

Battleground Bengal: Fate of 57 candidates in 4 constituencies to be sealed in 3rd phase today

In Maldah (Uttar), a total of 18,48,918 voters, including 9,08,854 female voters will exercise their democratic rights

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE MALDA, 6 MAY

The fate of 57 candidates, including that of the CPI(M) Politburo member and Secretary in West Bengal Mohd Salim, will be sealed on Tuesday in the third phase of elections in four Lok Sabha constituencies.

The four constituencies that will be going for polls on Tuesday include Maldah-Uttar, Maldah-Dakshin both in Malda District and Murshidabad and Jangipur in Murshidabad district. A total of 36,18,925 voters, including 17,85,791 women will exercise their franchise in two parliamentary constituencies – Maldah (Uttar) and Maldah (Dakshin) tomorrow when the third phase of polling will be conducted across the coun-

try tomorrow.

In Maldah (Uttar), a total of 18,48,918 voters, including 9,08,854 female voters will exercise their democratic rights. On the other hand, 17,70,007 electors, including 87,6,937 women will elect their Member of Parliament from Maldah (Dakshin). Notably, two Assembly segments Farakka and Samserganj in Murshidabad district are under Maldah (Dakshin) Lok Sabha seat.

In Malda district a total of 144 companies of Central Forces have been engaged for conducting a free and fair polling in polling stations. The state police forces have been engaged in elections by setting up 30 police booth across the district to maintain law and order.

A total of 8,190 polling personnel for Maldah (Uttar)



A glimpse of the dispersal center for the third phase of the Lok Sabha Election at Malda district, West Bengal on Monday. ANI

and 5,768 polling personnel for Maldah (Dakshin) have been engaged in the general election. Women polling per-

sonnel will run a total of 60 polling booths in Malda district.

It may be noted that the two



Security personnel are ready for their duty at the dispersal center of Malda district, West Bengal on Monday. ANI

LS seats were under the control of the Congress. In 2019, the BJP candidate Khagen Murmu, a former CPM leader,

was elected from the Maldah (Uttar) LS seat by defeating both the Congress and Trinamul Congress candidates.

Significantly, the TMC candidate Mousam Noor, was in second position. Ms Noor was elected as an MP from this seat in 2009 and 2014 on Congress ticket.

As a result Trinamul Congress, under the leadership of chief minister Mamata Banerjee is trying hard to win a Lok Sabha seat from Malda district in 2024 by fielding a former IPS officer Prasun Banerjee from Malda (Uttar) and Sehnaj Ali Rehan from Maldah (Dakshin).

Notably, TMC had bagged several Assembly seats from Malda, which was traditionally a Congress dominated belt, unexpectedly in 2021.

During election campaigning in Malda district, TMC chairperson Mamata Banerjee expressed her happiness over the remarkable results in 2021, disclosed that

her disappointment having failed to win at least one LS seat from Malda district and then earnestly requested the Malda people to elect her candidate in 2024.

In both the LS seats, there is a triangular fight among the candidates belonging to the BJP, Congress and Trinamul Congress. Interestingly, the BJP candidates in both the seats are at an advantage due to the fight between the Congress and the Trinamul Congress to keep control over the anti-BJP vote bank in this Muslim dominated region.

Notably, a senior Congress leader Mostaque Alam is contesting from Maldah Uttar LS seat. The Congress MP AH Khan Choudhury had won from Maldah (Dakshin) by a narrow margin in 2019 when the TMC bagged huge votes.

FIR filed against former HC judge-turned-BJP candidate, Gangopadhyay unfazed

AGENCIES KOLKATA, 6 MAY

An FIR was filed against BJP candidate from Tamluk Lok Sabha constituency and former Calcutta High Court judge Abhijit Gangopadhyay and some party workers in West Bengal's East Midnapore on Sunday for allegedly attacking sacked school employees at their protest site.

The FIR at Tamluk police station has been registered under various non-bailable sections of the Indian Penal Code and the Arms Act, on a complaint filed by a section of the 25,753 teaching and non-teaching staff, who lost their jobs following a high court order and are reportedly close to the ruling Trinamool Congress.

The root of the complaint was a procession by BJP supporters at Tamluk while Gangopadhyay was going to file his nomination as a candidate



on May 4.

Tension started as the procession passed through the area where some dismissed school staff were holding demonstrations against the Calcutta High Court order.

According to Maidul Islam, President of the West Bengal Primary Teachers' Association - which is considered close to

The root of the complaint was a procession by BJP supporters at Tamluk while Gangopadhyay was going to file his nomination as a candidate on May 4

the Trinamul, there was an unprovoked attack on the protestors by members of Gangopadhyay's procession. He also cautioned that if those involved in the attack on the hunger strike are not quickly arrested, there will be a larger agitation across the state.

Reacting to the FIR, Gangopadhyay said that such FIRs based on fake allegations are quite common and he is ready to face its outcome.

"I want to see how long those who are resorting to such fake allegations can escape the clutches of law," he added.

Sting operation video: TMC holds protest in Sandeshkhali against BJP for insulting women of Bengal

AGENCIES NORTH 24 PARGANAS, 6 MAY

The Trinamul Congress (TMC) held a protest march in Sandeshkhali's Trimohini area against Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) alleged conspiracy against women in the riverine island after a sting operation revealed that the BJP was involved in scripting the entire incident.

Scores of TMC workers participated in the protest march and also screened the video of the sting operation under the initiative of Sandeshkhali MLA Sukumar Mahato.

"Women in Sandeshkhali were insulted. The BJP conspired and insulted women in West Bengal through women in Sandeshkhali. We are protesting against that," a TMC leader said.

A woman protester said that key accused in the Sandeshkhali, Shibui Hazra



and Uttar Sardar were "helpful" and not the way it was portrayed in the media earlier.

"Shibu and Uttam are good people, not the way it was portrayed in the media. They help others. The BJP has wronged them. What is true is coming to light now," Ash-tami Mondol, a woman protester said.

On Saturday, a video of a sting operation surfaced that has stirred up controversy in Sandeshkhali which was

broadcast by a local television channel. In the alleged video, a person, purportedly a BJP Mandal (booth) president named Gangadhar Koyal is heard saying that Sandeshkhali women, who weren't sexually assaulted, were projected as 'rape' victims at the behest of the LoP.

Claiming that Suvendu 'helped' him get this done, the person in the video said that the former told him that the TMC's strongmen in the area

wouldn't be arrested unless he is falsely implicated in a "rape case".

However, the news channel that broke the alleged sting operation did not check the veracity of the clip.

Shahjahan, the key Sandeshkhali accused, is currently behind bars in connection with the attack on a team of the Directorate of Enforcement (ED) while it was in the process of raiding his residence in connection with the alleged ration scam.

The women of Sandeshkhali in the North 24 Parganas district came out on the streets earlier against the ruling TMC and Shahjahan, accusing the strongman and his aides of perpetrating gross excesses and atrocities on them while also gobbling up their land. Multiple women on the island accused Shahjahan and his aides of "land-grab and sexual assault" under coercion.

Asthma awareness required to combat disease: Doctors

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE KOLKATA, 6 MAY

Doctors feel that with the sharp rise in the incidents of asthma, more awareness drives are required to improve the quality of life for asthmatic patients.

India accounts for 13 per cent of the global burden of asthma. Globally, 42 per cent asthma-related deaths take place in India. It has been seen that only 20 per cent of the diagnosed patients are aware about asthma, said doctors today on the eve of World Asthma Day, which falls on 7 May.

The recent Global Burden of Disease (GBD 1990-019) estimated the total burden of asthma in India as 34.3 million, accounting for 13.09 per cent of the global burden.

Dr Angira Dasgupta, HOD chest department, BR Singh Hospital emphasized that despite the increasing prevalence of asthma in India, there is still lack of awareness about asthma and its symptoms.

Asthma is not a disease that can be permanently cured but can only be managed better with right intervention and medication.

Among 20 per cent of patients who are diagnosed with asthma, the majority are youngsters in the age group of 20 to 40 years. Similarly, those who are unaware about the disease are usually in the age group of 35 to 55 years. So, it is high time that the general public should be sensitized.

Dr Dasgupta said awareness about asthma is required for better management of the disease by understanding the symptoms and causes of asthma.

If people are aware then they can take steps to avoid the things that trigger asthma and thus reduce the asthma attacks. For example, exposure to allergens like dust mites, pet dander and pollen can help to reduce inflammation and narrowing of the airways.

"By sensitizing and promoting right information, we can significantly improve quality of life for asthmatic patients," Dr Dasgupta added.

PAYING TRIBUTE



SLST job aspirants pay tribute to Imran Hasan one of the aspirants, who died on Sunday, at Matangini Hazra Statue area in Kolkata on Monday. SNS

After meme on Mamata, police demands maker's identity

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE KOLKATA, 6 MAY

Kolkata Police has reacted strongly after a meme on Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee appeared and demanded the makers reveal their identity.

"You are directed to immediately disclose your identity including name and residence. If the information sought is not revealed, you shall be liable for legal action u/s 42 CrPc," read a post from the Kolkata Police responding to the tweet.

Over the years, many have faced legal action across the country for posting content against other leaders, including Shiv Sena founder Bal Thackeray and former Tamil Nadu chief minister late J Jayalalithaa. The meme comes amid a fierce tussle between the ruling Trinamul Congress and the BJP over Bengal's 42 seats. The war on social media between supporters of both parties has turned ugly.

Molestation charge against Governor: Kolkata Police probing the content of the complaint

AGENCIES KOLKATA, 6 MAY

The Kolkata Police on Monday issued a statement in connection with a molestation complaint lodged against West Bengal Governor C.V. Ananda Bose by a temporary staff of the Raj Bhavan in Kolkata, an allegation that the Governor has vehemently denied.

In the statement, the police clarified that the investigation into the matter is not against any individual, but to find out what exactly happened on that day.

The police also informed that the Special Investigation Team (SIT) formed to investigate the matter is yet to get the CCTV footage from the Raj Bhavan.

"Many mediapersons have asked me how the police can launch an inquiry against the Governor. We are probing the content of the complaint received at the Hare Street police station, not any individual. We are yet to get any CCTV footage from Raj Bhavan. We are in the



process of speaking to some police personnel posted in the Raj Bhavan to proceed with the inquiry," the Deputy Commissioner (central division) of Kolkata Police said in the statement.

The statement came a day after the Governor issued a note claiming that under Article 361 (2) and (3) of the Constitution, the state police cannot initiate any proceedings against the Governor during his term in

office.

In the statement posted on the official X handle of the Raj Bhavan, the Governor directed the staffers at Raj Bhavan, temporary or permanent, to ignore any communication from the state police in the matter.

The staffers were also directed to "refrain from making any statement online, offline, in person, over the phone or in any other manner".

In Dum Dum it is a clash between three salt and pepper politicians

AGENCIES KOLKATA, 6 MAY

Dum Dum Lok Sabha constituency in North 24 Parganas District, which has a history of changing its voting pattern in consecutive elections since 1977, will be an interesting watch this time, with three veteran politicians clashing with each other.

For Trinamul Congress' three-time MP since 2009 from Dum Dum, Saugata Roy, the concern is his winning margin in 2019 which came down sharply to 52,999 from 1,54,934 in 2014.

The second factor that might be cause of concern for Saugata Roy is that the CPI(M) this time has fielded party veteran and central committee member, Dr Sujana Chakraborty, from Dum Dum, where his party still has a dedicat-



ed voter base.

In case Dr Sujana Chakraborty, with his vast experience in party organisation activities as well as electoral politics, is able to grab a substantial share of the anti-BJP votes from Dum Dum, it could be rough going for Saugata Roy.

At the same time, the BJP has fielded Shilbhadrada Dutta, who as an erstwhile Trinamool Congress leader from North 24 Parganas District has substantial experience in handling the ruling party's organisational affairs there.

Shilbhadrada Dutta joined the BJP before the 2021 West Bengal Assembly polls and also contested unsuccessfully as the party's candidate from Bar-rackpore Assembly constituency that year.

However, he was one of the few who did not rejoin the Trinamool Congress even after being defeated, which substantially enhanced his political credibility. The factor that might make Dum Dum anybody's game is the change in the voting pattern since 1977.

In 1977 it was the Janata Party's Ashok Krishna Dutta

who won from that constituency, but only for a single term.

In 1980, the CPI(M)'s Niren Ghosh emerged as the victor from Dum Dum. However the equation changed again in 1984, when the Congress' Asutosh Laha got elected from the constituency.

Thereafter, the CPI(M)'s Nirmal Kanti Chatterjee got elected from Dum Dum for three consecutive terms in 1989, 1991 and 1996.

In 1998 BJP's Tapan Sikdar emerged as the surprise winner from Dum Dum and he got re-elected from the same constituency again in 1999.

Again in 2004, Sikdar got defeated by CPI(M)'s Amitava Nandy. However, since 2009 Dum Dum has become a Trinamul Congress bastion with Saugata Roy winning three consecutive terms, though

with fluctuating margins.

So since 1977, none of the parties have managed to retain the seat for more than three consecutive terms and going by that logic Saugata Roy, too, has reached the optimum level of Dum Dum's victory records.

Considering the twin-factors of Saugata Roy's fluctuating victory margins and the strong anti-incumbency wave against the Trinamul Congress this time, it can be said that the battle for the ruling party candidate and the retired professor of Physics will be an easy one this time.

Dum Dum with a strength of over 15 lakh voters, is basically a middle class-dominated constituency with a substantial population of refugee voters who had come to India from Bangladesh post-Partition.

BUSINESS AS USUAL



A vendor rides a bicycle on a hot afternoon, in Kolkata. ANI

TENDER

EASTERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice No.: EL-07-24, Date: 06.05.2024. E-Tender is invited by the Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer(G), Eastern Railway, Station Road, Asansol, Pin-713301 for the following work from reputed tenderers having valid Electric contractor Licence and capable to complete the following work financially. Name of the work with its location: Asansol Division: Provision of AC in Railway Hospital (DMO). Tender value: ₹ 67,14,377. Earnest Money: ₹ 1,34,300. Cost of Tender Documents: Nil. Date and time of closing & opening : 31.05.2024 at 11.00 hrs. Completion period for the work: 120 days. Complete details can be seen in the Railway's website www.irps.gov.in (ASN-43/2024-25) Tender Notices are also available at website: www.er.indianrailways.gov.in/www.irps.gov.in Follow us at: @EasternRailway easternrailwayheadquarter

TENDER

EASTERN RAILWAY
e-Tender Notice No.: MC_SC_NH Cig_2024, Dated: 27.04.2024. Sr. Divisional Mechanical Engineer, Eastern Railway, Sealdah, Room no. 42, 1st Floor, DRM Building, Kaizer Street, Kolkata-700014 invites sealed Open Tenders on "Single Packet System" in prescribed tender forms from reputed contractors with adequate experience and financial capability for the under mentioned work: **Name/Description of work :** AC Coach Attendant cum Linen Distribution service in 13153/54 Gour Express, Eastern Railway for one year. **Tender Value:** ₹ 43,32,522.03. **Earnest Money:** ₹ 86,700. **Period of Contract:** 12 months. **Bidding Start Date:** 08.05.2024. **Date and Time of closing of tender:** 22.05.2024 at 14.00 hrs. **Date and timing of tender opening:** 22.05.2024 at 14.00 hrs. Tender document including e-tender notice and eligibility criteria of the work may be seen and downloaded from www.irops.gov.in (Website URL). No manual offer will be accepted. (SDAH-44/2024-25)
Tender Notices are also available at website: www.er.indianrailways.gov.in/www.irops.gov.in
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EASTERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice No.: 222-S/I/W-II, dated: 03.05.2024. Following e-tender is invited online by the Sr. Divisional Engineer/III, Eastern Railway, 2nd Floor, Control Building, DRM Building, Kaizer Street, Sealdah, Kolkata-700014 for the following work: **Tender No.: TN-23-24-25. Name of the work:** Replacement of existing GE make E.I. System with new E.I. System at Bhagwangola, Debagram and Jaganj Station in the jurisdiction of AEN/Berhampore Court under Sr. DEN/III/Sealdah. **Tender value:** ₹ 66,81,135. **Earnest Money Deposited:** ₹ 1,33,600. **Completion period for the work:** 08 (eight) months. **Date and time of closing of tender :** 27.05.2024 at 15.00 hrs. The tender documents and other details are at www.irops.gov.in. The bidding for the tender is to be submitted through the e-tendering on above website. Manual offers will be summarily rejected. Date and time of opening of tender is 27.05.2024 at 15.30 hrs. (SDAH-39/2024-25)
Tender Notices are also available at website: www.er.indianrailways.gov.in/www.irops.gov.in
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EASTERN RAILWAY
e-Tender Notice No.: MC_SC_NH Cig_2024, Dated: 27.04.2024. Sr. Divisional Mechanical Engineer, Eastern Railway, Sealdah, Room no. 42, 1st Floor, DRM Building, Kaizer Street, Kolkata-700014 invites sealed Open Tenders on "Two Packet System" in prescribed tender forms from reputed contractors with adequate experience and financial capability for the under mentioned work: **Name/Description of work :** Deployment of outside agency for Mechanised cleaning, dry sweeping, disinfecting the depot area, maintenance of garden, mechanical work not related with safety and handling of the scraps (ferrous and non ferrous) at C&W depot at NH for 2 years. **Tender Value:** ₹ 62,34,098.02. **Earnest Money:** ₹ 1,24,700. **Cost of Tender Documents:** ₹ 0. **Period of Contract:** 02 years. **Bidding Start Date:** 06.05.2024. **Date and Time of closing of tender:** 20.05.2024 at 13.00 hrs. **Date and timing of tender opening:** 20.05.2024 at 13.00 hrs. Tender document including e-tender notice and eligibility criteria of the work may be seen and downloaded from www.irops.gov.in (Website URL). No manual offer will be accepted. (SDAH-42/2024-25)
Tender Notices are also available at website: www.er.indianrailways.gov.in/www.irops.gov.in
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EASTERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice No.: EL-09-24, Dated: 06.05.2024. E-Tender is invited by the Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer(G), Eastern Railway, Station Road, Asansol, Pin-713301 for the following work from reputed tenderers having valid Electric contractor Licence and capable to complete the following work financially. **Name of the work with its location:** Asansol Division: Upgradation of combined lobby and running room in Asansol Division (Raniganj, Durgapur Steel, Andal, Madhupur, Jasiidih, Dumka, Siuri). **Tender value:** ₹ 62,57,721.80. **Earnest Money:** ₹ 1,25,200. **Cost of Tender Documents:** Nil. **Date and time of closing & opening:** 31.05.2024 at 11.00 hrs. **Completion period for the work:** 120 days. Complete details can be seen in the Railway's website www.irops.gov.in (ASN-42/2024-25)
Tender Notices are also available at website: www.er.indianrailways.gov.in/www.irops.gov.in
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EASTERN RAILWAY
Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager, Eastern Railway, Asansol Division, Station Road, Asansol, Pin-713301 invites open e-Auction through IREPS portal vide website www.irops.gov.in, for provision of Catering Services through Modular Catering stalls over Asansol Division. Details of which are as under: **Auction Catalogue No.:** Catg-SMU-24-5. **Date:** 03.05.2024. **Seq. No.:** AA/1. **Lot No./Category:** Catg-ASN-ASN-SMU-84-24-1. **E-Auctions Date/Time:** 18.05.2024 at 12.30 hrs. **Description of Work:** Provision of Catering Services through Modular Catering Stall at Asansol Railway station on PF No. 3-4 in connection with Special Minor Unit (SMU). Reserved for Scheduled Caste (SC) earmarked for Women. All prospective bidders are advised to visit the website www.irops.gov.in for full details and to participate against the above mentioned e-Auction as per schedule given. (ASN-40/2024-25)
Tender Notices are also available at website: www.er.indianrailways.gov.in/www.irops.gov.in
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EASTERN RAILWAY
e-Tender Notice No.: MC/WC/Ironer/SDAH/24, Dated: 01.05.2024. Sr. Divisional Mechanical Engineer, Eastern Railway, Sealdah, Room no. 42, 1st Floor, DRM Building, Kaizer Street, Kolkata-700014 invites sealed Open Tenders on "Single Packet System" in prescribed tender forms from reputed contractors with adequate experience and financial capability for the under mentioned work: **Description of work :** Supply, installation & commissioning of Flatwork Drying, ironer, double roller front feed and rear return. **Tender Value:** ₹ 40,80,410.50. **Bid Security:** ₹ 81,600. **Period of Contract:** 06 months. **Bidding Start Date:** 09.05.2024. **Date and Time of closing of tender:** 23.05.2024 at 16.00 hrs. **Date and timing of tender opening:** 23.05.2024 at 16.00 hrs. Tender document including e-tender notice and eligibility criteria of the work may be seen and downloaded from www.irops.gov.in (Website URL). No manual offer will be accepted. (SDAH-40/2024-25)
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EASTERN RAILWAY
E-Tender Notice No.: O-AC-T-22 to 23-24-25 (Open), Date: 03.05.2024. E-Tenders (Open) are invited by the Divisional Railway Manager, Eastern Railway, Asansol, Station Road, Pin-713301 for the following works: **Sl.No.-1. Case No.: O-AC-T-22-24-25. Name of the work:** Open tender for repairing and strengthening of stone slab bridges (Bridge No. 100 & Br. No. 81) by RCC box in Andal-Sitarampur section and providing RCC pre cast slab on open top Bridge in the section of AEN/2/Andal under the jurisdiction of Sr.DEN/4/Asansol. **Value of Tender:** ₹ 82,19,139.87. **Earnest Money:** ₹ 1,64,400. **Sl.No.- 2. Case No. : O-AC-T-23-24-25. Name of the work:** Open tender for improvement of various Bridges by provision of RCC slabs, strengthening of wing walls & provision of additional opening etc. in Tapasi-Bara Bani-Sitarampur line under the jurisdiction of Sr. DEN/4/Asansol. **Value of Tender:** ₹ 1,78,73,362.45. **Earnest Money:** ₹ 2,39,400. **Completion period for the work:** 12 months (for Sl.No. 1 & 2 each). **Date and time of closing:** 03.06.2024 at 12.00 hrs. (for Sl.No. 1 & 2 each). Complete details can be seen in the Railways website www.irops.gov.in (ASN-41/2024-25)
Tender Notices are also available at website: www.er.indianrailways.gov.in/www.irops.gov.in
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NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY
Tender Notice No.: E-Tender No. NCR-S&T-EPC-LTE-NDLS-HWH Dated : 06.03.2024
Corrigendum No. 2
For the work of : -- Provision of LTE (Long Term Evolution) based MTRC over New Delhi-Howrah route (Including Kanpur-Lucknow Section of Indian Railways) **Corrigendum No. 2** for the above mentioned tender has been issued. For details please visit the www.irops.gov.in site 424/24 (D)
Tender Notices are also available at website: www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in/www.irops.gov.in
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EASTERN RAILWAY
e-Tender Notice No.: MC/WC/Washer/SDAH/24, Dated: 01.05.2024. Sr. Divisional Mechanical Engineer, Eastern Railway, Sealdah, Room no. 42, 1st Floor, DRM Building, Kaizer Street, Kolkata-700014 invites sealed Open Tenders on "Single Packet System" in prescribed tender forms from reputed contractors with adequate experience and financial capability for the under mentioned work: **Description of work :** Supply, installation & commissioning of 04 nos. 130 kg washer cum extractor for Mechanized Laundry Plant of Sealdah. **Tender Value:** ₹ 1,87,18,209. **Earnest Money:** ₹ 2,43,600. **Tender Document Cost:** ₹ 5,000. **Contract Period:** 06 months. **Bidding Start Date:** 09.05.2024. **Date and Time of closing of tender:** 23.05.2024 at 16.30 hrs. **Date and timing of tender opening:** 23.05.2024 at 16.30 hrs. Tender document including e-tender notice and eligibility criteria of the work may be seen and downloaded from www.irops.gov.in (Website URL). No manual offer will be accepted. (SDAH-41/2024-25)
Tender Notices are also available at website: www.er.indianrailways.gov.in/www.irops.gov.in
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EASTERN RAILWAY
e-Auction Notice for Contract of advertisement under Pay and Use contracts for different stations over Malda Division
e-Auction is invited by Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager, Eastern Railway, Malda, Malda Town Office Building, PO-Jhaljhalia, Dist-Malda, Pin-732102 (W.B.) for the contract of **Pay & Use Toilets at different stations over Malda Division**. Bidders are to bid online only through the below mentioned website. No tender document in hard copy will be sold against these tender nos. mentioned below: **e-Auction for Pay & Use Toilets over Malda Division. Sl.No.; Seq. no.; Lot no./Category; Description & Date & Time for e-Auction started (11.45 hrs.)** are as follows: **1; AA/1; PnU-MLDT-AKN-Toi-19-22-2 (Pay and Use- Toilets);** Pay & Use Toilets of 2nd class waiting hall at Akbnagar Railway station & 17.05.2024 at 12.15 hrs. **2; AA/2; PnU-MLDT-MGR-Toi-23-22-2 (Pay and Use- Toilets);** Pay & Use Toilets of 2nd class waiting hall at Munger Railway station & 17.05.2024 at 12.25 hrs. **3; AA/3; PnU-MLDT-SGG-Toi-28-23-1 (Pay and Use- Toilets);** Pay & Use Toilets in 2nd class waiting room of Sultanganj Railway station & 17.05.2024 at 12.35 hrs. **4; AA/4; PnU-MLDT-JMP-Toi-13-22-1 (Pay and Use- Toilets);** Pay & Use Toilets at 2nd class waiting hall of Jamalpur Railway station & 17.05.2024 at 12.45 hrs. **5; AA/5; PnU-MLDT-TPH-Toi-18-22-2 (Pay and Use- Toilets);** Pay & Use Toilets of 2nd class waiting hall at Tinpahar Railway station & 17.05.2024 at 12.55 hrs. **6; AA/6; PnU-MLDT-KJH-Toi-24-22-2 (Pay and Use- Toilets);** Pay & Use Toilets of 2nd class waiting hall at Kajrahat Railway station & 17.05.2024 at 13.05 hrs. **7; AA/7; PnU-MLDT-MLDT-Toi-25-22-2 (Pay and Use- Toilets);** Pay & Use Toilets of 2nd class waiting hall at Malda Town Railway station & 17.05.2024 at 13.15 hrs. **Earnest Money :** 5% (for Sl.No. 1 to 7 each). **Website particulars & Notice Board :** www.irops.gov.in & Sr.DCM/Malda/Eastern Railway (for Sl.No. 1 to 7 each). (MLD-25/2024-25)
Tender Notices are also available at website: www.er.indianrailways.gov.in/www.irops.gov.in
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EASTERN RAILWAY
e-Tender Notice No.: MC_SC_Welding_NH_24, Date: 27.04.2024. Sr. Divisional Mechanical Engineer, Eastern Railway, Sealdah, Room no. 42, 1st Floor, DRM Building, Kaizer Street, Kolkata-700014 invites sealed Open Tenders on "Single Packet System" in prescribed tender forms from reputed contractors with adequate experience and financial capability for the under mentioned work: **Name/Description of work :** Outsourcing of cutting & welding work for repairing of various wagons at NH for 02 years. **Tender Value:** ₹ 44,00,503.20. **Earnest Money:** ₹ 88,000. **Cost of Tender Documents:** ₹ 0. **Period of Contract:** 02 years. **Bidding Start Date:** 06.05.2024. **Date and Time of closing of tender:** 20.05.2024 at 12.00 hrs. **Date and timing of tender opening:** 20.05.2024 at 12.00 hrs. Tender document including e-tender notice and eligibility criteria of the work may be seen and downloaded from www.irops.gov.in (Website URL). No manual offer will be accepted. (SDAH-43/2024-25)
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BJP will always remember September 17, 1948. Once our government comes to power in Telangana, we will celebrate Hyderabad Liberation Day every year
J. P. NADDA
BJP PRESIDENT

PM Modi links ED's recovery in Jharkhand with Gandhis

He was also seeking legal advice in order to return the money looted from the poor

ANINDITA CHOWDHURY
HYDERABAD, 6 MAY

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday sought to link the Gandhis with the huge pile of currency notes that were recovered from Jharkhand by the Enforcement Directorate.

He said he was also seeking legal advice in order to return the money looted from the poor.

Mr Modi today addressed two consecutive rallies in Andhra Pradesh, the first one in Rajahmundry and the second one in Anakapalle where BJP has put up MP candidates. He was warmly welcomed by his NDA allies -TDP president N Chandrababu Naidu and his son Nara Lokesh as well as Jana Sena leader Pawan Kalyan.

Attacking the Congress Mr Modi said "In Jharkhand the ED have dug out a mountain of currency notes. This from the house of the servant of the PA who works for a Con-



gress minister. Just think Congress has made the servant's house a warehouse of their black money. This is not the first time. Earlier

their MP was also caught." "Why is it that the first family of the Congress (Gandhis) are close to people from whom such a huge amount

of notes were recovered? Was the money kept aside to be supplied elsewhere? Has the first family of Congress set up such godowns across the country? The nation wants to know from Shahzade of Congress," said Mr Modi.

"Modi is seeking legal advice... All those who have been looted, we will see how the money can be returned to them. Modi has already returned Rs17,000 crore to those who had a right to it. No poor will be looted - this is Modi's guarantee" said the Prime Minister before launching a stringent attack on the YSRCP.

He said the ruling party had completely derailed development in AP. The Prime Minister said "When there is no intention to serve the public the results are seldom achieved. By stalling the Polavaram project they have put brakes on the lifeline of Andhra Pradesh." He also accused the ruling YSRCP of failing to set up even one cap-

ital city in the past five years. He said the YSRCP supremo had failed to even complete the projects started by his father although he had usurped YSR's political legacy.

"YSR Congress had said they will set up three capitals in AP. But in these years they were unable to set up even one. They were planning to make a huge loot in the name of three capitals but before that state exchequer was emptied out. They can only manage corruption, financial management is not their cup of tea," said Mr Modi.

He went on to add that just like Karnataka where he alleged land and tanker mafia were running the government, in AP it was the sand, land and liquor mafia which were running the government. He urged the people of AP to vote for NDA keeping in mind Modi's guarantee, Chandrababu Naidu's leadership and their faith in Pawan Kalyan.

Vigilance court rejects Cong MLA's plea for probe against Vijayan in pay-off case

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, 6 MAY

In a relief to Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, a vigilance court here on Monday rejected the petition filed by Congress MLA Mathew Kuzhalsadan seeking an investigation against Vijayan and his daughter in the CMRL monthly pay-off case.

The father-daughter duo has been accused of receiving monthly payments from the Cochin Minerals and Rutile Limited (CMRL) in return for favouring the operations of the firm.

The Vigilance court has dismissed the Congress MLA's petition stating that the petitioner failed to produce sufficient evidence to order a probe into the allegations.

Kuzhalsadan sought a direct inquiry by the Vigilance court into the involvement of the chief minister and his daughter in the case.

Congress MLA Mathew Kuzhalsadan had in his petition demanded a probe by the Vigilance and Anti-Corruption Department into the allegations against Chief Minister Vijayan and his daughter in the monthly pay-off case. However, later when the court was to deliver its judgment, he changed his position and submitted a fresh request seeking the court to directly probe the case.

In his petition, Kuzhalsadan alleged that Exalogic Solutions, the firm owned by Veena Vijayan, received monthly payments as a reward for providing improper assistance to a private mining company, Cochin Minerals and Rutile Ltd.

The court had sought evidence from Kuzhalsadan regarding the alleged wrongful assistance to the private company. Following this, the MLA's lawyer during the previous hearing submitted five documents to the court

to prove the allegations against the CM and his daughter. However, the Vigilance Court said that it did not find any evidence of wrongful assistance provided by the government in these documents.

Earlier on March 31, the Ministry of Corporate Affairs ordered a Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO) probe into the affairs of Exalogic Solutions, as well as Cochin Minerals and Rutile Ltd (CMRL) and Kerala State Industrial Development Corporation (KSIDC).

In the last week of March, the Kochi unit of the Enforcement Directorate (ED) has registered an Enforcement Case Investigation Report (ECIR) - similar to a First Information Report (FIR) in criminal cases -- against Veena Vijayan's company under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 and started a probe into the transactions.

Fierce battle on the cards in Telangana's Karimnagar: Sitting MP and BJP general secretary Bandi Sanjay Kumar is taking on BRS leader B. Vinod Kumar and Congress party's Velicherla Rajendra Rao in what is likely to be a fierce battle in Karimnagar Lok Sabha constituency. Known as the political nerve centre of north Telangana, Karimnagar has a history of sending candidates of all major parties to the Parliament. A Congress stronghold since its inception till the mid-1990s, Karimnagar was wrested by the TDP in 1996. Since then, Congress has struggled to regain the lost ground though it won the seat in 2009.

AGENCIES

Regulation of Trains for Non-Interlocking work over East Central Railway
In connection with Shisho (SHEO) by-pass in Darbhanga-Sakri section of Samastipur Division over East Central Railway, Pre Non-Interlocking work from 05.05.2024 to 09.05.2024 & Non-Interlocking work on 10.05.2024 will be undertaken at Kakarghatti Yard. Consequently, following trains will be regulated as under :-
● **Short Termination / Short Origination :** (1) 13031 Howrah-Jaynagar Express (JCO 09.05.2024) will be short terminated at Barauni & 13032 Jaynagar-Howrah Express (JCO 10.05.2024) will be short originated from Barauni. (2) 13185 Sealdah-Jaynagar Gangasagar Express (JCO 09.05.2024) will be short terminated at Laheria Sarai & 13186 Jaynagar-Sealdah Gangasagar Express (JCO 10.05.2024) will be short originated from Laheria Sarai. (3) 15553 Bhagalpur-Jaynagar Express (JCO 10.05.2024) will be short terminated at Darbhanga & 15554 Jaynagar-Bhagalpur Express (JCO 10.05.2024) will be short originated from Darbhanga.
● **Regulation :** 15553 Bhagalpur-Jaynagar Express (JCO from 05.05.2024 to 09.05.2024) will be regulated by 1 hour between Dalsingh Sarai and Darbhanga. Passengers are requested to follow the public Address System of stations. Inconvenience is regretted.
Chief Passenger Transportation Manager
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E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE

ANNEXURE-E
SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES ; "APPENDIX- IV-A [See proviso to Rule 6 (2) & 8 (6) / 9(1)]

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 6 (2) & 8 (6) / 9(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.
Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Bank of Baroda, Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" for recovery of below mentioned accounts/ The details of Borrower's/Guarantor's/Secured Asset/s/Dues/Reserve Price/e-Auction date & Time, EMD and Bid Increase Amount are mentioned below:-

Sr/Sl No	Name & address of Borrower/s/Guarantor/s/ Mortgage (s)	Detailed description of the immovable property with known encumbrances, if any	Total Dues	Date & Time of E-auction	Reserve Price/ EMD amount/ Bid Increase Amount	Status of Possession (Constructive /Physical)	Property Inspection date & Time
1	M/s. Life Style (Borrower) Ms. Supriya De (Proprietor/Mortgagor) Sri Ronojit De (Guarantor) Smt. Amiya De (Guarantor)	ALL THAT piece and parcel of one shop room measuring about 570 Square Feet super built up area on the first floor AND another shop room measuring about 570 Square Feet super built up area on the third floor both together with undivided proportionate share of land of the building having its holding No.54/A/1, Jessor Road (North), Police Station - Barasat, Kolkata - 700124, within constructed on the land lying and situated at Mouza - Barasat, Parganas Anawarpur, J.L. No.79, Touzi No.146, R.S. No.261, Khatian no.585, appertaining to Dag.No.124 District 24 Parganas (North), Kolkata-700124, within Barasat Municipality Ward No.9, registered in the office of the Additional District Sub-Registrar at Barasat, in the District of North 24 Parganas together with the proportionate and undivided share of the land whereupon the building stands and also with the easement of common users reservoir over the stair case measuring 14'10" length and 7' wide at the Eastside of the Building including the tank, pump machine and toilet. Property in the name of Ms Supriya De. Building which is butted and bounded by North: 76 feet Jessor Road; South: Property belong to Jaypata Day; East: 14' Municipal Road; West: Frankross Pharmacy. Encumbrance: not known	Rs.1,02,65,685/- together with further interest at the contractual rates with other charges, until payment or realisation.	31.05.2024 from 2 p.m to 6 p.m (With unlimited extension of 10 minutes)	Rs.35,65,500/- Rs.3,56,550/- Rs.10,000/-	* Symbolic	21.05.2024 from 11.00 AM to 2.00 p.m
2	M/s Newlook Intex Nirman Pvt. Ltd (In Liquidation) (Borrower) Mr Partha De (Guarantor/ Mortgagor) Mrs Swapna Paul (Guarantor) Pestcon Engineering Ind Pvt Ltd (Corp. Guarantor/Mortgagor) Neo Heights Pvt Ltd (Corp. Guarantor/ Mortgagor)	Property 1: All that self contained flat measuring about 1166 square feet (super built up area) on the first floor of the G plus 4 storied building consisting of 2 bed rooms, one kitchen, one dining-cum-drawing and one toilet, one balcony and one store room, in the building constructed on Kolkata Municipal Premises No.299, Barakhola, Kolkata-700099, under Kolkata Municipal Corporation Ward No.109, Police Station Purba Jadavpore, District 24 Parganas South, together with proportionate undivided impartible share in the land attributable to the said Flat with right of common areas and of the said premises. Property in the name of Mr Partha De. Property is butted and bounded by North- 70' wide KMC Rd, South- Plot No 126/163 East-Plot No A(i)(20, West- Plot No A(ii) 18 (as per sale deed) Property 2: All that self contained flat measuring about 1431 square feet (super built up area) on the second floor of the G plus 4 storied building consisting of 4 bed rooms, one pantry, one kitchen, two dining-cum-drawing and three toilets and two balconies, along with a car parking space measuring about 142.57 square feet (super built up area) in the building constructed on Kolkata Municipal Premises No.299, Barakhola, Kolkata-700099, under Kolkata Municipal Corporation Ward No.109, Police Station Purba Jadavpore, District 24 Parganas South together with proportionate undivided impartible share in the land attributable to the said Flat with right of common areas and of the said premises. Property in the name of Mr Partha De. Property is butted and bounded by North- 70' wide KMC Rd, South- Plot No 126/163 East-Plot No A(i)(20, West- Plot No A(i) 18 (as per sale deed) Encumbrance: not known	Rs.17,10,60,998.30 together with further interest at the contractual rates with other charges, until payment or realisation.	31.05.2024 from 2 p.m to 6 p.m (With unlimited extension of 10 minutes)	Property: 1 Rs. 43,00,000/- Rs.4,30,000/- Rs.10,000/- Property: 2 Rs. 56,00,000/- Rs.5,60,000/- Rs.10,000/-	* Symbolic * Symbolic	21.05.2024 from 11.00 AM to 2.00 p.m
3	M/s. Realmark (Borrower) Mr Joy Prakash Sarkar (Proprietor / Guarantor/ Mortgagor)	Property 1: Leasehold commercial property located at 1st floor, unit No.1B of B+G+V storied res-cum-commercial building at B-218, Jessor Road, Kalindi, Kolkata-89. 1628 Sq Ft. Property in the name of Realmark, Proprietorship concern (Lessee). Property is butted and bounded by North- 5M wide Municipal Rd, South- 47B Bus Terminus, East- 7.6M wide Municipal Road, West- Kalindi Vatikla Bldg. Property 2: Leasehold commercial property located at Ground Floor of B+G+V storied res-cum-commercial building at B-218, Jessor Road, Kalindi, Kolkata-89. 947 Sq Ft. Property in the name of Realmark, Proprietorship concern (Lessee). Property is butted and bounded by North- 5M wide Municipal Rd, South- 47B Bus Terminus, East- 7.6M wide Municipal Road, West- Kalindi Vatikla Bldg. Property 3: Commercial Space located at Gr. Floor of G+4 storied Building at 1525, Shahid Hemanta Kumar Basu Sarani, PS- Dumdum, Kolkata-89. 1140 Sq Ft. Property in the name of Joy Prakash Sarkar. Property is butted and bounded by North-12' ft wide Municipal Road, South- R-C Dag No 5218, East- R-S Dag No 5214(P) and 5215 (P), West-Plot "A" R S Dag No 5208 & 5209. Encumbrance: not known	Rs.1,14,93,153.00 together with further interest at the contractual rates with other charges, until payment or realisation.	15.06.2024 from 2 p.m to 6 p.m (With unlimited extension of 10 minutes)	Property: 1 Rs.45,00,000/- Rs.4,50,000/- Rs.10,000/- Property: 2 Rs.42,00,000/- Rs.4,20,000/- Rs.10,000/- Property: 3 Rs.21,50,000/- Rs.2,15,000/- Rs.10,000/-	* Symbolic * Symbolic * Symbolic	07.06.2024 from 11.00 AM to 2.00 p.m

Properties are in the symbolic possession and the same will be handed over to the H1 bidder symbolically. For detail terms and condition of sale of the properties under Symbolic possession, and other detail terms and conditions of sale, please refer to the link provided in <https://www.bankofbaroda.in/e-auction.htm> and <https://ibapi.in>. Also, prospective bidders may contact the authorized officer Mr. Samir Prasad, Mob: 97129 54192

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Place :- Kolkata

For detailed terms and conditions

Authorised Officer
Bank of Baroda



They are all robbers, Be it Lalu Prasad Yadav's family in Bihar or Shibu Soren's family in Jharkhand, all of them have looted the country

SAMRAT CHOUDHARY
DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER OF BIHAR

Rahul Gandhi promises to remove 50pc cap on quota

He said the Congress has drafted an innovative plan which no other govt has ever thought of

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
BHOPAL, 6 MAY

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Monday promised to remove the 50 per cent cap on reservation if the opposition-backed INDIA bloc comes to power in Madhya Pradesh. Taking a jibe at the BJP's "abki baar, 400 paar" war cry, he claimed the saffron party would not be able to win even 150 seats in the general election.

Gandhi said the Congress has drafted an innovative plan which no other government has ever thought of, adding that it would provide Rs 8,500 per month, totaling more than Rs one lakh a year, to one woman from each poor family.

Addressing two poll rallies at Segaoon in the Kharagone (ST) Lok Sabha constituency and



Alirajpur in Ratlam (ST) Lok Sabha seat of Madhya Pradesh, he reiterated that Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), and the Rashtriya Swam-sevak Sangh (RSS) are planning to end the Constitution.

"All that the dalits, tribals, OBCs, poor and downtrodden of the country have received

after Independence is thanks to the Constitution, but Modi and the BJP have decided to end this Constitution and deprive you of everything," Gandhi told the gathering at Alirajpur, holding a copy of the Constitution in his hand.

He alleged that the prime minister plans to hand over the land, forest and water resources of the nation to a

handful of his industrialist friends.

He cautioned that if the BJP forms the government again, about two-dozen industrialist friends of Modi would control all the resources of the nation and they would run the entire government. He said Modi waived off loans worth more than Rs 16 lakh crore of his industrialist friends, but did not waive off a single penny of the farmers' pending loan amounts.

The Gandhi scion asserted that the Congress has genuinely worked for the welfare of the poor and tribals. He said the Congress believes that the adivasis or tribals have the first right on the resources of the country.

"... leave aside snatching your reservation, we are going to raise it above the 50 per cent limit," he promised.

The Supreme Court, how-

ever, has capped the reservation limit to 50 per cent.

"When the Congress forms the government, we will put Rs one lakh a year directly into the bank account of one woman from each poor family till that family is brought above the poverty line," the Congress leader underlined.

"Narendra Modi has made some people crorepatris, but we are going to make crores of people lakhpati," Rahul Gandhi asserted.

He encouraged the Congress workers, calling them lions, and urged them to toil in the ongoing Lok Sabha polls, to save the country's democracy and Constitution. The Ratlam and Kharagone Lok Sabha seats would go to polls along with six other seats of the state in the fourth phase of polling on 13 May, the last phase for Madhya Pradesh.

'Modi govt playing directly into hands of Chinese'

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 6 MAY

The Congress on Monday launched a fresh attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government over the China issue, accusing it of playing directly into the hands of the Chinese.

The party also posed a volley of questions to the Prime Minister over the matter.

In a statement, Congress General Secretary in-charge of Communications Jairam Ramesh said, "Today is the fourth anniversary of the clashes that began between Indian and Chinese troops at Pangong Tso in eastern Ladakh. These culminated in the fatal engagement in Galwan on 15th June 2020 in which 20 of our brave soldiers made the supreme sacrifice. The PM's clean chit to China four days later when he said 'na koi hamari seema mein ghus aaya hai, na hi koi ghusa hua hai' was a profound insult to our fallen soldiers and became the legitimisation of Chinese control over 2,000 square kms of land in eastern Ladakh."



Referring to the India-China border talks, he said, "Despite 21 rounds of military talks over four years, the situation remains unfavourable. Leh's Superintendent of Police has clearly shown that our troops were unable to reach 26 out of 65 patrolling points that they could access prior to 5th May 2020. Chinese forces continue to block Indian access in the strategic Depsang Plains in five locations (Patrolling Points 10, 11, 11A, 12 and 13)."

Alleging that China's aggressive build up and intrusions are not restricted to Ladakh, the Congress MP

said, "Along Arunachal Pradesh, the Chinese continue to build forces and infrastructure that pose a direct threat to India's Siliguri Corridor, which connects northeast India with the rest of the country. The Modi government has overseen the destabilisation of Manipur and other parts of the north-east, playing directly into the hands of the Chinese. This sorry situation is a complete indictment of the PM's gullibility and naiveté regarding China."

Arunachal Pradesh shares a 1,080 km border with China.

He asserted that China has made significant inroads into our neighbourhood on the Modi government's watch.

"Do you still believe your 19 June 2020 statement? Has your government surrendered to Chinese control over thousands of square kms in Depsang and Demchok for the foreseeable future or are you still trying to return to the status quo ante before 5 May 2020? When will you take responsibility for the abysmal failure of your China policy?" Jairam questioned.

Cong in turmoil after Radhika Khera's resignation; explosive allegations surface

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
RAIPUR, 6 MAY

The resignation of Radhika Khera, the former Congress National Media Coordinator, has sent shockwaves through the political landscape of Chhattisgarh. Even as the dust begins to settle, startling allegations have surfaced, further fueling the already intense controversy within the Congress.

Parvez Ahmad, the Media Coordinator of Chhattisgarh Congress, alleged that Khera had undertaken significant projects under the guise of a company owned by a close relative during the previous Congress government's tenure in Chhattisgarh. However, following a

change in government, the payment owed to this registered company was suspended by the relevant authorities. Ahmad accused Radhika Khera of implicating senior officials of Chhattisgarh Congress in an attempt to appease the BJP and recover the outstanding payment.

Meanwhile, during a press conference in Delhi, Khera leveled accusations against prominent Chhattisgarh Congress leaders Sushil Anand Shukla and others. She alleged instances of alcohol being offered during Rahul Gandhi's 'Nyay Yatra' in the state, late-night disturbances at her accommodation, and indecent behavior during a dispute



at Rajiv Bhavan, the Congress' headquarters in Chhattisgarh. Khera further claimed to have notified Pradesh Prabhari Sachin Pilot and Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel about the incidents but asserted that she received no assistance from them.

During the press conference, Khera recounted a dispute at Rajiv Bhavan, where she sought the intervention of Media Department Chairman Sushil Anand Shukla. However, she alleged mistreatment and confinement in her room, prompting her to raise an alarm and

Chhattisgarh CM criticises Cong after Radhika Khera's resignation

AGENCIES
CHHATTISGARH, 6 MAY

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai launched a sharp critique on Monday

against the Congress party following the resignation of party leader Radhika Khera. Khera resigned from the primary membership of Congress on Sunday, citing mistreat-

ment by party members during a visit to the Ram Temple in Ayodhya.

"She was insulted by her people in the Congress Bhawan. They talk about

'Naari Nyay', but there is a huge difference between what they say and what they do. This is the reason why Congress is in such a situation," Sai said.

eventually escape. Khera also stated that she approached the party's General Secretary for help but claimed to have been met with indifference.

In response to Khera's allegations, Chhattisgarh PCC President Deepak Baij stated that he promptly forwarded a report to the AICC for thorough investigation. Emphasising the party's commitment to main-

taining a safe and respectful environment, Baij highlighted the presence of women in key roles within the Congress, including control rooms, to prevent such incidents. While acknowledging minor disagreements between Khera and Shukla, he firmly dismissed any claims of neglecting Khera due to her visit to the Ram Mandir as baseless. Baij

pledged that the party would take decisive action upon uncovering any wrongdoing. The timing of Radhika Khera's resignation, just a day before the third phase of Lok Sabha elections, has dealt a significant blow to the Congress and served to energise the BJP. This sudden development has not only disrupted the party's momentum but also raised

questions about internal cohesion and leadership stability. With just hours left until the polls, the Congress faces the challenging task of restoring confidence among its cadre. Meanwhile, the BJP appears emboldened by these developments, capitalising on the opportunity to rally its base and consolidate its position in the state.

Hemant Soren moves SC against his arrest by ED

PARMOD KUMAR
NEW DELHI, 6 MAY

Former Jharkhand chief minister Hemant Soren moved the Supreme Court on Monday against the Jharkhand High Court order dismissing his plea challenging his arrest by the Directorate of Enforcement (ED) in an alleged money laundering case.

A bench of Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud, Justice J B Pardiwala, and Justice Manoj Misra, on a mention for an early listing, asked senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for Soren, to send an email and it will look into it.

Making a mention for an early listing, Sibal told the bench that the election phase in Jharkhand will begin on May 13. "Hemant Soren was arrested on January 31, we moved the high court on February 4 and the high court did not deliver the judgement. The phase of election starts on May 13.... This court issued notice and the high court delivered the judgement on May 3. We have filed the SLP, very unfor-



tunate that the rights are being trampled in this fashion," Sibal elaborated.

The Jharkhand High Court, on May 3, dismissed Soren's plea challenging his arrest by the ED in an alleged money laundering case. The high court pronounced judgment four days after the Supreme Court agreed on April 29, 2024, to hear Soren's plea against arrest in the week commencing from May 6.

The judgement was reserved by the high court on February 28, 2024.

Seeking response from the ED and posting the matter for hearing in the week commencing from May 6, 2024, a bench of Justice Sanjiv Khanna and Justice Dipankar Datta had, however, said it would be open to Jharkhand High Court to deliver its judgement on the former Chief Minister Soren's plea challenging his arrest in an alleged money laundering case.

"In the meantime, it will be open to the high court to pronounce the order that was reserved on February 28, 2024," the bench had said in its order on April 29, 2024.

Soren had earlier approached the top court for bail, citing the delay by the high court in pronouncing the judgment on his plea against arrest by the ED.

Soren is being investigated for money laundering charges in connection with an illegal mining case, as well as an alleged land scam in Ranchi. The Central agency investigating both cases contended that approximately Rs 8.5 acres of property in question constitute proceeds of crime.

Raj govt bans use of mobile phones by school teachers

JAIPUR, 6 MAY

Rajasthan's Education Minister Madan Dilawar on Monday said strict action will be initiated against teachers in government schools for using mobile phones during duty hours. An order has been issued to stop the use of mobile phones by teachers in schools at the ground level. Teachers will have to stop bringing mobile phones to schools, Dilawar said.

"Mobile phones are a kind of disease. Teachers in school are busy watching the stock market. Mobile phones will be completely banned in schools. Students suffer loss in studies due to mobile phones. Phones will have to be deposited with the principal," he expressed his objections.

"If they bring mobile phones by mistake, then they will have to be deposited with the principal. Action will also be taken against performing puja or offering namaz during school time without permission", he added.

These people make agreements with terrorists: BJP's Ravi Shankar Prasad slams Charanjit Channi over his 'stuntbaazi' remark

AGENCIES
PATNA, 6 MAY

Reacting sharply to former Punjab Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi's alleged remarks on the recent terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch, Bharatiya Janata Party candidate Ravi Shankar Prasad asked on Monday and said, "These people make agreements with terrorists."

"What can we say if they are making such statements on national security? Are they speaking in favour of the terrorists? After Uri and Balakote, Rahul Gandhi asked for proof. They said that we do politics on martyrdom. The same is happening now. These people make agreements with terrorists. They take no action against PFI because they want a vote bank. Those who have done this will be finished but martyrdom



should not be mocked," he said. An Indian Air Force soldier was killed and four others injured in the terror attack in the Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday evening.

Pointing out that the attack came amid the Lok Sabha elections, former CM Charanjit Singh Channi alleged on Sunday that it was "pre-planned"

and such "stuntbaazi" is done to facilitate BJP's win in the polls.

"This is stuntbaazi. When elections come, such stunts are done to make the BJP win. These are pre-planned attacks; there is no truth in them," Channi said while speaking to reporters in Punjab.

The remarks from the Congress Working Committee member attracted sharp criticism from the Bharatiya Janata Party.

Union Minister Anurag Thakur came down heavily on Channi's remarks and questioned Congress about the terror attacks that took place during its tenure in the past. He also demanded an apology from top Congress brass, including former party chief Sonia Gandhi for Channi's remarks.

BJP leader Sushil Kumar Rinku condemned the former CM's remarks and demanded

an apology to the entire country in this regard.

Meanwhile, the mortal remains of an Indian Air Force soldier, Corporal Viky Pahade who succumbed to injuries sustained in a terror attack on Saturday evening, arrived in his hometown in Madhya Pradesh's Chhindwara for last rites on Monday.

The Indian Army has launched a major search operation in the Shahstar area of Surankote in Poonch district following a terrorist attack on an Indian Air Force (IAF) convoy.

According to the officials, as part of the ongoing operation, armed bulletproof vehicles are patrolling the area, while a dog squad has been deployed to check vehicles. The search operation aims to track down the terrorists responsible for the attack and ensure the safety of civilians in the region.

The Statesman

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Karnataka Crucible

As votes are cast in the third phase of the general elections today, in Karnataka, where the remaining 14 of its 28 Lok Sabha constituencies go to the polls, the spotlight sharply turns to the north of the state. This follows the second phase on April 26, where constituencies dominated by the Vokkaliga community had their say. Today, it's the turn of North Karnataka, a region where the Lingayat community has a significant demographic and political influence. This phase of elections is crucial, not just for the immediate electoral outcomes but for the deeper political narratives it may establish. The battle lines are drawn between seasoned BJP stalwarts such as former chief ministers Jagadish Shettar, Basavaraj Bommai, and union minister Pralhad Joshi, against a younger brigade from Congress, signalling a deliberate clash of generations and ideologies. These contests underscore a pivotal theme in Indian politics: the enduring tug-of-war between traditional caste dynamics and the evolving aspirations of a new voter base. Historically, the Lingayat community has been seen as a cornerstone of electoral politics in Karnataka, wielding substantial influence over election outcomes. Their vote has often been perceived as a bloc that could make or break political fortunes, particularly for the BJP. However, the strategic decision to field non-Lingayat candidates in places like Hubballi raises questions about whether traditional loyalties will hold firm or give way to broader issues such as development, governance, and policy impact.

The "Modi factor" that the BJP leans on heavily is tested here anew in the context of local socio-political dynamics. Will the charisma of a national leader sway voters in a region where local issues and identities are deeply rooted? This election might provide some answers, testing the waters for how far-reaching the Prime Minister's appeal really is in the granular politics of Karnataka. Moreover, the introduction of younger Congress candidates could potentially recalibrate voter interest and expectations, particularly among the youth and first-time voters. These candidates bring with them a promise of change and a focus on progressive governance, challenging the traditional political narrative that has often been centred around caste and community. As voiced by local leaders and influential seers, there's a palpable call for a shift towards meritocratic and development-oriented politics, moving beyond the caste-driven electoral strategies that have dominated the landscape. This sentiment resonates with a broader national desire for politics to transcend traditional boundaries and focus on inclusive growth and governance.

As voters in North Karnataka head to the polls today, they carry with them the potential to influence not just the electoral map but the very nature of political engagement in the region. Will they reinforce the traditional caste equations, or will they pivot towards a more issue-based voting pattern? The outcomes here could signal a significant shift in how political parties strategise and campaign in the future, not just in Karnataka but across India.

Goa's choice

Goa stands as a microcosm of the intricacies between power and governance. With polling for both the state's Lok Sabha seats scheduled for the third phase of the general election today, Goa offers a fascinating glimpse into the complexities at play. At the heart of the matter lies the Bharatiya Janata Party's ambitious bid to secure both the North and South Goa seats. Armed with a formidable electoral apparatus and an overarching administrative control, one would expect the BJP to glide effortlessly towards victory. But the BJP's quest is hamstrung by its own governance record in the state. From the protracted saga of iron ore mining to the challenges plaguing the tourism and agriculture sectors, the BJP government's performance has not been up to the mark. Despite promises of revival, mining remains at a standstill, leaving a trail of economic devastation in its wake. Meanwhile, other key sectors grapple with issues ranging from unemployment to environmental degradation.

The opposition, particularly the Congress and its allies, have capitalised on these governance issues, presenting a united front against the BJP juggernaut. By shifting the campaign spotlight onto the BJP's Achilles' heel, they aim to erode the party's electoral stronghold. Veteran politicians like Ramakant Khalap and Viriato Fernandes spearhead this charge, highlighting the BJP's shortcomings while offering an alternative vision for Goa's future. But amid the political manoeuvring and electoral rhetoric, it's the voices of the people that truly resonate. Citizen disenchantment is palpable, fuelled by a sense of disillusionment with the status quo.

The spectre of local displacement, deforestation, and demographic shifts looms large, casting a shadow over Goa's once-idyllic landscape. Grassroots movements like the Goa Bachao Andolan serve as a potent reminder of the power of collective action in holding the government accountable. In the face of mounting challenges, chief minister Pramod Sawant's attempts at damage control appear strained. Promises to preserve Goa's identity ring hollow against a backdrop of alleged corruption and unchecked development. In these circumstances, will the BJP's reliance on the Modi card, while formidable, be enough to sway voters grappling with the harsh realities of everyday life?

Ultimately, the outcome of the elections will hinge on more than just political rhetoric or electoral machinery. It will reflect the collective aspirations and frustrations of a populace wanting more from its leaders. As Goa stands at a crossroads, it seeks to heed the call of democracy and chart a course towards a brighter, more inclusive future. In the end, it is not just about winning seats; it is about forging a path towards genuine progress and prosperity for all Goans. The coming weeks will tell India which of the contending parties has presented a more convincing narrative to the sunshine state's voters.

Western Bias

The West has grudgingly ceded space to India's growing heft in international affairs as champion of the global south and its economic rise within a short period of a decade under the NDA rule, which has seen India overtaking its erstwhile colonial master. India is comfortably poised to become the third largest global economy before the end of this decade. While the West has taken note of India's achievements in space and technology benefiting millions of poor, it never misses a chance to denigrate India's rise



The West has never been too comfortable with India's rise. Indeed, at independence, nobody expected India to survive as a democracy. "Power will go to the hands of rascals, rogues, freebooters", the imperialist Prime Minister of Britain Winston Churchill is supposed to have remarked on the independence of India, adding "all Indian leaders will be of low calibre and men of straw." Now after leaders like Boris Johnson and Liz Truss, it is perhaps their leaders who deserve to be called "people of low calibre".

In his 1968 book "*Population Bomb*", the Nobel laureate Paul Ehrlich, and before him in 1967, the Paddock brothers, William and Paul, had predicted that India would splinter into anarchy and chaos over famine and food riots. The Paddock brothers in fact argued that there was no point in giving food aid to India as it would be a sheer waste ~ Indians should rather be left to their own fate. After India's third Parliamentary election, Aldous Huxley wrote, "When Nehru goes, the government will become a military dictatorship ~ as in so many of the newly independent states, for the army seems to be the only highly organised centre of power."

On the eve of the 1967 elections, the *Times of London* ran a series of articles titled "India's disintegrating democracy". Its Delhi correspondent, Neville Maxwell, wrote that "the great experiment of developing India within a democratic framework has failed" and that Indians would soon vote in the "fourth ~ and surely last ~ general election." India has not only survived all these dismal predictions, but has thrived and prospered. No one today calls us a third world country or the "Sick Man of Asia".

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While the West has taken note of India's achievements in space and technology benefiting

millions of poor, it never misses a chance to denigrate India's rise by highlighting contrary views, especially of Indian academics positioned in American university campuses who, for some strange reason, are also not comfortable with India's rise.

Now the Western media is turning its ire towards the Indian polity, focusing especially on the current parliamentary elections. A country practices and manages its democracy according to its own culture, values and ethos, which need not necessarily be Western. The Western media overlooks the fact that despite its many flaws, India's democracy remains a most vibrant one, evidenced by the high participation of citizens in the electoral process which dwarfs the low participation rate in their own democracies.

Some time back, the Sweden-based V-Dem Institute's Democracy Report 2024 termed India's democracy as an "electoral autocracy". Now, in an editorial titled "The mother of democracy is not in good shape", UK's *Financial Times* has said that the "gap between pro-democratic rhetoric and reality is widening in India". Citing "an intensifying clamp-down on opposition parties", in particular the arrest of Arvind Kejriwal, it said "this matriarch of representative government is in ill health, with worrying implications for the coming polls and what may follow." Most Western media have highlighted Mr. Kejriwal's arrest. Only the courts will decide whether the arrest was justified or not.

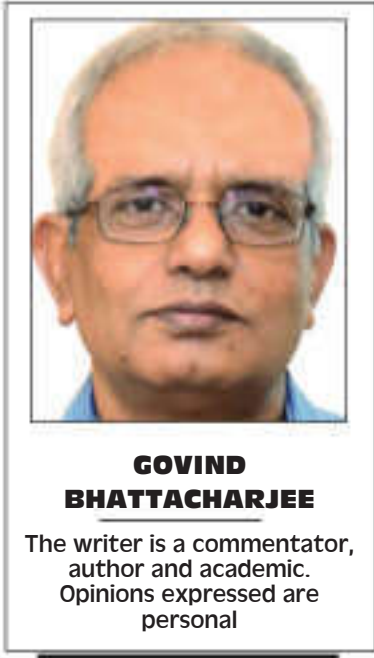
But the Western media has universally highlighted the arrest as a sure indicator of India's regression from democratic principles, while the string of cases filed against Donald Trump in US courts in its election year are just upholding the "rule of law" and letting the law take its own course in a proper democracy! "A desire to woo India has often led western democracies to hold their tongue over democratic backsliding", the *Financial Times* continued and advised Western governments to be

more robust in criticizing India, since "preserving political freedoms is in the best interests of Indian growth and prosperity, and of the Modi government's ambitions to enhance the country's role as a leading member of the global community."

One *FT* journalist has wondered, "Will this be India's last democratic election?" recalling the Western media's inherently entrenched bias against India. In an editorial, the *Guardian* wrote that BJP's win would mean that Indian democracy would be the loser. "Democracies run best when there is a contest of ideas and equal treatment of citizens in everyday administration", it says, before concluding that "these are in short supply in Modi's India." In another article, its columnist Kenneth Mohammed wrote "Behind a veneer of progress, injustice and inequality propped up by corruption and the caste system haunt the subcontinent It seems to be a global south problem that leaders are more enthusiastic to spend taxpayers' funds on expensive vanity projects than concern themselves with fixing basic issues of infrastructure, health and education to raise the standard of living for all its people."

Christophe Jaffrelot, a professor of political science in France, wrote in *Le Monde*, "India's elections this year stand out for their undemocratic nature", arguing that Mr Modi is turning democracy into electoral authoritarianism. The *Los Angeles Times* questioned, "Is Narendra Modi's India still a democracy?" In an article titled "The Modification of India Is Almost Complete", Michael Kugelman wrote in *Time* magazine, "The Modi-era actions are highly controversial because of India's constitutionally enshrined secular traditions and resilient democracy. But it has far too many backers to be characterized as a wholesale trampling on the public will."

This may be the tyranny of the majority, but it's also something that enjoys a public man-



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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A complicit state

SIR, The CBI's official charge sheet of the Manipur violence shows the architect was more the state government than the divided society there. After the chargesheet became public, the case of two women of Kuki-Zomi community being stripped naked and sexually assaulted by a mob in Meitei-dominated Thoubal district of Manipur has once again come into limelight. Such a heinous act was allowed to happen by the police there, which means that this heinous act was carried out on the orders of the State Home Ministry. The information that has come out from the CBI charge sheet is very disturbing.

It has been mentioned that when the mob was chasing these women, they had managed to sit inside a police gypsy parked on the roadside. But when they asked the police to start the vehicle, the police driver told them that "there are no keys to the vehicle." What is surprising is that when the crowd forcibly took the wom-

en out of the police jeep, the police drove away. This embarrassing video came to public notice two months after the incident because internet services in Manipur had been shut down during that period. Now it is known why the internet was disrupted ~ so that the video of that misdeed does not become public. Let me say once again that what happened in Manipur was not just a normal violent incident. In fact, the entire machinery of the state government was engaged in the violence.

Where else in the modern world are more than 250 churches burned or demolished in the space of a few months? Is it possible for such a gruesome incident to happen in the world's largest democracy?

Yours, etc., Jang Bahadur Singh, Jamshedpur, 2 May.

RETIRING HURT

SIR, The column "Third Inning" under the Now and Again section in today's edition painted a rosy picture. It is true that we prepare ourselves for the second inning in

our first inning with so many illusions attached. But, we stand disillusioned in due course when we experience the reality in our second inning. The column presents a narrative about the third innings which is based on imagination to a great extent. Most often, during the second inning we remain so busy that we fail to plan our post-retirement life in advance.

Moreover, we are not able to pursue our hobbies through the

entire second inning. The end of the second inning comes as a bolt from the blue. As hobbies can not be developed or revived overnight ~ time hangs heavy on some individuals. Further, it is not necessary that children are well settled by that time in all cases.

Thus, the responsibilities do not cease to exist for some. For many, it is a shaky wait before retiring hurt finally.

Yours, etc., Prasenjit Baidya, Subhasgram, 5 May.

CRACKING DOWN

SIR, The Apex court has rightly expressed anger at Uttarakhand's drug regulatory authority for its failure to act in time against those companies that flout the rules. The verdict in Patanjali case should be an eye-opener for the authorities who turn a blind eye to wilful violators of food and drug safety. India has bagged the dubious record of being the world capital of diabetes and life style diseases. The number of diabetics has been fast growing. The false promises of magical cure with unproved regimen made by unqualified personnel would make things worse. That the foods that contain sugar, salt and fats more than allowed levels are flooding markets is a matter of prime concern. The regulators should not fail to arrest these dangerous trends.

Yours, etc., Dr DVG Sankara Rao, Vizianagaram, 1 May.

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ASIA NEWS NETWORK

ASIAN VOICES

About tigers and much more

In the eighth century, Guru Rinpoche flew on the back of a tigress to a cave in Takhtshang where he meditated and created the aura to conquer the negative forces troubling Bhutan and the known world. Since then, we have been agonising over the persistent curiosity of our children who can be cruelly undiplomatic: "Apa, Ama, ... did the Guru with the tall hat and stick really fly on a tiger? Can tigers fly?" After two days of a tiger conference this week in Paro, where about 200 government leaders, ecological experts, and wildlife supporters, articulated scientific justifications to save the tiger, you could say we learnt that we can actually save the world by riding on the tiger. The premise of the validation is that this noble beast is an umbrella species whose habitat houses numerous other species. It is the apex of that food chain. So, protecting the tiger habitat helps maintain ecological balance which will ensure the harmony between man and nature and, therefore, the health of the planet itself.

The "Sustainable Finance for Tiger Landscapes" conference declared the determination to raise USD 1 billion by 2034. Veteran conservationists, funders, and government leaders also acknowledge that it is as important, to be conscious of how the money is used. Given the intricacies of international funding mechanisms and processes, that sometimes go astray, this is good thinking. A unanimous view at the conference was that Bhutan, given its image and track record, is the right country to take the lead in a global venture to protect the



tiger landscape, thereby helping to safeguard the planet. According to the President and CEO of WWF-US, Carter Roberts, this is obvious because good leadership is critical for such a task, and Bhutan has "an abundance of good leadership". It was visible at the conference with Her Majesty The Gyaltsuen, as the Royal patron, opening the conference and Bhutan's Prime Minister and citizens of influence joining prominent conservation leaders at the largest global meet of its kind.

The ambience of the conference, and the spirit of the participants, was elevated to a new high when His Majesty The King joined the participants in an informal moment after the conference. Participants of the conference agreed that, as the patron of the Tiger Conservation Coalition, Her Majesty The Gyaltsuen has triggered a triple win ~ for the tiger, for nature, and for the people. This is particularly meaningful because it overshadows the triple crisis ~ climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution.

Another unique feature of the conference is that tigers are showing the way for the phenomenon of survival. This magnificent beast is fighting its way back from what was feared as an eminent extinction. It is not a small fight. Sadly, nothing matches the tragedy of human greed and we see in the lucrative black-market value of every part of the tiger. Tigers are better known today as inmates of a zoo and even tiger farms that breed tigers for commercial trade. Of the nine sub-species of tigers in the world, three of them have gone extinct. and currently, there is an estimated 5,574 tigers in the 13 tiger range countries.

Even as the tiger population is depleting in many countries the Bengal Tiger is growing in numbers. If we could understand "tiger talk", they are likely to tell us that Bhutan is an ideal home. Our protected biological corridors provide the space for tigers to roam from one corner of the country to another, from lush subtropical jungles to the highest Alpine ranges that the tiger has ever climbed.

POWERLESS

SIR, This refers to the editorial 'Women In Fray'. It is just not in politics but in all walks of life that women are made to feel as if they are not good enough. Indian cultural traditions strongly make the point that the first responsibility of a woman is her home and children. It is only now that some are breaking the self-imposed restrictions.

Talk about lack of women power in India and it is more than likely some example in ancient India will be provided to show the equality of sexes in Bharat. All political parties pay lip service to the empowerment of women. The women's reservation bill was recently passed in parliament with great fanfare.

But the ground reality of women sharing power is quite different. A hundred such legislations may be passed but unless the mindset of not just the men but of women too changes, the situation will not improve.

Yours, etc., Anthony Henriques, Mumbai, 5 May.

Campus protests reveal the West's hypocrisy

HARSHA KAKAR

Since 17 April, pro-Palestine sit-in demonstrations have impacted multiple American universities, bringing education to a standstill. Riot police employed force to take down protestors' encampments while arresting thousands. Clashes between students and riot police are being reported across the US as also between pro-Palestine and pro-Israel demonstrators. Protests on this scale were last witnessed during the Vietnam war. Within days, protests spread to universities in the UK, Canada, France and Australia. In most countries, riot police were called in to quell the protests.

Protesting students are accusing Israel of committing 'genocide' in Gaza while demanding that educational institutions 'divest' from businesses linked with Israel as also companies providing military equipment to them. Most US universities invest their funding, donations as also earnings, in shares of major companies including defence suppliers. Brown, Northwestern and Rutgers universities are the few to have come to an agreement with protestors.

Authorities classify these demonstrations as anti-Semitic, and controlled by 'professional protestors.' Professionals guiding protests is a global phenomenon and not a discovery of the West. Professionally organized protests in India, funded by anti-India organizations and lobbies abroad, when quelled by employment of police power led to India being accused of 'subverting freedom of speech' and lowering its 'democratic credentials.' Why are those institutions and nations, which questioned India, silent now? Hypocrisy!



In the US, even professors were manhandled and treated worse than criminals, but not a single entity objected. Universities across the West are threatening students with suspension if they do not terminate their protests. Not a single voice was raised in support of demonstrating students but many had supported protesting Indian students and farmers.

Even President Biden backed the crackdown mentioning, "Dissent must never lead to disorder." He added, "Vandalism, trespassing, breaking windows, shutting down campuses, forcing cancellation of classes and graduation — none of this is a peaceful protest. Threatening people, intimidating people, instilling fear in people is not a peaceful protest."

But this is exactly what the US condemned as suppressing 'freedom of speech and right to protest' when India cracked down on Shaheen Bagh, JNU and farmers' protests. Why these double standards?

In the US, Green Party presidential candidate Jill Stein was amongst

those arrested and handcuffed. There was not a word of criticism or support in the media. The suspension of Rahul Gandhi from parliament by courts resulted in a series of comments by US and European government spokespersons and their media.

The US media, which led the charge against the Indian government in its handling of different protests, is currently backing employment of force rather than negotiations. The New York Times had a headline, 'Crackdowns at four college protests lead to more than 200 arrests.' CNN's headline said, 'How universities are cracking down on a swell of tension months into student protests over Israel's bombardment of Gaza.' The Washington Post said, 'How a Columbia protest sparked a student revolt.'

In no case were authorities accused of employing brute force, even though videos emerging from campuses showed use of disproportionate force by riot police against peaceful protestors. There were no tweets backing the

'peaceful protestors' from Rihana, Greta Thunberg, Malala and Mia Khalifa.

In contrast, the New York Times headline on the farmers' protest in India, despite the government avoiding employing force, said: 'Modi's response to farmer protests in India stirs fears of a pattern.' The Washington Post had a headline, 'Protesting farmers are teaching India a hard - but much needed - lesson.' CNN stated, 'Angry farmers once forced India's headline leader into a rare retreat.' Rihana tweeted, 'why aren't we talking about this?! #FarmersProtest.' Mia Khalifa tweeted, 'I stand with the farmers.' India was singled out because the farmers' protests were largely Western-funded and professionally managed.

During the Jawaharlal Nehru university protests of 2016, the Washington Post's headline said, 'Indian students called it free speech. The government called it sedition.' The New York Times mentioned, 'Sedition arrests in India inflame old free-speech tensions.' Should we not wonder why the same concept of 'free speech' becomes 'anti-Semitism' when it comes to continental US and other European campuses?

Western media avoided commenting on the crackdown in US universities. However, they feel it is their right to comment when protests arise in other nations. The BBC supported the US government when it headlined, 'Columbia students defy deadline to disband pro-Palestinian encampment.' Al Jazeera did defend the protestors when it said, 'Generation gap: What student protests say about US politics, Israel support.'

The US State department, which finds fault with every other democracy, including India on freedom of speech, will maintain

silence and blame protestors in campuses ignoring police high-handedness and use of disproportionate force. While both Trump and Biden support Israel, it is likely that the brutal crackdown will impact Biden more than Trump.

India was amongst a few nations which showed the US the mirror, but only gently, when its spokesperson mentioned, "we are all judged by what we do at home and not what we say abroad." Indian media reaction was also not at the level expected, possibly due to ongoing elections. Comments from the Indian spokesperson should have been more forthright.

In Germany police employed force to break up pro-Palestinian demonstrations at Humboldt University, Berlin, which comments on Indian democracy.

In Canada, protestors established encampments in multiple university campuses. Demands are being raised to employ force to evict them. Justin Trudeau had mentioned during his bilateral with PM Modi during the G20 summit, "Canada will always defend freedom of expression, freedom of conscience, and freedom of peaceful protest and it is extremely important to us."

India must remind Canada that the freedoms which Trudeau has sworn to protect must not be tampered with. Further, there would be many Indian-origin students amongst those protesting for whom the government would be naturally concerned, as Trudeau was during the farmers' protests.

It is payback time for India. Keeping quiet and displaying niceties is never globally appreciated. No nation would thank India for not commenting on their internal matters.

(The writer is a retired Major-General of the Indian Army.)



100 YEARS AGO

OCCASIONAL NOTE

India is seldom kind to her aerial visitors, and even Lieutenant d'Oisy has not won her favour. Having enjoyed the smiles of Dame Fortune until he reached Karachi, his good luck had a setback on the day he intended leaving, for his machine was found to be 'slightly damaged, and his departure had to be delayed by a day. The necessary repairs, however, were soon made, and if all goes well he should be in Cal-cutta during the week-end. Meanwhile, Squadron-Leader MacLaren is still hors de combat at Parlu awaiting spares from Baghdad, which are expected to arrive within the next few days. Should, however, his engine still prove unsatisfactory, he will have to wait for the new engine which has been dispatched overland from England, and this will mean a further delay of at least another fortnight. The news of the American world fliers is bad, for after the reports of adverse weather conditions in the region of the Aleutian Islands, Reuter now wires that Major Martin, the leader of the expedition, has disappeared. He was last seen at Chinuk, and it is feared that owing to 1 storms he has been forced to land the bleak and uninhabited Alaska Peninsula. It so, it may be weeks before any definite news of his whereabouts filters through, but if he has had to descend in the sea, there is small chance of his being saved, for there is very little shipping in those latitudes. Another big flight which is engaging but scant attention is being carried out by two Portuguese officers whose destination is Macao in China. Relying, perhaps, on the axiom that the air knows no frontiers, they omitted to obtain visées for their passports, with the result that they are detained in Persia. It is to be hoped that the unsympathetic attitude of Persian officials will be recompensed by an easy passage across India, which has up till now been a veritable land of regrets for flying men.



NEWS ITEMS

ELECTION MOVE?

EFFECT ON COMMERCIAL RELATIONS

AN official Soviet source in London states that it became known in Berlin last week that a German secret monarchist organisation intended to commit some outrage against the Soviet Embassy on the eve of the elections with the object of influencing their course. The raid is represented as carrying into the effect plans previously prepared.

Secret uniformed police, it is alleged, with the object of searching for a fugitive criminal, spent four hours in the building, breaking open safes and examining official correspondence.

The statement adds that this Set of violence will probably, reset, upon Germano-Soviet commercial relations.

REICHSTAG PROBLEM DIFFICULTY OF THE TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY

"TIMES" SPECIAL SERVICE.

THE new Reichstag meets in about three weeks, and until then the present Government carries on. Meanwhile, says the Times Berlin correspondent, it may be stated definitely that no combination of parties will be capable of securing the two-thirds majority necessary for the execution of the Experts' report. The Government still thinks it can revive a great Coalition which might control some 229 votes but it would be confronted by an Opposition which would number at the best 180 and at the worst 219, but even here the two-thirds majority would not be possible.

In addition, under the requirements of the Experts' report, not one but several alterations in the constitution will be necessary each involving a two-thirds majority. The outlook for the continuity of Germany's present Foreign policy is therefore not a very healthy one as any conceivable Government would probably suffer a defeat on the Experts' report at a very early stage, and in that case it is presumed that another election would be held.

RUHR RAILWAYS

PROFITS WHILE STOCK IS DEPRECIATING

DISCUSSING the French railway régime in the occupied German territory, the times Cologne correspondent admits that it is at present working most profitably, but shows that this is simply due to the methods of putting nothing into the concern and taking everything out. No attempts are being made to provide for the future.

The French personnel cares little what damage is done to the "Bosche" railway stock or stations and even the German personnel are not told to respect railway property. No provision is being made for repairs, replacements, renewals, developments, or rolling stock. The latter is already in poor condition despite the constant supplies of new material.

Unoccupied territory is doomed to steady depreciation.

Is de-escalation in Sino-US ties possible?

MALEEHA LODHI

Increased diplomatic engagement between the US and China has helped to bring down the temperature in their fraught relationship. But it has not yielded any agreement on the key issues that divide them and drive tensions between the two countries. Antony Blinken's trip took place against a mixed background of escalating tensions but also modest advances in cooperation and communication in certain areas.

The visit of the US secretary of state to Beijing in late April was part of the effort to improve communication and contain tensions between the two countries. Antony Blinken's trip took place against a mixed background of escalating tensions but also modest advances in cooperation and communication in certain areas.

This resulted from the meeting last November between Presidents Joe Biden and Xi Jinping on the sidelines of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation forum in San Francisco. Their first face-to-face meeting in over a year produced a tentative thaw in frosty ties. It led to restoration of high-level military-to-military contacts, suspended by Beijing in 2020, and agreement on counter-narcotics cooperation.

Last month, the two leaders also spoke on the phone. Increased dialogue was reflected in the conversation between the defence ministers and US Treasury secretary Janet Yellen's visit to China last month. The first talks on artificial intelligence between the two countries are due to take place in coming weeks.

But just hours before Blinken's arrival in Beijing, the US Congress approved billions of dollars of assis-



tance for Taiwan and to counter China in the so-called Indo-Pacific region. This was part of a \$61bn aid package that included funding for Ukraine and Israel. It also involved the requirement for TikTok's Chinese parent company to sell its stake in the social media platform or face a ban in America. In election year, US officials have threatened higher tariffs on Chinese imports, with Biden calling for tripling tariffs on Chinese steel and aluminium — clearly as part of his re-election campaign.

Not surprisingly, Blinken was told at the outset of his trip that the US had to choose between cooperation and confrontation. China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi said during the talks that while dialogue and cooperation had increased in "various fields", "negative factors" in the relationship are "still rising and accumulating". He warned against any transgression of China's red lines. A Chinese foreign ministry statement said Wang also criticised

Washington for taking "an endless stream of measures to suppress China's economy, trade, science and technology", aimed at containment of China.

But he acknowledged "the China-US relationship is beginning to stabilise" and called for progress in areas where the two countries agreed. This was echoed by Blinken, who said the US "seeks to deepen cooperation where our interests align", while reaffirming US commitment to "maintaining and strengthening lines of communication to advance that agenda and deal responsibly with differences to avoid any miscalculations".

The high point of Blinken's visit was of course the meeting with President Xi. That the Chinese president received him indicated Beijing's desire to calm tensions with Washington. Warning against "vicious competition", President Xi told Blinken that the US and China should be partners and not rivals — who "help each other succeed

and not harm each other". China, he said, wants to see a "confident, open and prosperous United States" but expected the US to see China's development in a positive light. According to a statement issued by the Chinese foreign ministry, Xi also told Blinken that both sides "should honour words with actions rather than say one thing and do another". He called for "mutual coexistence" and emphasised the need to follow through on what was agreed between him and President Biden in San Francisco to improve bilateral relations.

The readout from the American side was that Blinken conveyed US concerns on a number of issues, especially China's military assistance to Russia in the Ukraine war. Speaking to the media before the meeting, he said Russia "would struggle to sustain its assault on Ukraine without China's support", pointing out that Beijing supplied machine tools and several dual-use items critical for Russia's defence industry. This posed a threat not just to Ukraine but also to Europe and was a red line for Washington. He said after the meeting the US will wait to see how China addresses this concern, warning that sanctions could be imposed if Beijing did not respond. This injected a jarring note into the otherwise positive atmospherics of Blinken's trip.

The Chinese reaction was predictably sharp. A foreign ministry spokesman rejected "groundless" US accusations as an effort to shift blame, while Wang made it clear that "China is neither the creator of the Ukraine crisis nor a party to it". But days later, Washington went ahead and sanctioned several Chinese companies for

supplying Russia with components for military use.

Nevertheless, Blinken's visit reflected an effort by both sides to stabilise the relationship and limit the turbulence and volatility that have come to characterise Sino-US ties. But beyond this effort to ease tensions, which is important, there was no evidence of any narrowing of differences between the two sides on core issues. Moreover, the run-up to the US presidential election in November is likely to see a significant amount of China-bashing, given the political consensus and popular sentiment in America that advocates a tougher posture towards Beijing. Both Biden and Donald Trump can be expected to vie with each other in striking a more aggressive stance on China.

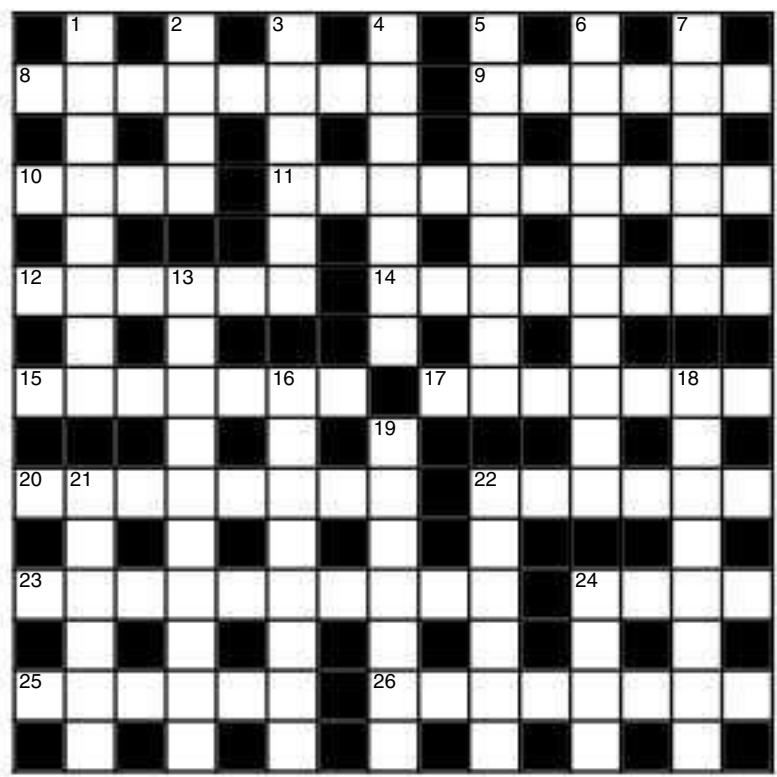
Taiwan will continue to be a dangerous flashpoint in the US-China confrontation, especially as the region surrounding it is bristling with heightened military activity. The military build-up and a series of recent incidents in the South China Sea also present obvious risks. The resumption of high-level military contacts between China and the US will be important to enable the two countries to reduce the risk of any inadvertent or accidental conflict.

Even if the recent US-China diplomatic engagement has not produced any breakthroughs on contentious issues, it indicates that neither side wants unmanaged tensions to push the two countries onto a collision course, which would have unpredictable consequences for them as well as the rest of the world.

Dawn/ANN.

CROSSWORD

NO-292772



YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

SCRAMBLE BEHAVE
T E A I R E I
R O D I N V I G O R A T E
U R N E T D T
N E E S S L E S S H E W I N G
G S Y T E A A A
O U S T D O U B L E T I M E
U O C L E U
T I E T H E K N O T R A M P
N E N O F N H
S H A M E D I D O L A T E R
U P U L U I A
M O O N S T R U C K G U T
A L E S S E E
I N G E A I R S T U D E N T S

ACROSS

- Be master of hot early swing (4,4)
- Jazz tune is up for associates (6)
- Music genre heard racing across the Atlantic (4)
- Blues or pop singer catches finale from The Jam (10)
- Stride number about crush (4,2)
- Single backing track about German with sin (8)
- Funk from a person by boisterous area of town (7)

- Rag time ally abroad welcomes, giving a wave (7)
- Rocking A-side he includes very tacky (8)
- Charm of baroque tuba: euphony in extremis! (6)
- Love lound tango – what about gospel's wrong? (3,3,4)
- Kelvin and Duke, say, prouetting to bop (4)
- Singer's feature in garage thus captivates you (6)
- Did dub blend, one in an innovative style (8)

DOWN

- Orchestral instrument from my supermarket (8)
- Avant-garde piece from talented gypsy (4)
- Country song oddly about drug: moving ecstasy (6)
- E.g. a little Calypso number turned up, keeping variable speed (7)
- Nothing in set due to change with ten DJs (8)
- Maybe salsa dancing in Samoa creates addiction (10)

- Revive electronic R&B covers, also on the rise (6)
- Elegiac classical artist fitting clothing the wrong way (10)
- Member of girl group on track as support for Stevie Wonder? (5,3)
- Look up engaging American metal performances (8)
- Folk star's alarming words (7)
- Thrash from French heavy metal artist's empty (6)
- Hot Egyptian soul piece (6)
- Pop group from 3 bringing down a cake (4)

NOTE: Figures in parentheses denote the number of letters in the words required. (By arrangement with The Independent, London)



The future of our continent will also very clearly depend on our capacity to further develop in a balanced way our relationship with China.

FRENCH PRESIDENT EMMANUEL MACRON
URGING CHINA TO ENSURE MORE BALANCED TRADE

S Korea's working-age population to dip by nearly 10 mn by 2044: South Korea's economically active population is anticipated to plunge by nearly 10 million by 2044 amid the country's critically low births, data showed on Monday. According to a report from the Korean Peninsula Population Institute for the Future, the number of people aged 15 to 64, which stood at 36.57 million in 2023, is projected to decrease to 27.17 million in 2044.

IANS

Form No. 3
[See Regulation-15 (1)(a)]/16(3)
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL KOLKATA (DRT 1)
9th Floor, Jeevan Sudha Building, 42-C, J. L. Nehru Road, Kolkata-700 071
Case No.: 04/11/2023
Summons under sub-section (4) of section 19 of the Act, read with sub-rule (2A) of rule 5 of the Debt Recovery Tribunal (Procedure) Rules, 1993.
Exh. No.: 4233
STATE BANK OF INDIA VS MR GAURAV SHARMA
To,
(1) MR GAURAV SHARMA PROPRIETOR OF MS GOURI & SONS OF 202A MAHARSHI DEBENDRA ROAD BARABANGSI Kolkata, WEST BENGAL-700007

SUMMONS
WHEREAS, 04/11/2023 was listed before Hon'ble Presiding Officer/Registrar on 17/11/2023. WHEREAS this Hon'ble Tribunal is pleased to issue summons/notice on the said Application under section 19(4) of the Act, (CA) filed against you for recovery of debts of Rs. 4935354/- (application along with copies of documents etc. annexed). In accordance with sub-section (4) of section 19 of the Act, you, the defendants are directed as under:-

(i) to show cause within thirty days of the service of summons as to why relief prayed for should not be granted; (ii) to disclose particulars of properties or assets other than properties and assets specified by the applicant under serial number 3A of the original application; (iii) you are restrained from dealing with or disposing of secured assets or such other assets and properties disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application; (iv) you shall not transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise, except in the ordinary course of his business any of the assets over which security interest is created and/or other assets and properties specified or disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application without the prior approval of the Tribunal; (v) you shall be liable to account for the sale proceeds realised by sale of secured assets or other assets and properties in the ordinary course of business and deposit such sale proceeds in the account maintained with the bank or financial institutions holding security interest over such assets.

You are also directed to file the written statement with a copy thereof furnished to the applicant and to appear before Registrar on 11/07/2024 at 10:30 A.M. failing which the application shall be heard and decided in your absence. Given under my hand and the seal of this Tribunal on this date: 15/04/2024.

Sd/-
Assistant Registrar
Debts Recovery Tribunal No-1
Kolkata

अखिल भारतीय आयुर्विज्ञान संस्थान भोपाल
ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES BHOPAL
(An Autonomous Institute under Ministry of Health & Family Welfare Government of India)
संकेत नं. भोपाल (म.प्र.)-462020, www.aiimsbhopal.edu.in
No. ADM-2(2)/AIIMS/Bhopal/Rectt.Cell/Deputation/2023/2/4098 Date: 06/05/2024

CORRIGENDUM
In continuation to the Rolling Recruitment Advertisement No. ADM-2(2)/AIIMS/Bhopal/Rectt.Cell/Deputaion/2023/2 dated 16/10/2023 & Recruitment Notification No. ADM-2(2)/AIIMS/Bhopal/Rectt.Cell/Deputaion/2023/2/1731 dated 14/03/2024, it is to notify that the following posts are hereby withdrawn due to administrative exigencies:-

S. No	Designation Name	Pay Level (As per 7th CPC)	No. of Posts
1	Chief Nursing Officer	Level-12	1
2	Nursing Superintendent	Level-11	2
3	Assistant Nursing Superintendent	Level-10	22
4	Deputy Nursing Superintendent	Level-10	16
Total Posts			41

2. Last date of inviting applications for remaining posts advertised vide recruitment Notification No. ADM-2(2)/AIIMS/Bhopal/Rectt.Cell/Deputaion/2023/2/1731 dated 14/03/2024 is hereby extended up to 04/06/2024.

3. Those candidates who have earlier applied against the advertisement notification No. ADM-2(2)/AIIMS/Bhopal/Rectt.Cell/Deputaion/2023/2/1731 dated 14/03/2024 need not apply again.

4. For further details regarding eligibility and other terms & conditions, application format etc. Rolling Recruitment Advertisement No. ADM-2(2)/AIIMS/Bhopal/Rectt.Cell/Deputaion/2023/2 dated 16/10/2023, available at the Institute's website: www.aiimsbhopal.edu.in may be referred.

Sd/-
Deputy Director (Admin.), AIIMS, Bhopal

अखिल भारतीय आयुर्विज्ञान संस्थान भोपाल
ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES BHOPAL
(आर्य समाज, एलएचए एच परिवार कल्याण नगरावत के अधीन एक स्वायत्त संस्थान)
संकेत नं. भोपाल (म.प्र.)-462020, www.aiimsbhopal.edu.in
Ref. No: ADM-2(5)/2023/AIIMS/BPL/Rect. Cell/03/4099 Date: 06/05/2024

ADDENDUM
In continuation of the Rolling Recruitment Notification Reference No. ADM-2 (5)/2023/AIIMS/BPL/Rect Cell/03 dated 29/08/2023, Recruitment Notification No. ADM-2 (5)/2023/AIIMS/BPL/Rect Cell/03/336 dated 16/01/2024 & Addendum No: ADM-2 (5)/2023/AIIMS/BPL/Rect Cell/03/1699 dated 13/03/2024 published in various Newspapers/Employment News and on the website of the Institute for Recruitment to Faculty positions on Direct Recruitment basis in various Departments at AIIMS, Bhopal, the following posts are also included in addition to the posts mentioned in the above Recruitment Notification dated 16/01/2024:-

Adv't. No. 11/11/2023-2(CV)/Admin. AIIMS/Bhopal/	Designation	No. of posts & Reservation					
		UR	OBC	SC	ST	EWS	Total
Department of Trauma & Emergency Medicine							
030	Assistant Professor	1	1	-	-	-	2

2. Candidates desirous of applying for the above post may submit their application in the prescribed format as available on the website of the Institute: www.aiimsbhopal.edu.in by email at faculty.recruitment2023@aiimsbhopal.edu.in by 5.00 pm on 03/06/2024.

3. Further the last date for submission of applications by Registered/Speed Post for the post/s advertised through the Recruitment Notification dated 16/01/2024 & Addendum dated 13/03/2024 are extended up to 5.00 pm on 03/06/2024.

4. Eligibility with respect to the above posts and the posts advertised vide Recruitment Notification dated 16/01/2024 & Addendum dated 13/03/2024 will be determined on the last date, i.e., 03/06/2024.

5. Candidates who have already applied against the above Recruitment Notification dated 16/01/2024 & Addendum dated 13/03/2024 need not to apply again.

6. Essential eligibility criteria, and all other terms and conditions, mode of submission of applications etc. as mentioned in the advertisement dated 29/08/2023 will remain unchanged.

7. For further details and updates, kindly visit Institute's website: www.aiimsbhopal.edu.in regularly.

Sd/-
Deputy Director (Admin.)
AIIMS, Bhopal

Israeli army tells Palestinians to evacuate parts of Gaza's Rafah

Israel has described Rafah as the last significant Hamas stronghold after some seven months of war

ASSOCIATED PRESS
JERUSALEM, 6 MAY

The Israeli army ordered some 100,000 Palestinians on Monday to begin evacuating from the southern city of Rafah in Gaza, signaling that a long-promised ground invasion there could be imminent and further complicating efforts to broker a cease-fire.

The looming operation in Rafah—where more than 1 million Palestinians are sheltering and a high number of deaths is feared—has raised global alarm and Israel's closest allies have warned against it. On Monday, the United Nations agency serving Palestinian refugees said it would not comply with the evacuation order.

Israel has described Rafah as the last significant Hamas stronghold after some seven months of war, and has repeatedly said the invasion is necessary to defeat the Islamic militant group, which unleashed the current conflict with an attack on Israel on Oct. 7.

But Hamas and key mediator Qatar have warned that invading Rafah—along the border with Egypt—could derail efforts by international mediators to broker a cease-fire.

Lt. Col. Nadav Shoshani, an army spokesman, said some 100,000 people were being ordered to move to a nearby



Israel-declared humanitarian zone called Muwasi—a makeshift camp along the coast of tents where hundreds of thousands of Palestinians have fled in search of safety and live in squalid conditions.

Shoshani said Israel was preparing a "limited scope operation" and would not say whether this was the beginning of a broader invasion of the city. Israel never formally announced the launch of its current ground invasion in Gaza.

Overnight, Defense Minister Yoav Gallant, told U.S. Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin that Israel had no choice but to act in Rafah.

On Sunday, Hamas carried out a deadly rocket attack from the Rafah area that killed four Israeli soldiers—though

Shoshani would not say whether the upcoming operation was a response.

He said Israel published a map of the evacuation area, and that orders were being issued through air-dropped leaflets, text messages and radio broadcasts.

He said Israel has expanded humanitarian aid into Muwasi, including field hospitals, tents, food and water.

Israel's army said on the social media platform X that it would act with "extreme force" against militants, and urged the population to evacuate immediately for their safety.

Jan Egeland, secretary-general of the Norwegian Refugee Council, condemned the "forced, unlawful" evacuation order and the idea that people should go to Muwasi.

"The area is already overstretched and devoid of vital services," Egeland said.

About 1.4 million Palestinians—more than half of Gaza's population—are jammed into Rafah and its surroundings. Most of them fled their homes elsewhere in the territory to escape Israel's onslaught and now face another wrenching move or the danger of staying under a new assault.

They live in densely packed tent camps, overflowing U.N. shelters or crowded apartments, and are dependent on international aid for food, with sanitation systems and medical facilities infrastruc-

Donald Trump to return to New York courtroom for criminal hush money trial

ASSOCIATED PRESS
NEW YORK, 6 MAY

Donald Trump returns to a New York courtroom on Monday, where he will be forced to sit silently while others testify about his efforts during the 2016 presidential election to cover up news of an alleged tryst with a porn star.

Trump's criminal hush money trial, entering its 12th day, has featured testimony from a top aide and a former tabloid publisher about efforts during his first presidential bid to tamp down stories of unflattering sexual behavior.

New York prosecutors have charged Trump with falsifying business records to cover up a \$130,000 payment to porn star Stormy Daniels, who claims to have had a sexual encounter with him in 2006. Trump has pleaded not guilty and denies ever having sex with Daniels.

Trump complains frequently that the first criminal trial of a former U.S. president has kept him cooped up in a chilly Manhattan courtroom when he should be out wooing voters as he mounts a comeback White House bid.

Over the weekend, he hosted a bevy of potential vice presidential picks at a Republican Party event in Florida.

The case features sordid allegations of adultery and secret payoffs, but it is widely seen as less consequential than three other criminal prosecutions Trump faces. It is the only one certain to go to trial before the



Nov. 5 presidential election. The other cases charge him with trying to overturn his 2020 presidential defeat and mishandling classified documents after leaving office. Trump has pleaded not guilty to all three.

It is unclear who will testify on Monday. Prosecutors have kept their witness list secret out of concerns that Trump could try to influence key players in the trial.

Trump has been fined \$9,000 by Justice Juan Merchan for violating a gag order barring him from making public comments about jurors, witnesses and families of the judge and prosecutors if the state-attorneys mean to interfere with the case.

Last week the 12 jurors and six alternates who will decide Trump's guilt or innocence heard testimony from Hope Hicks, his former longtime aide who described frantic efforts to respond to stories of alleged affairs and sexual harassment that cropped up in the waning weeks of the 2016 campaign.

Putin orders tactical nuclear weapon drills to deter the West

AGENCIES
MOSCOW, 6 MAY

Russia said on Monday it would practise the deployment of tactical nuclear weapons as part of a military exercise after what the Moscow said were threats from France, Britain and

the United States. Since Russia invaded Ukraine in 2022, Russia has repeatedly warned of rising nuclear risks—warnings which the United States says it has to take seriously though U.S. officials say they have seen no change in Russia's nuclear posture.

TENDER

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY
E-Tendering Tender Notice
Divisional Railway Manager (Works) N.C. Railway, Jhansi for and on behalf of President of India invites sealed "Open Tender" through on Line (E-Tendering) for the following work.

E-Tender No.	Approx Cost	Earnest Money
JHS-ENG-GH-2024-87	₹ 16637941.50	₹ 233200.00

Description of work: VGLJ-Heavy repair of underground drain and sewer line including cleaning of chambers and pipe line, pumping of rain water from pit line in AC Loco Shed, Jhansi.
Date of Closing Tender: 29.05.2024 at 15.00 hrs. **Date of completion/period from issue acceptance letter:** 12 Months. * Tender online can be submitted up to 15.00 hrs. on 29.05.2024. * For full details and submission of bid please see the Indian Railways website www.irps.gov.in. 803/24 FA
North central railways @CPDRCC @northcentralrailway www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY
E-Tendering Tender Notice
Divisional Railway Manager (Works) N.C. Railway, Jhansi for and on behalf of President of India invites sealed "Open Tender" through on Line (E-Tendering) for the following work.

E-Tender No.	Approx Cost	Earnest Money
JHS-ENG-GH-2024-86	₹ 16637941.50	₹ 233200.00

Description of work: Annual Sectional contract for repairs & maintenance for Horticulture work (Rly Stn & East area, JHS) under ADEN(HQ-II) JHS for year 2024-25 Zone 2A-4.
Aporox Cost: 5000000.00, **Earnest Money:** 100000.00, **Date of closing Tender:** 29.05.2024 at 15.00 Hrs., **Date of completion/period from issue acceptance letter:** 12 Months. * Tender online can be submitted up to 15.00 hrs on 29.05.2024. * For full details and submission of bid please see the Indian Railways website www.irps.gov.in. 802/24 (D)
North central railways @ www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in @northcentralrailway @CPDRCC

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय
पथ निर्माण विभाग, पथ प्रमण्डल, देवघर।
श्रावणी मेला, 2024
अति अल्पकालीन ई-प्रोक्योरमेंट सूचना (1st Call)
ई-निविदा प्रसंग संख्या - RCD/DEOGHAR/798/2024-25 (1st Call) दिनांक - 04.05.2024

क्र. सं.	कार्य का नाम	अंदाजित राशि (रुपये में)	अंदाजित राशि (रुपये में)	अंदाजित राशि (रुपये में)	अंदाजित राशि (रुपये में)
1.	कार्य का नाम	अंदाजित राशि (रुपये में)	अंदाजित राशि (रुपये में)	अंदाजित राशि (रुपये में)	अंदाजित राशि (रुपये में)
2.	प्राकालित राशि (रुपये में)	अंदाजित राशि (रुपये में)	अंदाजित राशि (रुपये में)	अंदाजित राशि (रुपये में)	अंदाजित राशि (रुपये में)
3.	कार्य समाप्ति की अवधि	अंदाजित राशि (रुपये में)	अंदाजित राशि (रुपये में)	अंदाजित राशि (रुपये में)	अंदाजित राशि (रुपये में)
4.	निविदा प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय	अंदाजित राशि (रुपये में)	अंदाजित राशि (रुपये में)	अंदाजित राशि (रुपये में)	अंदाजित राशि (रुपये में)
5.	वेबसाइट पर निविदा प्रकाशित होने की तिथि एवं समय	अंदाजित राशि (रुपये में)	अंदाजित राशि (रुपये में)	अंदाजित राशि (रुपये में)	अंदाजित राशि (रुपये में)
6.	निविदा अंमोचित करने वाले पदाधिकारी का पदनाम	अंदाजित राशि (रुपये में)	अंदाजित राशि (रुपये में)	अंदाजित राशि (रुपये में)	अंदाजित राशि (रुपये में)
7.	प्रोक्योरमेंट अधिकारी का सम्पर्क नम्बर	अंदाजित राशि (रुपये में)	अंदाजित राशि (रुपये में)	अंदाजित राशि (रुपये में)	अंदाजित राशि (रुपये में)
8.	ई-प्रोक्योरमेंट सेल का हेल्पलाइन नम्बर	अंदाजित राशि (रुपये में)	अंदाजित राशि (रुपये में)	अंदाजित राशि (रुपये में)	अंदाजित राशि (रुपये में)

नोट - अधिकृत जानकारी के लिए वेबसाइट <http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in> पर देखें।
प्राकालित राशि घट-बढ़ सकती है।

Relaxation from Model Code of Conduct of Parliamentary Election 2024, for the issuance of Tender invitation and its Award, Disposal, Agreement and Execution of the Works has been granted by Secretariat of Election Commission of India, Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi-110001, vide letter No. 437/6/ES-1/JKD-HP/2024 dt 19.04.2024 which has been communicated by Engineer in Chief, RCD, Jharkhand, Ranchi vide letter No. RCD/06-Vividh-22/2024 (Ansh-I) 1984(5)WE dt 02.05.2024.

कार्यपालक अभियंता, पथ निर्माण विभाग, पथ प्रमण्डल, देवघर।

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय
पथ निर्माण विभाग, पथ प्रमण्डल, देवघर।
श्रावणी मेला, 2024
अति अल्पकालीन ई-प्रोक्योरमेंट सूचना (1st Call)
ई-निविदा प्रसंग संख्या - RCD/DEOGHAR/810/2024-25 (1st Call) दिनांक - 04.05.2024

क्र. सं.	कार्य का नाम	अंदाजित राशि (रुपये में)	अंदाजित राशि (रुपये में)	अंदाजित राशि (रुपये में)	अंदाजित राशि (रुपये में)
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5.	वेबसाइट पर निविदा प्रकाशित होने की तिथि एवं समय	अंदाजित राशि (रुपये में)	अंदाजित राशि (रुपये में)	अंदाजित राशि (रुपये में)	अंदाजित राशि (रुपये में)
6.	निविदा अंमोचित करने वाले का नाम एवं पता	अंदाजित राशि (रुपये में)	अंदाजित राशि (रुपये में)	अंदाजित राशि (रुपये में)	अंदाजित राशि (रुपये में)
7.	प्रोक्योरमेंट अधिकारी का सम्पर्क नम्बर	अंदाजित राशि (रुपये में)	अंदाजित राशि (रुपये में)	अंदाजित राशि (रुपये में)	अंदाजित राशि (रुपये में)
8.	ई-प्रोक्योरमेंट सेल का हेल्पलाइन नम्बर	अंदाजित राशि (रुपये में)	अंदाजित राशि (रुपये में)	अंदाजित राशि (रुपये में)	अंदाजित राशि (रुपये में)

नोट - अधिकृत जानकारी के लिए वेबसाइट <http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in> पर देखें।
प्राकालित राशि घट-बढ़ सकती है।

Relaxation from Model Code of Conduct of Parliamentary Election 2024, for the issuance of Tender invitation and its Award, Disposal, Agreement and Execution of the Works has been granted by Secretariat of Election Commission of India, Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi-110001, vide letter No. 437/6/ES-1/JKD-HP/2024 dt 19.04.2024 which has been communicated by Engineer in Chief, RCD, Jharkhand, Ranchi vide letter No. RCD/06-Vividh-22/2024 (Ansh-I) 1984(5)WE dt 02.05.2024.

कार्यपालक अभियंता, पथ निर्माण विभाग, पथ प्रमण्डल, देवघर।

PR. NO.324457 Road(24-25):D

B'desh calls for holding Israel accountable for war crimes

DHAKA, 6 MAY

Bangladeshi Foreign Minister Hasan Mahmud has called for immediate cessation of the current Palestinian-Israeli conflict, ensuring humanitarian access and holding Israel accountable for war crimes and crimes against humanity. "We, the members of the OIC, should be part of a multi-tracked international engagement to end the Gaza crisis," he said while speaking at the 15th OIC Summit Conference in Banjul, capital of The Gambia, according to a Bangladeshi foreign ministry.

IANS

TP SOUTHERN ODISHA DISTRIBUTION LIMITED
(Procurement Department)

BPR North Star Building, 2nd Floor, Khodasingi, Berhampur, Odisha-760010

NOTICE INVITING TENDER Dt.: 07.05.2024
TP Southern Odisha Distribution Ltd. invites tender from eligible vendors for following:

Sl. No.	Tender Description	NIT Number	EMD (Rs.)	Tender Fee inclusive of GST (Rs.)	Last date and time of Payment of Tender Fee
1	Rate contract for providing power supply to new Cancer Care Center Building at MKCG Medical.	TPSODL/OT/2024-25/007	2,00,000	5,000	15.05.2024; 18:00 Hrs.
2	Rate Contract for Supply of Chequered Plate at Various Locations, TPSODL, Odisha.	TPSODL/OT/2024-25/009	50,000	5,000	17.05.2024; 18:00 Hrs.

For detailed tender, please visit Tender Section on TPSODL website <https://www.tpsouthernodisha.com>





No one can abolish reservation or tamper with the Constitution.

UNION MINISTER RAMDAS ATHAWALE
SLAMMING RAHUL GANDHI FOR CLAIMING THAT BJP WILL CHANGE THE CONSTITUTION IN ITS THIRD TERM

'Today, no one can cast an evil eye on India; this is Modi's guarantee'

CM Yogi made the remarks while addressing a public gathering in the Unnao LS constituency

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
UNNAO, 6 MAY

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath emphasised on Monday that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India's global stature has surged, and the vision of 'new India' along with its principles has been clearly delineated.

He further emphasised that no one dares to look at India with a malevolent intent today, asserting that "This is Modi's guarantee."

Adityanath made these remarks while addressing a public gathering in the Unnao Lok Sabha constituency. During his speech, he urged the audience to vote in favor of Lok Sabha candidate and MP Sakshi Maharaj.



shi Maharaj.

In a scathing critique of the opposition, the Chief Minister remarked, "Congress and SP have a history of opposing Lord Ram. Congress denied the existence of Lord Ram, while the SP claimed that 'Ayodhya mein ek parinda bhi par nahi maar sakta' (When Mulayam Singh was the Chief Minister,

he had said that even a bird cannot fly in Ayodhya). One should never trust them."

He further emphasised that for the nation to become strong, prosperous, self-reliant, and developed, it is imperative to re-elect the Modi government for a third term. "So far, voting has taken place on 191 seats in two phases. We

observe renewed enthusiasm among the people to reelect the Modi government. This is not sudden but a result of the transformative changes initiated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the last decade. A stark contrast is evident when we compare the pre-2014 era with the developments afterward." Continuing his attack, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath accused the Samajwadi Party of attempting to withdraw cases against terrorists during its tenure. "These individuals sought to revoke cases against terrorists responsible for attacks on Ayodhya, the CRPF camp in Rampur, Sankatmochan temple in Kashi, as well as the courts in Lucknow, Ayodhya, and Varanasi," he stated. "The court vehemently opposed this move, cautioning that

today they talk of withdrawing cases, tomorrow they might honor them with Padma Awards. Subsequently, the court intervened and halted the Samajwadi Party's actions. This action of the government is dangerous and condemnable."

He further pointed out that the INDI alliance manifesto promises complete freedom for minorities to consume food and beverages without specifying which items are disliked by the majority of society. Adityanath urged that those who support terrorists and disrespect Ram should not receive any votes. Through the abolition of Article 370 in Kashmir, PM Modi showcased to the world the strength and determination of the Indian government, he said.

Assam CM's whirlwind parliamentary election campaign ends in Assam

ABHIJIT DEB
GUWAHATI, 6 MAY

The curtains have closed on the month-long parliamentary election campaign in Assam on May 5 which was led vigorously by Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, covering the length and breadth of the state.

Sarma's whirlwind tour covered 103 out of 126 assembly segments, as he relentlessly addressed public rallies, participated in roadshows to garner support for his party and alliance partners.

Reflecting on his extensive campaign, Sarma likened it to a pilgrimage, having traversed the entire state and engaged in 117 public meetings and roadshows.

He expressed gratitude for the lively atmosphere and blessings received, vowing to continue serving the people of Assam tirelessly.



"My election campaign in Assam was like a pilgrimage. In the last 40 days, I covered the entire state and addressed 117 public meetings and road shows. It felt like a holy dip in the Ganges for me. The lively atmosphere and blessings completely rejuvenated me. I will continue to dedicate every moment of my life to the people of Assam," Himanta wrote on 'X'. Throughout the campaign, Sarma participated in 100 election meetings, eight roadshows, and 11 party meetings outside Guwahati, showcasing remarkable energy and commitment.

His enthusiastic embrace of the slogan "Akeubar, Modi Sarkar" (Again, Modi Government) and dynamic campaigning style set him apart, drawing attention from political observers.

While Sarma's solo approach carries risks, especially if the expected results aren't met by the BJP and its allies, his energetic campaign has undoubtedly made an impact. His rallies, attended by thousands to lakhs of people, were characterised by vibrant atmospheres, with Sarma often dancing and interacting with attendees. Sarma's ability to engage with crowds and maintain enthusiasm throughout the campaign has been remarkable. Even amidst the exhaustion of relentless campaigning, Sarma's energy and connection with the people remained evident, as he took selfies and interacted with constituents.

SC grants anticipatory bail to Umar Ansari in 2022 violation of MCC case

PARMOD KUMAR
NEW DELHI, 6 MAY

The Supreme Court on Monday granted anticipatory bail to Umar Ansari, son of late gangster-turned-politician Mukhtar Ansar, in a criminal case involving an alleged violation of the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) during 2022 assembly elections in Uttar Pradesh.

Granting bail to Umar Ansari, a bench of Justice Hrishikesh Roy and Justice Prashant Kumar Mishra noted that other accused in the case have been granted bail and the offending statement attributed to Ansari is the matter for trial.

The court asked Ansari to



participate in the trial of the case, as the Uttar Pradesh government objected to his plea for anticipatory bail and told the bench that he must first surrender before the trial court and then seek bail.

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, who appeared for Umar Ansari, told the bench that other accused in the case have already been granted bail in the case.

Mukhtar Ansari, who was undergoing incarceration, died of cardiac arrest at a hospital in the Banda district of Uttar Pradesh on March 28.

Umar Ansari was booked for delivering a provocative speech against the Mau district administration while the model code of conduct was in place. Earlier the Allahabad High Court had declined anticipatory bail to him in the same case. He approached the top court against the High Court's December 2023 order. Rejecting Umar Ansari's plea for anticipatory bail in the case on December 19, 2023, the High Court had said that looking at the facts and the circumstances of the case, the offence is made out.

Shyamlal Pal SP's new UP president

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW, 6 MAY

In a major reshuffle in the Uttar Pradesh party organization amid the Lok Sabha elections, the Samajwadi Party appointed Shyamlal Pal, a resident of Prayagraj, the party's state president.

Earlier, Naresh Uttam Patel, who was the party's Uttar Pradesh president, was declared party candidate from Fatehpur Sikri Lok Sabha seat.

Samajwadi Party National President Akhilesh Yadav made this appointment keeping in mind the stakes in the Backward, Dalit, and minority i.e. PDA vote bank.

Priyanka launches poll campaign in Rae Bareilly, Amethi

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
RAEBARELI/AMETHI, 6 MAY

Congress General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra will on Monday launch the electoral campaign of party candidates Rahul Gandhi and K L Sharma in Uttar Pradesh by holding a high-level meeting.

Priyanka is scheduled to reach Rae Bareilly this evening and hold a workers meeting of Raebareilly and Amethi.

The Congress party wants to retain the seats of Amethi and Raebareilly at any cost. For this, Priyanka Gandhi is busy working with her 40-member team on both the seats. Under this, she will knock on every door and hold street meetings.

Voting in Rae Bareilly and Amethi Lok Sabha is to be held on May 20.



On the other hand, the top leadership of the Congress has appointed former Rajasthan CM Ashok Gehlot as Amethi Lok Sabha seat observer and former Chhattisgarh CM Bhupesh Baghel as observer of Rae Bareilly seat.

The review of committees at every booth has been completed. Feedback of every booth is being prepared. Priyanka Gandhi has earlier also campaigned in Rae Bareilly and Amethi Lok Sabha by making a booth-wise strategy.

Sources said she will also keep an eye on the social media campaign. Especially

the strategy of operation of Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and WhatsApp is being worked on strongly. Along with this, communication will also be established with various social organizations, bar associations and women's groups of Raebareilly and Amethi.

Priyanka, who is well-versed with the Congress organization and conduct of elections in Rae Bareilly and Amethi for two decades, will not only double the enthusiasm of the workers, but will also spread enthusiasm among the people of the constituencies. Rahul Gandhi is the candidate for Rae Bareilly seat, while Kishori Lal Sharma, who is close to the Gandhi family, has been made the candidate for Amethi seat. Both had filed their nominations last week.

India on way to regain its past glory: Vice Prez Dhankhar

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 6 MAY

Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar on Monday underscored India's historical eminence as the epicentre of knowledge and education, and asserted that the country is firmly on its way to regain its past glory.

Mentioning the illustrious legacy of institutions like Nalanda and Takshashila, he highlighted the paradigm shift and resurgence in India's educational landscape in contemporary times.

Addressing a gathering at the 62nd Foundation Day celebration of the School of Open Learning (SOL), University of Delhi, Vice-President Dhankhar applauded



SOL for providing a transformative platform for a diverse range of learners from varied walks of life, including working professionals, homemakers and

students.

He further emphasized that SOL has opened doors for those previously handicapped by circumstances, enabling them to pursue

education without disrupting their routine.

Highlighting education as the most impactful transformational mechanism for change, Mr Dhankhar asserted that education is not merely a means to acquire knowledge; rather, it is the cornerstone of progress, empowerment, and social transformation.

It is the key that unlocks the door to progress, prosperity, and empowerment.

"Education is the greatest right and donation. There can be no fundamental right greater than education and no donation can be greater than education," he added.

Drawing inspiration from the Chandrayaan journey where after initial setback it

made a smooth landing on the south pole of the moon, he urged students to consider failure as a key to success. He underscored the need for a resilient mindset in navigating the complexities of the modern world.

Highlighting the pivotal role of the New Education Policy (NEP) in the Indian educational landscape, the Vice President stated that NEP heralds a transformative change, charting a roadmap for holistic learner development and creating a knowledgeable society equipped for the 21st century challenges. He underscored the emphasis of NEP on flexible learning pathways, technology integration, and recognizing diverse needs and aspirations.

Ten Lok Sabha seats in Uttar Pradesh to go to polls in third phase today

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW, 6 MAY

All arrangements for free and fair polling have been completed for the third phase polling in 10 Lok Sabha seats in Uttar Pradesh on Tuesday.

Over 2 lakh policemen, including over 230 companies of central forces, have been deployed for peaceful polling.

Polling in these 10 Lok Sabha seats will commence at 7AM and will end at 6PM.

There are 1.89 crore voters in the 10 Lok Sabha constituencies of the third phase, of which 1.01 crore are male voters, 87.48 lakh are female voters and 752 are of third gen-

der. There are a total of 12339 polling stations and 20415 polling booths in these constituencies.

State Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Navdeep Rinwa said here on Monday that poll parties have been dispatched for their respective booths.

He said during the polling webcasting will be done in more than 50% of the booths. Over 88,000 polling personnel have been deployed in this phase.

The CEO said direction has been given to all booth authorities to provide all facilities to the voters to cope with the heatwave conditions.

To keep a vigilant eye on the voting, the Commission

has also deployed 3 special observers, 10 general observers, 6 police observers and 14 expenditure observers. Apart from this, 1887 Sector Magistrates, 241 Zonal Magistrates, 668 Static Magistrates and 2859 Micro Observers have also been deployed in this phase.

In the third phase, a total of 370 model polling places, 79 all women managed polling places, 39 all youth worker polling places and 47 all disabled managed polling places have been created.

In the past 23 years, UP recorded low voting percentage which has made the political parties worry about the poll result.

LEISURE

10 MINUTE CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- Ship's company (4)
 - Lower chamber of the Irish parliament (4)
 - Mirror (7,5)
 - Light narrow boat (5)
 - Female big cat (7)
 - Seldom (6)
 - Russian plain (6)
 - Candidate (7)
 - Italian operatic composer (5)
 - Seemingly endless (12)
 - Unit of length (4)
 - Surrender (4)
- DOWN**
- Singer (7)
 - Privileged minority (5)
 - Distribute (4,3)
 - Edition (5)
 - Elementary particle (8)
 - Nimble (5)
 - Sample (8)
 - Merciful (7)
 - Moral tale (7)
 - Microorganisms (5)
 - Fruit (5)
 - Meeting place (5)

- SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD**
- ACROSS**
- Link
 - Alas
 - Wiring (inquiring)
 - Artists
 - Pixel
 - Gemini
 - Insect
 - Fishing tackle
 - Off-key
 - Lease
 - De facto
 - Better
 - Pin
 - Blather
 - Affable
 - Imam
 - Kittens
 - Washing powder
 - Replica
 - Nexus
 - Veri

By arrangement with The Independent
Figures in parentheses denote the number of letters in the words required

BEETLE BAILEY/Mort Walker



RED EYE/Bill Yates & Mel Casson



DADDY DAZE/John Kovalski



NEED TO KNOW

Ambulance

FD Block Association (Amb)
9830452536, 9830181286
Happy Calcuttians 24400160
City Point Nurses Centre
2567-4113, 9831142623
People's Relief Committee
2280-4943/9444

24 hrs Medical Oxygen Delivery

BOC India Ltd. 9831277777

Blood Banks

Ashok Laboratory 24720333
Central Blood Bank 23510619

Life Care 2284-6940

Peoples Blood Bank
2455-5164/ 5557
RK Mission Seva Pratishthan
2475-3636/39

Police/Fire

Laibazar (Police Control Room) 22143230
S. P. (North 24-Pgns)
25423005
S.P. (South 24-Pgns) 2479-3333/1311
Bhawani Bhawan
24791761/9, 24791933
Fire Service Station Salt Lake: 2357-5293;

Howrah 2666-8111; Behala 2497-6285

Civic Services

Kolkata Municipal Corporation: 2286-1000
Water: 2543-1602

Calcutta Telephones

Changed Number Announcement
1951,1952,1953

Taxi Refusal

SMS 575756: Complaint and registration

Police Toll Free No. 1073

Transport Deptt. No. 6451-6718

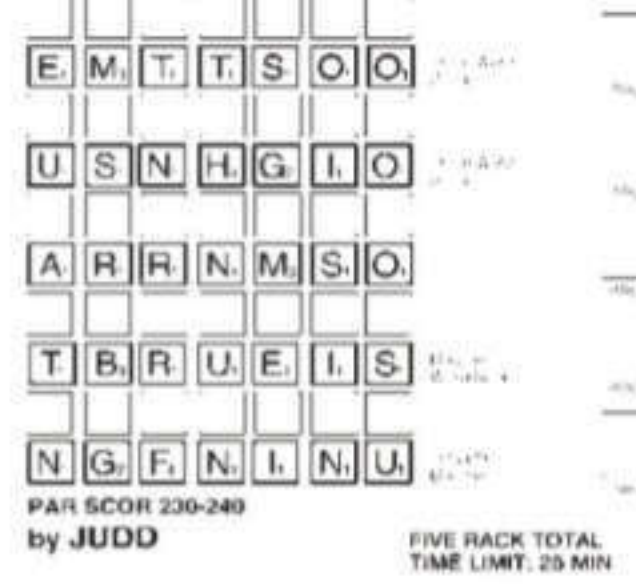
CESC Fault Reporting

1912 and 4403-1912

Trains

Howrah Station Old Complex
1331/1332 (Auto Telephone Numbers), 1310, 2636-7412/3542/2581 (manual).
Sealdah: 2350-3535/3537
Shalimar Station: 2668-1121, Eastern Railway and South-Eastern Railway: 139.

SCRABBLE® GRAMS®



VOYEURS
MORQUES
FINLY
TRAIN

PAR SCORE 230-240
by JUDD

FIVE RACK TOTAL TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

Instructions: Make a 2 to 7 letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring positions at right. Better words get 50% point bonus. "Banks" point as any letter. All word's worth are in the Official Scrabble Players Dictionary/American Webster's Chambers. Judd's solution tomorrow. 10-26-12

SUDOKU Concepts Sudoku

By Dave Green



Difficulty Level ★★★

answer to previous puzzle

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that no row, no column and no 3x3 box contains the same number. The difficulty level increases through the week.



Why I am what I am...

The Statesman talks to people in different professions about why they chose their particular field and what advice they have for youngsters who want to pursue it as a career. This week, **Grace Andrew** interviews Sabarni Das, she was a fashion journalist and is a National Award winning costume designer who has worked on a number of films.

What made you choose to be a costume designer?

I was in awe of the whole concept. Even though I wasn't a professional during my starting days since I had no fashion school background, I always had a keen interest in this niche. Even when I was working for a reputed Bengali magazine, I was a key member of the fashion department. My mother was also a huge influence as she gave me my beginner's lesson on understanding Indian textiles, which was useful for my career.

Where did you study and did your school or college life impact you in any way?

I studied in a Bengali medium government school and then I joined college. I did a masters in Bengali literature, and then I joined a reputed Bengali magazine. I was very lucky that I didn't have to struggle during my initial career days but I had to struggle after leaving the magazine since I had to learn a lot. What I had learned back in school was different compared to the knowledge I had gained while working.

What are some misconceptions that you have heard about your profession?

You see, there are several people

who think that a background in fashion design is needed for this profession, while some think it's not mandatory. You see, it's like learning how to act versus having no prior knowledge or training on how to act. Actors who were trained know the technicalities of the job, such as where to stand or how to make a certain expression. But if someone has talent they can learn along the way and perfect their skill. My profession is also like that. People who went to fashion school might find it easier to explain the technicalities of designing a clothing piece from the very beginning. With no such expertise in the beginning, I had to inculcate the knowledge in due course of time, and now, I can explain to someone how to do any task effortlessly and efficiently.

What are some of the basics that every designer should be well acquainted with?

First of all, you need to know what you are doing. Is the film set in 2024 or 1820? One needs to have a good hold on the basics. Then you can start understanding the character, as well as the economic background of the character, and then you need to patiently learn the script. Next, you have to be well-connected to the other departments. Film is a profession that has many depart-

ments. Together the vision comes to light.

What advice do you have for people who want to take up this career?

For a regional film... I don't want to dishearten them but money is very little. Very, very little. Film is a very unknown territory. You don't know if it will be a hit or not. You don't know if the director will pay you or not. You have to be mentally prepared when entering this industry because there will be struggle. You need to have a passion for and knowledge of clothing, time, and the characters. There are several things you will learn while doing your job; embrace them. For Bengali films, where the budget is low, you need to utilize your sources well. There often have been times when we had to give our own clothes to the actors because the characters had to look right.



Crack the Gen Z Code

DIPALI BANKA

Language is evolving quickly in today's digital world, especially with Generation Z. Welcome to the world of Gen Z lingo, where communication takes a contemporary turn, leaving some perplexed and others fascinated with the linguistic adventure.

Here are a few words and phrases straight out of the Gen Z dictionary

1. **Delulu** is the **Selulu** - Being delusional is the solution, usually having unrealistic views over situations
2. **Rizz** - The action of showing



charisma

3. **Slay** - To do something exceptionally well, usually related to style
4. **Smol** - To describe something as cute and in a smaller size
5. **FOMO** - An acronym for Fear of Missing Out refers to the unease caused by the possibility of missing out on something
6. **Ship** - Supporting or endorsing the romantic relationship between two people
7. **Ghosting** - Ignoring someone and not texting them back
8. **Sheesh** - To hype someone when they're looking good or have done something cool

From bold statements to eclectic mixes: 2024 campus trend repertoire

GAJAL KASERA

College is a time of independence, late-night study sessions fueled by caffeine, and, of course, figuring out who you are and what makes you feel confident. Gone are the days of rigid high school dress codes and stuffy formality. This season, comfortable yet stylish outfits abound on college campuses.

It is choosing colourful and cosy co-ord sets with statement sneakers for lectures or chunky sandals and sliders for a stroll around campus. However, loungewear is not the only thing that can provide comfort. Oversized tees and wide-leg pants that billow with each step are all the rage. It's a look that says, 'I'm here to learn, but I'm also here to look good, be comfortable, and look effortlessly chic while doing it.'

The early 2000s are back in a big way! Crop tops are peeking out from under unbuttoned flannel shirts, and low-rise jeans (controversial, we know) are making a hesitant return. It's an unabridged Y2K revival and is all about having fun with fashion. But here's the thing about college style in 2024: it's not just about following trends. It's about adopting those trends and swirling them up your way.

Thrifting unique finds and mixing vintage pieces with modern staples is another popular way to express individuality. Sustainability is also a major player in the college fashion scene. Students who care about the environment are moving away from fast fashion and toward companies that use recycled materials and are more open about their production methods. It is all about feeling confident in your appearance and knowing that your cloth-

ing is not harming the environment. The stigma associated with 'branded' apparel is dispelling itself as more and more homegrown brands gain traction.

Guys aren't lagging in the fashion department, either. Streetwear, with its oversized graphic tees, hoodies, and sneakers, is still a major force, perfect for channelling their inner skater persona or achieving that effortlessly cool vibe.

But there's also a growing appreciation for a more tailored look. Chinos, straight-leg jeans, and

collared shirts are finding their way into guy's wardrobes, offering a polished look for presentations. Of course, comfort is mandatory. Joggers and sweatpants aren't just reserved for the gym anymore. They're being worn for classes, study sessions, or just while lounging around with friends.

And let's not forget the return of classic accessories like bucket hats, beanies, and statement necklaces. These finishing touches are the perfect way to add a pop of personality to any outfit.

So, what does it all mean? It's important to remember that fashion is about personal expression. The key trends this year lean towards comfort, self-discovery, and sustainability. College students are embracing individuality and creating styles that reflect their unique personalities. So, don't be afraid to experiment, try different things, mix and match, and embrace the thing that makes you feel like the best version of yourself. After all, college is your runway - own it!



Students' Space

While the heat wave continues unabated, students of Kolkata's schools find themselves doing online classes again. As they wait for rain and for temperatures to come down so that they can get back to classes, some of them gave us a glimpse into their study spaces just like reporters who bring back for their readers stories from ground zero.

Cradled in comfort, seeking the beyond

As I sit in my living room, surrounded by familiar comforts, my mind drifts to thoughts of security, safety, and warmth of home. Here, nestled beside me, is my greatest treasure: my mother.

In this space, where every corner exudes a sense of sanctuary, I'm reminded of how our individual living rooms are akin to miniature reflections of a larger entity - our beloved country, India. Just as our living room offers us solace and protection, so does our nation enveloping us in a blanket of love, affection, and security that is unparalleled.

While the typical furnishings of curtains, fans, cupboards, and books adorn my living room, it's the presence of my parents that truly transforms it into heaven. They infuse it with such warmth and love that cannot be replicated.

Yet, amidst this comfort, I yearn to venture beyond my home's familiar confines. Despite the cosy embrace of my surroundings, I feel a pull towards the wider world, towards the challenges and opportunities that lie beyond these walls. Yes, I long to step out and embrace the adventure of going to school.

It's a testament to the human spirit, this desire to seek new horizons even when nestled in the safety of home. Moreover, as I contemplate this, I realise that it's the blend of comfort and curiosity that truly defines our existence - both within the confines of our living rooms and the vast expanse of our country.

As I cherish the love and security of my family and my nation, I also embrace the thrill of stepping beyond my comfort zone, eager to explore the world that awaits outside.

- A thought by SHIVANI AGARWAL, class 10.

Respite from heat, confined at home

"Oh, it's too hot outside!" My mother exclaimed while her hands were filled with bags containing groceries.

Due to the scorching and unbearable heat outside, our schools have been closed down, and we have returned once again to the infamous online classes in the comfort of our homes. School has once again been confined to the four walls of our rooms, which makes me recollect the memories of the pandemic.

The only word to describe my room is disorganised, yet it is comfortable. There's a small desk right across my bed, where my desktop is placed, a pencil holder containing several pens that have ceased to function, and half-broken pencils remain. The tiny space between the bed and the desk is where my chair almost fits; that is where I sit or am currently sitting.

Books and notes were scattered around the bed, and a bottle of cold water was next to me as a source of refreshment. I try to stay in constant touch with my friends through WhatsApp. A decent window next to the bed acts as my way of escapism. Sometimes, my eyes wander around, trying to explore my surroundings. While through the window, I get to witness the sunlight peeping in throughout the day; during sundown, I get to see the summer skies being etched with various shades of colours.

My heart wishes to get lost in them. Back to earth, there is also a photo collage on the wall I'm facing, telling a thousand stories about scattered moments in my life. Sometimes I look back at the smiling faces to get reminded of those times. But I return back to the cramped atmosphere, continuing my classes, sometimes looking at the mirror behind me, or the bundle of clothes on another chair all scattered and messy or the story books lying on the bedside table, waiting to be picked up or the cupboard full of my clothes which I promised I would clean up, but I never did.

But anyhow, despite being a bit overstuffed or dirty, my room always comforts me when my eyes are about to shut down from drowsiness after a hearty lunch.

UTSHA DASGUPTA, Class 10

Vivacious Vocabulary

Ebullient

Adjective

Pronunciation: eh-buh-lee-unt

Meaning: Cheerful and full of energy

Example: She sounded ebullient

Synonyms: Joyful, high-spirited, animated, bubbly

Fastidious

Adjective

Pronunciation: fa-sti-dee-us

Meaning: Very attentive to and concerned about accuracy and detail.

Example: She cleaned with fastidious detail

Synonym: Meticulous, perfectionist, overcritical, precise

Gregarious

Adjective

Pronunciation: gruh-geuh-ree-us

Meaning: To like being around other people.

Example: He was a gregarious and outgoing person.

Synonym: Social, friendly, welcoming, warm.

If you are a school or college student who has a poem, essay or other fiction or nonfiction pieces which you would like to share with The Statesman's readers please write in with your submission to readers@thestatesmangroup.com. Don't forget to mention your name, the name of your school, your class and your phone number. Please write "C&C" in the subject field. Publication is at the discretion of the editors.

50 pc humanities & social sciences merit scholarships - EU and international

The faculty of humanities and social sciences at the University of Strathclyde, Glasgow, has introduced a new tuition fee scholarship. The 50 per cent humanities & social sciences merit scholarships - EU and international, is available to self-funded, international fee-paying offer-holders (includes those classed as EU fee group).

The scholarship entitles the recipient to a discount of 50 per cent on tuition fees.

Applicants must hold an offer to a full-time postgraduate taught degree programme starting in the academic year 2024/5 before their scholarship application will be considered.

Key facts

Number of scholarships: 6

Value: 50 per cent of tuition fees

Deadline: 31 July 2024

Helps with: Tuition fees

Duration: One year

Subject eligibility: English, education, history, law, languages, politics, psychology, speech & language therapy, journalism, social policy, international relations, social work

Eligibility-To be considered for a 50 per cent humanities & social sciences merit scholarships - EU and international, students are required to demonstrate academic excellence (usually a UK first-class undergraduate degree or international equivalent) and the potential both to make a significant contribution to the Strathclyde community

during their studies and in their chosen profession upon graduation (assessed by information provided in the scholarship application form).

Other postgraduate-taught scholarships are available; for more information, search for scholarships on the Strathclyde University website.

The deadline for applying for a scholarship is 31 July 2024 for September 2024 entry.

Applications are now being accepted, and completed application forms should be submitted as early as possible.

For further information - <https://www.strath.ac.uk/studywithus/scholarships/50humanitiessocialsciencesmeritscholarships-euandinternational/> or contact : studywithus-hass@strath.ac.uk



University of
Strathclyde
Glasgow



WE WILL PLAN AGAINST VIRAT
Pakistan captain Babar Azam said the team will be planning their tactics against star India batter Virat Kohli for the high-octane clash with Men in Blue in the ICC T20 World Cup at West Indies/USA this year. Babar made this statement ahead of his side's T20I series against Ireland from March 10 onwards, which consists of three T20Is to be played in Dublin. The highly-anticipated clash between two arch-rivals will take place on June 9 in New York.

For more updates www.thestatesman.com

THUMBNAILS

Michael Jones and Brad Wheal named in Scotland squad for Men's T20 World Cup: Scotland have included batter Michael Jones and fast-bowler Brad Wheal in their squad for the upcoming Men's T20 World Cup, set to happen in the West Indies and USA from June 1. Jones and Wheal, currently playing for Durham and Hampshire respectively in the county championship in England, have not been included in Scotland's squad for their T20 tri-series against the Netherlands and Ireland this month, but have made the cut for the showpiece event in the shortest format.

Brian Masaba to captain Uganda in Men's T20 World Cup: Brian Masaba has been named to captain the 15-member Uganda team in the 2024 Men's T20 World Cup, set to happen in the USA and the West Indies from June 1. This will be Uganda's first appearance in a senior men's World Cup in any format. Frank Nsubuga, the off-spin allrounder, is set to be the oldest player in the tournament at 43. Riazat Ali Shah, whose origins are from Gilgit in Pakistan, has been named vice-captain, taking over from Kenneth Waiswa. Ronald Lutaaya and Innocent Mwabaze are the two travelling reserve players.

IPL 2024: DC face confident Royals in must-win game

The Capitals have endured yet another roller-coaster ride this season, winning five and losing six

TRIDIB BAPARNASH
NEW DELHI, 6 MAY

As the race to the IPL play-offs heats up, the inconsistent Delhi Capitals are faced with a must-win situation when they take on a confident Rajasthan Royals at the Arun Jaitley Stadium in the national capital on Tuesday. The Capitals have endured yet another roller-coaster ride this season, winning five and losing six of their last 11 games. Hence, the Rishabh Pant-led outfit will need to win their remaining three games, which could take them to 16 points but might not be enough to qualify for the last four stages of the tournament.

Apart from KKR (16 from 11 games) and RR (16 from 10 games), there are at least three teams—Chennai Super Kings (12 from 11), Sunrisers Hyderabad (12 from 10 games) and Lucknow Super Giants (12 from 11 games), who can breach the 16-point mark. And in case, one of these teams finish on 16, along with DC, it will eventually come down to the net run-rate.

While those permutations and combinations are beyond their control, Pant and



his side must focus on the controllables, and win the remaining three games for the side to at least stay in contention. Having said that, it definitely won't be a walk in the park against a rampaging Royals.

On a flat Kotla track with barely 60-metre boundary on one side, Pant and the team management will be hoping that their bowling attack has enough sting to restrict a side that boasts of clean strikers like Jos Buttler, Sanju

Samson, Riyan Parag, Rovman Powell and Shimron Hetmyer.

DC's lead pacers Khaleel Ahmed (ER 9.47) and Mukesh Kumar (ER 11.05) will be expected to show more consistency with the South African pair of Lizaad Williams (ER 12 in 2 games) and Anrich Nortje (ER 13.36) simply not looking the part. The spin duo of Kuldeep Yadav and Axar Patel will have to play their part to keep RR under a manageable total.



In the batting department, Pant, with 380 runs under his belt and three impactful half-centuries, would be expected to lead from the front, especially when his team has been pushed to the wall. He will have new Aussie sensation Fraser-McGurk, who has gone off the boil in the last couple of games to regain his mojo.

The rest of the batting order must step up and look to be more consistent if they

are to keep their hopes alive. Against a bowling line-up comprising the likes of Trent Boult, Yuzvendra Chahal and Ravichandran Ashwin, and veteran Sandeep Sharma, the DC batters will face a stern test.

Winning is a habit, and the Royals, coming off a 1-run loss to Sunrisers Hyderabad, will keenly be hoping to get back the winning momentum, while DC will need to punch above their weight to stop the Pink outfit.

'Bharat Chess Rating System' by AICF is a welcome move: Players, coaches

AGENCIES
CHENNAI, 6 MAY

Indian chess players and coaches have welcomed the All India Chess Federation's (AICF) decision to have a National Rating System or 'Bharat Chess Rating System' as it would result in the emergence of large number of tournaments, enthuse chess masters to play in the strong domestic circuit, tingle the chess body's cash chest amongst other benefits.

According to them, the casualty may be FIDE rated chess tournaments as the tournament organisers might opt for AICF rated tournaments and in the process save costs (FIDE fees) and may pass on the benefits to the players as prize money or lower entry fee, they added.

The international body, too, has no objection to AICF's move. "Internal rating system is the decision of each National Federation. FIDE does not interfere. At present dozens of thousands of Indians have FIDE rating, but obviously there are hundreds of thousands in India who play regularly in competitions of various kinds. So, it is sensible to rate them," chess Grandmaster (GM) Emil Sutovsky, CEO, FIDE, told IANS.

Terming AICF's move as a great step forward GM Pravin Thipsay told IANS: "It means that even the performance in

district events will be measured. As all national and international tournaments in India will be counted for the Indian Rating List, every national player will have an Indian rating and ELO rating of FIDE."

According to Thipsay, the comparison between these two ratings will set some standards and district-level players will be able to judge themselves. The player's growth (or otherwise) can be checked from a very low level and the growth graphs could enable the fraternity to judge the future starts at a very young age.

The US and several countries have their own rating system and India with a large number of chess players is a bit late to enter this club.

"Here in the US they have their own rating system and in fact Washington state has their own rating system which does not use the US Chess Federation (USCF) rating system," GM Arun Prasad told IANS.

According to him, having your own rating system means it is easier to keep the rules according to your preference and one need not to follow the FIDE rules.

Continuing further he added that players beyond a certain level have to surely play in the FIDE-rated tournaments to get globally recognised chess titles like the Candidate Master (CM), FIDE Master (FM), International Master (IM) and GM.

Indian men's & women's 4X400m relay teams secure Paris Olympics quotas



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 6 MAY

After drawing a blank on the opening day, the Indian men's and women's 4x400m relay teams secured qualifications for the Paris Olympics by finishing second in their respective second-round heats at the World Athletics Relays in Nassau, Bahamas on Monday.

In the women's competition, the quartet of Rupal Chaudhary, MR Poovamma, Jyothika Sri Dandi and Subha Venkatesan clocked 3 minutes and 29.35 seconds to finish second behind Jamaica (3:28.54) in heat number one

to book a Paris Games ticket.

Rupal replaced Vithya Ramraj from the team which competed in the first qualifying round. The Indian women's team had finished fifth in the first-round qualifying heat on Sunday with a time of 3 minutes and 29.74 seconds.

Later, the men's quartet of Muhammed Anas Yahiya, Muhammed Ajmal, Arokia Rajiv and Amoj Jacob clocked a season's best time of 3:03.23 to finish behind the USA (2:59.95) in heat 2 to seal their Olympics berth.

Arokia Rajiv replaced

injured Rajesh Ramesh, who had to pull out of the men's 4x400m relay race a day earlier, resulting in a DNF (did not finish) for the Indian team.

The top two teams in each of the three heats in the second round were to qualify for the Olympics to be held from July 26 to August 11.

With this, India now has 19 Paris-bound track and field athletes and the list includes defending javelin throw champion Neeraj Chopra among others.

The athletics events at the Games will begin on August 1.

IPL Chairman Arun Dhumal bats for hybrid pitches in India

AGENCIES
DHARAMSHALA, 6 MAY

The Himachal Pradesh Cricket Association (HPCA) Stadium on Monday witnessed an unveiling of India's first-ever hybrid pitch.

IPL Chairman Arun Dhumal and Paul Taylor, former England international cricketer and SIS's International Cricket Director along with other dignitaries from HPCA were present on the occasion.

"I'm thrilled to witness the inauguration of India's first SIS-Grass hybrid pitch at the HPCA Stadium in Dharamshala. This remarkable development showcases the progressive spirit that is driving Indian cricket forward. By adopting innovative solutions like the ICC-approved hybrid pitches, we aren't just ensuring a sustainable future for the sport, but also building another avenue for growth," Dhumal said at the event.

He further said, "The HPCA's relentless commitment to advancements like introducing SISGrass Hybrid Pitches, LED Flood Lights, and the SIS Air System demonstrates their leadership in creating a world-class cricketing infrastructure. Adopting these latest innovations will ensure Indian cricket can seal its position as a global sporting



powerhouse, while also setting a template for other countries to follow."

The hybrid pitch consists of polymer fibre with the natural turf inside cricket stadiums and pitches. This composition is more resilient to stresses created during play, helps to prolong the life of pitches, guarantees an even bounce, and eases pressure on busy groundskeepers. The completed installations are still predominantly natural grass, with only 5% polymer fibre used. This ensures that the characteristics of an all-natural pitch

are maintained

Taylor, SIS's International Cricket Director, said, "We extend our sincere appreciation to the Himachal Pradesh Cricket Association (HPCA) for collaborating with us on this pioneering project. We are pleased to announce the successful installation and implementation of hybrid cricket pitches at the iconic Dharamshala Stadium.

"As a BCCI-approved initiative, this encourages us to set the stage for further explorations of hybrid pitches in Mumbai and Ahmedabad.

We aim to expand opportunities that strengthen cricket at the grassroots level for more participation and ensure that our pitches can endure the game's rigours."

The 'Universal Machine', used in Dharamshala to install the hybrid surface, was first developed by SISGrass in 2017. It has already demonstrated its effectiveness in the UK where it was used to install SIS-Grass at almost every County ground in England, including internationally recognised venues like Lord's, The Kia Oval, Edgbaston, Emirates Old Traf-

ford and Trent Bridge.

The machine will then be moved to Mumbai and Ahmedabad to create more pitches for practice and matches. Once the first three installations are complete, the machine will remain in India and be immediately available to other grounds and facilities as projects are approved.

SISGrass has invested in India after the International Cricket Council (ICC) allowed the use of hybrid surfaces for T20 and 50-over competitions.

In light of terror threat to T20 WC, ICC assures comprehensive security plan

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 6 MAY

With less than a month to go for the ICC T20 World Cup, the showpiece event has hit a block with reports of terror attacks threatening to hamper it. The reports gained momentum after Trinidad & Tobago Prime Minister Dr Keith Rowley confirmed that security agencies in the West Indies were monitoring a possible terror threat to the event.

Taking note of Rowley's confirmation, the International Cricket Council (ICC) and Cricket West Indies, assured all stakeholders that a "comprehensive and robust security plan" is in place for the T20 World Cup, starting June 1.

A report in Trinidad's Daily Express quoted Rowley as

saying that the Caricom and security agencies are working to combat the threat to the World Cup. It has been further reported that the Barbados regional security officials are monitoring potential threats to the ICC event.

"Unfortunately, the threat of terrorism in its many and varied expressions is an ever-present danger in the world of the 21st century. It is against this backdrop that all nations, like our region, when hosting large or vulnerable gatherings, make an extra effort in national security preparations and response readiness to take seriously, all threats, expressed or implied," Rowley said.

"Given the fact that bad actors can choose to misbehave in any way possible it makes it virtually impossible to completely seal off all



opportunities. However, in order to ameliorate these dangers, we at the local and regional levels have remained alert to many threats and singularly or together have our intelligence and other secu-

rity agencies working to protect the population in countries and at venues throughout the tournament," he added.

The ICC and CWI responded with a joint statement



assuring all stakeholders of the security measures in place. "We work closely with authorities in the host countries and cities, and continually monitor and evaluate the global landscape to ensure

appropriate plans are in place to mitigate any risks identified to our event," the statement said.

"We want to assure all stakeholders that safety and security of everyone at the ICC

The forthcoming T20 World Cup, scheduled from June 1 to 29, will be jointly hosted by the USA and the West Indies. In the Caribbean, matches will be held across Antigua and Barbuda, Guyana, Saint Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines, and Trinidad and Tobago. Florida, New York, and Texas are the three venues in the US shortlisted to conduct the matches. Currently, no specific threats have been reported to US venues

Men's T20 World Cup is our number one priority and we have a comprehensive and robust security plan in place," it added. The forthcoming T20 World Cup, scheduled from June 1 to 29, will be jointly hosted by the USA and the West Indies. In the Caribbean, matches will be held across Antigua and Barbuda, Guyana, Saint Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines, and Trinidad and Tobago. Florida, New

York, and Texas are the three venues in the US shortlisted to conduct the matches. Currently, no specific threats have been reported to US venues. The final will be played in Barbados, and the semi-finals will be held in Trinidad and Guyana. This is also the first time the West Indies will host the World Cup since 2010 when it last organised the ICC World T20 14 years ago.

