

# TMC leader Abhishek dismisses speculation of rift with Mamata

KOLKATA, FEB 27

DISMISSING reports of his so-called 'rift' with Trinamool Congress chief Mamata Banerjee, the party's MP and national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee on Thursday asserted that he remains a "loyal soldier of the TMC", and considered the party supremo as his leader.

Addressing a gathering of senior party workers and leaders at the TMC's organisational meeting at the Netaji Indoor Stadium here, Abhishek claimed that the opposition habitually takes recourse to spread such "canards" whenever an election comes knocking at the door. The meeting was aimed at outlining strate-

gies for the 2026 Assembly polls in the state. "Those who say that I am crossing over to the BJP, let me say that even if they slit my throat, I will continue to raise the 'Mamata Banerjee Zindabad' slogan from my severed windpipe," Abhishek said.

Abhishek's statement assumes significance in the wake of his perceived recent absence from the forefront of Trinamool's organisational activities and largely remaining focused on social welfare pursuits, limited to the Diamond Harbour constituency which he represents in Parliament. "I know those people who are spreading such fake news. They have vested interests



ahead of the next year's assembly polls," the MP added. Naming Mukul Roy and Suwendu Adhikari, Abhishek said he had "identified them as traitors" ahead of the previous elections. "I had exposed them before. I will do it once again with those who are trying to create unrest within our party," the Diamond Harbour MP asserted.

Stressing on the need to abide by party discipline, Abhishek alerted the TMC leadership to remain careful about their discourses in the public domain. "If you

"Those who say that I am crossing over to the BJP, let me say that even if they slit my throat, I will continue to raise the 'Mamata Banerjee Zindabad' slogan from my severed windpipe"

think, you are an MP or an MLA or a block president and enjoy the immunity to say things in public which demeans the party and weakens its position, you are wrong. Those who have done so have already been identified. Each one of us is guided by organisational rules. There should be no slackness in your work in the run-up to the state polls," he said.

Urging party members to focus on public service instead of internal conflicts, he said, "Forget about your own differences next year

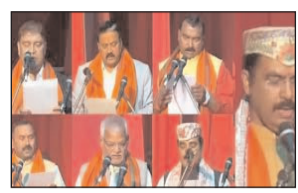
and concentrate on working for the people. There is no point in engaging in conspiracies. Those indulging in WhatsApp group politics should know that such efforts will be futile. Those conspiring will be impacted themselves." Referring to the CBI's latest charge sheet which names him in connection with the teachers' recruitment scam probe, Abhishek, the party's perceived second-in-command, lashed out at the agency for allegedly "acting at the behest of its political masters". - PTI

# All seven new Bihar ministers get portfolios and some others too get fresh responsibilities

PATNA, FEB 27

PORTFOLIOS were allocated to all the seven new ministers in Bihar on Thursday and many other members of the state cabinet, including a deputy chief minister, also got fresh responsibilities. All but one of the ministers getting new responsibilities belong to BJP, the alliance partner of Chief Minister Nitish Kumar.

The BJP has 21 members in the state's 36-strong cabinet upon expansion on Wednesday. According to a notification of the cabinet secretariat department, Deputy CM Vijay Kumar Sinha has been stripped of the crucial road construction department, which has



now gone to Nitin Nabin, who would hand over the law department to Mangal Pandey. Sinha retains mines and geology, besides getting the additional charge of agriculture, which was earlier with Pandey. Health is retained by Pandey.

Santosh Kumar Suman, the son of Union Minister Jitan Ram Manjhi who heads Hindustani Awam Morcha, retains minor water resources though Information Technology and Disaster Management have gone to new inductees

Krishna Kumar Mantu and Vijay Kumar Mandal respectively. Nitish Mishra retains industry but hands over tourism to another new inductee Raju Kumar Singh. Prem Kumar retains cooperatives but the environment, forestry and climate change department goes to another new entrant Sunil Kumar.

Sanjay Saraogi, a multiple-term local MLA who is having his first shot at the cabinet, gets revenue and land reforms. The revenue and land reforms department was held until Wednesday by state BJP president Dilip Jaiswal, who quit hours before the cabinet expansion citing the party's policy of "one person one post". - PTI

## Class 10 student delivers baby in Jajpur

PBD BUREAU/PTI

JAJPUR, FEB 27

A Class 10 student in Jajpur district has given birth to a baby girl, officials said on Thursday.

The girl had abdominal pains at her home on Wednesday and her family rushed her to the Bari hospital, they said.



According to Additional District Medical Officer (ADMO), Jajpur, AK Sharma, the Class 10 student gave birth to a baby girl at a government hospital in Bari block of the district on Wednesday.

The ADMO said that the newborn was admitted in the paediatric ICU as her health condition was not good. The mother along with the newborn baby was shifted to the District Headquarters Hospital at Jajpur from Bari Hospital.

Jajpur District Child Protection Officer (DCPO), Niranjan Kar said that the Class-10 student had appeared in two papers of the matriculation examination and she was supposed to write the mathematics paper on Thursday.

"We can say whether the student was a minor or a major after verifying her date of birth," Kar said.

A Class 10 girl student of Chitrakonda area of Malkangiri district on Monday had given birth to a baby girl in the hostel of an ST & SC Development department-run residential girls' high school. She was also appearing in the matriculation examination.

## Three children critically injured in firecrackers explosion in Khordha

KHORDHA, FEB 27

A tragic explosion involving firecrackers left three minor children critically injured in Khordha village under the jurisdiction of Industrial Estate Police Station (IEPS) in Khordha district. The injured children were initially admitted to the District Headquarter Hospital (DHH), Khordha, and later shifted to AIIMS Bhubaneswar as their condition remained critical.

Upon receiving information about the incident, IIC of Industrial Estate Police Station, Gayatri Mishra, along with SDPO Khordha, Nihar Ranjan Pradhan, and a scientific team, reached the spot and initiated an investigation. Preliminary findings suggest that Tapas Mangaraj, a resident of Kumarbasta village, had stored firecrackers



in his house for the Maha Shivaratri celebrations. While the children were playing in the courtyard, a sudden explosion occurred, causing severe injuries to the minors.

Speaking on the matter, IIC Gayatri Mishra said, "The exact cause of the explosion is currently unknown, but a thorough investigation and evidence collection will reveal the true circumstances behind the incident."

Authorities are probing the case to determine whether negligence or any other factors contributed to the mishap. Further details are awaited as the investigation progresses.

# Bengal CM accuses BJP of using 'fake voters' to win assembly elections, warns of protest against EC

KOLKATA, FEB 27

WEST BENGAL Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Thursday accused the BJP of adding fake voters from other states to the electoral rolls with the alleged backing of the Election Commission (EC), claiming that the party had used similar tactics to secure victories in the Delhi and Maharashtra assembly elections. Speaking at a TMC state conference at Netaji Indoor Stadium here, Banerjee also raised concerns over the appointment of Gyanesh Kumar as the Chief Election Commissioner, alleging that the BJP was attempting to exert influence over the constitutional body.

"It is evident how the

BJP is tampering with the voters' list with the blessings of the Election Commission," she alleged. Banerjee warned that if necessary action was not taken to correct the electoral roll, her party would stage a dharna in front of the EC office. "If I could go on a 26-day hunger strike during the anti-land acquisition movement in 2006, we can also launch a movement against the Election Commission. If required, we will protest indefinitely in front of the EC office to demand the removal of fake names from the voter roll," she said.

However, she did not clarify whether the protest would be in Kolkata or New Delhi. She accused the BJP of using "the same



strategy in Delhi and Maharashtra by enrolling voters from Haryana and Gujarat to influence elections." "In Delhi and Maharashtra, the BJP secured victory by adding fake voters from Haryana and Gujarat. Now, they aim to do the same in West Bengal. They know they cannot win if the elections are held fairly," Banerjee claimed. Targeting the BJP, she instructed TMC leaders and workers to start physically verifying the voters' list, alleging that the BJP had manipulated it with "the support of the E C of India (ECI)". -PTI

## Mamata sets 215 plus seat target for 2026 assembly polls, aims for 4th straight term

KOLKATA: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Thursday set an ambitious goal of winning more than 215 of the total 294 seats in the state assembly in the 2026 polls, emphasising that the TMC would work to significantly reduce the BJP's tally and secure a fourth consecutive term in power. Setting the tone for the electoral battle, Banerjee reiterated the need to surpass the 214 seats won by her party in 2021.

"I agree with Abhishek (TMC MP and her nephew Abhishek Banerjee) that we should aim for at least one more seat than our 2021 tally. Our goal should be to secure 215 seats or more while ensuring that BJP,

CPIM, and Congress candidates struggle to retain their deposits," Banerjee asserted. Addressing an organisational meeting of the Trinamool Congress before the chief minister, the MP said the party should work for winning at least one additional seat than the current strength of 214.

Responding to Mamata Banerjee's statement, BJP MP Samik Bhattacharya claimed that she is afraid of losing the 2026 assembly polls and is saying such things to galvanize TMC workers. -PTI

# Groundbreaking ceremony for 2 MTPA Pellet Plant Project held at RSP

PBD BUREAU

ROURKELA, FEB 27

THE groundbreaking ceremony and Bhumi Puja for the 2 MTPA Pellet Plant Project at Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) was conducted on Wednesday. The event was led by Sudip Pal Chowdhury, Executive Director (Projects), in the presence of PK Sahoo, former ED (Projects), Pinaki Choudhury, CGM (Projects), SS Roychoudhury, CGM (Maintenance), DK Bhanja, CGM (Power Distribution), and other senior officials from RSP, CET, and the consortium of Orissa Metaliks Private Limited and Rosemary



Sponge & Ispat Private Limited.

RSP signed a contract with the consortium on February 14, 2025, for the installation of the 2 MTPA Pellet Plant on a five-year extension on mutually agreed terms. This strategic initiative aims to bolster RSP's production capabilities and operational efficiency. The project is slated for completion within 24 months from the effective date of signing.

The contract includes a 20-year Operations & Maintenance (O&M) period, with a provision for a five-year extension on mutually agreed terms. CET has been appointed as the overall consultant for the project, while PwC has been engaged as the associated consultant.

# Sex racket busted in Cuttack, two youths detained

PBD BUREAU

CUTTACK, FEB 27

A sex racket operating from a house in Cuttack's Badambadi area was busted by the local police on Thursday. During the raid, two youths were detained, and three women were rescued.

Acting on a tip-off from a reliable source, a team from the Badambadi Police Station, including female officers, conducted a raid on the premises in the evening, exposing the illegal operation.



Several objectionable items were also seized from the house. During the crackdown, police took three youths into custody after confirming they had arrived at the location as customers. Meanwhile, interrogation of both the detained individuals and the rescued women is underway to gather more

information about the racket's operation, including its mastermind and duration.

A case has been registered, and the rescued women will be sent to a rehabilitation centre. The accused will be produced in court upon completion of legal formalities. Authorities are also questioning the house owner regarding the illegal activities.

Meanwhile, efforts are on to identify and apprehend the kingpin behind the operation.

# Jharkhand Govt tables supplementary demands of Rs 5,508 crore during ongoing Budget session

RANCHI, FEB 27

THE Jharkhand government on Thursday tabled supplementary demands of Rs 5,508 crore during the ongoing 20-day budget session of the Assembly. Finance minister Radhakrishna Kishore tabled the third supplementary budget of Rs 5,508 crore for the 2024-25 fiscal. The Energy department is proposed to get the maximum outlay of Rs 971.80 crore, followed by the Rural Works department at Rs 873.29 crore and Home, Jail and Disaster Management department at Rs 502.61 crore.

A sum of Rs 500 crore has been proposed for the Pension department, while the School Education and Literacy department is likely to get Rs 393.93 crore. The supplementary budget was tabled after the call attention motion. Earlier in December, Kishore had tabled the second supplementary budget of Rs 11,697.45 crore for the 2024-25 fiscal. The debate on the supplementary



budget is scheduled to be held on Friday.

Earlier, the House witnessed a heated debate over Maiyan Samman Yojana between BJP MLA CP Singh and Minister Chamra Linda during Question Hour. Singh questioned the delay in the transfer of benefits under Maiyan Samman Yojana and asked if they would be paid by Eid.

Replying to this, minister Chamra Linda said that the money of two months—January and February—will be paid to the beneficiaries of the scheme by March 15, possibly before Holi. Jharkhand government provides Rs 2,500 per month to over 56 lakh women beneficiaries under Maiyan Samman Yojana. The benefi-

ciaries, however, have not yet received the benefit of two months—January and February. Singh also cornered the government asking if widows and physically challenged women, who get a pension of Rs 1,000 per month, will be provided the benefit of Maiyan Samman Yojana.

"The women aged 18 and 50 years get the benefit of Maiyan Samman Yojana in the state. But, widows and physically challenged women get Rs 1,000. I would like to know about the disparity from the government," the BJP MLA said. Linda said that the Hemant Soren government brought a bigger scheme for widows—Vidhya Punarvivaah Protsahan Yojana (widow remarriage incentive scheme)—under which a one-time incentive of Rs 2 lakh is provided by the government. Linda said if the Centre increases the amount under the pension scheme for widows and physically challenged, the state government would also think about increasing the amount. -PTI

# EAST COAST RAILWAY E-AUCTION NOTICE

No. SDCM/KURE-Auction/NFR/Press Clippings/FEB/2024-25, Date: 24.02.2025  
1. Description of Assets : Setting up Multi Branded Rail Coach Restaurant at Puri Railway Station.  
2. Description of Assets : Setting up Multi Branded Rail Coach Restaurant at Brahmapur (BAM) Railway Station.  
Auction Date / Hour : 12.03.2025, 1100 Hrs - 1130 Hrs (for Sl. No. 1) & 12.03.2025, 1100 Hrs - 1140 Hrs (for Sl. No. 2)  
Note : The assets & schedule details of the said e-auction have been uploaded in the website of www.ireps.gov.in for reference of Bidders.  
Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager / PR-1028/P/24-25  
Khurda Road

# 'e' PROCUREMENT NOTICE NO.18/2024-25.

1 Name of work. : Building Work  
2. Total No. of Work. : 1(One) work.  
3. Estimated Cost. : Rs.50.04 lakhs.  
4. Period of Completion. : 09(Nine) Calendar Month.  
5. Class of contractors. : 'B' Class only.  
Other details as follows:  
a) Procurement officer. : Superintending Engineer, Rural Works Division, Cuttack. From dt.01.03.2025 at 11.00 A.M. to dt. 11.03.2025 up to 5.00 P.M. dt.10.03.2025 up to 5.00 P.M.  
b) Availability of tender online for bidding : dt. 12.03.2025 at 11.00 A.M.  
c) Last date & time of seeking of tender identification. : dt. 12.03.2025 at 11.00 A.M.  
d) Date & Time of Opening Technical Bid : dt. 12.03.2025 at 11.00 A.M.  
Further details can be seen from the Govt. website www.tendersorissa.gov.in  
Superintending Engineer Rural Works Division Cuttack  
OIPR-25053/11/0029/2425

# OFFICE OF THE NOTIFIED AREA COUNCIL, KODALA

Odisha, Pin-761032, e-Mail:nackodala@gmail.com  
Lt. No. 282/SAN/2025 Dated:- 25/02/2025  
CORRIGENDUM  
With reference to the e-Procurement notice no.218 dated 15.02.2025 and BID IDENTIFICATION No.KOD-NAC-SAN-01/2025-26 that appeared on website www.tenderodisha.gov.in on 03 March 2025 and published in the newspaper 16/02/2025 is hereby cancelled due to some technical error and unavoidable circumstances until further order basing on clause no-13 of DTCN.  
Further details can be seen from the Procurement Portal: www.tendersorissa.gov.in  
By the order of Chairperson of Tender Committee  
OIPR-13203/11/0026/2425  
Executive Officer, Kodala NAC

# EAST COAST RAILWAY

File No. DRM/Engg/KUR/24-25/  
E-Tender/109, Dt. 18.02.2025  
(1) Tender No. e-tender-CENTKUR-323-2024, Dtd.: 13.02.2025  
DESCRIPTION : PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF BRIDGE NO. 32A-1, (1 X 4.00 X 2.15 MTR RCC BOX) FOR CROSSING OF GURUDIJHATA DISTRIBUTARY AT RD 3825 MTR BRANCH CANAL OF RENGALI RIGHT IRRIGATION PROJECT AT KM. 417.073 (417/1-3) IN BETWEEN STATIONS GURUDIJHATA-MACHAPUR ON NERUNDI TALCHER BRANCH LINE IN KHURDA ROAD DIVISION BY BOX PUSHING METHOD (UNDER DEPOSIT SCHEME).  
Approx. Cost of the Work : ₹ 363.36 Lakh, EMD : ₹ 3,31,700/-  
(2) Tender No. e-tender-CenKUR-326-2024, Dtd.: 13.02.2025  
DESCRIPTION : RENEWAL OF EXISTING DAMAGED PSC FAN SHAPED LAYOUTS AT DIFFERENT YARDS UNDER ASSISTANT DIVISIONAL ENGINEER/BHUBANESWAR SECTION OF KHURDA ROAD DIVISION BY T-28/ROAD CRANE/MANUAL MEANS.  
Approx. Cost of the Work : ₹ 103.77 Lakh, EMD : ₹ 2,01,900/-  
(3) Tender No. e-tender-eastkur-328-2024, Dtd.: 14.02.2025  
DESCRIPTION : CONSTRUCTION OF 15 BEDDED RPF BARRACK AT PARADEEP (PRP) STATION OF KHURDA ROAD DIVISION.  
Approx. Cost of the Work : ₹ 105.70 Lakh, EMD : ₹ 2,02,900/-  
Completion Period : 15 (Fifteen) Months (for Sl. No. 1), 12 (Twelve) Months (for Sl. No. 2) and 10 (Ten) Months (for Sl. No. 3).  
Tender Closing Date and Time : At 1500 Hrs. of 07.03.2025 (for all the Tenders).

No manual offers sent by Post / Courier / Fax or in person shall be accepted against such e-tenders even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and received in time. All such manual offers shall be considered invalid and shall be rejected summarily without any consideration. Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-Tender is available in website : www.ireps.gov.in  
Note : The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website 10 (Ten) days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes / corrigenda issued for this tender. The tenderers/bidders must have Class-III Digital Signature Certificate and must be registered on IREPS Portal. Only registered tenderer/bidder can participate on e-tendering.  
Divisional Railway Manager (Engg) / PR-1018/P/24-25  
Khurda Road

# EAST COAST RAILWAY

Tender Notice No. 29-SBP-TRD-TD-2024-25, Date: 18.02.2025  
NAME OF WORK : TRD RELATED WORK IN CONNECTION WITH THE WORK OF RWAY AND OTHER ALLIED WORKS IN CONNECTION WITH REMOVAL OF PSR ON CURVE NO. 23 UP AT K.M. 46/27-47/13 AND CURVE NO. 24 DN AT K.M. 46/28-47/24 IN JUJUMURA - KEREJANGA SECTION OF SAMBALPUR DIVISION.  
Approximate Cost (₹) : 56,06,480.31, EMD (₹) : 1,12,100.00, Completion Period : 12 Months.  
Tender Closing Date and Time : At 1530 Hrs. of 13.03.2025  
No manual offers sent by Post / Courier / Fax or in person shall be accepted against such e-tenders even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and received in time. All such manual offers shall be considered invalid and shall be rejected summarily without any consideration. Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-tender is available in website : http://www.ireps.gov.in  
Note : The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website 15 (Fifteen) days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes / corrigenda issued for this tender.  
Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (TRD), PR-1021/P/24-25  
Sambalpur