

Mission Modernization: Eastern Railway Successfully Executes Mega Infrastructure Upgrade in Bandel – Katwa Section to Boost Passenger Safety and Comfort

DOI CORRESPONDENT

Kolkata, 9 June: Prioritizing passengers' comfort, journey reliability, and travel safety, Eastern Railway completed massive infrastructure upgrades in the Bandel-Katwa (BDC-KWAE) section on June 6, 2026. This modernizing "Mega Block" was executed under the dynamic leadership of Shri Milind Deouskar, General Manager of Eastern Railway, who continually drives initiatives for a safer network. The ground operations were closely managed within schedule under the direct supervision of Shri Vishal Kapoor, Divisional Railway Manager (DRM), Howrah, through the flawless coordination of the Engineering, Traction Distribution (TRD), and Power Supply Installation (PSI) teams.

During this coordinated block, several critical construction milestones were successfully reached to fortify the section's infrastructure. Safety and mobility upgrades included the safe removal of the girder

at Bridge No. 92 between NDAE and ABKA stations on both the Up and Down lines, followed by the successful launching of a new Foot Over Bridge (FOB) at ABKA Station. Additionally, structural engineering teams successfully installed two major RCC boxes for Limited Height Subways, specifically at LHS 7/1 between JIT and GPAE, and at LHS 18/B between PSAE and PTAE. All traffic and power blocks for these lines were safely restored and relaxed for train movement as soon as the work was completed.

Simultaneously, crucial track "shadow works" were completed to maximize asset reliability. These included 1 set of Points & Crossings (P&C) tamping by Unimat at GPAE, 23 FSTO sleeper changes at PSAE, 31 derailing switch sleeper changes at PTAE, 210.00 meters of rail shifting and stacking at NDAE, 3 Switch Expansion Joint (SEJ) flange tests, 20 FSTO sleeper trolleys handled at BSAE, 122.50 meters of rail piling at the LHS site, and 56 broken sleeper changes at DHAE.

To ensure uninterrupted train power, technical teams achieved major overhaul targets. TRD achievements included the Periodic Overhauling (POH) of 9 Railway Electrification (RE) units, alongside the Annual Overhauling (AOH) of 16 Overhead Equipment (OHE) systems, 1 Cross-Over (XO), 1 Section Insulator (SI), and 3 G/JMP assets. Under PSI progress at Dhatrigram Traction Sub-Station (TSS), 1 overaged Current Transformer (CT) was successfully replaced, and the AOH of 3 Shunt Capacitors (SPI) was completed.

Shri Shibrum Majhi, Chief Public Relations Officer (CPRO) of Eastern Railway, stated that every upgrade reflects their strict commitment to passenger safety and comfort. He emphasized that this mega block successfully delivered vital bridge, subway, and track enhancements on schedule with minimal disruption, ensuring a smoother ride, enhanced station amenities, and long-term asset life for future-ready train operations.

Regulation of trains

DOI CORRESPONDENT

Kolkata, 9 June: Due to Traffic & Power Block (from 11:30 hrs. to 15:00 hrs.) in connection with Track maintenance work between Sitarampur & Pradhankhunta stations in Asansol Division on 13.06.2026, 13545 Asansol -Gaya MEMU Express will be rescheduled by 40 minutes on 13.06.2026.

Moreover, due to Traffic Block over South Coast Railway, 22643 Ernakulam – Patna Express (journey commencing on 15.06.2026, 16.06.2026, 22.06.2026, 23.06.2026, 29.06.2026, 30.06.2026, 06.07.2026 & 07.07.2026) and 12509 SMVB Bengaluru – Guwahati Express (journey commencing on 10.06.2026, 17.06.2026, 24.06.2026 & 01.07.2026) will be diverted via Vijayawada – Gudivada – Nidadavolu.

Hardick Bavishi Launches When Nothing Works at an Inspiring Literary Evening in Kolkata

DOI CORRESPONDENT

Kolkata, 9 June: An atmosphere of thoughtful reflection, meaningful dialogue, and literary appreciation marked the launch of 'When Nothing Works', the latest book by acclaimed author Hardick Bavishi, at Kamani Jain Bhawan, Kolkata. Organized by AHAVA Communications in collaboration with the AHAVA Readers' and Writers' Club, the event brought together readers, writers, intellectuals, and admirers of motivational literature for an engaging evening dedicated to the transformative power of life lessons and storytelling.

The event featured an insightful panel discussion moderated by Sudeshna Roy. Joining her were distinguished panelists Dr. Sumita Basu, Rita Bhimani, Oindrilla Dutt, and Gopa Bhat-tacharjee, who shared their perspectives on the book and its relevance in today's fast-changing world.

Cong slams Govt for slashing number of subsidised refills under Ujjwala scheme

New Delhi, 9 June: The Congress on Tuesday hit out at the government over its reduction of the number of subsidised refills of LPG gas cylinders under the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana and alleged that it only sheds "crocodile tears" on the plight of women while being "intoxicated on power".

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said the reality of the Modi government's poverty-reduction campaign is that first, the right to work under MGN-REGA was snatched away from the poor and now, even the morsel of food is being taken away. "2016: Modi-ji claimed that the Ujjwala Yojana would liberate women from the smoke of wood-burning stoves. There was a promise of 12 subsidized cylinders a year. However, last year, that number was reduced from 12 to 9. 2026: Now, the number of subsidized cylinders has been further cut from 9 to just 4. In short a promise of 12, but an intention of giving only 4," Kharge said in his post in

Hindi. The Congress president said the LPG prices have been hiked repeatedly and 5.56 crore beneficiaries are unable to afford refills.

"Forced to abandon cylinders, mothers and sisters are compelled to return to traditional stoves....while the Modi government -- which sheds crocodile tears over their plight -- is intoxicated by power!" Kharge said. The Congress president's remarks come days after the price of a 14.2-kg domestic LPG cylinder in Delhi was raised to Rs 942 from Rs 913, while beneficiaries of the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) will continue to pay an effective Rs 642 per cylinder after receiving a subsidy of Rs 300 per refill on the first four refills annually, down from 9 refills announced last year. The increase follows a Rs 60-per-cylinder hike on March 7, taking the cumulative hike to Rs 89 per 14.2-kg cylinder. State-run oil marketing companies were estimated to be losing about Rs 703 on every LPG cylinder sold before the latest revision.

Safety on Track: Eastern Railway Marks Level Crossing Awareness Day with Massive Public Drive Across Headquarters and Four Divisions

DOI CORRESPONDENT

Kolkata, 9 June: Under the dynamic leadership of Shri Milind Deouskar, General Manager of Eastern Railway, a mega awareness campaign was organized today to mark International Level Crossing Awareness Day (ILCAD) 2026. The initiative aimed to educate the public on vital safety rules, emphasizing that a few moments of patience can save countless lives. The main event commenced at the Eastern Railway Headquarters in Fairlie Place, Kolkata, where senior officers from the Safety Department led a vibrant awareness rally from the HQ to the BBD Bag level crossing. Officials interacted directly with pedestrians and drivers, distributing informative leaflets on safety rules. The core message was clear: public awareness is the strongest shield against level crossing accidents, as most mishaps occur due to negligence, such as rushing under closed gates or using mobile phones while crossing.

The campaign's momentum was equally high across Eastern Railway's four key divisions. In the Sealdah Division, under the leadership of DRM Shri Rajeev Saxena, the administration took a hands-on approach as Shri Saxena personally visited the Dhakuria level crossing gate to interact with the public, while the Bharat Scouts and Guides performed engaging Nukkad Nataks (street plays) at Barrackpore, Ichhapore, and Kolkata stations. Meanwhile, the Howrah Division, under the guidance of DRM Shri Vishal Kapoor, organized a comprehensive programme at Gobra Railway Station featuring a safety drawing competition, a street play, and an awareness walk with banners. During these interactions, passengers highlighted isolated areas of inadequate lighting at Gobra station during night hours, and railway officers assured that necessary corrective measures would be taken within a week. Simultaneously, Malda and Asansol divisions enthusiastically celebrated the day by organizing public interactions and safety drives across different sta-

tions to ensure the message reached rural and suburban commuters alike.

The intensive campaign focused heavily on spreading five key safety messages: always wait until the closed railway gate is fully opened before crossing, never attempt to cross under or around a closed gate with any vehicle, do not pressure or intimidate the gateman to open the gate early, strictly follow Motor Vehicle Rules, and never use mobile phones while crossing railway gates. By distributing pamphlets and educating the public about patience and vigilance, the railway officials reiterated that cooperation with staff safeguards both life and property. Highlighting the significance of the drive, Shri Shibrum Majhi, Chief Public Relations Officer of Eastern Railway, stated that safety is not just a railway regulation but a shared social responsibility, and through these extensive campaigns, Eastern Railway aims to foster a culture of patience and vigilance among road users to completely eliminate avoidable accidents at level crossings.

Kriti Sanon Joins Shahid Kapoor as the Face of Vogue Eyewear

DOI CORRESPONDENT

Kolkata, 9 June: Kriti Sanon joins Vogue Eyewear as its new female Brand Ambassador, alongside talent powerhouse Shahid Kapoor, who continues his longstanding association with the brand. Strengthening its connection with a new generation that values individuality, confidence, and self-expression, the brand unveils its latest campaign, "Vogue Eyewear Journeys" - fashionable, relatable, and thoughtful.

A National Award-winning actor with pan-India appeal, Kriti Sanon brings a contemporary perspective to Vogue Eyewear. Known for her inimitable personal style and strong connection with a young,

fashion-conscious audience, she reflects the brand's spirit of playfulness with authenticity.

Rooted in the idea that fashion isn't static; instead, is an evolving journey that mirrors self-discovery, the campaign brings this philosophy to life through a visually engaging narrative, where the protagonists encounter different versions of themselves across moments in time and is emphasized poetically with apt voice over - "when you meet you, you find you".

The campaign also transitions seamlessly between these parallel selves, through windows that also allude to one's perspective, capturing the fluid and deeply personal nature self-discovery and expression through style.

NFRWWO Leads Tree Plantation Drive and Sapling Distribution at Jagriti Shiksha Niketanon World Environment Day 2026

DOI CORRESPONDENT

Maligaon, 9 June: As part of the observance of World Environment Day 2026, the Northeast Frontier Railway Women Welfare Organization (NFRWWO), under the leadership of its President, Smt. Shalini Shrivastava, organized a tree plantation drive and distributed saplings among the students of Jagriti Shiksha Niketan, Pandu, reaffirming its commitment towards promoting environmental awareness and building a greener and cleaner future.

The programme encouraged students to actively participate in environmental conservation efforts and

highlighted the importance of protecting nature through plantation and sustainable practices. Saplings were distributed among the children with the message of nurturing trees and contributing to a healthier environment.

Jagriti Shiksha Niketan, Pandu, established in 1975 in the railway settlement of Pandu, began as a modest initiative and has since evolved into an important centre for primary education catering to underprivileged children from the Pandu and Maligaon areas. Over the past five decades, the institution has steadily progressed with the support of various organizations, benefactors and well-wishers.

Poaching fears for RS polls: MP Cong to move MLAs to Karnataka



Bhopal, 9 June: Madhya Pradesh Congress leaders on Tuesday alleged poaching attempts by the BJP ahead of the June 18 Rajya Sabha polls and said the party has decided to move its MLAs to Congress-ruled Karnataka to prevent cross-voting and keep its camp united.

The 230-member state Assembly makes up the electoral college for the Rajya Sabha election. With the Assembly's effective strength at 229, a candidate requires 58 first-preference votes to secure election to the Upper House of Parliament. The ruling BJP, which has 164 MLAs, is assured of winning two seats with 116 votes and has fielded party national general secretary Tarun Chugh and state unit secretary Rajneesh Agrawal. The BJP later also fielded Mahesh Kewat, chairman of the Madhya Pradesh Fishermen Welfare Board, as its third candidate.

The Congress has nominated former MP Meenakshi Natarajan and expressed confidence of retaining enough support to secure her election, while Kewat's entry has added a new dimension to the contest. The Congress Legislature Party (CLP) held a meeting late Monday night at the residence of Leader of Opposition Umang Singh. The legislators were consulted on the proposal to move them out of Madhya Pradesh until polling, according to sources. All Congress MLAs were being shifted to Bengaluru

in party-ruled Karnataka, Saansar legislator Vijay Revanath Choure told PTI. Congress MLAs Yadavendra Singh and Babu Jandel also confirmed that the legislators were being moved to Karnataka. Speaking to PTI, LoP Singh alleged that the BJP was trying to "buy" Congress MLAs and said all of them will be shifted to a party-ruled state.

The Congress leader claimed some party MLAs told him that BJP members approached them with "bags full of notes," but they turned them away. The BJP's "conspiracies" will fail on the voting day, he asserted. Singh said some MLAs were not in favour of being moved out, but since it was the party high command's decision, everyone was being shifted. He claimed the BJP was attempting to poach them, so the party's top leaders decided to keep the MLAs together in a Congress-ruled state.

The BJP is attempting to create a rift within the Congress camp, the Opposition party leaders have alleged. Of the three vacant seats in the state, the BJP can comfortably win two, while the Congress has an upper hand in terms of numbers for the third seat. Nearly 60 Congress MLAs attended the meeting at Singh's residence late Monday night. One party MLA did not attend the meeting because he was in Delhi, while senior leader Kamal Nath participated online.

India not 'dharamshala' for those disloyal to nation: Yogi

Lucknow, 9 June: Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Tuesday said India cannot be a "dharamshala" for people who have no faith in the country or respect for its traditions. Adityanath also called for vigilance against "love jihad", religious conversion conspiracies and "land jihad". Speaking at the closing ceremony of a nine-day Shri Ram Katha Mahotsav narrated by Jagadguru Ramanandacharya Swami Rambhadracharya in Lucknow, Adityanath said Lord Ram's ideals continue to unite the country from north to south and east to west. "Except for a few individuals driven by political motiva-

tions or prejudices, you will not find any individual who has India's DNA and has not, in some form, made the ideals of Lord Ram a part of his life," he said. The Chief Minister said Lord Ram was one figure capable of uniting every Indian irrespective of region, and this was why the Ram Janmabhoomi movement continued for centuries. Adityanath said many saints had made the Ram Janmabhoomi cause a matter of "life and death", not for personal credit but because of their commitment towards preserving India's civilisational heritage. Referring to the 2019 Supreme Court verdict in the Ram Janmabhoomi case.