.As part of standard election logistics, authorities have begun identifying and acquiring private buses to ferry polling personnel, security forces, and election materials to remote and sensitive areas. While such requisition is a routine administrative practice during major elections, operators warn that the scale of this year's deployment could severely impact public transport services, particularly in rural and semi-urban belts where private buses form the backbone of daily connectivity.

Bus operators' associations have raised alarm over the potential fallout. They argue that withdrawing a substantial number of vehicles from regular routes will leave thousands of daily commuters — including office-goers, students, and small traders — struggling to find reliable transport. "Public convenience cannot be sidelined. We fully respect the election process, but alternative arrangements must be ensured," an association representative said.

The operators have demanded immediate government intervention, urging authorities to strike a balance between election requirements and uninterrupted transport services. They have sought compensation clarity, timely payments, and assurances that buses will not be held for extended periods beyond polling schedules.Commuters, too, are anxious. In many districts, private buses account for the majority of daily trips, especially in areas where government-run fleets are limited. With schools, markets, and offices functioning as usual, any sudden shortage of vehicles could cause overcrowding, delays, and fare hikes.

Election officials maintain that requisitioning vehicles is essential to conduct free and fair polls, particularly in geographically challenging zones. They assert that the process is being carried out under established legal provisions and that steps are being taken to minimize inconvenience. Officials have also indicated that staggered deployment and route planning are under consideration to ease pressure on essential services.

Transport experts note that election logistics in a populous state require massive coordination, often involving thousands of vehicles. However, they emphasize that proactive planning and dialogue with stakeholders are crucial to prevent public dissatisfaction.

The issue has taken on a political undertone as opposition leaders criticize the administration for not consulting operators in advance. They allege that inadequate planning could disrupt livelihoods and daily routines at a critical time. Meanwhile, the ruling establishment has assured that commuters' interests will be safeguarded and that necessary measures will be implemented to maintain service continuity.As polling dates draw nearer, uncertainty looms over bus depots and terminals. Many operators remain undecided about route operations once formal requisition orders are issued. Some fear financial strain if compensation fails to match operational costs, particularly amid rising fuel prices and maintenance expenses.

"A Decision for the People": Pratik-ur-Rahman's Wife Speaks Out After His Joining TMC

Staff reporter, Basirhat, 22 February: Political leader Pratik-ur-Rahman joining the All India Trinamool Congress, his wife has broken her silence, offering a deeply personal glimpse into the emotions and convictions behind the high-profile move that has stirred conversations across West Bengal's political landscape.

Speaking candidly, she described her husband's decision not as a sudden shift but as a carefully considered step rooted in his commitment to public service. "Politics is not only about parties, it is about people," she remarked, emphasizing that his entry into the Trinamool Congress was driven by a desire to work more closely with grassroots communities and contribute to development initiatives.

Her statement comes at a time when political realignments are under intense scrutiny ahead of crucial electoral battles. Rahman's decision to align with the ruling party has sparked debate among supporters and critics alike, with speculation surrounding the implications for local political equations.

In her remarks, she acknowledged that political transitions often invite criticism and skepticism. However, she urged observers to view the decision through the lens of service rather than strategy. "Every leader wants a platform where their voice can translate into real action," she said, suggesting that the move reflects her husband's belief that he can better address public concerns within his new political home.

Family members, she revealed, had long discussions before the decision was finalized. The shift, she explained, was not taken lightly but followed reflection on how best to continue meaningful engagement with constituents. "Our family stands united," she affirmed, reinforcing that the move carries both professional and personal conviction.

Political analysts note that such transitions can reshape local alliances and influence voter sentiment, particularly in closely contested constituencies. Rahman's entry into the TMC fold is being seen as a significant development in the evolving political chessboard of the state.Meanwhile, supporters of the Trinamool Congress have welcomed the inclusion, describing it as a strengthening of the party's outreach efforts. Party insiders suggest that Rahman's grassroots connect and organizational experience could bolster campaign strategies in key regions.

Despite the swirling political commentary, his wife's words have added a human dimension to the narrative. Beyond party lines and political strategy, her message underscored resilience, belief, and shared responsibility.

As West Bengal's political climate continues to heat up, personal testimonies like hers remind observers that behind every headline lies a family navigating change alongside public duty.

Dipendu Returns to Familiar Political Ground



SOURAV DAS

Basirhat, 22 February: Former MLA and footballer Dipendu Biswas officially rejoined the Trinamool Congress on Sunday at a joining programme held at the party's Basirhat organisational district office. He accepted the party flag from the district president during the ceremony.

Along with Biswas, former Basirhat Municipal Vice Chairman Partha Sarathi Bose, Congress leader Kader Sardar, and elected panchayat members and leaders from various political organisations—27 people in total—joined the Trinamool Congress.

In 2014, in the Basirhat South Assembly by-election, Biswas contested on a Trinamool ticket against Shamik Bhattacharya but lost. In the 2016 Assembly election, he again contested against Bhattacharya and won by more than 24,000 votes. He served as MLA of Basirhat South from 2016 to 2021. However, he did not receive a party ticket in 2021 and subsequently joined the Bharatiya Janata Party, which he left in 2022. Four years later, on Sunday afternoon, he formally returned to Trinamool.

For some time, Biswas had been seen alongside Trinamool leaders at various programmes in Basirhat and Kolkata, leading supporters to expect his return.

Speaking after rejoining, Biswas said he had joined the BJP only briefly and had not remained associated with them. He added that he had been attending Trinamool programmes for quite some time and felt good to return to the party where he began his political journey in 2014.

Following his formal induction, supporters flooded him with congratulations.

Bomb Recovery at Shantiniketan Hotel Triggers Political Firestorm in Birbhum

Staff reporter, Kolkata, 22 February: Birbhum after a bomb was recovered from a hotel in Shantiniketan, transforming the usually serene cultural hub into the epicenter of a heated political confrontation. The discovery, made during a police search operation, has not only raised serious security concerns but also ignited sharp exchanges between rival political camps.

Shantiniketan, the tranquil university town founded by Rabindranath Tagore, is globally known for its artistic heritage and peaceful environment. The recovery of an explosive device from a local hotel has therefore sent shockwaves through residents and visitors alike, disrupting the calm associated with the town's legacy.

According to police sources, the bomb was detected during routine checks prompted by specific intelligence inputs. Security personnel immediately cordoned off the premises, evacuated guests as a precautionary measure, and neutralized the explosive safely. No injuries were reported, but the incident has triggered widespread anxiety.

Authorities have launched a thorough investigation to determine how the explosive reached the hotel and whether it was intended for a specific target. Forensic teams examined the device, while investigators questioned hotel staff and scrutinized guest records to trace possible links.

The incident swiftly took on political overtones, with opposition leaders accusing the ruling establishment of failing to maintain law and order. They claimed that the presence of such a device in a prominent tourist area reflects a deteriorating security situation. In response, leaders of the ruling party countered that the swift police action demonstrates effective vigilance and proactive governance.

Birbhum, a district that has often witnessed intense political rivalry, now finds itself once again at the center of controversy. Political observers suggest that the bomb recovery may further escalate tensions in the region, particularly with electoral considerations looming in the background.

Local residents expressed concern over the potential impact on tourism, a key contributor to Shantiniketan's economy. Many fear that negative publicity could deter visitors during peak travel seasons.

Malda Migrant Assaulted in Madhya Pradesh for Speaking Bengali, Incident Triggers Outrage

Staff reporter, Malda, 22 February: A migrant worker from Malda district in West Bengal was reportedly assaulted in Madhya Pradesh for speaking in Bengali. The episode has ignited sharp reactions across political and social circles, raising urgent questions about the safety and dignity of migrant labourers working far from home.

According to initial reports, the worker, who had travelled to Madhya Pradesh in search of employment, was confronted by a group of individuals who objected to him speaking in his mother tongue. The confrontation reportedly escalated into violence, leaving the worker injured and shaken. Local authorities have since initiated an investigation, and police officials have assured that strict action will be taken against those responsible.

The victim, a resident of Malda, had been working in the state for several months. Family members back home described him as the sole breadwinner, who left his village to support his household through daily wage labour. News of the attack has sent waves of distress through his community, where relatives and neighbours expressed disbelief that language could become a trigger for violence.

Political leaders in West Bengal condemned the incident, calling it an attack not only on an individual but also on the constitutional right to freedom of expression and movement. They demanded immediate intervention from authorities in Madhya Pradesh to ensure justice and safeguard other Bengali-speaking workers in the region.

Migrant labourers form a crucial backbone of India's workforce, often travelling across states to seek livelihood opportunities in construction, manufacturing, and service sectors. Incidents like this, observers say, underscore the vulnerabilities they face, particularly when cultural and linguistic differences come into play.

Civil rights activists have also weighed in, describing the assault as a troubling sign of rising intolerance. They stressed that India's diversity has long been its strength and that every citizen has the right to speak their mother tongue without fear.

Officials in Madhya Pradesh have reportedly registered a case and are reviewing surveillance footage and witness statements. Senior police personnel stated that maintaining communal harmony and protecting migrant workers remains a priority. They urged the public to avoid spreading unverified information that could inflame tensions.

Back in Malda, community leaders have called for calm while seeking assurances from state authorities regarding the victim's safety. Efforts are underway to provide him with medical assistance and legal support.

The incident has once again drawn attention to the broader challenges faced by migrant workers across the country, from workplace exploitation to social discrimination. Analysts argue that stronger awareness campaigns and strict enforcement of anti-discrimination laws are essential to prevent such occurrences.

Met department forecasts light rain in south Bengal after long dry spell

Staff reporter, Kolkata, 22 February: The IMD forecast light to moderate rain in some south Bengal districts on Wednesday, after a long dry spell since October.

Minimum temperatures across all the southern districts will rise by two degrees Celsius over the next couple of days, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said.

The weatherman said that light to moderate rain is likely to occur on Wednesday in the south Bengal districts of Kolkata, Howrah, Hooghly, South and North 24 Parganas, Purba and Paschim Medinipur and Jhargram.

Light rain is also likely on Tuesday and Wednesday in the Sub-Himalayan districts of Darjeeling, Kalimpong, Jalpaiguri and Alipurduar, it said.The hill town of Darjeeling was the coldest in West Bengal on Sunday at 7.6 degrees Celsius, the IMD said.

Kolkata recorded a minimum temperature of 20.4 degrees Celsius, it added.

A depression forming in the Bay of Bengal is set to bring some wet weather to the region over the next 48 hours. While the clouds are moving in, there is no need to worry about major storms just yet.

"Serious Lack Of Judgement": Academics On Youth Congress' AI Summit Protest



Staff Reporter, New Delhi, 22 February: More than a hundred prominent academics from universities and research institutions across the country have issued a strongly worded joint statement, criticising the Indian Youth Congress protest at the India AI Impact Summit and calling the demonstration "regrettable", "ill-conceived", and detrimental to India's global technological standing.

The statement, released yesterday, underscores that the India AI Impact Summit represented a "defining national and civilizational moment" in which the country showcased its emergence as a serious technological power in the fourth Industrial Revolution. It argues that the protest risked undermining the credibility India has been steadily building in advanced technologies.

According to the academics, the summit was neither a partisan platform nor an event suitable for domestic political campaigns. Instead, it was an international forum where India presented its AI innovations and strategic vision. "Converting such a moment into an occasion for political demonstration reflects a serious lack of judgement," the signatories said, adding that elected representatives have a constitutional responsibility to avoid actions that may weaken India's global image.

The India AI Impact Summit featured one of the largest ever exhibitions of AI technologies in the country. As per the statement, 644 AI technologies were showcased, and CEOs of 41 major global tech giants participated in the event. The event brought together 326 exhibitors from 37 countries and attracted five lakh visitors. The summit saw investment commitments worth $250 billion, signalling significant worldwide confidence in India's AI ecosystem.

The unveiling of three indigenous Large Language Models was cited as a notable milestone. The academics argued that these developments mark India's transition from a technology adopter to a creator of foundational AI capabilities. Referring to the 2025 Stanford Global AI Vibrancy Index, the statement highlighted India's rank as third globally - behind only the US and China - and the first country from the Global South to enter this tier.

The signatories said any domestic political action appearing to echo narratives advanced by adversarial countries, such as China or Pakistan, requires scrutiny. They stressed that India's AI progress is a collective national achievement driven by scientists, engineers, universities, entrepreneurs and policymakers. The summit, they said, projected India's ambition to develop indigenous models, shape ethical governance structures, and assume leadership in the global AI landscape.

The statement was endorsed by top academics, including vice chancellors of major universities, former heads of institutions, professors of IITs and central universities and researchers and scholars from across the country.The academics concluded that the AI summit will be remembered as "a significant milestone in India's technological evolution" and called for national unity and responsibility in moments of global engagement.

Sharad Pawar Suffers From Dehydration, Hospitalised In Pune

Staff Reporter, Pune, 22 February: NCP (SP) president Sharad Pawar was admitted to a private hospital in Pune on Sunday after suffering from mild dehydration, doctors said.

The condition of the 85-year-old Rajya Sabha member was stable, they said.

"He has been admitted to the Ruby Hall Clinic for mild dehydration and requires intravenous fluids. His condition is stable. He will remain in the hospital for two days and is expected to be discharged thereafter," Dr Purvez Grant, chief cardiologist and chairman and managing trustee of the hospital, said in a statement.Dr Grant and Dr Abhijit Lodha, consultant physician at the hospital, were supervising his treatment.



Earlier, the former Union minister was admitted to the same hospital on February 9 following a chest infection and was discharged on February 14.



RJD working president Tejashwi Yadav addresses the gathering during the state-level birth anniversary celebration of Sant Shiromani Guru Ravidas at Miller High School ground, in Patna, Sunday.

"You Are Already Naked": PM Modi Slams Congress' Shirtless Protest



Staff Reporter, New Delhi, 22 February: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday hit out at Congress, accusing it of using a global event for its "dirty and naked politics" after its youth wing leaders staged a shirtless protest during the recent India AI Impact Summit in New Delhi. According to PM Modi, the protest showed how "ideologically bankrupt" and "impoverished" the grand old party has become.In a scathing jibe at Congress, PM Modi said, "You are already naked, then why did you feel the need to take off your clothes?"

"What the Congress leaders did there shows how ideologically bankrupt and impoverished the oldest party of the country has become. Congress is busy defaming its own country. Some political parties within the country cannot digest India's success. We just witnessed the world's largest AI conference in India. But what did the Congress and its ecosystem do? The Congress turned a global event for India into a platform for its dirty and naked politics," the PM said while addressing a gathering in Meerut.

"Congress leaders hate me, they want to dig my grave. They don't even hesitate to insult my mother. Congress should have remembered that the AI Global Summit was not a BJP event, and no BJP leader was present at that time. This was a national work. But Congress broke the decorum that day. This corrupt policy of Congress is being condemned by the entire country," he said.

The Prime Minister asserted that the Congress should have remembered the AI Summit was "not a BJP event'.

A group of Youth Congress workers on Friday barged into a hall at the AI Summit, shirtless, shouting slogans against the government over agreeing to a trade deal with the US. Some of the protesters were seen holding T-shirts with images of PM Modi and US President Donald Trump on them.

As the security staff and police deployed at the venue tried to stop the Youth Congress workers, they allegedly engaged in an argument with them.Four protesters, identified as Krishna Hari, Youth Congress national secretary; Kundan Yadav, Bihar Youth Congress state secretary; Ajay Kumar, UP Youth Congress vice president, and Narasimha Yadav, Youth Congress national coordinator - were arrested. They were produced before a court on Saturday, following which they sent to five days of police remand.

Ex-Assam Congress Chief Bhupen Borah Joins BJP Ahead Of Key Polls

Staff Reporter, New Delhi, 22 February: Former Assam Congress Chief Bhupen Kumar Borah officially left the Congress to join the BJP at Guwahati's Assam BJP leader quarters in the presence of Assam BJP chief Dilip Saikia today. Along with Borah, young Congress leaders like Sanju Baruah and Sarbanarayan Deori also joined the BJP.Bhupen Borah is a veteran politician who had been in Congress for the last 32 years.

Borah served two terms as a member of the Assam Legislative Assembly representing Bihpuria from 2006 to 2016. He was also the former president of Assam Pradesh Congress Committee (APCC) from 2021 to 2024.He was a spokesperson and parliamentary secretary for the Government of Assam during Tarun Gogoi's tenure. In 2013, he was appointed president of the Assam Pradesh Congress Committee.

Borah was vice-president of North Lakhimpur College Students' Union and general secretary of Dibrugarh University Postgraduate Students' Union.Born on October 30, 1970, in Pohumora, Lakhimpur, Borah graduated from North Lakhimpur College and Dibrugarh University. Borah gained prominence and established his ideas among the students at Dibrugarh University. Union minister Sarbananda Sonowal was also studying at Dibrugarh University at the same time as Borah, and both were a part of the All Assam Students' Union (AASU).

Gautam Adani Reviews Projects Worth Over Rs 40,000 Crore In Jharkhand, Bihar



Staff Reporter, Ranchi, 22 February: Adani Group Chairman Gautam Adani on Sunday visited project sites in Jharkhand and Bihar, reviewing major power investments to the tune of over Rs 40,000 crore, which underscore the conglomerate's expanding presence in eastern India.

At tribal-dominated Godda in Jharkhand, Adani reviewed operations at the 1,600 megawatt (MW) ultra-supercritical thermal power plant, built at an investment of over Rs 16,000 crore, a company spokesperson said.

The plant supplies electricity under a long-term agreement exclusively to Bangladesh, giving the project cross-border economic significance, he said.The facility claims to have generated thousands of direct and indirect jobs, and strengthened rail connectivity in the region.

In neighbouring Bihar, Adani reviewed progress of the group's planned 2,400 MW ultra-supercritical power project at Pirpainti near Bhagalpur, which entails an investment of over Rs 27,000 crore.It is expected to be commissioned over the next four to five years.

The project is aimed at supporting rising industrial and urban demand in the state, the spokesperson said.

Adani Power (APL), the country's largest private sector thermal power generator, in August last year received a Letter of Award (LoA) for a 25-year, long-term procurement of electricity from the Bihar State Power Generation Company Ltd (BSPGCL).

The projects position the Adani Group among the largest private sector infrastructure investors in Jharkhand and Bihar, states that have historically attracted limited large-scale industrial capital despite abundant natural resources, officials said.

During the visit, Adani interacted with engineers, technicians and frontline workers at the Godda facility, and also met tribal women from nearby communities.

Earlier in the day, Adani paid obeisance at the Baba Baidyanath temple in Jharkhand's Deoghar district.

He arrived in the temple town amid tight security and proceeded directly to the sanctum sanctorum to perform rituals at the 'jyotirlinga'.

A team of priests assisted the industrialist in the rituals, which included offerings of bel leaves, sacred water, and chanting of Vedic mantras.

Speaking to reporters after visiting the temple, Adani said he prayed for the prosperity and well-being of the nation."It was a long-pending desire to pray at Babadham," he said.

Baidyanath Dham, located in Jharkhand's Deoghar district, is one of the most significant pilgrimage destinations in eastern India that witnesses lakhs of devotees, especially during the holy month of 'Shravan'.

Rajya Sabha, Council Polls Spark Tussle In Maharashtra Opposition Camp



Staff Reporter, Mumbai, 22 February: The upcoming elections to the Rajya Sabha and the Maharashtra legislative council have triggered frenetic activity in the Opposition camp and sparked buzz of a tussle between the Shiv Sena (UBT), the Congress and the NCP (SP), partners in the Maha Vikas Aghadi.

Seven Rajya Sabha seats from Maharashtra are set to become vacant. Out of these seats, two are with the Congress, one is with the Sena (UBT) and another with NCP founder Sharad Pawar. MLAs vote in the election to the Rajya Sabha and owing to the NDA's stellar win in the 2024 Maharashtra election, six out of these seven seats are likely to go in its kitty. That leaves only one seat for the Opposition.

Sena (UBT) leader Uddhav Thackeray is reportedly planning to travel to Delhi to hold discussions with the Congress high command. Meanwhile, sources said, the NCP (SP) has not been part of preliminary talks, leading to speculation about equations within the Opposition camp.

Elections to 37 Rajya Sabha seats across 10 states are scheduled for March 16. The Maharashtra MPs retiring this year include NCP (SP) chief Sharad Pawar, Sena UBT's Priyanka Chaturvedi, and the Congress's Dr Fauzia Tahseen Ahmed Khan and Rajani Ashokrao Patil. The other three are the BJP's Dr Bhagwat Kishanrao Karad, Dhairyashil, and NDA ally Ramdas Bandu Athawale.To win each of these seven seats, 36 votes are needed. Maha Vikas Aghadi allies can, therefore, comfortably win one seat.

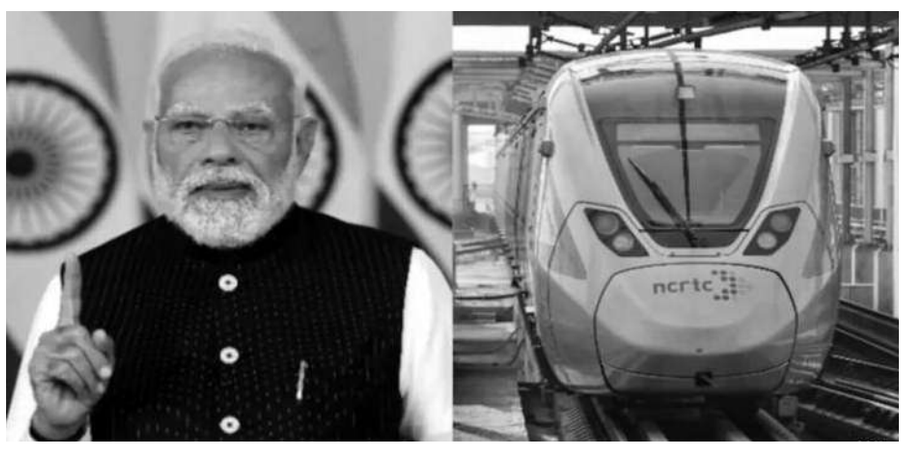
Sena (UBT)'s Sanjay Raut has said the allies will decide the issue through consultation. Earlier, Uddhav Thackeray's son Aditya Thackeray said the Sena (UBT) should get the Rajya Sabha seat based on the numbers in the Assembly. The Congress later said it should get a Rajya Sabha seat or a legislative council seat.

Raut, however, played down reports of differences between the partners. "Initial differences are normal. After all, this is politics. But we will decide by consultation. Congress's decision is taken in Delhi, while ours and NCP (SP)'s decision is taken in Mumbai. A lot will depend on Sharad Pawar's future plans," said Raut.

The Sena (UBT) has 20 MLAs, the Congress 16 and the NCP (SP) 10 in the 288-member Maharashtra assembly.Besides the seven Rajya Sabha seats, nine seats of the legislative council are also set to be vacant. One of these is held by the Sena (UBT) chief, Uddhav Thackeray. Twenty-nine votes will be required to win each of these nine seats. With 46 MLAs between them, the Maha Vikas Aghadi allies can comfortably win one seat.

While the Congress has said it should get a Rajya Sabha seat or a council seat, the Sena UBT has said Uddhav Thackeray is the chief of a political party to push its claim.

PM Modi To Launch India's Fastest Metro In Meerut, Namo Bharat Train Today



Staff Reporter, New Delhi, 22 February: Prime Minister Narendra Narendra Modi will visit Meerut, Uttar Pradesh, on Sunday to inaugurate and dedicate projects worth around Rs 12,930 crore. The PM will also inaugurate India's first Namo Bharat RRTS and dedicate the entire Delhi-Meerut Namo Bharat Corridor to the Nation.At around 12:30 PM, the Prime Minister will flag off the Meerut Metro and the Namo Bharat Train at Shatabdi Nagar Namo Bharat Station.

From there, PM Modi will undertake a Metro Ride till Meerut South Station. At around 1 PM, the Prime Minister will inaugurate and dedicate to the nation various development projects worth around Rs 12,930 crore in Meerut. He will also address the gathering on the occasion, according to the release.

The Prime Minister will dedicate the entire 82 km Delhi-Meerut Namo Bharat Corridor. He will inaugurate the remaining sections of India's first Namo Bharat Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS). These include the 5 km section between Sarai Kale Khan and New Ashok Nagar in Delhi and the 21 km section between Meerut South and Modipuram in Uttar Pradesh.

With a design speed of 180 km per hour, Namo Bharat is India's first Regional Rapid Transit System. It will connect major urban centres such as Sahibabad, Ghaziabad, Modinagar and Meerut with Delhi at a faster pace.

Sarai Kale Khan, the originating station of the corridor, is one of the four Namo Bharat stations to be commissioned with this inauguration. It is strategically located as a major multi-modal hub, seamlessly connecting Hazrat Nizamuddin Railway Station, Delhi Metro's Pink Line, Veer Haqeeqat Rai ISBT, and Ring Road. The other three Namo Bharat stations, Shatabdi Nagar, Begumpul and Modipuram, being commissioned are in Meerut.

According to the release, the Prime Minister will also inaugurate Meerut Metro services between Meerut South and Modipuram, operating on the same infrastructure as Namo Bharat, in a first-of-its-kind initiative in the country. Meerut Metro will be India's fastest metro system with a maximum operational speed of around 120 kmph. Metro will cover the entire stretch in just 30 minutes, with all the scheduled stoppages enroute.

Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Saturday informed that Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the Meerut Metro and the Delhi-Meerut Rapid Rail corridor on Sunday calling it a major gift for the people of the national capital. Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched Meerut's metro service and dedicated the full 82-km Delhi-Meerut rapid rail corridor to the nation. With an operational speed of 120 kmph, the Meerut Metro becomes the fastest system in India. The integrated network is expected to reduce travel time between Delhi and Meerut to around 55 minutes.

The Prime Minister flagged off both the Meerut Metro and the Namo Bharat train from Shatabdi Nagar station.During peak hours, trains will run every 5 to 10 minutes. In off-peak hours, the frequency will be 10 to 15 minutes.Services are expected to operate from 6:00 am to 10:00 pm on weekdays and Saturdays, and from 8:00 am to 10:00 pm on Sundays.

Passengers can travel on both Namo Bharat and the Meerut Metro with a single ticket. Fare details are yet to be announced. Platform screen doors will be installed at all stations and synchronised with train operations. Selective door opening through push buttons will help reduce energy use.

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England's Jacob Bethell plays a shot during the T20 World Cup cricket match between Sri Lanka and England in Pallekele, Sri Lanka, Sunday.

Spin subplot adds spice to game-plan gambles as India take on South Africa at Motera

Staff Reporter, New Delhi, 22 February: A close, detailed look at the pitch has been a regular practice at the training sessions Team India have had at the Narendra Modi Stadium going into their opening Super Eight game against South Africa on Sunday.India have certainly done well to remain unbeaten so far in their T20 World Cup def- ence, but the batting group hasn't had it too easy against spin. The black-soil wicket isn't expected to differ much from the surface used for India's clash against the Neth- erlands last Wednesday and should be having a bit of purchase for the spinners. India are set to bring back the more experienced Axar Patel in their XI, though it could be a toss-up between pacer Arshdeep Singh and left- arm wrist-spinner Kuldeep Yadav, depending on the sur- face's flatness. The nature of the pitch aside, the South African bowl- ing attack should pose a bigger threat to India than the ones they have faced so far in their campaign. With the Indian batters not being too comforta- ble against spin lately and los- ing early wickets to off-spin in particular, it won't be surpris- ing if skipper Aiden Markram brings himself on to bowl in- side the Powerplay. On Saturday, too, Markram bowled his off-spinners for a while at nets early in South Africa's training session. Cap- tain Suryakumar Yadav, however, believes India's retort to off-spin will be much better from Sunday onwards. "We have won all four games (in the group phase) where off-spinners bowled. Yes, we've gone up and down a bit. Hopefully, it will be much better from tomorrow (Sunday)," Surya said. The Motera conditions are no alien to the Proteas as they played three group stage games here. Moreover, the two sides had also squared off in a T201 here two months ago. For India, though, what matters is the readiness to ad- just to the conditions. "The wickets so far were not too challenging, but a little tricky. But at the end of the day, we've played enough cricket to un- derstand what kind of batting we need to do post Powerplay and then take it on. "The team has to play according to its requirements,"



Surya emphasised. Irfan Pathan believes that the Indian cricket team should not make major changes to the playing XI for the T20 World Cup Super 8 match against South Africa. Irfan suggested that India should make only one change - bring back Axar Patel in place of Washington Sundar. Axar was rested for the final group stage match against Netherlands and Pathan said that he should come back for the crucial match against the Proteas. The former India all-rounder also pointed out that the team management might be tempted to add Kuldeep Yadav to the side but considering Arshdeep Singh's brilliant record against Quinton De Kock, Pathan advised Suryakumar Yadav and Co to persist with the left-arm pacer. "I would not want India to make many changes to their playing XI. Axar Patel should come in place of Washington Sundar. You will say that we should go with an off-spinner or think about Kuldeep Yadav because of Quinton de Kock and Ryan Rickelton. But then there is no place for Arshdeep in that case. Arshdeep has dismissed Quinton de Kock four times. So, he can surely get that outside edge and take his wicket," Pathan said on YouTube. Meanwhile, Pathan praised South Africa's pace bowler Lungi Ngidi ahead of the Super Eight clash at Narendra Modi Stadium on Sunday.

Will Jacks stars again as England dismantle Lanka



Staff Reporter, New Delhi, 22 February: England have jumped to the top of Group 2 of the Super Eight with a dominant, Net Run Rate-boosting 51-run win over Sri Lanka in Pallekele. In pursuit of what should have been a manageable target of 147, the hosts were snuffed out for 95 in an error-strew innings that continued a grim 12-match losing streak to England, who lead Pakistan and New Zealand by a point after their washout on Saturday.

Yet again, Will Jacks came to the fore - only this time with the ball. After England had posted what looked an under-par 146 for 9 - Phil Salt's 62 the lone score of note in response to Dunith Wellalage's 3 for 26 - Jacks bowled four of the first eight overs of the run chase, pocketing 3 for 22 without breaking a sweat.Just as Wellalage had done in taking out three big English names - Jos Buttler, Harry Brook and Salt - Jacks' trio capped Sri Lanka's ambition. Kusal Mendis's push back to the off-spinner was quickly followed by Pavan Rathnayake launching high to Jacob Bethell at cover, before Wellalage failed to clear Jamie Overton at mid on.

Coupled with Jofra Archer's 2 for 20, which included star man Pathum Nissanka flicking to Overton at deep midwicket, Sri Lanka exited the powerplay on 34 for 5 and devoid of any real hope. It made England's 37 for 2 in their first six overs look far more measured, when in fact it was a patchy start typified by a labored 7 off 14 from Buttler, before he was trapped lbw to Wellalage.Sri Lanka's decision to bowl first after winning the toss - predicated on their comprehensive take down of Australia at this venue in the Group Stages - looked vindicated, even as Salt battled humid conditions to reach his first half-century of this World Cup - and second in all T20I editions - from 36 deliveries. That Jacks' 21 was England's second-highest score spoke to the awkwardness of the innings. Dasun Shanaka marshaled his attack well, helped by the consistent threat of Dilshan Madushanka (2 for 25) and Maheesh Theekshana (2 for 21). But Sri Lanka's captain was brought back down to earth when he found himself in the middle with a ball left of the sixth over.

Having thumped two sixes on his way to 30, an attempt at a third was brilliantly relayed on the midwicket fence to leave Sri Lanka 82 for 8, with all their full-time batters now back in the hutch. Naturally, Jacks was a key figure in that dismissal, taking the catch before casually lobbing it back into play, straight to Tom Banton. Dushmantha Chameera and Madushanka were the final two batters to fall, both bowled trying going for slogs, in keeping with a comically cavalier approach to a target that required sensible heads. And yet even with the all out attack, Sri Lanka could only muster 95 in 100 legal deliveries.

The pace-spin duo of Jofra Archer and Will Jacks tore through Sri Lanka's top-order after Phil Salt's 40-ball 62 to set up a sensational 51-run win for England in an eventful Super 8 fixture of the T20 World Cup on Sunday. After left-arm spinner Dunith Wellalage (3/26) did the star turn for a disciplined Sri Lankan attack to limit a scratchy England to 146 for nine, the islanders seemed to have the match under control. But speedster Jofra Archer and off-spinner all-rounder Jacks turned the game on its head in the second half, leaving Sri Lanka tottering at 34 for five in the sixth over in a total domination of the powerplay. Sri Lanka were eventually bowled out for 95 in 16.4 overs.

Jacks returned fine figures of 3/22 in four measly overs while Archer ended with 2/20 in three overs, and they were well supported by Liam Dawson (2/27 in 4 overs) and Adil Rashid (2/13 in 3.4 overs) as they wrapped up the lower-order and tail. In the end, Salt's knock too proved to be vital to the final outcome of the match, even as his other colleagues in the batting unit failed miserably. For Sri Lanka, skipper Dasun Shanaka was the top scorer with 30 off 24 balls.

Markram's SA bat first against India; no place for Axar



Staff Reporter, New Dlehi, 22 February: There were surprises aplenty as the coin went up between India and South Africa in Ahmedabad. All of it possibly points to a dry surface as Aiden Markram elected to bat first. Suryakumar Yadav said he would have done the same, but he was happy to be able to use the surface adjacent to the one they played Netherlands on.Markram said the black-soil pitch - same as the last match - was drier compared to the usual Ahmedabad surfaces, which should deny it the early tackiness that sides bowling first can use.There were no surprises in South Africa's choice of players. All four first-choice players - Lungi Ngidi, Marco Jansen, Keshav Maharaj, David Miller - came back after they were rested last game. Kagiso Rabada kept his place ahead of Anrich Nortje who did take two wickets in his only match.India pulled off another surprise, which might point to a surface that calls for early spin. They left out their vice-captain, left-arm spinner and spin disruptor with the bat, Axar Patel, for Washington Sundar. Suryakumar said that was a "tactical" decision which points to the possible early use of offspin against Quinton de Kock and Ryan Rickelton even though India's two quicks and Varun Chakravarthy have a good record against South Africa's top order. South Africa captain Aiden Markram has won the toss and opted to bat against India in their T20 World Cup Super Eight match at the Narendra Modi Stadium, Ahmedabad, tonight. Axar Patel stays on the bench as India play the same XI that featured in their last game against the Netherlands. Captain Suryakumar Yadav called the decision "harsh" on the all-rounder. On the other hand, the Proteas made four changes, roping in David Miller, Marco Jansen, Keshav Maharaj and Lungi Ngidi for Jason Smith, George Linde, Anrich Nortje and Kewna Maphaka. Aiden Markram takes the strike, Quinton de Kock is at the other end. Arshdeep Singh has the new ball in hand. Here we go! The left-arm pacer begins with a back of length ball outside off-stump and Markram has steered it to deep backward point for a single.

India: 1 Abhishek Sharma, 2 Ishan Kishan (wk), 3 Tilak Varma, 4 Suryakumar Yadav (capt.), 5 Hardik Pandya, 6 Rinku Singh, 7 Shivam Dube, 8 Washington Sundar, 9 Arshdeep Singh, 10 Jasprit Bumrah, 11 Varun Chakravarthy.

South Africa: 1 Aiden Markram (capt.), 2 Quinton de Kock (wk), 3 Ryan Rickelton, 4 Dewald Brevis, 5 Tristan Stubbs, 6 David Miller, 7 Marco Jansen, 8 Corbin Bosch, 9 Keshav Maharaj, Kagiso Rabada, 11 Lungi Ngidi.

Romario Shepherd could return against Zimbabwe as Sammy says 'everybody is available'



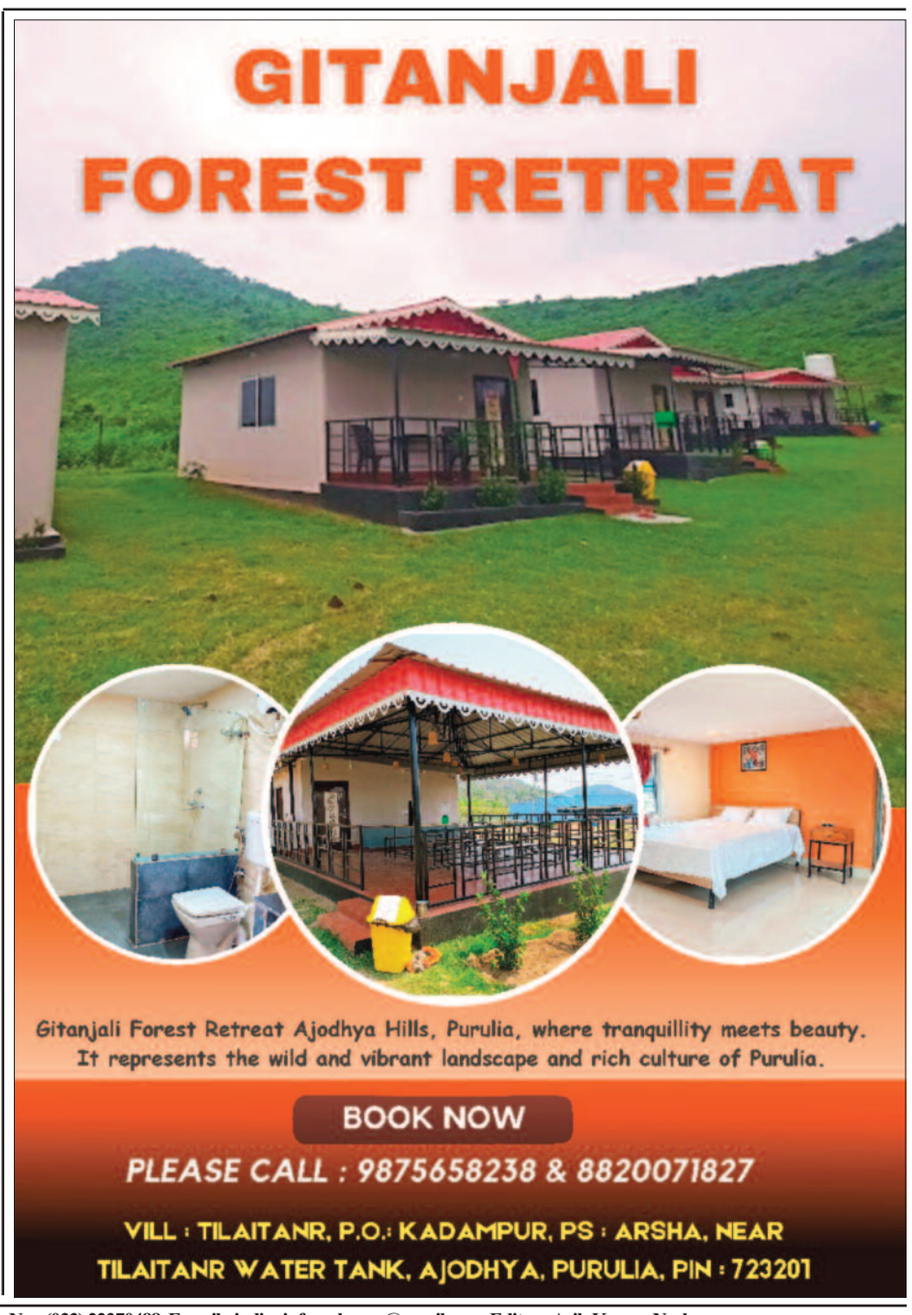
Staff Reporter, New Delhi, 22 February: Romario Shepherd, who has been on the sidelines for the past week, is a chance to play for West Indies in their first Super Eight game against Zimbabwe on Monday. The pitch used for the India vs USA game in Mumbai in the group stage will be used again. Shepherd, 31, lends a lot of power to the West Indies batting line-up, some of which he showcased at training on Saturday. With strapping running from his right knee all the way down to his calf, he was still launching balls up over the roof of the Wankhede Stadium. Teammates sitting and watching just behind the nets where he was batting welcomed him back after his hit with fanfare, which made Shepherd shadow bat the shot that cleared the ground - a front-foot swat over long-on. "He practised well yesterday," West Indies coach Daren Sammy said. "Bowled quite well, you know, hit the ball very, very cleanly. The good thing for us is that everybody is available for selection. Going into the Super Eight, that's what you want. So I'm glad to know and happy to know that all my soldiers are ready to go out to war." Shepherd was among the first at the nets on Sunday too, bowling off his usual run-up with little to no discomfort. He took a five-for against Scotland, including a hat-trick, earlier in the tournament but hasn't played since February 11. Sammy was able to step into the shoes of the opposition waiting for his team. "Zimbabwe missing out the last [T20] World Cup, you know," he said. "They are led well. Sikandar [Raza], very confident, he leads by example. And they've got six fans in the stands who sound like one million. So there are a lot of things that go for them. And I could understand from that standpoint where nobody gives you a chance - how you could use that as inspiration." West Indies have played four T20Is against Zimbabwe and won three of them. The one they lost happened 16 years ago, almost to the day, when the visitors to Port-of-Spain were able to defend a total of 105. Sammy was there that day, along with Ravi Rampaul, who is the team's bowling coach now. Sammy offered his thoughts on teams entering the Super Eight with pre-appointed seedings but also said "that's not my thing". "I guess if you take the logistics that come into it, trying to give the fans who probably travel an opportunity to plan ahead. Ideally, I think the big thing for most people is they say, oh, West Indies came out of the group. Oh, Zimbabwe came out of the group. That means somebody they seeded there did not come out. Zimbabwe did what they had to do."If we were not seeded or so, and I saw like this person is going to play there, that gives me motivation. And I'm pretty sure Zimbabwe, looking at that group there, gave them motivation and inspiration to come out and play the way they play."

East Bengal keep momentum going with 4-1 win over Sporting Club Delhi

Staff Reporter, Kolkata, 22 February: East Bengal recorded their second win on the trot in ISL-12, defeating Sporting Club Delhi 4-1 at the Salt Lake Stadium on Saturday. Youssef Ezzejjari was once again in the mix, netting a brace, after Edmund Lalrindika scored the equaliser. Sporting Club Delhi had taken a surprising lead in the fourth minute through Augustine Lalrochana.Four minutes into the second half injury time, Miguel Ferreira got the fourth one for Oscar Bruzon's men. As the scoreline suggested, East Bengal were clearly the dominant team and much credit for that should go to Brazilian Ferreira. He pulled the strings from the midfield, feeding the likes of Ezzejjari, Edmund Lalrindika, Bipin Singh and Nandhakumar Sekhar with some delightful passes and chips.Ezzejjari, though, was the man of the match for his double strike in the second successive match. Apart from Ferreira, Anwar Ali was once again a picture of strength in the East Bengal defence. His anticipation, calmness and ability to read the game came to the fore, like always. Lalrindika, playing after captain Saul Crespo was declared unfit for the match, was a livewire on the right flank. It was his zeal and speed that helped East Bengal bounce back within a few minutes after conceding that early goal.Sporting Club Delhi took the lead in the fourth minute. A good ball from the midfield



caught East Bengal left back Jay Gupta napping and the host team's cause was also not helped by winger Bipin not tracking back. Lalrochana got the ball and toyed with Gupta with a couple of step-overs before drilling it into the far corner, past goalkeeper Pranhsukhan Singh Gill.The equaliser came within four minutes.Bipin's inswinging free-kick was headed away, and the ball went to Lalrindika outside the box. The former Mohammedan Sporting forward went for a first-time volley. The connection was great, and the effort was on target. However, the ball went straight to Sporting Club Delhi goalkeeper Vishal Yadav. Much to the surprise of everyone in the stadium, Yadav failed to hold on to the ball. It slipped from his grasp and nestled into the net.East Bengal's second goal came in the 12th minute. Clarence Fernandes, who was finding it tough to deal with Lalrindika's pace, brought down the latter inside the box. Referee Crystal Johin had no hesitation in pointing to the dreaded spot. Ezzejjari stepped up and converted the penalty without much ado.Five minutes before half-time, the 20,000-odd supporters roared once again. Ferreira spotted Ezzejjari's run inside the box and found the Spaniard with an excellent through ball. Yadav came charging off his line, but Ezzejjari kept his calm to slot the ball between the keeper's legs. Two matches, four goals: East Bengal's new signing is on a roll.In between, he could have added to the tally but failed to direct a free header into the far post. The provider? Ferreira once again.The Brazilian, who had been coach Bruzon's favourite from the time the duo were together at Bangladesh side Bashundhara Kings, got his name on the scoresheet at the fag end of the match. Allowed to run in the final third without any pressure, Ferreira waltzed near the edge of the box with the ball and then took a shot at the far corner. A brilliant finish and the East Bengal bench and the stadium were up on their feet and a beaming Ferreira acknowledged the applause. Sporting Club Delhi have two sets of brothers in their squad. Alex and Alan Sahi and Mohammed Aimen and Mohammed Azhar.



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