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INDIA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1818

KOLKATA | NEW DELHI | SILIGURI | BHUBANESWAR

PEOPLE'S PARLIAMENT, ALWAYS IN SESSION

HARERA Registration No: RC/REP/HARERA/GCM/819/551/2024/46
HARERA Website: <https://haryanarera.gov.in>
Promoter: M/s DLF Limited
Project Name: DLF Privana West



THANK YOU

We are grateful for your enthusiastic response.
We are Sold Out.



DLF PRIVANA WEST

Sector 76, Gurugram

Artistic rendition

Disclaimer: Licence No. 219 of 2023 dated 25.10.2023 for an area measuring 116.29625 acres, being developed in a phased manner, the current phase being 'DLF Privana West ("Project")' | Project Area: 5.088 Hectares (12.572 acres) at village Shikhopur/ Kherki Daula at Sector 76 & 77, Gurugram, Haryana | Building Plan Approval Memo No: ZP-1895/ PA(DK)/ 2024/ 12245 dated 18-04-2024 for the Project. All information, images and visuals, drawings, plans or sketches shown in this advertisement are only an architect's impression, for representational/illustrative purposes only and not to scale. Nothing contained herein intends to constitute a legal offer and does not form part of any legally binding agreement and/or commitment of any nature. The Promoter endeavours to keep the information up to date and correct, however, makes no representation or warranty for the accuracy or completeness of the information. Recipients/ viewers are advised to exercise their discretion in relying on the information shown/ provided and are requested to verify all the details, including area, amenities, services, terms of sales and payments and other relevant terms independently with the Sales Team/ Promoter, have a thorough understanding of the same and take appropriate advice before concluding any decision for buying any Unit(s) in the Project.



C M Y K

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Actual Image of Cloverleaf flyover



CONNECTING YOU TO EVERYTHING, INCLUDING THE FUTURE.

DLF Privana is located at the heart of all expressways.



Representative Image

LIVE CITY

Amidst an emerging corporate hub and many social avenues.



A NEW CHAPTER IN THE #DLFLIFESTYLE



Representative Image



Representative Image

BREATHE NATURE

Near to ~4046.856 Hectares (~10000 acres) of natural greenery.



Representative Image

ACTIVE LIFESTYLE

Hike the Aravallis or cycle the nearby tracks with like-minded neighbours.

DLF PRIVANA WEST

Sector 76, Gurugram

Call **76776 77677** | <https://www.dlf.in/homes/luxury/privanawest/>

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THURSDAY
09 MAY 2024

Pages 14 | ₹ 5.00/LC

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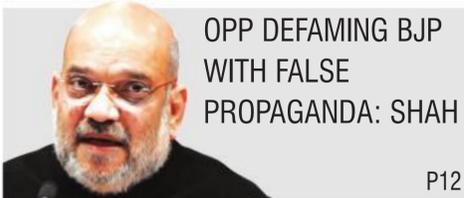
KOLKATA | NEW DELHI | SILIGURI | BHUBANESWAR

PEOPLE'S PARLIAMENT, ALWAYS IN SESSION



FRIENDS,
NOW FOES

P6



OPP DEFAMING BJP
WITH FALSE
PROPAGANDA: SHAH

P12



'EVERY POLITICAL PARTY
COMMITTED TO ENSURE
POK RETURNS TO INDIA'

P5



RCB, PBKS FACE
OFF IN POTENTIAL
SHOOTOUT

P14

SENSEX 73,466.39 ▼ 45.46

NIFTY 22,302.50

₹ vs \$ 83.14

GOLD 72,270 ▼ 110

SILVER 85,000

BRENT CRUDE (IN \$) 82.29 ▼ 0.86

WEATHER

Generally cloudy sky. Rain/Thundershower likely to occur. Maximum and minimum temperatures likely to be around 20 °C and 15 °C respectively.

RAINFALL: 13.8mm

RELATIVE HUMIDITY

Max. 95 % Min. 64 %

TEMPERATURE

Max: 30.4°C (+5.3) Min: 22.2°C (-4.6)

SUN RISES 04:60 hrs SUN SETS 18:6 hrs

MOON RISES 04:49 hrs MOON SETS 18:30 hrs

FULL MOON ON 23 MAY

THUMBNAILS



Tollywood actor and TMC candidate from Ghatal constituency Deepak Adhikari holds a roadshow in support of the party candidate for Birbhum, Satabdi Roy for the LS elections in Birbhum on Wednesday. ■ ANI

JD(S) MLA HD Revanna sent to judicial custody till 14 May

Janata Dal (Secular) leader and Karnataka MLA, HD Revanna, was on Wednesday sent to judicial custody till May 14 in connection with the kidnapping case linked to the 'obscene video' case. He was arrested by the special investigation team (SIT) on 4 May in connection with an alleged kidnapping case registered against him at KR Nagar police station in Bengaluru. HD Revanna and his son, Prajwal Revanna, are facing a probe by an SIT, constituted by the Karnataka government. (Page 4)

Pitroda steps down as Overseas Cong chief

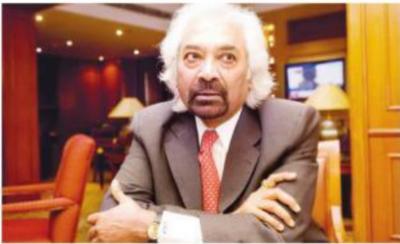
Pitroda in dock over remarks construed to be racial slurs on citizens

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 8 MAY

Indian Overseas Congress Chairman Sam Pitroda on Wednesday resigned from his post after he courted another controversy with remarks in an interview to The Statesman that were attacked as racist, particularly by the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party.

Mr Pitroda's resignation came amidst a barrage of condemnation from the ruling BJP over his remarks, including from Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The Congress, on its part, had distanced itself from his remarks.

Congress communications-in-charge Jairam Ramesh announced the development on a microblogging platform X: "Mr Sam Pitroda has decided to step down as Chairman of the Indian Overseas Congress of his own accord. The Congress President has accepted his decision."



In a recent interview with The Statesman, Mr Pitroda had said: "We have survived 75 years in a very happy environment where people could live together, leaving aside a few fights here and there. We could hold a country together as diverse as India, where people on the east look like Chinese, people on the West look like Arab, people on the North look like white and maybe people on the South look like Africans... doesn't matter. We are all brothers and sisters." "We all respect different languages, religions, different looks, customs

and food. That's the India I believe in where everybody has a place," he said.

The interview, excerpts of which were published in The Statesman's print edition last week, is available on this newspaper's Youtube channel. Earlier in the day, the Congress had distanced itself from Mr Pitroda's remarks and termed them unfortunate and unacceptable.

"The analogies drawn by Mr. Sam Pitroda in a podcast to illustrate India's diversity are most unfortunate and unacceptable," Mr Ramesh said in a video message. Mr Pitro-

BJP harmads will bring back rule of terror: CM in Arambagh

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
HOOGHLY, 8 MAY

Chief minister Mamata Banerjee, campaigning for the Lok Sabha elections at Kalipur in Arambagh reminded the people of the area of the reign of terror under the Left Front government, and said it will return if the BJP is allowed to win.

"All the CPI-M harmads are now BJP leaders and party workers in Arambagh sub division. If the BJP wins in Arambagh, they will bring back the rule of terror once again," Miss Banerjee said.

The chief minister also addressed a huge gathering at Balagarh. Miss Banerjee recalled the time when, during Left Front rule, she and Ajit Panja were on the way to Chamkailata for a political meeting. "The CPI-M harmads tried their best to stop our meeting but by the dint of my determination I carried on my meeting. On the way back the armed harmads stopped Ajit Panja on the road and I rushed to his rescue," she said.

"The harmads have killed many innocent people. Their



bodies were thrown into a deep pit," Miss Banerjee said.

Asserting that allowing the BJP any political space in Arambagh will lead to the return of terror and bloodshed, the chief minister and TMC chairperson said the BJP must be checked at any cost. "The TMC candidate for Arambagh constituency, Mithali Bagh belongs to Bagdhi community. I have picked her up as a MP candidate with the aim of women's empowerment. She is a dedicated and devoted party worker and she will serve the people of Arambagh to the best of her ability," Miss Banerjee said.

The chief minister asked the TMC leaders of Khanakul, Pursura, Arambagh and

Goghat to work together forgetting their past differences. Miss Banerjee, while addressing a huge gathering at Balagarh said the area is well known for its agro-industry and cottage industry and asked the voters to vote for Rachna Banerjee for further growth and development and to complete unfinished ongoing projects. (Photo)

The CM added that agricultural cultivation is going on in 434 acres of land in Singur. Land-filling work is going on for conversion to agricultural purpose in other areas.

The coming up of an industrial park in Singur will create job opportunities for many, she said.

'Racism behind Cong opposition to Murmu'

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD, 8 MAY

Stepping up his attack on the Congress, Prime Minister Narendra Modi accused the party and its leader Rahul Gandhi of resorting to racism, citing the party's overseas leader Sam Pitroda's remark on the diverse ethnic back-



grounds of Indians. Drawing a parallel between South Indians with Africans and North

East Indians with Chinese during an exclusive interview with The Statesman, Mr Pitroda triggered a fresh controversy. He had said, "We could hold a country together as diverse as India, where people on the east look like Chinese, people on the West looked like Arab, people on the North look like

white and may be people on the South look like Africans." Taking a cue from Mr Pitroda's comments on the racial backgrounds of the people of India, Mr Modi said Congress' opposition to Draupadi Murmu's candidature for the post of president stemmed from its racist mentality.

Supreme Court order on interim bail for Kejriwal likely on Friday

PARMOD KUMAR
NEW DELHI, 8 MAY

The Supreme Court on Wednesday said it might pass an order on Friday (10 May), on interim bail for Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal in an alleged money laundering case registered by Directorate of Enforcement linked to the

Delhi excise policy case. As a bench headed by Justice Sanjiv Khanna was rising for the day, he told the Additional Solicitor General S.V. Raju, who appears for the Directorate of Enforcement in the Kejriwal matter that it may pass the order on interim relief to Delhi CM on Friday. On Tuesday 7 May, a

bench of Justice Sanjiv Khanna and Justice Dipankar Datta had indicated granting interim bail to Mr Kejriwal to enable him to campaign for the ongoing LS elections. However, the court had said that if interim bail is granted, Mr Kejriwal would not be allowed to discharge any official duties as Chief Minister.

Mass 'sick leave': Air India Express cancels 70 flights

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, 8 MAY

More than 70 international and domestic flights of Air India Express were cancelled or delayed on Wednesday due to senior crew members calling in sick. The situation has raised concerns within the Ministry of Civil Aviation, which is closely monitoring the developments.

According to sources within the ministry, the cancellations and delays began on Tuesday night and persisted into Wednesday morning, forcing the airline to curtail its scheduled operations. The sudden shortage of crew members led to flights being grounded, affecting both domestic and international routes. The sources said that some senior crew members

switched off their mobile phones just before flight operations, citing health issues.

With no alternate staff available, the flights had to be cancelled. Air India Express issued a statement addressing the situation and apologizing to affected passengers. The Ministry of Civil Aviation has called for a detailed report from Air India Express.

An Air India Express spokesperson said: "A section of our cabin crew has reported sick at the last minute, starting last night, resulting in flight delays and cancellations. While we are engaging with the crew to understand the reasons behind these occurrences, our teams are actively addressing this issue to minimize any inconvenience caused to our guests as a result."

India likely to attain 8pc growth rate in FY24: CEA Nageswaran

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 8 MAY

Chief Economic Adviser V Anantha Nageswaran on Wednesday maintained there is a high possibility of India attaining the 8 per cent growth rate in FY24.

He said the IMF has projected a growth rate of 7.8 per cent for FY24. But if you look at the trajectory of growth in the first three quarters, obviously, the possibility that the growth rate touches 8 per cent is quite high, he said.

CEA Nageswaran, who was speaking at an event organised by NCAER in New Delhi, said that he would be happy if the gross domestic product (GDP) were to have a 9.5-10 per cent rate like that of China but the context had shifted. "The 6.5-7 per cent



growth rate was expected to continue in the coming years and it was important to maintain it," he added. "The omens are good for us to continue the steady growth rate" of that pace over the next decade, Mr Nageswaran said. "If that materialises, of course, it will be the fourth consecutive year after COVID starting from FY22 that the economy will have grown at 7 per cent or more. If the RBI forecasts of 7 per cent for FY25 turn out to be either correct

or even underestimated, then it would be the fourth consecutive year of 7 or higher growth rate," he said.

"There can always be scenarios in geopolitics that can cause inflation to be more than we expect, but at this point the baseline scenario is that inflation gradually converges to the mid-point of the target range."

The CEA also said that a lot would depend on how the monsoon shapes up. Although the expectations are that there will be an above-normal monsoon, spatial and temporal distribution will matter.

Investment made in supply-side augmentation of both physical and digital infrastructure has placed the economy to pursue non-inflationary growth, he said.

AstraZeneca to withdraw its Covid vaccine worldwide amid concerns over side effects

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 8 MAY

Global pharma giant AstraZeneca has decided to withdraw its Covid-19 vaccine worldwide days after the company admitted in court documents that it can have dangerous side effects, according to a report published in a leading British daily.

However, the company has insisted that the vaccine is not being withdrawn over the side effects but due to commercial reasons.

Due to low demand and having been superseded by updated versions of the Covid-19 vaccines to fight new vari-



ants, the company has stopped making or supplying it.

AstraZeneca had made an application for withdrawal of the vaccine in Europe on 7 March and it came into effect on 7 May.

After the company's decision to withdraw its "marketing authorisation", the

vaccine can no longer be used in the European Union.

Similar applications will be submitted in the UK and other nations in the coming months that have given a go-ahead to the vaccine, known as Vaxzevria.

The development comes just days after AstraZeneca acknowledged in a document submitted before a UK court that its vaccine can cause rare side effects such as TTS and low blood platelet count.

TTS, which stands for Thrombosis with Thrombocytopenia Syndrome, has been associated with at least 81 deaths in the UK and hun-

dreds of serious injuries.

As many as 51 cases have been lodged in the UK High Court against the pharma major with victims seeking damages estimated to be worth up to GBP 100 million.

In the class action lawsuits, victims and grieving relatives alleged deaths and severe injuries after taking the vaccine.

AstraZeneca and Oxford University had developed the vaccine during the Coronavirus pandemic.

The vaccine was produced by India's Serum Institute of India (SII) and widely administered in the country during the pandemic.

695 candidates in fray for fifth phase of polls

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 8 MAY

The Election Commission on Wednesday said 695 candidates are in the fray for the fifth phase of Lok Sabha polls, scheduled to be held on 20 May.

In a statement, the poll panel said: "A total of 695 candidates from eight states/UTs to contest election in the fifth phase of the Lok Sabha polls." According to the EC, a total of 1,586 nominations were filed for the 49 parliamentary constituencies (PCs) across 8 States /UTs going for polls in the fifth phase.

Heartfelt Congratulations and Best Wishes to the Higher Secondary Students for their success in the examination.

May your shining future make Bengal and the Nation proud. Wishing you all success in life.

SCHOOL

ICA-0800(24)/2024

Government of West Bengal



C M Y K

I am from South India and I look Indian: FM after Pitroda's remark

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, 8 MAY

Rebutting the remarks made by Congress leader Sam Pitroda on the diversity of India, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman took a jibe at him and said that she is from South India and she looks Indian.

from West India look Indian!" Calling Sam Pitroda a racist, Sitharaman further added, "But, for the racist who is the mentor of Rahul Gandhi, we all look African, Chinese, Arab and the White! Thanks for revealing your mindset and your attitude. I.N.D.I alliance's shame!" Meanwhile, Narendra Babu of People of Telangana, while speaking with agencies, expressed unhappiness over Sam Pitroda's remarks and said, "What Congress Sam Pitroda said is not right. The complexion of our Lord Ram and Krishna is also

black... We are people of coal region and our colour is black so we are proud. We are also proud of African people if we look like them." Meanwhile, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday said that the people of the country will not tolerate insults on the basis of the colour of the skin, following Congress leader Sam Pitroda's "racist remarks" that stoked a massive row. Earlier in the day, Chairman of Indian Overseas Congress Sam Pitroda ignited a firestorm while speaking on the diversity of India referring to how people in the South "look like Africans and those in the West look like Arabs and those in the East look like Chinese."

Pitroda, in an interview to 'The Statesman', while reflecting upon the democracy in India said, "We have survived 75 years in a very happy environment where people could live together, leaving aside a few fights here and there. We could hold a country together as diverse as India, where people in the East look like Chinese, people in the West look like Arab, people in the North look like white, and maybe people in the South look like Africans."

JD(S) MLA HD Revanna sent to judicial custody till 14 May

He was arrested on 4 May in a kidnapping case linked to the sex video scandal involving his son

AGENCIES
BENGALURU, 8 MAY

Janata Dal (Secular) leader and Karnataka MLA, HD Revanna, was on Wednesday sent to judicial custody till May 14 in connection with the kidnapping case linked to the 'obscene video' case.

He was arrested by the special investigation team (SIT) on May 4 in connection with an alleged kidnapping case registered against him at KR Nagar police station in Bengaluru.

HD Revanna and his son, Prajwal Revanna, are facing a probe by an SIT, constituted by the Karnataka government over allegations of sexual harassment and criminal intimidation against the duo following a complaint by a woman who worked in their household.



HD Revanna's son, Prajwal Revanna, is a sitting MP and candidate from the Hassan Lok Sabha constituency. He is seeking a second term from the seat as an NDA candidate. The voting concluded on April 26.

HD Revanna, who is also JD(S) MLA from Holenarsipura, along with his associate were booked under Sections 364A (kidnapping for ransom), 365 (kidnapping with intent to cause harm), and 34 (common intention) of the IPC.

The FIR, registered by KR Nagar police, also lists HD Revanna as accused number one and another man, identified as Babanna, as accused number two.

However, HS Revanna has termed this case a "political conspiracy" against him.

"It's a political conspiracy going on against me. In my 40 years of political life, I have never seen anything like this," he told reporters.

Former CM and JD (S) chief HD Kumaraswamy has alleged that the Congress-led Karnataka government wanted the character assassination of party leader HD Revanna.

"This government does not want a fair inquiry. They are misusing the office. Nothing is going to happen ultimately. They wanted character assassination of HD Revanna and for that reason, they are using their office," Kumaraswamy said.

He also alleged that the pen drive containing obscene videos allegedly linked to Hassan MP Prajwal Revanna was circulated by police officers and demanded a Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) probe into the case.

TENDER

EASTERN RAILWAY
Bid No.: GEM/2024/B/4920854, Dated: 07.05.2024. Dy. Chief Mechanical Engineer (P), Eastern Railway, Liluah, Howrah-711204, West Bengal invites bid for the following work: Bid End Date/Time: 28.05.2024 at 15.00 hrs. Bid Opening Date/Time: 28.05.2024 at 15.30 hrs. Bid Offer Validity (From End Date): 120 (Days). Office Name: Carriage and Wagon Workshop, Liluah. Item Category: Custom Bid for Services—Cleaning and Upkeepment work. Contract Period: 3 years. Minimum Average Annual Turnover of the bidder (for 3 years): ₹ 748 Lakhs. Years of Past Experience Required for same/similar service: 3 years. Past experience of similar services required: Yes. MSE Exemption for years of experience and turnover: No. Startup exemption for years of experience and turnover: No. Document Required from seller: Experience Criteria, Bidder Turnover, Certificate (Requested in ATC). "In case any bidder is seeking exemption from Experience/Turnover Criteria, the supporting documents to prove his eligibility for exemption must be uploaded for evaluation by the buyer. Bid to RA enabled: No. Type of Bid: Two Packet Bid. (MISC-44/2024-25) Tender Notices are also available at website: www.er.indianrailways.gov.in/www.ireps.gov.in Follow us at: @EasternRailway easternrailwayheadquarter

EASTERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice No.: EL/HWH/25/21 (Notice)/579, Date: 07.05.2024. Divisional Railway Manager, Eastern Railway, Howrah, DRM Building, near Railway Station, Howrah-711101 invites Open e-Tender for the under-mentioned electrical work/s. Tender No.: EL-HWH-25-21-3275-R1. Name of work: Rewiring of staff quarters over Howrah Division. Tender value: ₹ 1,57,28,781. Bid Security (Earnest Money Deposit): ₹ 2,28,700. Completion Period: 180 days. Closing date and time of tender: 27.05.2024 at 15.00 hrs. In case the date of closing mentioned in the notice inviting tender is declared a holiday/bandh/strike on any account, the date of closing tender online will not be changed as the application in the website of IREPS does not permit submission of any offer after closing date and time of the tender. However, opening of tenders online will be on any convenient day after closing date and time of the tender. The details of tender are available at website: www.ireps.gov.in. Tenderers are requested to submit their offer online on the above website. (HWH-48/2024-25) Tender Notices are also available at website: www.er.indianrailways.gov.in/www.ireps.gov.in Follow us at: @EasternRailway easternrailwayheadquarter

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY
E-AUCTION NOTICE
Divisional Railway Manager (Commercial), East Central Dhanbad, on behalf of President of India invite open e-Auction through IREPS portal vide website www.ireps.gov.in for awarding the contract. Details are as under:- I. Sr. No.: (1), i. e. Auction Catalogue: Rail Coach Restaurant, iii. e. Auction Catalogue no.: RCR-DHN-24, iv. Scheduled date and time of e-Auction starting details: 23.05.2024 From 15.00 hrs. v. Details of work and name of station: Provision of "Rail Coach Restaurant" at south side station beside/adjacent in approach road of DAV School of Dhanbad Railway Station for a period of 05 years. Provision of "Rail Coach Restaurant" at south side station the approach road beside old and closed L.C. Gate of Purana Bazaar of Dhanbad Railway Station for a period of 05 years. II. Sr. No.: (2), i. e. Auction Catalogue: Parcel Scanner, iii. e. Auction Catalogue no.: Misc-PS-DHN-6, iv. Scheduled date and time of e-Auction starting details: 22.05.2024 From 15.00 hrs. v. Details of work and name of station: Installation and Operation of Parcel Scanner Machine for scanning of all outgoing parcels at Dhanbad, Barkakana, Garhwa Road, Dalongajni, Gomoh, Koderma, Chopan and Singrauli station (Parcel Office) for the period of 05 years. All prospective bidder are advised to visit the website www.ireps.gov.in for full details and participate against the above mentioned e-Auction as per schedule given vide column No. iv. Railway Administration reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason what so ever. Divisional Railway Manager (Comm.)/ ECR/Dhanbad PR/00246/DHN/Comm./N/24-25/52

EASTERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice No.: SANDT/COM/HWH/TN/02/111/2024, Date: 07.05.2024. Open Tender is invited through e-tendering procedure by Dy. Chief Signal & Telecomm Engineer (Con), Eastern Railway, Howrah, 371, Telikol Ghat Road, Howrah-711101 from experienced Signaling & Telecommunication Contractors holding valid contractor's license Partnership firm etc. with adequate financial capacity and sufficient experience for the following work: Tender No.: SANDT-CON-04-2024-HWH. Name of the work: Electronic Interlocking work at Kumbard Rohini and Deoghar Link Cabin stations and ancillary work in connection with any engineering activities in connection with bypass line at Jasidih in Asansol Division of Eastern Railway. Approx. Tender Value: ₹ 9,87,38,715. Cost of the Tender Document: ₹ 0. Earnest Money Deposit: ₹ 6,43,700 to be deposited in favour of FA&CAO/Con/Eastern Railway, Kolkata. Validity of offer and earnest money should be 60 days from date of opening of tender. Date & time of closing of tender: 31.05.2024 at 15.00 hrs. Completion period of the work: 12 (Twelve) months from the date of issue of LOA. The Tender documents can be down loaded and bids can be submitted at www.ireps.gov.in after on line payment of "Cost of Tender Document" and "Earnest Money" as mentioned above against this tender on or before the tender closing date and time mentioned above. Tenders complete in all respects and with all documents as stated above should be uploaded at www.ireps.gov.in against this tender. Bidding for the tender is to be submitted through e-tendering on above website. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender. Any manual offer if received shall not be accepted and will be summarily rejected. Tender Documents details of tender notice, corrigendum(s) issued from time to time (if any) and other basic information are available at www.ireps.gov.in. Detail tender notice can also be seen in the notice board of Dy. Chief Signal & Telecom Engineer/Con, Eastern Railway, Howrah, 371, Telikol Ghat Road, Howrah-711101. (CON-10/2024-25) Tender Notices are also available at website: www.er.indianrailways.gov.in/www.ireps.gov.in Follow us at: @EasternRailway easternrailwayheadquarter

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE
For and on behalf of the President of India Dy. Chief Signal & Telecom Engineer (C) North Western Railway, Jaipur invites E-Tenders against tender no.: SNT_C_BKN_24-25_02 (Two packet system). Name of work and its location: Part supply of material and execution of indoor-outdoor work related to provision of Electronic Interlocking and MSDAC based Automatic Block Signalling system between Manheru-Bawani Khawa in c/w doubling of MHU-BWK & BNR-BNW sections of Bikaner Division of North Western Railway. The work involves provision of new Electronic Interlockings at MANHERU, BHIWANI Junction (In Second Phase), BHAWANI KHERA, BHIWANI BYE PASS JUNCTION CABIN Stations and at Five Auto Signalling Huts (ALH) to control mid-section auto Signals and 7 Nos of mid-section LC gates. The work includes modification in M/s Kyoosan Make existing EI of BHIWANI Junction (in first phase) to suit patch doubling in MHU-BNW Section. The work also includes provision of dual MSDAC in Auto Section and associated works like trenching & laying of signalling and Telecom cables in pre-fabricated ducts/DWC/GI pipes, supply-installation of point machines, Apparatus cases, Electric Lifting Barrier Gate, Signals, Track circuit equipment, Earthing material, Data loggers, ELDs, FACS, AFDA, IoT based RPDMS, Passenger Amenity Telecom Items etc. Approximate Cost of the work: ₹ 64,75,04,619.68/-. Bid Security: ₹ 33,87,500.00/-. Pre bid conference: On 13.05.24 held at NWR HQ Office, Near Jawahar Circle, Jaipur. Date and Time for submission up to on www.ireps.gov.in: 03.06.2024 up to 15:00 Hrs. Website particulars and notice board location: www.ireps.gov.in and Dy. Chief Signal & Telecom Engineer (Const.) office, Kothi No. 30, opp. Dhola maru Hotel, Bikaner -334001. 532-AR/24 Follow us at: @NWRRailways NWRRailways

K Sudhakaran returns as KPCC chief

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, 8 MAY

After controversies and uncertainties, senior Congress leader K Sudhakaran returned as the president of the Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) on Wednesday.

Sudhakaran took over the charge of the Congress Kerala chief on Wednesday at the party's state headquarters, Indira Bhavan, in Thiruvananthapuram amidst much fanfare. His admirers and party workers accorded him a warm welcome at the party headquarters here by draping shawls and raising slogans.

However, Sudhakaran's assumption of office exposed the ongoing rift within the party's state unit. MM Hassan, who was made the acting president while Sudhakaran entered the fray in

Kannur during the Lok Sabha elections was conspicuous by his absence at Indira Bhavan. He expressed his displeasure regarding Hassan's absence during the event marking his takeover.

"MM Hassan should have been here. Such courtesy is the choice of the individual and beyond the party's diktat," Sudhakaran told media persons.

When media persons asked why the leader of the Opposition, VD Satheesan, had stayed away from his resumption of office, Sudhakaran said: "He is a multifaceted and busy person. I would have liked the presence of the entire top leadership. But I did not invite or notify anyone personally."

Before assuming office, Sudhakaran visited senior Congress leader A K Antony



at his residence here. Sudhakaran was supposed to return to the post on Sunday, but it got delayed by a few days due to reported opposition from a section within the party.

Sudhakaran did not publicly express his displeasure with the party high command's decision but his camp felt that he had been humiliated.

He said the KPCC would review some of the decisions

taken during MM Hassan's stint, including the reinstatement of MA Latheef, a Congress leader disciplined by the party on the charge of attempting to derail the election campaign of Congress candidate from Attingal, Adoor Prakash.

Sudhakaran evaded a question regarding why the decision to set aside organisational responsibilities while campaigning as a candidate applied solely to him and not to AICC general secretary KC Venugopal, who contested the Alappuzha Lok Sabha constituency.

Sudhakaran's return to the position of the KPCC chief was delayed for some time. There was a campaign going on in his favour and against him. Earlier, there were speculations that the national leadership is looking for a fresh face in

the state to hold the position of the party's Kerala chief. There were also reports that 'A' group leaders in the state are trying to use the delay in the decision as an opportunity to change Sudhakaran from the position. Earlier, Sudhakaran had expressed dissatisfaction over the delay in returning the post of KPCC president to him.

It is learnt that the intervention of some senior Congress leaders and pressure from K Sudhakaran himself forced the Congress national leadership to bring him back to the helm of the party. A section of senior Congress leaders, who backed Sudhakaran, conveyed the national leadership that if there is further dilly-dallying on Sudhakaran's return as the party chief, it would send a wrong message.

TN govt's career guidance programme for 12th pass students commences

AGENCIES
CHENNAI, 8 MAY

The Tamil Nadu government's 'College Dream' programme aimed at providing career guidance to students, who have passed the Class 12 board examination, commenced on Wednesday in various districts across the state, an official said.

Counselling began in Chennai, Tiruchi, Coimbatore, Nagapattinam, Madurai, Tirunelveli and Salem districts on Wednesday.

The 'College Dream' programme was launched by Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin in 2022 under the 'Nan Mudhalavan' scheme.

YS Sharmila Reddy says PM Modi neglected Andhra Pradesh's development, demands apology

AGENCIES
KADAPA, 8 MAY

Andhra Congress chief and Kadapa MP candidate YS Sharmila Reddy sent a radio message to Prime Minister Narendra Modi urging him to listen to the "Mann Ki Baat" of the people of Andhra Pradesh.

"You are not eligible to enter the state until you apol-



ogize to the people of Andhra Pradesh," she said.

"You have been deceiving the state for ten years, showing hypocritical affection during elections but neglecting development. We are presenting a charge sheet on

behalf of the people of Andhra Pradesh. If you dare, write an affidavit promising to fulfil the commitments made to the people of the state now," the APCC chief alleged.

Sharmila Reddy also posed ten questions regarding

Modi's actions over the past decade.

The questions included, "Parliament initially promised special status for the state but later reneged, betraying the state. Jagan initiated destructive actions on projects like Polavaram and is conspiring to reduce it further. Amaravati, the capital, remains incomplete after a decade. Attempts to sell Vishaka Steel, despite local opposition, show insincere intentions and promises like the Kadapa Steel Plant and Visakha Railway Zone were broken, causing injustice." "Allegations of a liquor syndicate and inaction on serious issues like adulterated

liquor and related deaths. Inaction on attacks and crimes against SCs and STs despite commitments to end their reservation nationally. Corruption in various sectors, including sand, liquor, minerals, illegal contracts, and mismanagement of funds. Failure of authorities like the CBI to act impartially highlights a breakdown in law and order. Failure to fulfil promises of job creation, impacts the youth and unemployed severely," the questions added.

"Mr. Modi, you owe an apology to the people of Andhra Pradesh every time you set foot on this land," Sharmila further concluded.

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY		SUPPLY OF STORES ITEMS THROUGH E-PROCUREMENT TENDERS				
TENDER NOTICE No.: S/2024/58		Date: 07.05.2024				
The Principal Chief Material Manager, North Western Railway, headquarter 3 rd floor, Near Jawahar Circle, Mahiya Nagar, Jaipur-302017 for and on behalf of the President of India invites Open E-tenders on www.ireps.gov.in site as follows. All the E-tenders will be closed at 14.25 hrs.						
Sr. No.	Tender No.	Brief Description	Qty Unit Due Date			
1	37241759	Slack adjuster complete type IRSA-600 without control rod	467 Nos 20.05.2024			
2	30242183	Primary spring inner for generator car to ALSTOM	645 Nos 21.05.2024			
3	10235011	Nickel Cadmium Battery storage unit (6V-150Ah) for Diesel Locomotives	06 Nos 22.05.2024			
4	60235525A	Mini Shunter (Battery operated Rail Cum Road Vehicle) as per specifications appended with this tender document	01 Nos 27.05.2024			
5	30240626	KNUCKLE AS PER FRONTIER ALLOY	120 Nos 27.05.2024			
6	30241047	Rear cover for axle box to ICF	8142 Nos 27.05.2024			
7	81230018B	Portable fire extinguishers DCP stored pressure type with nozzle/and discharge fitting for ABC class of fire having composite /ss/aluminium cylinder	2139 Nos 27.05.2024			
8	37231940B	Flap door arrangement complete	1289 Nos 28.05.2024			
9	50245048	Running contract for 12 Core x 1.5 sq mm Cable for a period of one year	2976 KM 30.05.2024			
10	30243147	OVER HAULING KIT FOR COCK	595 Set 30.05.2024			
11	30243033	DISTRIBUTOR VALVE KEPIPKSL WITH PRESSURE CONVERTOR FOR LHB.	46 Nos 03.06.2024			
12	50245033	Running Contract for power cable size 2c x 25 sq. mm. for a period of one year.	965.29 KM 24.06.2024			
CORRIGENDUM						
S. No.	Tender No.	NIT No.	Description	Amendment in nit	Existing Date	Extended date
1	60235507	S/2024/55 dt. 03.04.2024	Design, manufacturing, supply, installation, testing, commissioning and proving of paint booth spray system	Amendment in tender specifications	22.04.2024	13.05.2024
2	50235611	S/2024/56 dt. 15.04.2024	Existing Description	To be read as	06.05.2024	20.05.2024
Note: (1) Interested tenderers may visit the website www.ireps.gov.in for Full details/Description/Specification/ EMD & tender cost etc. All tenderers are requested to obtain digital signatures and get them registered on above site and quote electronically only. (2) For viewing and participating in other tenders such as open tender costing below Rs. 25 Lakh, limited tenders, special limited tenders and low value tenders, please visit www.ireps.gov.in						

REVISED COMPOSITION OF ASANSOL-ANAND VIHAR (T)-ASANSOL SPECIAL TRAIN FOR ONE TRIP

Due to operational reason, 03575/03576 Asansol-Anand Vihar (T)-Asansol Special train will run by following revised composition (ICF rake) for one trip on the dates mentioned below : 03575 Asansol-Anand Vihar (T) Special will run by revised composition on (JCO) 10.05.2024 and 03576 Anand Vihar (T)-Asansol Special will run by revised composition on (JCO) 11.05.2024. • Revised composition for one trip only: AC 2-Tier - 03, AC 3-Tier - 07, Sleeper Class - 09, General Second Class (GS) - 03, SLRD - 02 = 24 coaches. • On and from 17.05.2024, the train will run with the same composition (LHB rake) as notified earlier. All other instructions will remain same. Chief Passenger Transportation Manager Eastern Railway Follow us at: @EasternRailway easternrailwayheadquarter

DIVERSION OF TRAINS

For Rolling Corridor Block Programme of Vijayawada Division from 27.05.2024 to 23.06.2024, following Express Trains will be diverted as under: • 22643 Ernakulam - Patna Superfast Express (JCO 27/05, 03/06, 10/06, 17/06/2024) and 12509 SMVT Bengaluru - Guwahati Superfast Express (JCO 29/05, 31/05, 05/06, 07/06, 12/06, 14/06, 19/06, 21/06/2024) will be diverted via Vijayawada-Guduvada - Bhimavaram Town - Nidadavolu • 12376 Jasidih - Tambaram Weekly Superfast Express (JCO 29/05, 05/06, 12/06, 19/06/2024) will be diverted via Nidadavolu - Bhimavaram Town-Guduvada-Vijayawada. Inconvenience is regretted. Chief Passenger Transportation Manager Eastern Railway Follow us at: @EasternRailway easternrailwayheadquarter

K'taka DyCM Shivakumar slams Kumaraswamy



AGENCIES
BENGALURU, 8 MAY

Karnataka Congress chief and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Wednesday slammed former CM and JD(S) state chief H.D. Kumaraswamy over the alleged obscene video scandal.

Speaking to reporters in Chikkamagaluru, Shivakumar said, "If Kumaraswamy has any shame left, he should

first meet the families of victims of the alleged sex scandal and pacify them and give courage to them... People say many victims are JD(S) leaders," he added.

Reacting to charges by Kumaraswamy that SIT has been turned into the 'Shivakumar, Siddaramaiah and Surjewala Investigating Team', the DYCM called Kumaraswamy the king of blackmail and alleged that he is threatening the officers.

"Let him (Kumaraswamy) come to the session and discuss the matter in the Assembly. Before that, let him stand by his words. Kumaraswamy said that his name and his father, former PM.H.D. Deve Gowda's name should not be taken as H.D. Revanna's family had no connection and they are separated. Kumaraswamy also stated that one who commits wrong will have to be punished," Shivakumar said.



Congratulations to all Ram devotees of the state! As per the earlier promise, the registration of the land allotted to the Uttarakhand government at Sri Ayodhyaपुरी, the holy birthplace of Lord Shri Ram, has been done today. Uttarakhand has become the first state to do so.

UTTARAKHAND CHIEF MINISTER PUSHKAR SINGH DHAMI
AT A PRESS BRIEFING

Controversial remarks: BJP leaders tear into Sam Pitroda

The comments have become the centre of yet another controversy at the peak of India's election season

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 8 MAY

Indian Overseas Congress Chairman and Rahul Gandhi's mentor Sam Pitroda sparked a fresh controversy with his remarks in an interview with The Statesman that people in South India "look like Africans," those in the East resemble "Chinese," and those in the West resemble "Arabs."

The BJP slammed Pitroda over his remarks on Wednesday and demanded that Congress leader Gandhi apologise for his mentor's remarks and if the grand old party cannot distance itself from a man that displaces this kind of deep-rooted racism against Indians, then the party should remove him from his official position.

In the interview with 'The Statesman', Pitroda, while speaking on India's diversity, said, "We have survived 75 years in a very happy environment where people could live together, leaving aside a few



fighters here and there. We could hold a country together as diverse as India, where people in the East look like Chinese, people in the West look like Arab, people in the North look like white and maybe people in the South look like Africans... doesn't matter. We are all brothers and sisters."

"We all respect different languages, religions, looks, customs, and food. That's the India I believe in where everybody has a place," he said.

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said in her post on X, "I am from South

India. I look Indian! My team has enthusiastic members from north-east India. They look Indian! My colleagues from west India look Indian! But, for the racist who is the mentor of Rahul Gandhi we all look African, Chinese, Arab and the White! Thanks for revealing your mindset and your attitude. I.N.D.I alliance's shame!"

Assam Chief Minister and chairman of the BJP-led North East Democratic Alliance Himanta Biswa Sarma said, "Sam bhai. I am from the North East and I look like an Indian. We are a diverse coun-

try—we may look different but we are all one. Hamare desh ke bare mein thoda to samajh lo (learn about our nation abit)!" Manipur's BJP Chief Minister N Biren Singh took a more aggressive stance and called the statement "racist."

Addressing a press conference at the party headquarters in Delhi, BJP MP Sudhanshu Trivedi said, "...Today, Sam Pitroda, to whom Rahul Gandhi is a disciple, has given a very objectionable statement on India, its culture, India's identity and the identity of its people. It seems that this subject isn't limited only to elections or politics but to the existence of India, as they are questioning the very identity of the country."

He further said, "I am saying it again since the leadership of the Congress was assumed by those of foreign origin, they started looking at Indians in the North, South, East, and West as of foreign origin. Congress' mindset is clear, their concept is 'Bharat ko andar setodo, bahare jodo'..."

Union Minister Rajeev Chandrasekhar said, "... This is to be condemned. This reveals that the Congress party is inherently today focused on dividing India, dividing Indians on caste, creed, identity, and geography... You (Congress) cannot distance yourself from a man who displays this kind of deep-rooted racism against Indians. You cannot distance yourself. You have to either remove from that position and officially say that Congress apologises for what a senior leader has said... I ask the Congress CMs of South India - Siddaramaiah and Revanth Reddy. I ask the INDI Alliance leaders of South India - Stalin and Pinarayi Vijayan - to challenge Sam Pitroda... Let Rahul Gandhi apologise for his mentor's words..."

BJP IT Cell in charge Amit Malviya said Rahul Gandhi's mentor and political adviser Sam Pitroda demeaned the people of India, comparing them to Chinese, Arabs and Africans, among others.

Every political party committed to ensure PoK returns to India: EAM Jaishankar

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, 8 MAY

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Wednesday said that every political party in the country is committed to ensure that PoK, which is a part of India, returns to India, and that "the PoK issue has come to the front of people's thinking" after revocation of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir, which was considered a difficult decision.

Interacting with students at the Gargi College here, the minister said that people assumed Article 370 could not be changed as the politics of the day had driven it deeply into the public consciousness. Article 370, which gave special status to Jammu and Kashmir, was abrogated by the BJP-led government in August 2019. "Take even (Article) 370, people just assume 370 cannot be changed and this is something we have to accept because the politics of the day have driven it very deeply into public consciousness. Now we see, once we change it then the entire ground situation changes," Jaishankar said.

"All I can say with respect to PoK (is) that there is a par-



liament resolution, every political party of this country is committed to ensure PoK, which is a part of India, returns to India. This actually is our national commitment but I do want to say one thing. I didn't use to get people ask us about this ten years ago, or even five years ago. It is when we have put 370 to rest, now people understand, yes PoK is also important," he added.

Jaishankar said the first prerequisite for something happening is first it must be in your thoughts. "What has happened today is that because we have finally taken the right decision on 370, in the minds of our own people today, the PoK issue has come to the front of their thinking. As they say, the first prerequisite for something happening is first it must be in your thoughts, once it is in your thoughts, the rest will cer-

tainly happen at some point," he said. Meanwhile, in the wake of the deteriorating economic situation in Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir, political and human rights organizations have invoked a long march and called for a sit-in on May 11 to raise the issues faced by the locals in Muzaffarabad in PoJK.

The United Kashmir People's National Party (UKPNP) and Joint Awami Action Committee (JAAC), in a joint statement released earlier, announced that the march will raise issues like skyrocketing inflation, severe unemployment, revocation of subsidies on wheat and flour, unjustified load shedding, exploitation of PoJK's natural resources and special and unjust privileges being given to the civil bureaucracy in PoJK. Stressing that people have not received their wages and pensions, Amjad Ayub Mirza, a PoJK activist said, "And now to sabotage the sit-in, the Pakistani administration has ordered the puppet PM of PoK Chaudhry Anwarul Haq to issue a request for the deployment of Punjab province police and frontal corps in PoJK."

'Congress playing the politics of negativism'

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
BHUBANESWAR, 8 MAY

Defence Minister and senior BJP leader Rajnath Singh on Wednesday hit out at the Congress accusing the grand-old party of playing politics of negativism.

Addressing a poll rally at Bhawanipatna in Odisha's Kalahandi Lok Sabha constituency, Singh launched a broadside at Congress on national security issue citing the statement of a senior leader of the party on the recent terrorist attack in Jammu and Kashmir.

"Congress always played the politics of negativism. In Jammu and Kashmir, terrorists attacked an army convoy.

A senior Congress minister from Punjab Charanjit Singh Channi said that it was an 'election stunt'. Does it mean we orchestrated a ter-



rorist attack on our army?" he questioned.

"What are these people doing with national security and 'swabhiman' (pride)? Acts of terrorism were occurring in the past in almost all parts of the country. But terrorism has almost been wiped out after the BJP-led government came to power at the Centre," he stressed.

"Terrorism incidents are now taking place, but these are few and far. Recently, a jawan of the air force was martyred. But our jawan displaying courage and valour neutralised

two terrorists immediately," he said. "The PM's resolve is that no place remains out of the focus of development because we want India to be a developed country. Unless all regions are developed, the Vikshit Bharat dream will not be realized," he said addressing the rally.

Singh said Congress has ruled the country for the longest term right from Jawaharlal Nehru, Indira Gandhi, Rajiv Gandhi to Manmohan Singh. "All of them claimed that poverty will be eradicated if they come to power. For 50 to 55 years, they ruled with absolute power. But India's poverty has not been eradicated," he added.

But after PM Narendra Modi came to power, the Government has succeeded in uplifting 25 crore people from poverty line in the last 9 to ten years, he claimed.

'Congress now dividing country on the basis of colour & region'

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
AMETHI, 8 MAY

Union Minister and BJP candidate from Amethi, Smriti Irani has said that the Congress party, which has been dividing this country in the name of religion and caste, is now dividing our countrymen on the basis of who belongs to which color and which region.

"This party has the audacity to divide and insult them," she said.

In a statement here on Wednesday Smriti Irani said that Sam Pitroda's statement reflects the thinking of Gandhi family and Rahul Gandhi towards the nation.

Kapil Sibal attacks EC on PM Modi's Ram Temple remark

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, 8 MAY

Weighing in on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's charge at the Congress that it was planning to put a 'Babri lock' on the Ram Temple in Ayodhya if elected, Rajya Sabha MP and senior advocate Kapil Sibal on Wednesday questioned if it was, at all, feasible.

Invoking expelled Congress leader Acharya Pramod Krishnam's big claim against Rahul Gandhi, that he planned to overturn the Supreme Court verdict on the Ram Temple; PM Modi urged people to give the BJP-led NDA "400 seats so that the Congress cannot



put the Babri lock on the Ram Mandir in Ayodhya".

Speaking to ANI on Wednesday, the former Congress leader said, "Is it possible to put a Babri lock be put on the Ram Mandir? Ask the PM: is this prediction? How is this possible? The Election Commission is vested with the powers to put a lock on such statements but it doesn't do it. This statement should be

deemed a clear violation of the Model Code of Conduct (MCC). The EC has the power to put a lock on such star campaigners but doesn't have the guts to do so, as it is also a part of the 'parivar' these days. They become a part of the family during elections. Who isn't? All so-called independent agencies are with the family these days."

Addressing a mega meeting at Dhar in Madhya Pradesh earlier, PM Modi said he wanted a 400-seat mandate for the BJP-led NDA to ensure the Congress does not bring back Article 370 in Kashmir and put a 'Babri lock' on the Ram temple in Ayodhya.

Also responding to PM

Modi's statement that it was time for the people to decide if they stand with 'vote jihad' or 'Ram Rajya', Sibal said such statements can't help him realise his goal of a 'Viksit Bharat'. "He (PM Modi) said the people should choose between 'vote jihad' and 'Ram Rajya'. What kind of statement is this? Will this lead to 'Vikas'? Will this give you 'saath' of all communities and sections? His public statements are in stark contrast with what he claims he stands for. This is unfortunate. You are the PM of the world's largest democracy. Such statements can't make us 'Viksit Bharat'. I urge you not to air such views," Sibal added.

Rajasthan govt to reach out to UK govt to find out names of 24 martyrs of 1857 Revolt

AGENCIES
JAIPUR, 8 MAY

The Rajasthan Government is all set to highlight the contribution of the desert state in the 1857 Revolt and plans to reach out to the UK Government to find the names of 24 freedom fighters who were killed in Pali District's Auwa Village and who remain unsung till date, said officials.

The state government also plans to declare the places associated with the martyrs who rebelled against the British, as heritage villages and

install their statues there.

This work has been assigned to Rajasthan Heritage Conservation and Promotion Authority.

Omkar Lakhawat, Chairman of the Authority said that in the Auwa case, the British had imposed death penalty on 24 revolutionaries and conducted a court martial of rebel soldiers, but the names of the 24 freedom fighters were never made public.

"Now we will raise this demand from the UK Government to make these names public," he added.

The state government is searching for the records of the 24 freedom fighters who were blown up by cannons in Auwa Village during the revolution.

All related documents are being scrutinised in the Archaeological Survey of India archives as well as in England, going beyond borders.

As the UK Government did not reveal the names of the martyrs hence no information is available about their descendants, said officials.

In 1857, when the revolution was spreading across

the country, Auwa in Pali District, triggered panic among the British due to its war acumen.

The tale of Thakur Khushal Singh as the commander of the revolutionaries still echoes in every corner of Auwa Village. In 1857, a military rebellion started in Erinpura in Rajasthan and the rebel soldiers marched towards Delhi via Auwa to participate in the freedom struggle.

Thakur Khusal Singh gave shelter to the rebel soldiers and angered by this, the British army along with the Jodhpur army attacked Auwa.

Triangular contest for Ladakh Lok Sabha seat a cause of concern for Buddhist leaders

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, 8 MAY

As the contest for the lone Lok Sabha seat of Ladakh has turned triangular, top Buddhist leaders in Leh are trying hard to conciliate the BJP and Congress candidates to prevent the division of votes of the community.

Both the BJP candidate, Tashi Gyalson, and the Congress candidate, Tsering Namgyal, hail from the Buddhist community of Leh against whom the Shia Muslim community of Kargil district has fielded a single candidate, Haji Hanifa Jan, who belongs to the National Conference (NC). Defying the NC's directive to withdraw from the election arena and leave the seat for the Congress to contest, Jan has filed his papers as an independent.

There were reports that the President of the Ladakh Buddhist Association (LBA), Chering Dorjee Lakrook, and a former MP and a highly respected Buddhist leader, Thuptsan Chhewang, are making efforts to prevent division of votes in their community but it has turned



out to be a ticklish exercise. A video of Chhewang has gone viral in Ladakh in which he is seen expressing concern over having only one Shia candidate from Kargil against two Buddhists from Leh. Once the seat goes out of the hands of Leh, it will be lost forever by us, he says.

There were reports that Chhewang has appealed to the LBA and all Gompas (monasteries) to work out some strategy to have only one Buddhist candidate to defeat the candidate from Kargil. Electoral conflict erupted in Ladakh when the BJP denied ticket to its sitting MP Jamyang Namgyal and declared Gyalson, the

chairman of the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC), as the party's candidate. Jamyang initially announced that he would contest the election as an independent, but he's now campaigning for the BJP's official candidate.

Meanwhile, all parties in the Kargil district have united and announced Jan as their candidate. They have not paid any heed to the appeal of the NC chief Dr Farooq Abdullah to allow a direct contest between INDIA bloc candidate Tsering Namgyal and BJP's Gyalson.

Jan continues to be in the field for the poll on 20 May and it has become the cause

of concern for the Congress that was allocated the Ladakh seat for contest under the seat-sharing formula of the INDIA bloc. Other two Shia Muslim candidates of Kargil have already withdrawn their papers to support Jan. What was most worrying for the Congress leadership was that the party's Kargil district leadership was also rallying behind Jan.

However, NC is being portrayed as the villain by the BJP whose national general secretary Tarun Chugh accused Dr Farooq Abdullah and Omar Abdullah of having shown their true colours by "deceiving" the Congress in Ladakh and also PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti by denying her party even a single seat in J&K.

It is also being said that the situation in Ladakh was a retake of the 2009 Lok Sabha polls when the NC officially supported Congress candidate P Namgyal. However, behind the scenes, Ghulam Hassan Khan, an independent candidate belonging to Kargil got elected due to the division of votes in Leh.



The Statesman

We are hiring for our Kolkata, Delhi, Bhubaneswar and Siliguri offices

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Candidates should be graduate. Well conversant in Media Marketing and sales. Minimum 10 to 15 years' experience with maximum age limit of 50 years as on 31.05.2024.

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CMYK

Healthy relationship is foundation of peace

Viet Nam News reporter Khánh Duong speaks to Nguyen Van Anh, director of the Centre for Studies and Applied Sciences in Gender, Family, Women and Adolescent (CSAGA) on the sidelines of an ASEAN dialogue on Women, Peace and Security regional plan of action in Jakarta, Indonesia late last month.

I am excited to know that Viet Nam is among 107 first countries in the world to approve the National Action Plan on WPS. WPS National Action Plan's approval by a peaceful country currently without wars like Viet Nam has made our important contributions to the regional and global action plans.

It will act as a navigation for the region and the world regarding women in peace and security. It has been believed that women must be positioned behind men, stay at home, in the kitchen for cooking. Women can't stay at the frontline to take on major national and regional tasks. Those stereotypes have been existing for thousands of years and it is extremely difficult to change them. In fact, everyone can see that women's ability is as good as men. The problem is that they do not have favourable conditions. Those stereotypes have left women behind. Female leaders have to face more stereotypes than male leaders. They must complete domestic chores, be good wives and daughters-in-law.

I think we have to change those stereotypes through communication to empower women. Viet Nam has paid due attention to female participation in peacekeeping force and in

Việt Nam News

fact we have a relatively high proportion of female peacekeepers. As I observed, the female troop's quality is not inferior to men's. Vietnamese female peacekeepers are proud of their position. That's their strength. I think the most emerging problem of Viet Nam now is gender-based violence and inequality.

We must promote women leadership so that women have the same opportunities as men, even more because they have to take on the duty of giving birth, breastfeeding and child raising. The biggest difficulty is to create favourable conditions for them and encourage them.

At first we need to start from educating girls or promoting women's supportive policies. For example, a woman who has a baby to care but has to travel far for a meeting.

Do we have policy to create conditions for them to take care of the child, bring her/him along on the business trip or have a babysitter so that women can engage in social work without thinking over domestic tasks.

Someone has said the human race is like a bird with two wings, and if one wing is broken, no one can fly. We need both men and women's participation. I'd love to say that a healthy relationship is the basic foundation of peace.

Talking about gender equality, we must get men involved. Women's efforts alone are not enough. In general, men's gender equality movements in the world are not as strong as women's. Men seem to stay out of the box as everything is favourable to them. Men must end violence in various forms on women, from sexual harassment to unequal treatment.

When men are aware that that is their benefit, they will get involved. In an unharmonised family where violence exists, the atmosphere is of course not good, affecting the young generation and the family's economics. When we look wider at the situation of a nation and the world, if women are respected, do not suffer from violence and are encouraged to live with their aspirations, men will also feel the sharing.

Chemical threats

International law has prohibited the use of chemical weapons under The Hague Convention. The Organization of Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, based at the Hague, works relentlessly towards disposal of chemical weapons, but a lot still needs to be done. As of 2021, 98.39 per cent of the world's declared chemicals weapons stockpiles have been destroyed. But there still exist a substantial number of countries with declared stockpiles of CW



The United States has vehemently accused Russia of using chemical weapons recently against Ukraine in violation of the existing global ban. In point of fact, the US State department reiterates categorically that Russia has used chloropicrin, an extremely poisonous gas in the war. The State department also emphasized that the US would impose sanctions on three state entities linked to Russia's chemical and biological weapons programmes and four companies that support these illegal activities.

Russia on the other hand, denied the allegations as odious and unsubstantiated, stating that the nation remains committed to its obligations under international law. Ukraine however said that for the last several weeks Russian forces have used chloropicrin and other tear gases continuously in violation of international law, and sought its condemnation in the strongest terms.

It bears recall that the decision taken by the US to dispose of its last chemical weapon stockpile some time back is commendable. Stockpiling of chemical weapons (CW) and its disposal is a major threat to this planet. Chemical weapons including blister agents like chloropicrin, phosgene, nerve agents sarin, VX, soman etc, blood agents cyanogens chloride, hydrogen cyanide and biological weapons are handled by many belligerent countries of the world.

International law has prohibited the use of chemical weapons under The Hague Convention. The Organization of Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), based in the Hague, works relentlessly towards disposal of chemical weapons of the country possessing the same, but a lot still needs to be done. As of 2021, 98.39 per cent of the world's declared chemicals weapons stockpiles have been destroyed.

But there still exist a substantial number of countries with declared stockpiles of CW. Non-signatory nations with suspected stockpiles of CW include Israel and North Korea. Disposal

and mass destruction of chemical weapons is absolutely imperative to save our planet. Chemical weapons are one part of the story of the hazards faced by mankind. The international conference on waste management and recycling concluded in Sofia, Bulgaria a few years back with particular focus on chemical waste disposal and recycling technology transfer. Chemical waste disposal and its sustainable management assume alarming proportions in India. The huge chemical pollution in Ganga river for decades is a matter of grave concern. Waste discharge from a large number of factories, including pharmaceuticals, chemicals, paper, leather, sugar and cotton, incredibly aggravated the situation. It is extremely unfortunate that the sacred river is being used as a substitute for a drain.

Almost all developing countries are confronting chemical waste disposal problems formidably, including storage of chemical weapons. A large legacy of abandoned hazardous sites, unregulated waste dumping and a low priority given to environmental issues are part of the history of our world.

Owing to more sensitive general public and health concerns, all countries must take the chemical waste disposal issues very seriously and develop more cogent ideas for underground disposal, considering its technical barriers, legal basis, waste characterization and conditioning. This includes assessment of isolation of chemical waste safely from the environment and the development of sophisticated eco-friendly technologies.

Even waste chemicals of the laboratories of schools, colleges, universities, research institutions and hospitals have to be handled very carefully and need to be disposed of with great care.

In formal educational institutions little or no education and training is imparted about chemical safety.

There are different ways to achieve disposal, especially for chemical waste from pharmaceutical factories and processing plants. They encompass incineration, chemical waste recycling, and chemical neutralization and land disposal.

Landfills are considered to be safe, because they are deep in the ground and non-biodegradable. Adequate measures should be taken to ensure recycling and safety of chemical waste. The waste should not be allowed to contaminate oceans, rivers and ambient air. Although millions of chemical compounds are known, only a small number have been tested as far as their toxicity is concerned. Chemical hazards may occur during the storage of ingredients, transportation, manufacture, handling, experimentation or even during the disposal of waste products. Toxic chemicals may be present in gaseous state, liquids, solid or dust. The chemicals often find their entry into the body of human beings during breathing, swallowing or when in contact with the skin.

Inhalation or breathing process is perhaps the most common route through which toxic chemical substances enter our body and mix with the blood stream. Some corrosive chemical ingredients may be responsible for acute skin disease or prolonged exposure to certain carcinogenic chemicals may lead to cancer.

Bhopal city in India experienced the worst disaster in the world resulting from the leakage of a highly toxic chemical gas, methyl isocyanate commonly known as MIC.

MIC is an ingredient necessary for the preparation of pesticides. The massive tragic inci-

dent caused thousands to die, while several thousand became blind. Methyl isocyanate is a colourless liquid, which is used extensively in the preparation of polyurethane foams, and in the production of plastics and some pesticides.

Occupational health hazards are not necessarily confined within the four walls of factories. It has been reported that occupational chemical hazards can often lead to abortion, low fertility or even impotence. Some chemicals are responsible for birth defects in newborn babies.

Prolonged exposure to lead, mercury, organic lead compound and radiation from x-rays, carbon monoxide, chloroform used in the manufacture of rubber, cadmium, chromates, fiberglass, silica, pesticides etc. can cause occupational hazards to workers of chemical and pharmaceutical industries.

The chemical substances and their toxic effects are usually perceived. The nature of nuclear waste produced in nuclear power plants are different in nature and may raise specific problems of disposal.

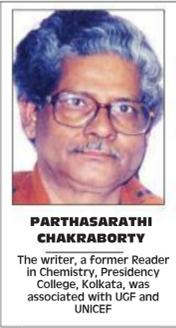
Their toxic effects on living organisms are imperceptible; slowly but steadily they pollute the environment if no precautionary measures are adopted right from the beginning.

Eco-friendly, regulated chemical and radioactive waste disposal is imperative with the use of sophisticated technology.

As the mechanism of handling, storing and management of radioactive wastes are extremely intricate, it transpires that setting up of underground laboratories for carrying out measurement, experiments and grading of radioactive wastes is indispensable.

Chemical weapons should be banned. We should try to keep our earth free from chemical, radioactive and other pollution and maintain ecological balance to provide a decent sustainable habitat not only for future generations of humans but also for all living creatures.

editor@thestatesman.com



PARTHASARATHI CHAKRABORTY
The writer, a former Reader in Chemistry, Presidency College, Kolkata, was associated with UGC and UNICEF

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Water crisis

SIR, The grave situation of water scarcity in the country is indicated by the fact that water reservoirs have reported an average storage of only 28 per cent of their capacity in the beginning of May.

It is likely to worsen in the coming days as the rainy season is a month or two away depending on the region of the country.

So, what is required or possible in these circumstances is to conserve and stretch the available water resources till rains start filling them by efficient and judicious use. Thereafter, in order to ensure adequate water availability throughout the year many challenges need to be addressed on priority. Traditional agricultural practices followed in India consume significant amounts of water; we need to change them.

We must revive traditional waterbodies such as lakes and ponds affected by rapid urbanisation and unplanned large scale

construction activities. We must stop polluting rivers and natural water bodies by letting in untreated sewage and waste waters, carry out regular desilting operations of water bodies to store more rain water and control excessive ground water extraction beyond its natural recharging capacity. More importantly, we must construct a network of reservoirs all over the country for storing large quantities of rain water that flows into oceans; over 70 per cent of India's rivers drain into the Bay of Bengal.

Yours, etc., Dr O Prasada Rao, Hyderabad, 6 May.

CONGRESS IN UP

SIR, This refers to your editorial, "To Rae Bareilly", published today. The Gandhis have ended weeks of suspense and chosen Rae Bareilly over Amethi for Rahul Gandhi.

There is no doubt Rae Bareilly is a safer seat than Amethi in the current electoral context.

The Gandhis not contesting from either of these seats would

MANIPUR IN CRISIS

SIR, It is going to be about a year that Manipur has been in turmoil with no sign of peace in sight for the people of the unfortunate state. Law and order has gone for a toss with random killings continuing along with snatching of arms from para-military personnel and attacks on police stations. Even on election day there were some polling booths where people were not allowed to vote and the EVMs along with their equipment and furniture was damaged. There is news of people having lost confidence in the official police and security arrangements and organising themselves into vigilante forces to look after the security of their villages and their families. This clearly shows that there is no functional government of any kind in Manipur. While the rest of the nation involves itself in the jamboree of the Lok Sabha elections, the people of Manipur continue to live in dread and fear.

Yours, etc., S Kamat, Mysore, 7 May.

have sent a bad political message and would have shattered the confidence of Congress workers.

In the eventuality of Rahul Gandhi winning both Wayanad and Rae Bareilly, he will have to leave either of the two.

It would be better if he retains Wayanad to concentrate on the 2026 Kerala assembly elections and leaves Rae Bareilly for his

sister Priyanka Vadra to contest in a by-poll. By adopting this strategy, the Gandhis would be able to revive the Congress in Uttar Pradesh.

Yours, etc., Bal Govind, Noida, 6 May.

WATER TABLE

SIR, Crop diversification in the paddy growing states of Punjab,

Haryana and UP, is badly needed failing which we are going to face an acute shortage of fresh water due to continuing depletion of the water table.

Farmers have always shown reluctance towards shifting to alternate crops, inspite of it being well known that the water table is depleting day by day in these states. The big farmers have to take the first step in this highly needed initiative as they can afford to experiment by sowing alternative crops.

So, they must take the lead in adopting crops other than paddy to show the way to others.

The agriculture departments of the state governments along with other experts should use their resources to guide farmers in adopting alternative crops giving them all the details of produce, saleability and commercial viability of alternate crops so that they are confident of not incurring any losses.

Yours, etc., Sanjay Chopra, Mohali, 6 May.

Campus protests and the Naxal movement

BASAB DASGUPTA

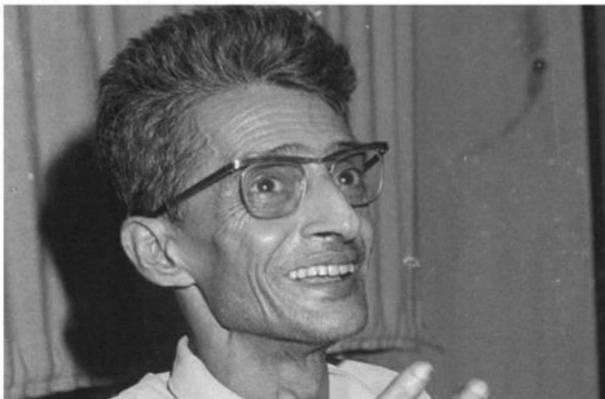
All the anti-Israel protests, demonstrations, violent activities, school closures and disruptions of academic lives going on in campuses of prestigious US universities bring back memories of the infamous Naxalbari movement that I experienced during my college life in the late 1960s.

The purpose of my essay is not to give a political analysis of causes and possible solutions to these crises, which are fundamentally different, but to offer a personal account of how the Naxalbari uprising affected my life and infer possible consequences of the present turmoil based on that experience.

I attended the Presidency College (PC), now Presidency University, in Kolkata for my undergraduate education. At that time, it was arguably one of the best if not the best undergraduate college in India. It was ironic that, during our third year, it became the breeding ground of the Naxalite movement.

The uprising started with an armed movement by rural peasants against landlords in the northern part of West Bengal. The architect of the movement behind the scenes was a group belonging to CPI-Marxist (later officially established as the CPI-Marxist Leninist group) led by Charu Mazumdar (photo), Kanu Sanyal and others, who were inspired by Mao Zedong's ideology with a grand plan of an armed revolution against the wealthy elite class.

I do not remember how it became a students' movement except that some Naxal leaders, including Ashim Chatterjee (aka "Kaka") were students at PC. PC was completely shut down with gates locked for almost four months with no classes, no exams, no access to lab or library and no graduation or any other ceremony. Many US campuses have



recently cancelled classes for the sake of safety of students and gone to remote teaching.

We did not have the luxury of a remote learning option using Zoom, but some professors secretly held classes in private residences. I do not know how beneficial the Naxal movement was and to whom, but it certainly affected me.

Basically, I lost one year of the prime phase of my life, both from an academic as well as social point of view. I could have graduated a year earlier, perhaps married a year earlier or not married at all and studied some other subjects for a year. In quantitative terms, I lost one year's salary.

However, the most damaging impact on me was disenchantment with not only student life but daily life in Kolkata since the movement spread beyond colleges. It seemed that there was no value in education and no hope for the future. I can honestly say that I did not come to the US for higher education; I came here to flee all the despair I felt. Some of my classmates went to universities outside Kolkata for their post-graduate schooling for the same reason. In any

event, that was the beginning of the decline in the prestige and reputation of the PC.

I do not know how my life would have progressed had it not been for all these disturbances. I do not know if I would have made my parents happy if I stayed in India, taken good care of them during their final years of life and helped them live a more peaceful life. At the very least, I could have been at their deathbed and performed their last rituals following the rigor described in scriptures.

On the positive side, it made me much more aware of politics. I realized that what I saw starting out as a conflict of ideologies in the college union election between the Students' Federation, an arm of the Communist party and the right leaning Presidency College Students' Organization was really a microcosm of the greater battle between capitalism and communism, people who owned land and people who farmed land, evolution and revolution, freedom to dream and a forced ideology of equality. I became aware of the plight, poverty, exploitation and lack of political power of the farmers.

The similarity between the Naxal movement and the current anti-Israel protests by students sympathetic to Palestine and Gaza is that in both cases the events have nothing to do with students' education and careers. If the intentions were to raise awareness of the general student body of what is going on in other parts of the world outside their comfort zone, a couple of days of demonstrations would have been sufficient.

Just like the Naxal movement, there seems to be a more profound hidden agenda of a power group which is to provoke and influence young minds at best schools to make them participate in their causes, perhaps resulting in a jihad. These students are easy targets; people are most compassionate in their youth and anxious to do something for the good of mankind. Typically, they are inexperienced in worldly affairs and ignorant of history and politics. In both cases, it was not the student bodies themselves but outsiders who created the crisis.

Protests and demonstrations had always been around on college campuses. What made the Naxal movement different was the implicit threat of violence and the long duration over a wide-spread area covering multiple states. The present anti-Israel movements are showing some of the same signs.

Some of the aftermaths are predictable. Future students will shy away from applying to universities like Columbia, Harvard and UCLA, especially since they are not cheap. It is already happening with the admission process for the 2024-25 academic year. Some of these prestigious campuses will become breeding grounds for a radical segment whose intentions might be ideologically appealing but far from being realistic as far as practical implementation is concerned and will eventually end in a sad, unproductive way. The personal lives of many students will irrevocably change

in terms of their professional aspirations, personal relationships and even patriotic feelings.

Yes, these movements will make American college students, who are typically preoccupied with dating, drinking beer, sporting events and spring breaks as their extracurricular activities, much more aware of the harsh realities of people in Gaza, history of Israel, Holocaust and global politics.

Unlike the Naxal movement, the present movement may also lead to a more fundamental positive change in the higher education system in the US. I always felt that the Ivy league and similarly ranked universities exist and function because of their reputation and history. They charge enormous amounts of tuition fees and deliver little. Students at these schools excel in their studies because they are smart to begin with and the competitive spirit with fellow students who are all smart (since the schools admit only smart students) forces them to do well.

Students graduating from these schools succeed professionally because of the name recognition of their schools and subsequent acceptance/mentoring by others who also graduated from similar schools and hold important positions in various sectors.

They also feel a sense of entitlement just because they have spent big money on their education: that they have the right to get better jobs, live in better neighbourhoods and have a good life. This mindset encourages geographical segregation and classification in social strata. If the big-name universities lose their glamour because of the current unrest and smart students get dispersed across other universities, eventually there could be some equity in education and subsequent collective living whether anyone learns anything about Gaza or not.

(The writer, a physicist who worked in academia and industry, is a Bengali settled in America.)

Will a 'lattice-like architecture' work?

WANG SON-TAEK

Rahm Emanuel, the US ambassador to Japan, introduced the concept of "lattice-like architecture," which can be a new US alliance management system in the Indo-Pacific region, replacing the current "hub-and-spokes" system. Emanuel explained that the new system will help allies in the Indo-Pacific area work together and increase collective deterrence to counter China's coercive and aggressive behaviour. The concept metaphorically describes several small-size cooperation groups, including the Korea-US-Japan trilateral cooperation, the US-Japan-Philippines trilateral cooperation, the AUKUS with Japan, and the Quad.

Though Ambassador Emanuel stressed the positive aspects of the concept, it should be carefully reviewed as it might cause problems in the future. It is also necessary to analyse the idea from the perspective of Korea, where alliance with the United States is the backbone of security.

Firstly, we need to see whether the term "lattice-like architecture" is appropriate for this situation. There should be patterns of triangles, squares, or diamonds among the allies of the US. However, the reality is that there are many mini-lateral cooperation groups that differ only in their third or fourth member, while the United States and Japan exist as constants. This is not a lattice-like structure but an extended form of the "hub-and-spokes" system.



In international politics, a lattice-type architecture may refer to a structure in which elements participating in a repeating pattern are interconnected in equal relationships. It does not require a separate central hub or axes. The concept might be attractive to general members, but it is not lucrative for a hegemon like the US.

Second, the US government needs to worry about whether other countries in the Indo-Pacific region will respond favourably to the new arrangement, in which Japan is a constant member if not a forward axis. As a country that waged war in the past, Japan has not sincerely apologized to the countries it victimized and has shown an acceptable attitude toward preventing the recurrence of similar incidents. It is not easy to predict that there will be a positive future for a multinational cooperation institution initiated by such a country.

In the case of South Korea, there is still strong negative sentiment toward Japan, so a structure under Japanese command is unlikely to be welcomed.

Third, it is crucial to examine whether the US anticipation that the new lattice-like structure will help keep or isolate China is accurate. The fact that the two camps antagonized each other during the Cold War originated from a rational response to changing times. However, after the Cold War ended and the US-led unipolar system was established, the possibility of the resurrection of the Cold War was almost zero.

Many people perceive China as a hostile country that replaced the Soviet Union. However, China has benefited the most from the international order under the United States since the end of the Cold War. If the latticework is used as a means to isolate China, countries in the

Indo-Pacific region will suffer from being forced to choose between the United States and China, and the future prospects of the new system will be dim.

If the United States adopts the latticework structure as a new alliance management system, efforts should be made to resolve some of the above-mentioned problems. First, we must create a structure that matches the name "lattice." It is necessary to allow and facilitate the creation of a trilateral or quadrilateral collaboration without the United States. Trilateral collaboration between Korea, China and Japan is one example.

Would a regional collaboration without the United States benefit the United States? Yes, it will, because the allies and friends of the US, including Korea, Australia, New Zealand and Singapore, will talk with China based on the principles of liberalism and democracy, which secures US leadership as a hegemon. Such collaboration could help correct China's attitude, maintain US hegemony over the long term, and ensure peace and prosperity in the global community.

Second, if Japan should play an essential role as an agent of the US in managing the alliance, it should take measures to earn the trust of its neighbours. For Japanese officials and politicians to pay tribute at the Yasukuni shrine is a severe provocation, peevish people in neighbouring countries. Japan's unreasonable claim of sovereignty over neighbouring territories and concealing its description of imperialist atrocities

in its textbooks indicate that it does not want to distance itself from its imperialist legacies.

These things should be stemmed. Japan should recognize the human rights abuses of its imperialist era, such as military sexual slavery and forced labour, and take measures to prevent the recurrence of such crimes. Japan will never achieve the legitimacy to become a forward axis for a lattice-like architecture as long as it tries to evade these issues.

Finally, trying to get China to change its attitude is anachronistic. We need to find a new way to adapt to the current situation. The answer is an engagement, not containment. China is a fundamentally different country from the Soviet Union in that it adopted some aspects of capitalism. China's political authoritarian leadership is a problem, but it is up to the Chinese people to change that. China's national development will likely stagnate within a few years unless it escapes from authoritarianism at this stage of its national development. It would be better to assess whether China's economic structure is faithful to the principles of the market economy and capitalism, rather than pursue a containment policy.

So, if the label of "core partner" is modified and the direction of this new approach is shifted a little bit, the lattice-like architecture can become a new alliance management system beneficial for everybody in the Indo-Pacific region.

The Korea Herald/ANN.

ANTI-CHOLERA APPEAL

TO THE EDITOR OF 'THE STATESMAN'

SIR, As there has been an outbreak of cholera in several thanas of this district, I venture to approach several humane societies for help through the medium of your valuable journal, so that we may be able to put a stop to the progress of the disease, which I am afraid has already assumed alarming dimensions. The recent experiments have proved that the inoculation of anti-cholera vaccine is one of the sure tests for stopping the progress and eradicating the disease. I therefore most fervently appeal to generous qualified medical men and students to render their voluntary aid in the shape of doing cholera, inoculation in the villages of our district. I shall certainly see that these generous volunteers are not put to any inconvenience when out of town on this duty who are willing to help us. I hope and trust that my appeal will not go in vain. Any communication of help will be thankfully received - Yours, etc.

VERNACULAR DEPARTMENT

The Vernacular Department has in its membership about 160 Bengali and Tamil-speaking women. Bible classes are conducted in four nurses' hostels and in four other centres. Social Work is done under the direction of the Indian Nurses' Guild in two centres, and at the Y. W. C. A. Institute.

These are some of the things the Y. W. C. A. does for the women of Calcutta. The Association strives for unity and friendliness among those of widely differing views. Called in one country the "Green Leaf Association" with all it implies of youth and promise, it is in many other countries the "House of Friendship," and these are the two outstanding thoughts behind all its activities. The Y.W.C.A. may be very ambitious but it hopes great things from its members and expects to get them. The Y. W. C. A. stands for the time Of ideals, personal, social and national for Training, that all the great possibilities of youth may be developed and guided in the wisest way; for Service, which every girl shall learn to give gladly and freely to the world in which she lives.

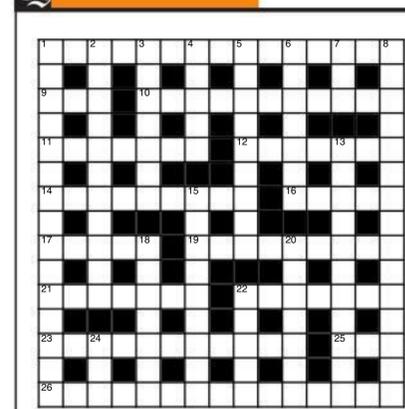
"TOM PINCH" AND OTHERS

In that interval we should learn something of the possibilities of the, at present, much-canvassed Derby favourite, Tom Pinch, who, I understand, is to take his chance in the Craven Stakes next week. I told you in my letter last week that Tom Pinch had suffered somewhat from the hardness of the ground on which he had been galloping, and had had to be eased in his training. It naturally did not take long for the actual facts to be exaggerated, and as a result his price for the Derby has lengthened from sevens to tens, though he still retains the position of favourite in company with Bright Knight and Donzelon. He has not been absent from morning work during the past week, but his gallops have not been in any sense strenuous.

That Tom Pinch has been heavily backed for the Derby by people who are not in the habit of throwing away their money is quite certain, and it must surely be something of a record for a colt who has never yet run a race to be installed as favourite for the Derby. It is to be assumed that the colt must have greatly impressed his t season when Beresford was one of his stable companions.

CROSSWORD

NO-292774



YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

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

ACROSS

- Potential national anthem encapsulating the folly in conflict (4,2,3,6)
- Awful toys unwrapped in December (3)
- Bloody Duke, repelled in rebellion, apprehended (5,6)
- Grand centrepiece missing from garden shop (7)
- Nimrod's too old for love and laying it on thick (7)
- 14/16 Blood carrier somehow contains drainage, one in drops (9,5)

DOWN

- Hotel gym's opening: the girl we brought up has to work out to maintain it? (9,6)
- Add up boxes circulating top-notch features (6,5)
- "Frisky nature" describes a spring newborn (7)
- Certainly on one's own this time (5)
- Listened in fearful awe, prepared to bury head (9)
- Roman general who's keeping people enthralled in the auditorium? (7)

DOWN

- Press put out fake news? (3)
- Yet more playing on it, one sharing out cuts (8,7)
- Having flipped, turtle did as cricket did? (11)
- Wimbledon's finalist - not No.1 - lived frustrated with lawn game (4,5)
- In service, floater and stinger leading a double life (7)
- Self-esteem given a boost being received by a god of the highest order (7)
- Something you might find puzzling on public transport (5)
- This port is warm and dry, did you say? (3)

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

SC reserves orders on state's challenge to CBI probing cases

The West Bengal government in its suit had challenged the registration of cases by the CBI without its consent

PARMOD KUMAR NEW DELHI, 8 MAY

The Supreme Court on Wednesday reserved its judgment on the West Bengal government's plea challenging the Central Bureau of Investigation undertaking investigation into the cases in the state without its statutory mandated prior consent, as state government asserted that such a situation would be in derogation of the federal nature of Centre-State relationship under Indian constitution.

Reserving the judgment, a Bench of Justice BR Gavai and Justice Sandeep Mehta gave both - the petitioner West Bengal government and the central government time till Friday, 17 May, to file note of their respective submissions not more than 20 to 25 pages each. Giving time till 17 May to file written submissions, the Bench said that they would be

writing the judgment during a seven week-long summer vacation of the top court starting from 20 May.

While the West Bengal government asserted that the Central Bureau of Investigation cannot register cases and undertake any investigation in the State without its prior nod, after it has already withdrawn its general consent since 16 November, 2018, the central government reiterated that the central investigating agency was an independent of its control and was not functioning under its control and supervision.

By its 16 November decision, the West Bengal government has withdrawn its general consent permitting the CBI to undertake any investigation in the state.

The Solicitor General, Tushar Mehta appearing for the central government said that its (central government) presence in the CBI was limited to the transfer, posting,



territorial jurisdiction - areas it can investigate - and the finances of the agency including emoluments. As far as registration of cases and their investigation was concerned, the agency was an autonomous and independent entity.

On a poser from the Bench as to under which ministry the CBI comes, the Solicitor General Mehta said that it could be the department of personnel & training (DoPT) or the ministry of home affairs. However, the Solicitor General said that the government cannot ask the CBI to register cases.

Prime Minister that answers the questions.

Appearing for the West Bengal government, senior advocate Kapil Sibal told the Bench that after the state government withdrew its general consent to the CBI to probe cases in the state, the central agency could not have undertaken any investigation in the State without prior consent of the state government.

"The West Bengal government had withdrawn the consent on 16 November, 2018. The cases registered by the CBI, which are under the challenge, after the withdrawal of the consent" could not be investigated, Sibal told the Bench pointing out that, "The constitutional question is whether after the withdrawal of the consent, can you (central government) allow your agency to enter my State, without my consent."

He further argued that when in parliament a question is asked about the CBI, it is the DoPT under the

We all welcome judgment of Supreme Court: Siliguri mayor

AGENCIES SILIGURI, 8 MAY

Siliguri Mayor Goutam Deb welcomed the the Supreme Court's stay on a Calcutta High Court order cancelling the appointment of nearly 26,000 teachers, the matter which is posted to July 16 by the top court.

Siliguri Mayor Goutam Deb said, "We all welcome the judgement of the Supreme Court. At present, all the operative orders have been stayed by the Supreme Court. The CJJ and his bench have stayed the proceedings and stayed the cancellations of the appointments of 26,000 teachers till July 16. Everybody is welcoming the decision. For 19,000-20,000 students who have studied hard and qualified should not be punished like this so, it has been challenged at the upper forum.

A bench of Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud and Justices JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra however asked the CBI not to take any coercive action against teachers or officials.

Deb further said that the apex court has asserted that those persons who have been

appointed fraudulently by some means or other, should be barred and not in a position to continue the service.

"The bench of CJJ has stayed the proceedings at present till 16th July. Our government is cooperating with the CBI but they are moving at the insistence of the ruling party and taking action at the insistence of some of the leaders of the ruling party. That is unfortunate," he further added.

The top court heard a batch of petitions challenging the Calcutta High Court's April 22 decision that invalidated the appointment of 25,753 teachers and non-teaching staff in State-run and state-aided schools of West Bengal.

Earlier, the Supreme Court allowed the CBI to continue its investigation into the West Bengal teacher recruitment scam case. However, it will not take any coercive steps against any official or candidate.

The bench said it would hear the case next on July 16. During the hearing, the bench termed the alleged recruitment scam in West Bengal "systemic fraud".

CELEBRATING TAGORE



Rabindranath Tagore Jayanti celebration at Jorasanko ■ MOUL MONDAL

Sandeshkhali women withdrawing false rape cases being threatened by BJP: Trinamul

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE KOLKATA, 8 MAY

Trinamul Congress leadership alleged that BJP has been threatening those women with dire consequences, who had gone to Sandeshkhali police station to withdraw their false complaints.

Dr Shashi Panja, state minister for Women and Child Development and Social Welfare alleged that the women who had gone to withdraw their false allegation of rape had been threatened with dire consequences by the local BJP leaders. "BJP had orchestrated the drama and now they are threatening the women, who had gone to withdraw false complaints."

She said Trinamul Congress national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee had said



that in days to come more such sting videos by the BJP would come to light.

"The people of Bengal have seen the video and heard the mandal pradhan saying how the conspiracy had been hatched by the BJP. It is really shameful. The women were bribed to make false allegations."

She said Trinamul Congress is keeping a tab on the situation.

The Trinamul Congress posted on its X handle: "Since May 4, the entire @BJP4India machinery has been desperately trying to dismiss the Sandeshkhali exposé & cover up their heinous crimes. But truth can never be hidden for

long! Will @BJP4Bengal now discredit the voices of Bengal's women, narrating how they were coerced to file fake rape/molestation complaints?"

PM @narendramodi & HM @AmitShah - No matter how hard you try, you won't be able to stop the wave of truth that is rising in Bengal to wash away all the Bangla-Birodhi forces!"

School job case: Questions arise over authenticity of WBSSC's figures on ineligible candidates

AGENCIES KOLKATA, 8 MAY

Even as the Supreme Court has put an interim stay on Calcutta High Court's order cancelling 25,753 teaching and non-teaching jobs in state-run schools in West Bengal recruited in 2016, the authenticity of the figures provided by West Bengal School Service Commission (WBSSC) on the number of ineligible candidates among them is still in question.

The questions are being raised over the WBSSC quoting varying figures on the number of ineligible candidates.

On Tuesday, quoting CBI, the WBSSC claimed the total number of illegal appointments in 2016 was 8,861.

However, the Commission had earlier quoted 5,250. Now, the commission's top officials have no answer on how the number increased by over 3,000.



cutta High Court and CPI(M) Rajya Sabha member Bikash Ranjan Bhattacharya, who was present at the apex court on Tuesday as one of the counsels, told IANS that even the figure of 8,861 as quoted by CBI, was not voluntarily submitted by the commission at the court.

"When we gave the figures, they were unable to dispute it," Bhattacharya said.

Legal brains think that although the apex court has put an interim stay on the earlier order of the Calcutta High Court, it comes with several riders.

According to the senior counsel of the Calcutta High

Court Kaushik Gupta, the Supreme Court has directed the commission to check out if there was any secondary material available to segregate valid appointments of all the 25,753 persons empanelled in 2016 for various categories of jobs at secondary and higher secondary schools in the state.

"From the legal point of view, it means that the future of the valid appointments will be secured only if the Commission can establish in the apex court that they have been able to segregate the valid appointments through a justified method. If by chance, the commission is unable to establish that fresh uncertainties will surface," Gupta said.

He also said that the matter might not have reached the Supreme Court, had the Commission informed the division bench of Calcutta High Court, that it is in a position to segregate valid appointments.

Women stage protest in Malda over 'lack of development'; security personnel deployed

AGENCIES MALDA, 8 MAY

Security was increased in West Bengal's Malda on Tuesday night, where women are protesting over "lack of development".

Birnagar, a small village near the bank of the Ganga in Malda, is the place where many people reportedly boycotted the election held on Tuesday.

The women are protesting in Birnagar because of huge property damage triggered due to heavy rains, there is no dam or barrage over the river to control the flooding during the rainy season.

Due to heavy rains, several people have lost their lives and many were forced to relocate to another place due to problems caused by

the overflowing of the river, the villagers told agencies. The village condition is distressing, as most houses are torn apart. The school building is also in a condition that can easily be damaged by a storm, said a local.

Birju, who lives in Birnagar, said, "We are thinking about what to do. The government is not supporting us. There has to be a solution to our problems. People do not have a house," he said.

Another villager, Suresh, said, "There is a problem that the government does not do developmental work. People live near the bank of the river but the government doesn't pay any heed. The main problem arises in August. There is a school also nearby and what will happen if it also flows along with the Ganga."

Jagaddal ground dug up before PM rally

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE KOLKATA, 8 MAY

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be holding a meeting at Jagaddal Paper Mill ground in North 24 Parganas. However, early morning today the ground was found to have been dug by a tractor.

Arjun Singh, BJP MP candidate from Barrackpore expressed outrage over the incident. Trinamul MLA Somnath Shyam proposed equalizing the ground. The Prime Minister is scheduled to hold a meeting at the paper mill ground in Jagaddal on 12 May. The police commissioner surveyed the ground and instructed to remove the tractor from the ground.

Barrackpore's candidate Arjun Singh reached the ground. Singh, who recently resigned from Trinamul, accused the Trinamul of causing this incident to prevent Modi's meeting. He also accused the police of inaction. He said, "All this



is happening under the guidance of the police." Trinamul Congress is doing all this. Everything is happening under the direction of Partha Bhowmik. It is the duty of the police to ensure the security of the Prime Minister's meeting place. But the police are incompetent. The police will not do anything. From today (Wednesday), BJP boys will guard the ground," he said.

Trinamul MLA Somnath Shyam denied the allegation of ground digging. He claimed that all the grounds in that area are undergoing beautification. A running track will be

installed in that specific ground. That is why the work of equalizing the ground was being done with the tractor. Somnath said, "The soil is not being dug up. The soil of the ground contains plastic. The work was to separate that plastic from the soil with a tractor. Then grass would be planted. The ground is being levelled to build the track. After that, the roller will run, and grass will be planted. I did not know about any news of the Prime Minister's meeting there. So, the work was going on. When I heard the news, I stopped the work and tried to level the ground."

TRIBUTE ON A BOAT



Poet Jharna Bhattacharya and her friends celebrated Rabindra Jayanti on a boat on Wednesday. "This kind of a celebration has been attempted by us for the first time as the Nobel Laureate loved boat rides," said the organiser ■ SNS

Legal experts discuss displacement justice in Siliguri

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE SILIGURI, 8 MAY

The Indian Institute of Legal Studies (IILS) organised a two-day international conference on Displacement Justice: Global Challenges, Issues and Strategies in its campus at Dagapur in Siliguri from 4 May 2024.

Justice Dipankar Datta from the Supreme Court of India, Justice Jayantha Chandrasiri Jayasuriya, Chief Justice, Supreme Court of Sri Lanka, Justice Dasho Kesang Choden, Samtse Dzongkhag Court of Bhutan, Justice Md. Rezaul Hasan, High Court Division, Supreme Court of Bangladesh, Justice Sabyasachi Bhattacharya, Calcutta High Court and Arindam Sinha, High Court of Odisha discussed the subject in the inaugural session and in the technical sessions on 4 May and they concluded their views on displacement justice for adopting a resolution.



Joyjit Choudhury, Additional Advocate General, West Bengal, founder chairman of Indian Institute of Legal Studies welcomed the dignitaries and discussed various types of displacement, including disaster-induced and conflict-driven, citing India's efforts post-1956 to resettle migrants as per official notifications.

Mr Choudhury also touched upon some more issues in the Indian part, including enclave exchange between India and Bangladesh and the present status of displaced people, who had to settle in Indian territory.

Justice Dasho Kesang Choden touched upon the global scale of displacement with 60.9 million individuals across 120 nations, stressing the judiciary's role in providing displaced persons access to justice through international conventions.

Justice Md. Rezaul Hasan highlighted Bangladesh's lack of participation in global refugee agreements and discussed historical displacement in the region, particularly between 1947 and 1971.

Justice Hassan also suggested the need for appropriate laws to regulate displacement and advised against creating laws that conflict with international agreements for countries that haven't signed them.

On the other hand, the next speaker was Justice Sabyasachi Bhattacharya, judge, representative of the Chief Justice of Calcutta High Court, who was also the special guest of honour.

Justice Bhattacharya discussed contemporary societal issues including security concerns and reactions, cautioning against unintended consequences akin to the "Monkey's Paw" tale.

He also highlighted key laws like the Rehabilitation of Displaced Persons Act of 1951 and the Citizenship Amendment Act of 2019, addressing the complexities of displacement with both benefits and challenges.

Justice Arindam Sinha, High Court of Odisha highlighted the grave issue of forced migration driven by persecution, encompassing political dissent, ethnic discrimination, and conflict-related violence, which compels individuals to leave everything behind in search of safety.

Justice Jayantha Chandrasiri Jayasuriya, Chief Justice, Supreme Court of Sri Lanka emphasised the transformative impact of legal education in cultivating awareness and responsibility among lawyers to protect the rights of refugees, migrants, and internally displaced persons.

Justice Dipankar Datta, judge, representative of the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of India emphasised legislative gaps in the Foreigners Act related to repatriation post-punishment and advocated for humane treatment of individuals in need of rehabilitation.

THUMBNAILED

In a proud moment, the Kolkata region of the department of posts, bagged 20 prizes at circle-level award function for the financial year 2023-2024. The Kolkata region secured the first position in four categories namely PLI premium collection, parcel revenue, net account (all types) addition, POSB revenue. The prize distribution ceremony was held at Yogayog Bhawan on Tuesday. Sanjiv Ranjan, PMG, Kolkata region is pictured with some other division heads of the Kolkata region.

ER sees surge in passenger revenue: Eastern Railway witnessed an 11.88 per cent increase last month compared to the previous year's passenger revenue in April. According to the ER, the zonal railway has registered a total passenger revenue of Rs 300.35 crore as compared to Rs 268.46 crore recorded in April 2023. In addition, the overall revenue of Eastern Railway also saw a surge during April with a total revenue of Rs 900.37 crore in April 2023 to Rs 1072.99 crore last month.

GM inspects Victoria station: With the implementing agency of the Purple Line, Rail Vikas Nigam Limited, due to start the casting work of the diaphragm wall of Victoria Station, the general manager of Kolkata Metro Railway, P Uday Kumar Reddy, inspected the station on Wednesday. During the inspection that started from the Casting Yard of RVNL at Sarkar-pool, Mr Reddy inspected the quality laboratory, curing tank, concrete trial room and offered puja to start the casting work. He also inspected the station site and was apprised about the work execution plan for this station.

HS results: Boys outperform girls in pass percentage

Kolkata stood fourth among the districts in terms of the total number of students passing the exam, with five toppers



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, 8 MAY

After Madhyamik, boys outperformed the girls once again in the West Bengal Council of Higher Secondary Examination (WBCHSE) results declared today. While the total percentage of students passing the exam stood at 90, around 92.32 per cent boys became successful as compared to about 88.18 per cent of girls clearing the WBCHSE exams this year.

As per data revealed by the council, while the total percentage of students passing the exam was higher, the numbers of female aspirants writing the exam were more than those of the boys. Of the total 7,55,324 students appearing for the exam this year, 4,23,581 were girls while 3,31,743 were boys. The gender ratio of the male to female appearing for the exam was 44:56. The pattern was in a reverse form around 13-14 years ago when the ratio of boys appearing for the higher secondary examination used to be higher, according to the officials of the council.

As underscored by the president of the board, Prof Dr Chiranjib Bhattacharjee, the gap between the percentage of girls' passing the exam and the boys was because of the fact that the number of boys registering for the exam and actually writing it was more. Among boys, the total number enrolled for the HS exam held between 16 to 29 February was 7,64,440 of which only 7,55,324 had appeared with a drop of

around nine thousand. As pointed out by the president, the reasons for this need to be studied and analysed from the point of view of social aspects. In terms of district wise pass percentage, East Midnapore once again emerged on top while Kolkata was fourth in the list. The council also issued a merit list having 58 students from 15 districts, including 35 male and 23 female candidates as the top ten rankers. The highest number of rankers was from the district of Hooghly, where 13 students appeared in the list of top 10 followed by Bankura with nine candidates.

Among the toppers, Avik Das from Alipurduar topped the list of rankers by securing 496 in total 99.2 per cent. He was followed by Soumyadip Saha from Narendrapur Ramakrishna Mission School obtaining 495 and 99 per cent. Abhishek Gupta from Malda, who secured 494 marks in total, tied the third position. The fourth position was secured by two female candidates who also were the first among girl students. The fourth rank was jointly secured by Pratichi Roy Talukdar from Cooch Behar and Sneha Ghosh from Chandannagar in Hooghly.

Kolkata stood fourth in terms of the total number of students passing the exam with five toppers. From the city, Shounak Kar from Scottish Church Collegiate School ranked fifth, Arghyadeep Dutta from Hindu School had his name in the eighth rank while Ujan Chakraborty of Patha Bhavan secured the ninth rank. Tannishtha Das

from Pathfinder Higher Secondary Public School in Jodhpur Park and Sataparna Mil from Taki House ranked tenth. Notably, the board has decided to distribute results from 10am onwards on 10 May. For the first time, for post results scrutiny, the council has started a 'tatkal service' under which students would be able to get the revised result within seven days.

13 from Burdwan, Bankura share top 10 ranks



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
BURDWAN, 8 MAY

The Higher Secondary merit list accommodated four candidates from East Burdwan and nine from neighbouring Bankura district.

Afreen Mondal of Memari VM Institution has ranked 6th and three others - Antara Sheth of Majiary High School in Katwa, Indrani Sen of Nasratpur High School in Purabasthali and Soham Konar of Sagarbala High School in Monteswar secured 10th position scoring 487 marks. Afreen scored 491 marks.

In Bankura, Saswati Kundu of local Mission Girl's in the district town scored 492 marks and ranked 5th with Ankit Pal of Kenduadihi High School. Subhadeep Sinha Mahapatra, Animesh Layek of Banga Bidyalaya, Indpur Goenka High School shared 6th rank followed by Soumik Dhabal, Bidisha Sannigrahi (7th) Ruma Konar, Sinchan Dutta (8th) and Arpan Gishwami (9th).

Hooghly students shine bright within districts



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
HOOGHLY, 8 MAY

Higher Secondary candidates from the district crowded the top 10 list of the state with 13 of them staking their claim to the coveted list.

The Twin sisters from Chandannagar have a birth time difference of only a minute and are students of Krishna Bhabani Nari Sikha Mandir, Chandannagar. Senha Ghosh ranked 4th with a grand total of 493, while her twin sister Soha Ghosh ranked 10th with a grand total of 487. The twins studied together, they said their parents were the main source of inspiration and thanked the school and private tuitions teachers for their help and guidance. The twin sisters aim to go ahead with honours in economics, both love to play chess and watch movies, both are of the same view that hard work always pays.

Both Rudra Dutta from Konnagar, a student of Mahesh Sri Ramakrishnan Ashram Vidyalaya, Rishra and Abhra Kishore Bhat-tacharya from Chinsurah, a student of Hooghly Colle-

giate School ranked 6th with a grand total of 491.

Rudra said, "I am really overjoyed to attain 6th rank in the state level with a grand total of 491. I would like to go ahead with medical science. Besides studies, stress was also laid on character building, developing the art of concentration through meditation. Much importance was given towards games and sports, the guidance from the school, inspiration from the teachers and parents helped me achieve the 6th rank in science group."

Ritabrata Das from Chinsurah, a student of Hooghly Collegiate School and Md Sahid from Arambagh, a student of Arambagh High School ranked 7th with a grand total of 490.

Md Sahid said his parents and teachers were his inspiration. He used mobile phone only to support his studies. Sahid likes playing guitar and wants to become a doctor.

Asmit Kumar Banerjee from Konnagar, a student of Mahesh Sri Ramakrishnan Ashram Vidyalaya, Rishra and Somsubhra Karmakar from Arambagh, a student

of Arambagh High School ranked 8th in the state with a grand total of 489.

Somsubhra said, self-confidence, obedience and respect for parents and teachers are the key words for success. He wants to become a doctor to serve the poor villagers in Arambagh. Both Pritha Dutta from Chandannagar, a student of Chandannagar Banga Vidyalaya and Bristi Pal from Chinsurah, a student of Chinsurah Balika Bani Mandir ranked 9th in the state level with a grand total of 488.

Srijani Ghosh from Chandannagar, a student of Krishna Bhabani Nari Sikha Mandir, Bristi Dutta from Begampur, a student of Begampur High School ranked 10th with a grand total of 487.

Bristi Dutta comes from a financially weak family. His father earns very little. Bristi is determined not to give up studies fighting against all odds she was helped by the teachers and other well wishers. "I am happy with my performance, my struggle and hard work has paid off," said Bristi.

SC, ST students score well from RKM Eklavya school



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, 8 MAY

Ramakrishna Mission Vidya-mandira Eklavya Model Residential School in Jhargram, meant for SC and ST students, came up with flying colours in the Higher Secondary examination whose results were announced today.

A student from Ramakrishna Mission Vivekananda Vidya-mandira secured the second position.

In Jhargram school, 33 boys had appeared for the HS examination. All were placed in the first division while all the 31 girls who had appeared from the school got first division.

Jirihiri Saren got 93.8 per cent marks while Lapsa Murmu got 90.4 per cent marks. One boy and three girls got above 90 per cent marks while 26 boys and 20 girls got more than 75 per cent marks.

Chief minister Mamata Banerjee had requested Swami Suhitanandaji, the then general secretary of Ramakrishna Math and Mission to take over the school so that best education could be imparted to the tribal students. This is the only Eklavya Model Residential School, which is run by the RKM. Swami Vedpurushananda, secretary of the Jhargram centre of RKM said most of the students who passed the HS examination were first generation learners. There is a computer lab, language lab at the school. The students are given training in sports along with their studies.

Abhishek accuses Adhir of siding with BJP

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, 8 MAY

Adhir Chowdhury, Congress candidate from Baharampur in Murshidabad will occupy the third position in the forthcoming Lok Sabha election, said Abhishek Banerjee, the national general secretary of Trinamul Congress today.

He held Chowdhury responsible for not inking the INDI alliance in Bengal.

Trinamul Congress has fielded cricketer Yusuf Pathan against the sitting Congress MP Adhir Chowdhury. The election in Baharampur Lok Sabha seat will be held on 13 May.

Addressing a gathering after taking part in a roadshow, which started at Jamtala More and ended at Jamtala, Mr Banerjee said in Bengal INDI alliance could not be formed because of Adhir Chowdhury. "When Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi told Mamata Banerjee that steps should be taken to oust the BJP, on the same day Adhir Chowdhury addressed a meeting with Mohammad Selim in Dhurguri and urged people to vote against Trinamul Congress," he said, adding,



"Mr Chowdhury has made alliance with the BJP and urged people to vote for BJP. He has never criticized Modi. He did not utter a word when the BJP-led Centre stopped funds related to MGNREGA and Awas Plus schemes," he said. He said in the 2021 Assembly election, people of Murshidabad had supported Trinamul Congress and the party had bagged 20 out of 22

seats. He urged party workers to ensure the lead of Yusuf Pathan, party's nominee in every ward of Baharampur Municipality. He said to save his back, Chowdhury is now siding with the BJP and urged people to vote for the BJP candidate. "If he votes for the BJP nominee, then there is no point voting for him." Chowdhury has held the hand of Mohammad Selim of

CPM. "It was the CPM goons, who killed thousands of Congress and Trinamul Congress supporters. They had chopped off the hands of people who had voted for the Congress. Now, for safety, Mr Chowdhury is going with the CPM."

He urged people not to vote for Chowdhury, who had not taken any initiative to develop Baharampur. "In the past five years, development hasn't taken place in Baharampur. Rest assured, if Mr Pathan is elected we will carry out development which has not taken place in the past 25 years." He said the Congress candidate has betrayed the people. "He was elected by the people, who are Congress supporters and now is asking them to vote for the BJP. Do not vote for a traitor," he said. Mr Banerjee said the way youth have taken part in the roadshow is very encouraging. "Youth have kept faith in Trinamul Congress as they know it will carry out all-round development in Baharampur. Rest assured, if Pathan wins, I will replicate the Diamond Harbour model here in Baharampur.

TMC candidate fears being implicated in murder case by political rival

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, 8 MAY

Deepak Adhikari aka. Dev, the actor-turned-politician and Trinamool Congress sitting MP and candidate from Ghatalka Lok Sabha constituency in West Midnapore District of West Bengal, on Wednesday expressed fears, that his political rival might implicate him in a murder case in days to come.

According to him, there might be a murder of a BJP worker at Keshpur, one of the seven Assembly constituencies under Ghatalka Lok Sabha, in the next ten to 12 days and the BJP candidate might try to implicate him in a false case.

"The manner in which the BJP candidate from Ghatalka has become desperate to win from the constituency this time, I am sure he will hatch a conspiracy at Ghatalka to ensure a victory. This conspiracy will be at Keshpur.

CM Mamata pays tributes on Tagore's birthday

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, 8 MAY

Chief minister Mamata Banerjee paid respects to Rabindranath Tagore by putting flower petals on the base where his photograph was placed.

She could not garland the photo which was kept on the dais on Cathedral Road because of the Model Code of Conduct (MCC).

Miss Banerjee returned to Kolkata as she was busy campaigning for Trinamul Congress candidates in the districts.

The function to pay respects to Tagore was held in the evening. Noted singers, including Shibaji Chattopadhyay placed flower petals. Indranil Sen, state minister for information and cultural affairs department along with the state chief secretary BP Gopalika paid respects to Tagore.

Noted Rabindra Sangeet exponents sang Tagore songs while the elocutionists recited poems written by him. Earlier, the function was held in the Rabindra Sadan campus. After coming to power in 2011, Miss Banerjee pro-



posed to set up a huge pandal on Cathedral Road so that more people could be accommodated.

The room where Tagore was born at Jorasanko in 1861 was decorated with flowers. Thousands of people have gathered since morning to pay respect to the poet. Tagore died in the house in 1941. The house had played a major role in shaping Tagore's personality.

Jorasanko Thakurbari plays a major role in the cultural and intellectual history of Bengal.

Born in a family, which was far ahead of its time in terms of culture, Rabindranath used to guide the young members of the family to organize musical programmes and drama. He was very popular among his nephews and nieces.

Swami Vivekananda as a student had visited the house quite a number of times and visited the house to meet Devendranath Tagore along with Sister Nivedita in 1898.

VBU celebrates Rabindra Jayanti

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
BIRBHUM, 8 MAY

Visva-Bharati University (VBU) in Bolpur celebrated Rabindra Jayanti for the first time after Rabindranath Tagore's abode Santiniketan bagged the Unesco World Cultural Heritage Site tag last year.

Acting vice-chancellor of VBU, Professor Sanjay Kumar Mallick took part in the celebrations on Rabindra Jayanti today.

The celebrations started with baitalik, Brahma upasana, chanting of Vedic mantras. Cultural events took place this morning today.

The main cultural event took place at Madhabi Bitan. Besides faculty members, students, ashramites, alumni and other locals were also



present during the celebrations throughout the day.

On 17 September 2023, Santiniketan received the World Cultural Heritage Site tag. It is the only living uni-

versity to receive such status in the world. Rabindranath Tagore had spent a majority of his time at Santiniketan and was associated with several works. Earlier VBU used to pub-

lish cultural books on the occasion of Rabindra jayanti, but since the past five years, publication has been stopped due to shutting of the printing press.

"We really feel proud that Santiniketan has received the Unesco tag and this year the Rabindra Jayanti celebration has become even more special," said veteran ashramite Supriyo Tagore.

Since the retirement of VC Professor Bidyut Chakraborty last year, there has been no further controversy and slowly the central varsity has returned back to its normalcy. The strained relationship with the state government has also now been a matter of the past and relationships have improved after the present acting vice-chancellor took over the charge last year. Poush Mela last year and Basant Utsav this year have also been celebrated along with the help of the state government at Santiniketan and Bolpur.

Post-poll violence in Bengal: Five injured in Murshidabad

AGENCIES
KOLKATA, 8 MAY

Five people, including three minors, were injured in post-poll violence in West Bengal's Murshidabad district, said officials on Wednesday.

The five were injured in indiscriminate pellet firing in the Ranitala area of the district, the officials added.

The person accused of firing pellets has been detained and is said to be an active associate of the ruling Trinamool Congress. However, the local Trinamool Congress leadership has denied any association with the accused.

The five injured persons, including the three minors,



are currently undergoing treatment at Murshidabad Medical College & Hospital, said officials here. Tension was prevailing in the area and a police contingent was deployed to keep the situation under control. On Tuesday, two Lok Sabha

constituencies in the district, namely Jangipur and Murshidabad, went to polls in the third phase and maximum reports of poll-related tension started from these constituencies.

BJP's state spokesman and Rajya Sabha member Samik Bhattacharya said, "It has become the culture and norm in West Bengal. The goons backed by the ruling party resort to such hooliganism and now you see the common people, including minors, becoming victims of this hooliganism."

The violence within 48 hours after a minor was killed and two others were critically injured in an explosion at Pandua in Hooghly district.

THUMBNAILS

Supporting social sector start-ups: HDFC Bank announced the winners of its Parivartan Start-up Grants programme for FY2024. This year, 41 incubators and accelerators in the field of social impact entrepreneurship will receive grants totaling Rs 19.6 crore to support 170 start-ups working across specific focus areas. This year's programme is undertaken in partnership with Atal Innovation Mission, a central government initiative under NITI Aayog.

New business deal: TVS Supply Chain Solutions Limited has won a new business contract from VE Commercial Vehicles (VECV) for managing their in-plant warehousing and logistics function at their Eicher bus factory located in Bagdad, Madhya Pradesh. VECV is a manufacturer of commercial vehicles and has been associated with TVS SCS since 2006 for in-plant logistics operations for their Truck plant in Pithampur, Madhya Pradesh. The new deal for VECV's bus plant is for a period of three years.

India's data centre capacity to double to 2,000 MW by 2026, green energy is the key: India's data centre capacity is set to double to reach 2000 MW by 2026, as the country transitions towards a developed market economy amid a rise in 'green energy' solutions, a report showed on Wednesday. The growth plans have also created substantial investment prospects, with a likely capex of Rs 50,000 crore in this space over the next three years till 2026, according to the report by CareEdge Ratings. The data centre industry is expected to clock a revenue growth of 32 per cent during FY24-FY26. While India generates about 20 per cent of global data, in terms of data centre capacity, it has a share of just 3 per cent. However, the wave of digitisation, driven by the expansion of e-commerce, fintech platforms, online streaming, and gaming services, is anticipated to increase the number of internet users and boost internet penetration - generating a robust demand for data centres. Last month, AdaniConneX established the country's largest sustainability-linked financing to raise up to \$1.44 billion.

Markets end flat amid uncertainty surrounding election results

The sell-off in Paytm shares appears to be continuing as the stock hit a new all-time low of ₹ 317.15 apiece in today's session as it was locked in the 5pc lower circuit limit

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, 8 MAY

BSE Sensex and NSE Nifty ended flat on Wednesday amid uncertainty surrounding the general election results and subdued corporate earnings.

Gains seen in the shares of select heavyweights such as Reliance Industries, Larsen & Toubro and Tata Motors were offset by losses in shares of HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank and Infosys.

Sensex was down 45 points or 0.1 per cent at 73,466.39, and the Nifty 50 was up 4.50 points at 22,307.

Further, around 1,946 shares advanced, 1,310 shares declined, and 106 shares remained unchanged.

On the other hand, broader markets showed resilience after sharply falling the day before. While BSE Smallcap rose 0.5 per cent, BSE Midcap edged up by 0.8 per cent.

Both the indices had fallen nearly 2 per cent each in the previous session.

In the Nifty 50 index, on the winning side were the shares of BPCL (2.78 per cent), Hero MotoCorp (2.49 per cent) and Tata Motors (2.48 per cent).

Further, the shares of Dr. Reddy's Laboratories (3.27 per cent), Asian Paints (2.21 per cent) and Grasim Industries (2.07 per cent) closed as the top losers in the Nifty index.

In terms of the sectoral indices, the Nifty Bank fell 0.55 per cent while the Private Bank index suffered a loss of 0.81 per cent. The PSU Bank index, however, jumped 0.88 per cent.

Nifty Oil & Gas (1.70 per cent), Auto (1.56 per cent) and Metal (1.48 per cent) indices clocked significant gains.

Analysts are betting on FMCG and consumer durable stocks, anticipating a rural recovery driven by expectations of a robust monsoon sea-



The sell-off in Paytm shares appears to be continuing as the stock hit a new all-time low of Rs 317.15 apiece in today's session as it was locked in the 5pc lower circuit limit.

Investors traded cautiously due to a lack of fresh, positive triggers and ended on a flat note with a slightly negative bias amid selective profit-taking in banking and IT stocks. European stocks rose boosted by company earnings, while US futures were flat and the dollar climbed as investors assessed the signals on the path for Fed rates.

5 per cent lower circuit limit. Aditya Birla Finance, a significant lending partner for the company, is reported to have exercised loan guarantees provided by the fintech firm.

Also, the foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) are selling Indian equities ahead of the election outcome, a trend seen in the past, too.

Investors traded cautiously due to a lack of fresh, positive triggers and ended on a flat note with a slightly negative bias amid selective profit-taking in banking and IT stocks.

boosted by company earnings, while US futures were flat and the dollar climbed as investors assessed the signals on the path for Fed rates.

The yen fell even with the threat of currency intervention from Japanese authorities to support it. Oil prices walled near two-month lows.

Europe's continent-wide Stoxx 600 index rose 0.32 per cent on Wednesday, supported by upbeat earnings reports, after rising 1.1 per cent the previous day. Germany's DAX climbed 0.45 per cent and Britain's FTSE 100 rose 0.35 per cent.

Cost of non-veg thali falls while veg thali spikes in April: CRISIL report

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, 8 MAY

In a recent report, rating agency CRISIL has said the costlier onion, tomato and potato have spiked the cost of a home-cooked vegetarian thali by 8% in April to Rs 27.4 compared to Rs 25.4 in the same month last year.

In its 'Roti Rice Rate' report, the agency said the cost of a non-vegetarian thali fell 4% to Rs 56.3 in the same period from Rs 58.9 as broilers became cheaper.

"Lower onion arrivals due to a significant drop in rabi acreage and damage to potato crop in West Bengal led to the price increase," said CRISIL.

Rice and pulses' prices increased too, by 14% and 20% year-on-year (Y-o-Y). Prices of cumin (jeera), chilli and vegetable oil declined 40%, 31% and 10%, preventing a further increase in the vegetarian thali cost.

The price of broiler chicken cooled down 12% Y-o-Y to make a non-vegetarian thali cheaper. Broiler accounts for 50% of the total cost of a thali.

The price of a vegetarian



thali in April was flat due to a 4% decline in onion prices and a 3% fall in fuel cost. The prices of tomatoes and potatoes continue to inch up.

A non-vegetarian thali's cost increased 3% compared to March due to more demand for broilers and rising input costs.

Notably, a vegetarian thali has roti, onion, tomato, potato, rice, dal, curd, and salad while a non-vegetarian thali has the same foods but chicken (broiler) replaces dal.

The average cost of a home-cooked thali is calculated based on input prices in North, South, East and West India.

In March, as per the government data, the food inflation rose for the second consecutive month to 190.6 points, marking a 7.68% increase from the previous year.

This persistent inflation has led authorities to mandate weekly declarations of rice and wheat stocks by traders, warehouses, retailers, and processors starting from February and April respectively, in addition to maintaining export restrictions.

Automobile retail sales grow 27 pc in April YoY: FADA

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, 8 MAY

For the first month of this fiscal, the automobile retail sales grew 27 per cent in April to 2.2 million units compared to the year before, the Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (FADA) said on Wednesday. As many as 1.74 million units were sold in April 2023.

The surge is riding on the demand that grew in all categories and fuel prices were stable, said a group representing auto dealers. A favourable monsoon outlook, festivals and weddings helped sales too.

Sales of two-wheeler, three-wheeler, passenger vehicle, tractor and commercial vehicle grew by 33 per cent, 9 per cent, 16 per cent, 1 per cent, and 2 per cent respectively.

As per the experts, despite the growth in April, election uncertainty is delaying customers' purchasing decisions.

The report highlighted that as many as 335,123 PVs were sold in April to mark a record. As many as 90,707 CVs were sold in April 2024 compared to 88,663 units the same time last year. The segment grew 2 per cent Y-o-Y growth and declined 0.6 per



many as 1.64 million two-wheelers were sold in April 2024 compared to 1.23 million units in the same month last year.

Lok Sabha elections had a "major impact on positive two-wheeler sales," said Singhania.

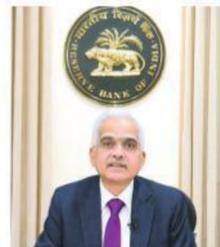
"Positive momentum was found in bulk and corporate deals and school bus demand, though elections dampened sentiment, with customers delaying expansion plans. Limited finance options and regional challenges such as water scarcity further impacted performance," he said.

"While some attribute this growth to the shift in Navratri to April instead of March last year, the overall increase was significant. Comparing March and April 2024 with the same period last year shows a 14 per cent Y-o-Y growth for the entire industry," he said.

Improved supply and planning in the 2W segment have improved customer bookings and market sentiment, said FADA about its May outlook.

The report highlighted that as many as 335,123 PVs were sold in April to mark a record.

RBI Gov meets stakeholders in UPI ecosystem to discuss expansion potential



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, 8 MAY

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor, Shaktikanta Das, on Wednesday held a meeting with major stakeholders in the UPI ecosystem, the central bank said in a statement.

The shareholders were the Banks, National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), Third Party Application Providers and Technology Service Providers.

As per the RBI statement, the discussion potential strategies for further expanding the reach of UPI.

There were wide-ranging discussions on various aspects to widen and deepen the adoption and usage of UPI.

The meeting was also attended by Deputy Governor, Shri T. Rabi Sankar along with Senior Officials of RBI.

The stakeholders shared their valuable inputs and suggestions, covering broadly the strategies for scaling up of UPI infrastructure and expanding products portfolio; Challenges being encountered by the ecosystem and innovative solutions for addressing the same; and Innovative ideas to integrate potential users into the digital payments ecosystem.

The various suggestions received will be examined and suitable action will be initiated in due course by the Reserve Bank.

Classified

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Indian Hotels Company Limited Registered Office: Mandlik House, Mandlik Road, Mumbai - 400001 TO WHOMSOEVER IT MAY CONCERN

NOTICE is hereby given that the certificate for the under mentioned securities of the Company has been lost/misplaced and the legal heir of the said securities / applicant(s) has/have applied to the Company to issue duplicate certificate(s). Name of the Holder (and J. holder(s), if any): Gita Guha, Saphal Bose. Folio No(s): G0006450, Face Val: Rs. 1. Certificate Number(s) - Start - End: 4722. Distinctive Number(s) - Start - End: 9332971-9336130, No of Shares: 3160.

The Public are hereby cautioned against purchasing or dealing in any way with the above referred share certificate(s). Any person who has any claim in respect of the said share certificate(s) should lodge such claim with the Company or its Registrar and Transfer Agents Link Intime India Private Limited 247 Park, C-101, 1st Floor, L. B. S. Marg, Vikhroli (W) Mumbai - 400083. TEL: 8108116787 within 15 days of publication of this notice after which no claim will be entertained and the Company shall proceed to issue with the Duplicate Share Certificate(s).

Place: Kolkata Date: 09.05.2024 Name(s) of the holder(s) /Legal Claimant: Tania Guha.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Vipul Majee residing at 123/2, N S C Bose Road, Regent Park, Kolkata: 700 040 father & natural guardian of my son Atharv Majee have changed his name to **Atharv Majee (Aadhaar No. 8309 5202 5138, DOB: 08.07.2019)** vide affidavit 1st Class Judicial Magistrate, Alipore, Kolkata dated 30.04.2024. Henceforth will be known as **Atharv Majee**. Both the person is the same & one identical.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Swarna Rekha Bhuia, W/o-No.1068303K Ex. NK Kanai Lal Bhuia residing at Indira Palli, Talarpar, Ward No. 3, P.O. - Arambagh, Dist. - Hooghly, State-West Bengal, Pin-712601 My actual name is Swarna Rekha Bhuia and DOB is 17.12.76 which has been already recorded in my Aadhaar Card, PAN Card and other documents but in advertently in my husband's PPO No. 233199800105 my name has been recorded as 'Samarakha' and DOB is 'blank' Vide affidavit No. 218 of the Ld. Judicial Magistrate, 1st Class, Arambagh, Hooghly dt. 08/04/24 Swarna Rekha Bhuia, DOB-17/12/76 and Samarakha DOB Blank becomes one and same identical Person.

NAME CHANGE

I, Bulbul Soni Barmalwa wife of Sri Vinay Kumar Soni aged 32 years, residing at Mani Mansion, A Block, 4th floor, 9/1 Lower Rowdian Street, Kolkata - 700020 do hereby declare that I have changed my name **BULBUL SONI** to **BULBUL SONI BARMALWA** vide affidavit no. 8204 dt. 07/05/2024 before Metropolitan Magistrate Calcutta. Henceforth, Bulbul Soni and Bulbul Soni Barmalwa are same and one identical person.

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		9434474556
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PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that our Client, Mayank Tower Private Limited, has lost and/or misplaced 6 (six) originals purchase documents ("Original Documents") in relation to under said property ("said Property") as mentioned herein below:

Sl. No.	Vendor's Name	Purchaser's Name	Deed Nos.	Mouza	RS Dag No.	Name of Registration Office
1.	Sandhya Naskar & Others	Mayank Tower Pvt Ltd	9284 for the year 2006 (sale)	Jamalpara	1389	Addl. DSR Bidhannagar North 24 Pgs.
2.	Durga Roy (Naskar)	Mayank Tower Pvt Ltd	7016 for the year 2005 (sale)	Jamalpara	1389	Addl. DSR Bidhannagar North 24 Pgs.
3.	Ahammad Ali Molla & others	Mayank Tower Pvt Ltd	539 for the year 2006 (sale)	Jamalpara	1782, 1779, 1788, 1781, 1772, 1790, 1791	DSR II Barasat North 24 Pgs.
4.	Jahangir Gazi, & Others	Mayank Tower Pvt Ltd	335 for the year 2006 (sale)	Jamalpara	1417, 1423, 1430, 1433, 1437, 1744, 1745, 1746, 1784, 1797, 1798, 1828	Addl. DSR Bidhannagar North 24 Pgs.
5.	Yusuf Gazi, Akhi kanta Chakraborty & Others	Mayank Tower Pvt Ltd	1835 for the year 2006 (sale)	Jamalpara	1346, 1347, 1360, 1359, 1376, 1377, 1378, 1417, 1422, 1446, 1408, 1810, 1811, 1817, 1819, 1822, 1823, 1830	Addl. DSR Bidhannagar North 24 Pgs.
6.	Jaidun Bibi, Alfauddin Molla & others	Mayank Tower Pvt Ltd	5487 for the year 2006 (sale)	Jamalpara	1409, 1581, 1738, 1742, 1748, 1763, 1766, 1769, 1779, 1782, 1790, 1791, 1794, 1801, 1808, 1809, 1810, 1811, 1815, 1817, 1818, 1835	Addl. DSR Bidhannagar North 24 Pgs.

One General Diary being No. 96 dated 2 May 2024 has been lodged with Bhowanipore Police Station, Kolkata - 700020, in relation to the same by our clients as the owner of the said Property. If anybody finds the said Original Documents and/or having custody of the said Original Documents in respect of the said Property may please deposit the said Original Documents at the office of the undersigned on any working day within 10 (ten) days from the date of publication of this notice.

Swarup SII, Advocate
M: +91 9831735478, T: +91 33 40022210
Khaitan & Co LLP
Emerald House, 18, Old Post Office Street, Kolkata 700001

FORM NO. NCLT. 3A
Advertisement detailing petition
(Rule 35)
Company Petition (CAA) No. 33/KB/2024
In Connection with
CP (CAA) No. 182/(KB)2023
Section 230 to 232
Notice of Petition

A petition under section 230 to 232 to obtain sanction of the Hon'ble Tribunal to a Scheme of Amalgamation under Companies Act, 2013, was presented by Shriya Credit Capital Private Limited, SPN Securities Private Limited, Vilas Financial Management Services Private Limited and Lail Steels Private Limited on the 7th Day of February, 2024, and the said petition is fixed for hearing before Kolkata Bench of National Company Law Tribunal on 13th Day of May, 2024. Any person desirous of supporting or opposing the said petition should send to the petitioner's advocate, notice of his intention, signed by him or his advocate, with his name and address, so as to reach the petitioner's advocate not later than two days before the date fixed for the hearing of the petition. Where he seeks to oppose the petition, the grounds of opposition or a copy of his affidavit shall be furnished with such notice. A copy of the petition will be furnished by the undersigned to any person requiring the same on payment of prescribed charges for the same.

(Sd/-)
Dated: 09.05.2024 CS Anil Kumar Dubey
(Authorised Representative for petitioners)
Address: 13 Crooked Lane,
Ajit Sen Bhawan 4th Floor, Kolkata-700069



When we talk about threats to our democracy, it's not just about positions and content. It's also about people.

EUROPEAN COMMISSION PRESIDENT URSULA VON DER LEYEN WARNING OF RISK TO DEMOCRACY FROM ATTACKS ON POLITICIANS IN GERMANY

Three Indian charged with killing Sikh separatist leader in Canada appear in court

ASSOCIATED PRESS SURREY, 8 MAY

Three Indian men charged with killing Sikh separatist leader Hardeep Singh Nijjar in British Columbia last year have appeared in court in the case that set off a diplomatic spat after Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said there were "credible allegations" of Indian involvement.



Canadian police had arrested the three Indian men last week in Edmonton, Alberta, and they have been charged with first-degree murder and conspiracy to commit murder.

Canadian Mounted Police Superintendent Mandeep Mooker said Friday that the investigation into whether the men had ties to India's government was ongoing.

Nijjar, 45, was shot to death in his pickup truck last June after he left the Sikh temple he led in the city of Surrey.

An Indian-born citizen of Canada, he owned a plumbing business and was a leader in what remains of a once-strong movement to create

an independent Sikh homeland. India designated him a terrorist in 2020 and at the time of his death had been seeking his arrest for alleged involvement in an attack on a Hindu priest.

India has denied involvement in the slaying. In response to the allegations, India told Canada last year to remove 41 of its 62 diplomats in the country. Tensions remain but have somewhat eased since.

The arrested men — Kamalpreet Singh, 22, Karan Brar, 22, and Karanpreet Singh, 28 — appeared in

court Tuesday via a video link and agreed to a trial in English. They were ordered to appear in British Columbia Provincial Court again on May 21. Brar and Karanpreet Singh appeared in the morning.

Kamalpreet's appearance was delayed until the afternoon as he waited to speak to a lawyer.

The small provincial courtroom was filled with spectators during the morning session. Others crowded into an overflow room to watch the proceedings via video.

Israel reopens Gaza crossing closed after rocket attack

The Rafah crossing between Gaza and Egypt, which was taken over by the Israeli army, is still closed

ASSOCIATED PRESS JERUSALEM, 8 MAY

The Israeli military said Wednesday that it has reopened its Kerem Shalom crossing into Gaza after days of closure, but the U.N. said no humanitarian aid has yet entered and there is no one to receive it on the Palestinian side after workers fled during Israel's military incursion in the area.



The Kerem Shalom crossing between Gaza and Israel was closed over the weekend after a Hamas rocket attack killed four Israeli soldiers nearby, and on Tuesday, an Israeli tank brigade seized the nearby Rafah crossing between Gaza and Egypt, forcing its closure. The two facilities are the main terminals for entry of food, medicine and other supplies essential for the survival of Gaza's population of 2.3 million Palestinians.

The Israeli foray did not appear to be the start of the full-scale invasion of the city of Rafah that Israel has repeatedly promised. But aid officials warn that the prolonged closure of the two crossings could cause the collapse of aid operations, worsening the humanitarian crisis in Gaza, where the U.N. says a "full-blown famine" is already underway in the north.

The United States paused a shipment of bombs to Israel last week over concerns that Israel was approaching a decision on launching a full-scale assault on Rafah, in a further widening of divisions between the two close allies.

The U.S. says it is concerned over the fate of around 1.3 million Palestinians crammed into Rafah, most of whom fled fighting elsewhere. Israel says Rafah is Hamas' last stronghold and

that a wider offensive there is needed to dismantle the group's military and governing capabilities.

The U.S., Egypt and Qatar are meanwhile ramping up efforts to close the gaps in a possible agreement for at least a temporary cease-fire and the release of some of the scores of Israeli hostages still held by Hamas. Israel has linked the threatened Rafah operation to the fate of those negotiations.

CIA chief William Burns, who has been shuttling around the region for talks on the cease-fire deal, met Wednesday with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, a U.S. official said, speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss closed-door negotiations.

With the seizure of Rafah, Israel now controls all of Gaza's crossings for the first time since it withdrew troops and settlers from the territory nearly two decades ago, though it has maintained a

blockade with Egypt's cooperation for most of that time. The Rafah crossing has been a vital conduit for humanitarian aid since the start of the war and is the only place where people can enter and exit. Kerem Shalom is Gaza's main cargo terminal.

Associated Press journalists heard sporadic explosions and gunfire in the area of the Rafah crossing overnight, including two large blasts early Wednesday. The Israeli military reported six launches from Rafah toward the Kerem Shalom crossing on Tuesday.

COGAT, the Israeli military body in charge of Palestinian civilian affairs, said the Kerem Shalom crossing reopened early Wednesday. But Juliette Touma, the director of communications for UNRWA, said no aid had entered as of midday Wednesday and that the U.N. agency had been forced to ration fuel, which is imported through Rafah.

Russia hits Ukraine's power grid with a 'massive' attack

ASSOCIATED PRESS KYIV, 8 MAY

Russian forces unleashed a nighttime barrage of more than 50 cruise missiles and explosive drones at Ukraine's power grid Wednesday, targeting a wide area in what President Volodymyr Zelenskyy called a "massive" attack on the day the country celebrates the defeat of Nazism in World War II.

The bombardment blasted targets in seven Ukrainian regions, including the Kyiv area and parts of the south and west, damaging homes and the country's rail network, authorities said. Three people, including an 8-year-old girl, were injured, according to officials.

Russia has repeatedly pounded Ukraine's energy infrastructure during the war that is stretching into its third year and has claimed thousands of lives. By taking out the power, the Kremlin's forces aim to rob Ukrainian manufacturing of its energy supply, especially military plants, and crush public morale.

Russian attacks have damaged nearly half of Ukraine's power infrastructure since the start of the Kremlin's full-scale invasion in February 2022, officials say. The damage is estimated at \$12.5 billion, with \$1 billion inflicted during the past two weeks, according to the chairman of the Ukrainian Parliament's Committee on Energy and Housing Services, Andrii Herus.

Inside the courtroom where Donald Trump was forced to listen to Stormy Daniels

ASSOCIATED PRESS NEW YORK, 8 MAY

Donald Trump squirmed and scowled, shook his head and muttered as Stormy Daniels described the unexpected sex she says they had nearly two decades ago, saying she remembered "trying to think of anything other than what was happening."

It was a story Daniels has told before. This time, Trump had no choice but to sit and listen.

Years in the making, the in-person showdown between the former president and the porn actor who has become one of his nemesis happened Tuesday in a New York courtroom that has become the plain-spoken stage for the historic spectacle of Trump's hush money trial, where the gravitas of the first-ever criminal trial of a former U.S. commander-in-chief butts up against a crass and splashy tale of sex, tabloids and pay-offs. It's often said that actual trials are not like the TV drama versions, and in that way, this one is no exception — a methodical and sometimes static proceeding of

questions, answers and rules. But if Tuesday's testimony wasn't an electric scene of outbursts and tears, it was no less stunning for its sheer improbability. Daniels' testimony had been speculated about for as long as Trump has been under indictment. But when it would happen was still a mystery until Tuesday morning, when her lawyer Clark Brewster confirmed in an email to an Associated Press reporter that it was "likely today."

But even after the trial resumed, Daniels still had to wait. The first witness of the day was a publishing executive who read passages from some of Trump's business books. Then, when the judge asked for the prosecution's next witness, Assistant District Attorney Susan Hoffinger matter-of-factly declared, "The people call Stormy Daniels." Daniels strode briskly to the stand, not looking at Trump, her shoes clunking on the floor.

The former president stared straight ahead until the moment she had passed his spot at the defense table, then tilted his head slightly in her direction.

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY OPEN TENDER NOTICE

Open Tender Notice No. EPC/PSI/GHD-MHDA/ECR/02 Date: 30.04.2024 1.0 Name of the work with its location: "Design, Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of Traction Sub Stations with associated Switching Posts for upgradation work of electric traction system from 1x25 to 2x25 KV AT feeding system in Garwa Road - Mahadiya Section of Dhanbad Division of East Central Railway". 2.0 Approximate cost of the work: Rs. 234,37.91, 249.29, 3.0 Cost of Tender form: Rs. 0.00/-, 4.0 Earnest money to be deposited: Rs. 1000000.00/- (One crore only), 5.0 Date & time for submission of tender and opening of tender: Bidding start date: 19.06.2024 and last date of submission: 03.07.2024 at 15:00 hrs., 6.0 Website particulars, notice board location where complete details of tender can be seen and address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased etc. : For eligibility criteria and other conditions and details, please go through the tender document available in web-site at: http://www.ireps.gov.in 7.0 Address of the office from where the tender details can be obtained website particulars and notice board location: Office of the Chief Administrative Officer Railway Project, Danapur, Near Jagjeevan stadium, Kharagpur, Danapur-801105. E-tendering website: www.ireps.gov.in Notice board- Office of the Chief Administrative Officer, Railway Project, Danapur Near Jagjeevan stadium, Kharagpur, Danapur, Patna. Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer Railway Project, Danapur PR/00232/RP/ELEC/T/24-25/44

EASTERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE

Tender Notice No.: SG.Tender/DSTE/SDAH/471, Dated: 07.05.2024. E-Tender is invited by the Sr. D.S.T.E., Eastern Railway, Sealdah, DRM Building, Kaizer Street, Kolkata-700014 for the following work: e-Tender No.: SDSTE/Sig/T/03/24-25/RRSK. Name of work with its location: Signalling work in connection with Track Renewal work over Sealdah Division. Tender Value: ₹ 1,99,41,751.69. Cost of Tender document: Nil. Earnest Money/Bid Security to be deposited: ₹ 2,49,700. Completion period of the work: 12 months. Tender submission start date: 23.05.2024. Tender submission end date: 06.06.2024 upto 14.00 hrs. Tender Bid opening date: 06.06.2024 at 14.30 hrs. Details may be available: www.ireps.gov.in. Technical Eligibility Criteria: The tenderer must have successfully completed or substantially completed any one of the following categories of work(s) during last 07 (seven) years, ending last day of month previous to the one in which tender is invited: (i) Three similar works each costing not less than the amount equal to 30% of advertised value of the tender, or (ii) Two similar works each costing not less than the amount equal to 40% of advertised value of the tender, or (iii) One similar work costing not less than the amount equal to 60% of advertised value of the tender. Financial Eligibility Criteria: The tenderer must have minimum average annual contractual turnover of V/N or V whichever is less; where V= Advertised value of the tender in crores of Rupees, N= Number of years prescribed for completion of work for which bids have been invited. The average annual contractual turnover shall be calculated as an average of "total contractual payments" in the previous three financial years, as per the audited balance sheet. However, in case balance sheet of the previous year is yet to be prepared/audited, the audited balance sheet of the fourth previous year shall be considered for calculating average annual contractual turnover. The tenderers shall submit requisite information as per Annexure-VIB of GCC 2022 (Form-6 of the instant tender document), along with copies of Audited Balance Sheets duly certified by the Chartered Accountant/Certificate from Chartered Accountant duly supported by Audited Balance Sheet. Other document to be submitted: As mentioned in the tender document. Similar nature of Work: Any work of "Panel Interlocking or Route Relay Interlocking or Electronic Interlocking or IBH or Automatic Signalling or LC Gate Interlocking or AFTC or SSDAC or MSDAC" to be considered as similar nature of work for the instant tender. Note: The tenderer shall submit along with the tender offer, documents in support of his/her claim to fulfill the eligibility criteria as mentioned in the tender document. Each page of the copy of documents/certificates in support of credentials, submitted by the tenderer, shall be self attested/digitally signed by the tenderer or authorized representative of the tendering firm. Self attestation shall include signature, stamp and date (on each page). (SDAH-46/2024-25) Tender Notices are also available at website: www.er.indianrailways.gov.in/www.ireps.gov.in Follow us at: @EasternRailway easternrailwayheadquarter

TENDER

EASTERN RAILWAY

E-Auction is invited by Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Eastern Railway, Howrah, 4th floor, Yatri Niwas, near Howrah Station, Howrah-711101 for awarding fresh contract for Operation and Maintenance of Normal Pay & Use Toilet at Bolpur Station (Composite), Ahmadpur Station (PF No.-1), Tarapith Road Station (Near Circulating Area), Lihuah (Near Booking Office), Chandannagar Station (Near PF No.-1 of Bandel End) and Azimganj City Station for 3 years over Howrah Division. The subject E-Auction is governed as per Railway Board's Freight Marketing Circular No. 11 of 2022 and Commercial Circular No. 14 of 2022. For more details and participation in E-Auction kindly visit the website www.ireps.gov.in through E-Auction Leasing Module. Auction Catalogue No.: PnU-HWH-05-24-R. SI.No.; Lot No./Category & station are as follows: (1); PnU-HWH-BHP-Tol-55-23-1 & Bolpur (BHP), (2); PnU-HWH-AMP-Tol-39-24-1 & Ahmadpur (AMP), (3); PnU-HWH-TPF-Tol-47-24-1 & Tarapith Road (TPF), (4); PnU-HWH-LLH-Tol-32-24-1 & Lihuah (LLH), (5); PnU-HWH-CGR-Tol-33-24-2 & Chandannagar (CGR), (6); PnU-HWH-ACLE-Tol-43-23-1 & Azimganj City (ACLE). Auction Date & Time: 21.05.2024 at 12.00 hrs. (HWH-47/2024-25) Tender Notices are also available at website: www.er.indianrailways.gov.in/www.ireps.gov.in Follow us at: @EasternRailway easternrailwayheadquarter

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY E-TENDERING NOTICE

Deputy Chief Engineer (Gati Shakti), N. C. Rly Agra for and on behalf of the President of India invites "Open Tender" through online mode only (E-Tendering) for the following work. The details of the tender are as under: S N : 1 Tender No DYCE-GS-AGC-2024-03 Approx Cost ₹ : ₹ 72.60lacs Description of work: Provision of full length Goods siding by extending A&D siding at Kitham station of Agra Division of North Central Railway. S N : 2 Tender No DYCE-GS-AGC-2024-04 Approx Cost ₹ : ₹ 9.98 cr. Description of work: Developmental works at Agra Fort station under Amrit Station Scheme in Agra Division of North Central Railway. Bid security : S.N.1- ₹ 145200.00, S.N.2- ₹ 649200.00, Completion Period: S.N.1- 06 months, S.N.2- 12 months, For full details and submission of bid please see the Indian Railways website "www.ireps.gov.in". Tender can be submitted through web portal "www.ireps.gov.in" up to 15.00 hrs on 29.05.2024. 814/24(DG) North central railways @PDRONCA @northcentralrailway www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in

Revised Timing of Sealdah-Jaynagar Special at Madhubani

The stoppage timing of 03187 Sealdah-Jaynagar Summer Special Train at Madhubani station has been revised as under :- Revised timings at Madhubani : Arr.: 12.30 hrs., Dep.: 12.32 hrs. All other instructions will remain same. Chief Passenger Transportation Manager EASTERN RAILWAY Follow us at: @EasternRailway easternrailwayheadquarter

CENTRAL SANSKRIT UNIVERSITY

Established by an Act of Parliament (Formerly Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan, under Ministry of Education, Government of India) 56-57, Institutional Area, Janakpuri, New Delhi-110058 Ph. No. 011-28524993, 28524995, 28520979, 28520966 Website: www.sanskrit.nic.in

Table with 3 columns: Sl. No., Name of the Scheme, Online Registration Starting date Closing date. Includes schemes for financial assistance, Sanskrit teaching, Samman Rashi, and scholarships.

2. The interested parties, while submitting their applications for financial assistance, may kindly keep in mind the following instructions: i) Interested parties are advised to forward their applications in respect of the above-mentioned schemes through online mode only. The Applications submitted through any other mode will not be entertained. ii) As per the guidelines of the above-mentioned schemes, interested parties are required to submit hard copies of publications/books/necessary documents etc., along with hard copy of their filled in online application duly certified by the Competent Authority. All pages of application and annexures should be signed in ink and self-attested. iii) Only after filling the online applications, take the printout and hard Copy of the completed applications should invariably be sent separately by Registered post, within 20 days from the closing date of the online registration to "Registrar, Central Sanskrit University, 56-57, Institutional Area, Janakpuri, New Delhi - 110058. Name of the scheme is to be ascribed on the top of envelope. iv) Before filling the application form, it is advised that the scheme guidelines be referred. v) For more details regarding guidelines of each scheme, remuneration, required documents, how to apply in online and application forwarding process etc., please visit the Central Sanskrit University's website www.sanskrit.nic.in/schemes. vi) For each scheme indicated from Sl. No. 2 to 8 above, it is mandatory for all grantee institutions of previous years to apply afresh for each scheme, as automatic renewal will not be done. vii) Further, consideration or rejection of the application for grants/recognition depend upon the availability of funds and approval of the Competent Authority, as per applicability, every year. Therefore, it is mandatory to apply every year on scheme-to-scheme basis separately for financial assistance. viii) In case of any clarifications or doubts, interested parties may contact Central Sanskrit University through e-mail at help.schemes@csu.co.in or through above mentioned phone numbers or postal address. CBC 21212/12/0002/2425 Sd/- Registrar 1/c

S. E. RAILWAY - TENDER

Tender Notice No.: (i) 114-ELC-G-KGP-24-25-06, (ii) 114-ELC-G-KGP-24-25-08, Dt. 07.05.2024. For and on behalf of the President of India, the Sr. DEE/G/South Eastern Railway, Kharagpur-721301 invites e-Tenders for the following works before 12.00 hrs. on the date mentioned against items. Sl.No.-1. Description of work: Electrical work for installation of Air Conditioning at Indoor wards of Kharagpur Regional Railway Hospital. Tender Value: ₹ 16,45,699.14. Bid Security/E.M.D.: ₹ 32,900. Sl.No.-2. Description of work: Electrical work for supply, installation and commissioning of High Mast Towers at different station yard under Sr.DEE(GY) Kharagpur. Tender Value: ₹ 67,38,309.22. Bid Security/E.M.D.: ₹ 1,34,800. Date of Opening: 29.05.2024 (for Sl.No. 1 & 2 each). Cost of tender document: Nil (for Sl.No. 1 & 2 each). Completion Period: 06 months (for Sl.No. 1) & 09 months (for Sl.No. 2) from the date of issue of Letter of Acceptance. Date of submission: Up to 12.00 hrs. of 29.05.2024. Interested tenderers may visit website www.ireps.gov.in for full details, description and specification of the tender and submit their bids online. In no case manual tender for these works will be accepted. Note: Prospective bidders may regularly visit www.ireps.gov.in to participate in all tenders. (PR-123)

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE

The Divisional Railway Manager (Engg)/ E.C. Railway/Samastipur for and on behalf of the President of India invites Open Tender from experienced and financially capable tenderers for the following works in E-Tendering mode of IREPS web portal of Indian Railways:- Tender Notice No. : TC-84-2024-SPJ. Name of work : Supplying of Stone Boulder and Stone dust for Monsoon Reserve stock for the year 2024-25 and loading the same into any type of wagon at Sakrigaili/Pakur or any other quarry of sahebaganj loop line for Samastipur division. Tender value (In ₹) : ₹1,91,82,838.00, Earnest Money (In ₹) : ₹2,45,900.00, Completion period of the work : 12 Months. 1. Last Date & time for receiving of Tender in E-Tender mode on IREPS web portal : 28.05.2024 upto 12.00 hours. 2. Opening Date & time for E-Tender : 28.05.2024 after 12.00 hours. 3. Website particulars where complete details of tender & tender document can be seen on website : www.ireps.gov.in. Amendments/modifications if any shall not be published in the newspapers but the same shall be uploaded in the website. Sr. Divisional Engineer/Co-ord/ ECR/Samastipur PR/00241/SPJ/Engg./T/24-25/40

WEST CENTRAL RAILWAY SIGNAL & TELECOMMUNICATION (CONST) BRANCHED-OPEN TENDER

NIT DATED 06.05.2024 Invitation of E-tender on behalf of the president of India acting through Deputy Chief Signal & Telecommunication Engineer (Construction), West Central Railway, Jabalpur for the following works -NIT NO.-JBP-SNT-CON-TEND-130 dated 06.05.2024. Name of work with location-Provision of Fire Alarm System, in connection with the work of STA-REWA DOUBLING & KTE-BINA Third line work of Jabalpur Division of West Central Railway. Approx cost of the work-Rs.2,87,61,041.24. Address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased-Deputy Chief Signal & Telecommunication Engineer (Construction), Ist Floor, DRM office Building, Jabalpur. Earnest money (In Rs.)-Rs.2,93,800/-, Completion period (In months)-06 Months, Date & Time for submission of tender-15.00 Hrs on 04.06.2024. Complete details of the e-tender notice is available on the Railway website "http://ireps.gov.in" and also placed on notice board of the Deputy Chief Signal & Telecommunication Engineer (Construction) office, WCR, Jabalpur. Tenders other than in the form of e-bids shall not be accepted for above tender. Dy Chief Signal & Telecommunication Engineer (Const) WCR

EASTERN RAILWAY Cancellation of Tender

In connection with Tender No.: SANDT-CON-02-2024-HWH under Tender Notice No.: SANDT/CON/HWH/TN/02/II/2024, Closing on 20.05.2024 at 15.00 hrs. published earlier by Dy. Chief Signal & Telecom Engineer (Con), Eastern Railway, Howrah, 371, Telkol Ghat Road, Howrah-711101. The above tender has been Cancelled due to unavoidable circumstances. (CON-09/2024-25) Tender Notices are also available at website: www.er.indianrailways.gov.in/www.ireps.gov.in Follow us at: @EasternRailway easternrailwayheadquarter

JAPIT Jharkhand Agency for Promotion of Information Technology (An Autonomous body under Department of Information Technology & eGovernance, Govt. of Jharkhand) Ground Floor, Engineer's Hostel - I, Near Golchakkar, Dhurwa, Ranchi, Jharkhand, Phone. 0651 - 2401044 & 2401067 eMail: japit_doit@rediffmail.com

Corrigendum - IV eTender Ref. No.: JAP-IT/HCVMS-ePass/01/2024 PR No.: 323955 Information Technology (24-25):D As per site survey (Hon'ble High Court, Jharkhand) held on 20.04.2024 & 25.04.2024 and follow-up presentation delivered on 26.04.2024 at JAP-IT by different prospective bidders, Corrigendum - IV" is being published, which may be downloaded from https://jhardhandtenders.gov.in and same is also available on https://jhardhand.gov.in & https://japit.jhardhand.gov.in. During the presentation, different prospective bidders have submitted their solution architecture and other respective documentation, some of the requests have been made. Accordingly, some points have been considered, which are as under:

Table with 4 columns: Sl. No., Tender Clause No., Tender Clause, Revised Tender Clause. Details regarding annual turnover and MTCET certification requirements.

Other terms & conditions remains same as per published RFP. Sd/- Officer on Special Duty, JAP-IT, Ranchi PR 324555 Information Technology(24-25):D

TP SOUTHERN ODISHA DISTRIBUTION LIMITED (Procurement Department) BPR North Star Building, 2nd Floor, Khodasingi, Berhampur, Odisha-760010

NOTICE INVITING TENDER Dt.: 09.05.2024

TP Southern Odisha Distribution Ltd. invites tender from eligible vendors for following:

Table with 5 columns: Sl. No., Tender Description, NIT Number, EMD (Rs.), Tender Fee inclusive of GST (Rs.), Last date and time of Payment of Tender Fee. Item 1: Rate contract for Repairing and Reconditioning services works of Distribution Transformer at DTR workshop, Central Store Berhampur, TPSODL.

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



Sam bhai, I am from the North East & I look like an Indian. We are a diverse country – we may look different but we are all one. Hamare desh ke bare mein thoda to samajh lo!

ASSAM CHIEF MINISTER HIMANTA BISWA SARMA

RESPONDING TO EX-CONGRESS OVERSEAS CHIEF PITORDA'S REMARKS ON THE ETHNIC BACKGROUNDS OF INDIANS.



Opp defaming BJP with false propoganda: Shah

Opposition will lock up the Ayodhya Ram temple in the name of Babari, says HM

AGENCIES LAKHIMPUR KHRI, 8 MAY

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday accused the Congress-SP-BSP combine of defaming the BJP and Prime Minister Narendra Modi by advocating false propoganda on reservations.

"They are saying that if you give 400 seats to Modi, reservations will go away. The Congress got a majority in Karnataka, there reservation for backward classes was cut and 5 per cent quota was given to Muslims," he claimed.

Addressing an election rally here, he sought votes in favour of BJP candidate and Union minister Ajay Mishra Teni. Teni had opposed the



farmers' agitation against the now-scrapped central farm laws. Targeting the opposition, Shah accused Samajwadi Party (SP) leader Ram Gopal Yadav of calling the recently-constructed Ram temple in Ayodhya "useless".

"If people make even the slightest mistake, they will lock the Ram temple in the name

of Babari," he cautioned the voters. The minister said during the SP regime in Uttar Pradesh, hooliganism was at its peak and land was encroached upon. There was no electricity on Holi and Diwali, but round-the-clock power during Ramzan, he said. Attacking the Congress, he said Rahul Gandhi had professed to eradicate poverty in one stroke.

"Your grandmother (Indira Gandhi) imposed Emergency in one stroke. Father (Rajiv Gandhi) introduced 'triple talaq' in one fell swoop. Your party snatched away the reservation of backward classes in one fell swoop. Is this the way to end poverty?" he asked.

On the opposition alliance, Shah said they do not even

have a candidate for the post of prime minister. "They have neither a leader, mission nor policy. It is just dynastic politics," he said.

The home minister claimed with the completion of three phases of voting in the ongoing general election, Modi has crossed 190 seats.

"Moving forward more strongly in the fourth phase. The SP, Congress and the BSP have been wiped out. This election is to make Modi the prime minister for the third time. This is the election to make 3 crore poor sisters millionaires. The election is to give houses to 4 lakh poor people. It is a choice to make people prosperous," he added.

Shah is slated to address election meetings in Hardoi and Kannauj later in the day.

Congress manifesto represents a 'new version' of Muslim League, says CM Yogi in Gorakhpur

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE GORAKHPUR, 8 MAY

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Wednesday claimed that the Congress' manifesto is like a 'new version' of the 'Muslim League'.

He said: "This is not a 'Myra Patra', but 'Anyay Patra' towards the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Backward Castes, and Sanatana Dharma. A new version of the Muslim League has come."

The Chief Minister was addressing the media in Gorakhnath temple premises before leaving for the election campaign in Akbarpur, Farrukhabad and Shahjahanpur Lok Sabha constituencies on Wednesday.

When asked about the accusation made by Sonia Gandhi of promoting hatred politics by the BJP, CM Yogi said that instead of telling white lies, Sonia Gandhi should at least develop a habit of speaking the truth.

Continuing his attack, Yogi said, "Everyone knows that Congress has inherited the policy of 'divide and rule'. In 1947, Congress allowed the cunning tactics of the British



to succeed and divided the country. After independence, Congress fueled class struggles within the country based on caste, region, and language due to political selfishness."

Raising a question, CM Yogi asked: "Who doesn't know what Sonia Gandhi did as the chairperson of the UPA from 2004 to 2014?" He said that they formed the Justice Ranganath Mishra Committee to undermine OBC reservation. He highlighted that Congress and its allies also attempted to encroach upon the rights of SC-ST communities.

During the Congress government, there were attempts,

as mentioned in the Sachar Committee report, to include some Muslim communities in the Scheduled Caste category. However, due to opposition from the NDA and BJP, Congress' plans couldn't be fulfilled.

The Chief Minister criticized Congress' track record, accusing them of implementing Section 370 in Kashmir and undermining OBC reservation in Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh. "The people of India will never allow the intention of Congress to be fulfilled because divisive politics is not in anyone's interest," Yogi added.

Continuing his critique of the Congress manifesto, the Chief Minister emphasized its divisive nature, warning that it could lead India towards class conflicts and encroachment upon the rights of Scheduled Castes, Tribes, and Backward Classes.

However, he expressed confidence that the people of the nation will resist these Congress plans.

He noted the current unity across the country under PM Modi's leadership, striving to achieve the vision of a self-

reliant and developed India. He said that the people of the entire country are determined to support the BJP and the NDA under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi for a developed India. Meanwhile, Yogi said on Tuesday that with the completion of the elections in three phases, half of the Lok Sabha seats have concluded voting. The only slogans echoing across the country are 'Fir Ek Baar Modi Sarkar, Abki Baar 400 Paar' which is leaving Opposition parties bewildered.

Addressing a huge election rally for the Akbarpur Lok Sabha seat at the Patara Railway Station ground in Ghatampur, the chief minister said, "When they fail to comprehend anything, they resort to conspiracies against India. Statements from Opposition parties indicate that these elections are between 'Ram Bhakts' and 'Ramdrohis'. Those who are 'Ram Bhakts' are also 'Rashtra Bhakts' of the nation."

During the rally, Yogi appealed to the public to vote in favour of BJP candidate Devendra Singh Bhole.

Priyanka Gandhi campaigns for brother Rahul in Rae Bareilly

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE RAEBARELLI, 8 MAY

Congress General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Wednesday held street meetings in villages of Bachhrawan Assembly constituency, the third day of her stay in the district to campaign for her brother Rahul Gandhi, who is contesting from Raebareilly.

While addressing the people in Maharajganj, she reacted to Prime Minister's speech that Rahul Gandhi is not taking the name of Adani-Ambani. "But I can say, my brother takes their name every day and every day we bring their truth in front of you," she said.

Priyanka said that every day we tell you that they have nexus with big millionaires as all their loans worth Rs 16 lakh crore were waived off.

"Here in Uttar Pradesh where they have their government in the state and also



at the Centre, farmers here are committing suicide for one lakh rupees loan. Not even a single rupee of loan has been waived off for them. Modi ji should answer this. In the last 10 years he has only deceived you. He has given all the wealth of this country to his millionaire friends. They have ports of the country, airports of the country, coal of the country, power generation plants and big institutions," she said.

Priyanka Gandhi is handling the responsibility of Rahul Gandhi election campaign. Priyanka Gandhi is in

Rae Bareilly since Monday and on the first and second day he held meetings with the officials.

Earlier, addressing the street meeting in Thulvasa during the tour on the third day, Priyanka Gandhi said that her mother was a continuous MP from here.

"Her health has been bad for the last few years, hence her visit here was less frequently. Rahul Gandhi is your candidate in this election. The entire BJP machinery is deployed against him. They expelled him from Parliament, threw him out of the house, but Rahul Gandhi did not bow down. Walked four thousand kilometers from Kanyakumari to Kashmir. Then traveled from Manipur to Mumbai. This journey was a journey to understand your problems. Today the biggest problem is inflation and unemployment," she said.

Biennial polls for 4 Maha Legislative Council seats on 10 Jun

MUMBAI, 8 MAY

Biennial elections for four seats of the Maharashtra Legislative Council, falling vacant soon, will be held on June 10, the Election Commission of India (ECI) announced on Wednesday.

The four seats comprise two seats each of the Teachers Constituency and the Graduates Constituency, with the terms of the present members expiring on 7 July.

The MLCs whose tenure ends are: Kishore B. Darade (Nashik Division Teachers Constituency), Kapil H. Patil (Mumbai Division Teachers Constituency) and Niranjan V. Davkhare (Konkan Division Graduates Constituency) and Vilas V. Potnis (Mumbai Division Graduates Constituency).

AGENCIES

HOLY DIP



Devotees in large numbers gather to take a dip in the river Ganga on the occasion of Vaishakh Amavasya, in Haridwar on Wednesday. ANI

UP's Basti LS: Same rivals but different parties

BASTI (UP), 8 MAY

The Lok Sabha elections in Basti make an interesting picture. The rivals are the same, though the party has changed. In 2019, Harish Dwivedi of BJP won the seat, defeating Ram Prasad Chaudhary of BSP. In 2024, Dwivedi is again contesting on the BJP symbol and his rival is once again Ram Prasad Chaudhary. The only difference is that this time, Chaudhary is contesting on a Samajwadi symbol instead of BSP.

Harish Dwivedi is seeking a third term from Basti, having won the 2014 and 2019 elections. Ram Prasad Chaudhary is a veteran politician, a former MP and a five-term MLA. He is one of the tallest leaders of the Kurmi community. The BSP, however, has queered the pitch in Basti by replacing its earlier candidate Daya Shankar Mishra with Lavkush Patel who also belongs to the Kurmi community. The BSP has turned the election into a triangular contest. Lavkush Patel is the son of three-time MLA, the late Nandu Chaudhary, who was known for his association with Ram Prasad Chaudhary. "There is an attempt to divide my voters by fielding one from my own community but this election is much more than just casteism," he said.

AGENCIES

Mayawati's action against nephew due to BSP's fear of loss in polls, says Akhilesh

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE LUCKNOW, 8 MAY

Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav on Wednesday said the Bahujan Samaj Party was losing its vote share to the opposition-backed INDIA bloc.

His comments come in the backdrop of the removal of BSP supremo Mayawati's nephew Akash Anand from the post of the party's national coordinator as well as her political heir.



"The real reason behind this change is that the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) does not see a single seat coming because most of the traditional supporters of BSP are voting

for the INDI Alliance this time to save the Constitution and reservations. BSP is taking this as a failure of its organization," Yadav said in

a statement here.

"That is why their top leadership is making such major changes in the organization, but now the game is out of BSP's hands," he said.

In a social media post, the Samajwadi Party (SP) president said, "In such a situation, we appeal to all voters that you should not waste your vote. Vote for the candidates of INDI Alliance who are fighting from the front to save the Constitution of Baba Saheb Bhimrao Ambedkar."

Mayawati killed two birds with one stone by axing Akash

AGENCIES LUCKNOW, 8 MAY

Mistakes — minute or monumental — are unacceptable and unpardonable in the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP), particularly if they have the potential to harm party chief Mayawati's political interests.

In the past, innumerable BSP leaders have been shown the door by Mayawati for making mistakes.

Party supremo Mayawati's

decision to axe nephew, Akash Anand from all posts in the BSP on Tuesday night is designed to send a clear message to her voters that when it comes to punishment, she will not differentiate between party workers and family members.

Akash Anand's removal is all the more significant because the former Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister had designated him as her political successor.

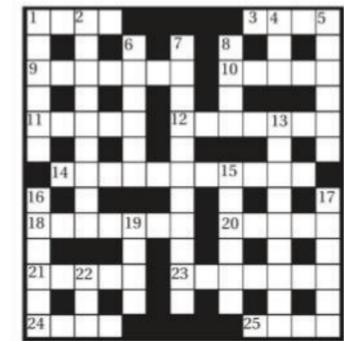
However, whatever criticism Mayawati faced from rivals for promoting nepotism in the BSP by bringing in Akash Anand, has been washed away by her decision to punish him for his 'immaturity'.

Akash Anand's 'immaturity' was evident when at an election rally in Sitapur on April 28 the 29-year-old went hammer and tongs at the BJP, which has often propped up his aunt Mayawati.

AGENCIES

LEISURE

10 MINUTE CROSSWORD



ACROSS
1 Daybreak (4)
3 Frozen rain (4)
9 Church dignitary (7)
10 In the middle of (5)
11 Fish basket (5)
12 Garnishing plant (7)
14 "The sport of kings" (5,6)
18 Metallic element (7)
20 Church passageway (5)
21 Theme (5)
23 Stingy person (7)
24 Cry of a wolf (4)
25 Close by (4)

DOWN
1 Portray (6)
2 Sad in appearance (9)
4 Fuzz (3)
5 Cricket extra (3,3)
6 Area of hard soil (6)
7 Disposition (11)
8 Just (4)
13 Type of picture (9)
15 Alter (6)
16 Type of whisky (6)
17 Editorial (6)
19 Peruvian Indian (4)
22 Church bench (3)

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Big
3 Inner (Beginner)
8 Theasaurus
9 Dam
10 Eat
11 Amusement
12 Sycophantic
17 Go between
20 None
21 Ago
22 Preferred
6 Corp
24 Dis
13 Octopus, 14

DOWN
1 Bitter
2 Grating
3 Insulin
4 Nudge
5 Remote
7 Trench fever
15 Aghast
16 Sweden
18 Boots
19 Need

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 Kovalieski



NEED TO KNOW

Ambulance
FD Block Association (Amb) 9830452536, 9830181286
Happy Calcuttans 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 2497-6285
2495-5164/5557
RK Mission Seva Pratishthan 2475-3636/39

Police/Fire
Lalibazar (Police Control Room) 22143230
S. P. (North 24-Pgns) 25423005
S.P. (South 24-Pgns) 2479-3353/1311
Bhawani Bhawan 24791761/9, 24791933
Fire Service Station Salt Lake: 2357-5293;

Howrah 2666-8111; Behala 2497-6285

Civic Services
Kolkata Municipal Corporation: 2266-1000
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, 2638-7412/3542/2581 (manual).
Sealdah: 2350-3535/3537
Shalimar Station: 2668-1121, Eastern Railway and South-Eastern Railway: 139.

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Double Word Bonus
Triple Word Bonus
No Letter Bonus
No Letter Bonus
No Letter Bonus

FOUR RACK TOTAL TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

PAIR SCORE 150-180 by JUDO

FOUR RACK TOTAL TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

PAIR SCORE 75-85 by JUDO

SCRABBLE® YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION BY JUDO

118-17

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PAIR SCORE 150-180 by JUDO

PAIR SCORE 75-85 by JUDO

SUDOKU Concepts Sudoku

By Dave Croon

9		3			6
4					7
	1	4	7	5	
	7	4	2		4
5					4
	6	5	8		
9	3	5	1		
8					3
6			8		2

Difficulty Level: ★★☆☆

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.

No Constitutional bar

It is time the legislature took a position on judges joining politics, says Ritojit Dasgupta

While the resignation of a Calcutta High Court judge to join national politics has become a major talk of the town (rather the 'country' in this case), it has also stirred up massive controversies. Many of those are politically oriented. The Supreme Court in the case of Sanjay Jain v. National Aviation Company of India Ltd, has highlighted that it is a right of every person to resign from his services. The Apex Court, in this judgment, had laid down that, "to resign is a right of an employee who cannot be forced to serve in case he is not willing until and unless there is some stipulation in the rules or in the terms of appointment or disciplinary proceedings is pending or contemplated which is sought to be avoided by resigning from the services."

In light of such a ruling, it is quite pertinent to mention that judges are also human beings and members of the society. Therefore, when a judge resigns from his services in compliance with the provisions of the Constitution of India, it cannot be, prima facie, termed to have been done with a 'mala fide' intention.

Article 217 that deals with this procedure lays down that every Judge of a High Court shall be appointed by the President by warrant under his hand and seal, and shall hold office until he attains the age of sixty-two years. As per proviso (a) of Article 217(1), a Judge may resign his office by writing his resignation, under his own hand, to the President of India. As soon as the resignation is served, the tenure of such person as a Judge gets terminated.

While the ruling party in the State of West Bengal questions the resignation of ex-Justice Abhijit Gangopadhyay, another decision of the Apex Court is relevant. In Union of India v. Gopal Chandra Misra, the Supreme Court had highlighted that a High Court Judge, who is a constitutional functionary, has a unilateral right or privilege to resign his office.

To further emphasize the proce-



Judges and bureaucrats joining politics

sure, if the Judge chooses to resign from the present moment, his resignation cannot be withdrawn or revoked. However, if the Judge chooses to resign from a future date, his resignation may be revoked before such date.

In 1949, it was proposed before the Constituent Assembly by KT Shah that a Judge (of the Supreme Court or any High Court) shall be disqualified, after retirement, from being appointed to any office of executive nature under the Government of India including the office of an Ambassador, Minister, Diplomat, High Commissioner, Trade Commissioner, Consul, as well as of a Minister in the Government of India or under the Government of any State in the Union. This view was also supported by HV Kamath. However, this view was strongly opposed by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar on the ground that there was almost no opportunity provided by the Constitution for the Executive to influence the Judiciary. The view of Dr. Ambedkar was also backed by Jawaharlal Nehru. Hence, there exists no constitutional bar for a Judge.

The instance of a sitting judge resigning to join politics is not newly discovered. The first instance was orchestrated by Nehru himself. In 1952, he appointed Sir Sayid Fazl Ali, who was then a sitting judge of the Supreme Court, as the Governor of Orissa. Another significant instance is that the ninth Chief Justice of India, Chief Justice K Subba Rao, resigned from the post of CJI in order to contest for the President of India in 1967. There are many other instances of like nature which also include the instances of Justice H.R. Khanna and Justice KS Hedge.

As a social phenomenon, politics and law are the consequences of the same entity. It is only due to the human dualistic/pluralistic perception of the world that they exist separately. Moreover, from a deeper ontological perspective, a difference between politics and law is fictitious and both are same in their general normative orientation towards organising societal relations. In the case of Morial v. Judiciary Commission of Louisiana, a Louisiana State Court Judge Ernest Morial intended to contest the election for the post of Mayor in New Orleans while simultaneously holding his post as a Judge. The United States Court of Appeals held that he had to resign from the post of the Judge in order to contest for the elections. Speaking about the resign-to-run rule which laid down that a person had to resign from his judicial post in order to appear in political campaigns, the Court had recognized such a rule to be in consonance with the right of free speech and association and equal protection of laws.

Therefore, when a Judge resigns from his judicial post in order to join politics, it is a mere exercise of his right to free speech and association. Criticising such an act on grounds which have no Constitutional basis is probably propaganda of the opposition to malign the person. In a country like India, there is a dearth of educated people in the arena of politics. It is for the sake of betterment of the society that educated people must step into politics. When a person with high quality knowledge and education joins a political party, it is undoubtedly beneficial for the party. At the same time, it is a major loss for the parties in oppo-

sition.

Another instance when a similar issue arose was when ex-Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi was nominated to the Rajya Sabha by the then President of India Ram Nath Kovind. Various judgments of Ex-CJI Ranjan Gogoi, which were sensitive from a political point of view, were questioned. Such instances often trigger a very frequently asked question challenging the 'independence of judiciary'.

However, the independence of the judiciary has already been guaranteed and secured by the Constitution of India because no judge holds office at the pleasure of the President. A Judge can only be impeached under the conditions mentioned under Articles 124 (4), (5), 217, and 218 of the Constitution of India, and as per the rules mentioned in the Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968. However, this procedure is too elaborate to prove misbehaviour or incapacity. The reason why such a procedure is designed in an elaborate manner is to ensure that a judge can perform his/her functions independently without having the fear that such actions, for the purpose of serving justice, could offend a powerful person.

The Constitution of India has been silent on the practice of judges joining politics. However, this practice has often been looked down upon by various eminent scholars and thinkers from the legal field. It was recommended, in the year 1958, by the 14th Law Commission Report that Judges shall be prevented from accepting any form of employment with the State or the Union. It has often been emphasized that a cooling-off period should be imposed where a person who retires

as a Judge shall be prevented from taking up any position in the Executive. In this context, Ex-CJI RM Lohia opined that a cooling-off period could ideally be of two years.

As long as Ex-Justice Gangopadhyay was dealing with matters relating to education, he made quite a number of landmark moves. Some of them are that in the 'Teachers' Recruitment Scam Case' he had ordered a probe by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) which led to the arrest of Ex-West Bengal Minister Partha Chatterjee. He also directed the Enforcement Directorate to investigate Manik Bhat-tacharya, who was the former Chairman of West Bengal Board of Primary

Education. Relying upon the results of such an investigation, the Enforcement Directorate decided to arrest him in the 'cash-for-job scam'. Now, while such orders are being questioned on the grounds of bias because the Justice had political ambitions, it is also pertinent to observe that the prima facie case against the accused was strong enough to convince the investigating agencies to arrest them. Thus, it would be unreasonable to conclude that such orders and judgments were pronounced out of a political bias.

While the Constitution of India is silent regarding the matter of Judges joining politics after retirement, the Constitution guarantees to all 'citizens' the fundamental right to freedom to form associations and also practice any profession. For Judges, the only restriction the Constitution has imposed upon these rights is that no (permanent) retired judge of a High Court shall plead or act in any court or before any authority in India except the Supreme Court and other High Courts. In case of a Supreme Court Judge, he shall be prevented from pleading or acting in any court or before any authority within the territory of India.

In the absence of any Constitutional bar or a provision for cooling-off, the rules merely remain ethical and moral which have no significance in reality. It is probably high time the legislature expressed its view in the matter to remove the uncertainty.

(The writer is an LLM student, Department of Law, University of Calcutta.)

If so, to what extent...?

The US Supreme Court is doing what it set out to in the Trump immunity case, argues Claire B. Wofford

Following the nearly three-hour oral argument about presidential immunity in the Supreme Court on April 25, 2024, many commentators were aghast. The general theme, among legal and political experts alike, was a hand-over-the-mouth, how-dare-their assessment of the mostly conservative justices' questioning of the attorneys who appeared before them in the case known as Trump v. United States.

Rather than a laser-focused, deep dive into the details of Trump's attempt to subvert the 2020 election, virtually all of the nine justices instead raised larger questions, peppered with hypotheticals – hello again, Seal Team Six! – about the reach of executive power, the intent of the nation's founders and the best way to promote a stable democracy.

Justice Brett Kavanaugh's "I'm not focused on the here and now of this case" and Justice Neil Gorsuch's "We are writing a rule for the ages" drew particular fire.

The headline and subheadline on the New York Times analysis by Supreme Court reporter Adam Liptak complained that the court had taken "Trump's immunity arguments in unexpected direction" with "very little about the President's conduct." And the story itself fumed that the justices had responded to Trump's claim that he should not face charges as a "weighty and difficult question."

Slate's Amicus podcast decried the court for failing to focus on the "narrow question" the case presented, instead going "off the rails" and "bouncing all over the map" with various legal arguments. A guest on NPR's IA program lamented that the court had "injected new questions" into the oral argument to "slow-walk" the case and prevent Trump from facing trial before the election.

But here's what the pundits seem to have forgotten: What happened that day in the court should have surprised no one, especially those constitutional scholars like me familiar with Supreme Court procedure.

Trump's case stemmed from his prosecution by Special Counsel Jack Smith for his alleged attempts to overturn the 2020 presidential election. Trump claimed he, as president, was immune from prosecution, and he took his case to the Supreme Court.

When parties appeal their case to the court, they must tell the justices what specific legal question or questions they want the justices to answer. As a colleague and I have

explored in a recent academic journal article, the court generally accepts what is called the "Questions Presented" as given, agreeing to hear a case without making any adjustments to its legal framing.

Sometimes, however, the court will alter the legal question in some way. Why it does this is an issue that scholars like myself are just beginning to explore. And because it is that question – not the one the litigant initially asked – that frames the legal analysis, the justices can exert real control over both the case itself and the development of the law.

Trump v. United States is a classic example. When attorneys for the former president filed their request with the court, the question presented by them was "Whether the doctrine of absolute presidential immunity includes immunity from criminal prosecution for a President's official acts."

When it granted the petition in late February 2024, the court changed this language to "Whether and if so to what extent does a former President enjoy presidential immunity from criminal prosecution for conduct alleged to involve official acts during his tenure in office."

Five of those additional words – "if so to what extent" – changed everything. They sent a clear-as-day signal that the court would move well beyond the simple yes-or-no of whether Trump could be prosecuted.

With their reformulation of the question, the justices would instead be determining how, when and for what acts any president could ever be held criminally responsible.

That is a much larger inquiry, one that necessarily involves formulating a legal test to draw a line between what is constitutionally permissible and what is not. That the justices spent oral argument trying to do exactly that is not a problem, much less an outrage: It's just the court, the highest appellate court in the land, doing its job.

The scope of the argument, the expansiveness of the coming opinions and the time suck for the justices to write them and the possible vanishing of Trump's prosecution are not at all shocking. The court signalled it would address the broader question months ago when it took the case; the time to fault the court for making the case about more than just Donald Trump was then, not now.

But perhaps commentators' response to the oral argument can be a good lesson. Americans are told to take Trump at his word, expecting his second term to contain all the extremes he gleefully says it will.

When the Supreme Court indicates what legal question it will answer, the smart response is to do the same thing – pay attention and believe. This may not make the ultimate outcome any less distasteful to many, but at least it won't be quite as disturbing.

(The writer is Associate Professor of Political Science, Claremont College. This article was published on www.theconversation.com)

Redress needed for personal privacy breaches

Should victims of data breaches in India be compensated, asks Pakhi Garg

Data breaches dominate headlines. From mega-corporations to government institutions, cyberattacks are a constant threat. Yet, amidst the flurry of reports on compromised servers and stolen information, a crucial voice remains unheard: the victim's. This article argues that for India's data protection regime to be truly effective, it must deter breaches and offer a crucial safeguard – compensation for those whose personal information is exposed.

To argue a case of victim compensation, it is essential to draw an analogy from the criminal justice system where this concept is available. So, discussing it in the newly enacted Digital Personal Data Protection Act becomes a requirement. The growing cases of data breaches include the one that happened with the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in Delhi, where the cyber attackers crippled the servers, and the breach potentially compromised the sensitive data of millions of patients. They demanded a massive ransom in cryptocurrency to restore the data.

Thus, the AIIMS data breach highlights India's urgent need for more robust data protection laws, including victim compensation mechanisms. Multiply this scenario across countless potential victims, and the need for redress becomes clear. Now, this was not the first case that had compromised the data of millions of people, but before that there were cases like Justice K.S. Puttuswamy & Anr vs. UOI (commonly known as "Aadhaar Card Case" in 2017. This is considered as the landmark judgment for "Right to Privacy" and acted as a pillar of the "DPDP Act, 2023".



We need to understand that compensating victims isn't just about fairness; it has practical benefits like:

► **Accountability:** Companies directly compensating victims are more likely to prioritize data security.

► **Enforcement:** Individuals become invested in reporting breaches when they know they may be compensated.

► **Support:** Financial aid can offset breach-related costs, acknowledging the hardship caused.

WHAT IS THE IN-HAND PROCESS FOR INDIA?

The DPDP Act lays a strong foundation for data protection in India. However, we must move beyond relying solely on fines as a deterrent to safeguard individuals' privacy and ensure accountability. Here's what we need to consider:

1. Amend the Law for Victim Compensation

Establish a Fund: Include provisions in the DPDP Act to create a dedicated fund for compensating victims of data breaches. This fund could be sustained by allocating a portion of the fines collected from data fiduciaries that violate the law.

Provide Direct Support: This fund would offer victims financial recourse

to help mitigate the damages caused by data breaches, such as identity theft, economic losses, or reputational harm.

2. Set Fair Compensation Standards

Develop Clear Guidelines: Establish transparent guidelines to determine fair compensation amounts, considering factors like the severity of the data breach, the type of data compromised, and the extent of harm caused to individuals.

3. Compensation is one story, but deterrence is another part

Graded Penalties: Implementing a graduated penalty system that suspends services for repeat offenders and uses reputational damage as a powerful deterrent is necessary. Fines alone are not enough to address the issue.

SOME GOOD PRACTICES THAT CAN BE FOLLOWED

Government Support: Government assistance can be provided to help businesses, especially MSMEs (Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises), invest in robust data security measures and training. This preventative approach can reduce breaches in the long run.

Emphasize the importance of organi-

zational accountability for data protection: Encourage businesses to adopt internal privacy compliance programmes and foster a data protection culture.

GLOBAL LESSONS IN RESPECT TO VICTIM COMPENSATION

Of course, determining fair compensation is complex. Subjective damages like emotional distress are hard to quantify. India's Information Technology Act of 2000 talks about victim compensation as part of the Cyber Contraventions, but now one of its essential contraventions (S.43A) has been omitted, and the same is not being fulfilled in the DPDP Act, 2023.

Countries like Australia and Singapore offer victim compensation funds for those impacted by data breaches, while California allows consumers to sue companies for violations. Repeat offenders could even see their services suspended in these countries. This highlights the growing global trend toward stricter data privacy regulations and the increasing consequences for companies that fail to comply. However, it is time to examine hybrid approaches, where a portion of fines could create a compensation fund for victims.

CONCLUSION: DATA PROTECTION THAT PUTS PEOPLE FIRST

Our data is a treasure trove for companies, but it's also intensely personal to us. India's Digital Personal Data Protection Act is a significant step towards safeguarding this valuable resource, prioritizing consent and establishing penalties for companies that violate its provisions. However, when those penalties focus solely on government fines, those most affected – individuals who have suffered the consequences of a data breach – are left behind.

We need a system recognizing the societal need for strong deterrents and the individual's right to redress.

(The writer is Advisor & Data Privacy Counsel, World Cyber Security Forum and in house Counsel, Gartner.)

SECRET BEHIND THE 'SUPLA' SHOT

From the iconic 'offside scoop' to his popular 'Supla' shot, Mumbai Indians batter Suryakumar Yadav showed a glimpse of a multi-dimensional shot-playing ability against SRH. Yadav shared the story behind the origins of the shots in his repertoire. "I suppose the name of the shot comes from the local tennis ball cricket that is played in Mumbai. And from there, when I started playing that shot because people have played a lot of it in tennis ball cricket, they started connecting with this shot and gave it a name. When the shot is played and is referred to as a 'Supla' shot, it feels good to hear," Suryakumar Yadav said.



For more updates www.thestatesman.com

RCB, PBKS face off in potential shootout

Both sides can get to as far as 14 points but have to bank on others to qualify

TRIDIB BAPARNASH NEW DELHI, 8 MAY

With mere 13 league stage games to go in this year's Indian Premier League, no team is officially eliminated from the race to the playoffs but having said that, the next couple of days could be crucial for a few teams, especially the ones at the bottom-half of the IPL 2024 points table.

On Thursday, two teams from the bottom half—Royal Challengers Bengaluru and Punjab Kings, both with eight points from 11 games so far, face off in a potential shootout at the Himachal Pradesh Cricket Association Stadium in Dharamsala. Both sides can get to as far as 14 points although they might have to bank on the outcome of some other clashes to mathematically find themselves in the top four.

But the loser of Thursday's contest will join the Mumbai Indians which can only get to 12 points, leaving their chances hanging on by the barest of threads. By all means, no team can afford a loss even as they head into the contest on the back of contrasting outcomes.



Punjab Kings have recorded four victories from 11 games so far, but have gone down by the closest of margins in most of their seven losses, thanks to their inconsistent top order batting and death over bowling. A few nights ago, the Punjab Kings recorded the highest ever T20 chase against Kolkata Knight Riders at the Eden Gardens and followed it up by a special win against Chennai Super Kings at Chepauk but the defeat to the defending champions in the reverse fixture at Dharamsala has hurt Punjab's hopes.

Punjab's batting in IPL 2024 has mainly revolved around the unsung heroes like Shashank Singh and Ashutosh Sharma who had to do the heavy lifting after all the early damage. The duo has certainly impressed, more so Shashank, but during the chase against KKR, it was Jonny Bairstow finding his rhythm back at the right time, when Punjab started to look ominous. However, their impressive batting form was rendered hapless by a smart CSK bowling outfit in Dharamsala, and the home side can't afford another below-par performance against RCB.

The RCB on the other hand, have also managed to win four matches out of their 11 so far, but three of their wins have been part of a late resur-

gence from the Faf du Plessis-led side. Down and out after seven losses in their first eight games, the RCB bounced back strongly by recording three consecutive victories that started by upstaging Sunrisers Hyderabad in Hyderabad before completing a double over Gujarat Titans.

Faf had rightly pointed out during one of the recent post-match presentations, that the late resurgence could be due to lack of pressure on the team. With their top order, including Faf and his opening partner Virat Kohli going great guns, and the likes of Will Jacks, Cameron Green and Dinesh Karthik adding meat to their scores, it could be a mouth-watering contest against Punjab's high-flying bowling unit led by Kagiso Rabada, and comprising the likes of Sam Curran, Arshdeep Singh, Harshal Patel and the spin duo of Harpreet Brar and Rahul Chahar.

RCB's bowling, which lacked discipline early on, seems to have worked out their strategies better in the last three games with the likes of Mohammed Siraj, Yash Dayal and Cameron Green finally delivering the goods, making the contest all the more exciting.

India fields 14-man contingent at World Wrestling Olympic Qualifiers



AGENCIES ISTANBUL, 8 MAY

India is fielding a 14-man squad for the World Wrestling Olympic Qualifiers scheduled in Istanbul from Thursday, the last chance for wrestlers to obtain their quotas for the Paris 2024 Olympics.

The 14 wrestlers include Aman Sehrawat and Deepak Punia, as per Olympics.com. The event will conclude on May 12.

The two finalists in each weight divisions will earn the Olympic quotas for their respective nations, with three quotas on offer in each weight class. The third quota will go to the winner of the playoff match between two bronze medalists of a particular weight class.

So far, India has secured only four quotas in wrestling for the multi-sporting extravaganza, with all of them achieved by women's

wrestlers.

Antim Panghal (53 kg) helped India secure its first quota at the 2023 World Wrestling Championships while during the Asian Olympic Qualifiers held last month, Vinesh Phogat (50kg), Anshu Malik (57kg) and Reetika Hooda (76kg) added three more quotas to the list.

In women's wrestling, Mansi Ahlawat and Nisha, in 62 kg and 68 kg respectively, will be India's only representatives at Istanbul. Mansi had fallen short of one win during the Asian Olympic Qualifiers in Bishkek but will be aiming to go one step better and secure the quota.

India has won five medals in freestyle wrestling during the previous four editions of the Summer Olympics, with two of them coming at Tokyo 2020.

But heading into the Paris 2024, Indian participation in men's freestyle wrestling looks highly bleak. It is up to the Aman Sehrawat, a former Asian and U23 world champion, and Olympian Deepak Punia to secure a quota in the freestyle category and restore India's good fortunes.

Aman, competing in the same weight division as the Tokyo 2020 silver medalist Ravi Dahiya, fell one win short of a quota as well as the Bishkek Asian Olympic Qualifiers meet.

Deepak Punia, who also missed out on a medal during the Tokyo 2020 and Sujet Kalakal, who is competing in the same division as Bajrang Punia, the Tokyo 2020 bronze medalist, could not play at the Bishkek qualifiers as their flights were delayed due to heavy rainfall in Dubai. But both have a chance to play in Istanbul and get their quotas now.

India will also be looking to get the quotas for all six Greco-Roman wrestling categories.

*Indian wrestlers at World Wrestling Olympic Qualifiers 2024

Men's Greco-Roman: Sumit (60kg), Ashu (67kg), Vikas (77kg), Sumil Kumar (87kg), Nitesh (97kg), Naveen (130kg)

Women's freestyle: Mansi (62kg), Nisha (68kg)

Men's freestyle: Aman Sehrawat (57kg), Sujet (65kg), Jaideep (74kg), Deepak Punia (86kg), Deepak (97kg), Sumit (125kg).

Thailand Open: Satwik-Chirag to lead Indian challenge, Sindhu & Lakshya Sen pull out



AGENCIES NEW DELHI, 8 MAY

PV Sindhu and Lakshya Sen have pulled out of the Thailand Open Super 500, scheduled from May 14 to 19, as the draws for the BWF World Tour event were announced on Wednesday.

Following a month-long break caused by the Thomas and Uber Cup, the World Tour returns with the Thailand Open. Sindhu, who had previously chosen not to participate in the Uber Cup, is taking a leave of absence in order to concentrate on get-

ting ready for the July-August 2024 Paris Olympics.

The World No. 3 men's doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty will lead the Indian contingent and will kick off their campaign against Malaysia's Nur Mohd Azriyn Ayub and TaWee Kiong, who are ranked World No. 71.

Vimalraj Annadurai and Mauryan Kathiravan are the other men's doubles duo who will play in the qualifiers. In the men's singles, HS Prannoy, Kuran George, and Sathish Kumar Karunakaran will represent India. The

world number nine, Prannoy, will start his campaign against a qualifier, and Kiran will face Weng Hong Yang of China.

India's prospects in the women's singles would be dependent on young players like Malvika Bansod, Ashmita Chaliha, Samiya Imad Farooqui, Aakarshi Kashyap, and Unnati Hooda, in the absence of Sindhu.

The first round of the women's mixed doubles match will feature two Indian pairings, B Sumeeth Reddy-N Sikki Reddy and Sathish Kumar and Aadya Variyath.

AIFF executive committee approves PoSH policy with immediate effect



AGENCIES NEW DELHI, 8 MAY

The All India Football Federation has officially approved the Prevention of Sexual Harassment (PoSH) Policy, to be implemented with immediate effect. The significant decision was arrived at by the AIFF Executive Committee, following thorough deliberations and careful consideration. The AIFF PoSH policy, which is based on the PoSH Act 2013, is aimed at ensuring a safe and inclusive environment within the football community. It has been meticulously crafted and vetted by the AIFF legal team to adhere to the highest standards of compliance and efficacy.

AIFF acting secretary general M Satyanarayan said, "The need for a PoSH policy exclusively for the AIFF staff

was much needed. We have drafted this by taking policies as per the PoSH Act of 2013 and the policies in a few other organisations as well and incorporated them into our policy.

"Our PoSH policy has been designed in a way that it can be altered and adapted as we go forward. Along with this, we have also planned to have an expert on the PoSH policy to address our staff at least three times a year to keep reminding them of it," he said.

"It is essential, especially for our junior and women's teams. We feel it is necessary for all stakeholders in various positions to be fully aware of the PoSH policy," he said.

AIFF remains dedicated to upholding the principles of fairness, integrity, and equality.

Neeraj to compete at 27th Federation Cup in Bhubaneswar



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, 8 MAY

Neeraj Chopra will be competing on home soil after almost three years as the reigning Olympic and World Champion's name features in the roster for the 27th National Federation Cup athletics championships in Odisha, slated from May 12 to May 15 at the Kalinga Stadium, Bhubaneswar.

This will be Chopra's first domestic competition since the 2021 Federation Cup in Patiala, where he came up with a best effort of 87.80m.

On his return to action on home soil, Neeraj, who has a personal best of 89.94m and has been eyeing to breach the magic 90m mark, will be up against the likes of DP Manu and Shivpal Singh in Bhubaneswar. The 26-year-old Neeraj had spoken about his goals for the season previously.

"I want to be in the best possible shape before the Paris Olympics. My training sessions have gone off really well so far. I always put stress on fitness along with strength and technique. This is the best I have felt in a long time but I must add that training and competition are not the same. When you wear the India jersey, the feeling is different, the josh (energy) is unbelievable," Neeraj had told SAI media.

After the Federation Cup, Neeraj is scheduled to compete in the Paavo Nurmi Games in Turku, Finland, on June 18, and post that he is expected to resume training in Europe in the build-up to his title defence in Paris. So far, Neeraj and Kishore, who finished 1-2 in the Hangzhou Asian Games last year throwing 88.88m and 87.54m respectively, are the two Indian javelin throwers who have qualified for Paris 2024.

Mirabai hopes to overcome Asiad agony with Paris glory

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, 8 MAY

India's top weightlifter and Tokyo Olympics silver medalist Mirabai Chanu has bounced back strongly from several injury setbacks, but the most recent one, a right thigh injury not only hit her physically but also came as a mental shocker as it closed the doors on her Asiad dreams in September 2023 when she had to be carried off the stage by her long time coach Vijay Sharma.

It was the second consecutive instance after the 2018 Jakarta edition when the Manipuri lifter's dreams of pocketing an Asian Games medal were shattered by injuries. Not the one to give in to such obstacles, Mirabai

came back strongly to win the silver medal in the 2020 Tokyo Olympics and four years later, she trains her guns for a second Olympic medal in Paris.

"I am determined to win a second Olympic medal. It will help me overcome the agony of missing out on major medals due to injuries. Missing two consecutive Asian Games medals is a major setback but such things are beyond one's control. So I'm focussing on controlling the controllables and the rest lies in the hands of God," she said.

"In 2018, I missed out on a medal due to injury, and again in 2023 when I was fully confident of pocketing my first ever Asiad medal, the right thigh injury popped up, leaving me devastated.

Physically I was down but it hurt me more mentally. My coach and family kept motivating me to bounce back, and I'm now mentally prepared to take on the challenge."

"Now the focus is on clinching a medal at the Paris Olympics, it will be a massive confidence booster for me," she felt.

If she is successful in her quest, Mirabai will become the third Indian after iconic wrestler Sushil Kumar (2008 Beijing bronze, 2012 London silver) and shutter PV Sindhu (2016 Rio silver, 2020 Tokyo bronze) to win medals at consecutive Olympics in an individual event.

However, it hasn't been a cakewalk for the 29-year-old as the injury in Hangzhou kept her out of action for close to



six months, and on her return in April, she expectedly wasn't at her best but assured herself of a shot at a second Olympic medal by finishing third at the IWF World Cup held in Phuket.

As per International Weightlifting Federation (IWF) qualification rules, lifters have to compete in the 2023 World Championships and the 2024 World Cup along with three more major events to

be eligible for the Paris Olympics.

Mirabai fulfilled the criteria by competing at the 2022 Worlds, 2023 Asian Championships, the 2024 World Cup and registered herself for the 2023 Worlds and Grand Prix II - where she completed all the necessary formalities but did not compete. That made her eligible to qualify for the Paris Games, and she is currently ranked 3rd in the Olympic Qualification Rankings (OQR) (list updated on April 11, 2024).

"The World Cup was in my mind while I was undergoing rehab. My coach wanted me to go light on my training during the initial days as there was a fear that the injury might recur. So the idea of competing at the World Cup

was primarily to assess my fitness levels and any shortcomings which the coach could work on. That was the reason that I attempted all lifts despite already ensuring my Olympic qualification," she explained.

At the IWF World Cup on April 1, Mirabai registered a best lift of 81kgs in snatch followed by a successful attempt at 113kgs in clean and jerk to finish third in Group B (and 11th overall) of the women's 49kg division with a total of 184kgs. Back in training mode, Mirabai has shifted her entire focus to the Paris Games, where she is determined for another podium finish. "I'm now looking to reach my peak, the Olympics is still a couple of months away, so by that time, I'm sure I will hit

that mark."

On being asked about her possible competitors in Paris, Mirabai expects the Chinese lifters to be tough but exuded confidence in herself.

"Every lifter will be expected to come prepared to an Olympics, and as I said, I also expect myself to hit my peak form by that time, so the level of competition will surely be high. The Chinese lifters are really tough, but I have confidence in my abilities," she said. Post Paris 2024, Mirabai hopes to stay injury-free and continue training till her body allows her as she doesn't rule out the possibility of competing in another Olympics. For now, the Tokyo silver medal winner is focussed on bettering the colour in Paris!