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weather report

Kolkata Weather

32 °C | °F

Precipitation 70%

Humidity 82%

Wind 11 km/h

Mostly cloudy with a t-storm

Indian Indices

NIFTY 50		
24631.30	11.95	0.05
SENSEX		
80597.66	57.75	0.07
NIFTY BANK		
55341.85	160.40	0.29
NIFTY IT		
34833.20	140.25	0.40
BSE SMALLCAP		
51788.88	-306.96	-0.59

Gold Rates

Today gold price in Kolkata
1,01,180 92,750
»
Today gold price in Bangalore
1,01,180 92,750
»
Today gold price in India
1,01,180 (₹-60) 92,750 (₹-50)

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Prime Minister Narendra Modi holds a roadshow during the inauguration of the Delhi section of the Dwarka Expressway and the Urban Extension Road-II (UER-II), in New Delhi, Sunday.

Railway Minister Invites CM Mamata Banerjee to Attend Modi's Mega Kolkata Metro Inauguration



Kolkata, 17 August: Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw has extended a formal invitation to Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, urging her to attend the grand inauguration of three critical Kolkata Metro stretches by Prime Minister Narendra Modi next week. The offer underscores a strategic overture ahead of what promises to be a seminal moment in the city's transit history. The metro projects, slated for inauguration on August 22, represent significant enhancements to Kolkata's mass rapid transit network. The Prime Minister is set to flag off three new routes: the Sealdah–Esplanade section of the Green (East-West) Line, the Hemanta Mukhopadhyay–Beleghata portion of the Orange Line, and the Noapara–Jai Hind Airport section of the Yellow Line. A new subway beneath Howrah metro station is also expected to be unveiled . The completion of the Sealdah–Esplanade gap will finally unify the underwater transit link beneath the Hooghly River, which has formed the backbone of Kolkata Metro's Green Line and earned it the distinction of being India's first underwater metro corridor .The Noapara–Airport stretch will inaugurate a direct rail connection to the airport, a long-awaited improvement for travelers in the northern suburbs The Orange Line extension from Ruby Crossing to Beleghata promises to enhance access to eastern and southern neighbourhoods . Railway Board officials have carried out final inspections. Braj Mohan Agrawal, a senior board member, travelled across segments and inspected rolling stock, including new Dalian rakes destined for passenger service . Minister Vaishnaw and BJP state leadership have characterised the upcoming inauguration as a 'historic gift' to West Bengal ahead of Durga Puja celebrations . The event is also bookended by a political rally to be addressed by PM Modi in Dum Dum, following the inauguration. Against this backdrop, the Railway Minister's invitation to CM Mamata Banerjee carries symbolic weight. It appears to be a gesture aimed at depoliticising the inauguration and elevating it to a broader civic occasion. Though the formal invitation arrives late, it signals an offer of inclusivity—perhaps an effort to transcend partisan divides amid urban development . Mamata Banerjee has not publicly responded to the overture. In recent statements, she has expressed concern over the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of voter rolls, alleging that it marginalizes communities and undermines democratic rights—a narrative that contrasts sharply with the center's celebratory rollout of the metro projects . This moment, poised between civic progress and political posturing, marks a noteworthy junction for Kolkata. The metro expansions are set to transform connectivity across the city—from the airport to the eastern suburbs and across the river—while also serving as the stage for significant political choreography.



People carry an idol of Lord Ganesha as part of preparations ahead of the 'Ganesh Chaturthi' festival, in Mumbai, Sunday.

Rahul Gandhi Embarks on 1,300 km 'Voter Adhikar Yatra' from Sasaram to Defend Democratic Rights

New Delhi, 17 August: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi formally kicked off the much-anticipated "Voter Adhikar Yatra" from Sasaram today, launching what his party envisions as a momentous struggle for the sanctity of India's democratic institutions. The sixteen-day march will traverse more than 1,300 kilometres across over twenty districts of Bihar, culminating in a mass rally at Gandhi Maidan, Patna, on September 1. Joined at the launch by RJD heavyweights Lalu Prasad Yadav and his son Tejashwi Yadav, as well as senior Congress leaders including Mallikarjun Kharge, the event drew a resolute crowd at Sasaram's BIADA Ground. Gandhi framed the yatra not merely as a political campaign, but as a vital defence of the Constitution. "This is not just a march... this is a fight to save the Constitution," he declared, accusing the Election Commission's Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of being the latest ploy in an escalating campaign of "vote chori" (vote theft). Rahul Gandhi asserted that the SIR exercise had disproportionately disenfranchised Dalits, Adivasis, religious minorities and economically vulnerable communities in Bihar. Mocking the Commission's listing errors, he joked about having "tea with dead voters," underscoring his broader claim that the EC operated as a mouthpiece for the ruling BJP. At the Sasaram launch, INDIA bloc leaders formed a show of unity. Tejashwi Yadav reinforced the mission, declaring that "we will not allow anyone to snatch away the right to vote," while Lalu Prasad Yadav energized supporters to defend democracy from perceived threats.

The BJP dismissed the march as theatrics, deriding it as a "circus" unlikely to resonate with the public. India Today noted that the opposition bloc has cast the yatra as a bulwark for one-person-one-vote, promising to both engage voters directly and spark grassroots resistance to electoral manipulation allegations. The route includes key stops such as Gaya, Bhagalpur, Purnea, Darbhanga, and West Champaran, with much of the campaign combining foot marches and motorcade travel. On the ground, logistical arrangements have been mobilized at scale.

PM Modi Unveils 11,000 Crore Highway Push to Untangle Delhi-NCR Traffic Jams



New Delhi, 17 August: Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated two critical highway segments—a key portion of the Dwarka Expressway and the Alipur–Dichaon Kalan stretch of the Urban Extension Road II (UER-II)—in a bid to tackle the persistent traffic snarls choking the nation's capital. The combined cost of these infrastructural interventions approaches a staggering ₹11,000 crore.

The unveiling brought together top dignitaries, including Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta and Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini, who honored the Prime Minister with a traditional turban and shawl, respectively . With much anticipation, residents across Delhi and the broader NCR region watched expectantly as the Prime Minister addressed a gathering of stakeholders following a brief roadshow and progress review earlier that day.

The 10.1-kilometer Delhi stretch of the Dwarka Expressway is expected to serve as a vital high-speed corridor to decongest the overburdened Delhi-Gurgaon route. This strategic corridor is being designed to interlink key transit arteries, including the Blue and Orange Metro lines, the upcoming Bijwasan rail station, and the Dwarka Cluster Bus Depot . Its completion is expected to significantly reduce travel times and fuel smoother connectivity between southwest Delhi and neighbouring regions.

The UER-II segment inaugurated spans from Alipur to Dichaon Kalan and is part of a larger six-lane 75-kilometre corridor that connects NH-44 to the Dwarka Expressway via Rohini, Mundka, and Najafgarh, extending towards Mahipalpur .The ₹5,580 crore Alipur–Dichaon Kalan stretch creates fresh linkages to Bahadurgarh and Sonipat, channels expected to relieve pressure on Delhi's crowded ring roads and inner-city choke points.

According to the Prime Minister's Office, "These initiatives reflect Prime Minister Modi's vision of creating world-class infrastructure that ensures seamless mobility," underscoring the administration's concentrated push to enhance ease of living and mobility in urban hubs.

Local authorities have offered estimates that these road improvements could slash travel times by 40 to 60 percent for commuters journeying from the airport to southwestern and northwestern parts of the city—promising considerable relief for millions of daily travellers.

These projects also aim to rein in pollution levels by preventing idling and slow-moving vehicles on overburdened thoroughfares. The broader goal of bolstering regional economic activity through improved logistics and connectivity aligns with the central government's infrastructure development roadmap under initiatives like the Bharatmala Pariyojana.

PM Modi addressed the crowd and praised the collective effort that went into realizing these projects. He emphasized that the capital must serve as a showcase of India's development trajectory, with modern transport infrastructure at its core.

The benefits of these highways extend beyond mere travel convenience. Improved linkages with industrial regions, enhanced access to the airport, and smoother inter-NCR traffic flows position the capital for economic and urban transformation. The projects mark a crucial step toward easing pressure on aged infrastructure and opening paths for future expansions of interconnected corridors.

Flash Floods Block Major Highway, Himachal's Monsoon Death Count Rises To 261

New Delhi, 17 August: Multiple flash flood incidents were reported on Sunday in Mandi district at Panarsa, Takoli, and Nagwain areas along the Mandi-Kullu stretch of the Chandigarh-Manali National Highway. Connectivity on the highway has been blocked at several points, causing major disruption to vehicular movement.

No reports of human loss have been received in the incidents, according to Sachin Hiremath, Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP), Mandi. Police personnel are maintaining a strict vigil at all affected sites, while restoration work is underway to clear the route and restore traffic flow.Several places in Himachal Pradesh continue to reel under the impact of the heavy monsoon rains.

According to the Himachal Pradesh State Disaster Management Authority (HPSDMA), the state has recorded 261 deaths between June 20 and August 16.Of these, 136 people were killed in rain-related incidents such as landslides, flash floods, drowning, electrocution, and house collapses, while 125 lives were lost in road accidents. The impact has been particularly severe in Mandi district, which reported the highest number of rain-related casualties (26 deaths) along with major losses to public infrastructure.

Parliament to Hold Special Session Celebrating Astronaut Shubhanshu Shukla's Historic ISS Mission



New Delhi, 17 August: India's Parliament is set to convene a rare and significant session to pay tribute to Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla, the country's trailblazing astronaut who recently completed a landmark journey aboard the International Space Station (ISS). The special session, scheduled for Monday, will provide a platform for lawmakers to reflect on the success of Shukla's mission and the broader significance of India's advancing human spaceflight programme. Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla returned to Indian soil early Sunday morning, greeted with a heartfelt and celebratory reception at Indira Gandhi International Airport in New Delhi. Among those present were Union Minister of State Jitendra Singh and Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, who welcomed the homecoming hero with due honors. During his nearly three-week stay aboard the ISS as part of the Axiom-4 mission, Shukla conducted a host of experiments designed by ISRO and other Indian institutions. These studies spanned microgravity's impact on muscle atrophy and microbes, cognitive responses to digital exposure, and crop resilience—all integral to future human spaceflight efforts.

In a stirring Independence Day address on August 15, President Droupadi Murmu underscored how Shukla's odyssey has ignited the imagination of the nation's youth. "I am sure that Shubhanshu Shukla's space journey to the International Space Station has fired a whole generation to dream bigger," she remarked, reiterating its vital role in shaping India's upcoming "Gaganyaan" mission.The parliamentary debate will focus on "India's first astronaut aboard the ISS—critical role of the space programme for Viksit Bharat by 2047." This discussion is anticipated to temporarily set aside legislative gridlock, with both ruling and opposition leaders celebrating this momentous achievement in the country's space enterprise.

Shukla is expected to meet with Prime Minister Narendra Modi before returning to his hometown of Lucknow. He is also slated to take part in National Space Day celebrations from August 22 to 23. These events will offer him further opportunities to share his experiences and inspire India's scientific community. Shukla's mission represents a key milestone not only for himself but for India's civilian space vision. His safe return and the knowledge he brings back are expected to directly influence the preparation and execution of "Gaganyaan"—India's first indigenous human spaceflight mission currently slated for launch in 2027.The United States-based private space company Axiom Space—organizer of the Axiom-4 mission—has decided to deepen its collaboration with India. The agreement aims to support not only human spaceflight but also the development of future space station infrastructure, underscoring India's rising role in global space partnerships.Certain voices raised concerns about representation. Congress leader Udit Raj questioned whether a Dalit candidate might have been considered in lieu of Shukla, sparking a brief but notable debate on inclusivity in space selection processes.Recent estimates reveal that ISRO invested close to Rs 548 crore in Shukla's training, logistics, and mission-related activities. Remarkably, Shukla himself did not receive any direct payment from ISRO, NASA, or Axiom Space for his role in the Axiom-4 mission.Before his Axiom-4 stint, Shukla underwent extensive training at the Yuri Gagarin Cosmonaut Training Center in Russia, followed by advanced training at ISRO's Bengaluru facility. India's department of space described his mission as "a defining chapter" in its human spaceflight ambitions, marking the nation's resolute return to crewed space exploration after decades.

Election Commission Denounces 'Vote Chori' Charge, Demands Proof or Apology from Rahul Gandhi

New Delhi, 17 August: A political firestorm has erupted following Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's incendiary allegation of "vote chori" (vote theft), prompting a stern rebuttal from the Election Commission of India (ECI). The confrontation threatens to escalate political tensions just weeks ahead of the Bihar Assembly elections. When Rahul Gandhi, Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha, launched a frontal attack on the ECI during a press conference. He claimed that hundreds of thousands of votes were "stolen" during the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls and alleged that the Commission aided the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party by manipulating voter registries. Gandhi referred to the evidence he presented as "criminal proof" and likened its impact to an "atom bomb," warning that "the establishment will have no place to hide." He pointed to the Mahadevapura Assembly seat in Karnataka as a case study, citing internal data in categories of voter irregularities: over 11,900 duplicates, 40,000 invalid addresses, more than 10,400 bulk registrations from single addresses, 4,132 invalid photographs, and nearly 33,700 cases involving misuse of Form 6. Gandhi said this data was the result of a six-month-long investigation by his party. The ECI responded forcefully. It castigated the term "vote chori" as a "dirty phrase," warning that it tarnishes the integrity of both India's electorate and its poll workers. The Commission reaffirmed that the principle of 'one person, one vote' has governed the nation's electoral system since the first elections in 1951, and urged Gandhi to either substantiate his claims with a sworn affidavit or issue an apology. The Commission's Chief Election Commissioner, Gyanesh Kumar, further defended the institution's credibility. He insisted that the SIR process strictly adhered to legal protocols and was designed to enhance accuracy and inclusion. He dismissed the allegations as politically motivated and devoid of merit. On the political front, the BJP responded with its own attack, labeling Rahul Gandhi an "industrial-scale liar" and rejecting his accusations as baseless. The exchange was triggered after a voter identified as central to one of the allegations denied any wrongdoing, further weakening Gandhi's claims. The Congress has maintained it will escalate its campaign. Rahul Gandhi launched a 1,300-kilometer "Voter Adhikar Yatra" from Sasaram, Bihar, aiming to draw attention to alleged disenfranchisement in the SIR process. Speaking to supporters, Gandhi questioned why the ECI demanded an affidavit from him over his "vote chori" claims but not from BJP leaders who made similar allegations. A press conference by the Election Commission was convened the same day in New Delhi, signaling its intent to publicly reinforce its stance amid rising political temperature. These developments come amid broader protests led by opposition parties, including demonstrations in New Delhi opposing what they see as a revision process that could sideline vulnerable groups. Critics argue that the SIR could disproportionately affect minorities and the poor, evoking comparisons to Assam's citizenship verification exercise. Some analysts argue that Rahul Gandhi's aggressive posture could inadvertently undermine unity within the INDIA bloc, particularly regarding its shared stand on SIR and election integrity. India now stands at a tense crossroads. Rahul Gandhi's dramatic allegations of voting fraud and partiality by the Election Commission have prompted an equally dramatic response.

TMC Attacks Suvendu Adhikari Over Janmashtami Rally in Kolkata

Kolkata, 17 August: Political tensions in West Bengal flared once again as the Trinamool Congress (TMC) launched a sharp attack on Opposition Leader Suvendu Adhikari over a rally organized on the occasion of Janmashtami in Kolkata. What was meant to be a religious-cultural gathering has quickly turned into yet another political flashpoint between the ruling TMC and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), with both sides trading accusations and trying to score points in the public domain.

The controversy erupted after Suvendu Adhikari, one of the most prominent faces of the BJP in Bengal and a fierce critic of Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, took part in a Janmashtami rally that passed through parts of the city. The rally, which witnessed a large turnout of BJP supporters, was decorated with religious chants, traditional dances, and cultural programs marking the birth of Lord Krishna. However, the TMC quickly alleged that the BJP had politicized the occasion, turning what should have been a devotional event into a platform for anti-government rhetoric.

Senior leaders of the Trinamool Congress accused Suvendu Adhikari of trying to exploit religious sentiments for political gain. They claimed that the BJP has a pattern of using cultural and religious festivals as tools to polarize communities and spread its ideological agenda in Bengal. Ac-



cording to TMC spokespersons, the Janmashtami rally was less about devotion and more about displaying political muscle in the heart of Kolkata, particularly in areas where the BJP has been struggling to gain ground against the TMC's dominance.

Suvendu Adhikari, however, hit back strongly, dismissing the allegations as baseless and politically motivated. He argued that celebrating Janmashtami is part of Bengal's long-standing tradition, and no party should attempt to monopolize cultural or religious expressions. The Leader of Opposition accused the TMC of being intolerant of Hindu festivals and claimed that the ruling party gets uncomfortable whenever opposition leaders take part in such celebrations. According to him, the rally was a people's event and reflected the deep cultural roots of Bengal, not a political gathering as the TMC alleged.

The war of words has added fresh fuel to the already intense rivalry between the TMC and the BJP in Bengal. In recent years, festivals have increasingly become arenas for political contestation in the state. Whether it is Durga Puja, Saraswati Puja, or Ram Navami, events that once carried primarily religious and cultural significance have frequently been politicized by both sides, with each accusing the other of attempting to appropriate traditions for electoral benefits. Janmashtami this year has now become the latest example of this trend.

Observers note that the BJP's participation in religious festivals has been part of its wider strategy to consolidate Hindu votes in Bengal, a state known for its syncretic culture and traditions. By organizing large rallies during festivals like Janmashtami, the party attempts to project itself as the true custodian of Hindu identity while accusing the TMC of minority appeasement. On the other hand, the TMC seeks to counter this by portraying the BJP's moves as attempts to disrupt Bengal's communal harmony and cultural fabric. This latest confrontation also comes at a time when the state is preparing for upcoming elections in various local bodies. With political stakes running high, neither side wants to cede ground on any platform that offers visibility and mass mobilization.

Case Filed Over National Highway Blockade During Night Reclaim Programme in Behala

Kolkata, 17 August: A fresh controversy has erupted in Kolkata after Behala Police Station registered a case against organisers of a cultural and political programme held late at night which led to the blocking of a major national highway. The incident has stirred debate not only about law and order but also about the frequent use of public roads for demonstrations, political shows, and cultural events in the city, where the line between civic rights and civic inconvenience often becomes blurred.

The event, titled Night Reclaim, was organised recently in the Behala area and reportedly drew a large crowd. What began as a programme with cultural overtones soon turned into a public spectacle that spilled over onto the streets. With the stage set up close to the highway, vehicular traffic was obstructed for hours, leaving commuters stranded. Long lines of cars, buses, and trucks stretched across both sides of the road as the programme continued late into the night. For those travelling to and from southern parts of the city, the disruption proved to be a major inconvenience.

According to police officials, the organisers of the event had not taken prior permission to occupy the national highway for their programme. Although applications had been made to hold the event in a nearby locality, they allegedly deviated from the original plan and extended the programme onto the road. This created serious traffic congestion, forcing vehicles to take long detours or remain stuck for hours. Ambulances and essential service vehicles were also caught in the gridlock, raising concerns about the impact of such unauthorised blockades on public safety.

Following widespread complaints and mounting criticism, Behala Police initiated legal proceedings against those responsible for the programme. A case has been registered under sections relating to unlawful assembly, obstruction of public ways, and causing disturbance. Senior officers stated that while citizens have every right to hold cultural and political programmes, such activities cannot come at the cost of public inconvenience and safety. The police have promised to investigate the matter thoroughly and take action against anyone found guilty of negligence or deliberate obstruction.

The incident has sparked sharp reactions across the political spectrum. Opposition leaders were quick to accuse the ruling Trinamool Congress of encouraging such events, claiming that local leaders often back programmes that occupy public spaces without permission. They alleged that the administration turns a blind eye when such disruptions are linked to groups sympathetic to the ruling party, while ordinary citizens continue to suffer. The opposition also demanded strict enforcement of rules to ensure that roads are not misused for political or cultural shows, especially late at night when traffic regulations are expected to be stricter.

Trinamool Congress leaders, however, dismissed the accusations as politically motivated. They insisted that the Night Reclaim programme was a spontaneous cultural expression by local residents and had no direct political sponsorship. According to them, the police had already taken steps to register a case, proving that the administration is impartial and committed to law enforcement. They further argued that Kolkata, with its rich tradition of street culture, cannot be reduced to a city where every public gathering is seen through a political lens.

Among ordinary citizens, however, frustration runs deep. Commuters who were trapped in the traffic snarls voiced anger at what they described as an irresponsible use of public roads. Many questioned why the authorities had not acted swiftly to clear the blockade or prevent the programme from taking over the highway in the first place. Social media platforms were flooded with posts and videos of stranded vehicles, with several users highlighting the plight of students, office-goers, and medical patients who suffered because of the disruption.

Civic activists have also raised questions about the larger issue of space management in Kolkata. The city has long been known for its culture of rallies, protests, and open-air programmes, but critics argue that this tradition needs to adapt to the realities of modern urban life. With traffic congestion already a pressing concern, they say that blocking major roads, especially national highways, for non-emergency purposes cannot be justified.

Germany Proposes Trump-Putin-Zelensky Trilateral Meet To Be Held In Europe

Washington, 17 August: A three-way summit US President Donald Trump has mooted with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky and Russian President Vladimir Putin could take place in Europe, Germany's leader suggested on Saturday.

"I think that such a three-way meeting will take place," German Chancellor Friedrich Merz said in an interview with TV networks NTV and RTL, according to an advance transcript AFP obtained.

"The date and place are still to be worked out. We have proposed that a place could be found in Europe," he said.

Trump, in the wake of his Friday summit with Putin in Alaska to speak about Ukraine, said he and European leaders wanted to see another summit take place, this time with a seat at the table for Zelensky.

After his talk with Putin failed to make headway on a ceasefire in Ukraine, Trump shifted his stance to say was now keen on securing a full peace agreement.One challenge for Putin to step foot in Europe is that there is an International Criminal Court arrest warrant out for him over the alleged mass abduction of Ukrainian children during the war.

wThe United States is not a party to the ICC, and Hungary -- an EU country ruled by Prime Minister Viktor Orban, who is friendly with both Trump and Putin -- is in the process of withdrawing from the ICC's founding treaty.

Merz suggested that a European venue for the possible summit "should maybe be a place where discussions might take place on a permanent basis", but he did not specify any country or city. "Those are detailed issues. They will only be clarified in coming days, or even coming weeks," he said.

Trump and Ukraine's European allies had been calling for a ceasefire ahead of any negotiations.

AI Data Centres to Be Built in Newtown, Boosting Bengal's Digital Future

Kolkata, 17 August: Newtown, on the eastern fringes of Kolkata, is set to witness a transformative leap in its technological landscape as plans have been finalized to establish advanced Artificial Intelligence-driven data centres in the township. This development is being hailed as a major milestone in Bengal's journey towards becoming a hub for digital infrastructure, innovation, and technology-based industries.

The proposed AI data centres, which will come up in phases, are envisioned not merely as storage facilities for massive amounts of data but as next-generation digital ecosystems capable of processing, analyzing, and managing artificial intelligence workloads at scale. In today's rapidly advancing world, where data has become the new oil and AI the defining force of the future, the move to create such centres in Newtown underscores both the ambition and preparedness of Bengal to align with global trends in digital transformation.

According to officials, these centres will be set up with state-of-the-art technology, ensuring that they can handle not just traditional data requirements but also the high-computational demands of AI, machine learning, and other advanced analytics. From natural language processing to image recognition, from predictive analytics to robotics, the infrastructure is expected to serve a wide range of industries. Once operational, they will provide services to IT companies, startups, financial institutions, healthcare providers, and even government departments, allowing them to leverage the power of AI in decision-making and operations.

For Newtown, which has already earned the tag of being Bengal's smart city with its emphasis on sustainable living, IT parks, and digital infrastructure, the establishment of AI data centres will further cement its status as a leading technology hub in eastern India. The township, designed with modern urban planning principles, has in recent years attracted both domestic and international IT firms, educational institutions, and research organizations.

One of the most significant aspects of these upcoming centres is their potential to create employment opportunities. Experts suggest that thousands of direct and indirect jobs could be generated through this project, ranging from roles in IT infrastructure management and AI engineering to research, cybersecurity, and data science. Startups and small-scale enterprises are also expected to benefit enormously, as access to world-class data processing facilities can reduce costs and open up new avenues for innovation. In a world where access to computing power often decides the success or failure of digital ventures, such facilities can level the playing field for emerging businesses in Bengal. The project also carries immense significance for the state government, which has been pushing aggressively to position Bengal as a preferred destination for investment in technology and digital services.

Scattered Rain Forecast in Kolkata and South Bengal Districts Brings Respite Amid Humid Conditions

Kolkata, 17 August: Kolkata and several districts of South Bengal are expected to experience scattered rainfall in the coming days, according to the forecast of the Regional Meteorological Centre in Alipore. After weeks of uncomfortable heat and sweltering humidity, this development has brought a sense of relief for the people of the city and its adjoining districts, though the rainfall is not likely to be uniform or heavy enough to significantly alter the weather pattern across the region.

Meteorological officials have indicated that moisture-laden winds from the Bay of Bengal are currently feeding into the atmosphere, creating conditions for sporadic showers. These rains, however, are expected to be scattered in nature, meaning that while one part of the city may experience sudden bursts of rain, nearby areas could remain completely dry. This uneven distribution is characteristic of the monsoon's final phase in South Bengal, which often sees localized thundershowers rather than widespread downpours.

In Kolkata, residents have already witnessed light to moderate rainfall in certain pockets, offering temporary relief from the oppressive weather that has been prevailing over the past week. Yet, the humidity level continues to remain high, ensuring that the discomfort persists in large parts of the city despite the brief spells of rain. The weather department has noted that humidity levels in Kolkata have been hovering between 80 and 90 percent, making daily life uncomfortable for commuters and workers alike.



Several other districts in South Bengal, including Howrah, Hooghly, South 24 Parganas, North 24 Parganas, Nadia, Murshidabad, and parts of Birbhum, are also likely to see scattered rainfall over the next few days. While these showers may help in cooling the surface temperature temporarily, the meteorologists have cautioned that the rains will not be uniform enough to bring a lasting drop in humidity or temperature. Farmers in these regions are nevertheless welcoming the news of rain, as late-season showers could provide much-needed support for paddy cultivation and other standing crops.

Over the past few weeks, the absence of steady rainfall has caused mounting discomfort among the people of Kolkata and its neighboring districts. Daytime temperatures have regularly crossed 34 to 35 degrees Celsius, which, when combined with the high moisture content in the air, has made the weather intolerably sticky. Health experts have repeatedly advised people to stay hydrated and avoid direct sun exposure for prolonged periods, as cases of dehydration, heat exhaustion, and skin rashes have been on the rise in local hospitals and clinics.

The meteorological office has suggested that while Kolkata is unlikely to see any major depression or cyclonic activity at the moment, sporadic showers will continue as part of the monsoon withdrawal pattern. The possibility of thunderstorms accompanied by lightning has also been indicated in some forecasts, especially during the late afternoon and evening hours, when convective activity is at its peak. Officials have urged people to remain cautious during such sudden weather changes, particularly those living in low-lying areas where waterlogging can occur even after brief showers.

How Europe Plans To Avoid Another Showdown As Trump Meets Zelensky Tomorrow

Washington, 17 August: Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky may not be alone when he reaches Washington on Monday for his meeting with US President Donald Trump, amid global efforts towards bringing an end to the three-year-long Russia-Ukraine war. The Zelensky-Trump meeting follows the US President's Alaska summit with Russian President Vladimir Putin, which was billed as historic by both leaders but failed to come up with any immediate solution to the war. In contrast, this would be Zelensky's first visit to the US since February, when the two leaders had an ugly showdown, with Trump accusing him of being "disrespectful".

To save Zelensky from being ambushed by Trump like last time, European leaders are reportedly planning to send a representative to accompany the Ukrainian leader. Finnish President Alexander Stubb or NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte could accompany him, reported Politico. Both Stubb and Rutte maintain a rapport with Trump and act as diplomatic buffers.

The idea behind sending one of them, the report said, is to prevent any showdown between Trump and Zelensky and ensure Europe is not left out in their further discussions on Ukraine. European leaders are on edge after Trump's warm reception for Putin in Alaska and are now worried that Zelensky might face a tougher, colder welcome at the White House. Besides, memories of their tense March encounter still linger, and European leaders fear Trump may once again ambush Zelensky with demands for territorial concessions. In Monday's meeting, both Europe and Ukraine would try to ensure that Trump does not agree to Putin's demands, including the accession of any Ukrainian territory.



Today's Horoscope



ARIES: There are chances that there will be some disappointing moments today, foretells Ganesha. Your own recklessness may well be the cause. Ganesha says it's good to take inspiration.



TAURUS: You will tackle your problems with a human touch as your inner self reigns supreme today, predicts Ganesha. Worries and troubles will chide you but let the barking dogs lie.



GEMINI: There are strong indications that you will find it easy to assume a leadership role and set the agenda at work today, says Ganesha. In the afternoon, you will be busy looking for an expensive.



CANCER: You are likely to be in good spirits throughout the day. With you brimming with confidence and positive energy, others around you will also feel upbeat.

LEO : With Lady Luck smiling down on you, today promises to be rather special, forecasts Ganesha. Expect to find favourable conditions and come out with flying colours in whatever task you undertake.

VIRGO: There is an indication that you may assume a leadership role and dictate the agenda at work today, predicts Ganesha. You may spend your afternoon window-shopping,

LIBRA: Ganesha predicts that today you will receive that much-awaited good news from abroad. At the workplace, you will remain completely focused.

SCORPIO: It is quite likely that you will have an outstanding field day today, predicts Ganesha. At the workplace, you will possibly feel that you are stuck in the rut doing regular activities day after day.

SAGITTARIUS: Work while you work and play while you play, says Ganesha. On the professional front, you will outclass your rivals with sheer brilliance, leaving them flabbergasted.

CAPRICORN: You will settle for nothing less than excellence in whatever work you choose to take up, says Ganesha. In fact, working extra hours may leave you a little exhausted in the afternoon.

AQUARIUS: The explorer that you are, today your restlessness will get the better of you! Your plans will finally take off, whether it is a new entrepreneurial or educational course or a trip.

PIECES: There is a lot of brain-racking in store for you today, as you try to conjure up ways to convert your extraordinary brilliance into exceptional performance.

US Suspends Visas For Gazans Seeking Medical Aid After Far-Right Campaign

Washington, 17 August: The US government said Saturday it is suspending visitor visas for Gazans after a far-right influencer with the ear of President Donald Trump complained that wounded Palestinians had been allowed to seek medical treatment in the United States. The announcement came one day after a series of furious social media posts by Laura Loomer, who is known for promoting racist conspiracy theories and claiming that the 9/11 terrorist attacks were an inside job.

"All visitor visas for individuals from Gaza are being stopped while we conduct a full and thorough review of the process and procedures used to issue a small number of temporary medical-humanitarian visas in recent days," the State Department, which is led by Marco Rubio, wrote on X.In a series of posts on X Friday, Loomer called on the State Department to stop giving visas to Palestinians from Gaza who she said were "pro-HAMAS... affiliated with the Muslim Brotherhood and funded by Qatar," without providing evidence.

Loomer's target was the US-based charity HEAL Palestine, which said last week it had helped 11 critically wounded Gazan children -- as well as their caregivers and siblings -- arrive safely in the US for medical treatment.

It was "the largest single medical evacuation of injured children from Gaza to the US," the charity said on its website.

"Truly unacceptable," Loomer wrote in another X post. "Someone needs to be fired at @StateDept when @marcorubio figures out who approved the visas."

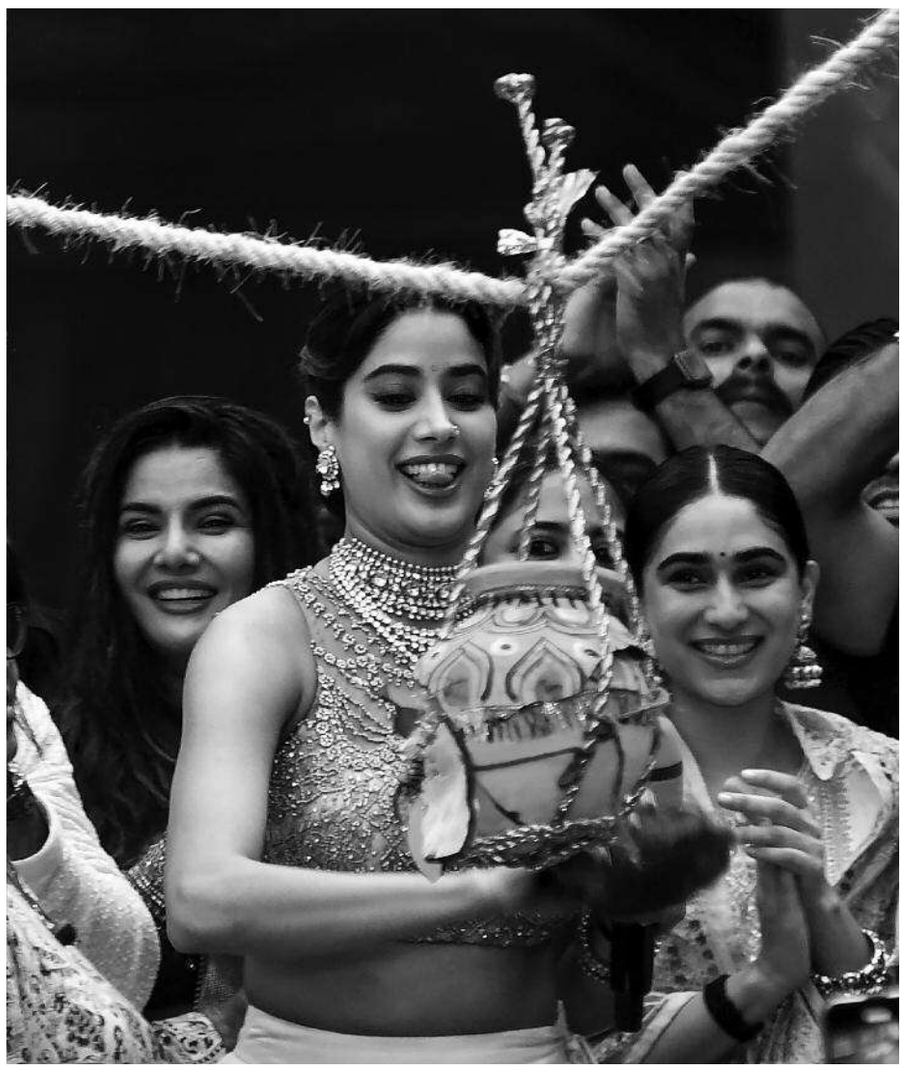
"Qatar transported these GAZANS into the US via @qatarairways," she said. Qatar is "literally flooding our country with jihadis," she added.

Loomer said she had spoken to the staff of Republican Tom Cotton, who chairs the Senate intelligence committee, adding that they were "also looking into how these GAZANS got visas to come into the US."

Republican Congressman Randy Fine explicitly commended Loomer after the visa change was announced, in a sign of her sway over some US policy.

"Massive credit needs to be given to @LauraLoomer for uncovering this and making me and other officials aware. Well done, Laura," Fine wrote on X.The Palestine Children's Relief Fund, a US-based charity, called on the Trump administration to "reverse this dangerous and inhumane decision."

Over the last 30 years the charity has evacuated thousands of Palestinian children to the US for medical care, it said a statement."Medical evacuations are a lifeline for the children of Gaza who would otherwise face unimaginable suffering or death due to the collapse of medical infrastructure in Gaza." Though Loomer holds no official position, she wields significant power, and is reported to have successfully pushed for the dismissal of several senior US security officials she deemed disloyal to Trump.



Bollywood actor Janhvi Kapoor attends a Dahi Handi event on the occasion of ?Janmastami? festival, at Ghatkopar, in Mumbai.

Arijit Singh Turns Filmmaker with Kaushik Ganguly, Nawazuddin Siddiqui and Pankaj Tripathi in His Upcoming Project

Mumbai, 17 August: Arijit Singh, the voice that has ruled millions of hearts with his soulful songs, is preparing to take a bold step beyond music and enter the world of filmmaking. The celebrated playback singer, who has gifted Indian cinema with some of the most memorable melodies of the last decade, is now turning filmmaker, and his debut project is already generating immense excitement. What makes the news even more striking is the powerhouse ensemble he has brought together for his maiden film—renowned director Kaushik Ganguly along with acclaimed actors Nawazuddin Siddiqui and Pankaj Tripathi are all set to be part of this ambitious venture.





For years, Arijit Singh has been associated with passion, emotion, and sincerity in music. Whether it was the heart-rending romance of Tum Hi Ho, the nostalgia of Channa Mereya, or the raw energy of Gerua, his songs have become anthems across generations. Yet those who know the singer closely are well aware that his artistic vision extends far beyond the recording studio. Singh, who hails from Jiaganj in Murshidabad, has always expressed interest in storytelling, visuals, and the creative depth of cinema. His upcoming film marks the realization of that long-cherished dream, bringing him to a new stage where he can tell stories through the medium of film rather than just through song.

The project, which is being kept under wraps with most details yet to be revealed, already promises to be something extraordinary because of the names attached. Kaushik Ganguly, one of the most respected filmmakers in Bengali and Indian cinema, has built a reputation for powerful and sensitive storytelling. From films like Nagarkirtan and Chhoto Chetan to Cinemawala and Apur Panchali, Ganguly has consistently pushed boundaries and explored human relationships with empathy and depth. His involvement in Arijit's film ensures that the project will not only be technically sound but also layered with emotion and thought-provoking content.

Joining him are two of the finest actors working in Indian cinema today—Nawazuddin Siddiqui and Pankaj Tripathi. Both have carved a niche for themselves with their ability to breathe life into any character, no matter how complex or understated. Nawazuddin, known for his extraordinary performances in films like Gangs of Wasseypur, The Lunchbox, Manto, and Sacred Games, has become a global symbol of Indian method acting. Pankaj Tripathi, on the other hand, is celebrated for his versatility, seamlessly switching between intense roles in films such as Newton and Mimi, to the lighter, humorous touch he brings to projects like Stree and Fukrey. The presence of both actors guarantees a strong, layered performance-driven narrative in Singh's debut film. The collaboration between these stalwarts suggests that the film will not be a conventional mainstream entertainer but rather a cinematic work that blends artistic integrity with universal appeal. Arijit Singh, with his background in music, is expected to bring a distinct sensibility to the film's soundscape as well. Given his mastery in evoking emotions through music, audiences can anticipate a soundtrack that will be integral to the storytelling rather than just an addition to it. His understanding of rhythm, pauses, and emotional beats is likely to shape the way he directs scenes, lending the project a unique voice.

Industry insiders believe that Arijit's transition into filmmaking is a natural progression for someone with such an intense creative spirit. In the past, several musicians have successfully crossed into cinema as directors, bringing with them a fresh perspective. What sets Singh apart is his quiet, almost reclusive persona—he has always stayed away from the trappings of stardom, focusing instead on his craft. This humility and dedication are expected to reflect in his work as a filmmaker as well, making his debut an anticipated event not only for fans of his music but for cinema enthusiasts at large. Though the storyline and theme of the film have not yet been disclosed, the collaboration with Kaushik Ganguly strongly hints at a narrative rooted in realism, emotions, and human struggles rather than glossy, larger-than-life spectacle. The casting of Nawazuddin Siddiqui and Pankaj Tripathi further reinforces the belief that the film will thrive on performance and character-driven storytelling.

Superstar Shah Rukh Khan Silences Troll with Witty Response on Social Media

Mumbai, 17 August: Shah Rukh Khan, the King of Bollywood and one of the most adored stars across the globe, has once again proven why he remains unmatched not only in cinema but also in his interactions with fans. Known for his charm, wit, and ability to disarm critics with intelligence rather than aggression, the superstar recently gave a perfect reply to a troll on social media, winning hearts all over again. The incident has become a talking point online, with fans praising Khan for handling negativity with grace and humor. The moment unfolded during one of Shah Rukh Khan's interactive sessions on social media. Over the years, Khan has maintained a special connection with his admirers through platforms like Twitter, where he often engages in candid conversations under the popular hashtag "#AskSRK." These sessions allow fans to ask him anything—ranging from questions about his movies, personal life, and upcoming projects to quirky or even outrageous queries. It is in these exchanges that Khan's sharp sense of humor and quick wit truly shine, making these interactions as entertaining as his films.

During the latest interaction, a user attempted to troll the actor by posting a disrespectful comment. Instead of ignoring or reacting harshly, Shah Rukh chose his trademark style—turning the negativity into a light-hearted moment with a clever reply that instantly went viral. His response not only silenced the troll but also left fans applauding his calm, composed approach. It was another reminder of how the superstar, despite decades in the limelight and constant scrutiny, continues to handle criticism with dignity while never losing his trademark sense of humor. For years, Shah Rukh Khan has had to face criticism and trolling,



often fueled by his immense popularity and influence. Yet, unlike many celebrities who respond with anger or choose silence, Khan has mastered the art of defusing hostility with wit. Fans often remark that these moments showcase the real SRK—the man who values love, respect, and humility above all else, and who never allows bitterness to overshadow his persona.

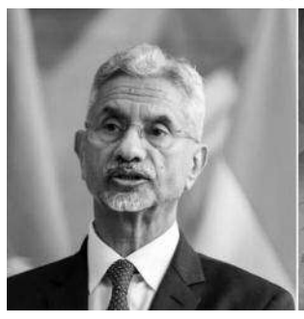
The actor's ability to stay relevant in the digital age, where trolling has become a daily reality for public figures, sets him apart. At a time when online platforms are filled with negativity, Shah Rukh continues to use humor as a tool not only to protect himself but also to send out a subtle lesson about dignity in public discourse. His fans often say that his replies are not just funny but also inspirational, teaching people how to deal with criticism in their own lives. The reply in question also sparked a flood of positive comments from admirers across the world. Fans shared the exchange widely, calling it yet another example of why Shah Rukh Khan is not only a superstar on screen but also a true gentleman off screen. Many commented that his words reflected maturity, patience, and intelligence—qualities that have made him a role model for millions.

This incident comes at a time when Shah Rukh Khan is riding high on success. After a four-year hiatus from leading roles, the actor returned with a bang in 2023 with Pathaan, which shattered box office records. This was followed by Jawan, another massive hit, proving his unmatched star power and ability to connect with audiences across generations. With his next project already generating buzz, Khan is once again at the center of attention in Bollywood. His social media presence, therefore, carries even more weight, as every word and interaction becomes a matter of wide discussion. What makes his approach even more significant is the contrast between the harshness of online trolling and the positivity he brings to his responses. In an age where celebrities often face abuse, Shah Rukh Khan's way of handling trolls without resorting to anger or insult is refreshing. It shows not just his confidence but also his belief in keeping conversations respectful, even when the other side chooses disrespect.

Shah Rukh Khan's relationship with his fans has always been unique. He is not merely admired for his acting but deeply loved for his humanity and relatability. Whether it is through his films, public appearances, or these online interactions, he has consistently managed to connect with people on an emotional level. His clever replies during #AskSRK sessions have become a trademark over the years, eagerly awaited by fans who enjoy both the humor and the warmth that he brings to the conversations. The recent exchange is yet another chapter in this continuing legacy. For his fans, it reaffirmed that beneath the stardom lies a man who has never lost touch with his ability to laugh at life and deal with challenges gracefully. For critics, it was a reminder that Shah Rukh Khan is not someone who can be easily shaken by negativity. His success, combined with his poise, ensures that he continues to command respect, even from those who may attempt to undermine him. As the clip of his reply continues to circulate widely across social media platforms, one thing is clear—Shah Rukh Khan has once again turned a moment of trolling into an opportunity to spread positivity and charm. His ability to respond with wit rather than anger not only won him admiration but also demonstrated why he is regarded as one of the most beloved stars in the world.

Amitabh Bachchan Praises Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on Kaun Banega Crorepati 17

Mumbai, 17 August: The seventeenth season of the iconic quiz show Kaun Banega Crorepati witnessed a special moment when Bollywood megastar Amitabh Bachchan showered praise on India's External Affairs Minister, Dr. S. Jaishankar. Known for his calm demeanor, sharp intellect, and diplomatic skills, Jaishankar has earned immense respect both within the country and abroad, and this admiration echoed in the words of the veteran actor on the popular television platform.





The moment unfolded during one of the recent episodes of the show when a question related to foreign affairs and diplomacy was posed to a contestant. The mention of international relations and India's role on the global stage prompted Amitabh Bachchan to take a brief pause and reflect on the exemplary work done by Dr. S. Jaishankar. With his signature baritone voice filled with sincerity, Bachchan lauded the External Affairs Minister, calling him a man of extraordinary knowledge and composure who has elevated India's global standing.

Amitabh Bachchan, who has always been vocal in acknowledging the contributions of individuals who strengthen the nation in different fields, highlighted Jaishankar's articulate way of presenting India's position on international matters. He noted that the minister's ability to speak firmly yet diplomatically has not only won India recognition but also instilled a sense of pride among citizens. According to Bachchan, watching Jaishankar represent India in world forums gives Indians the reassurance that the country's voice is being heard with clarity and respect.

Over the past few years, Dr. S. Jaishankar has emerged as one of the most influential figures in Indian politics and diplomacy. A seasoned diplomat with decades of experience, he previously served as India's Foreign Secretary before being inducted into the Union Cabinet as External Affairs Minister in 2019. Since then, he has been at the forefront of steering India's foreign policy during challenging times, from navigating complex global conflicts to ensuring India's interests are safeguarded on every platform. His eloquence and assertiveness in international engagements, whether in the United Nations, BRICS, G20, or bilateral meetings, have made him a recognizable figure worldwide.

Bachchan's acknowledgment on a mass entertainment platform like Kaun Banega Crorepati has brought Jaishankar's work closer to everyday audiences who may not follow international diplomacy closely. The quiz show, watched by millions across India, has often served as a stage where the host draws attention to issues beyond general knowledge—touching upon culture, values, and national pride. By praising Jaishankar, Bachchan not only recognized the minister's contributions but also highlighted the importance of India's global diplomacy in shaping the nation's future.

The episode quickly gained traction on social media, with clips of Amitabh Bachchan's words circulating widely. Many viewers expressed agreement with the host's remarks, noting that Jaishankar's articulate speeches and firm stance during global interactions have indeed made Indians feel represented with dignity. Some netizens remarked that hearing such appreciation from a legendary figure like Bachchan validates the public admiration for Jaishankar, while others pointed out that such recognition on a prime-time show reinforces the importance of diplomacy in everyday conversations.

This is not the first time Amitabh Bachchan has used the platform of Kaun Banega Crorepati to express respect for individuals contributing to the nation in various fields. Over the years, he has spoken about scientists, teachers, freedom fighters, and unsung heroes whose stories inspire millions. His acknowledgment of Jaishankar continues that tradition, bridging the worlds of entertainment and politics, and reminding viewers that knowledge and service to the nation deserve celebration.

Kangana Ranaut Shares Her Perspective on Marriage and Live-In Relationships

Mumbai, 17 August: Bollywood actress Kangana Ranaut, who has never shied away from voicing her opinions on social and personal issues, has once again sparked conversation with her candid views on marriage and live-in relationships. Known for her outspoken nature and ability to challenge conventional thinking, the actress opened up about her thoughts on these subjects, offering an insight into how she perceives companionship, commitment, and the evolving dynamics of modern relationships. Kangana, who has often been in the headlines for her bold statements, spoke about how marriage continues to be an important institution in society, yet it is not the only way to experience companionship or intimacy. She acknowledged that the concept of live-in relationships has become increasingly common in today's times, especially among younger generations who are more open to experimenting with personal choices. According to her, such arrangements allow individuals to understand each other more deeply before committing to a formal bond like marriage. The actress highlighted that while she respects the sanctity of marriage, she does not believe it should be seen as a compulsory step for every individual. In her view, relationships are about mutual respect, emotional support, and personal growth, and these can exist both within the framework of marriage and outside it. She stressed that marriage should be a choice, not a societal imposition, and people should have the freedom to define happiness for themselves. Kangana also pointed out that in Indian society, marriage is often glorified as the ultimate milestone in a person's life, especially for women. She questioned this notion, arguing that reducing a woman's identity or success to her marital status is both outdated and unfair. She emphasized that women today are excelling in different fields, balancing careers and personal lives, and are no longer defined solely by traditional roles. For her, a relationship—whether through marriage or otherwise—should enhance a person's life, not restrict it. Reflecting on her own experiences, the actress admitted that relationships, like any other aspect of life, are complex and not always predictable. She acknowledged that both marriage and live-in partnerships have their own sets of challenges. While marriage brings stability and social acceptance, it also carries expectations and responsibilities that can sometimes feel restrictive. On the other hand, live-in relationships may offer greater freedom and space but can lack the structure and long-term assurance that marriage often provides. Kangana suggested that individuals must weigh these differences carefully and choose the path that aligns best with their values and lifestyle. Her comments have once again triggered widespread discussions on social media, where her fans and critics alike are debating her views. Supporters praised her for speaking openly about subjects that are often considered taboo in Indian households, especially when expressed by a woman. They believe her statements reflect the changing attitudes of urban India, where personal freedom and choice are gaining recognition. Critics, however, argued that her words could undermine traditional family values, and that marriage, despite its flaws, remains the cornerstone of Indian social fabric. This is not the first time Kangana Ranaut has spoken on sensitive matters.



Gunshots Fired at Elvish Yadav's Gurugram Residence, No Injuries Reported

Mumbai, 17 August: A major scare unfolded late at night in Gurugram when unidentified assailants opened fire outside the residence of popular YouTuber and social media influencer Elvish Yadav. The shocking incident, which sent shockwaves among his fans and the local community, fortunately did not result in any injuries. Reports suggest that multiple rounds were fired at the property, creating panic in the area and raising serious concerns over Yadav's safety.

According to initial accounts, the attack took place when unknown miscreants arrived near Yadav's house in Gurugram and began firing shots before fleeing the scene. The sound of gunfire startled residents in the vicinity, and panic spread quickly as news of the attack reached social media. Police were immediately informed, and a team arrived at the location to investigate the matter. Empty bullet shells were recovered from the spot, confirming that the attackers had fired multiple rounds.

Authorities have stated that an investigation is underway to trace the attackers. CCTV footage from cameras in and around the house is being examined, and the police are working to identify the vehicle and individuals involved in the shooting. At present, officials have not ruled out the possibility of personal enmity, rivalry, or even intimidation attempts behind the firing. No arrests have been made so far, but the police assured that strict action will be taken once the culprits are identified.

Elvish Yadav, who has a massive following on YouTube and Instagram, rose to wider fame after winning Bigg Boss OTT 2, where his witty personality and outspoken nature struck a chord with audiences. His immense popularity, however, has also placed him in the public eye, and incidents of controversy have not been far behind. Earlier this year, he faced legal trouble after being linked to an investigation regarding alleged use of snake venom at rave parties, a case that had drawn nationwide attention. While he denied wrongdoing and was later granted bail, the case had already made him a target of intense media scrutiny.

In light of these controversies, many are speculating whether the firing incident could be connected to his growing fame and ongoing disputes. Some supporters have suggested that the attack might have been an act of intimidation, while others believe it could be linked to rivalries stemming from his increasing influence on digital platforms. The exact motive, however, will only be known once the investigation progresses.

Following the attack, Elvish Yadav himself took to social media to assure his fans that he and his family were safe. In a brief statement, he confirmed the incident and thanked his followers for their concern, urging them not to panic. His calm response was praised by many, though fans expressed outrage that such an incident could occur in a supposedly secure locality like Gurugram. Hashtags related to Elvish began trending soon after, with his supporters demanding swift police action and enhanced security for the influencer.

Locals in the area also expressed shock, stating that such an incident had never happened in their neighborhood before. Many residents pointed out that gunfire in a residential zone raises serious questions about law and order, urging authorities to increase patrolling and ensure public safety. The brazenness of the attack—carried out despite CCTV surveillance—has highlighted concerns about rising incidents of crime in the region.

Elvish Yadav's rise from a content creator on YouTube to a household name through reality television has been nothing short of phenomenal. His fans admire him for representing the youth of small towns and breaking into mainstream entertainment with confidence and authenticity. However, his journey has not been without hurdles, and this recent attack underscores the risks that come with fame and influence in today's world.

The police have meanwhile assured that every angle will be probed thoroughly. Forensic teams have already examined the recovered bullet shells, and technical teams are analyzing surveillance footage. Additional security has reportedly been deployed near Yadav's residence to prevent any further untoward incident. Officials have also indicated that efforts are being made to establish whether the firing was meant as a direct attack or simply an act of intimidation.

The incident has once again brought attention to the vulnerability of public figures in India, especially influencers and celebrities who are constantly in the limelight. With their massive online presence, they often find themselves targeted not only by critics but also by individuals or groups with vested interests. Security for such personalities is increasingly becoming a matter of concern, as the boundary between virtual fame and real-life threats continues to blur. As the investigation progresses, fans of Elvish Yadav are waiting anxiously for answers, while also showing overwhelming support for their favorite star. The incident has united his admirers across platforms, with many calling for stronger action against crime and stricter regulations to ensure that public figures can live without fear.

Editorial

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman: The Eternal Flame of Bangladesh's Freedom

On August 15, 1975, under the cover of a dark night, a group of assassins extinguished the life of the nation's brightest luminary. His name was Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. Revered by the people, he occupies the esteemed position of the Father of the Nation, affectionately known as Bangabandhu. Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, born on March 17, 1920, in Tungipara, Gopalganj, emerged as the central figure in the struggle for Bangladesh's independence. His journey from a young boy with a deep sense of justice to the leader who would guide his nation to freedom is a testament to his unwavering commitment to his people. In the early years, Mujib was deeply influenced by the socio-political landscape of Bengal. The British colonial rule and its oppressive policies ignited a sense of resistance in him. As a student, he was actively involved in various movements aimed at challenging the status quo. His leadership qualities began to shine through during his college days, where he organized protests and rallies against the injustices faced by the Bengali people. His political journey took a significant turn when he joined the Awami League, a political party that would become the vehicle for his vision of an independent Bangladesh. Under his leadership, the party's Six-Point Movement in 1966 became a rallying cry for autonomy and self-determination for the Bengali population. This movement laid the foundation for the struggle that would culminate in the liberation of Bangladesh. Mujib's charisma and ability to connect with the masses earned him the title of "Bangabandhu," meaning "Friend of Bengal." His speeches resonated with the common people, and his call for justice and equality united the diverse communities of East Pakistan. His leadership was not just political but also deeply emotional, as he became the symbol of the aspirations and dreams of millions. The turning point in his life came in 1971 when the Pakistani military launched Operation Searchlight, a brutal crackdown on the Bengali population. Mujib's call for independence was met with violent repression. Despite being arrested and taken to West Pakistan, his spirit remained unbroken. The struggle for independence continued under the banner of the Mukti Bahini, and the people of Bangladesh fought valiantly for their freedom. On December 16, 1971, the Pakistani forces surrendered, and Bangladesh emerged as an independent nation. Sheikh Mujibur Rahman returned to a hero's welcome, and on January 10, 1972, he took the oath as the first President of Bangladesh. His leadership was instrumental in rebuilding the war-torn nation, focusing on rehabilitation, economic development, and the establishment of democratic institutions.

However, his tenure was marred by internal challenges, including political instability and economic difficulties. Despite these hurdles, Mujib remained steadfast in his commitment to the ideals of democracy and socialism. His vision for Bangladesh was one of a secular, democratic, and inclusive society where every citizen had the opportunity to thrive. Tragically, on August 15, 1975, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was assassinated in a military coup. The nation was plunged into mourning, and the dreams of a prosperous Bangladesh seemed to be shattered. However, the legacy of Bangabandhu did not perish with him. His ideals and vision continued to inspire generations of Bangladeshis. In the years following his death, his daughter, Sheikh Hasina, emerged as a prominent political leader. Under her leadership, the Awami League returned to power, and efforts were made to realize the dreams that Mujib had envisioned for his country. The nation embarked on a path of economic growth, social development, and regional cooperation. Today, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's legacy is celebrated across Bangladesh. His contributions to the nation's independence and his vision for a just and equitable society are commemorated annually on his birth and death anniversaries. Statues, portraits, and institutions bearing his name stand as enduring symbols of his enduring influence. Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was not just a political leader but a symbol of the aspirations and dreams of the Bengali people. His life and legacy continue to inspire the nation, reminding them of the sacrifices made for the freedom they now enjoy. As Bangladesh moves forward, the principles of justice, equality, and democracy that he championed remain the guiding lights for the nation's progress.

India's Democracy at a Crossroads:

Preserving Vibrancy Amidst Challenges



India, the world's largest democracy, has long been celebrated for its constitutional framework, robust electoral processes, and the vibrancy of its political discourse. The essence of Indian democracy lies not merely in periodic elections, but in the deeper principles of accountability, freedom of expression, pluralism, and the rule of law. Yet, as the nation navigates complex socio-political realities, it faces challenges that test the resilience and inclusivity of its democratic institutions.

At its core, democracy in India is a system designed to reflect the will of the people. The strength of this system is evident in the peaceful transitions of power, widespread political participation, and the judiciary's role as a guardian of constitutional rights. Citizens have historically exercised their franchise to influence governance, challenge inequities, and demand transparency. Political pluralism ensures that diverse voices find representation, providing a platform for debate and dissent. This multiplicity of perspectives is not a weakness but rather a testament to the democratic ethos of inclusion and deliberation.

However, the editorial highlights that democracy is not immune to erosion. Contemporary challenges—from the rising centralization of authority to the increasing polarization of public opinion—pose serious tests. Media freedom, which serves as a critical pillar of democracy, often finds itself under pressure, affecting the dissemination of balanced and factual information. Moreover, social media platforms, while democratizing discourse, can amplify misinformation and exacerbate divisions. Such dynamics risk undermining the very foundations of informed citizen participation.

Equally concerning is the marginalization of certain groups in the socio-political process. Democracy, by definition, thrives on equity, ensuring that every citizen, regardless of caste, gender, religion, or economic status, has an equal voice. When policies or political practices inadvertently exclude or silence sections of the population, the legitimacy of democratic governance comes under scrutiny.

The editorial underscores the importance of proactive measures to protect these voices, reinforcing the principle that a democracy is only as strong as the inclusivity it guarantees.

The Indian judiciary, as observed in the editorial, has historically acted as a stabilizing force, ensuring that democratic norms are upheld. Its independence is paramount, providing a mechanism to check the excesses of the executive and the legislature. Judicial interventions in matters ranging from fundamental rights to electoral integrity have preserved the democratic equilibrium.

Nonetheless, the increasing burden on courts and the pace of legal processes demand attention, as delays can hinder the timely protection of citizens' rights.

Civil society, too, plays an indispensable role. Through activism, awareness campaigns, and community engagement, civil society organizations foster accountability and strengthen the democratic fabric. Public engagement must extend beyond election cycles, encompassing constant scrutiny of policies, governance practices, and civic education. A vigilant citizenry, the editorial notes, is the ultimate safeguard against the erosion of democratic values. Economic inequality and social unrest present additional dimensions that influence democratic health. Disparities in wealth, access to education, and opportunities for upward mobility can translate into unequal political influence. Addressing these structural issues is crucial for ensuring that democracy is not merely procedural but substantive, reflecting the aspirations of all citizens rather than a privileged few. Policies that promote inclusivity, transparency, and empowerment are integral to sustaining a vibrant democratic culture.

The editorial also emphasizes the importance of preserving freedom of expression as the lifeblood of democracy. Debate, dissent, and dialogue are fundamental to a society that values liberty and pluralism.

Attempts to stifle critical voices, whether through coercion, legal constraints, or social intimidation, threaten the very principles that underpin India's democratic identity.

Strengthening mechanisms that protect expression, while balancing responsibilities, is essential for a mature democratic polity.

As India progresses into a rapidly globalizing world, the interplay between tradition and modernity adds another layer of complexity. Democratic governance must adapt to technological advances, changing societal norms, and new forms of civic engagement. Policymakers and citizens alike are challenged to reconcile rapid development with the protection of civil liberties, ensuring that growth does not come at the expense of democratic freedoms.

The responsibility lies not only with political leaders but with every citizen to uphold the principles of justice, equality, and freedom.

Vigilance, participation, and informed dialogue are crucial to prevent the erosion of democratic norms. Indian democracy's vibrancy depends on its ability to embrace diversity, foster accountability, and remain resilient in the face of contemporary challenges. As the nation reflects on its democratic journey, the message is clear: preserving the integrity and inclusiveness of democracy is both an obligation and a collective endeavor that defines the strength of India as a nation.

Is a Second Cold War Imminent? Understanding the Emerging Global Divide



The world today finds itself standing at a precipice, where the echoes of the past seem to reverberate with increasing intensity. The Cold War, a period marked by ideological and geopolitical tensions between the United States and the Soviet Union, ended with the dissolution of the latter in 1991. This event heralded the emergence of a unipolar world dominated by the United States. However, recent developments suggest that the global order is once again shifting, raising the question: Is a second Cold War on the horizon?

In the aftermath of the Cold War, the United States emerged as the sole superpower, influencing global politics, economics, and security. The dissolution of the Soviet Union left a vacuum, and for a time, the world experienced a semblance of unipolarity. However, the past decade and a half have witnessed the rise of new powers, notably China and Russia, challenging the established order. This resurgence of alternative power centers is one of the primary indicators of a potential new Cold War.

China's rapid economic growth and assertive foreign policy have positioned it as a formidable global player. Initially, there was hope that China's integration into the global economic system would lead to political liberalization. However, China's adherence to its own political model, characterized by centralized control and limited political freedoms, has created friction with Western democracies. The United States, in particular, views China's rise with apprehension, leading to trade disputes, technological rivalries, and strategic competition.

Russia, on the other hand, has experienced a resurgence under President Vladimir Putin. After the tumultuous years following the Soviet Union's collapse, Russia has sought to reassert its influence on the global stage. Its actions in Ukraine, Syria, and its interference in democratic processes of other nations have strained relations with the West. The West's attempts to integrate Russia into its institutions have largely been unsuccessful, leading to a renewed sense of antagonism reminiscent of Cold War dynamics. The second factor contributing to the potential onset of a new Cold War is the failure of Western institutions to accommodate the aspirations of emerging powers. The post-Cold War order was largely shaped by Western ideals and institutions, such as the United Nations, the World Bank, and the International Monetary Fund. However, countries like China and India have expressed dissatisfaction with these institutions, arguing that they do not adequately represent the current global power dynamics. The West's reluctance to reform these institutions has led to the establishment of alternative platforms, such as the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and the BRICS grouping, where emerging powers can assert their influence. The third and perhaps most subtle indicator of a new Cold War is the digital divide. The realm of cyberspace has become a new frontier for geopolitical competition. Cyberattacks, information warfare, and the control of digital infrastructure are now central to national security concerns. Nations are increasingly investing in cyber capabilities, leading to a digital arms race. The West's dominance in technology and the internet is being challenged by countries like China, which has developed its own internet ecosystem, independent of Western platforms. This bifurcation of the digital world mirrors the ideological divisions of the Cold War era.

The world is not witnessing a direct military confrontation akin to the Cold War, the underlying tensions and rivalries suggest the emergence of a new global divide.

The rise of China and Russia, the failure of Western institutions to adapt, and the digital bifurcation are all contributing factors to this evolving landscape. The question remains: Will this new Cold War be characterized by ideological confrontation, economic rivalry, or digital warfare? Only time will tell, but the signs are unmistakable, and the world must prepare for the challenges that lie ahead.

One-Third of the World's Glaciers May Disappear: Are We Truly Aware?



The relentless march of global warming is no longer a distant threat; it is an unfolding reality that is reshaping our planet in profound ways. One of the most alarming indicators of this transformation is the rapid melting of glaciers worldwide. According to the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), if current trends continue, by the year 2100, one-third of all the world's glaciers could vanish. This projection serves as a stark reminder of the urgent need for collective action to combat climate change and mitigate its devastating effects. Glaciers, often referred to as the "water towers" of the world, play a crucial role in maintaining ecological balance. They act as natural reservoirs, storing freshwater that feeds rivers and sustains millions of people across the globe. The disappearance of these glaciers would not only lead to a significant loss of freshwater resources but also contribute to rising sea levels, threatening coastal communities and ecosystems. The recent catastrophic events in the Indian state of Uttarakhand underscore the immediate dangers posed by the accelerated melting of glaciers. In August 2025, the region experienced a devastating flash flood in the Dharali area, where a sudden surge of mud and debris cascaded down the mountainside, engulfing entire villages. This disaster, which resulted in the loss of numerous lives, is believed to have been triggered by the collapse of a glacial lake—a phenomenon increasingly common as glaciers retreat and destabilize. Similar incidents have occurred in the past, such as the 2013 Kedarnath disaster, where thousands perished due to flash floods exacerbated by glacial melt. These events highlight the interconnectedness of climate change and natural disasters. The destabilization of glaciers leads to the formation of glacial lakes, which, when breached, release massive amounts of water, causing catastrophic flooding downstream. The frequency and intensity of such disasters are expected to increase as global temperatures rise, posing a significant threat to communities living in glacial regions.

The implications of glacier loss extend beyond immediate disasters. Glaciers are integral to the hydrological cycles of many regions, particularly in Asia, where they feed major river systems such as the Ganges, Brahmaputra, and Indus. The retreat of glaciers threatens the water security of billions of people who rely on these rivers for drinking water, agriculture, and hydropower. In the long term, the loss of glaciers could lead to water scarcity, food insecurity, and increased competition for resources, potentially escalating geopolitical tensions. Despite the gravity of the situation, there remains a concerning lack of awareness and urgency among the global populace. Climate change discussions often focus on carbon emissions and deforestation, overshadowing the critical issue of glacier retreat. Public perception tends to underestimate the significance of glaciers, viewing them as distant and irrelevant to daily life. This disconnect hampers efforts to mobilize action and secure the necessary political will to address the crisis.

Education and awareness are pivotal in bridging this gap. It is essential to inform communities, especially those living in glacial regions, about the risks associated with glacier retreat and the measures they can take to protect themselves. Governments and organizations must invest in research and monitoring to better understand the dynamics of glaciers and predict potential hazards. Additionally, incorporating glacier studies into educational curricula can foster a generation that is more attuned to environmental issues and proactive in seeking solutions. International cooperation is also crucial in tackling the challenges posed by glacier loss. Climate change is a global phenomenon that transcends national borders, necessitating collective action. Countries must collaborate to share data, resources, and technologies to monitor and mitigate the impacts of glacier retreat. Furthermore, developed nations, which have historically contributed the most to greenhouse gas emissions, bear a greater responsibility to support developing countries in their efforts to adapt to climate change and build resilience against its effects.

The urgency of the situation calls for immediate and decisive action. Mitigating glacier loss requires a multifaceted approach that includes reducing greenhouse gas emissions, promoting sustainable land-use practices, and enhancing disaster preparedness. Transitioning to renewable energy sources, implementing energy-efficient technologies, and adopting conservation-oriented policies can significantly reduce the rate of global warming and, by extension, the accelerated melting of glaciers.

Foreign Portfolio Investors Pull Out ₹21,000 Crore from Indian Markets in August Amid Global and Domestic Pressures

The Indian equity market has been grappling with heavy foreign outflows this month, as foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) have offloaded nearly ₹21,000 crore worth of shares in the first half of August alone. Analysts believe this massive selloff reflects a combination of global headwinds and domestic factors that have shaken investor sentiment. According to depository data, FPIs have been net sellers consistently since the beginning of the month, reversing the inflows that Indian equities had enjoyed in the earlier part of the year. The outflows, amounting to over ₹21,000 crore, have triggered concern among market watchers as they coincide with heightened volatility in global markets and uncertainty around India's near-term growth prospects.

Analysts attribute the sudden exodus of foreign funds to several overlapping factors. A key concern has been the imposition of tariffs by the United States on certain sectors, which has sparked global trade tensions and added pressure to emerging markets like India. Alongside this, the depreciation of the Indian rupee against the US dollar has eroded returns for foreign investors, making Indian assets less attractive. The rupee has touched multi-month lows, reflecting not only capital outflows but also widening concerns about inflationary pressures stemming from rising commodity prices.

Adding to this unease is the mixed picture painted by India's corporate earnings in the first quarter of the current financial year. While certain sectors such as banking and infrastructure have shown resilience, others like IT, consumer goods, and export-driven industries have struggled with muted growth and margin pressures. This uneven earnings season has made foreign investors wary, prompting them to adopt a cautious approach toward Indian equities. Market experts also point out that US Treasury yields have risen recently, offering safer and more stable returns to global investors. As a result, many FPIs are reallocating funds to developed markets, particularly the US, where returns are currently seen as more predictable. The ongoing uncertainty around the Federal Reserve's interest rate trajectory is another factor weighing heavily on emerging market investments. With the Fed maintaining a hawkish tone, fears of tighter liquidity conditions have discouraged risk-taking in markets like India.

The impact of the selloff has been visible on benchmark indices as well. While domestic institutional investors (DIIs) have stepped in to absorb some of the selling



pressure, helping cushion the fall, volatility has risen sharply. Sectors with high foreign shareholding, such as IT, pharmaceuticals, and financial services, have faced sharper corrections compared to others. Analysts warn that if the trend of outflows continues, it could dampen broader market momentum in the coming weeks.

Despite the negative flows in August, experts suggest that the long-term outlook for Indian equities remains intact. India continues to be one of the fastest-growing major economies, with structural reforms, government spending, and a resilient domestic consumption base supporting growth. Analysts argue that FPIs tend to react strongly to global developments in the short term, but they eventually return to Indian markets once external uncertainties stabilize. Some market strategists believe the selloff could also be linked to portfolio rebalancing by global funds after a strong run in Indian equities earlier this year. Inflows had been robust in the previous months, making India one of the most favored destinations among emerging markets. The recent withdrawals may therefore represent profit booking as investors adjust positions in response to global risk factors.

Looking ahead, much will depend on how the rupee performs, whether the US Federal Reserve offers clarity on its rate outlook, and how global trade issues evolve. If stability returns to the currency and India's earnings outlook improves in the next quarter, analysts expect foreign investors to re-enter. On the other hand, sustained volatility in global markets could keep FPI flows under pressure for the rest of the quarter.

Domestic investors, meanwhile, are being urged to stay cautious but not panic. Market experts advise retail participants to focus on long-term fundamentals rather than reacting to short-term volatility caused by foreign flows. They highlight that India's macroeconomic picture, including GDP growth projections and government reforms, remains favorable and continues to attract interest from long-term investors.

The selloff in August underlines the vulnerability of Indian markets to external shocks, even as the economy grows on strong domestic demand. It also highlights the delicate balance policymakers need to maintain in ensuring currency stability, managing inflation, and sustaining investor confidence. For now, the trend of foreign withdrawals serves as a reminder that Indian equities remain closely tied to global economic currents, and stability in foreign flows will depend on how those currents shift in the weeks to come.

Vijay Kedia Highlights Six Stocks Trading at Deep Discounts, Investors Advised to Watch Closely

Veteran investor Vijay Kedia, renowned for his long-term value investing approach, has recently drawn attention to six Indian stocks currently trading at significant discounts to their intrinsic value. According to Kedia, these companies offer attractive opportunities for investors willing to adopt a patient, research-driven approach, and they merit close monitoring given their potential for future growth. His insights have sparked renewed interest among retail and institutional investors alike, particularly in a market environment where valuations are becoming increasingly scrutinized. Vijay Kedia, often referred to as the "India Warren Buffett," is known for identifying companies with robust fundamentals, strong management teams, and sustainable competitive advantages, even when they trade at subdued valuations. His latest recommendations focus on firms that, despite facing short-term challenges, possess solid balance sheets, strong earnings potential, and resilient business models.

These qualities, he believes, make them well-positioned for recovery and long-term wealth creation. The stocks highlighted by Kedia are reportedly trading at discounts of up to 55 percent compared to their perceived intrinsic value, creating what he describes as "rare buying opportunities" for value investors. While specific company names and sectors were cited in his analysis.

Name Change

I, SREEJA DAS (Old Name) W/O SOUVAN MAJUMDER Residing at 44A/1, Ganguly Bagan East Road, P.S.-Patuli, District - Kolkata, Pin - 700084 West Bengal, India have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as SREEJA D MAJUMDER (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata vide affidavit dated 14-08-2025. SREEJA DAS (Old Name) and SREEJA D MAJUMDER (New Name) both are same and identical person.

Name Change

I, JESMIN KHATUN (Old Name) W/O SK MAHASIN Residing at Abadpara Berela, P.S.-Pandua, District - Hooghly, Pin - 712134 West Bengal, India have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as JESMINA KHATUN (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata vide affidavit dated 14-08-2025. JESMIN KHATUN (Old Name) and JESMINA KHATUN (New Name) both are same and identical person.

NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF LEARNED CIVIL JUDGE SENIOR DIVISION AT, JALPAIGURI

Tikle Suit No. 203 of 2022

Sri Priyabrata Ghosh .....Plaintiff =Versus= Sri Krishna Debnath and others ....Defendants

Sri Sujan Karmakar, Son of Sri Ramprasad Karmakar, residing at Khalpara, Siliguri, P.O. Siliguri Bazar, P.S. - Siliguri, District - Darjeeling, Pin-734001; do hereby inform you by this NOT ICE that the Plaintiff in the above noted Case has been filed the above noted suit against you in respect of below mentioned scheduled land and whereas the Summon of this Case has already been sent to you by through Court and via Postal service. You are in every occasion, concealing yourself to receive the same and for that reason Ld. Court was pleased to direct the publish your name in News Paper for your negligence. By seeing this NOTICE, you are hereby directed to appear before this Ld. Court within 01 [one] month from the publication of this NOTICE at 10-30 a m. in person or by Pleader duly instructed and file objection if any, failing which the matter will be heard and determined in your absence/Ex-parte.

[A] SCHEDULE PROPERTY ABOVE REFERRED TO

District Jalpaiguri, Mouza - Balaigach, P.S. Bhaktinagar, Majhiyali Gram Panchayet, J.L. No. -20, Pargana-Baikunthapur, Sheet No. 2, West Bengal. All that piece and parcel of Agricultural land measuring more or less 67 [sixty seven] Decimals lying and situated at Mouza Balaigach, R.S. Plot Nos. 824 and 826 recorded in Khatian No. 57/1, Sheet No. 2. All that piece and parcel of land measuring 10.23 acres is being recorded as follows:- R.S. Plot No. 795, L.R. Plot No. 1134 area in acres-0.95, R.S. Plot no. 796, L.R. Plot No. 1178 area in acres 0.14, R.S. Plot No. 797 L.R. Plot No. 1179 area in acres 0.19, R.S. Plot No. 799 L.R. Plot No. 1176 area in acres 0.48, R.S. Plot No. 800 L.R. Plot No. 1136 area in acres 0.83, R.S. Plot No. 800/1228 L.R. Plot No. 1165, 1171 AND 1172 area in acres 1.42, R.S. Plot No. 800/1229 L.R. Plot No. 1191, area in acres-0.45, R.S. Plot No. 825 L.R. Plot No. 1194 area in acres 0.17, R.S. Plot No. 823 L.R. Plot No. 1188 area in acres 1.42, R.S. Plot Nos. 822, 827 and 828 L.R. Plot No. 1183, 1184 AND 1185 area in acres-1.42 and R.S. Plot No. 821 L.R. Plot No. 1182 area in acres 0.32; Total 10.23. The aforesaid land is being recorded in R.S. Khatian No. 57/1 and 57/2. All that piece and parcel of land measuring 1023 acre is being recorded as follows:- R.S. Plot No. 800 area in land in acres 2.40, R.S. Plot No.

805 area in land in acres 0.09, R.S. Plot No. 806 area in land in acres 0.11, R.S. Plot No. 807 area in land in acres 0.22 acres, R.S. Plot No. 808 area in land in acres 0.29 acres, R.S. Plot No. 809 area in land in acres 0.34 acres, R.S. Plot No. 810 area in land in acres 0.15 acres, R.S. Plot No. 811 area in land in acres 0.24 acres, R.S. Plot No. 812 area in land in acres 0.13 acres, R.S. Plot No. 814 area in land in acres 0.15 acres, R.S. Plot No. 816 area in land in acres 0.56 acres, R.S. Plot No. 817 area in land in acres 0.50 acres, R.S. Plot No. 826 area in land in acres 1.15 acres, R.S. Plot No. 798 area in land in acres 2.39 acres, R.S. Plot No. 819 area in land in acres 0.06 acres, R.S. Plot No. 824/1229 area in land in acres 0.45 acres; The aforesaid land is being recorded in R.S. Khatian No 57, 57/1 and 57/2.

[B] SCHEDULE GENERAL POWNER OF ATTORNEY

General power of atorney executed by plaintiff in favour of Principal Defendant no. 1 namely, KRISHNA DEBNATH and the Principal Defendant No. 2 namely, BAPI BHOWMICK, vide Deed No. 6525 for the year 2015, which deed has been registered on 01/12/2015 at the Ofice of A.R.A. - III, Kolkata in respect of the property i.e. "ALL THAT piece and parcel of Agricultural land measuring more or less 67 [sixty seven) Decimals lying and situated at Mouza - Balaigach, R.S. Plot Nos. 824 and 826 recorded in Khatian No. 57/1, J.L. No. 20, Sheet No. 2, Police Station - Bhaktinagar, District - Jalpaiguri, Pin-734007. Under the limit of Majhiyali Gram Panchayet.

[C] SCHEDULE GENERAL POWNER OF ATTORNEY

General power of atorney executed by plaintiff in favour of Principal Defendant no. 3 namely, SUKHDEV NIVRUTTI JADHAV, vide Deed no. 3803 for the year 2016, which deed has been registered on 23/6/2016 at the Ofice of A.R.A III, Kolkata in respect of the property i.e. ALL THAT piece and parcel of land measuring 10.23 acres is being recorded as follows: R.S. Plot No. 795, L.R. Plot No. 1134 area in acres 0.95, R.S. Plot No. 796 area L.R. Plot No. 1178 area in acres 0.14, R.S. Plot No. 797 area L.R. Plot No. 1179 area in acres 0.19, R.S. Plot No. 799 area L.R. Plot No. 1176 area in acres 0.48, R.S. Plot No. 800 area L.R. Plot No. 1136 area in acres 0.83, R.S. Plot No. 800/1228 L.R. Plot No. 1172 area in acres 1.42, R.S. Plot No. 800/1229 L.R. Plot No. 1191 area in acres 0.45, R.S. Plot No. 825 L.R. Plot No. 1194 area in acres 0.17, R.S. Plot No. 822, 827 and 828 L.R. Plot No. 1183, 1184 and 1185 area in acres 3.86, R.S. Plot No. 823 L.R. Plot No. 1188 area in acres 1.42 acres and R.S. PLOT No. 821 L.R. Plot No. 1182 area in acres 0.32; total 10.23 acres. The aforesaid land is being recorded in R.S. Khatian No. 57/1 and 57/2, situated within Mouza Balaigachh, comprising in Sheed No. 2 (two), Pargana Baikunthapur, J.L. No. 20, within the jurisdiction of P.S. Bhaktinagar, within the limits of Majhiyali Gram Panchayet Area, Additional District Sub-Registry Ofice Bhaktinagar, Block -Rajganj, District-Jalpaiguri, in the State of West Bengal.

[D] SCHEDULE GENERAL POWNER OF ATTORNEY

General power of atorney executed by plaintiff in favour of Principal Defendant no. 3 namely, SUKHDEV NIVRUTTI JADHAV, vide Deed no. 3804 for the year 2016,
which deed has been registered on 23/6/2016 at the Ofice of A.R.A III, Kolkata in respect of the property i.e. ALL THAT piece and parcel of land measuring 10.23 acres
is being recorded as follows: R.S. Plot No. 800 area in land in acres-2.40 is being recorded as follows:- R.S. Plot No. 805 area in land in acres 0.09 acres, R.S. Plot No.
806 land in acres 0.11, R.S. Plot No. 807 area in acres 0.22. R.S. Plot No. 808 area in acres 0.29, R.S. Plot No. 809 area in acres 0.34, R.S. Plot No. 810 area in acres 0.15, R.S. Plot No. 811 area in acres 0.24, R.S. Plot No. 812 area in acres 0.13, R.S. Plot No. 814 area in acres 0.15, R.S. Plot No. 816 area in acres 0.56, R.S. Plot No. 817 area in acres 0.50, R.S. Plot No. 826 area in acres 1.15, R.S. Plot No. 798 area in acres 2.39 R.S. Plot No. 819 area in acres 0.06, R.S. Plot No. 824/1229 area in acres 0.45. The aforesaid land is being recorded in R.S. Khatian No. 57, 57/1 and 57/2; situated within Mouza Balaigachh comprised in Sheet No. 2[two], Pargana Baikunthapur, J.L. No. 20 within jurisdiction of P.S. Bhaktinagar within the limits of Majhiyali Gram Panchayet Area, Additional District Sub Registry Ofice - Bhaktinagar, Block - Rajganj, District - Jalpaiguri, in the State of West Bengal.

[E] SCHEDULE ALLEGED DEED ABOVE REFERRED TO

Deed of Sale [Conveyance] vide Deed No. 3978 for the year 2016 registered on 01/7/2016 at the Office of A.D.S.R., Bhaktinagar, Jalpaiguri executed by the Principal Defendant No. 3 Namely, SUKHADEB NIVRUTTI JADHAV on behalf of the Plaintif as his constituted attorney in favour of the Principal Defendant no. 6 namely SMT. GAURI AGARWAL, which deed of registration has been recorded in Volume No. 0711 2016, Pages from 76785 to 76804, at the Ofice of A.D.S.R., Bhaktinagar, District-Jalpaiguri, West Bengal.

[F] SCHEDULE ALLEGED DEED ABOVE REFERRED TO

Deed of Sale [Conveyance] vide Deed No. 3982 for the year 2016 registered on 08/7/2016 at the Office of A.D.S.R., Bhaktinagar, Jalpaiguri executed by the Principal Defendant No. 3 Namely, SUKHADEB NIVRUTTI JADHAV on behalf of the Plaintif as his constituted attorney in favour of the Principal Defendant no. 5 namely SRI SAJJAN KUMAR AGARWAL, which deed of registration has been recorded in Volume No. 0711-2016, Pages from 76552 to 76570, at the Office of A.D.S.R., Bhaktinagar, District Jalpaiguri, West Bengal.

[G] SCHEDULE ALLEGED DEED ABOVE REFERRED TO

Deed of Sale [Conveyance] vide Deed No. 3983 for the year 2016 registered on 08/7/2016 at the Office of A.D.S.R., Bhaktinagar, Jalpaiguri executed by the Principal Defendant No. 3 Namely, SUKHADEB NIVRUTTI JADHAV on behalf of the Plaintif as his constituted attorney in favour of the Principal Defendant no. 4 namely SRI AMIT AGARWAL, which deed of registration has been recorded in Volume No. 0711-2016, Pages from 76765 to 76784, at the Ofice of A.D.S.R., Bhaktinagar, District - Jalpaiguri, West Bengal.

[H] SCHEDULE ALLEGED DEED ABOVE REFERRED TO

Deed of Sale (Conveyance] vide Deed No. 3985 for the year 2016 registered on 08/7/2016 at the Ofice of A.D.S.R., Bhaktinagar, Jalpaiguri executed by the Principal Defendant No. 3 Namely, SUKHADEB NIVRUTTI JADHAV on behalf of the Plaintif as his constituted attorney in favour of the Principal Defendant no. 4 namely SRI AMIT AGARWAL, which deed of registration has been recorded in Volume No. 0711-2016, Pages from 76496 to 76514, at the Ofice of A.D.S.R., Bhaktinagar, District - Jalpaiguri, West Bengal.

[I SCHEDULE ALLEGED DEED ABOVE REFERRED TO

Deed of Sale [Conveyance] vide Deed No. 4146 for the year 2016 registered on 13/7/2016 at the Office of A.D.S.R., Bhaktinagar, Jalpaiguri executed by the Principal Defendant No. 3 Namely, SUKHADEB NIVRUTTI JADHAV on behalf of the Plaintif as his constituted attorney in favour of the Principal Defendant no. 5 namely SRI SAJJAN KUMAR AGARWAL, which deed of registration has been recorded in Volume No. 0711-2016, Pages from 79007 to 79026, at the Office of A.D.S.R., Bhaktinagar, District - Jalpaiguri, West Bengal.

[JJ SCHEDULE ALLEGED DEED ABOVE REFERRED TO

Deed of Sale [Conveyance] vide Deed No. 2044 for the year 2016 registered on 05/10/2016 at the Office of A.D.S.R., Bhaktinagar, Jalpaiguri executed by the Principal Defendant No. 1 and 2 namely, KRISHNA DEBNATH and BAPI BHOWMICK on behalf of the Plaintif as his constituted attorney in favour of the Principal Defendant no. 7 namely SRI MUKUND JINDAL, which deed of registration has been recorded in Volume No. 0711-2016, Pages from 35111 to 35131, at the Ofice of A.D.S.R., Bhaktinagar, District - Jalpaiguri, West Bengal.

[K] SCHEDULE ALLEGED DEED ABOVE REFERRED TO

Siliguri, Deed of Sale [Conveyance] vide Deed No. 1529 for the year 2022 registered on 29/7/2022 at the Office of A.D.S.R., Bhaktinagar, Jalpaiguri executed by the Principal Defendant No. 3 namely, SUKHADEV NIVRUTTI JADHAV on behalf of the Plaintif as his constituted attorney in favour of the Principal Defendant no. 8 namely SINGLA HIGHRISE BUILDER LLP. A Limited Liability Partnership Firm, Ofice at Paramount Hospital, Mangal Pandey Road, P.O. and P.S. District Darjeeling, West Bengal, Pin 734005. Represented by its Director SRI NAITIK SINGLA, Son of Sri Naresh Kumar Singla, residing at M. P. Road, Khalpara, Siliguri, P.O. and P.S. - Siliguri, District - Dajreeling, West Bengal, Pin-734005] which deed of registration has been recorded in Volume No. 0705 2022, Pages from 35589 to 35614, at the Office of A.D.S.R., Rajganj, District - Jalpaiguri, West Bengal.

[L]SCHEDULE DEED FOR REVOCATION OF POWER OF ATTORNEY VIDE DEED NO. 6525 FOR THE YEAR 2015 The Deed of Revocation of power of Atorney executed by the Plaintif vide Deed No. 545 for the year 2022 registered on 07/7/2022 at the Office of A.R.A. - III, Kolkata, recorded in Book No. IV, VOLUME No. 19032022, Pages from 22454 to 22464. The revocation has been made in respect of General Power of Attorney vide Deed No. 6525 for the year 2015.

[M]SCHEDULE DEED FOR REVOCATION OF POWER OF ATTORNEY VIDE DEED NO. 3803 FOR THE YEAR 2016 The Deed of Revocation of power of Atorney executed by the Plaintif vide Deed No. 546 for the year 2022 registered on 07/7/2022 at the Office of A.R.A. - III, Kolkata, recorded in Book No. IV, VOLUME No. 19032022, Pages from 22465 to 22475. The revocation has been made in respect of General Power of Attorney vide Deed No. 3803 for the year 2016.

[N]SCHEDULE DEED FOR REVOCATION OF POWER OF ATTORNEY VIDE DEED NO. 3804 FOR THE YEAR 2016 The Deed of Revocation of power of Atorney executed by the Plaintif vide Deed No. 547 for the year 2022 registered on 07/7/2022 at the Office of A.R.A. - III, Kolkata, recorded in Book No. IV. VOLUME No. 19032022, Pages from 22476 to 22486. The revocation has been made in respect of General Power of Attorney vide Deed No. 3804 for the year 2016.

[0] SCHEDULE ALLEGED DEED ABOVE REFERRED TO

Deed of Conveyance being 1602 for the year 2022 registered at the Office of A.D.S.R. Rajganj, on 22/8/2022, which has been executed by the defendant no. 7 namely, SRI MUKUND JINDAL in favour of the purchasers namely, SMT, RATNA NANDY DAS, Wife of Sri Tapan Nandi, Daughter of Biswanath Das, resident of Vivekananda Colony, Sikharpur, P.O. Prasanannanagar, P.S. Rajganj, District Jalpaiguri, Pin-735133; JAMIR HOSSAIN Son of Ramajid Ali, residing at Payachari, VTC Panikauri, P.O. Payachari, P.S Rajganj, District Jalpaiguri, Pin-735135; MOHAMMAD ASHIRUL, Son of Nabjal Mahammad, residing at Motagachh, P.O. Manuaganj, P.S. Rajganj, District Jalpaiguri, Pin735135, TARUN ROY, Son Pahar Roy, residing at Balaigachh, P.O. Manuaganj, P.S. Rajganj, District Jalpaiguri, Pin735135; SANJOY ROY, Son of Ramesh Roy, residing at Dadhi Gachh, Manuaganj, P.O. Manuaganj, P.S. -Rajganj, District Jalpaiguri, Pin-735135; AJOY ROY, Son of Bhuluya Roy, residing at Dadhi Gachh, Manuaganj, P.O. Manuaganj, P.S. Rajganj, District - Jalpaiguri, Pin-735135; which Deed of registration has been recorded in Book No. I, Volume No. 07052022, Pages from 37142 to 37161, at the Office of A.D.S.R., Rajganj, District - Jalpaiguri, West Bengal.

[P]SCHEDULE ALLEGED DEED ABOVE REFERRED TO

Deed of Conveyance being 1804 for the year 2022 registered at the Office of A.D.S.R. Rajganj, on 21/9/2022, which has been executed by SMT, RATNA DAS alias RATNA NANDY DAS, Wife of Sri Tapan Nandi, Daughter of Biswanath Das, resident of Vivekananda Colony, Sikharpur, P.O. Prasanannanagar, P.S. - Rajganj, District Jalpaiguri, Pin-735133; JAMIR HOSSAIN Son of Ramajid Ali, residing at Payachari, VTC Panikauri, P.O. Payachari, P.S. Rajganj, District -Jalpaiguri, Pin 735135; MOHAMMAD ASHIRUL, Son of Nabjal Mahammad, residing at Motagachh, P.O.Manuaganj, P.S. Rajganj, District - Jalpaiguri, Pin-735135, TARUN ROY, Son Pahar Roy, residing at Balaigachh, P.O. Manuaganj, P.S. Rajganj, District Jalpaiguri, Pin-735135; SANJOY ROY, Son of Ramesh Roy, residing at Dadhi Gachh, Manuaganj, P.O. - Manuaganj, P.S. - Rajganj, District Jalpaiguri, Pin-735135; AJOY ROY, Son of Bhuluya Roy, residing at Dadhi Gachh, Manuaganj, P.O. - Manuaganj, P.S. - Rajganj, District - Jalpaiguri, Pin -735135; in favour of purchasers namely, NAJIMUL HOSEN Son of Bakul Hosen, residing at Boxiganj, Chotohaldibari, P.O. and P.S. Haldibari, District Coochbehar, Pin 735122, SAHER ANCHARI, Son of Jamir Hossain, residing at Payachari, VTC Panikauri, P.O. Payachari, P.S. Rajganj, District Jalpaiguri, Pin-735135; RAKESH MD., Son of Israil Md. residing at Motagachh, Majhiali, Manuaganj, P.O. - Manuaganj, P.S. - Rajganj, at the Ofice of A.D.S.R., District - Jalpaiguri, Pin-735135; which Deed of registration has been recorded in Book No. 1, Volume No. 0705-2022, Pages from 41658 to Rajganj, District - Jalpaiguri, [illegible] Bengal. 1

[Q]SCHEDULE ALLEGED DEED ABOVE REFERRED TO

Deed of Saf Kobala Dolil being 2420 for the year 2022 registered at the Ofice of D.S.R. Rajganj, on 23/8/2022, which has been executed by the Defendant no. 7 namely, SRI MUKUND JINDAL in favour of purchaser namely, executeUL HOSEN Son of Bakul Hosen, residing at Boxiganj, Chotohaldibari, P.O. and P.S. - Haldibari, District - Coochbehar, Pin-735122; which Deed of registration has been recorded in Book No. 1, Volume No. 0702 - 2022, Pages from 50779 to 50794, at the Ofice of D.S.R., Jalpaiguri, District - Jalpaiguri, West Bengal.

Given under my hand and the seal of this Court this the day of '2025.

By Order
Jayanta Dhar
Sherestidar
Civil Judge Senior Division, Jalpaiguri

Mohammed Siraj: The Son Who Bowled Through Tears and Triumph

Songbit karmakar: In the grand theatre of cricket, where heroes rise with every delivery, few stories tug at the heart quite like that of Mohammed Siraj—a boy from the narrow lanes of Hyderabad who learned to bowl fast before life could slow him down.

Born into modesty, Siraj's childhood wasn't painted with luxury. His father, an auto-rickshaw driver, ferried dreams through the heat and dust of Hyderabad's streets. He didn't understand cricket, but he understood his son's eyes—how they lit up whenever he held a ball. His mother stitched and saved, each thread holding together not just clothes, but the fabric of their family's hope. Siraj wasn't born into privilege, but he was born into love.

When he first bowled in the bylanes of his neighborhood, barefoot and fearless, no one imagined this boy would one day wear the India cap. But Siraj never needed applause. He needed belief—and his parents gave him that in abundance.

The world saw his raw pace and passion when he burst onto the IPL stage, but his true test came not on the cricket field, but in the silence of a hotel room in Australia.

In December 2020, while on national duty with the Indian team, Mohammed Siraj received the most devastating news a son can hear—his father had passed away. Thousands of miles from home, shattered and grieving, he had a choice: return to mourn, or stay and honor his father's dream. Siraj stayed.He stood tall, even as his shoulders carried unimaginable weight. With eyes full of tears and a heart full of pain, he walked out to bowl for India—his father's dream fulfilled in every delivery. Every wicket he took in that historic Test series against Australia was a tribute, a love letter to the man who never stopped believing in him.When he finally returned home, he didn't arrive with just statistics. He returned with stories—of sacrifice, resilience, and courage. He kneeled by his father's grave, not as a cricket star, but as a son—one who had kept his promise. Since then, Siraj has grown—not just in pace and precision, but in spirit. Whether he's rattling top orders in white-ball cricket or leading India's attack in Tests, there's a fire in his eyes and a quiet resolve in his stride. He plays with the weight of his past and the hope of a million youngsters who see themselves in his journey.

Mohammed Siraj is more than a fast bowler. He is every dream that rose from struggle. Every tear that turned into triumph. He is proof that greatness isn't just about talent—it's about heart.And his? Beats loud, with love, loss, and an undying loyalty to the game that gave him everything.

Siraj's cricketing journey began in Hyderabad, where he honed his skills in local tournaments. His impressive performances in domestic cricket, particularly his leading wicket-taking season in the Ranji Trophy, caught the attention of selectors. He made his T20I debut against New Zealand in 2017 and ODI debut against Australia in 2019. His Test debut came in 2020 against Australia in Melbourne, where he showcased his potential with a five-wicket haul. Siraj's career highlights include a stellar performance in the 2020-21 Border-Gavaskar Trophy, where he was the highest wicket-taker among Indian bowlers. He also played a crucial role in the 2023 Asia Cup final, where his 6/21 restricted Sri Lanka to a low score. His ability to swing the ball both ways, coupled with his aggression and variations like the wobble-seam, make him a challenging bowler for batsmen.In the 2023 ODI World Cup, Siraj took 14 wickets, playing a key role in India's journey to the final.Siraj played seven years, from 2018 to 2024, at RCB in the Indian Premier League, but the franchise made a bold call by not retaining him ahead of the 2025 mega auction. He represented the Bengaluru-based franchise in 87 matches, claiming 83 wickets. Later,he was bought by Gujarat Titans in the 2025 IPL auction for Rs 12.25 crore, further solidifying his position as a premier bowler. Siraj continues to be a vital part of the Indian pace attack, and his evolution as a bowler, with the addition of new variations and skills, makes him a force to be reckoned with.

Mohammed Siraj is called "DSP" because he was appointed as a Deputy Superintendent of Police in the Telangana Police force. The Telangana government honored him with this position in recognition of his achievements as a cricketer for India, particularly his contributions to the T20 World Cup win. In one of the most dramatic finishes in recent Test history, Mohammed Siraj emerged as India's undeniable hero in the fifth and final Test against England at The Oval on August 4, 2025. His figures? A match haul of 9 wickets for 190 runs, including a crucial 5 for 104 in the second innings—a performance that earned him the Player of the Match award.

Best-ever match figures by an Indian at The Oval, eclipsing Bhagwat Chandrasekhar's 8/114 from 1971. Ended the series as the top wicket-taker with 23 scalps, equallingthe record of Jasprit Bumrah for most wickets in an England Test series. Moved past Kapil Dev to become one of India's highest wicket-takers in England, tallying 46 wickets in Tests on English soil. Rose to a career-best 15th in the latest ICC Test bowling rankings. Teamed up with Prasidh Krishna to become only the second Indian duo since 1969 to each take 4+ wickets in both innings of a Test. The world took notice.

Sachin Tendulkar hailed Siraj's "remarkable" character and unrelenting energy, noting that even the great Joe Root would find his aggressive, ever-present body language intimidating. Meanwhile, England coach Brendon McCullum admitted that, although disappointed, he "admired" Siraj's match-winning brilliance. Cricket legend Wasim Akram went further, praising him as "no longer a supporting bowler" but, instead, a fiery team-leader, even as he carried a heavy workload—nearly 186 overs across five Tests.Teammate Akash Deep emphasized the mental fortitude behind Siraj's success: "Being mentally fit is more important than physically fit," especially when bowling five consecutive Tests. Mohammed Siraj is nicknamed "Miyan" or "Miyan Bhai" as a term of endearment and respect, particularly among his teammates and fans. The Urdu word "Miyan" means "sir" or "mister," and "bhai" means "brother". The nickname combines respect and affection, reflecting his popularity and the positive way he is viewed within the cricketing community.

Apple India Secures 2.7 Lakh Sq Ft Office Space in Bengaluru in Landmark 10-Year Deal

Apple India has taken a significant step in expanding its operations in the country by leasing a massive 2.7 lakh square feet of office space from Embassy Group in Bengaluru.

The deal, reportedly worth over ₹1,000 crore for a tenure of ten years, underscores the tech giant's long-term commitment to India as a strategic hub for its business operations. This move also highlights Bengaluru's continued prominence as a preferred destination for multinational corporations seeking premium office infrastructure and a skilled workforce. The leased space, spread across one of Embassy Group's high-end commercial properties, is set to accommodate Apple India's expanding teams, including those engaged in software development, sales, marketing, and other operational functions. Analysts view the decision as part of Apple's broader strategy to strengthen its presence in Asia's third-largest economy, both as a market for its products and as a base for innovation and talent development.

Bengaluru, often referred to as India's Silicon Valley, has long been the preferred destination for global tech firms. With its rich talent pool, well-developed infrastructure, and thriving start-up ecosystem, the city continues to attract companies looking to combine access to skilled professionals with modern office facilities. Apple's decision to secure such a substantial footprint further cements Bengaluru's status as a leading technology and business hub in India. For Embassy Group, the deal represents one of the largest commercial leasing transactions in recent times. The group has a well-established portfolio of office and commercial properties across major cities, and securing a tenant of Apple's global stature adds prestige and visibility to its brand. According to industry observers, the deal signals strong demand for premium office spaces despite the global challenges faced by commercial real estate in recent years. The lease agreement, spanning a decade, also reflects Apple's confidence in India's economic growth and its long-term prospects as a key market. India has emerged as one of the fastest-growing smartphone markets in the world, and Apple has been steadily increasing its footprint through retail expansion, online sales, and localized initiatives such as manufacturing and R&D activities.

A large office space in Bengaluru will likely support these ongoing efforts, providing the company with the infrastructure needed to manage operations efficiently. Experts believe that Apple's move could encourage other global technology firms to expand their office presence in India. Over the past few years, companies such as Google, Microsoft, and Amazon have also scaled up operations in Bengaluru and other cities, highlighting India's growing appeal as both a market and a talent hub. This trend reflects a broader shift in corporate strategies, where multinational companies are increasingly investing in Asia to leverage local expertise and tap into regional growth opportunities. The Indian government's initiatives to promote technology investment, including ease of doing business reforms, incentives for innovation, and the creation of special economic zones, have also played a role in attracting global companies like Apple. By establishing a long-term presence in Bengaluru, Apple can take advantage of these policy measures while positioning itself to compete effectively in India's fast-growing tech ecosystem. Real estate analysts note that high-value leases like Apple's are significant for the commercial property sector. They provide developers with stable long-term revenue streams and demonstrate confidence in the market's potential. Such deals also help set benchmarks for rental rates in prime locations, influencing leasing trends and valuations in the city's commercial real estate segment.



Name Change

I, SEKH NAZMUL HASAN (Old Name) son of, Sekh. Noor Alam ,residing at Bankra Badamtala and sanapara,P.O – Bankra,P.S – Domjur, District- Howrah, PIN – 711403,West Bengal .have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as SK NAJMUL HASAN (New Name) son of SK.Noor Alam as declared before the Court of Ld. 1st Class Judicial Magistrate at Howrah dated 13/08/2025. SEKH NAZMUL HASAN (Old Name) and SK NAJMUL HASAN (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change

I, Md Mokim Ansari son of Late Ulfat Ansari, residing at Paschim Para, Bidhannagar Municipal Corporation, Eco Park, Dist: North 24 Parganas, Pin: 700157, West Bengal, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Mokim Ansari as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata dated 14/08/2025. Md Mokim Ansari and Mokim Ansari both are same and one identical person.

Name Change

I , Mohammad Murshed Ali (Old Name) S/O– Mohammad Giasuddin Momin resident of Vill- Alipur , Po- Alipur , Ps- Kaliachak , Dist-malda , West Bengal, Pin-732201 do hereby declared that I have changed my name from Mohammad Murshed Ali to Md Murshed Ali and henceforth I shall be known as Md Murshed Ali (new name) in all purpose, vide an affidavit sworn before the notary public Berhampore court on 11/08/2025. My name Md Murshed Ali & Mohammad Murshed Ali both are same and one identical person.

Name Change

I, Ahammed Hossain (Old Name) S/O– resident of S/O–Ehesan Sekh residing at Vill- Mominabad, PO-Kanfala , PS-Nabagram , Murshidabad, West Bengal 742181 do hereby declared that I have changed my name from Ahammed Hossain to Ahammad Sekh and henceforth I shall be known as Ahammad Sekh (new name) in all purpose, vide an affidavit sworn before the notary public Lalbagh court on 21/07/2025. My name Ahammad Sekh & Ahammed Hossain both are same and one identical person.

Name Change

I, Jamrul Sk (Old Name) S/O–Nijamuddin Sk residing at Biswanathpur , Sabaldaha, PS-Khargram , Murshidabad, West Bengal 742157 do hereby declared that I have changed my name from Jamrul Sk to Jamirul Sk and henceforth I shall be known as Jamirul Sk (new name) in all purpose, vide an affidavit sworn before the notary public Berhampore court on 14/08/2025. My name Jamirul Sk & Jamrul Sk both are same and one identical person.

Name Change

I, Sekendar Seikh (Old Name) S/O–Moktar Sk residing at Halsanapara ,Chowrigachha, PS-Berhampore , Murshidabad, West Bengal 742405 do hereby declared that I have changed my name from Sekendar Seikh to Sekendar Sk and henceforth I shall be known as Sekendar Sk (new name) in all purpose, vide an affidavit sworn before the notary public Berhampore court on 14/08/2025. My name Sekendar Sk & Sekendar Seikh both are same and one identical person.

Mamata Banerjee Government to Distribute Bicycles to Students from This Month, Nabanna Launches Initiative

Kolkata, 17 August: The West Bengal government has announced the rollout of its much-anticipated scheme to distribute bicycles to students, with the program set to begin this very month. Acting on the instructions of Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, Nabanna has finalized the necessary arrangements, ensuring that thousands of students across the state will soon benefit from this initiative. The scheme, which forms part of the government's larger vision of promoting education and supporting rural and semi-urban youth, is expected to make a significant impact on students who often struggle with transportation issues while commuting to schools.

According to government sources, the initiative will be carried out in a phased manner, with priority given to students from economically weaker sections. The bicycles will be distributed free of cost, directly to school students from Classes IX to XII. This step has been taken keeping in mind the fact that a large section of students, especially in rural Bengal, face long journeys on foot to attend school. For many, the distance and lack of affordable transportation often become barriers to consistent attendance, directly affecting their academic performance.

The program has been designed not only to provide a mode of transportation but also to encourage greater participation in education. Officials emphasized that the bicycles will help reduce drop-out rates among teenagers who otherwise find it difficult to continue their studies due to commuting challenges. By ensuring better access to schools, the scheme also aims to empower families who cannot afford to purchase bicycles for their children.

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has been vocal about her government's focus on student welfare and educational upliftment. Over the years, several flagship programs such as Kanyashree and Sabuj Sathi have brought global recognition to the state, and the bicycle distribution drive is seen as an extension of that commitment. Under the earlier Sabuj Sathi project, mil-

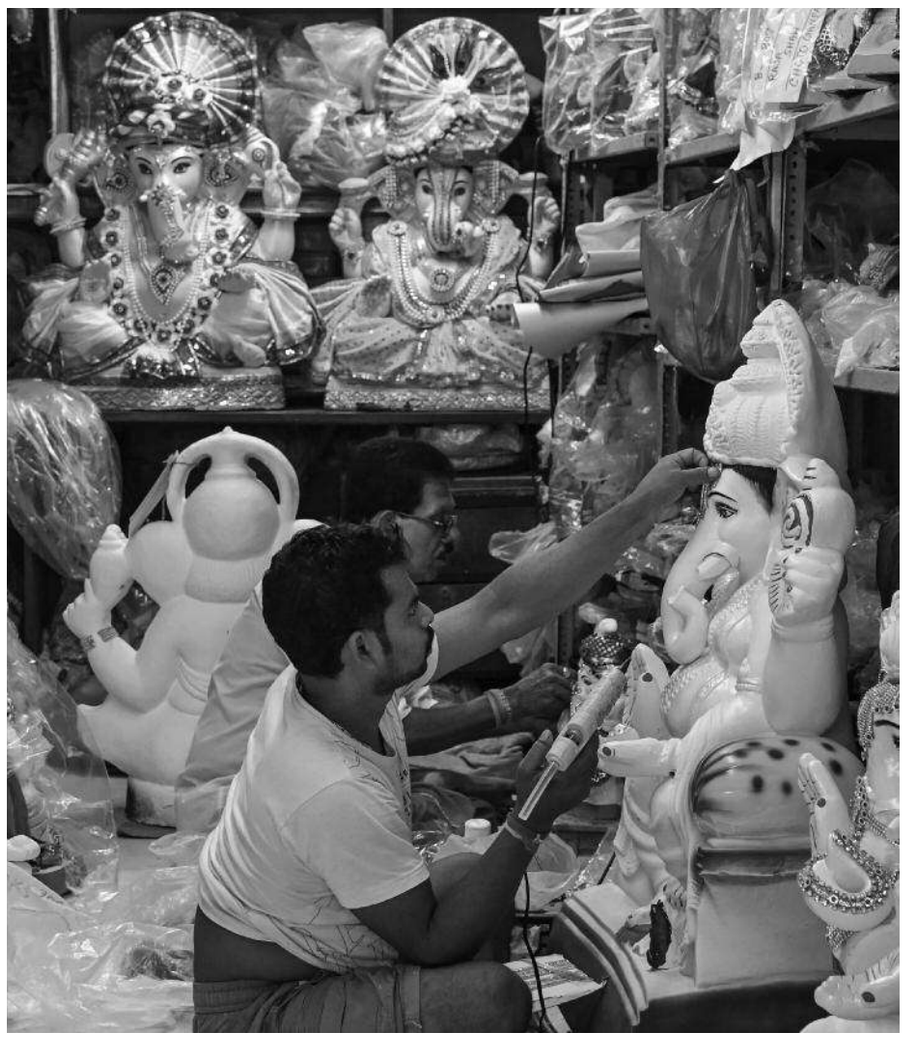


lions of students had already received bicycles, and this fresh distribution aims to cover more students who are in need, particularly those who missed out in previous phases.

Officials at Nabanna confirmed that the procurement and logistics have been finalized, and the distribution will commence in multiple districts simultaneously. Schools will act as nodal points where students will receive their bicycles. Headmasters and district education officers are being instructed to oversee the process to ensure transparency and fairness. The government has also allocated funds to cover the expenses, highlighting that despite financial pressures, investment in education and youth empowerment remains a top priority.

The timing of the initiative is crucial as well. With the academic session in full swing, students stand to benefit immediately, improving attendance rates and reducing the physical strain of walking long distances daily. In rural belts, especially in North Bengal, Sundarbans, and tribal regions, students often travel several kilometers barefoot or depend on irregular public transport. The new distribution will ease these hardships considerably. Community leaders and education activists have welcomed the move, noting that it will particularly empower girl students. In many conservative families, sending daughters to schools located far away often raises safety concerns. A bicycle, therefore, provides not only convenience but also a greater sense of security and independence. Experiences from previous schemes suggest that when girls are given bicycles, their chances of continuing education beyond secondary level rise significantly.

Teachers across the state also expressed optimism, noting that students who spend less time commuting can dedicate more hours to studies. Moreover, a reduction in absenteeism is expected, as bicycles will help students attend classes even during adverse weather conditions. For rural teachers who often struggle with incomplete classrooms, the scheme is being seen as a practical solution to improve overall learning outcomes. Politically, the move is significant as well. At a time when the state government is facing criticism from opposition parties on multiple fronts, the bicycle distribution program reinforces the ruling party's image of focusing on grassroots welfare.



Artists make idols of Lord Ganesha ahead of the 'Ganesh Chaturthi' festival, in Kolkata, Sunday.

This time, Mathurapur MP Bapi Haldar showed his skills on the football field

Mathurapur , 17 August: Mathurapur Lok Sabha constituency MP Bapi Haldar is successful in both the political field and the football field. He proved yesterday that he is fluent in both the political field and the football field. Yesterday, i.e. August 16, was Sports Day. On that Sports Day, a football competition was organized by the Sports and Youth Welfare Department at the Swamiji Maidan of Block No. 1, Mathurapur. 8 teams from 8 Gram Panchayats of this block participated in this competition. Before the competition started, there was an exhibition match. Two teams participated in that exhibition match. One was the Panchayat Samiti team and the other was the BDO office team. MP Bapi Haldar took to the field for the Panchayat Samiti team. The team captain was Panchayat Samiti President Manabendra Haldar. In this exhibition match, Bapi Haldar showed his physical skills and football skills, which caught the attention of the audience. He proved that he is also skilled in the football field by beating the opposition players one after another. The opposition players succumbed to his skills. He entered the opposition defense and scored goals by beating the players. He received applause from the audience. Incidentally, Bapi Haldar, a resident of Sadial in Krishnachandrapur Gram Panchayat of Block No. 1, Mathurapur, entered politics with the help of his father Bimal Haldar. Later, he became the booth president. In the 2013 panchayat elections, he won from Sadial booth on the Trinamool symbol and became the opposition leader of Krishnachandrapur Gram Panchayat. In 2018, he became the moderator by winning from the Dakat Mara booth, which was occupied by the CPM for a long time, on the instructions of Chowdhury Mohan Jatua of the then Mathurapur Lok Sabha constituency. Later, he brought a no-confidence motion in the Krishnachandrapur Gram Panchayat held by the CPM. After a single bench of the High Court, a double bench and then the Supreme Court order, the Trinamool Congress came to power in the panchayat. Bapi Halder became the chief. In 2023, he won from the Zilla Parishad and became the Executive Director of the Food Department. In the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, Bapi Halder, a favorite of state Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and Abhishek Banerjee, was fielded from the Mathurapur Lok Sabha constituency. Bapi Halder entered the Lok Sabha by winning more than 2 lakh votes. He is currently a member of the Standing Committee on the Ministry of Jal Shakti in the Lok Sabha.

Siliguri-Sikkim Lifeline Reopens After Seven Days of Disruption

Siliguri, 17 August: After a week-long shutdown that crippled connectivity and disrupted the movement of people and goods, the Siliguri-Sikkim lifeline has finally reopened, bringing a wave of relief to residents, traders, and tourists. The National Highway that serves as the principal arterial link between North Bengal and Sikkim was blocked for seven days due to massive landslides triggered by incessant rainfall in the region. Its reopening marks a critical restoration of movement, especially for the landlocked state of Sikkim which heavily depends on this route for essential supplies.

The landslides, caused by continuous downpours, had left stretches of the highway buried under rocks, mud, and debris. Large sections of the road had either caved in or become too dangerous for vehicular movement. The Border Roads Organisation (BRO), along with state authorities, had been engaged in relentless operations to clear the route. Bulldozers, earthmovers, and hundreds of workers worked around the clock despite adverse weather conditions to restore the damaged sections. For the past week, stranded vehicles and passengers had been forced to either wait indefinitely or take long detours, resulting in enormous financial and logistical strain.

Sikkim, being landlocked and dependent on road connectivity for almost all of its essential commodities, felt the brunt of the disruption most severely. Supply of vegetables, fruits, medicines, and fuel was interrupted, causing prices to soar. Petrol and diesel became scarce in several parts of the state, leading to panic buying and rationing of fuel at pumps. Similarly, perishable goods like vegetables and dairy products either could not reach Sikkim in time or rotted in stranded trucks along the highway. Shopkeepers and traders in Gangtok and other towns voiced frustration over the shortage of supplies, while residents endured the steep price rise during the week of isolation.

Tourism, the lifeblood of Sikkim's economy, was also hit hard. Scores of tourists who had planned trips to Sikkim during this season found themselves stuck in Siliguri or midway along the disrupted route. Many had to cancel or postpone their journeys altogether. Hoteliers, taxi drivers, and tour operators lamented the heavy losses incurred due to cancellations, as the week-long disruption coincided with a busy travel period. With the reopening of the highway, the tourism



industry is hopeful of reviving some of the losses, but stakeholders fear that recurring natural calamities may further deter travelers in the future.

Local residents in the affected areas of North Bengal also endured tremendous difficulties. Villages situated near the landslide-prone stretches were cut off from Siliguri for days. Emergency medical cases had to be diverted or delayed, putting lives at risk. Farmers who supply produce to markets in Siliguri and Sikkim watched helplessly as their goods failed to reach buyers. The prolonged road closure served as a grim reminder of how fragile the connectivity in the Himalayan region remains, especially during the monsoon months.

Authorities, while confirming the reopening of the route, have also urged caution. Though the road has been cleared for traffic, officials noted that heavy rains continue in the area, and further landslides cannot be ruled out. The BRO has deployed monitoring teams to keep a close watch on vulnerable spots and ensure that traffic is regulated smoothly. Traffic police have been instructed to manage vehicular flow in sensitive stretches where the road remains narrow and prone to slippage.

The reopening has been welcomed with widespread relief. Long queues of trucks, passenger vehicles, and tourist taxis were seen waiting to cross the cleared sections soon after traffic was allowed. Transporters expressed relief that goods in transit would finally be able to move, although many lamented the huge losses already suffered due to the delay. "Seven days of closure means lakhs of rupees gone," one truck operator said, adding that many perishable items in his consignment had already been destroyed.

Political leaders from both West Bengal and Sikkim have reacted strongly to the disruption. While Sikkimese leaders highlighted the vulnerability of the state due to its dependence on a single national highway, leaders from North Bengal demanded long-term solutions such as building alternate routes and strengthening existing infrastructure.

Tragedy in Howrah: 17-Year-Old Drowns in Local Lake, Community in Shock

Howrah, 17 August: A pall of grief descended upon a neighbourhood in Howrah after a 17-year-old boy tragically lost his life by drowning in a lake. The incident, which unfolded suddenly and without warning, has left his family devastated and the local community reeling in sorrow. What was expected to be a routine day turned into a nightmare as frantic rescue attempts failed to save the teenager's life. According to local sources, the boy, whose name has not yet been released publicly, had gone to the lakeside with friends. Like many young people in the area, visiting the lake was a common way to pass time and escape the heat of the afternoon. Witnesses say that at some point, he entered the water, but soon found himself struggling. Despite attempts by his companions to help, the situation quickly spiraled out of control.

Eyewitnesses recalled the heart-wrenching moments when the boy shouted for help as he flailed in the water. His friends raised the alarm, and locals rushed to the scene, but by the time he was pulled out, he had already lost consciousness. Emergency services were called immediately, and he was rushed to a nearby hospital. Doctors, however, declared him dead on arrival, confirming that he had drowned. The news spread quickly across the locality, drawing crowds to the lakeside as people struggled to comprehend the tragedy. For neighbours and relatives, the boy's death was almost impossible to process, given his young age and the suddenness of the incident. His family members were inconsolable, their grief compounded by the fact that he had left home only hours earlier, promising to return soon. Police arrived at the spot to take stock of the situation and to ensure that proper procedures were followed. A preliminary investigation suggested that the boy had no prior health issues and that the drowning was accidental.

Supari Killer Arrested in Connection with Murder of TMC Leader's Son in Cooch Behar

Cooch Behar, 17 August: A chilling murder case that shocked Cooch Behar has taken a dramatic turn with the arrest of a contract killer who is believed to be directly involved in the brutal killing of the son of a local Trinamool Congress (TMC) leader. The case, which has gripped the region with fear and suspicion, is being seen as a reflection of the growing menace of crime networks that operate in political and personal rivalries.

According to police sources, the young man, who was the son of a TMC functionary, was found murdered under mysterious circumstances earlier this week. His death had initially raised several questions, as his body bore clear signs of a targeted attack rather than a random act of violence. The police began probing the case with multiple angles in mind, ranging from personal enmity to political conspiracy, given the victim's family background. As the investigation deepened, crucial leads pointed towards a hired killer who had been brought in specifically to eliminate the young man.

After days of relentless pursuit, the police managed to apprehend the alleged supari killer, whose identity has been kept confidential for the sake of the ongoing probe. Investigators revealed that the accused had a history of involvement in contract killings and was part of a larger network that carried out crimes for money. His arrest is being hailed as a major breakthrough in the case, as it not only establishes the murder as a premeditated crime but also opens up the possibility of exposing those who financed and orchestrated the act.

The victim, whose father is an influential TMC leader in the region, was reportedly well-known in his locality. His sudden death left the community in shock, with many expressing outrage and fear that such a heinous act could be executed so brazenly. Local residents demanded swift justice and stronger security measures to ensure that political rivalry and personal vendettas do not spiral into violent crimes. Police officials confirmed that the arrested killer has already begun revealing details during interrogation, shedding light on how the murder was planned and executed. Investigators believe that the killing was not a spontaneous crime but a carefully designed plot, with the supari killer being hired for a substantial amount of money. However, the authorities have refrained from naming the mastermind or financiers behind the crime until further evidence is gathered.

The incident has sparked political tensions in Cooch Behar, with opposition parties raising questions about law and order in West Bengal. They have accused the ruling dispensation of failing to protect its own members and their families, suggesting that common people are even more vulnerable. Meanwhile, TMC leaders have condemned the killing and called it a desperate attempt by rivals to destabilize peace in the district. They also urged the police to act swiftly and bring every conspirator to justice, regardless of their position or influence. The family of the victim, devastated by the tragic loss, has demanded capital punishment for the killer and those behind the conspiracy.

A sharpshooter finally arrested in the murder of a Trinamool youth leader

Shilpi Dutta

Cooch Behar, 17 August: On Sunday morning, Pundibari police station police arrested a sharpshooter named Binay Roy (35) from the Bengal Bihar border. Additional Superintendent of Police Krishna Gopal Meena said this at a press conference in Cooch Behar on Sunday. The house of the arrested Binay Roy is in Siddheshwari area adjacent to Baneshwar in Cooch Behar. Although he had been living in Siliguri for seven years, the Additional Superintendent of Police said. At the press conference, he said that in the Dodeya Hat incident, Amar Roy, the son of the deceased Trinamool Congress panchayat president, was shot twice in the head and twice in the stomach. He died on the spot and another person who was injured was shot permanently. The Additional Superintendent of Police said that many others are involved in this incident. Binay Roy and a team committed this incident. Four rounds of bullets and a 9 mm pistol were recovered from the arrested Vinoda. The Additional Superintendent of Police also said that the arrested Vinoy Roy was previously involved in various cases, including a pokshow robbery. Although he said that there was a long-standing dispute between the deceased Amar Roy and Vinoy Roy, the reason for the dispute will be known only after the investigation. Although he also said that there was a political issue behind it, he said that the reason will be known after the investigation. When he was produced in court on Sunday, the court ordered eight-day police custody. After this arrest, Amar Roy's mother and Trinamool Panchayat Pradhan said that if one person has been arrested after seven days, then the main murderer must be arrested. I have faith in the police. If the police cannot arrest the main culprit, then I will take whatever action I can.

Massive Haul of Banned Fireworks Worth Crores Seized in Jalpaiguri, Authorities Step Up Crackdown

Jalpaiguri, 17 August: Police in Jalpaiguri seized a huge consignment of banned fireworks worth several crores of rupees, dealing a significant blow to those involved in the illicit business. The operation, which was carried out after detailed intelligence inputs, has brought to light the scale at which banned firecrackers continue to be manufactured, stored, and circulated despite repeated prohibitions and strict guidelines from both the state government and the judiciary.

According to police sources, the seizure took place late at night during a coordinated raid in various parts of Jalpaiguri district. Acting on a tip-off, law enforcement teams intercepted trucks and searched godowns where large quantities of fireworks had been stored. To the shock of the authorities, the haul was enormous, amounting to several crores in value. Investigations revealed that these firecrackers were not only manufactured without proper licenses but also contained hazardous chemicals, making them extremely dangerous for both users and the environment.

The illegal consignment was allegedly being prepared for distribution ahead of the festive season. Festivals such as Diwali, Kali Puja, and Chhath often see a sharp surge in the demand for firecrackers, and smugglers exploit this period to push banned products into the market. Despite the clear directives from the Supreme Court and the National Green Tribunal, as well as repeated drives by the state government, the trade in banned fireworks continues to thrive, often in collusion with local networks.

Senior police officials stated that the consignment was stored in unsafe conditions, posing a risk of accidental explosions that could have caused massive damage to lives and property in the surrounding areas. Officers added that such stockpiles often double as ticking time bombs, where even a small spark could lead to a catastrophe. The authorities are now tracing the origins of the consignment, trying to identify the manufacturers, suppliers, and the broader network responsible for its circulation.

The seizure has once again brought into sharp focus the challenges in curbing the illegal fireworks industry. While licensed and green crackers are permitted under controlled conditions, banned varieties containing harmful chemicals like barium and excessive sulfur continue to flood the market. These products not only violate environmental laws but also contribute to rising pollution levels, particularly during the winter months when air quality dips alarmingly across West Bengal, including in Kolkata and the surrounding districts.

Locals in Jalpaiguri expressed both relief and concern after the raid. Relief came from the fact that such a dangerous cache had been discovered and removed before it could cause harm, but concern lingered over how such a large stockpile could be built up without detection for so long. Residents voiced the need for continuous vigilance, stressing that sporadic raids are not enough to dismantle the entrenched network of illegal traders.

The police, on their part, have assured that strict action will be taken against those involved. Several individuals have already been detained for questioning, and authorities are confident that further arrests will follow as the investigation deepens. Cases under various sections of the Indian Penal Code as well as the Explosives Act are likely to be lodged against the accused. Officials also suggested that some consignments might have been intended not just for local sale but for supply to other districts and even neighboring states.

The timing of the seizure has sparked discussions about the recurring failure to implement existing bans effectively. Environmental activists and public health experts argue that unless enforcement is consistent and uncompromising, such crackdowns will only serve as temporary deterrents. They have urged for more comprehensive measures, including community awareness drives, stricter monitoring of manufacturing units, and harsher penalties for offenders.

For the Jalpaiguri administration, the operation has highlighted both success and responsibility. While the massive seizure stands as proof of the police's efficiency and intelligence network, it also underscores the sheer scale of the illegal industry operating under the radar. Officials have hinted that more raids are likely in the coming weeks, as intelligence suggests other consignments may still be hidden in remote areas of the district. As the festive season approaches, authorities are bracing for an uphill battle to prevent banned fireworks from reaching markets. The recent haul serves as a reminder of how deeply rooted the trade is and how determined those involved are to bypass legal restrictions for profit.

Tamil Nadu Governor Doing "Cheap Politics" Than Opposition, Says MK Stalin

Dharmapuri, 17 August: Chief Minister M K Stalin on Sunday mounted a scathing attack on Tamil Nadu Governor R N Ravi, accusing him of doing "cheap politics" than the opposition and charged him with spreading canards against the ruling DMK and the party-led government.Listing out the various pro-people welfare initiatives of his government, he said Tamil Nadu has become a pioneer for the country in such schemes.

The Dravidian model government is the one which shows direction to the country. "Some mischief mongers are unable to stand this and are making baseless allegations," he said.In his address at a government event here to mark the launch of social welfare initiatives, the CM said he was not concerned about what the opposition parties say, since "that is their politics."

"There is someone doing cheaper politics than them, you know who it is. It is Governor R N Ravi, appointed by the Union BJP government. You know what he does from the Raj Bhavan--spread canards against the DMK government, against DMK. He will insult Dravidam, won't approve legislations (bills), will disrespect Tamil Thaai Vazhthu (Tamil anthem) and maligns TN students," the CM said.He charged Ravi with making unfounded allegations about TN education, law and order and women's safety, and "creating panic".

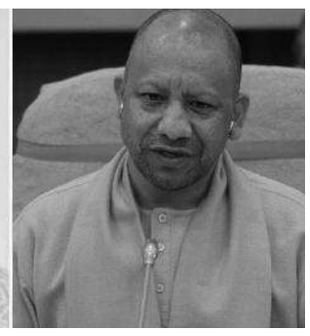
"Tamil Nadu is the top Indian state. We are not saying this, Union BJP government's statistics stand as testament to this. Tamil Nadu is ahead of BJP-ruled states (in social indices). Unable to stand this, he (Ravi) is venting out his frustration in public fora," Stalin charged.The CM's sharp retort comes days after Ravi expressed concern over women's safety, drug abuse among youth in the state, among other issues, in his Independence Day address.

Stalin claimed Tamil Nadu stood second in school education. Also, it was because law and order was maintained well in the state that it has attracted Rs 10 lakh crore worth investments in the last four years, he said.As regards women's safety, citing National Crime Records Bureau statistics of 2022, he claimed BJP-ruled Uttar Pradesh tops in crimes against women.

"He is effectively ensuring that our fire for the language, race and ideology burns bright. Let him talk, I am not bothered." "I am only bothered about you, want to be truthful to you who have voted for us," he said.Pointing out the recently rolled out public outreach initiatives--"Ungaludan Stalin, Nalan Kakkum Stalin, Thayumanavar Scheme," he said there was no need for him to monitor these "since you, the beneficiaries, have become its ambassadors."

Expelled SP MLA Pooja Pal Meets Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath, Sparks Speculation of Political Realignment





Lucknow, 17 August: Uttar Pradesh, expelled Samajwadi Party (SP) MLA Pooja Pal recently met with Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, triggering widespread speculation about a possible shift in her political allegiance. The meeting, which took place amid heightened political activity in the state, is being seen as a potential sign of her moving closer to the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) camp, a development that could carry significant implications for both parties in the region.

Pooja Pal, who has had a complex and often turbulent political journey, represented the Chail constituency in Uttar Pradesh and was considered a prominent figure in the Samajwadi Party. However, her relationship with the SP leadership soured over time, ultimately leading to her expulsion. The reasons behind her exit were rooted in internal differences, allegations of indiscipline, and a perceived lack of alignment with the party's central strategies. Since then, her political future has been a subject of much debate, with observers closely watching her next move.

The meeting with Yogi Adityanath has therefore come as a surprise, raising questions about whether it signals her readiness to join the BJP or at least collaborate with the ruling dispensation in some form. For the BJP, bringing in a leader like Pooja Pal, who has influence in certain pockets of the state, could prove advantageous, particularly as it looks to consolidate its voter base and strengthen its reach ahead of future electoral battles.

Political insiders suggest that the meeting was not merely a courtesy call but part of a larger dialogue about her potential role in state politics under the BJP's banner. Though neither Pooja Pal nor the Chief Minister has made an official statement confirming such intentions, the optics of the meeting alone have been enough to spark speculation. Leaders within the SP have already voiced concern, interpreting the move as another example of the BJP poaching their disgruntled members to weaken the opposition.

Pooja Pal's political journey has been marked by resilience and controversy in equal measure. She first entered politics under challenging circumstances, following the assassination of her husband Raju Pal, a popular Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) leader. Her entry into electoral politics was seen as both a continuation of his legacy and a personal fight for justice and survival in the rough terrain of Uttar Pradesh politics. Over the years, she carved out her own space, switching allegiances between parties and building a political identity that has often defied easy categorization.

Her expulsion from the Samajwadi Party was a setback, but it also freed her from the limitations of party discipline, allowing her to explore new alignments. For the BJP, her entry could serve not only as a boost in terms of electoral numbers but also as a symbolic victory, showcasing its ability to attract leaders from rival camps. For Pooja Pal, aligning with the ruling party could provide a fresh political platform, access to resources, and a chance to reassert her relevance on the state's political map.

The timing of the meeting is equally significant. Uttar Pradesh remains a key battleground in Indian politics, and both BJP and SP are preparing strategies to consolidate their positions. With the Lok Sabha elections not far away and state-level contests always looming large, any shift in political loyalties can alter equations on the ground. Pooja Pal's potential move towards the BJP could affect local caste and community dynamics, especially in constituencies where she commands influence.

Reactions to the meeting have been predictably polarized. BJP leaders have chosen to remain tight-lipped, neither confirming nor denying the possibility of her induction into the party. Their silence is widely interpreted as a calculated move to keep the speculation alive while leaving room for negotiations. On the other hand, leaders within the Samajwadi Party have criticized Pooja Pal, accusing her of betraying the trust of the party and voters who supported her under the SP banner. They argue that such shifts reveal a lack of ideological commitment and are motivated purely by personal ambition.



Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge, LoP in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, party MP KC Venugopal, RJD Chief Lalu Prasad Yadav, LoP in the Bihar Assembly Tejashwi Yadav and other leaders during the 'Voter Adhikar Yatra', in Sasaram.

China Plans New Economic Corridor Linking Southeast China to the Indian Ocean, Raising Strategic Concerns for India

Bangalore, 17 August: China's growing ambitions in South Asia have taken another significant turn with reports that Beijing is now eyeing the creation of a new economic corridor that would connect its southeastern provinces directly to the Indian Ocean. This proposed corridor, if realized, would strengthen China's access to vital sea routes and expand its influence across a region that holds immense strategic and economic importance.

According to reports, the corridor would involve the development of road, rail, and port infrastructure stretching from China's Yunnan province through Myanmar, eventually providing a direct gateway to the Indian Ocean. The project, which is being framed as part of Beijing's broader Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), would not only shorten China's trade routes but also reduce its dependence on the congested and vulnerable Strait of Malacca for maritime connectivity.

The idea of bypassing the Malacca Strait has long been a strategic goal for China, given that nearly 80 percent of its oil imports pass through the narrow sea lane, which is heavily monitored by global powers including the United States and India. By creating a more secure alternative route to the Indian Ocean, Beijing would gain a significant advantage in terms of both energy security and trade efficiency.

While the project promises economic opportunities for countries like Myanmar, it has raised alarm bells in New Delhi. Indian observers see the corridor as another attempt by China to expand its footprint in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR), an area India traditionally considers vital to its own security and strategic influence. The development is being viewed in the context of Beijing's increasing naval presence in the region, including its investments in ports such as Hambantota in Sri Lanka and Gwadar in Pakistan, both of which have already heightened India's concerns.

Experts argue that this new corridor would further entrench China's "string of pearls" strategy, under which it is believed to be encircling India with a network of economic and military outposts across the Indian Ocean. By connecting its industrial hubs in Yunnan to ports in Myanmar, China could move goods and resources more swiftly while also gaining logistical flexibility for its naval operations. Such a move would inevitably alter the balance of power in the region, forcing India to rethink its own strategic posture.

For Myanmar, which has increasingly relied on China for economic and political support in recent years, the corridor presents both opportunities and risks. On one hand, the project promises significant infrastructure investment, job creation, and enhanced connectivity. On the other hand, it raises concerns about debt dependency, sovereignty, and the possibility of Myanmar becoming a strategic pawn in Beijing's larger geopolitical game.

India has traditionally been wary of China's BRI projects, refusing to join the initiative due to concerns over sovereignty and transparency. New Delhi has repeatedly highlighted the example of Sri Lanka, which fell into a debt trap after taking massive Chinese loans for the Hambantota port project, ultimately leading to the controversial handing over of the port on a long-term lease to Beijing. The prospect of Myanmar being drawn into a similar cycle of dependence is seen as a worrying development.

Moreover, the new corridor would bring China even closer to India's northeastern states, a region already sensitive due to its geographic vulnerabilities and security concerns. Analysts point out that enhanced Chinese presence in Myanmar through roads, railways, and ports could have long-term implications for India's northeastern borders, both strategically and economically.

Election Commission Directs Rahul Gandhi to Submit Affidavit or Apologise, Congress Hits Back

Mumbai, 17 August: The Election Commission of India has issued a stern directive to senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, asking him to either submit an affidavit within seven days substantiating his recent remarks or tender an apology. The order has ignited a political storm, with the Congress party quickly countering the Commission's stance, accusing it of adopting a partisan approach and attempting to curb opposition voices in the run-up to crucial elections.

According to reports, the controversy began when Rahul Gandhi made strong statements during a recent campaign rally, targeting the ruling dispensation. His remarks, laced with sharp criticism of government policies, caught the attention of the Election Commission, which took cognizance and deemed them as potentially misleading and violative of the Model Code of Conduct. The Commission's notice stated that unless Gandhi could produce documentary evidence to support his claims through a sworn affidavit, he must issue an apology to avoid further action.

The directive is being seen as one of the toughest responses from the poll body in recent times against a national leader. The Commission stressed that public figures, especially those contesting elections or campaigning, carry a responsibility to ensure that their statements are not only factual but also free from misinformation that could sway voters unfairly. It maintained that any attempt to present unverified allegations as facts is in violation of electoral ethics.

The Congress party, however, reacted strongly to the notice, defending Rahul Gandhi's remarks as part of legitimate political discourse. Party leaders argued that Gandhi was highlighting issues that concern citizens and raising questions about the government's performance, which is both his right and duty as a leader of the opposition. They alleged that the Election Commission's move reflects bias and selective action, as similar remarks by leaders from the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party often go unchecked.

Senior Congress spokespersons stated that the notice smacks of double standards and is an attempt to silence Rahul Gandhi, whose speeches in recent months have focused on unemployment, price rise, and issues affecting farmers. They emphasized that Gandhi's comments were rooted in public grievances and did not amount to misinformation. The party also accused the Commission of acting under political pressure, thereby undermining its own credibility as a neutral institution tasked with safeguarding democratic processes.

Rahul Gandhi himself has not yet publicly responded to the Commission's directive, but party insiders suggest that he is unlikely to issue an apology. Instead, the Congress is expected to challenge the notice, possibly through legal and procedural means. According to sources, the leadership feels that apologising would set a dangerous precedent, discouraging opposition leaders from speaking freely during campaigns.

The development has sparked wider debate across political circles and media platforms. Critics of the Election Commission argue that while maintaining the integrity of elections is crucial, policing political speeches too aggressively may stifle free expression, which is an essential element of democracy. On the other hand, supporters of the Commission's decision contend that accountability is necessary to prevent false claims from misleading voters, especially in a climate where disinformation spreads rapidly. Observers note that the timing of the notice is significant.

Karnataka Congress Leaders Spark Row by Comparing RSS to Taliban, BJP Demands Apology

New Delhi, 17 August: A fresh political controversy has erupted in Karnataka after senior Congress leaders likened the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) to the Taliban, triggering sharp reactions from the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and Sangh Parivar affiliates. The remark, which was made during a public address, has added fuel to the already charged political climate in the southern state, where Congress and BJP have been locked in an intense war of words over ideological and governance issues. According to reports, the comparison was drawn by prominent Congress figures in Karnataka while speaking about the RSS's ideological influence and organizational methods. They argued that just as the Taliban imposes rigid ideologies and seeks to control society through intimidation and regimentation, the RSS is attempting to enforce its cultural and political agenda in India under the guise of nationalism. The leaders accused the Sangh of pushing the country towards intolerance and undermining the principles of democracy and pluralism.

The remarks, however, quickly sparked outrage among BJP leaders, who denounced them as defamatory, irresponsible, and deeply insulting to millions of Indians associated with the RSS. Party spokespersons described the statement as an attempt to malign a nationalist organization that has played a pivotal role in nation-building. The BJP demanded that Congress issue an immediate apology, warning that such rhetoric only exposes the party's anti-Hindu mindset and desperation to appease minority vote banks.

The RSS too condemned the comparison, with members pointing out that the organization's core philosophy is rooted in cultural pride, discipline, and voluntary service. They rejected the attempt to equate the Sangh with a militant group that has a history of violence, extremism, and human rights abuses. Sangh supporters argued that the RSS has contributed to various spheres of Indian society, including social reform, disaster relief, and education, making the Taliban analogy not only offensive but also factually baseless.

Political analysts note that this controversy comes at a time when Congress has been intensifying its ideological attacks on the BJP and its parent body, the RSS, in a bid to consolidate secular and liberal voters. By drawing provocative parallels, party leaders appear to be attempting to sharpen the contrast between their own vision of India and what they describe as the authoritarian, majoritarian approach of the Sangh Parivar. However, such comparisons



often risk backfiring, as they may be perceived as extreme or disrespectful by sections of the electorate.

The BJP, on the other hand, has seized on the remark to corner Congress, portraying it as an insult not only to the RSS but to Indian traditions at large. Leaders of the saffron party have already begun using the issue in their public speeches, claiming that Congress has once again revealed its disdain for nationalist organizations and the Hindu majority. They believe the controversy could help mobilize their core base ahead of upcoming electoral contests in the state. Meanwhile, Congress leaders have defended their remarks by insisting that their criticism was not aimed at ordinary members of the RSS but at the organization's leadership and its political influence. They stressed that their intention was to warn against what they see as the creeping Talibanization of Indian society, where dissent is suppressed, minorities are marginalized, and rigid cultural codes are promoted under the banner of nationalism. In their view, such trends pose a serious threat to India's diversity and democratic fabric.

The incident has set off heated debates on television channels and social media, with supporters and critics of both parties engaging in fierce exchanges. Civil society figures and commentators have also weighed in, some arguing that while criticism of the RSS is valid in a democratic context, equating it with the Taliban may not be a constructive or accurate comparison. Others, however, believe that provocative language is sometimes necessary to jolt public opinion and draw attention to the dangers of authoritarian ideologies.

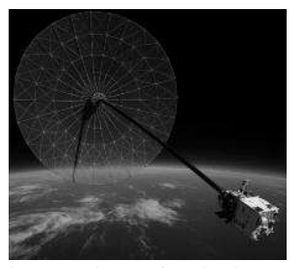
This is not the first time Congress leaders have courted controversy with strong words directed at the RSS. Over the years, several leaders have described the organization in harsh terms, accusing it of divisiveness and extremism. The BJP has consistently responded by accusing Congress of playing appeasement politics and attempting to delegitimize nationalist institutions. The recurring pattern highlights how the RSS remains a central point of contention in Indian politics, symbolizing the deeper ideological battle between the two major parties. As the row intensifies, it is expected that both sides will continue to exploit the controversy for political mileage. For the BJP, the remark is a useful weapon to rally its cadre and portray itself as the defender of national pride. For the Congress, the controversy may serve to energize its base that is critical of the Sangh's influence, though it also risks alienating undecided voters who might see the comparison as excessive.

NASA and ISRO Successfully Deploy World's Largest Radar Antenna in Orbit

Mumbai, 17 August: NASA and the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) have successfully deployed the largest radar antenna ever placed in orbit. This milestone marks a significant step forward in Earth observation capabilities, enabling scientists to capture highly detailed images of the planet's surface and monitor environmental changes with unprecedented precision.

The antenna, which is a critical component of the joint NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR) mission, was deployed in space after a series of carefully planned maneuvers. With its massive structure unfolding in orbit, it has now become the largest radar antenna to operate around Earth, opening up new possibilities for studying natural phenomena such as earthquakes, landslides, glacier movements, deforestation, and coastal erosion.

The NISAR mission is a landmark collaboration between the United States and India, combining NASA's advanced radar technology with ISRO's satellite expertise. The mission is designed to provide data that will help researchers around the world understand



how Earth's surface is changing over time and how natural hazards impact human life. By using radar imaging, the mission can monitor Earth's land and ice surfaces in all weather conditions, during both day and night, making it a powerful tool for global environmental research.

The successful deployment of the radar antenna is being celebrated as a technological marvel. Unlike optical instruments that rely on sunlight and clear skies to capture images, radar systems can penetrate clouds, smoke, and even vegetation. This makes the antenna particularly valuable for tracking changes in regions that are otherwise difficult to observe, such as dense tropical forests or polar ice caps. Scientists expect the mission to deliver crucial data on climate change, agricultural patterns, and disaster preparedness.

According to NASA and ISRO officials, the radar antenna's design and deployment process were among the most complex engineering challenges ever attempted in space. The antenna had to be compact enough to fit inside the launch vehicle but also capable of unfolding into a massive structure once in orbit. Engineers spent years perfecting the mechanisms that would allow the antenna to deploy smoothly and function reliably under the harsh conditions of space. The success of this operation has been hailed as proof of the engineering excellence of both organizations.

India's space program has already made headlines with successful missions such as Chandrayaan-3, which achieved a historic landing on the lunar south pole, and Aditya-L1, its ongoing mission to study the Sun. By partnering with NASA on a project of this scale, ISRO has once again demonstrated its ability to work at the cutting edge of space science and technology.

For NASA, the collaboration is part of its broader strategy of building partnerships with international space agencies to tackle global challenges. The NISAR mission is expected to serve not only the scientific community but also policymakers, disaster management authorities, and farmers by providing data that can inform decision-making.

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INDIAN INFO EXCHANGE

Diamond Harbour FC Creates History by Reaching Durand Cup Semifinals in Their Debut Appearance

Kolkata, 17 August: Football in Bengal has always thrived on stories of passion, resilience, and unexpected triumphs, and the latest chapter has been written by Diamond Harbour FC, a club that has stunned the football fraternity by storming into the semifinals of the prestigious Durand Cup in their maiden appearance. The achievement has not only given fresh hope to Bengal's football enthusiasts but has also added a new name to the list of teams who dare to dream big on the national stage.

The Durand Cup, being Asia's oldest football tournament, carries a legacy that blends both history and prestige. For decades, the tournament has been dominated by established clubs with strong financial backing and deep-rooted traditions. In that landscape, Diamond Harbour FC's sudden rise has come as a breath of fresh air. Their journey to the semifinals is not just a sporting achievement but also a testament to how determination, teamwork, and belief can carry a side beyond expectations.

The club, relatively new in Bengal's football scene, entered the tournament with little fanfare. Few had predicted that they would be able to challenge seasoned opponents, let alone carve a path into the final four. Yet, match after match, Diamond Harbour FC defied odds and showcased a brand of football that was both spirited and disciplined. Their players, many of whom had limited experience at the top level, rose to the occasion, displaying composure under pressure and an unyielding hunger to prove themselves.

In their quarterfinal clash, the team displayed a perfect blend of defensive solidity and attacking flair. The midfield worked tirelessly to disrupt the opposition's rhythm, while the forwards capitalised on the chances that came their way. It was not just about individual brilliance but a collective effort where every player contributed to the result. The victory was greeted with thunderous celebrations by their supporters, who have been steadily growing in numbers as the team continues to make headlines.The presence of Diamond Harbour FC in the Durand Cup semifinals also carries symbolic weight for Bengal football. For years, the spotlight has largely been on giants like Mohun Bagan, East Bengal, and Mohammedan Sporting, whose histories dominate conversations around football in the state.



Bayern's Harry Kane celebrates with teammates after winning the German Supercup final soccer match between VfB Stuttgart and Bayern Munich in Stuttgart, Germany.

Yograj Singh Urges Rohit Sharma to Extend Career by Five More Years

New Delhi, 17 August: India cricketer and coach Yograj Singh has called on Indian skipper Rohit Sharma to continue playing international cricket for at least another five years, saying that the team and the nation still need his leadership and batting prowess. At a time when Indian cricket is witnessing a transitional phase, with youngsters stepping into the spotlight and senior players approaching the twilight of their careers, Yograj's words carry both weight and emotion, reflecting the high regard in which Rohit is held.



Speaking to the media, Yograj Singh, who is also the father of legendary all-rounder Yuvraj Singh, emphasized that Rohit Sharma still has much to offer in terms of experience, guidance, and match-winning ability. He argued that players of Rohit's caliber are rare, and India should not lose out on his services prematurely. According to him, the Indian cricket team is currently at a juncture where a steady and seasoned leader like Rohit is crucial in shaping the next generation and guiding them in high-pressure matches.

Rohit Sharma, who has been at the helm of Indian cricket in the shorter formats and has recently established himself as a dependable Test opener as well, has enjoyed remarkable success over the past few years. His leadership in the T20 World Cup and consistent performances across formats have cemented his reputation as one of the finest batsmen of his era. Known for his elegance, calm demeanor, and ability to handle tense situations, Rohit has become a figure of stability for both the dressing room and the millions of fans who idolize him.

Yograj Singh's plea comes at a time when speculation has been rife about the possible retirement plans of several senior players, including Rohit and Virat Kohli. With the T20 World Cup triumph still fresh in memory, many had wondered whether Rohit would step aside to make way for the younger crop. However, Yograj strongly believes that India cannot afford to let go of him just yet. He suggested that Rohit should focus not only on continuing to score runs but also on mentoring the next generation of Indian stars, ensuring a smooth transition when the time eventually comes.

Highlighting the physical and mental demands of modern cricket, Yograj insisted that with proper fitness and workload management, Rohit can easily extend his career by at least half a decade. He pointed out that cricketers today enjoy better facilities, training methods, and medical support, allowing them to remain at the top of their game longer than previous generations. Citing examples of players like Sachin Tendulkar and Mahendra Singh Dhoni, who prolonged their careers while balancing form and fitness, Yograj said Rohit has the temperament and discipline to do the same.

Fans of Indian cricket have echoed similar sentiments, with many taking to social media to voice their support for Rohit's extended presence in the team. Supporters argue that his captaincy has already created a strong foundation for success and that his batting remains indispensable in key tournaments. The debate has also reignited discussions about the importance of balancing youth and experience, with experts suggesting that the presence of a senior figure like Rohit ensures that young players are not overwhelmed by the pressure of international cricket.

Rohit's contribution to Indian cricket extends far beyond his record-breaking double centuries in ODIs or his ability to anchor Test innings. His sharp cricketing brain, calm handling of bowlers, and tactical decisions on the field have been instrumental in India's victories. Under his leadership, India has rediscovered its composure in knockout matches, a quality that had often been missing in the past decade.

Pakistan Announces Asia Cup Squad, Babar Azam and Mohammad Rizwan Left Out in Surprise Move

New Delhi, 17 August: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has announced its squad for the upcoming Asia Cup, leaving out two of its biggest stars—Babar Azam and Mohammad Rizwan. The decision has triggered intense debate among fans, analysts, and former players, many of whom view the exclusion as one of the boldest, and perhaps most controversial, selections in recent years.

For years, Babar Azam has been the face of Pakistan cricket. As captain until recently and one of the most consistent batsmen across formats, his name had become almost synonymous with Pakistan's batting strength. Similarly, Mohammad Rizwan, with his reliable wicketkeeping and dependable batting, especially in T20s, had cemented himself as a crucial part of the team's top order. Their omission from the Asia Cup squad, therefore, has raised eyebrows not only in Pakistan but also among cricket followers across the globe.

According to PCB insiders, the selection committee has opted to restructure the team with a focus on long-term planning and building a younger squad ahead of the next World Cup cycle. Chairman of selectors Wahab Riaz, while announcing the squad, hinted that the board wants to explore new talent and prepare for the challenges of modern cricket where aggressive batting and adaptability have become non-negotiable. Without directly criticizing the seniors, he suggested that Pakistan needs to groom players who can match the tempo of sides like India, England, and Australia.

The decision, however, has not gone down well with large sections of the cricketing fraternity. Former Pakistan captains and ex-cricketers have openly questioned whether leaving out Babar and Rizwan for such a major tournament is wise. They argue that while grooming youngsters is important, tournaments like the Asia Cup demand experience and composure—qualities that both Babar and Rizwan bring in abundance. Critics warn that excluding proven performers just ahead of a high-pressure event could backfire, leaving the team vulnerable in crunch situations.

Fans, too, have reacted emotionally. Social media platforms in Pakistan have been flooded with reactions ranging from shock and disappointment to outright anger. Hashtags in support of Babar Azam and Mohammad Rizwan began trending within hours of the announcement. Many fans see the decision as unfair, pointing to Babar's record-breaking feats and Rizwan's consistency in the shortest format.

Gautam Gambhir Outlines Bold Roadmap to Transform Indian T20 Team

New Delhi, 17 August: Indian cricket is entering a new era under the guidance of Gautam Gambhir, who recently took charge as the head coach of the national team. Known for his fiery temperament, sharp cricketing brain, and no-nonsense attitude, Gambhir has wasted no time in setting out his vision for the future of India's T20 side. His roadmap reflects both a respect for the team's past achievements and a hunger to push boundaries in order to dominate the shortest format of the game.



Gambhir, who himself played several match-winning knocks for India in T20s and ODIs, has made it clear that he wants the national side to embrace a fearless, aggressive brand of cricket. For him, consistency in intent is as important as results. He believes that the Indian T20 team has all the resources in terms of talent but what is needed is a sharper mindset, one that prioritises attacking play over caution and encourages players to back their natural instincts.

His immediate focus is on building a squad that is both balanced and dynamic. Reports suggest that Gambhir is keen on identifying players who can contribute in multiple ways—cricketers who can bat aggressively, field brilliantly, and bowl if required. This emphasis on multi-dimensional players shows his determination to shape a flexible unit capable of adapting to varied situations. In modern T20 cricket, where margins are razor-thin, Gambhir knows that versatility is key.

Fitness and fielding have also been highlighted in his roadmap. Gambhir has insisted that India must aim to be the fittest side in world cricket if they want to excel in the T20 format. He has reportedly placed a strong emphasis on agile fielding units that can save crucial runs and create pressure. Drawing inspiration from how sides like Australia and England have raised their standards in recent years, Gambhir wants India to match and surpass those benchmarks.

In terms of batting approach, the coach is determined to break away from the team's past tendency of starting slow and depending heavily on individual brilliance. He has advocated for a collective aggressive mindset right from the top order. Power-hitters, he feels, must be backed consistently, even if they fail in some games, because their success can turn matches decisively. Gambhir has always valued intent over numbers, and this philosophy now forms the bedrock of his coaching style.

For bowlers, his roadmap points toward a sharper focus on specialists who can deliver under pressure in death overs and spinners who can strike in the middle stages.

Lionel Messi Returns from Injury to Score and Inspire Inter Miami's Victory Over LA Galaxy

New Delhi, 17 August: Lionel Messi once again proved why he is regarded as one of the greatest footballers of all time as he made a triumphant return from injury, coming off the bench to score a decisive goal for Inter Miami in their clash against Los Angeles Galaxy. The Argentine star, who had been sidelined due to a recent injury concern, was introduced as a substitute and instantly changed the course of the match, sparking his side to a crucial victory in Major League Soccer.

The match had been finely poised, with both sides battling hard but failing to make the breakthrough. Los Angeles Galaxy, known for their rich history in the MLS, had been looking to capitalize on Miami's shaky form in recent weeks, while Inter Miami, boosted by Messi's return, were eager to regain momentum in their campaign. The crowd was electric, with fans on both sides filling the stadium in anticipation of Messi's possible appearance. Their hopes were answered when coach Tata Martino decided to bring him on in the second half.

The moment Messi stepped onto the pitch, the atmosphere transformed. His mere presence seemed to energize his teammates, who had struggled to find rhythm earlier in the game. Miami's attacking moves suddenly carried more intent, and the Galaxy defense appeared unsettled by the new challenge. For supporters of Inter Miami, it was the sight they had been waiting for—the return of their talisman who has already left an indelible mark on the club since joining last year.



Messi did not disappoint. Displaying his trademark close control, vision, and composure, he orchestrated Miami's attacking play and soon found himself at the heart of the action. As the game approached its tense closing stages, Messi latched onto a move that he himself had initiated, calmly finishing to put Miami ahead. The goal was vintage Messi—precise, effortless, and decisive. The stadium erupted as fans celebrated not just the strike but the return of their hero in full flow.

For Inter Miami, the significance of this goal went beyond the immediate three points. The team has been heavily reliant on Messi's influence since his arrival, and his absence due to injury had left them vulnerable. His return to scoring ways provided not only a tactical boost but also a psychological lift, restoring belief that the team can challenge strongly in the MLS season ahead. Coach Tata Martino acknowledged this after the match, praising Messi's impact and stressing how much his leadership and skill mean to the squad.The victory over Los Angeles Galaxy was also symbolic in a larger context.

Mohun Bagan Fans Flood the Field in Emotional Mourning for Their Beloved Club

Kolkata, 17 August: An extraordinary scene unfolded as Mohun Bagan fans, united in grief and loyalty, poured onto the field to express their love and sorrow for their club. The legendary football institution, revered as a symbol of heritage and pride for millions, witnessed an outpouring of emotions that went far beyond the boundaries of sport. The gathering turned into a poignant moment where the stadium became less a venue for football and more a sanctuary of mourning, solidarity, and devotion.

For Mohun Bagan supporters, the club is not just a team but a way of life, deeply ingrained in their identity and culture. The recent developments surrounding the club—ranging from management decisions to uncertainties over its direction—have left fans distraught, fearful of losing the very essence of what Mohun Bagan has stood for over 130 years. The situation has triggered widespread reactions, but nothing captured the intensity of the moment more than the sight of supporters rushing onto the field, carrying flags, banners, and chants that echoed both grief and defiance.

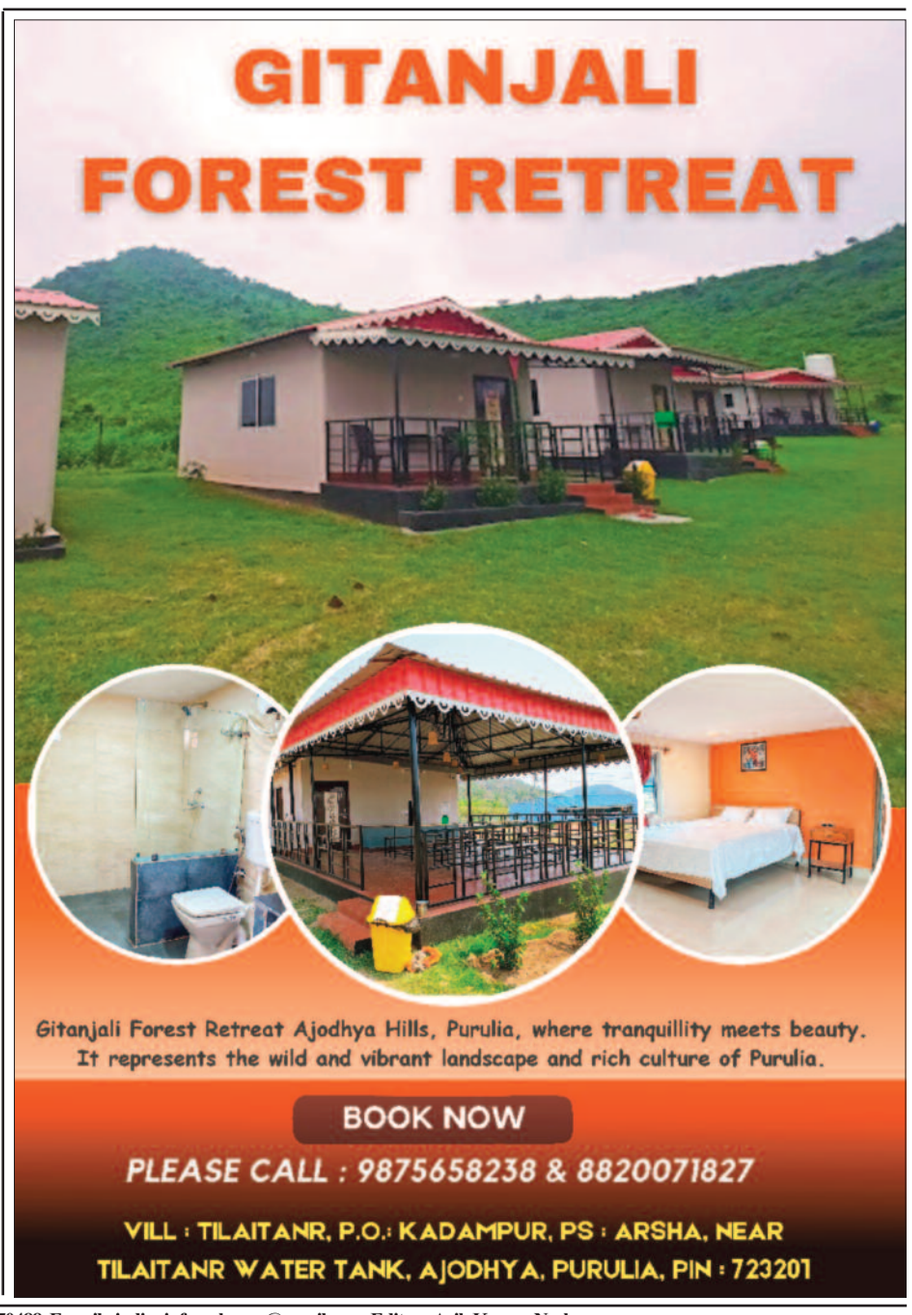
Witnesses described how fans, young and old, braved the barriers and came together, turning the pitch into a sea of green and maroon. Some supporters wept openly, while others raised slogans, recalling the glorious victories and legendary players who had once carried the club's name to unmatched heights. Their presence was not one of disruption but of mourning, as they sought to reclaim their emotional bond with the team in a moment of collective despair.



The outburst, though unexpected in scale, was not entirely surprising. Mohun Bagan's history is interwoven with Bengal's cultural and sporting fabric. Founded in 1889, the club is hailed as a symbol of national pride, particularly for its historic 1911 IFA Shield triumph, where Indian players defeated the British side East Yorkshire Regiment. That victory became a landmark moment in the country's freedom movement, elevating Mohun Bagan into a symbol of resistance and identity. For generations, the club has represented far more than football—it has embodied the spirit of Bengal and its people.

The mourning on the field was therefore not simply about recent setbacks. It reflected deep fears among fans that the club's core values, traditions, and independence are being compromised in a changing era of commercial football. Many supporters have been voicing concerns that decisions made at the management level are diluting Mohun Bagan's unique identity. For them, the club's legacy is sacred and cannot be treated as just another franchise in the global sports business.

Emotions ran high as chants of "Mohun Bagan amar, thakte hobe amar" (Mohun Bagan is mine, it must remain mine) reverberated across the stands. Some supporters carried portraits of legendary footballers, while others brought flowers, wreaths, and candles, treating the event like a solemn tribute to something that feels lost. It was as if the fans were mourning not just the club's current struggles, but the erosion of its soul. Security personnel initially appeared overwhelmed as the crowd surged onto the field, but the demonstration remained largely peaceful.



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