2-hour huddle by Trinamul's top two on 'RS names, LS campaign'

Abhishek calls on CM for 'poll talk'

MEGHDEEP BHATTACHARYYA

Calcutta: Trinamul leader Abhishek Banerjee on Tues-day visited his aunt, chief min-ister Manuta Banerjee, at her Kalighat residence for nearly two hours, with multiple Tri-namul functionaries saying that the duo discussed candi-dates for the Rajya Sabha polls scheduled for February 27 and key aspects of the Lok Sabha cammaion

key aspects of the Lok Sabha campaign.

On Tuesday, Abhishek went straight to Mamata's res-idence from the airport on his arrival from Delhi.

The meeting came amid purported tension between the two and their close aides over differences between the old guard and the new lot in

Howrah duo

arrested for

Guwahati murder

UMANAND JAISWAL

Vikash.

An FIR was lodged on a complaint by the victim's brother, Vishal, on Tuesday.

Sharing the sequence of events leading to the murder,

Searches by

ED in four

districts in

the party. However, multiple sources from either side insisted there was no breakdown of communication between the two and they were in fairly constant touch over texts even when they weren't frequently meeting each other in person. "Three elements could have featured in the talks. First, Rajya Sabha candidates. Second, some Lok Sabha candidates and the fact that the Trinamul poll campaign has

didates and the fact that the Trinamul poll campaign has been in somewhat of a limbo and needs to be launched with a bang without further ado. Third, that bang, possibly by way of a mega rally of Brigade proportions," saidan insider. "Both had been talking about the broad contours of these thines, textually for

these things, textually, for days," he added.



Mamata Banerjee. Filepicture

The five Raiva Sahha Subhasish Chakraborty, Abir Ranjan Biswas, Md Nadimul Haque and Santanu Sen, be-sides the Congress's Abhishek Haque and Santanu Sen, be-sides the Congress's Abhishek Manu Singhvi, who won with Mamata's backing. Now, Tri-



namul is likely to get four based on their Assembly num-bers, and the BJP one.
"The nomination process begins on Friday for the Feb-ruary 27 Rajya Sabha polls. The announcement of the names would be made by her

(Mamata) in a day or two. Two of the outgoing four are almost certainly going to be sent again. The other two are likely to be Deplaced," said a Tribe BJP's leader of the Opposition in the Assembly Suvendu Adhikari, in Delhi on Monday to meet Union home minister Amit Shah and other seniors, got one name approved from a list of six for the BJP's Rajay Sabha candidate from Bengal.
"In a conciliatory gesture (towards Abhishek), the aunt did not want to unilaterally announce the names before discussing with him face to face. This meeting further underscored his position as Tri-

derscored his position as Tri-namul's Number Two," said a

nce from the party's Red and dharna dais triggered a t of conjecture from all quar-rs. He will probably show up

ters. He will probably show up mow," the source added.

A Trinamul insider, a self-proclaimed fence-sitter between the old and the new camps of the party, said an ever-increasing disquiet was prevailing over the recent distance between the two most important faces of Bengal's ruling narty.

important faces of Bengal's ruling party.

"This has deferred (Tri-namul's) plans to dive head-long into the general election (campaign), which is neither good for the old nor the new camps," he said. "Hopefully we will be told of the plans for the mega (pol) campaign) launch this week."

তদন্ত চাই

BJP leader Suvendu Adhikari, along with party MLAs protests outside the Assembly in Calcutta on Tuesday.

BJP cries for **CAG** report

SAIBAL GUPTA AND SNEHAMON CHAKRABORTY

Calcutta: The Budget session in the Assembly on Tuesday saw chaotic scenes with BJP saw chaotic scenes with BJP elegislators slogameering after the Speaker rejected an adjournment motion moved by some MLAs of the saffron camp demanding the CAG report be tabled in the House.

According to the CAG report, the state government was responsible for not submitting 2.4 lakh utilisation certificates of projects worth nearly Rs 2 lakhcrore.

Minutes before noon during Question Hour, six BJP

Minutes before noon dur-ing Question Hour, six BJP legislators, including the lead-er of the Opposition Suvendu Adhikari, moved the adjourn-AMBKAT, moved the adjournment motion, urging that the CAG report be tabled and discussed. However, Speaker Biman Banerjee dismissed any discussion on the motion, sparking a protest by BJP MLAS. The BJP MLAs did not

The BJP MLAs did not leave the House but disrupted the proceedings by raising slogans to demand a probe into the alleged misappropriation of funds cited in the report. "I am not going to suspend anyone like in the Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha," Speaker Banerjee said before adjourning

the House, referring to the 146 MPs suspended during the winter session of Parliament for creating "chaos". BJP legislators then went to the Assembly gates, shout-ing slogans and brandishing profers.

to the "Assentiny gates, shouling slogans and brandishing posts." The Speaker had gone by convention, he would have allowed us to read the adjournment motion but instead of doing that, he rejected it. This proves that the government is scared of the CAG report. Despite this, weldnit' walk out of the Assembly till the House was adjourned." Adhikari told reporters. "The CAG report also says that there are numerous fake accounts and the state government was responsible for diverting funds," Adhikari said, adding that the BJP legislators would march to governor CV. Ananda Bose after the session and ask him to request the

Ananda Bose after the session and ask him to request the CAG to lodge an FIR against the chief minister.

Reacting to Adhikari's allegations, sensor Trinamul leader Sobhandeb Chattopadhyay said: "The CAG report also says that the Centre is responsible for misappropriating funds worth Rs 7.5 lakh crore. They (the BJP MLAS) are tell-inglies about the state government. Let them speak about the Centre first...."

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

Department of Science and Technology and Biotechnology

31st West Bengal State Science & Technology Congress, 2024

the 31st West Bengal State Science & Technology Congress, 2024 will be organised by the Dept. of Science and Technology and Biotechnology, Govt of WB on 28th and 29th February, 2024 at Science City, Kolkata where the awardees of the outstanding papers of the 6th Regional the awardees of the outstanding papers of the 6th Regional Congress will make presentation of their papers on twelve different disciplines. Besides, there will be Memorial Lectures and Invited Lectures by the eminent scientists on new inventions and other contemporary scientific issues.

Selected young researchers and faculties of the different Colleges/Universities of the State, pursaing scientific research works will be allowed to attend these lectures, as per their preference and participate in the discussion.

tending candidates are to submit online applications in prescribed format within 20th February, 2024. The ort-listed candidates will be invited for participation as per the accommodation capacity of the Venue.

For further details and submission of online applications please visit: https://dstbt.bangla.gov.in/vigyanchetana/

CAPITAL PROTECTING INVESTING FINANCING ADVIS

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E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules and Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002. Netice is nearly open to the public inperied and interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002. Netice is hereby open to the public in opened and in particular to me Borrower (5) and Couranto (5) that the below-described immovable properties which has been time to the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002. Netice is hereby open to the public in opened and in particular to me Borrower which has been timen by the Authorities Officier of Allys Bilds Finance Limited, the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is," and "Whatever there is" and "Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is," and "Whatever there is" and "Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is," and "Whatever there is" and "Secured Creditor for the Courant of the Secured Creditor (1) and an application of the Secured Creditor from 1. NGSHP HASAN (Gerower), A INGAPAT JAHAN (GAMATOR), and CANAR (Gerower), A INGAPAT JAHAN (GAMATOR), and the Courant of the Secured Creditor from 1. NGSHP HASAN (Gerower), A INGAPAT JAHAN (GAMATOR), and CANAR (GA

Rahul promises GST change

Guwahati: A 25-year-old woman and her 23-year-old friend from Bengal's Howrah district were arrested in connection with the murder of a Pune-based businessman in a Guwahati hotel on Monday afternoon, police said.

Guwahati police said Anjali Shaw and Vikash Kumar Shaw from Hrishikesh Ghosh Lane in Howrah district were arrested in less than two hours of the duo leaving the hotel "together" for the airport to catch the 9.15mm Indigo flight to Calcutta.

The police received a call police claimed the victim — Kamble — was a married busi-nessman from Pune dealing in cars and diamonds. He met

nessman from rune deamig in cars and diamonds. He met Anjali in Calcutain is peptember last year while on a business trip to the city.

Anjali was a store manager of a restaurant, Spingairi, at the Calcutta airport, the police said. The deceased used to "send her expensive giffs", the police said. "The victim, though married, wanted to marry Anjali and kept on forcing her to break off herre-lationship with Vikash, Gradually, they fell apart," a police officer said.

"But the victim started." catch the 9-sopial mages might to Calcutta.

The policy received a call.

The policy for the Radisson Blu Hotel that the guest (Sandeep Suresh Sandeep Sures

"But the victim started blackmailing her. When Anja-li could not bear the "regular torture any longer", she along with her boyfriend "hatched" a plan to meet Sandeep.



a plan to meet Sandeep.
They agreed to meet at a
hotel in Guwahati and on February 5, Vikash entered Anjali's and Sandeep's room as
planned. After that, a scuffle
ensued between Vikash and
the victim. During the scuffle,
Sandeep was severely injured
and later died.

has asked the districts to send a panchayat-wise report on deleted job cards. On receiving reports from districts, the re-port will be sent to Delhi," said a senior Nabanna official.

Trinamul leaders believe that



come to power. These sectors have been the worst hit from the GST."

During a visit to a chocolate-making factory in Ooty last year, Rahul had said if voted to power, his party would revisit the GST and shared on social media handles the hardest property of the control of the shared on social media han-dles that there would be one tax slab and not five (slabs). He had also suggested setting up industrial hubs to assist small businesses and alleged that the modern GST regime was in favour of big industrial groups.

groups.

He said the revival of small and medium businesses would open employment opportunities for weaker sections and



Rahul Gandhi felicitates Sukhram Munda, a descendant of tribal icon Birsa Munda, at Khunti in Jharkhand on Tuesday. Picture by Manob Chowdhur

that Trinamul Congress lead-er and Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee was part of the alliance. "Mamata Banerjee is very much part of the INDIA all ilance and most other mem-

liance and most other mem-bers of the bloc are still in the grouping. Nitish Kumar has left the alliance and he's gone to the BJP. You can guess the reasons for his exit. That's

ikhram Munda, a uearkhand on Tuesday, Picture by Manoo Unbound
fine, Well light in Bihar as
the INDIA alliance. So, I don't
agree that lots of our partners
are not part of the alliance,
said Rahul.

He added that the alliance
constituents were carrying
forward their negotiations for
seat sharing.
The Congress leader took
The Congress leader took
and the state of the State of the State
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the video shows, Rahul hand beg of the Yatra,
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leted. If the processes were not followed while deleting the job cards, it raises suspicion that the cards were for actual work-ers. Moreover, if the cards have been cancelled, the Cen-

tre wants to know why, said a tre wans to know why, said a senior official.

The Centre also wants de-tails of the deleted job cards as it would help check wheth-er funds were transferred to these workers' accounts, said sources

Delhi hawk-eyed on deleted job cards

iob 'scam' KINSUK BASU Calcutta: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Tuesday carried out search and sei-zure operations at multiple addresses in Bengal's four districts in its madden investi-ation into alleged irregulari-ties in the execution of the Ma-hatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA).

individual value of the control of t

anas. ior ED officers said Tuesday's search operations followed the investigating agency filing an enforcement case information report (ECIR) based on five first information reports (FIRs) that were lodged at multiple that were lodged at multiple police stations in the state. The FIRs included two at Murshidabad's Beldanga police station and one at Hooghly's Dhanekhali police

that fake job cards were created to first receive the funds earmarked for the 100-day job scheme and then siphon off the money. The probe is aimed at finding out whether crores of runes of successions.

at finding out whether crores of rupees of government to sery funds were siphoned off." the senior official said.

The ED team which searched the house of the administrative officer at Bachurdoba in Jhargram with central forces into walso questioned him for several hours.

"But the Centre is curious about the job cards deleted between 2019-20 and 2021-22. The details of deleted job cards can reveal if funds were transserred to the linked bank accounts," another official said. Raising questions over deleted job cards assumes significance as the BJP Nandigram MLA and leader of the Opposition in the Assembly Supendin

PRANESH SARKAR

Calcutta: The Centre is apparently clearing the decks to ask the Bengal government uncomfortable questions on alleged funds pilferage through deleted job cards under the MONREGS, multiple bureau-rats said on a day the Enforcement Directorate raided at least four places in the Trinamul-ruled state to probe "anomalies" in the running of the flagship central scheme. "The Centre has asked the state to send a detailed report on deleted job cards. Questions on whether proper processes were followed in cancelling job cards have been asked. The state government has asked the districts to send a panchayat-wise report on tion in the Assembly, Suven Adhikari, has been repeate alleging that the Trinamul I siphoned a handsome amou siphoned a handsome amount allotted under the 100 days' job scheme through fake job cards. Adhikari had also al-leged that many fake job cards were deleted when the govern-ment sensed an inquiry was inevitable.

An official gave the details

An Official gase
of a job card.
"A job card is issued to a
family in a rural area. If there
is more than one member in
the family, names of all worka senior Nabanna official.
Sources aware of the development said 36.37 lakh job cards were deleted since the inception of the scheme in Bengal in 2008. The number of deleted workers stands at 1.26 crore during the same period. the family, names of all work-ers will be registered on the job card. If the entire family migrates to a different state or withdraws names, the job card is cancelled or deleted. In case any member migrates or withdraws his or her name,

that particular name is struck off but the card remains with the names of other members," said the official. At regular intervals, au-

At regular intervals, au-thorities verify job cards. In case a member is absent at the official hearing, he gets a notice. If the worker does not respond to three such notices,

name could be struck off.
Now, the BJP has alleged that crores were siphoned off through fake job cards off through fake job cards if funds and fake job cards if funds are

job cards.
"But before that, gram panchayats have to prepare fake muster rolls by using fake job cards... Although using fake job cards... Although using fake cards is almost impossible now as the Centre has made tagging of Andhrae has made tagging of Andhrae mandatory with job cards, it was a different situation a few years ago," said a source. Sources said that the Cen-tre wanted to know whether all processes were followed

Sources in the panchaya

Sources in the panchayat department said that initially the Centre was sending teams to check the situation on the ground. But after the state sent action-taken reports on the recommendations sent by the Centre after the release of funds under the 100 days' job scheme was stopped, the Cen-tre picked up the deleted job card issue.

"It now seems that the Cen-tre has focused its attention

tre has focused its attention on deleted job cards. It is still not clear how many job cards had been cleared between 2019-20 and 2021-22. Once we get reports from the districts, we'll know the exact numbers," said a source.

Raids after wage pledge

Mamata's decision to clear the wage backlog without waiting for the Centre was a deft po-litical move ahead of the Lok Sabha polls as it lent credence BJP has lost its mind after our chief minister's announcement... The BJP leaders in Bengal started running here and there after they realised that their plan to create havoc in rural Bengal by imposing an economic embargo had gone awry and they set the ED on us," said Panja, the Trinamul MLA from Shyampukur. had Several BJP insiders set four Sabha polls as it lent credence to the narrative of central dep-rivation that the party wants to use as the main poll plank against the Modi government. The Trinamul top brass has already asked the district units to launch a massive cam-paign to take Mamata's Febru-

said in private over the last few months that the party hoped to reap political dividends in rural Bengal as the funds freeze had started affecting the rural economy — charac-terised by joblessness — and they could hold Trinamul re-sponsible for the situation.

Mamata's decision to clear the dues, a source in the saf-fron camp said, is a jolt to that "game plan".

"As the people of Bengal are not just happy but are also thanking Mamatadi for her decision, the BJP wants to change the narrative and hence the increased activity of central agencies," Panja added.

added. A Trinamul leader close to Mamata said on Tuesday that the party would intensify the nogoing sit-in and expose how the Modi government is "ratted by Didi's decision".

The BJP leaders, however, repeated their allegations of irregularity in the implemen-

tation of the rural job scheme in Bengal.

The sussed fake job cards from the sum and the scheme from the sum of the scheme from the sum of the scheme from th the ED investigates the scam properly, the government has to set up a temporary jail at the Brigade Parade Grounds or the Sahid Minar ground to accommodate the arrested persons, "Adhikari said on Tuesday. On the use of the ED for political gains, he said: "Idon" he added.

know what Shashi Panja told you (about unleashing the ED). Your question is how was the ED involved in the case? It is similar to the PDS scam when the ED took over several pending police cases corruption in ration distribution. Government officials, panchayat functionaries and job card holders had lodged a few hundred cases regarding corruption and anomalies under the MGNREGA. As the state police did not complete probes in those cases, the ED probes in those cases, the ED took over such complaints under provisions of the PMLA (Prevention of Money Laurenteen)