

When Protests Derail Dreams: A Heartbreaking Turn on the Tracks of Eastern Railway

DOI CORRESPONDENT

Kolkata, 10 June: A few months ago, 24-year-old Leena Das (name changed) boarded a train from Shannagar bound for Sealdah. Her heart was racing, not just with nerves, but with a glimmer of hard-earned hope because it was the day of her first-ever job interview. Following the tragic passing of her father, Leena and her mother were left with no earning member and absolutely no source of income to support their family. This job wasn't just a career milestone; it was an absolute necessity for their survival. But Leena never made it to the interview room because an unexpected rail agitation choked the tracks, delaying her train by over three agonizing hours and making it impossible for her to reach her destination on time. By the time she arrived, the doors of opportunity had closed, and a family's hope for a dignified future vanished.

Leena's heartbreaking story is not an isolated incident, as there are countless people who

travel by train every day for deeply important or emergency work. Among these lakhs of daily commuters are critical patients fighting against time to reach a hospital, young students traveling for career-defining exams, and job seekers traveling for interviews. When an agitation happens, it acts as a grave injustice against all these innocent passengers. Most people do not even realize how a single hour of rail agitation can completely shatter someone's life and bring permanent darkness over their future. Recently, as well as in the past, Eastern Railway has witnessed several such agitations within its jurisdiction where passengers have blocked tracks over various demands.

Recent data underlines the persistent challenge of these disruptions across Eastern Railway divisions. During the full fiscal period from April 2025 to March 2026, a total of 29 track obstructions were recorded, with the highest concentration occurring in Sealdah (22), followed by Malda (4), Howrah (2), and Asansol (1). Additionally, the



same period saw 20 instances of General Strikes by various Trade Unions (12 in Sealdah and 8 in Howrah) and 1 instance of a Chakka Jam by political party at Malda. The trend has unfortunately spilled over into the current financial year; in the brief two-month period from April 2026 to May 2026 alone, 2 more track obstructions have already been recorded, with 1 incident each in Sealdah and Howrah.

Eastern Railway, under the leadership of General Manager Shri Milind Deouskar, has always considered its passengers to be a part of its own family,

and the administration stands fully prepared to listen to every demand and solve every problem for every single member of this family. However, resorting to agitations is never the correct or justified way to express grievances. There are numerous peaceful and easy alternative ways and paths available through which anyone can easily make their demands reach the Eastern Railway management.

Disrupting rail services through agitations is a completely unlawful act that brings severe legal consequences. Under Section 174 of the Indian

Railways Act, 1989, the willful obstruction or interruption of train operations is a strictly punishable offense. The law explicitly states that anyone who intentionally blocks a train—such as by squatting on the tracks during protests, tampering with hose pipes, or damaging essential signaling gear—can be punished with imprisonment for a term of up to 2 years, a fine of up to ₹2,000, or both.

Appealing directly to the conscience of the public, Shri Shibrum Majhi, Chief Public Relations Officer of Eastern Railway, stated that every passenger who steps onto their platforms is treated like a family member, and the administration is always ready to resolve every issue through dialogue. He emphasized that a single hour of agitation might seem like a minor protest to some, but it can ruin a life forever, just as it did for Leena. He concluded by urging everyone to abandon unlawful agitations and use the proper legal channels instead, ensuring that no one else's life and dreams are permanently derailed on the tracks.

Katihar–Kuretha and Katihar–Sonaili Double Line Sections Set for CRS Inspection

DOI CORRESPONDENT

Maligaon, 10 June: The Commissioner of Railway Safety (CRS), Northeast Frontier Circle, Kolkata, Shri Sumeet Singhal, is scheduled to carry out the statutory inspection of the newly constructed Broad Gauge (BG) double line sections between Katihar (1,380 km)–Kuretha (12,440 km) and Katihar (1,327 km)–Sonaili (17,542 km) in Katihar Division of Northeast Frontier Railway from 12th to 14th June 2026. These sections form part of the Katihar–Kumedpur and Katihar–Mukuria New Double Line Projects.

The Katihar–Kumedpur and Katihar–Mukuria New Double Line Project, spanning a total length of 64.14 km, is a significant infrastructure development initiative aimed at enhancing rail capacity and operational efficiency in the region. The project includes 2 important bridges, 27 major bridges and 23 minor

bridges, along with extensive track and associated railway infrastructure. Upon completion, the double line corridor will serve 16 railway stations, facilitating improved train operations, increased line capacity, reduced congestion, and more efficient movement of both passenger and freight traffic across the Katihar Division of Northeast Frontier Railway. The CRS inspection of the Katihar–Kuretha and Katihar–Sonaili sections are an important step forward in the progress of the project.

During the three-day inspection programme, Shri Sumeet Singhal will inspect station infrastructure, track geometry, bridges, signalling and telecommunication systems, electrical installations, safety arrangements and other associated railway assets on the newly constructed sections. The inspection will also include detailed examination of stations and field installations along the route.

Mission Passengers: Eastern Railway Completes Mega Block Works on Khana–Rampurhat Section for Passenger Safety and Comfort

DOI CORRESPONDENT

Kolkata, 10 June: Under the dynamic leadership of Shri Milind Deouskar, General Manager of Eastern Railway, complex Mega Block infrastructure upgrades were successfully executed on the Khana–Rampurhat (KAN–RPH) section on June 7, 2026, to enhance passenger comfort and safety. Planned with clockwork precision under the close supervision of Shri Vishal Kapoor, Divisional Railway Manager (DRM), Howrah, the Engineering and Traction Distribution (TRD) teams pooled resources to minimize passenger disruption. The traffic and power block was taken at 03:50 hrs, safely completed at 07:30 hrs, and traffic fully restored at 08:00 hrs. A major highlight was the successful launching of a new Foot Over Bridge (FOB) at BHP Station by the Gati Shakti Unit (GSU) to improve passenger movement.

Simultaneously, the Engineering Department completed vital track shadow works for asset renewal, including laying 4 sets of TW SEJ at PNE & KPLE, executing 17 SKV joints welding, 62.10 meters of rail change, 260 track meters of panel rail change, and 1 pair of panel rail insertion.

These extensive works provide future-ready infrastructure with minimal operational disruption, teamwork, improved passenger safety, and enhanced traction reliability.

Chief Public Relations Officer (CPRO) of Eastern Railway, Shri Shibrum Majhi stated that this successful completion reflects Eastern Railway's commitment to providing a stronger, safer transport system, dedicating every technical and track upgrade on the Khana–Rampurhat section entirely to passenger comfort.

Cong takes up with EC rejection of Natarajan's RS nomination



New Delhi, 10 June: The Congress on Wednesday took up with the Election Commission the issue of rejection of its Madhya Pradesh candidate Meenakshi Natarajan's nomination for the Rajya Sabha polls, saying the order was "egregious" and should be set aside immediately.

A delegation of top party leaders, including K C Venugopal, Jairam Ramesh, Abhishek Singhvi, Vivek Tankha, Randeep Surjewala, Bhupesh Baghel and Deepa Dasmunshi, along with Natarajan, met the Commission and demanded that the decision should be reversed. "This is a subversion of democracy... We still have full faith in constitutional institutions. That is why we are fighting this battle," Natarajan told reporters after the Congress delegation met the EC officials.

Briefing reporters after the meeting, Singhvi said: "This delegation made a detailed representation to the EC. We have told them and demonstrated, according to us, beyond doubt and beyond any matter of controversy, that the RO (returning officer), has passed a perverse order. An order akin to likening 2 plus 2 is equal to 7." "Why do I say so. The Election Commission's own law the representation of people's act has a section 33A which states that you have to disclose only those cases which have a punishment of over two years, but above all, only those cases in which charges have been framed," Singhvi said.

"The process of framing charges is a judicial process. A judge frames charges. As a first-year law student knows that first there is a private complaint. That private complaint may be baseless, may have no legs to stand on and the second stage is taking up cognizance by the magistrate," he said.

Singhvi said Natarajan had only received a notice to come to the court to tell the court why cognizance should not be taken which means that the notice was received before any cognizance was taken. Any first-year law student also knows that without cognizance no criminal case exists in the eyes of the law, he said.

"You have rejected Ms Natarajan's nomination on even the non-existence of cognizance which means that there is no criminal case that she could have disclosed," he said. It is a bizarre thing that the returning officer has rejected stating that there is cognizance when there is no cognizance, he said.

"We pointed out to the EC that they are having a huge reservoir of power under Article 324 of the Constitution... if an RO improperly throws out a nomination on the grounds that the colour of his hair is black or if he is resident of another state, nobody has to wait to go to court. Nobody has to file an election petition, the main body which is sitting here with powers to do corrective justice," Singhvi said, referring to the EC.

Kerala CM condemns social media campaign against actor Salim Kumar

Thiruvananthapuram, 10 June: Kerala Chief Minister V D Satheesan on Wednesday strongly criticised the social media campaign against National Award-winning Malayalam actor Salim Kumar during his final days, saying such attacks were unacceptable and unbecoming of the state.

Recalling the cyber attacks directed at the actor while he was battling a serious illness, Satheesan said it was disturbing that abusive comments were posted even when Salim Kumar was on ventilator support. Salim Kumar died while undergoing treatment for pneumonia at a private hospital in Kochi on Saturday night. "When Salim Kumar was lying ill, there was a massive attack against him on social media. People even asked, 'can't he just die?'" the Chief Minister said, questioning what wrong the actor had done. "Even after his death, a very bad social media campaign continued. Is this happening in Kerala? Who is behind this campaign?" he asked. Satheesan said artists, like everyone else, have their own political beliefs, but targeting someone because of their politics while they are fighting for their life was unacceptable. "Artists have their own politics. But conducting such campaigns against a person who is ill, lying on a ventilator and battling death because of his political views is not good for Kerala," he stated. The Chief Minister observed that those responsible for the campaign would eventually realise the gravity of their actions.

Salim Kumar, a National Award-winning actor known for his versatile performances, was widely regarded as a Congress sympathiser and was considered close to Satheesan. The Chief Minister also came down heavily on the conduct of online media channels during the actor's cremation on Sunday. Television visuals showing Salim Kumar's son Chandu asking online media personnel to move away after they allegedly pushed into the crowd to capture footage had gone viral on social media. Satheesan said the issue could not be addressed through legislation alone and called for greater responsibility from media organisations. "I myself spoke to them very angrily. The police could not render honours, and the family could not perform the rituals. It was a very difficult situation," he said.

The Chief Minister's remarks came amid widespread criticism over both the online abuse faced by the late actor during his illness and the social media frenzy witnessed during his cremation.

Sugathan, councillor of the Vazhottukonam ward under the Thiruvananthapuram Corporation, was taken into custody late on Tuesday night from his residence after the Kerala High Court denied him anticipatory bail in an alleged assault case linked to a temple festival. According to police, a team reached his house to execute a KAAPA detention order when a group of people surrounded the officers and attempted to obstruct the arrest. During the confrontation, police fired into the air to disperse the crowd and ensure the safety of personnel before taking Sugathan into custody.

Authorities later recorded his arrest, conducted a medical examination and shifted him to jail. Police stated that Sugathan, who is accused in multiple criminal cases, had earlier been directed by a court to appear before investigators but failed to do so. A fresh case was registered against Sugathan and four others in connection with Tuesday night's incident for allegedly assaulting and obstructing public servants in the discharge of their duties. According to the FIR, Sugathan allegedly pushed and attempted to assault the Vattiyorkavu police inspector and a sub-inspector who were part of the arrest team.

Prez writes to PM Modi; says India witnessed significant transformations during his tenure

New Delhi, 10 June: President Droupadi Murmu has congratulated Prime Minister Narendra Modi on marking the milestone of serving as India's longest continuously elected PM and said that during this period, the country has witnessed significant transformations across all facets of national life.

In a letter to the PM, Murmu said that be it welfare of the poor, healthcare for all, empowering farmers, protecting the interests of the middle and neo-middle classes, "your all-inclusive vision and actions have transformed millions of lives." "I was deeply touched by your compassion for the marginalised sections of our society and your commitment to the ideal of Antyodaya—upliftment of the person at the very end of the line. It reflected not merely a policy intervention, but a profound sensitivity towards some of the most vulnerable citizens of Bharat," Murmu said. The President said that the regions that



had long remained outside the principal arc of India's development story have received special attention and care under Modi's leadership. This is especially true about the eastern and north-eastern parts of India, which had lagged behind in terms of development indicators, she said.

Kriti Sanon Joins Shahid Kapoor as the Face of Vogue Eyewear

Vogue Eyewear emphasises that self-expression and style are ever evolving as we continue to discover oneself in the journey of life

DOI CORRESPONDENT

Kolkata, 10 June: Kriti Sanon joins Vogue Eyewear as its new female Brand Ambassador, alongside talent powerhouse Shahid Kapoor, who continues his long-standing 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.

ICMAI Welcomes CMA Rathindra Bose, Reinforcing Commitment to the Cost and Management Accountancy Profession

CMA Rathindra Bose, Hon'ble Speaker of the 18th West Bengal Legislative Assembly, honoured with ICMAI Membership Certificate

DOI CORRESPONDENT

Kolkata, 10 June: The Institute of Cost Accountants of India (ICMAI) welcomed CMA Rathindra Bose, Hon'ble Speaker of the 18th West Bengal Legislative Assembly, in a special ceremony held on June 10, 2026, marking an important milestone in his association with the Institute.

During the programme, CMA Manoj Kumar Anand,

Council Member, and CMA (Dr.) D.P. Nandy, Secretary (Officiating), formally presented the Certificate of Membership of ICMAI to CMA Rathindra Bose. The occasion reflected the Institute's continued commitment to recognizing distinguished professionals who have made significant contributions to public service and leadership.

Speaking on the occasion, CMA Manoj Kumar Anand said,

SC directs Kerala govt to take custody of state's tallest elephant Raman

New Delhi, 10 June: Observing that the well-being of voiceless animals is of paramount importance, the Supreme Court has directed the Kerala government to take custody of Raman, described as the state's tallest elephant at 10.53 ft, and house it in an appropriate rehabilitation centre.

A bench of Justices Dipankar Datta and Satish Chandra Sharma noted that Raman had been subjected to commercial exploitation and used in ceremonial processions and rituals despite an earlier undertaking given to the court. "It is truly unfortunate that the elephant in question i.e., Raman, who also happens to be the tallest elephant in the state of Kerala has been subjected to commercial exploitation despite an order restraining such exploitation, that too on the strength of an undertaking made before this court." "We would be failing in our duty towards the voiceless, if we turn a

blind eye towards such defiance. We cannot be a mute spectator, more so in matters pertaining to voiceless animals, whose well-being is also of paramount importance," the bench said. The court found Krishnankutty, who retained



custody of the elephant on the basis of a disputed will, guilty of contempt for wilfully violating an undertaking given to the apex court and imposed a fine of Rs 2,000 on him.

Clarifying that the transfer of custody was temporary and sub-

ject to its final decision in the matter, the court observed, "The state of Kerala may also proceed to temporarily care for the elephant at its own expense, in which case, it may pass appropriate administrative orders in accordance with the statutory safeguards enshrined under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972." The apex court also discharged the state authorities from contempt proceedings, noting that they had made efforts to conduct a medical examination of the elephant. The bench was hearing a contempt petition filed by Jayakrishna Menon, who claimed that Raman belonged to the Mata Amritanandamayi Mutt and had only been temporarily handed over to Krishnankutty for upkeep and care. Krishnankutty, however, contended that Raman had been lawfully transferred to him through gift deeds and that he had been maintaining and caring for the elephant for the past 10 to 12 years.

Such efforts reflect the spirit of people-centric and people-powered governance, which seeks to ensure that the fruits of development reach the last person and that no region, community or citizen is left behind, the President said. "Your own journey from humble beginnings to becoming India's longest-serving elected Prime Minister, continuously serving the people, also reaffirms one of the most inspiring features of Indian democracy. It demonstrates that in our Republic, public life remains open to all those who dedicate themselves to service, commitment and hard work for the betterment of the nation," she said in a letter dated June 9.

"You have led the country with the spirit of Nation First and have achieved the unique blend of tradition and development. Now India occupies its rightful place of importance in the global community," read Murmu's letter to Modi.