

He said it is currently impossible for him to determine who should be held accountable without conducting a comprehensive investigation



The body of 62-year-old Shankar Mohan Das who died in the train accident, is brought to Kolkata. ■SNS

According to Dr Sandeep Sengupta, dean of North Bengal Medical College And Hospital, two individuals, including a six-year-old girl passed

A BSF jawan stationed in Tura in Meghalaya recounted his experience when he was on board the Kanchenjunga

"I calmly tried to help the others get up from their positions, and then I checked on myself. It took me an hour to retrieve my phone and two

The process of electrification is currently in progress at a rapid pace. As per NFR sources, the restoration of Railway Tracks has been finished. Starting from yesterday, trains have been operating on the Up line. Today, after completing the restoration, railway authorities have resumed

Due to the accident, some trains passing through this section had to be cancelled or rescheduled.



AGENCIES
KOLKATA, 18 JUNE

After the accident, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee had attacked the Narendra Modi government over the alleged negligence of Railways. On Monday, Banerjee targeted the central government over their alleged negligence towards Railways saying that they have only engaged in publicity of Vande Bharat trains.

As many as 11 people were killed and around 25 people were injured in the Sealdah-bound Kanchanjunga Express near North Bengal's Jalpaiguri station at 8.55 am on Monday. The accident took place in the Phansidewa area of Darjeeling district.

After the accident, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee had attacked the Narendra Modi government over the alleged negligence of Railways. On Monday, Banerjee targeted the central government over their alleged negligence towards Railways saying that they have only engaged in publicity of Vande Bharat trains.

He is a resident of Akaipur in Bongaon, North 24-Parganas. With the internal conflict over the BJP candidate coming to light, the saffron camp is under pressure ahead of the elections.

Australian Consul-General of State Hugh Boylan, Secretary of the West Bengal health and family welfare department Saumitra Mohan and actress Raima Sen during inauguration of a special event which will feature a uniquely decorated tram, bringing a glimpse of Australia's natural beauty and vibrant culture to the streets of Kolkata. ■ BISWAJIT GHOSHAL

section of BJP workers and supporters stopped the car of the central team member and former Tripura chief minister, Biplab Deb and protested. They expressed their anger against Abhijit Sardar, the

On Tuesday, the central team members started their area inspection after holding a press conference at the party office in Bishnupur within the same district. According to BJP sources

The protesters also accused Abhijit Sardar of having an understanding with the Tri-

The BJP alleged that Trinamul Congress miscreants are attacking their workers and supporters. To assess the situation of this post-election violence, a BJP delegation arrived in the state on Sunday.

Sanatan added, "I took loan of nearly Rs 2 lakh for fish farming. I have to repay the loan by the end of this year but I have lost all the fish."

am ruined. I have no agricultural land, and have no other source to repay the loan amount. I have to beg now. I request the local administration to help me with some compensation amount.

"I have informed the panchayat pradhan and the BDO, they have also assured me to help the couple. Steps are being taken to provide the ben-

efits of state government beneficiary schemes for fish breeding and fish farming so that the affected couple can again give a new start to their fish farming."

Now, while trying to listen to the complaints of the attacked workers and supporters in Abhishek's constituency, the BJP central team itself faced protests.

The average 4kmph wind speed suddenly escalated to 60kmph accompanied by repeated gusting thrusts from the south east during a nor-wester inviting the menacing trouble, opined Sourabh Chatterjee, SDM, Durgapur.

Shallow roots provide less resistance against the wind forces, but external injuries

"The civic body doesn't bother to trim trees," said the officials. "We've restrained

Irregularities in trimming have also intensified the problem, a section of the power department officials claimed. The trees touching the bare conductors of high-voltage power networks inevitably invite short-circuit.

The divisional forest authorities allowed DSP for trimming of 200 trees and the WBSEDCL to trim 154 trees, recently. The West Burdwan district accommodates forest patches of 4963.207 hectares, which is just 4 per cent of the required

TENDER

LATAGURI, JALPAIGURI
Tender have been invited by the under-
gned for different works vide eNIT-001 /
TH-UNTIED / LTG / KRANTI / 2024-25
(etender-15), & eNIT-002 / SBM / LTG /
KRANTI / 2024-25. Dated: 18-06-2024. Last
ate of submission of bid through online
0-07-2024 up to 12-00 hrs. For details
lease visit: <https://wbttenders.gov.in>
om 18-06-2024 from 17-00 hrs. respective-

TENDER

Government of Jharkhand Department of School Education and Literacy (Jharkhand Education Project Council, Ranchi) JSCA Stadium Road, Sector- III, Dhurwa, Ranchi-834004 Phone: 0651-2444501, E-Mail: jepcranchi1@gmail.com

e-Procurement Notice - 2nd Call

JEPC invites Separate Technical & Financial Bids through e-procurement method from eligible and interested contractors registered in appropriate class for Strengthening of Existing Schools located in 04 different District of Jharkhand. Interested and eligible bidders are requested to submit their proposal latest by 2:00 PM on 12.07.2024.

The details of tender documents can be seen and applied through website <https://jharkhandtenders.gov.in> only. Tender notification & Tender document can also be seen (read only purpose) from departmental website <https://jepc.jharkhand.gov.in>.

Sd/-
(Aditya Ranjan)
State Project Director
Jharkhand Education Project Council
Ref. No.: JEPC/CIV/03/804/2023/ 2045 Ranchi, Date : 13.06.2024
PR 326469 Jharkhand Education Project Council(24-25)D

Government of Jharkhand Urban Development & Housing Department Municipal Corporation, Hazaribag

e-Procurement Short Notice Inviting Tender

Reference No. - UDD/HMC/HZB/03/2024-25
Head :- 15th Finance
1.Detail of work

Group No.	Name of work	Estimated Cost (Rs.)	Earnest Money	Cost of BOQ	Completion period for construction
1.	Rejuvenation/Development of Lalki Talab in Ward No. 09 Under Municipal Corporation, Hazaribag	1,32,14,000/-	2,70,000/-	11,800/-	365 Days
2.	Rejuvenation/Development of Karbala Talab Under Municipal Corporation, Hazaribag	87,96,000/-	1,80,000/-	11,800/-	365 Days
3.	Rejuvenation/Development of Pandu Talab Under Municipal Corporation, Hazaribag	87,99,000/-	1,80,000/-	11,800/-	365 Days
4.	Rejuvenation/Development of Lakhe Talab, Near Korra Het Tola at Under Municipal Corporation, Hazaribag	1,44,14,000/-	3,00,000/-	11,800/-	365 Days
2.	Date of Publication of Tender on website	20.06.2024 at 11:00 A.M.			
3.	Last Date/Time of receipt of bids online	13.07.2024 up to 5:00 P.M.			
4.	Bid Opening date	15.07.2024 at 11:00 A.M.			
6.	Name & Address of office inviting tender	Municipal Commissioner Cum Administrator Municipal Corporation, Hazaribag.			
7.	Contact No. of Procurement officer	8219204356			

NOTE:-

- Only e-Tenders will be accepted.
- Further details can be seen on website <http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in>
- e-Procurement में Tender Fee एवं EMD की राशि ऑनलाईन सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी एवं ई-गवर्नेंस विभाग, झारखण्ड, रांची का आदेश ज्ञापक 120, दिनांक 03.10.2023 एवं नगर विकास एवं आवास विभाग, झारखण्ड रांची का पत्रांक 05/विबि (e-Tender)-12/2023/नवि-4847 (अनु.) दिनांक 11.10.2023 के तहत ली जायेगी।

Sd/-
Administrator
Municipal Corporation, Hazaribag
PR 326793 (Urban Development and Housing) 24-25 (D)

JHARKHAND STATE SPORTS PROMOTION SOCIETY (A CCL- State Govt. of Jharkhand Joint Initiative) C/o Mega Sports Complex, Khelgaon, Hotwar, Ranchi- 835217 Registration under Society Act No.519 Registration under GST No. 20AACAJ6436C129 OUR MISSION- OLYMPIC GOLD Contact no.: 0651 2543320

NIT-CEO/LMC/JSSPS/24-25/233 Date:- 11/06/2024

निविदा सूचना

Notice Inviting Tender

- Tenders are invited on-line under two part system on the website <https://jharkhandtenders.gov.in> from the eligible bidders having Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) issued from any agency authorized by Controller of Certifying Authority (CCA), Govt. of India and which can be traced up to the chain of trust to the Root Certificate of CCA, for the following work:

Description of work	Location	Estimated Cost of Work (Including GST) (In Rs.)	Earnest Money (In Rs.)	Period of Completion (In Days)
On site preparation of buffet style food (hot & fresh).	Mega Sports Complex, JSSPS, Khelgaon, Ranchi	Rs. 17,87,59,350.00	Rs. 22,34,500.00	1095 days

The bid documents will be available on the website(s) <https://jharkhandtenders.gov.in> and www.centralcoalfields.in and can be downloaded by the bidder up to the bid download end date. There is no Application Fee.

- For Site visit of location of work, the prospective bidder(s) may contact Ms.Rakhi Rani Gupta, Member (Personnel), LMC, JSSPS, Mobile No.:- 8987786242

Tender inviting authority	Contact Person(s)/Tender Dealing Officer(s)
Member (Admin) LMC, JSSPS 9934267495	Member (Personnel) LMC, JSSPS 8987786242
	Member (Civil) LMC, JSSPS 8092466706

2. Time Schedule of Tender:

Sl. No	Particulars	Date	Time
a.	Tender e-Publication date	18.06.2024	10.00 AM
b.	Document download start date	19.06.2024	10.00 AM
c.	Document download end date	05.07.2024	05.00 PM
d.	Bid Submission start date	19.06.2024	10.00 AM
e.	Bid submission end date	05.07.2024	05.00 PM
f.	Start date for seeking Clarification on-line	19.06.2024	10.00 AM
g.	Last date for seeking Clarification on-line	26.06.2024	05.00 PM
h.	Date of Pre-bid meeting (if any)	NA	NA
i.	Technical Bid (Cover I) opening date	06.07.2024	05.00 PM
j.	Price Bid (Cover II) opening date	To be notified later	-----

Sd/-
Member (Admin), LMC, JSSPS
PR.NO.326756 Art Culture Sports and Youth Affairs(24-25):D

E-Procurement cell Office of the Executive Officer Nagar Parishad Mihijam, Jharkhand Urban Development & Housing Department

e-procurement Notice Very Short Tender notice

NIT No. – 02/2024-25, Date:-14.06.2024

SL.No.	E-TENDER REF NO.	NAME OF WORK	TENDER VALUE	TIME OF COMPLETION	EARNEST MONEY DEPOSIT	BID DOCUMENT FEES
1	NPM/F2/24-25/05	Strengthening of PCC Road from Hill Road More to House of Bishu Yadav in Ward No. 13	11078458.00	06 Months	221600.00	10000.00
2	NPM/F2/24-25/06	Construction of PCC Road & RCC Drain Beside Ayushman Health Wellness Centre to Global Soft Cock Industry Hasipahadi	8236971.00	06 Months	164800.00	10000.00
3	NPM/F2/24-25/07	Construction of Boundary Wall & Light Post at Kabristan Under Ward No. 05	10275936.00	06 Months	205600.00	10000.00
4	NPM/F2/24-25/08	Construction of RCC Drain From house of Ram Chandra Mishra to CLW Boundary Under Ward No. 13	10011052.00	06 Months	200300.00	10000.00
5	NPM/F2/24-25/09	Construction of RCC Drain in Pokhatala Under Ward No. 08	10027043.00	06 Months	200600.00	10000.00
3		Date of Publication of tender on website	18.06.2024			
4		Closing date and time of receipt of tender on website	24.06.2024 at 11.00 AM			
5		Opening date and time of opening of technical bid	25.06.2024 at 11.00 AM			
6		Name and address of office inviting tender	Office of Executive Officer, Nagar Parishad Mihijam			
7		Helpline number of e-procurement cell	+91 7261817234			

NOTE: AUTHORITY RESERVES THE RIGHT TO CANCEL TENDER WITHOUT SIGHTING ANY REASON THEREOF. FURTHER DETAILS CAN BE SEEN ON WEBSITE [HTTP://jharkhandtenders.gov.in](http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in)

Executive Officer
Nagar Parishad Mihijam
PR 326763 (Urban Development and Housing) 24-25 (D)

MAINTENANCE OF BG TRACK AT RANGIYA DIVISION

E-Tender Notice No. 25-Engg-RNY-2024-25. E-Tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works: **Name of work:** Maintenance of BG Track, overhauling of LC gates, distressing of track, unloading of ballast on newly constructed BG Track along with all other ancillary works between Km 115.00 to 128.00 km of newly constructed BG double line in New Bongaigaon - Goalpara Town - Kamakhya project including Singra, Bamunigaon station. **Tender Value:** ₹1,22,40,625.77. **Earnest Money:** ₹2,11,200/-. **Date & Time of Closing of Tender:** 15.00 hrs. of 08-07-2024 & opening at 15.00 hrs. of 08-07-2024 at DRM (W) Rangiya office. For details please visit www.irops.gov.in.

DRM (W), Rangiya
NORTHEAST RAILWAY
Serving Customers With A Smile

e-TENDER NOTICE

e-Tenders are hereby inviting by Pradhan Charianantapur Gram Panchayat for execution of 18 (eighteen) Nos. of Scheme NIT No. 03(e) & 04(e) / CAGP / 2024-25, Ref. Memo: 54 & 55 / CAGP / 2024. Dated: 14-06-2024 respectively under the Out Fund of (15th FC & 5th SFC). Details are available in the office of the undersigned & log on to of website: www.malda.gov.in

Sd/-
Pradhan
Charianantapur Gram
Panchayat, Malda

NCL
 Northern Coalfields Limited
 (A Miniratna Company)
 (A subsidiary of Coal India Limited)

Tender Notice
 *All the tenders issued by CIL and its Subsidiaries for procurement of Goods, works and Services are available on website of Coal India Limited www.coalindia.in /respective subsidiary Company, CIL e-procurement portal <https://coalindiatenders.nic.in> & central public procurement portal <https://eprocure.gov.in> In addition, procurement is also done through GeM Portal <https://gem.gov.in>

TPWODL
 TP WESTERN ODISHA DISTRIBUTION LIMITED
 (A Joint Venture of Tata Power and Government of Odisha)
 Corporate Office : Burla, Dist- Sambalpur (Odisha)-768017

Corrigendum to Notice Inviting Tender (NIT)
 Tender Notice No. TPWODL/IA/OSITC/ 07
Rate Contract for SITC of AR/RV System with Training Module for TPWODL.
 The qualification criteria is revised and the time period is hereby extended for Submission of Tender Participation Fee and Authorization Letter through e-mail till 24th June 2024, after which link from e-Tender system shall be shared. A Corrigendum to the said notice has been uploaded in our website www.tpwesternodisha.com. Prospective bidders are requested to visit the website for detailed amendment and updated tender document.

Kamarhati Municipality
 Memo No - 121/KM/PW/NIC/24-25
 Date : 18.06.2024

E-TENDER NOTICE
 E-Tender are invited by the Chairman, Kamarhati Municipality, North 24 Parganas for publishing the tender notice in the following leading daily newspaper for rate/cm².
Tender ID No - 2024_MAD_695287_1
NIT No - WBMAD/KM/PW/BEUP/NIT-39(e)/23-24 (2nd Call)
 (a) Ananda Bazar (b) Telegraph (c) Time of India (d) Statesman (e) El Samay (f) Sangbad Pratidin (g) Bartaman (h) Khabar 365 din (i) Aajkal (j) Samrag (k) Prabhat Khavar
 Bid submission start date : 19.06.2024 at 6.00 P.M.
 Bid submission end date : 26.06.2024 at 6.00 P.M.
 Bid opening date : 28.06.2024 at 6.00 P.M.
N.B : For details and any other information, please visit **Govt. website** <http://wbntenders.gov.in> this advertisement is also given <http://Kamarhatimunicipality.org>.

Kamarhati Municipality
 Memo No - 122/KM/PW/24-25
 Date : 18.06.2024

E-TENDER NOTICE
 E-Tender are invited by the Chairman, Kamarhati Municipality, North 24 Parganas for purchase of Mahindra Dead Body Carrier Van at Kamarhati Municipality area under BEUP Fund.
Tender ID No - 2024_MAD_695293_1
NIT No - WBMAD/KM/PW/BEUP/NIT-39(e)/23-24 (2nd Call)
 Bid submission start date : 19.06.2024 at 6.00 P.M.
 Bid submission end date : 03.07.2024 at 6.00 P.M.
 Bid opening date : 05.07.2024 at 6.00 P.M.
N.B : For details and any other information, please visit **Govt. website** <http://wbntenders.gov.in> this advertisement is also given <http://Kamarhatimunicipality.org>.

Kamarhati Municipality
 Memo No - 120/KM/PW/24-25
 Date : 18.06.2024

E-TENDER NOTICE
 E-Tender are invited by the Chairman, Kamarhati Municipality, North 24 Parganas for purchase of "KSB/CROMPTON/KIRLOSKAR" make bore well submersible pump motor set and COLUMN FLANGE PIPE at Kamarhati Municipality area under 15th Fin Fund.
Tender ID No - 2024_MAD_695299_1
NIT No - WBMAD/KM/PW/15th Fin/NIT-01(e)/24-25
 Bid submission start date : 19.06.2024 at 6.00 P.M.
 Bid submission end date : 03.07.2024 at 6.00 P.M.
 Bid opening date : 05.07.2024 at 6.00 P.M.
N.B : For details and any other information, please visit **Govt. website** <http://wbntenders.gov.in> this advertisement is also given <http://Kamarhatimunicipality.org>.

EASTERN RAILWAY
 Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Eastern Railway, Asansol Division, Station Road, Pin-713301 invites open e-Tender through IREPS portal vide website www.irops.gov.in for awarding the contract. Details of which are as: **Category of Auction:** Leasing of space in Parcel Van-per round trip (both ways). **e-Auction Catalogue No.:** C-3-PARCEL2806. **Date of Auctions start:** 28.06.2024 at 12.00 hrs. **Train No.:** 15625/15626 (Deoghar-Agartala-Deoghar Express). All prospective bidders are advised to visit the website www.irops.gov.in for full details and to participate against the above mentioned e-Auction as per schedule given. (ASN-86/2024-25)
 Tender Notices are also available at website: www.er.indianrailways.gov.in/www.irops.gov.in

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EASTERN RAILWAY
 Tender Notice No.: 222-S/1/W-II, dated: 14.06.2024. Following e-tenders are invited online by the Divisional Railway Manager, Eastern Railway, 2nd Floor, Control Building, DRM Building, Kaiser Street, Sealdah, Kolkata-700014 for the following works: **Sl.No.-1. Tender No.: TN-83-24-25. Name of the work:** Provision of INSITU glued joints (52/80kg) in connection with replacement of defective glued joints/block joints in the section of Assistant Engineer/Sealdah under the jurisdiction of Senior Divisional Engineer/1/Sealdah. **Tender value:** ₹ 36,65,457.60. **Earnest Money Deposited:** ₹ 73,300. **Sl.No.-2. Tender No.: TN-87-24-25. Name of the work:** Provision for new construction of standard gang hut under the jurisdiction of Sr. Divisional Engineer/1/Sealdah. **Tender value:** ₹ 70,56,058.35. **Earnest Money Deposited:** ₹ 1,41,100. **Sl.No.-3. Tender No.: TN-88-24-25. Name of the work:** Rehabilitation of bank by cess repair/sub bank in Dum Dum Junction-Dankuni UP line (from KM 8.00 to 10.00), Dum Dum Junction-Dankuni DN line (from KM 8.00 to 10.00) and Dum Dum Junction-Kankurgachi Road Junction DN main line (from KM 4.00 to 5.00) in the jurisdiction of Assistant Engineer/Sealdah. **Tender value:** ₹ 1,25,40,123.80. **Earnest Money Deposited:** ₹ 2,12,700. **Sl.No.-4. Tender No.: TN-89-24-25. Name of the work:** Proposed 2nd despatch line connecting with the existing despatch line at Titagarh Wagon Limited in the section of Senior Section Engineer (P.Way)/Barrackpore under Assistant Engineer/Sealdah. **Tender value:** ₹ 7,53,705.58. **Earnest Money Deposited:** ₹ 15,100. **Date and time of closing of tender:** 08.07.2024 at 15.00 hrs. (for Sl.No. 1 to 4 each). **Completion period for the work:** 12 (twelve) months (for Sl.No. 1 to 3 each) and 03 (three) months (for Sl.No. 4). The tender documents and details are at www.irops.gov.in. The bidding for the tender is to be submitted through the e-tendering on above website. Manual offers will be summarily rejected. Date and time of opening of tender is 08.07.2024 at 15.30 hrs. (for Sl.No. 1 to 4 each). (SDAH-85/2024-25)
 Tender Notices are also available at website: www.er.indianrailways.gov.in/www.irops.gov.in

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S.E RAILWAY - CORRIGENDUM
CORRIGENDUM to NIT No. E-DRM-Engg-ADRA-74-24, dtd. 17.05.2024 published earlier on 21.05.2024 by the Sr. Divisional Engineer (Co), South Eastern Railway, Adra. Due to administrative reasons, the closing date of the above tender scheduled on 18.06.2024 is rescheduled on 25.06.2024. (PR-272/C)

EASTERN RAILWAY
 Tender No.: MC-Vehicle-Hire-Chg-24, Dated: 14.06.2024. Sr. Divisional Mechanical Engineer (Chg. & T/S), Eastern Railway, Howrah, near Howrah Station, Howrah-711101 invites Open Tender for the following work: **Name of the work :** Hiring of one Non AC 4 wheeler (SUV) under Sr. DME (Chg. & T/S)/Howrah for transportation of men and materials for a period of 3 years. **Tender Value:** ₹ 17,46,180. **Earnest Money to be deposited:** ₹ 34,930. **Period of contract:** 36 months from the date of commencement of work. **Website particulars for submission of tender online:** GeM Portal. **Bid closing date and time:** 05.07.2024 up to 14.00 hrs. (HWH-122/2024-25)
 Tender Notices are also available at website: www.er.indianrailways.gov.in/www.irops.gov.in

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EASTERN RAILWAY
 Following E-tender is invited online by Sr. Divisional Engineer/C, Eastern Railway, Howrah, DRM Building, near Railway Station, Howrah-711101 from tenderers having experience of similar nature of work and required financial capabilities including those Registered with Irrigation/CPWD/SEB/MES or any public sector undertaking for the following work: [Under Sr.DEN/HQ/HWH] **E-tender No.: 72_2024-25, Date: 15.06.2024. Description of work:** (i) Balance work for major rehabilitation & repairing work at Orthopaedic Hospital Howrah. (ii) Renovation of all wash room, damaged floor/ceiling of indoor ward, kitchen, OT etc. at Indoor building of Orthopaedic Hospital, Howrah. (iii) Renovation of all wash room, damaged floor/ceiling of OPD, X-ray, ICU, DRS Chamber, etc. at outdoor building of Orthopaedic Hospital, Howrah. **Approx. Cost:** ₹ 3,10,74,741.32. **Earnest Money:** ₹ 3,05,400. **Cost of Tender form:** ₹ 0. **Completion Period:** 06 (six) months from the date of issue of acceptance letter. 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 tender online will be done on the next working date. **Closing date and time of tender:** 29.06.2024 at 14.00 hrs. The details of tender are available at website: www.irops.gov.in. Tenderers are requested to submit their offer online on the above website. Payment of EMD and TDC- payment of Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) & Tender document cost (TDC), in respect of E-tendering, should be accepted through net banking or payment gateway only. **NOTE :** Fixed Deposit Receipt (FDR) will not be accepted as EMD for tenders invited on IREPS (e-tender portal). No manual offer will be accepted. (HWH-124/2024-25)
 Tender Notices are also available at website: www.er.indianrailways.gov.in/www.irops.gov.in

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**OFFICE OF EE (E&M) HP-I
DELHI JAL BOARD, GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI
HAIDERPUR WATER WORKS, DELHI-110085**
 Tel. No. 011-27552446-47, E-mail ID: eemhpt1.djb@nic.in
SHORT PRESS NIT No. 04 (2024-25)

Sl. No.	Name of work	Approximate Value based on Schedule of rates / Item rates / Lump sum (Rs. in lakh)	Earnest Money	Tender Fee	Date of release of tender in e-procurement solution	Last date / time of receipt of tender through e-procurement solution
1	Deployment of staff at various sites of Haiderpur WTP, Ph-I up to 31-10-2024. Tender ID: 2024_DJB_257821_1.	Item Rate	Rs. 67,600	Rs. 500	14-06-2024	24-06-2024
2	Removal of floating material manually by labour at different bar screens installed at RWPH of WTP Haiderpur Ph-I and II up to 31-10-2024. Tender ID: 2024_DJB_257821_2.	Item Rate	Rs. 64,300	Rs. 500	14-06-2024	24-06-2024

Further details in this regard can be seen at <https://delhi.govtprocurement.com>
 Advt. No. J.S.V. 004 (2024-25)
STOP CORONA, WEAR MASK, MAINTAIN SOCIAL DISTANCING AND MAINTAIN HAND HYGIENE

सी.एस.आई.आर - केन्द्रीय चर्म अनुसंधान संस्थान
CSIR - CENTRAL LEATHER RESEARCH INSTITUTE
 (वैज्ञानिक तथा औद्योगिक अनुसंधान परिषद्)
 Council of Scientific & Industrial Research
 अदयार, चेन्नै, तमिलनाडु, भारत Adyar, Chennai - 600 020, TamilNadu
 दूरभाष Telephone : 91-44-24437162, 24437420, 24437193 ई-मेल Email : spo@cir.res.in
 No. Pur/3(00)/1/2024-25 Date: 14.06.2024

E-TENDER NOTICE (www.etenders.gov.in)
 Director CSIR - CLRI invites bids from manufacturers for concluding rate contract of items listed below through CPP Portal (www.etenders.gov.in).

S.No.	Tender ID & Ref.	Description of Item
1	2024_CSIR_198606_1 & Pur/3(00)/1/2024-25/T-08	Proposal for Rate contract for period of 1 year and extendable by 2 years from manufacturers for supply of the following: 1. Laboratory chemicals including Biochemical, Fine Biochemical, Commercial chemical, Chemicals for Leather processing 2. Glassware 3. Plasticware 4. Other Consumables to CLRI Chennai and its Regional Centre at Ahmedabad, Jalandhar, Kanpur, Kolkata

Tender Closing Date: 16th July, 2024 at 3.00 P.M.(IST)
Tender Opening Date: 17th July, 2024 at 3.00 P.M.(IST)
 E-tender document can be downloaded from www.etenders.gov.in and is free of cost. **Tenders should be submitted through e-Procurement portal as above only.** The Tender Document can also be seen at our website www.clri.org under the heading Tenders.
 CONTROLLER OF STORES & PURCHASE
 (For & on behalf of Council of Scientific & Industrial Research)

Rail Wheel Plant/Bela
 (Distt. - Saran), Bihar - 841221

E-Open Tender Notice No.:- S/RWPI/2024-25/11 dated: 14.06.2024, Principal Chief Materials Manager/Rail Wheel Plant, Bela for and on behalf of the President of India invites online "e-Open Tender", through Indian Railways E-Procurement Website www.irops.gov.in, for supply of following Stores item at RWP/Bela. The closing time of all tenders is 14.00 hrs. SN : 1. Tender No. : 01241137. **Short Description of item : Cast Iron Slag Pot. **Quantity :** 06 Nos. **Date of Tender Closing/Opening :** 15.07.2024. **SN : 2. Tender No. :** 012450428. **Short Description of item :** Feston Cable. **Quantity :** 2400 MTR. **Date of Tender Closing/Opening :** 15.07.2024. 1. Website address, on which full tender details can be seen and downloaded from, is www.irops.gov.in. 2. The prospective firms / bidders submitting bid are advised to remain in touch with the above website for updates including Addendum/Corrigendum/ Cancellation with respect to the above tender. However, this information will also be invariably published in all the concerned newspapers. For PCMM/RWP/Bela RWP/CPRO/ADVT/2024-25/31**

e-TENDER NOTICE
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 CHAPADANGA GRAM
 PANCHAYAT
 KRANTI, JALPAIGURI
 Notice Inviting eTender by the undersigned for different works vide NIT No. eNIT-01 / CPGP / 2024-25, dated: 14-06-2024. Last date of online bid submission: 03-07-2024 up to 12-00 hrs.
 For more details you may visit: <https://wbntenders.gov.in>

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 Pradhan, Chapadanga GP

UNIVERSITY OF CALCUTTA
 University of Calcutta invites the e-tender vide Ref. No. [E-Tender No.: R / 52 / 24 (2nd call) & Tender ID: 2024_CU_693763_1]. Dt.



Rahul questions PM Modi's silence on NEET-UG exam row

BJP-ruled states have become the epicenter of paper leaks, says Congress leader

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 18 JUNE

Alleging scam in the 2024 NEET-UG exam, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday questioned Prime Minister Narendra Modi's silence over the matter.

In a post on X, he said, "As always, Narendra Modi is maintaining silence on the issue of playing with the future of more than 24 lakh students in the NEET exam."

Attacking the BJP the Congress leader said, "The arrests in Bihar, Gujarat and Haryana clearly indicate that there is systematic organised corruption in the examination and these BJP-ruled states have become the epicenter of paper leaks."

Referring to the Congress' Lok Sabha poll manifesto "Nyay Patra" which had vowed



to bring a strict policy against paper leaks, Gandhi said fulfilling the responsibility of the Opposition he was commit-



ted to strongly raise the voice of the youth from the streets to the Parliament. Last week, Congress pres-

ident Mallikarjun Kharge demanded a Supreme Court monitored investigation into the matter.

Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan has dismissed the allegation and said there was no paper leak in the NEET-UG exam

"Modi government cannot shirk its accountability by placing the responsibility of its actions on the shoulders of NTA (National Testing Agency). The Congress party demands an impartial investigation under the supervision of the Supreme Court into the entire NEET scam," he said.

Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan dismissed the allegation and said there was no paper leak in the NEET-UG exam.

Subodh Kumar Singh, Director General, National testing Agency (NTA) had also said the integrity of the exam was not compromised.

Modi-led NDA govt 'fragile', could collapse if one ally turns the other way: Rahul Gandhi

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 18 JUNE

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, in his first interview after the Lok Sabha elections 2024 to a British daily, has said that the Indian political landscape witnesses a "tectonic shift" after the narrower than expected victory of Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led BJP.

The Gandhi scion has claimed that the newly formed NDA coalition government is "fragile" and that it could collapse if one ally turned the other way.

"The numbers are such that they are very fragile, and the smallest disturbance can drop the government... Basically, one ally has to turn the other way," Gandhi told the British daily.

Claiming that people of India have rejected the idea of spreading hatred for political gains, the Congress leader said that the NDA coalition will struggle as things didn't work out for Mr Modi the way they did in 2014 and 2019.



"The idea that you can spread hatred, you can spread anger and you can reap benefits of that - the Indian people have rejected it in this election."

"That's also why the coalition will struggle.... Because what worked for Mr Narendra Modi in 2014 and 2019 is not working," he added.

The Modi-led BJP failed to win a majority in a 543-member Lok Sabha but formed the government for the third consecutive term with the help of smaller regional allies.

This was also the first time in a decade that Mr Modi failed

to lead his party to a clear majority. In the previous two elections, the BJP has secured a majority on its own but its tally came down significantly from 303 in 2019 to 240 in 2024.

The Congress could not even reach the three digit figures but the party is treating the election results like a victory as it managed to nearly double its seats rally from 52 in 2019 to 99 in 2024.

Moreover, the Congress-led INDIA bloc won 234 seats, which is a huge boost to the Opposition's overall strength in Parliament.

Kharge, Rahul to hold meetings with Cong leaders of 4 poll-bound states, UT

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 18 JUNE

Buoyed by its performance in Lok Sabha polls, the Congress on Tuesday announced that party president Mallikarjun Kharge and former party chief Rahul Gandhi will hold meetings with the senior leaders of four poll-bound states and Union Territory.

The Assembly elections in Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Haryana and Jammu and Kashmir are due later this year.

Notably, in December last, the Supreme Court had ordered the Election Commission to hold Assembly polls in Jammu and Kashmir by 30 September 2024.

In a post on X, Congress General Secretary in-charge of Organisation KC Venugopal said, "Carrying forward the momentum in our favour, we are dedicated to

ensuring a handsome victory in the upcoming state elections."

"To kick-start our efforts, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge ji and former president Rahul Gandhi ji will be holding strategy meetings with senior leaders of the election-going states," he said.

The senior Congress leader said that they will hold a meeting with the party's Jharkhand unit on 24th June, Maharashtra on 25th June, Haryana on 26th June and Jammu and Kashmir on 27th June.

The announcement of the Congress came a day after the BJP appointed several of its key leaders as election in-charges in these poll-bound States and Union Territory.

In the recently concluded general elections, the Congress had won 99 out of the 543 Parliamentary seats.

Foolproof security in place for PM Modi's Kashmir visit

AGENCIES
SRINAGAR, 18 JUNE

The highest level of security preparedness and foolproof arrangements are in place for the forthcoming visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Srinagar city in J&K on June 20.

The Prime Minister is arriving here on the evening of June 20 and will participate in the 18th International Yoga Day at the Sher-e-Kashmir International Convention Centre (SKICC) on the banks of the Dal Lake in Srinagar the next day. Over 6,000 other participants will likely join the Prime Minister on International Yoga Day on June 21.

This is PM Modi's first visit to J&K after being elected as the country's Prime Minister for the third term.

Teams of SPG, those deployed for the Prime Minister's security, reached here five days earlier than the VVIP visit to coordinate secu-



rity arrangements with the J&K security staff.

The venue of the function has been thoroughly sanitized and the SPG will take over the venue two days ahead of the Prime Minister's visit.

Human surveillance, electronic equipment, drone supervision, vast area domination and Hawkeye surveillance of the VVIP route are being maintained for the visit.

Every detail in the blue book that describes the PM's security is being followed to the minutest precision.

J&K DGP, R.R. Swain supervises and coordinates each detail related to the Prime Minister's security.

"All roads leading to the venue would be completely sealed a day ahead of the visit and passage on these routes would be highly regulated and allowed only after attending to the security drill as described in the blue book. "No chance is being taken with anything that concerns the security of the Hon'ble Prime Minister," said a top intelligence officer.

Nikhil Gupta produced in US court, pleads not guilty in 'murder plot'

AGENCIES
NEW YORK, 18 JUNE

Nikhil Gupta, who has been accused of being involved in a 'murder-for-hire' plot against Khalistani separatist Gurbhag Singh Pannun (photo), has told a federal court here that he is not guilty.

Appearing before Magistrate Judge James Cott on Monday, he made the "not guilty" plea through his lawyer Jeffrey Chabrowe.

This was his first appearance before a US court after he was extradited on Friday from the Czech Republic.

Outside the courtroom, Chabrowe told reporters that the case is a "complicated matter for India and the US" and there should be "no rush to judgment".

"We will pursue his defence rigorously," he said.

He added that information will come out that will call into question the prosecution version.

Assistant Federal Prosecutor Ashley Nichols told the court that Gupta is charged



in the murder-for-hire plot.

Cott ordered to keep him in custody till the next court date on June 28, when a conference on the case is scheduled.

Chabrowe did not ask for bail while reserving the right to ask for it later.

According to the indictment - the chargesheet - Gupta, who also uses the name "Nick", is accused of participating in a plot to assassinate the leader of a "US-based organisation that advocates for the secession of Punjab state" and the estab-

lishment of a "Sikh sovereign state called Khalistan".

The group's leader, who is not named in the court documents, is Gurbhag Singh Pannun, a lawyer with US and Canadian citizenships, who lives in New York and runs a campaign for Khalistan.

Designated as a terrorist by the Indian government, Pannun leads the organisation called Sikhs for Justice which is conducting what it calls a "referendum" on Khalistan among Sikhs.

Gupta, a slightly-built 52-year-old, entered the court-

room dressed in black pants and a sweater and sat beside his lawyer at the defence table.

He and his lawyer talked before the proceedings began, at one point both of them laughed during their conversation.

When the hearing was over, the marshals escorting him made him take off the sweater and give it to his lawyer because he was not allowed to have it.

He was left with the T-shirt he wore underneath.

Before entering the courtroom, his handcuffs had been removed.

Chabrowe told the magistrate the conditions are bad at the Metropolitan Detention Centre where Gupta is being held and that he has not eaten because vegetarian food was not available.

He said that it was a matter of religion for Gupta.

Cott told the lawyer and prosecutors to take it up with the prison officials and report to him if it was not resolved in 24 hours.

Chabrowe also told the magistrate that arrangements should be made to allow Gupta to pray.

During the proceedings when the lawyers and the defendants had to identify themselves, Cott greeted him, as is customary, when it was his turn, "Good afternoon, Mr Gupta".

The magistrate, seated on a podium with the US Seal and Flag behind him, read him his rights to a fair trial such as his right to remain silent if interrogated and the right to a lawyer.

He also said that since he was a foreign citizen, the US government may have to inform consular officials.

Nichols said that although it was not mandatory in this case, the government would do so.

Cott reminded the prosecution of the rules for a fair trial that requires them to provide the defence with all information that is "favourable to the accused" as soon as it becomes available to enable the defence to make its case.

FAITH NATION



Devotees throng to offer prayers at the Badrinath temple on the occasion of Nirjala Ekadashi, in Chamoli on Tuesday. ■ ANI

5 MLAs resign from Rajasthan assembly after being elected as MPs

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
JAIPUR, 18 JUNE

Five MLAs of the Rajasthan Assembly, who were elected as MPs in the just-concluded general election, submitted their resignations to

Speaker Vasu Dev Devnani on Tuesday.

Devnani accepted the resignations of the five MLAs, including three of the Congress -- Dausa MLA Murari Lal Meena, Deoli Uniara MLA Harishchandra Meena, Jhunjhunu MLA Brijendra Singh Ola one each of RLTP Hanuman Beniwal of Kheenvsar, and Bhartiya Adivasi Party (BAP) Rajkumar Roat of Chaurasia assembly seats.

A bypoll in five legislative assembly seats, which fell vacant now, would be held in the next six months in the state.

Meanwhile, the Election Commission has also released a gazette notification of these MLAs' resignations. One Rajya Sabha seat would also fall vacant in Rajasthan.

Might think about entry into active politics after seeing Priyanka in MP's role: Robert Vadra

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 18 JUNE

A day after Congress announced that party general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra would contest elections from Kerala's Wayanad Lok Sabha seat, her husband Robert Vadra on Tuesday said he might think about entry into active politics after seeing Priyanka in the role of an MP.

Reacting to the announcement, Robert Vadra said, "I am very happy that Priyanka will contest elections from Wayanad. She will work hard there also. I hope the people of Wayanad will make her win with a majority."

"Whenever I have been asked about my entry into active politics, I have always said that I might think about it after seeing Priyanka in the role of an MP," he told a news agency.

Robert Vadra further said, on entering Parliament, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra will raise issues of farmers welfare, unem-

ployment, women security, which the "BJP doesn't raise".

"Smriti Irani never did anything for women, our women wrestlers... Priyanka will certainly voice people's concerns in Parliament," he added.

Priyanka will make her electoral debut from Wayanad Lok Sabha constituency, a decision that marks a significant stride for the leader who was appointed Congress general secretary in 2019.

She will contest in a Lok Sabha bypoll with her brother and Congress leader Rahul Gandhi deciding to retain the Rae Bareilly constituency in Uttar Pradesh and vacate the Wayanad seat.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge announced that Priyanka Gandhi will contest from Wayanad at a special press conference on Monday.

Rahul Gandhi, who contested from two seats -- Rae Bareilly and Wayanad - won from both the constituencies.

MP government forced to scrap project endangering environment

GAURAV CHANDRA
BHOPAL, 18 JUNE

Relentless campaigning and pressure from all sections of society and environmental protection groups have succeeded in forcing the Madhya Pradesh BJP government to scrap a proposal for constructing a lavish housing project for ministers, MLAs and bureaucrats at the cost of mowing down nearly 27,000-29,000 trees in Bhopal's Shivaji Nagar area, which is known as the 'lungs of the city' due to its years-old dense flora.

The proposal was floated by the Madhya Pradesh Housing Board a few days ago and it immediately faced vehement protests from not only residents of the area but also from people of all walks of life, including children, students, women, and even MLAs of the ruling BJP.

The proposal was considered totally contrary to the principles of sustainable development, as its implementation would have meant demolition of more than 2,000 inhabited government houses and the cutting down of thousands of trees, most of which are many years old. Moreover, the cutting



down of trees would have led to the loss of habitats for many species of birds, small animals, and insects, besides the

loss of a large variety of shrubs, small plants and flowers.

Citizens held protests

The Madhya Pradesh government had planned to hand over the project to one or more private builders for construction and final implementation

daily against the proposal. The protests involved 'chipko andolans' (people hugging trees), delegations meeting the officials concerned, protest marches and kids and women tying 'raksha sutras' (sacred threads) to the trees, as a sign of taking a vow to be their saviours.

Crumbling under the pressure, the Madhya Pradesh Government decided to scrap the proposal completely.

State Urban Administration and Development Minister Kailash Vijayvargiya wrote in Hindi on his X account on Monday evening that the New Bhopal re-densification proposal has been rejected.

"Keeping in view environmental protection and trees present in the area of the New Bhopal Re-densification Plan, the presented proposal was rejected after thorough consideration and instructions were given to

examine other alternative locations," the minister wrote. "Discussions should be held with citizens and public representatives at the initial level for the new proposal," he added.

The MP Housing Board also issued a formal order late Monday evening stating that the proposal has been cancelled.

The project proposed demolition of 2,267 government houses in the Tulsi Nagar and Shivaji Nagar localities in the heart of Bhopal, the capital city of Madhya Pradesh.

It aimed at constructing

3,480 residences for ministers, MLAs and bureaucrats, including big bungalows, high-rise buildings with flats, clubhouses, swimming pools, and other amenities.

The project's implementation would have led to the cutting down of nearly 29,000 trees in the area.

The project was to be spread in an area of 297 acres and its initial cost was projected to be nearly Rs 2,400 crore.

The government had planned to hand over the project to one or more private builders for construction and final implementation.



Bridging a Divide

India's economic landscape presents a paradox of rapid growth alongside deep-seated inequality. The disparity between the prosperous and the impoverished is stark, with Uttar Pradesh, India's most populous state, highlighting the chasm. With an average annual income per capita of just Rs 60,000 in 2021-2022, Uttar Pradesh's economic struggles exemplify a broader issue that could threaten the stability and sustainability of India's growth. Economic growth in India has been impressive, averaging over 8 per cent annually and fostering a booming stock market. Yet, this growth masks a troubling reality: the benefits have been unevenly distributed. The top 1 per cent of India's population now commands nearly 23 per cent of the national income, a level of inequality comparable to the colonial era. This concentration of wealth is not merely an academic concern but a tangible threat to India's long-term economic stability. One of the critical drivers of this inequality is the structure of India's economic development. Over the past decade, the country's growth has increasingly been driven by a handful of large conglomerates that dominate the economic landscape, executing government projects and wielding significant pricing power. This model, while effective in driving infrastructure development and economic growth, often sidelines smaller firms and fails to create widespread, high-quality employment opportunities. The agricultural sector, which employs 43 per cent of the population, is particularly affected. Despite its importance, the sector has seen stagnant incomes and limited investment. Lower food prices, intended to tame inflation and support urban consumers, effectively subsidise the better-off at the expense of rural farmers. This perverse redistribution exacerbates rural poverty and deepens economic divides. Addressing these challenges requires a multi-faceted approach. Improving competition within the economy is essential. Encouraging the growth of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) can diversify economic activity and create more employment opportunities. Additionally, investing in human capital through education and skills development is crucial. A well-educated and skilled workforce is the foundation of a robust and inclusive economy. Infrastructure development, particularly in underdeveloped states like Uttar Pradesh, is another vital component. Improved transportation, communication, and energy infrastructure can stimulate economic activity and attract investment. However, these efforts must be complemented by social policies that directly address inequality. This could include redistributive measures such as progressive taxation and targeted welfare programmes. Moreover, India's economic policy needs to shift towards inclusivity. Policymakers should prioritise reforms that enhance the economic participation of historically marginalised communities. Ensuring that economic growth translates into broad-based prosperity will require a concerted effort to overhaul the education system, scale up skilling programmes, and reform the agricultural sector. The path ahead is challenging, and there are no easy solutions. However, the stakes are high. If India fails to address its economic inequality, the resulting social unrest could undermine decades of progress. The country's leadership must recognise that sustainable growth is not merely about increasing GDP but about ensuring that all citizens share in the nation's prosperity.

Cabinet Collapse

The dissolution of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's six-member war cabinet marks a significant turning point in the country's politics, underscoring deep-seated tensions within the government and highlighting the complexities of managing the Gaza conflict. This decision, spurred by the departure of centrist ministers Benny Gantz and Gadi Eisenkot, reflects broader issues that transcend mere cabinet reshuffling. Mr Netanyahu's choice to dissolve the war cabinet and consult with a smaller group of ministers, including Defence Minister Yoav Gallant and Strategic Affairs Minister Ron Dermer, reveals an attempt to streamline decision-making processes in the face of a protracted and volatile conflict. However, this move also exposes the internal strife within Mr Netanyahu's coalition. The demands from nationalist-religious partners like Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich and National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir for inclusion in the war cabinet signal a struggle for influence and representation in critical security discussions. This internal discord is not merely a matter of political manoeuvring; it has substantial implications for Israel's strategic approach to the Gaza war. The inclusion of figures like Mr Smotrich and Mr Ben-Gvir could shift the government's stance towards a more hardline, nationalist perspective, potentially alienating key international allies, including the United States. The delicate balance Mr Netanyahu must maintain between appeasing his coalition partners and adhering to international expectations is becoming increasingly precarious. The departure of Mr Gantz and Mr Eisenkot, both of whom cited Mr Netanyahu's failure to form a coherent strategy for the Gaza conflict, underscores a significant leadership vacuum. Their exit signals a profound dissatisfaction with the current administration's handling of the war, raising questions about Mr Netanyahu's capacity to lead Israel through one of its most challenging security crises. The absence of a clear, unified strategy not only hampers military operations but also diminishes public confidence in the government's ability to protect and advance national interests. Furthermore, the dissolution of the war cabinet can be seen as a reflection of Mr Netanyahu's broader political strategy, which often involves consolidating power and minimising dissent within his ranks. While this approach may offer short-term gains in terms of streamlined decision-making, it risks undermining the democratic principles of transparency and accountability. In times of war, when national unity and coherent leadership are paramount, such a strategy can be particularly detrimental. As Israel navigates the complexities of the Gaza conflict, the need for a comprehensive, well-articulated strategy becomes increasingly urgent. This strategy must not only address immediate security concerns but also consider the long-term implications for regional stability and international relations. The departure of experienced military leaders like Mr Gantz and Mr Eisenkot highlights a critical loss of expertise that could have provided valuable insights into crafting such a strategy. Mr Netanyahu's dissolution of the war cabinet is a stark reminder of the intricate and often contentious nature of coalition politics in Israel.

Ifs and Butts

Cigarette filters, capturing some of the toxic chemicals from smoking, still harbour over 7,000 compounds, with at least 150 known toxins. Each discarded butt can contaminate up to 1,000 litres of water, releasing hazardous substances such as toxic metals, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, and nitrogenic compounds. Studies reveal that these chemicals persist in the environment, bioaccumulate in organisms, and induce harmful effects. Most cigarette filters, despite seeming like cotton, are really composed of plastic fibres called cellulose acetate, which can take up to a decade to decompose



This summer, India endured an unprecedented heatwave, with Odisha facing the harshest brunt, recording 27 extreme weather days. Western Rajasthan followed with 23 days, Gangetic West Bengal with 21, and Delhi, Haryana, Chandigarh, and western UP each with 20 days.

These figures, more than double the usual, highlight a growing climate crisis demanding urgent attention. We have often discussed and dissected the myriad factors causing these environmental issues in an intellectual manner, all while a burning cigarette dangles between two fingers.

This irony underscores our complacency, as the very act of smoking contributes to the degradation we so passionately debate. It's time to confront our contradictions and act decisively for the planet's sake.

"Smoking is injurious to health" is perhaps India's most well-publicized health warning, an omnipresent reminder of the personal toll tobacco takes. Yet, lurking beneath this familiar refrain is a less popular but equally critical truth: cigarettes wreak havoc on the environment. In the quiet corners of our cities, along the once-pristine banks of rivers, and scattered across our beaches, a silent scourge festers - cigarette butts.

These toxic remnants of a fleeting vice silently poison our planet, leaving an indelible mark on our ecosystems. As we grapple with the visible health impacts of smoking, it's imperative to confront its insidious environmental consequences.

Each year, the staggering worldwide production of 5.5 trillion cigarettes results in the inappropriate disposal of approximately 4.5 trillion cigarette butts. India's landfills receive over 100 billion cigarette butts per year.

Amidst the smoke haze of tobacco's impact on our environment, a startling statistic emerges: each year, our nation discards over 17 million kilograms of tobacco-related garbage. With legal cigarettes representing just 10 per cent of the market share, the alarming weight of bidi waste looms ominously, highlighting the urgent need for comprehensive action to address this

environmental crisis.

Cigarette filters, capturing some of the toxic chemicals from smoking, still harbour over 7,000 compounds, with at least 150 known toxins. Each discarded butt can contaminate up to 1,000 litres of water, releasing hazardous substances such as toxic metals, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, and nitrogenic compounds.

Studies reveal that these chemicals persist in the environment, bioaccumulate in organisms, and induce harmful effects. Most cigarette filters, despite seeming like cotton, are really composed of plastic fibres called cellulose acetate, which can take up to a decade to decompose. Imagine a threat from plastic that has been quietly leaking lead, formaldehyde, nicotine, and arsenic into our ecosystems over a ten-year period. Every butt, a storehouse of dangerous substances, is a little time bomb waiting to devastate the ecosystem. As the most common form of anthropogenic litter, cigarette butts pose a dire environmental threat.

These ubiquitous pollutants wash into rivers, lakes, and oceans, becoming a fatal snack for unsuspecting birds, animals, and fish. These filters, non-biodegradable in nature, stubbornly resist the natural order of decay. While the sun's ultraviolet rays may eventually fragment them into smaller pieces, the toxic materials they contain persist, contaminating soil and water alike.

What we face here is not just litter; it's a global crisis. The implications extend beyond environmental damage. Cigarette butts have sparked wildfires, laying waste to wildlife, vegetation, and human structures.

On the other hand, the economic burden of clearing littered tobacco products falls unjustly on taxpayers, not the industry responsible. Annually, this expense amounts to approximately USD 2.6 billion in

China and USD 766 million in India, with Brazil and Germany each surpassing USD 200 million. Such enormous expenses underscore the urgent need for industry accountability and proactive solutions.

Recently, we graciously passed World No Tobacco Day on May 31, which is commemorated to raise public awareness of the risks associated with tobacco use, expose the practices of the tobacco industry, emphasize the WHO's anti-tobacco initiatives, and support future generations' health and protection. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has labelled tobacco as "a threat to our oceans." Article 18 of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) urges countries to safeguard both the environment and public health. To address the significant environmental and health impacts of microplastics in cigarette filters, UNEP and the WHO FCTC Secretariat have partnered to raise awareness and promote action. On 5 February 2004, India became a signatory to the WHO FCTC. The agreement became operative on 27 February 2005.

On the other hand, decades of the tobacco industry's deception have ensnared generations, fuelling a global epidemic. This multi-billion-dollar behemoth preys on children and adolescents with cunning advertising by employing cinema and sports celebrities, launching products faster than regulations can keep pace.

Despite evidence-based measures and governmental efforts, these industries relentlessly expand their market share, prioritizing profit over public health and targeting our most vulnerable. As a result, people light up while at work and during leisure. In some colleges and universities, it becomes a tradition to permit smoking by students.

Recently, the Household Consumption Expenditure Survey 2022-23 indicated an incre-

ase in spending on paan, tobacco, and intoxicants in both rural and urban areas.

Rural expenditure rose from 3.21 per cent (2011-12) to 3.79 per cent, while urban spending increased from 1.61 per cent to 2.43 per cent, indicating the production of more cigarette butts to fulfil the demand.

So, the time has come for collective action. It is crucial to understand that the fight against cigarette waste is a struggle for a healthier future as well as a cleaner environment as we tackle this widespread issue.

By addressing the root of the problem - holding the tobacco industry accountable, enhancing public awareness, and implementing stringent regulations - we can begin to reclaim our landscapes from this silent scourge.

Here the chronicle of the long-protracted battle provides us with encouragement in this regard. In 1970, Clara Gouin, a stay-at-home mother, sparked a grassroots movement against tobacco's grip.

Fuelled by personal tragedy and societal indifference, she founded the Group Against Smokers' Pollution (GASP). Their mission: to challenge the social acceptance of smoking.

Though outnumbered, they fought valiantly, paving the way for today's citizens to reclaim clean air. A few well-known figures who effectively advocate for the rights of non-smokers are Luther Terry and John Banzhaf.

Today amidst mounting environmental concerns, local authorities must confront the lash of non-biodegradable cigarette butt waste. Initiatives like Nirit Datta's ButtRush campaign and Naman Gupta and Vipul Gupta's Code Effort, highlight the urgent need for action. But enlightenment alone is insufficient; laws and institutions must evolve.

Political manifestos should address cigarette butt pollution. People need to be forced. Here, we must choose between the democratic right to smoke and preserving the environment for future generations. And in the end, the true measure of our progress can be a world where cigarette butts are no longer a thoroughgoing blight but a relic of a past we've risen above.

Among the world's worst for workers

The murders of two prominent trade unionists last year have earned the Philippines ignominy as one of the 10 worst countries in the world for workers. Red-tagging, abductions, arbitrary arrests, and violence resulting in death, such as in the case of Alex Dolorosa and Jude Thaddeus Fernandez, were factors why the country was ranked for the eighth consecutive year among the 10 worst globally by the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) - a shameful record for a government that has promised to champion the rights of Filipino workers under the "Bagong Pilipinas" rebranding.

Last Sunday's editorial on a new law protecting the rights of television and movie workers may have been a positive development - though implementation has yet to be seen - but the fact remains that majority of Filipino workers across different sectors continue to suffer from unfair labor practices ranging from low wages, lack of security of tenure, and the curtailment of their rights to freedom of association or to organize.

These conditions have prevailed despite the many flowery promises made by leaders past and present to improve their plight.

The accountability, however, should not be entirely placed on the current administration. The previous administration, through the National Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict (NTF-Elcac) formed in



2018, was notorious for Red-tagging and launching violent attacks on rights defenders.

"Workers and unions in the Philippines remained at the mercy of Red-tagging (being blacklisted by the government as a communist subversive and branded an extremist), violence, abductions, and arbitrary arrests," said ITUC in its country profile on the Philippines. It said the government "fostered a climate of fear and persecution, silencing the collective voice of workers.

Workers across many sectors still faced significant obstacles when attempting to form trade unions." ITUC's Global Rights Index 2024 report released on June 12 gave the Philippines a rating of 5 on a scale of 1 (spurious violation of rights) to 5+ (no guarantee of rights due to the breakdown of the rule of law).

This rating, which means "no guarantee of rights" for workers despite the enactment of laws, was unchanged from last year and was based on violations recorded annually from April to March.

No arrest has been made so far in the April 2023 murder of Dolorosa, a call center organizer who was among those who filed complaints against forced overtime in May 2019 and was found to have been stabbed multiple times.

Fernandez, an organizer from the Kilusang Mayo Uno, on the other hand, was shot dead in September 2023, during a police raid in Binangonan, Rizal.

Police justified the shooting due to Fernandez's resistance to a search warrant even though he was unarmed; he was the 72nd victim of labor-related killings since July 2016.

Workers' rights are enshrined in the 1987 Constitution with Section 3 on labor guaranteeing rights to self-organization, collective bargaining and negotiations, and peaceful concerted activities, including the right to strike in accordance with law.

However, ITUC observed that these rights are "strictly regulated" and that there is no adequate means to protect workers from anti-union discrimination.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

editor@thestatesman.com

A beacon of hope

SIR, In a world ever yearning for greater interconnectedness, the recent G7 summit has unveiled a momentous initiative: the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC).

This visionary enterprise is not merely a new trade route but a grand tapestry of roads, railways, and maritime paths interweaving from the vibrant markets of India, through the strategic heart of the Middle East, to the storied economies of Europe. It is a grand vision, set to rejuvenate and redefine trade and economic relationships across the vast expanse of Eurasia.

The ramifications of this corridor extend beyond mere commerce. It promises a fertile ground for knowledge exchange, cultural interplay, and cross-sectoral collaboration.

In essence, the IMEC is envi-

sioned as a bridge - not just of goods and services, but of ideas, cultures, and aspirations.

In a geopolitical landscape often dominated by China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), the IMEC emerges as a compelling alternative.

While the BRI has undeniably catalyzed infrastructure development on a global scale, it has also been mired in controversies concerning transparency and the debt burdens it places on participating nations.

The IMEC, however, champions the tenets of sustainability, transparency, and equitable partnerships. This approach seeks to allay fears of financial dependency and exploitation, offering a more balanced and mutually beneficial model of development.

Countries wary of the potential entanglements associated

with the BRI might find in the IMEC a beacon of hope - a pathway to growth that is both prudent and progressive.

By emphasizing these values, the IMEC presents itself as a strategic and attractive proposition for nations seeking to enhance their infrastructure and economic horizons without incurring unsustainable debts.

The endorsement by the G7 confers upon the IMEC not just political gravitas but also a potential influx of financial support. Such backing is indispensable in transforming the corridor from a conceptual marvel into a palpable reality.

Yours, etc., Amarjeet Kumar, Hazaribagh, 16 June.

IN ATTENDANCE

SIR, The BJP governments across the nation are trying to erase the colonial legacies in a number of ways including change in names of regions, railway stations and

TOY TRAIN SHOW

SIR, I refer to the local page news report "Century-old car completes world tour" published in the 14 June edition of your paper. The technical hitches in vintage motor cars owe their origin to non-availability of spare parts et al. Many readers of your paper feel nostalgic with regard to such a report of an odyssey in a vintage automobile.

It is commendable that *The Statesman* hosts the Vintage Car rally beckoning vintage car enthusiasts.

Being a toy train enthusiast, I implore the Ministry of Railways to embark on a vintage toy train rally on the narrow gauge trackbed of the Railway Museum. Toy trains abound in the UK whereas in India gauge conversions in the plains have limited the trot of the toy trains to the hill stations.

Yours, etc., Anindya Ghosal, Burdwan, 14 June.

roads. But why is there reluctance to do away with the privileges associated with elected representatives?

All personal attendants for them should be discontinued. It is usual for politicians in the West to do their own personal chores. It is not unusual to find a minister waiting patiently in a queue in a

mall or carrying his own luggage. Here there are plenty of underlings to do this work.

They can very well pay for the services from their own pockets. Payments from the public exchequer for such services should stop.

Yours, etc., Anthony Henriques, Mumbai, 15 June.

Secularism can never be a binary concept

GAUTAM BHATTACHARYA

Perhaps in no other general election in the past have issues like ‘uniform civil code’, ‘politics of appeasement’, ‘secularism’, ‘illegal infiltration’, ‘NRC’ etc. been so much a part of the campaign of political parties as it had happened this time. Whereas the right-wing political parties had stepped up their pitch to prove that because of the policies of appeasement pursued in the past by the Congress and other left-of-Center liberal parties, the proportion of the Hindu population declined from 84.1 per cent in the 1951 Census to 79.8 per cent in 2011, others alleged that so long as fertility rates of women were declining fast amongst all communities, this kind of narration was aimed at dividing society to gain electoral dividends.

In Western nations, secularism is perceived as a doctrine where religion and religious considerations are not reflected in the policies of the state. If we go by this idea of segregation of state and religion, can a secular state allow its citizens to follow the life practices as per their own religious scriptures? Perhaps the founding fathers of the Indian constitution thought that the two were contradictory. However, at the same time they felt that Indian society at the time of independence was not prepared enough to appreciate such a stricter doctrine of secularism.

In consequence it was stated in the Directive Principles of the Indian Constitution that the “state shall endeavor to secure for citizens a uniform civil code throughout the territory of India”. But no time limit for



such an endeavor was indicated. The framers of modern India perceived India as a nation where laws relating to the personal life of citizens viz. marriage, divorce, inheritance of property etc. should all be governed by a set of rules independent of religious affiliation of the citizens. Uniform civil code is, therefore, an integral part of a secular state if we go by the principle of segregation of state and religion.

The softer approach to secularism talks of providing equal status, recognition and support from the State to all religions. This doctrine allows different sets of rules to prevail in relation to personal life for people of different religions, depending on the respective religious scriptures. Since independence, India went by this idea of secularism and never took the idea of uniform civil code seriously. The idea of this article is not to

compare the merits and demerits of two doctrines but to introspect on different shades of secularism.

Let’s first look at our neighboring countries in South Asia. Can a State be secular if it patronizes any particular religion? The Constitution of Bangladesh by an amendment in 1988 declared Islam as the State-religion, though secularism is mentioned in the preamble as a fundamental principle. Family laws there have separate provisions for different religious groups. Though the Constitution says that “the state shall ensure equal status and equal right in the practice of the Hindu, Buddhist, Christian and other religions”, the secular credentials of Bangladesh were seriously jeopardised after adoption of a State Religion.

Even in the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the Hindu Marriage Act was implemented in 2017 to register

marriages solemnised by Hindu rituals where husband and wife are both Hindus. Such rights relating to marriage or inheritance of property, granted to minority communities do not necessarily establish the doctrine that the citizens from all religions “are given equal status, recognition and support from the State”.

If the State identifies one particular religion as a state-religion, that vitiates the eco-system essential to extend equal status, recognition and support to all. What is there in the statute is important but more meaningful is the ecosystem which reflects the mind-set of those who run the state.

The Supreme Court (1975) observed two conditions for secularism: “the State shall have no religion of its own” and “the people of the country shall be equally entitled to their conscience and have the right freely to profess, practice and propagate any religion”. However, there are exceptions even in Europe. In Denmark and Greece where politics, education, science and social affairs are independent of religious dogmas and institutions, they have ‘state-church’.

The antithesis of a secular state is a ‘theocratic state’ where the legal system is based on religious law. In certain theocratic states, the Head of State cannot be from any religion other than their own. In today’s world, it is difficult to find a purely theocratic state. However, in Afghanistan, Iran, Qatar and Saudi Arabia, Sharia laws are retained for personal matters and in the absence of personal law, judges decide based on their own interpretations of Sharia law. In most of these countries, religious minorities, in general, do not

have the right to practice their religion openly.

Contrarily, there are Muslim majority states viz. Indonesia or Turkey where freedom of religion for individuals is recognized. Indonesia recognizes six official religions. In Malaysia, Islam is the state religion and non-Malay citizens can practice any religion of their choice, but one must be a Muslim to be considered as Malay. Syria has a dual legal system where civil and criminal cases are heard in secular courts and in parallel there are also Sharia courts to handle personal matters. Though Syria’s constitution claims to be a secular one, the President has to be a follower of Islam. On the other extreme there are Communist countries where atheism is practiced by the State and people are discouraged from practicing religion. China and Vietnam are classic examples.

Secularism is, therefore, not a binary concept. There is a spectrum and the state has to evolve through a process towards the doctrine of separation between the state policies and religion, depending on the preparedness of the society. After the setbacks to the BJP-led NDA in the recently held Lok Sabha election, the present government with a razor-thin majority in all probability will not pursue contentious issues like Uniform Civil Code. However, the debate in civil society on UCC is likely to continue. We need to judge the issue of implementation of the uniform civil code in secular India from an unbiased assessment of readiness of the society.

(The writer, a former civil servant, is now an independent commentator on socio-economic issues and public policies.)

100 YEARS AGO

OCCASIONAL NOTE

THE future of the Mosul Vilayet has been reserved for decision by the League of Nations. This is in accordance with the understanding arrived at during the discussions at Lausanne, where it was agreed that the matter should be omitted from the treaty for further examination by England and Turkey, or in the last resort by the League of Nations. The Turkish view is that geographically and ethnologically the province belongs to Turkey. The English view is that by the same test it belongs to Iraq. The Turks appear to have been surprised at the firmness with which the English view has been maintained, having expected a graceful withdrawal after the amenities of Lausanne. Iraq was constituted as an independent State in 1920, under the mandate of Great Britain. A treaty between the two States was signed in 1922, whereby England undertook to secure a speedy delimitation of the frontier, and to use its good offices to secure the admission of Iraq to the League of Nations. The census of 1920 gave the population as 2,849,282, including Mosul.

NEWS ITEMS

WORLD ADVERTISERS

250 WOMEN “BUSINESS CHIEFS”

FIFTEEN countries will be represented at the International Advertising Convention at the British Empire Exhibition at Wembley in July. Practically all the business communities of the world are represented with the exception of those in Central and Southern Europe, and it is hoped that with the interchange of ideas, methods of business, may be revolutionized.

No fewer than 250 women are taking part, chiefly from the United States, who will attend the Convention in their “own right” as business chiefs.

There are to be visits to Brighton, Margate, Edinburgh, Glasgow, and Sheffield, and every opportunity will be taken of making the visitors thoroughly acquainted with British manufacturing and business possibilities. The chief manufacturers in practically every industry are arranging to show parties of delegates interested in their productions over their works.

The American delegates will arrive about July 12 in five ships specially chartered for them. The Lancastria and Republic will sail from New York, La Salle from Houston (Texas), the Samaria from Boston, and the Montcalm from Montreal.

POPULAR TREATY

BRITISH RECOGNITION OF ARAB CONFEDERATION

LONDON, JUNE 17
DR. NAJI ASSIL, King Hussein’s envoy to London, has left for Mecca bearing a new draft of a treaty of friendship with Britain which, Dr. Naji has stated, contains formal recognition of the complete independence of the Arab Hassimite Government, and lays down with greater precision the bases of the confederation of countries under King Hussein.

It deals with the question of Palestine in a manner which he says is likely to be universally approved. Dr. Naji is confident that the treaty will be promptly signed.

ALIPORE SESSIONS

CUSTOMS OFFICER IN TROUBLE

THE case in which Singleton, a Preventive Officer of the Customs in charge of the Diamond Harbour Custom House, and Basanta Sing were charged under sections 120 B and 409 I.P.C. with conspiracy and criminal breach of trust in respect of 34 bags of peacock feathers worth about Rs. 17,000 belonging to the Government under circumstances already reported came on for hearing at the Alipore, Criminal Sessions before Mr. G. N. Roy, district and Sessions Judge, and a special jury of four Europeans and one Indian.

The Public Prosecutor, Mr. N. N. Banerji, conducted the prosecution and Messrs. J. M. Sen-Gupta and Manuel, counsel, with Babu Hit Lal Guha, vakil, appeared on behalf of Singleton, Babus Harsanath Banerji, Gonesh Chandra Sen, and Monindranath Banerji pleaders appeared for the second accused.

It was decided after some discussion that the case against Basanta Sing would be taken up after the disposal of the case against Singleton. The trial is proceeding.

Can AI unlock productivity and growth?

ANDREW SHENG

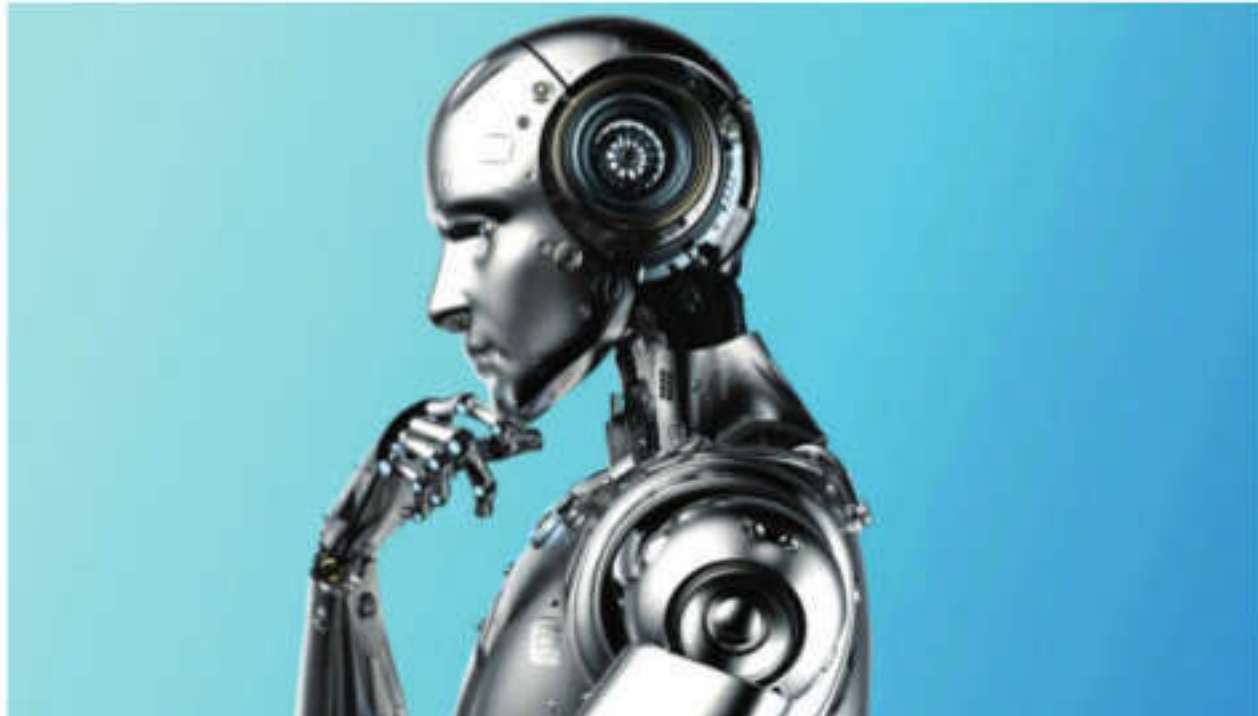
If you watched Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang’s remarkable presentation at Taipei Computex last month, you would be convinced that AI has ushered in a new Industrial Revolution, in which accelerated computing with the latest AI chips has unleashed the power of doing everything faster, more efficiently and with less energy.

In this age of intense global rivalry and competition, including military power, AI, robotics and improved engineering promise a techno-utopian way to achieve dominance over rivals. McKinsey estimated that Generative AI’s impact on productivity could add between \$2.6 trillion to \$4.4 trillion to the global economy annually. That’s like adding one UK economy to the global economy every year.

Roughly three-fourths of productivity will come from business improvements in four areas-customer operations, marketing and sales, software engineering, and R&D. Think about it, instead of training everyone to learn coding, we bypass coding because AI can actually translate what you would like done through writing the script, creating the video, and even designing the process. Just ask ChatGPT’s latest version.

The machine has the answers, but ultimately it is the human being who will either execute what is needed, or just not do anything.

The reality is that even though Generative AI will have a significant impact across all industry sectors such as retail, banking, high tech, and life sciences, whether or not the productivity (measured as output per capita) is achieved depends on how individuals, companies, communities



and nations are driving the productivity change. Since Generative AI changes the way we work by automating many individual activities, this is a social and political question. Cross-border language barriers are removed when AI can do the automatic translation, print the transcript and even indicate the next work agenda. Since McKinsey estimates that current generative AI and other technologies can automate work activities by as much as 60 to 70 per cent of present employee time, no wonder many in the workforce fear AI adoption with huge resistance and reluctance to change.

The latest European Union Competitiveness and Industry Benchmarking Report 2024 indicates how at the high level, the EU realizes that the region is racing against the clock as EU industry has been continuously losing ground on global markets in terms of market share. EU companies are becoming less relevant and EU’s future technological leadership is at risk. The reason is obvious to all – the EU’s market is much more fragmented

than either US or China, being a collection of national markets rather than a Single Market with one currency, the Euro.

The metrics speak for themselves. The EU’s share of global trade has fallen by one third to second place (16 per cent of global trade in 2021), compared with China (28.3 per cent) and USA (14.5 per cent) since 2001. In terms of market revenue of companies in Fortune Global 500, EU companies have fallen to third place between 2005 and 2023. American companies lead with 31.8 per cent, Chinese are at 27.5 per cent and EU companies lag with 15.5 per cent.

Europe’s adoption of 5G technology is way behind that of China or the United States. Since R&D is a key driver of innovation and technological leadership, EU has lagged with 2.3 per cent of GDP spending by 2021, behind China (2.4 per cent) and USA (3.5 per cent). This is particularly evident in industrial R&D investment amongst the world’s largest 2,500 companies. EU’s market share has fallen to third place of only 17.5 per cent, overtaken

by China (17.8 per cent), whereas the US leads with 42.1 per cent. Chinese EVs and engineering products (including industrial machinery) are already taking EU markets by storm.

Add to this the fact that the EU’s energy costs are higher than the US or China, and that EU regulations are the most complex relative to other markets, it is not surprising that EU companies have been shifting their production overseas. Labour productivity has stagnated for years due to the highest social protection standards. As the report says, the EU’s regulatory environment needs an upgrade to empower and reward innovators, a reduction of EU and national regulatory silo-thinking, and enhancement of technology deployment with stronger public-private collaboration.

These European lessons are salutary for real sector transformation for almost all emerging developing market economies (EMDEs). Despite being shocked by the global financial crisis of 2008, Europe has not undertaken structural reforms in the labour and corporate sectors to improve overall competitiveness. The financial sector, dominated by the fragmented banking system, remains risk-averse. German, French and Swiss banks are a shadow of their former global prowess, having been hit hard by tighter regulations and inept consolidations.

The real issue is who drives the structural changes. In America, it is quite clear that the private corporate sector remains dynamic and committed to profits and innovation. In China, the government or Party takes the lead, but allows enough corporate competition that is aligned with national goals. No one pretends that American or Chinese corporations are neoliberal by inclination.

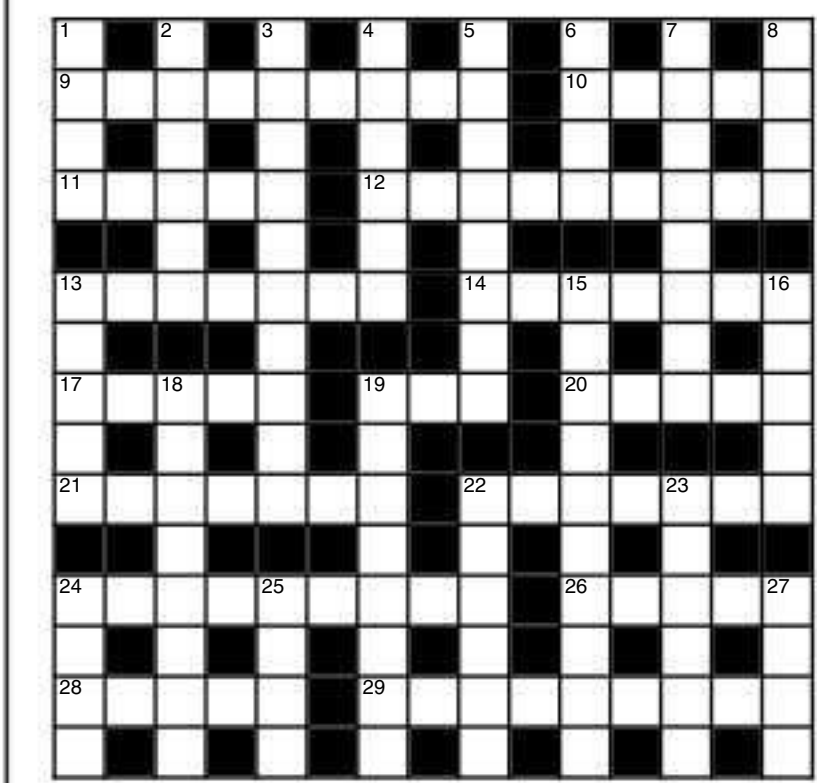
EU and many EMDEs still suffer a schizophrenic tension between the old neoliberal aim of free markets, with newer liking for state intervention and industrial policies. The neoliberal approach failed where governments and the public think that just passing more laws and regulations would solve social and market ills. As we all have learnt from bitter experience, policies and programmes are easily frustrated at the legislative or political levels, or mired in endless legal suits by vested interests against change.

Eco-system change is complex and requires not only the construction of a common narrative of why you need change, but also concrete execution of visible projects that demonstrate determination and engender public trust. If you want the economy to change, appoint business leaders who understand how to manage institutional change that remains business-friendly. Indonesian President Jokowi’s appointment of former tech platform Gojek President Nadiem Makarim as Minister of Education is an example of how to shake a traditional educational bureaucracy towards technological eco-system change. Radical change needs radical thinking, but by someone like Jensen Huang who understands both the role of technology and markets.

The AI revolution is already happening at frightening speed. Economies that mess up the transition will be marginalized. Those companies and communities that adapt well will not only survive but thrive. That is the cruelty of Darwinian competition.

(The writer, a former Central banker, is a Distinguished Fellow of Asia Global Institute, University of Hong Kong.)
Special to ANN

CROSSWORD



YESTERDAY’S SOLUTION

INORGANIC M P
N F A E HEATHER
SETTLER E N O I
U L DRAFTSMAN
LECTOR P R O C
A H P M SPANGLE
TRADEMARK E
E N D L A I N H
T ATTENTIVE
PREPAID E S S A
E U D A ATREST
GASTROPOD R W
L E O T AQUARIA
ENSUITE U C U V
G T DEBUTANTE

ACROSS

- 9 Butcher’s wrapping duck — huge duck! (9)
10 Flyer that talks about advanced inner personality (5)
11 Somewhat eccentric, or mad, losing power to Democrat? (7)
12 Greek leader soon brought about plucky Priam’s end (9)
13 50s rocker pinching golden chain is fired (7)
14 See 6 Down
17 Two characters abroad initially pursuing model (3-2)

DOWN

- 19 His poetry no-go? Or prose uneven? (3)
20 Peacock in mating frenzy on the way (5)
21/2 One 6 across left her shaken (7,6)
22 Stanhope for one in time becomes mediocre (7)
24 Carol eating cold and out-of-date bread (9)
26 Retreat from Moscow? (5)
28/4 Another 6 to trouble Longshanks? (5,6)
29 Ray — powerful — toyed with male bears (5,4)

DOWN

- 1 Like good brandy found in drainage ditch? (4)
2 See 21 Across
3 Note stain left surrounding crack in cathedral area (4,6)
4 See 28 Across
5 Chest-beater having breakfast in Chardonnay? (5,3)
6/14 Novel bleak: an end should incorporate article in work of 23 (4,3,4)
7 Mineral from old Roman watering-hole (8)
8 This will break with martial artist coming round (4)

- 13 Theme work penned by Mark that remains unfinished (5)
15 Mostly useless about missing staff turning up in city (10)
16 One used to spin has some control at Headingley (5)
18 One tends cows and three bats (8)
19 Sweet bad stuck in gum (8)
22 Respected heads of army units and air force (6)
23 Person walking miles leaves old soldier (6)
24 Very hard getting round London district (4)
25 Much drama having no quiet songs (4)
27 Culminating point of month in service (4)

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

THUMBNAILS

NBCC signs MoUs in Odisha: NBCC, a leading Government of India Navratna Enterprise under the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, will soon be constructing projects in the state of Odisha. The company entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Department of Social Security & Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (SSEPD), Government of Odisha on 13.06.2024 for the planning, designing and construction of an Integrated Infrastructure Complex (IIC) in Bargarh district of Odisha. The MoU was signed by Shrimati Niyati Pattnaik (OAS-SS), Director, SSEPD and Shri Rakesh Narayan Sinha, General Manager (Engg), SBC Odisha, NBCC in the presence of officials from both organizations.

NBCC Signs MoU with Grid-India: NBCC (India) Limited on 14.06.2024 has inked a MoU with Grid-India (Grid Controller of India Limited) for execution of interior, fit outs and other associated infrastructure works for their new Corporate Office at Ayurvigyan Nagar, New Delhi. The tentative value of works to be executed under this MoU is approximately Rs. 70.00 Crore.

Central banks plans to add gold to their reserves in a year: Nearly 30 per cent of 70 central banks surveyed have said they plan to add to their own gold reserves within the next year, a World Gold Council survey said. According to WGC, the views in favour of the yellow metal from the reserve managers persist despite two successive years of record central bank purchasing and the gold price hitting new all-time highs in 2024. The 2024 Central Banks Gold Reserves (CBGR) survey, collected data from a record 70 of the world's central banks, the WGC said. According to the report, reserve managers indicate that they are looking to gold to help mitigate risks and prepare for further political and economic uncertainty globally.

Markets extend gains for 4th consecutive session

The rally was supported largely by PowerGrid Corp and Titan

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 18 JUNE

The Indian stock market on Tuesday extended their gains for the fourth consecutive session and closed at a fresh record high.

The rally was supported largely by PowerGrid Corp and Titan, which were the major contributors to the positive momentum.

Both the Sensex and Nifty hit their all-time high. Sensex hit its fresh all-time high of 77,366.77 during the session while the Nifty 50 hit its fresh all-time high of 23,579.05.

Sensex closed 308 points, or 0.40%, higher at 77,301.14. Nifty 50 ended 92 points, or 0.39%, higher at 23,557.90.

Among the sectors, Nifty Realty (1.88%), Consumer Durables (1.59%) and Private Bank (1.10%) ended with significant gains.

Nifty Bank closed 0.88% higher, while the PSU Bank index rose 0.25%.



On the losing side were Nifty Media (0.64%), Pharma (0.35%) and Metal (0.22%).

On Nifty 50, the top gainers were Shriram Finance (3.22%), Power Grid (3.13%), Wipro (2.94%) and ICICI Bank (1.82%).

Maruti Suzuki (2.14%), Dr. Reddy's Laboratories (1.60%) and UltraTech Cement (1.09%) ended as the top losers in the index.

Mid and smallcap indices outperformed the benchmarks; the BSE Midcap and Smallcap indices closed 0.43%

and 0.96% higher, respectively.

The overall market capitalisation of the firms listed on the BSE rose to nearly Rs 437.3 lakh crore from nearly Rs 434.9 lakh crore in the previous session.

The rupee appreciated 13 paise to settle at 83.42 (provisional) against the US dollar buoyed by fresh inflow of foreign capital and a firm trend in domestic equity markets, wherein benchmark indices scaled new peaks.

At the interbank foreign

exchange market, the local unit opened at 83.52 and hit the intraday high of 83.39 against the greenback during the session. Shares of Mahindra and Mahindra (M&M) rallied 3% to Rs 3,008 to hit a new 52-week high in the Tuesday morning after international brokerage Nomura raised the target price citing multiple levers of growth.

RITES share price gained as the company signed an MoU with Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC), a statutory body under the Ministry of Power.

The share price of One97 Communications, the parent company of Paytm, witnessed a 3% downfall during Tuesday's trading session.

In the global parameter, the S&P 500 achieved another record high fuelled by a surge in major US tech firms.

This marks the index's 30th all-time high this year, despite concerns over limited market breadth and sustained US interest rates.

Net Direct Tax collections for FY25 record 20.99 per cent spike



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 18 JUNE

The Direct Tax collections for the Financial Year 2024-25, as on June 17, indicate a 20.99% spike compared to last fiscal, the data from the Ministry of Finance said on Tuesday.

The provisional figures of Direct Tax collections show that Net collections are at Rs 4,62,664 crore, compared to Rs 3,82,414 crore in the corresponding period of FY2023-24.

Notably, the Net Direct Tax collection includes Corporation Tax (CIT) at Rs 1,80,949 crore (net of refund) and Personal Income Tax (PIT) including Securities Transaction Tax (STT) at Rs 2,81,013 crore (net of refund).

The Gross collection of Direct Taxes, before adjusting for refunds, for FY25 stands at Rs 5,15,986 crore compared to Rs 4,22,295 crore in the corresponding period of the preceding financial year, showing a growth of 22.19% over the collections

of FY 2023-24, data from the ministry said.

The Gross collection of Rs 5,15,986 crore includes CIT at Rs 2,26,280 crore and PIT including STT at Rs 2,88,993 crore.

Minor head-wise collection comprises Advance Tax of Rs 1,48,823 crore; Tax Deducted at Source of Rs 3,24,787 crore; Self-Assessment Tax of Rs 28,471 crore; Regular Assessment Tax of Rs 10,920 crore; and Tax under other minor heads of Rs 2,985 crore. The ministry data further said that the provisional figures of total Advance Tax collections for FY25, as on June 17, stand at Rs 1,48,823 crore, against Advance Tax collections of Rs 1,16,875 crore for FY24, showing a growth of 27.34%.

The Advance Tax collection of Rs 1,48,823 crore comprises CIT at Rs 1,14,353 crore and PIT at Rs 34,470 crore.

Refunds amounting to Rs 53,322 crore have also been issued in the FY25 till June 17, which are 33.70% higher than refunds issued during the same period in the preceding year.

Forex reserve and financial stability gave confidence to international investors: Das

AGENCIES
MUMBAI, 18 JUNE

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor, Shaktikanta Das, outlined the nation's solid economic trajectory during his address at the ET NOW Leadership Dialogues 2024 on Tuesday, emphasizing the continuous growth momentum and the positive outlook for India's economy.

On the international front, Das underscored India's strong forex reserves and financial stability, which continue to inspire confidence among international investors.

"Forex reserve and financial stability gave confidence to international investors", he noted.

The central bank's commitment to maintaining financial stability and its future-ready plans are crucial factors in bolstering investor confidence.

He highlighted significant improvements in economic

activities, rural demand, and financial stability, projecting a robust growth for the current financial year.

Das said, "We see the growth momentum, we see every strong momentum of economic activities as a strong momentum of growth."

Governor Das stated that India's economy has displayed a remarkable growth trajectory, with the last quarter of 2023 showing a substantial 7.6 percent growth.

Das stated, "If you look at the last Q4 2023 January to March this year, the momentum of activity is much stronger. In fact it was the strongest momentum of the last year and the growth in the last quarter was itself 7.6 per cent."

This exceeded the initial projections of 5.9 percent by the National Statistical Office (NSO), indicating a strong underlying economic momentum.

He said, "Although the implicit number behind NSO's number was 5.9 per cent but the momentum was so strong that it came at 7.6 per cent resulting in high growth of last year. And that same strong momentum of economic activity has also continued into the first quarter of this year."

He also pointed out that this momentum has carried into the first quarter of 2024. The RBI's optimistic projection of a 7.2 percent growth for the first quarter is expected to slightly surpass expectations, potentially reaching 7.3 percent. The central bank raised its overall growth projection for the financial year 2024-25 to 7.2 percent from the earlier estimate of 7 percent. Das shared detailed quarterly projections, anticipating consistent growth rates across the fiscal year, with 7.3 percent in Q1, 7.2 percent in Q2, 7.3 percent in Q3, and 7.2 percent in Q4.

Fitch Ratings increases India's growth forecast for current fiscal to 7.2 per cent from 7 per cent

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 18 JUNE

Fitch Ratings increased India's growth forecast for the current fiscal to 7.2 per cent, up from 7 per cent projected in March due to a recovery in consumer spending and increased investment.

For the fiscal years 2025-26 and 2026-27, Fitch projected growth rates of 6.5 per cent and 6.2 per cent, respectively.

In its global economic outlook report, Fitch said, "We expect the Indian economy to expand by a strong 7.2 per cent in FY24/25, an upward revision of 0.2 pp from the March Global Economic Outlook (GEO)."

Fitch's estimates align with those of the Reserve



Bank of India (RBI), which earlier this month projected a 7.2 per cent growth for the current fiscal year, supported by improving rural demand and moderating inflation.

The rating agency said that the investment will continue to rise, albeit more slowly than in recent quarters. Consumer spending is expected to recover, supported by high consumer confidence.

"We expect growth in later years to slow and approach our medium-term trend estimate," Fitch added, indicating that growth will be driven by consumer spending and investment.

Fitch anticipates that investment will continue to rise during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's third term, albeit slower than in recent quarters.

Additionally, consumer spending is expected to recover due to high consumer confidence.

An 'above normal' monsoon forecast for June-September is expected to mitigate risks of food price spikes. Fitch projects that headline inflation in India will decrease to 4.5 per cent by the end of 2024, averaging 4.3 per cent

in 2025 and 2026.

In contrast, Fitch forecasts a slowdown in global growth in 2025 despite monetary easing expected in 2024.

The Fitch Ratings revised its growth forecast for the global economy to 2.6 per cent from the earlier projected 2.4 per cent.

Last week, the World Bank retained its growth forecast for India at 6.6 per cent for FY25. In its latest biannual Global Economic Prospects it said India will remain the fastest-growing of the world's largest economies, although its pace of expansion is expected to moderate. After a high growth rate in FY 2023/24, steady growth of 6.7 per cent per year, on average, is projected for the three fiscal years beginning in FY 2024/25.

Classified

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE TO ALL CONCERNED IN THE COURT OF THE LD. 1ST CIVIL JUDGE (SENIOR DIVISION) AT HOWRAH
TITLE EXECUTION NO. 728 OF 2014 (ARISING OUT OF TITLE APPL. NO. 15 OF 1990) (ARISING OUT OF TITLE SUIT- NO. 33 OF 1982)
SMT. DEPALI DUTTA & OTHERS DECREE HOLDERS
Versus
SRI NIRANJAN GHOSH & OTHERS
JUDGEMENT DESTORS
TO (1) SRI NIRANJAN GHOSH, son of Late Prafulla Kumar Ghosh residing at holding No. 8, Raj Ballav Saha 1st Bye Lane, P.S. & District- Howrah-711101, (2) SRI ANIL GHOSH, District- Howrah-711104, (3) SRI AMIT GHOSH, both sons of Late Prafulla Kumar Ghosh, both residing at 43/1, Shastri Narendranath Ganguly Road, P.S. previously Shipur at present Chatterjeehat, District- Howrah-711104. It is hereby notified to all concerned that the decree holders viz. (1a) Smt. Depali Dutta alias Maya Dutta, wife of Arun Dutta, (1b) Jayanta Ghosh, (1c) Smt. Lata Ghosh, wife of Late Srimanta Ghosh @ Shrimanta Ghosh, residing at 10/1/1, Priyannath Ghosh Lane, P.S. Chatterjeehat old Shipur, District- Howrah-711104, (1c) Smt. Armitava Ghosh, son of Late Srimanta Ghosh @ Shrimanta Ghosh, residing at 6/7 Nabin Banerjee Lane, P.S. Chatterjeehat, old Shipur, District- Howrah-711104, (1d) Hemanta Ghosh, (1e) Susanta Ghosh, all sons of Late Subodh Chandra Ghosh, residing at 8, Raj Ballav

SOVANA & Sovona Nandi Mazumdar, W/o. Mahit Nandi Mazumdar are the same & one identical person, residing at 559A, Dum Dum Park, South Dum Dum Municipality, P.O.: Bangur Ave., P.S.: Lake Town, Dist.: Bengal, P.O.+P.S.: Dasnagar, affirm that correct spelling of my name is Soumendra Nath Bhandari, S/o. Late Kashinath Bhandari, aged about 54 years, by faith Hindu, residing at P83, Natabar Pal Road, Howrah-711105, West Bengal, P.O.+P.S.: Dasnagar, affirm that correct spelling of my name is Soumendra Nath Bhandari as mentioned in my Aadhaar Card, PAN Card and Eastern Railway ID Card. Whereas, my name has been recorded as Saumendra Nath Bhandari in my Service Book of Eastern Railway. I do hereby solemnly affirm that Soumendra Nath Bhandari and Saumendra Nath Bhandari is same and identical person vide affidavit before 1st Class Metropolitan Magistrate at Kolkata on 01-05-2024.

I, Syeda Saadia Azim Dayal @ Saadia Azim, daughter of Syed Azim Yusuf, wife of Amikar Dayal, residing at T4/F8/E4, Eastern High Complex, New Town, Rajarhat, Police Station: New Town, Kolkata-700156, North 24 Parganas, am also known as Syeda Saadia Azim as declared before Notary Public vide Affidavit No. 53/24 dated: 30-05-2024. Syeda Saadia Azim Dayal @ Saadia Azim and Syeda Saadia Azim are same and identical person.

CHANGE OF NAME

PUBLIC NOTICES

This is to inform the General Public that my client Putul Biswas, 1/9, Naskar Para Lane, Kolkata-700031, have lost four Registered Deed (being GDE No. 1839, Dated: 23-04-2024 of Garfa P.S.) being No. 3855 Year 1957, Deed No. 177 Year 1952, Deed No. 1260 Year 1994 & Release Deed No. 5464 Year 1994 if found please inform within 15 days.

R. G. Pal Advocate Alipore Police Court Kolkata-700027 Enrl. No. WB/3498/1999 Mob.: 9831673789

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE

Under instruction and on behalf of my client Sri Arjun Naskar, son of Ajit Naskar of Village: Bhandaria, P.S.: Bishnupur, District: South 24 Parganas, Pin-743610, I like to let you know that the land measuring about 6 cottahs of L.R. Plot No. 612 of Malipukuria Mouza, P.S.: Sonarpur, District: South 24 Parganas originally belongs to (1) Anjali Chakraborty, wife of Shambhunath Chakraborty, and (2) Chandreyi Chakraborty, wife of Bibhas Chakraborty all are of Village: Aggar Sarani, Police Station: Sonarpur, Kolkata-149 executed a registered general Power of Attorney in favour of their well-wishers Rupali Naskar which was registered on 06-02-2020 being No. 111/2020 and Rupali Naskar on that basis of Power of Attorney sold the said land to my client Shri Arjun Naskar, son of Ajit Naskar by dint of two Sale Deed being No. 1099/24 and 1100/24 which was executed and registered on 12-02-2024 at Sonarpur, A.D.S.R. on the basis of those deeds Arjun Naskar filed the Mutation Case being No. MN/2024/1615/6336 and MN/2024/1615/6402 before the Sonarpur B.L. & L.R.O. If anyone have objection regarding that matter he have to lodge objection within 15 days in that Mutation case.

Sujay Nandy Advocate E-mail: sujay.nandy@hotmail.com Phone: 9564871716

Date: 10-06-2024

The Statesman
Readers are requested to make appropriate enquiries and seek appropriate advice before sending money, incurring any expenses, acting on medical recommendations or entering into any commitment in relation to any advertisement published in this publication. The Statesman Group doesn't vouch any claim made by the advertisers of products and services. The Printer, Publisher, Editor and Owners of The Statesman Group publications shall not be held liable for any consequences, in the event such claims are not honoured by the advertisers. For any loss incurred, the onus lies entirely with advertisers and not with the publication.

NAME CHANGE

I, Aloke Kumar Banerjee, S/O Late Shyam Sankar Banerjee, residing at Kolkata West International City (KWIC), Unit No. - A / 08 /05, Salop More, P.O. - Bankra, Dist. - Howrah, Pin No - 711103, hereby solemnly declare vide affidavit No. 914, before the court of the 1st Class Metropolitan Magistrate, at Calcutta. Date. 06/06/2024 that ALOKE KUMAR BANERJEE and ALOKE BANERJEE is the same and one identical person in the eye of law.



<

Lot. No.	A) NAME OF THE BRANCH	DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES MORTGAGED / OWNER'S NAME	A) DATE OF DEMAND NOTICE	A) RESERVE PRICE (Rs. IN LAC)	DATE/ TIME OF E-AUCTION
	B) NAME OF THE ACCOUNT		B) OUTSTANDING AMOUNT C) POSSESSION DATE	B) EMD (LAST DATE OF DEPOSIT OF EMD) C) BID INCREASE AMOUNT	
		THE GROUND FLOOR 3 ROOMS 2 TOILETS, 1 VERANDAH AND ON THE FIRST FLOOR 1 BED ROOM, 1 DINING ROOM, 1 KITCHEN, 3 TOILETS AND 1 VERANDAH HAVING A TOTAL CONTRUCTED AREA OF 1252.35 SQ.FT. ON THE GROUND FLOOR AND 1ST FLOOR BELONGING TO MR.RAM LAL RAM, PARTITION DEED NO -I02338 OF 2016 REGISTERED IN A.R.A.-1,KOLKATA. (THIS PROPERTY IS UNDER SYMBOLIC POSSESSION) DM Permission received			
13	PNB :Kolkata -Bhowanipur A/C : M/s Welfo Pharmaceuticals Pvt. Ltd	ALL THAT PIECE & PARCEL OF MORTGAGE OF LAND AND FACTORY BUILDING LAND MEASURING 1.50 BIGHA & BUILDING MEASURING 12000 SQ. FT. LITTLE MORE OR LESS AT MOUJA-AMTALA, J.L. NO-73, TOUZI NO.395,KHATIAN NO-210,DAG NO-1069, R.S.PLOT NO-14, 17 UNDER CHANDI GRAM PANCHAYET, P.O.-KANYANAGAR, P.S.-BISHNUPUR, DIST.-SOUTH 24 PAGANAS. DEED NO: I-5389 & I-5390 IN THE NAME OF SRI BISWANATH CHAKRABORTY (UNDER SYMBOLIC POSSESSION)	1) 11.05.2022 2) Rs. 1,92,34,355.85 Along with interest from date of last intt charged and all other expenses and other charges 3) 10.01.2023	A) Rs. 283.01 Lac B) Rs. 28.30 Lac C) Rs. 0.10 Lac	11.07.2024 From 11.30 am to 3.30 pm with 10 mins extension. (Dealing officer contact no. 7044502060)
14	PNB :Kolkata -Bhowanipur A/C : M/s Welfo Pharmaceuticals Pvt. Ltd	All that piece & parcel of land measuring 2 cottah 7 chittaks 35 sq.ft.(4.1 Decimal). At Plot no/dag no-92/1668,Khatian No-980,J.L. No-73,Mouja-Amtala,R.S. No-14,17,Touzi No-395 of under Chandri Gram Panchayet, P.O.-Kanyanagar, P.S.-Bishnupur, Dist.-South 24 Paganas. Deed No: I-2467/1995 in the name of Smt. Sutapa Chakraborty (UNDER SYMBOLIC POSSESSION)	1) 11.05.2022 2) Rs. 1,92,34,355.85 Along with interest from date of last intt charged and all other expenses and other charges 3) 10.01.2023	A) Rs. 20.37 Lac B) Rs. 2.04 Lac C) Rs. 0.10 Lac	11.07.2024 From 11.30 Am to 3.30 Pm with 10 mins extension. (Dealing officer contact no. 7044502060)
15	PNB :Kolkata -Bhowanipur A/C : M/s Welfo Pharmaceuticals Pvt. Ltd	Equitable Mortgage : All that piece and parcel of undivided proportionate share of land along with ground floor, roof measuring area 1500 sft.approximately on the north west corner side portion ,Mouja-Amtala, J.L No-73, Touzi No-395,Khatian No-74, Dag No-141.p.s.-Bishnupur, Dist.-South 24 Paganas Deed No: I-1969 in the name of Sri Biswanath Chakraborty & Equitable Mortgaged of two flats in the 1st floor measuring 766 Sq.Ft. each at the "Lakshmi Palace" Dist-South 24 Parganas,Sub Registry Office: Baruipur, Pargana: Azimabad,Touzi No.-395, Mouja-Amtala, J.L No-73, Khatian No-74, Rayati Dakhila Satya Bistya under Chandri Gram Panchayet, Dag No-141, Danga-766 Sq.ft. in the deed of 6089 & 6085 in the name of Sri Biswanath Chakraborty. (UNDER SYMBOLIC POSSESSION)	1) 11.05.2022 2) RS. 1,92,34,355.85 ALONG WITH INTEREST FROM DATE OF LAST INTT CHARGED AND ALL OTHER EXPENSES AND OTHER CHARGES 3) 10.01.2023	A) Rs. 76.95 Lac B) Rs. 7.70 Lac C) Rs. 0.10 Lac	11.07.2024 FROM 11.30 AM TO 3.30 PM WITH 10 MINS EXTENSION. (DEALING OFFICER CONTACT NO. 7044502060)
16	PNB :ATM Road A/c : Bipendra Pandey & Rekha Pandey	ALL THAT A RESIDENTIAL FLAT,OF FLAT NO.B, ON THE 2ND FLOOR, CONTAINING A SUPER BUILT UP AREA OF ABOUT 1000 SQ.FT.OF THE PARTLY (G+3) & PARTLY (G+4) STORIED BUILDING TOGETHER WITH UNDIVIDED AND PROPORTIONATE SHARE OF INTEREST IN THE LAND LYING AND SITUATED AT BEING PREMISES NO-58/2, BONDEL ROAD WARD NO.68 UNDER JURISDICTION OF KOLKATA MUNICIPALITY CORPORATION, P.S.-KARAYADIST-SOUTH 24 PARGANAS, KOLKATA-700019 UNDER SALE DEED NO-I-160308346/2015 FOR THE YEAR 2015 IN THE NAME OF BIPENDRA PANDEY & REKHA PANDEY DM PERMISSION RECEIVED (Under Symbolic Possession)	1) 13.02.2020 2) Rs. 60,36,045.00 along with interest from date of last Intt charged and all other expenses and other charges 3) 28.08.2020	A) Rs. 52.33 Lac B) Rs. 5.24 Lac C) Rs. 0.10 Lac	11.07.2024 FROM 11.30 AM TO 3.30 PM WITH 10 MINS EXTENSION. (DEALING OFFICER CONTACT NO. 7044502060)
17	PNB :Brabourne Road A/c :M/s Surama Enterprise	RESIDENTIAL FLAT NO. -D4 ON 3RD FLOOR OF "DEB TOWER" AT M.G. ROAD, P.S. -HARIDEPUR, (THAKURPUKUR), MOUZA -RAMCHANDRAPUR, DIST. -SOUTH 24 PARGANAS, KOLKATA -700 104, BEING DEED NO. -I -160710684 FOR THE YEAR 2017, ADMEASURING 853 SQ. FT. BEING PROPERTY IN THE NAME OF MRS. SHUKLA BARMAN DM PERMISSION RECEIVED (Under Symbolic Possession)	1) 19.10.2022 2) Rs. 99,17,958.99 along with interest from date of last Intt charged and all other expenses and other charges 3) 14.02.2023	A) Rs. 24.11 Lac B) Rs. 2.42 Lac C) Rs. 0.10 Lac	11.07.2024 from 11.30 am to 3.30 pm with 10 mins extension. (Dealing Officer Contact no. 7044502060)
18	PNB : Brabourne Road A/c : M/s Surama Enterprise	Equitable mortgage of residential Flat No. - B7 in Block B at 4th floor of 'APARAJITA GARDEN' MEASURING ABOUT 975 Sq. Ft. situated at 9B. Sarat Ghosh Garden Road, Kolkata - 700031, being Deed No - 1 - 03013 for the year 2010, property in the name of (1) Mrs. Swati Ghosh & (2) Mr. Romit Ghosh. DM PERMISSION RECEIVED (Under Symbolic Possession)	1) 19.10.2022 2) Rs. 99,17,958.99 along with interest from date of last Intt charged and all other expenses and other charges 3) 14.02.2023	A) Rs. 37.84 Lac B) Rs. 3.79 Lac C) Rs. 0.10 Lac	11.07.2024 from 11.30 am to 3.30 pm with 10 mins extension. (Dealing Officer Contact no. 7044502060)
19	PNB: Tivoli Park M/s Dutta Ornaments	ALL THAT PIECE OF LAND MEASURING 1 COTTAH, 7 CHITTAKS & 18 SQ.FT AND STRUCTURE 700 SQ.FT. WITH CEMENTED GROUND FLOOR BEING PREMISES NO-20/2A, TARKA SIDHANTA LANE, P.S.-BALLY, BALLY, HOWRAH, UNDER DAG NO.-15269, KHATIAN NO-2464, R.S. NO.-1769,J.L.NO-14,MOUJA-BALLY,UNDER WARD NO-6, UNDER HOWRAH MUNICIPAL CORPORATION(EARLIER BALLY MUNICIPALITY),CONSISTING OF ONE (1) STORIED RESIDENTIAL HOUSE COMPRISING 1 KITCHEN & VERANDAH AND 1 COMMON BATHROOM, 2 BED ROOMS AND A COVERED GARAGE OF 50 SQ.FT WITH ALL EASEMENTARY RIGHTS AND RIGHT TO USE COMMON PASSAGE AND COMMON DRAINS AND SEWERS, (TWO WHEELER),PIN-711201,GIFT DEED NO 03264 FOR THE YEAR 2017 IN THE NAME OF SMT.CHANDRANI DUTTA MUKHERJEE REGISTERED AT A.R.A.-1,KOLKATA. DM PERMISSION RECEIVED(Under Symbolic Possession)	1) 01.01.2022 2) Rs.13,30,389.50 along with interest from date of last Intt charged and all other expenses and other charges 3) 25.05.2022	A) Rs. 15.12 Lac B) Rs. 1.52 Lac C) Rs. 0.10 Lac	11.07.2024 from 11.30 am to 3.30 pm with 10 mins extension. (Dealing Officer Contact no. 7044502060)
20	PNB: ATM Road M/s Shree Bishnu Feed Industries	All that piece & parcel of land with structure and block assets thereon situated at Mouja Chandipur, J.L No-9, P.S-Uluberia, Dist-Howrah, containing an area of more or less 0.805 acre of land comprising Plot No-22(part) & 23(part) at WBIDC ,Uluberia Industrial Growth Centre in the name of M/s Shree Bishnu Feed Industries (Lease Hold) DM PERMISSION RECEIVED (Under Symbolic Possession)	1) 26.04.2017 2) Rs.9,45,99,620.67 along with interest from date of last Intt charged and all other expenses and other charges 3) 07.02.2018	A) Rs. 285.11 Lac B) Rs. 28.52 Lac C) Rs. 0.10 Lac	11.07.2024 from 11.30 am to 3.30 pm with 10 mins extension. (Dealing Officer Contact no. 7044502060)

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF E-AUCTION SALE

The sale shall be subject to the Terms & Conditions prescribed in the Security Interest(Enforcement) Rules, 2002 and to the following further conditions.

- The auction sale will be "online through e-auction" portal <http://www.mstccomerce.com/>
- The intending Bidders/ Purchasers are requested to register on portal (<https://www.mstcauction.com>) using their

Before his summit with Kim, Putin vows they'll beat sanctions together

Putin's comments appeared in an op-ed piece in North Korean state media hours before his arrival

ASSOCIATED PRESS
SEOUL, 18 JUNE

Russian President Vladimir Putin thanked North Korea for supporting his actions in Ukraine and said their countries will cooperate closely to overcome U.S.-led sanctions as he headed to Pyongyang on Tuesday for a summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un.

Putin's comments appeared in an op-ed piece in North Korean state media hours before his expected arrival for a two-day visit as the countries deepen their alignment in the face of separate, intensifying confrontations with Washington.

In the North Korean capital of Pyongyang, the streets were decorated with Putin's



portraits and Russian flags. A banner hung on a building said: "We warmly welcome the President of the Russian Federation."

Putin, who will be making his first trip to North Korea in 24 years, said he highly appreciates its firm support of his military action in Ukraine. He said the countries would continue to "res-

olutely oppose" what he described as Western ambitions "to hinder the establishment of a multipolar world order based on justice, mutual respect for sovereignty, considering each other's interests." Putin also said Russia and North Korea will develop trade and payment systems "that are not controlled by the West" and

jointly oppose sanctions against the countries, which he described as "illegal, unilateral restrictions."

North Korea is under heavy U.N. Security Council economic sanctions over its nuclear weapons and missile programs, while Russia is also grappling with sanctions by the United States and its Western partners over its aggression in Ukraine. Putin said the countries will also expand cooperation in tourism, culture and education.

Before heading to North Korea, Putin traveled to Yakutsk, a city in eastern Russia, where he reportedly planned to meet regional Gov. Aisen Nikolayev, and receive briefings on the area's technology and defense-related projects.

S Korean soldiers fire warning shots after North troops cross border

SEOUL, 18 JUNE

South Korean troops fired warning shots to repel North Korean soldiers who briefly crossed the rivals' heavily fortified land border for the second time this month, the South's military said. Both incursions were believed to be unintentional. Around 20 to 30 North Korean soldiers who were doing construction work crossed the military demarcation line that serves as the border between the two countries in the Demilitarized Zone. AP

US renews warning it's obligated to defend the Philippines after new clash with China at sea

ASSOCIATED PRESS
MANILA, 18 JUNE

The United States renewed a warning Tuesday that it's obligated to defend its close treaty ally a day after Filipino navy personnel were injured and their supply boats damaged in one of the most serious confrontations between the Philippines and China in a disputed shoal in the South China Sea, officials said.

China and the Philippines blamed each other for instigating Monday's hostilities in the Second Thomas Shoal, which has been occupied by a small Filipino navy contingent aboard a grounded warship that's been closely watched by Chinese coast guard, navy and suspected militia ships in a yearslong territorial standoff. There is fear the disputes, long regarded as an Asian flashpoint, could escalate and pit the United States and China in a larger conflict.



U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Kurt Campbell discussed China's actions with Philippine counterpart, Maria Theresa Lazaro, in a telephone call. Both agreed that China's "dangerous actions threatened regional peace and stability," State Department spokesperson Matthew Miller said.

Campbell reaffirmed that the 1951 Mutual Defense Treaty, which obligates Washington and Manila to help defend the other in major conflicts, "extends to armed attacks on Philippine armed

forces, public vessels, or aircraft - including those of its coast guard - anywhere in the South China Sea," according to Miller.

A Philippine government task force overseeing the territorial disputes condemned what it said were "dangerous maneuvers, including ramming and towing," which disrupted a routine effort to transport food, water and other supplies to the Filipinos manning the territorial outpost aboard the BRP Sierra Madre at the shoal.

"Despite the illegal, aggressive, and reckless actions by the Chinese maritime forces, our personnel showed restraint and professionalism, refrained from escalating the tension, and carried on with their mission," the Philippine task force said without elaborating. "Their actions put at risk the lives of our personnel and damaged our boats in blatant violation of international law."

European Union leaders break off talks on top job nominees without result

ASSOCIATED PRESS
BRUSSELS, 18 JUNE

Leaders of European Union countries reached no final agreement on candidates for the bloc's top jobs Monday, but several praised the record of European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, and she appeared on track to secure their endorsement later this month for a second term in office.

"There is no agreement tonight at this stage," EU Council President Charles Michel said after chairing an informal dinner summit in Brussels.

The 27 leaders were weighing the fallout from the recent European elections and how



to take those results into account as they nominate candidates for the top posts.

"This conversation was today a useful step to prepare the next European Council," Michel said, referring to the next meeting of EU presidents and prime ministers June 27-28. He refused to be drawn

out on the chances of von der Leyen and others, saying only: "It will be clarified next week."

The June 6-9 elections saw the European Parliament shift to the right and dealt major blows to mainstream governing parties in Paris and Berlin. The Franco-German motor that usually propels EU politics along was notably weakened, and hard right parties there gained ground.

Still, names for the big posts have circulated in Brussels for months.

Former Portuguese Socialist Prime Minister António Costa is frequently mentioned for Michel's job - the role of council president.

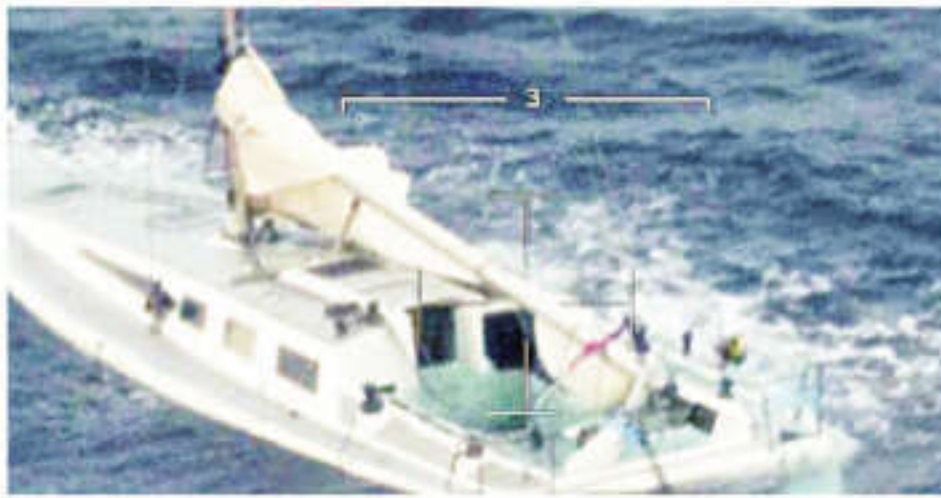
64 missing, many rescued from two shipwrecks off Italy

ASSOCIATED PRESS
ROME, 18 JUNE

Sixty-four people were missing in the Mediterranean Sea and several were rescued after their ship wrecked off Italy's southern coast Monday, United Nations' agencies said in a statement.

In a separate shipwreck, rescue workers evacuated dozens of suspected migrants but found 10 bodies trapped below the deck of a wooden boat off Italy's tiny Lampedusa island, the German aid group Resqship wrote on Monday on the X social media platform.

The boat that wrecked about 200 kilometers (125 miles) off Calabria had set off from Turkey eight days earlier, but caught fire and overturned, the U.N. agencies said, citing survivors.



The search-and-rescue operation started following a mayday call by a French boat, the Italian coast guard said in a statement. The boat was sailing in a border area where Greece and Italy carry out search-and-rescue operations. The survivors and people still missing at sea came from Iran, Syria and Iraq, the U.N. agencies said.

The Italian Maritime Res-

cue Coordination Center immediately diverted two merchant vessels sailing nearby to the scene of the rescue. Assets from the European border and coast guard agency Frontex also helped.

The survivors were brought to the Calabrian port of Roccella Jonica, where they were disembarked and entrusted to the care of medical personnel. One of the 11 rescued

In a separate shipwreck, rescue workers evacuated dozens of suspected migrants but found 10 bodies trapped below the deck of a wooden boat off Italy's tiny Lampedusa island.

migrants died soon after, the coast guard said.

In the second shipwreck, the crew aboard Resqship's boat, the Nadir, found 61 people on the wooden boat, which was full of water.

"Our crew was able to evacuate 51 people, two of whom were unconscious," it added. "The 10 dead were in the flooded lower deck of the boat."

Third trial of suspects in alleged far-right coup plot opens in Germany

BERLIN, 18 JUNE

Eight people accused of involvement in a suspected far-right plot to topple the German government went on trial in Munich on Tuesday, in the last of three trials in the sprawling case.

The eight Germans, six men and two women, are charged with "preparation of high treasonous undertaking." They also face charges of membership in or founding a terrorist organization, and some of them are charged with preparing a serious act of violence. The case came to light in late 2022, shocking the country, and a total of 26 people are now in court. The alleged ringleaders and most prominent suspects, among them a self-styled prince and a former far-right lawmaker, went on trial in Frankfurt last month. A trial of nine people in Stuttgart that began at the end of April is focusing on the "military arm" of the plot.

All are expected to be lengthy proceedings. At the Munich state court, 55 trial sessions have been set so far through the end of January, German news agency dpa reported. Prosecutors have said the suspects believed in "conspiracy myths" including Reich Citizens and QAnon ideology, and were convinced that Germany is ruled by a so-called deep state. Adherents of the Reich Citizens movement reject Germany's postwar constitution and have called for bringing down the government, while QAnon is a global conspiracy theory with roots in the United States. AP

Thailand's Senate overwhelmingly approves a landmark bill to legalise same-sex marriages

ASSOCIATED PRESS
BANGKOK, 18 JUNE

Thailand's Senate voted overwhelmingly on Tuesday to approve a bill that would legalise same-sex marriage, clearing the last legislative hurdle for the country to become the first in Southeast Asia to enact such a law.

Thailand has a reputation for acceptance and inclusivity but has struggled for decades to pass a marriage equality law. Thai society largely holds conservative values, and members of the LGBTQ+ community say they face discrimination in everyday life.

The government and state agencies are also historically conservative, and advocates for gender equality

have had a hard time pushing lawmakers and civil servants to accept change.

Thailand will become the third place in Asia, after Taiwan and Nepal, to allow same-sex marriage. The marriage equality bill, which grants full legal, financial and medical rights for marriage partners of any gender, sailed through the House of Representatives right before the previous parliamentary session concluded in April with the approval of 400 of the 415 members who were present.

It passed its final reading in the Senate on Tuesday with the approval of 130 of the 152 members in attendance, with 4 voting against it and 18 abstaining.

The bill now needs the pro



forma endorsement of King Maha Vajiralongkorn, followed by its publication in the Government Gazette, which will set a date within 120 days when it becomes effective.

The timing of the Senate's vote on Tuesday, the first day

of the current parliamentary session, suggests the urgency in getting the bill passed. The legislation will amend the country's Civil and Commercial Code to replace gender-specific words such as "men and women" with gender-neutral words such as

"individual."

But it was not approved without a hitch. One member of the Senate, retired army Gen. Worapong Sanganet, argued that the gender-specific terms should still be included in the law along with the gender-neutral terms. He said excluding them would be a severe "subversion of the institution of family" in Thailand.

After the vote, Plaifah Kyoka Shodladd, an 18-year-old who identifies as non-binary, took the floor and thanked everyone who supported the legislation, calling it a "force of hope" that will help Thailand become more accepting of diversity.

"Today, love trumps prejudice," Plaifah said.

The government, confi-

dence of the bill's passage, announced several days ago it would host a celebration of the occasion later Tuesday at Government House. The ground in front of the main building was decorated with rainbow carpets, flags and a giant balloon in the shape of two hands making a heart sign. The party was joined by politicians, celebrities, diplomats and activists from the LGBTQ+ community and their supporters who rode in a colorful parade of floats from Parliament after the vote.

Prime Minister Srettha Thavisin, who could not join the event because he recently tested positive for COVID-19, wrote his congratulations on social media platform X.

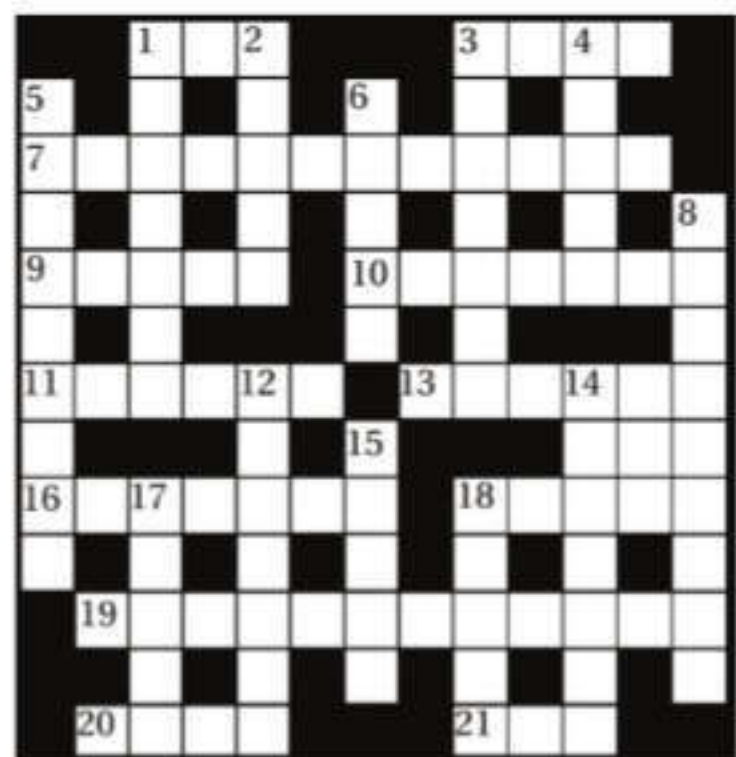
"I am proud of the collective effort of all stakeholders which reiterates the power of unity in diversity" of the Thai society. We will continue our fight for social rights for all people regardless of their status," he wrote.

Passing the law is a "triumph for justice and human rights," said Mookdapa Yangyuenpradorn of the human rights organization Fortify Rights.

"The Thai government must now focus on ensuring swift and effective implementation of this law to safeguard LGBTI+ rights," she said. "Marriage equality is fundamental to human dignity, and it is essential that Thailand protects these rights without delay or discrimination."

LEISURE

10 MINUTE CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
1 Cut (grass) (3)
3 Notify (4)
7 Helpful (12)
9 Reverse side of a coin (5)
10 Theft (7)
11 Member of the clergy (6)
13 Piece (6)
16 Piece of embroidery (7)
18 Ascend (5)
19 Percussion instrument (12)
20 Tiresome child (4)
21 Unit of energy (3)
- DOWN**
1 Enormous (7)
2 Factory (5)
3 Fit of temper (7)
4 Time off (5)
5 Clever remark (9)
6 More than enough (5)
8 Deliberate exaggeration (9)
12 Unlawful (7)
14 Enduring (7)
15 Concise (5)
17 Tooth (5)
18 Hereditary class (5)

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

ACROSS	11 Taxi,	DOWN	13 Answer,
1 Spa,	12 Play,	14 Submarine,	14 Attach,
3 Cling	16 Never-	2 Appeal,	15 Gentry,
19 Sparkling,	18 Abundant,	3 Chapel,	17 Elbow,
7 Chub,	20 Ever,	4 Ire,	19 Hod,
8 Peaceful,	21 Width,	5 Gouda,	
9 Beat a retreat,	22 Yet,	6 Phobia,	
		10 Represent,	

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

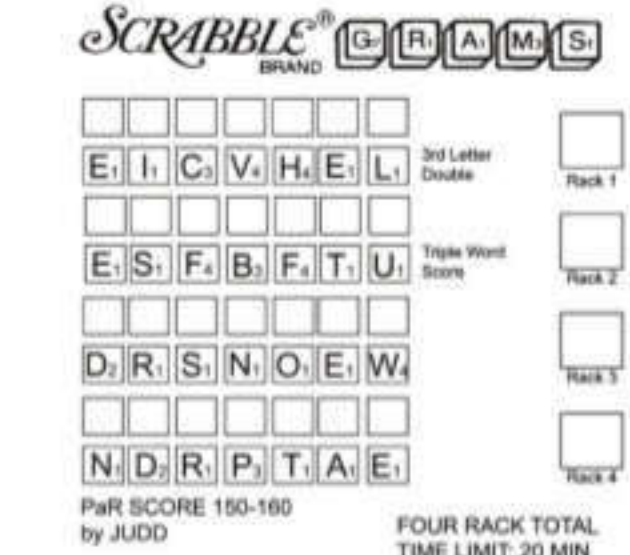


DADDY DAZE/John Kovaleski



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
2455-5164/ 5557
RK Mission Seva Pratishthan
2475-3636/39
- Civic Services**
Kolkata Municipal Corporation: 2286-1000
Water: 2543-1602
- Calcutta Telephones**
Changed Number Announcement:
1951,1952,1953
- Taxi Refusal**
SMS 575756: Compliant 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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3-17

FOUR RACK TOTAL
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

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Climate chaos: Aggravating human activities behind the extremities

OLI PEARCE
JOE WARE

In the six months since the last UN climate conference, COP28, in Dubai, a series of extreme weather events have hit the world. According to official figures, these events caused at least \$41 billion in damage, which is likely a major underestimate. As the world hits the 12th consecutive month with record-high global temperatures, it is no surprise that there have been so many extreme weather events. Nor is it surprising that, when studied scientifically, many of them were found to have been made more likely and more intense by climate change, predominantly caused by burning fossil fuels. Climate attribution studies have been used for 20 years to assess whether climate change made particular weather events more intense or more likely, and more than 400 attribution studies have now been done.

In Brazil, in April and May, the worst floods on record killed at least 169 people, with 56 still missing, 600,000 people were displaced, and 3.2 million were affected. Fatalities from waterborne illnesses are spreading due to the floods. The floods are estimated to reduce Brazil's GDP by \$7 billion this year, as costs to rebuild exceed billions of dollars. This event was made at least twice as likely by climate change.

Heavy rainfall in Southwest Asia in April killed at least 214 people. In the United Arab Emirates, a year's worth of rain fell in just 24 hours in Dubai. Insured losses are around \$850

million. The rainfall across UAE and Oman was made more likely by climate change.

Record-breaking heat waves from east to west Asia killed at least 1,500 people in Myanmar, 61 people in Thailand, 28 in Bangladesh, 13 in India, and three in occupied Palestinian territory. The heat forced school closures, wilted crops, worsened the situation for displaced Rohingya people in Bangladesh and Palestinians in Gaza, and lowered voter turnout in the world's largest elections in India.

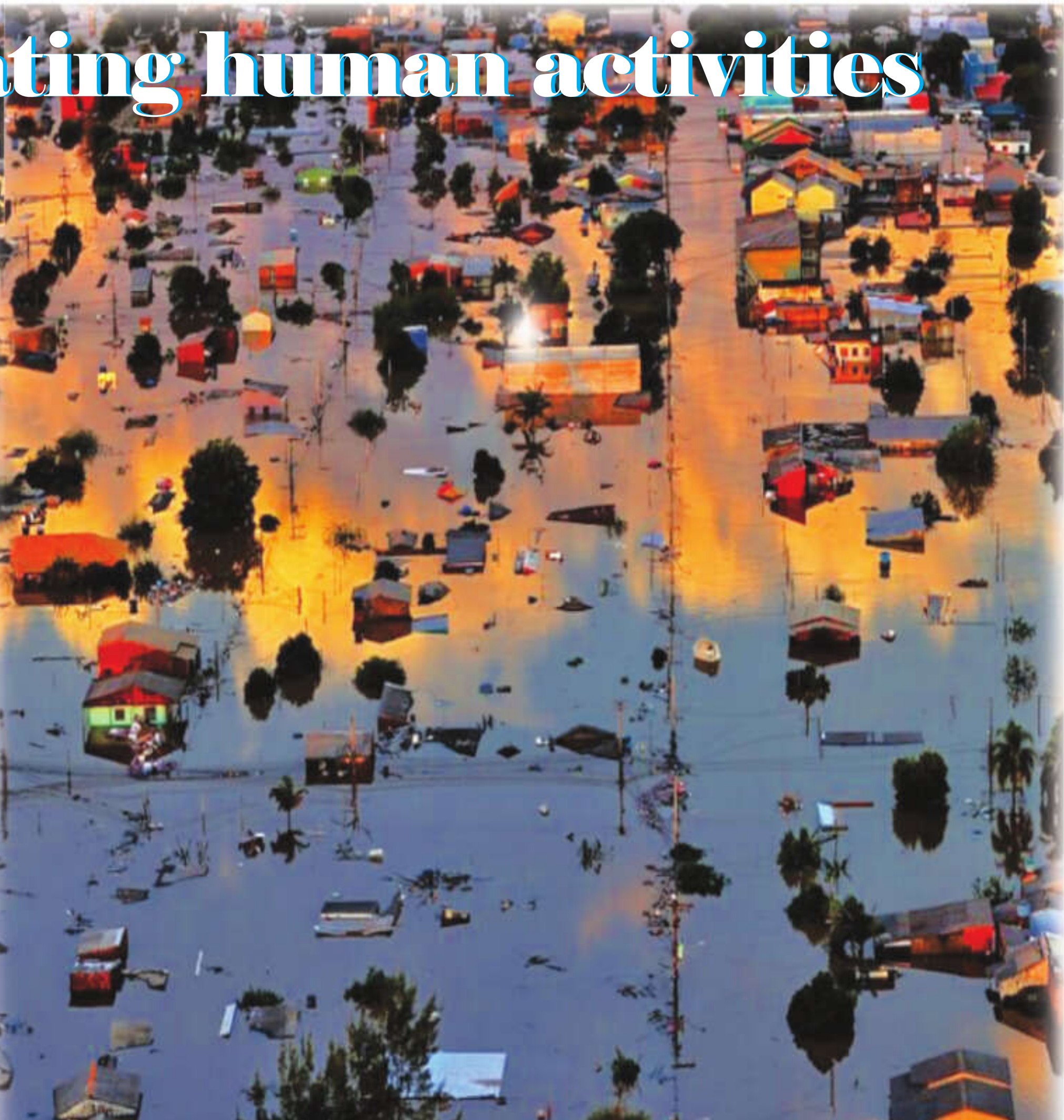
The heat wave is expected to cause higher inflation and slow GDP growth. The heat wave in the Philippines would have been impossible without climate change, while in West and South Asia, it was made at least five times more likely by climate change.

In East Africa, heavy rainfall in May caused landslides and flooding. At least 559 people died, over 400,000 were displaced and 1.6 million affected. The floodwaters are exacerbating waterborne disease outbreaks. Food production was hit hard, with over 12,000 livestock killed and nearly 48,000 acres of cropland flooded in Kenya alone.

Historic water levels in Lake Victoria forced Uganda to open dams and allow floodwaters to drain into South Sudan, which is experiencing its fifth consecutive year of flooding, worsening the situation for the 2.2 million internally displaced people and the 60 per cent of the population that is food insecure. This rainfall was worsened by climate change. Alongside these major

weather disasters driven by climate change, other weather events, from floods to fires, caused billions of dollars worth of damage and tens to hundreds of deaths in countries including the USA, Chile, and the Democratic Republic of Congo. Deaths tend to be higher in lower-income countries, with economic damage higher in richer ones, partly because insured losses are more measurable. Many of the most climate-vulnerable countries are lower-income and historically responsible for burning less fossil fuels than higher-income countries. In recognition of this, a fund for 'Loss and Damage' was established by the United Nations. This fund aims to galvanise countries that have cumulatively burned more fossil fuels to support lower-income countries in dealing with the impacts of climate change. These impacts hit every aspect of life, from health to ability to work and from education to cultural traditions. These cannot all be compensated for financially, but money can help communities to adapt and respond to the changing climate.

Unfortunately, of the current estimate by the UN of \$290-580 billion needed for loss and damage in 2030 onwards, so far, only \$600 million has been delivered. The 60th Bonn Climate Conference that was held recently (3-13 June 2024) aimed at operationalising the 'Loss and Damage Fund'.



The rise of bio-enzymes: Sustainable cleaning for a better future

VIDHI CHURIWALA

In recent years, bio-enzymes have surged in popularity as effective organic cleaning solutions. These natural cleaners are created through the fermentation of citrus fruits, jagery, and water. This fermentation process cultivates beneficial bacteria that generate enzymes capable of breaking down waste, stains, soils, and unpleasant odours. They are perfect for cleaning bathroom sinks and toilets, as well as tiles and grout, where bacteria can enter small cracks. Additionally, bio-enzymes can be used to de-clog drains, remove limescale deposits from taps and steel appliances, and clean pesticides and chemicals from fruits and vegetables. Essentially, they act as natural pesticides and herbicides.

Bio-enzymatic cleaners offer numerous benefits. They promote sustainable living, are environmentally safe, and support a zero-waste lifestyle. Unlike conventional chemical cleaners, bio-enzymes can penetrate small crevices and cracks to eliminate hard-to-reach stains. They are also more affordable and do not pollute water sources. By using bio-enzymes, households can contribute to a cleaner and healthier environment.

Bio-enzyme cleaners contain different types of enzymes, each targeting specific types of stains. Proteases are effective in breaking down protein-based molecules such as blood and food, while lipases break down fats and grease. Amylases target starch molecules, and cellulases soften fabrics and restore colour to fibres. This variety makes bio-enzymes ver-

satile and capable of addressing a wide range of cleaning needs.

The applications of bio-enzymes are extensive. They can be used as multipurpose cleaners and disinfectants for various home surfaces, including flooring, glass windows, and countertops.

They are particularly effective in cleaning greasy utensils and can repel small insects, ants, and cockroaches. They are perfect for cleaning bathroom sinks and toilets, as well as tiles and grout, where bacteria can enter small cracks. Additionally, bio-enzymes can be used to de-clog drains, remove limescale deposits from taps and steel appliances, and clean pesticides and chemicals from fruits and vegetables. Essentially, they act as natural pesticides and herbicides.

Vasudha Binjani, founder of Miracle Enzyme, believes that "a small change today might not change our world, but it will help you leave behind a better world for our children." Binjani emphasises the

importance of sustainability in our daily lives, warning that neglecting it now could result in a future where our children lack a thriving ecosystem to enjoy.

The mission of Miracle Enzyme is to spread awareness about sustainable living through bio-enzyme-based solutions for home cleaning. The company aims to reach every corner of society, including schools and colleges, to enlighten individuals about the benefits of bio-enzymes. This simple solution, crafted from waste peels, jagery, and water, undergoes a three-month fermentation process, resulting in a powerful and eco-friendly cleaning agent. The company conducts workshops to educate individuals about the benefits of bio-enzymes and sustainable living. Over 10,000 people have attended these workshops, and ongoing support is provided to 500 individuals through text.

Bio-enzymes offer a potent and eco-friendly alternative for household cleaning and environmental conservation. Through ongoing education and active community involvement, the widespread use of bio-enzymes can significantly benefit our planet. By embracing small, sustainable practices now, we can ensure a healthier and cleaner world for future generations.

The writer is an environment enthusiast and an animal welfare activist, and is the Founder of Kaloms Ideas Welfare Foundation. She is also a chartered accountant.



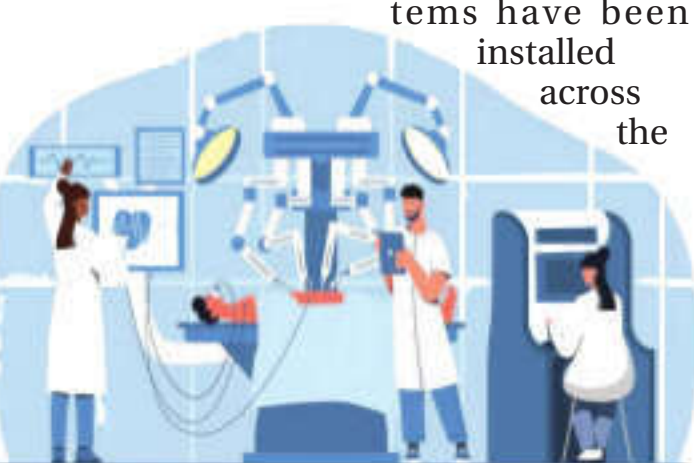
Robotics, AI and IT: Paving the way towards revolutionised healthcare system

SAMYA SINHA

Doom of humanity' and 'A tool that will replace and render humans useless'- the past few years have been bombarded with such speculations with the rise of AI at an alarming rate. However, every coin has two sides. With the correct administration, monitoring and supervision, AI can overcome human limitations and guide us towards a brighter and more hopeful future. In recent years, various path-breaking discoveries in the biological and medical fields have altered how we deal with health, and disease.

There is a famous proverb that states, "A good surgeon must have an eagle's eye, a lion's heart and a lady's hand." However, doctors are bound by the constraints of being human. Fatigue, exhaustion and tremors restrict the human body from hundred per cent efficiency. With the blend of a doctor's expertise and a robot's precision, the discovery of Robotic Assisted Surgery (RAS) has improved patient outcomes, reduced the time for hospital stay and significantly reduced blood loss and damage to surrounding tissues during surgeries. This system comprises a robotic arm, console, patient cart and image screen, which provides a three-dimensional view of the target area for surgery. The motion of the robotic arm is controlled by its input data and the surgeon's hand movement, allowing it to navigate a small field with accuracy and finesse. More than a hundred robotic systems have been installed across the

country to assist in the fields of cardiology, laparoscopy, gynaecology and more. Another significant discovery is the use of Augmented Reality (AR) and Virtual Reality (VR) for the treatment of mental health disorders. They morph the real-life environment with a virtual and stimulated one. VR headsets can be useful as a meditation tool for patients with insomnia, anxiety or depression. Whether it be the serene Himalayas or the tranquil Ganges- people can travel anywhere in the world, relax and wind down in the comfort of their homes. AR is also being used as a means of exposure therapy for PTSD patients to overcome their traumas or phobias. One of the mysterious connections between twins is their extraordinary similarity in appearance, mannerisms and habits. Inspired by this unique connection, scientists have discovered AI digital twins. Digital twins replicate a physical object in the virtual environment by duplicating its appearance, characteristics, and behaviour through data analytics, machine learning, and AI. It is used to replicate patient organ systems for simplified medicine development and personalised treatment plans. For example, it can replicate how cancer cells spread by metastasis and the effect they have on surrounding organs and tissues. This provides scientists the opportunity to research effectively for a possible cure in a non-invasive manner. Forget about editing your Instagram captions; now it's possible to edit genes! The discovery of CRISPR (Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats) has caused a buzz in the scientific world. It has been developed from the genome editing system that bacteria use as an immune defence. It is being used for the treatment of genetic disorders such as sickle cell anaemia, haemophilia, and inherited eye diseases and has aided us in our understanding of cancer genetics and tumours. All these discoveries will definitely pave the way to a more advanced and prosperous future.



Combined use of compounds for plant protection



TAPAN KUMAR MAITRA

Upon the prolonged regular use of the same fungicides, pathogens often become adapted to them, and their resistance to the fungicide used grows. For instance, an increase in the resistance of phytophthora to copper formulations was noted.

The repeated application of Bordeaux mixture and copper oxychloride would have a negative effect on the plants being protected, causing depression of photosynthesis, dehydration of the leaves, inhibition of the growth of shoots, and damage to fruits, especially if the plants were treated after the fruits were formed. To diminish the negative effect of copper-containing formulations on plants, treatments with them are alternated with the use of derivatives of dithiocarbamic acid, which are not phytotoxic and, as a rule, facilitate the sanitation of the plants.

Upon the prolonged use of zineb against grapevine mildew, however, improper growth and more intense infection with oidium was noted in the second and third years.

Although the spectrum of fungicidal action of these groups of substances is close, for individual pathogens, their toxicity and nature of action are different. For example, dithiocarbamic acid derivatives are the most effective against the blue mould of tobacco, whereas the pathogen of

this disease exhibits an increased resistance to copper-containing substances.

The mixtures of zineb with copper oxychloride and of metiram with copper oxychloride (poly-chom) were not inferior in their effectiveness to their constituent parts when used individually, while in a number of cases, they were more effective, especially if the copper-containing substances predominated in a mixture. The advantages of the mixtures used to control grape mildew displayed themselves, especially clearly in epiphytotic years. The mixtures inhibited mildew and limited the development of oidium and grey rot.

The active ingredient, a mixture of zineb and copper oxychloride, is a bluish-green odourless powder.

It is marketed in the form of an 80 per cent wettable powder containing 65 per cent copper oxychloride and 15 per cent zineb.

Cuprosan persists better on the surface of treated plants than zineb, is superior in its effectiveness to the Bordeaux mixture, and does not produce burns.

It is used for treating apples, pears, plums, peaches, apricots, and currants. Gooseberries, raspberries, grapevines, sugar beets, potatoes, tomatoes, watermelons, cantaloupes, cucumbers.

For the low-volume aerial spraying of grapevines, cuprosan is used at a rate of five kg ha

with the addition of the anti-vaporizer AI-4P.

The plants are sprayed during their vegetation period with 0.4 per cent suspensions. The harvest time is 20 days.

Cuprosan is moderately toxic to humans and warm-blooded animals (LD50 for rats is 400 mg/kg). Its cumulative properties are pronounced, and the cumulative coefficient is 0.9.

The maximum tolerated concentration in the air of the working zone is 0.1 mg/m3 and in water basins, 0.1 mg/litre.

The tolerance level in vegetables, fruits, grapes, and melons is 0.1 mg/kg (with respect to the copper oxychloride).

Polychom is a mixture of metiram with copper oxychloride. It is marketed in the form of an 80 per cent wettable powder containing three parts of 75 per cent metiram and one part of 90 per cent copper oxychloride.

It is recommended for the treatment of apples, pears, grapevines, sugar beets, potatoes, and tomatoes and helps during their vegetation period to control the same diseases against which copper oxychloride and metiram are effective.

Treatment is conducted using 0.4 per cent suspensions at a rate of 2.4-8 kg/ha. The harvest time is 20 days.

The author is an associate professor (retd) & former head of the department of botany at Ananda Mohan College.

The Statesman Sport

MBAPPE MAY MISS A FEW GAMES

France are facing the prospect of their skipper Kylian Mbappe missing the remaining Group Stage matches after he suffered an injury to his nose during their match against Austria in the Euro 2024 at the Merkur Spiel Arena, here on Monday night. The game saw Mbappe suffer an injury after the French forward hit his nose on Austria defender Kevin Donsa which saw the France captain having to be subbed off. According to a report, Mbappe might miss the remaining two games in the group stage and will only be available for the side's games in the knockout stages.

For more updates

www.thestatesman.com

THUMBNAILS

Ganemat Sekhon finishes sixth in Lonato: Ganemat Sekhon reached the final only to finish sixth in women's Skeet even as none of the men in contention made the top-six cut on the penultimate day of the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World Cup Shotgun in Lonato, Italy. Ganemat only managed 16 hits out of the first 20 in the 60-shot final, to be the first finalist to be eliminated. Rio Olympic champion Diana Bacosi won gold with 57 hits. Ganemat had earlier in the day shot a perfect 25 for her fifth and final qualification round for a total of 120 over five rounds. That tied her with three others for the final three qualification spots. A shoot-off ensued and Ganemat shot the first three to clinch the sixth spot at the expense of Peru's Daniella Borda. The Indian then began the final well gunning down all four targets on the first station, along with Dania Jo Vizzi of the USA and the champ Diana. However, she then got seven of the first 10 and that put her back, particularly given she had qualified sixth. She missed just one of the next 10, but it was not enough to help her progress further.

Gambhir interviews for India head coach's role

Gambhir's potential candidature was endorsed by a host of big names in Indian cricket

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 18 JUNE

Two-time World Cup winner Gautam Gambhir, who has been widely speculated as the frontrunner to succeed Rahul Dravid as the head coach of the Indian men's cricket team, has on Tuesday reportedly interacted with the Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC), the panel entrusted by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) to select the coach.

It has been learnt that the CAC comprising former India cricketers Ashok Malhotra, Jatin Paranjape and Sulakshana Naik, interviewed Gambhir virtually for the first round, and another round of discussion is expected to take place on Wednesday.

The BCCI, which had set May 27 as the deadline for applications for the post, had held informal discussions with Gambhir during IPL 2024, when he helped lead Kolkata Knight Riders to their third title after returning to the franchise as mentor ahead of the 2024 IPL season.

The details of the meeting with Gambhir and the CAC members are yet to be known but it is understood that the discussion centred around



Gambhir's approach for the next three years, which will include three major ICC tournaments across different formats, starting with the ICC Champions Trophy early 2025.

The BCCI's Apex committee is set to meet on Tuesday during which board secretary Jay Shah is expected to brief the members about the coach selection process before the final announcement is made in the next couple of days.

The KKR job was Gambhir's second stint in a coaching role after spending a couple of seasons (2022 and 2023) as mentor at Lucknow Super Giants, helping the team qualify for the playoffs both times.

Gambhir had sought time to take a final call during the IPL, but speaking at an event in Abu Dhabi on June 1, he had expressed his desire to coach India.

"Look, I would love to

coach the Indian team. There is no bigger honour than coaching your national team. You are representing 140 crore Indians. And more across the globe as well. And when you represent India, how can it get bigger than that?," he had said.

He had been answering a question on whether he saw himself helping India win a World Cup.

"How can I help India win the World Cup - I think it's not me that will help India win the World Cup, it is 140 crore Indians that will help India win the World Cup. If everyone starts praying for us, and we start playing and representing them, India will win the World Cup. The most important thing is to be fearless and yes, I would love to coach India," he said.

Gambhir's potential candidature was endorsed by a host of big names in Indian cricket, including Sourav Ganguly and Anil Kumble.

"If Gambhir applies — you can see it on TV — he worked for KKR this year. I was with Delhi (Capitals), you can see the hunger, the passion and the want to win and I will be happy if he applies and if the board decides to give him the job, I think he is a good candidate," Ganguly had said.

"You will have to give him (Gambhir) time. He certainly is capable. We have seen Gautam handle teams, he has been a captain for India, for his franchise. He has all the credentials to be that. But, Indian team coaching is slightly different. So you will have to give him time to settle in," reckoned Kumble.

Gambhir became the frontrunner for the job once his former India team-mate VVS Laxman, the current director at the National Cricket Academy (NCA) had reportedly turned down an offer to succeed Dravid.

Dravid had taken over from Ravi Shastri after the T20 World Cup in November 2021, initially signing on for two years until the 2023 ODI World Cup before accepting the BCCI's request to extend his tenure until the ongoing T20 World Cup.

While advertising for the new coach, the BCCI had said the tenure would be for three and a half years, from July 2024 to December 2027, and would helm the team in all three formats. BCCI secretary Jay Shah had earlier hinted that the next head coach could be an Indian by saying that he should have a "deep understanding" of the game's structure in the country.

Williamson hints at uncertain T20I future after early WC exit



AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, 18 JUNE

Following New Zealand's unexpected group-stage exit from the T20 World Cup, captain Kane Williamson expressed the need for his team to regroup and recover, but he remained non-committal about the 2026 edition of the T20 showpiece.

Williamson has been a pivotal figure in New Zealand cricket for over a decade, leading his side through numerous successful campaigns.

However, pcer Trent Boult having already announced his retirement from T20 World Cups, Williamson hinted at a possible changing of the guard within the team.

"Oh, I don't know. There's a bit of time between now and then, so it's about regrouping as a side. We've got red-ball cricket over the next year basically, so it's back into some other international formats, and we'll see where things land," said Williamson in the post-match press conference.

Since his debut, Williamson has been instrumental in New Zealand reaching the semifinals in seven out of the ten World Cups he has played across both 20- and 50-over formats since 2011.

This remarkable journey included three final appearances, with standout personal performances such as being named Player of the Tournament in the 2019 World Cup in England and scoring an impressive 85 from 48 balls in the 2021 T20 World Cup final against Australia.

Reflecting on New Zealand's recent campaign, Williamson admitted that his team had been slow to adapt to the challenging conditions in the Caribbean, where they faced strong performances from Afghanistan and the West Indies in a tough Group C.

CORRIGENDUM & ADDENDUM

In partial modification to the earlier Employment Notification No. 02/2024 (Med./Pt.-II/CMP/2024, dated 28.05.2024, the "Walk-in-Interview" will be held on 20.06.2024 instead of 18.06.2024 at 11.30 hrs. in the chamber of the Sr. Divisional Personnel Officer, South Eastern Railway, Adra, P.O. - Adra, Dist. - Purulia, Pin -723121 (WB). All other terms and conditions laid down in the above Employment Notification will remain unchanged.
(PR-268/C) Divisional Personnel Officer, Adra
South Eastern Railway
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E-AUCTION NOTICE STATIC SERVICE CONTRACTS

E-Auction Notice for Miscellaneous Static services contracts over Kharagpur Division
E-Auction Notice No. : KGP/MSS/2024/3, dtd. 17.06.2024
For and on behalf of the President of India, the Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager, South Eastern Railway, Kharagpur Division invites e-Auction for Installation of 1 no. Parcel scanner each at Panskura, Baleshwar, Kharagpur and Mecheda stations of Kharagpur Division under Miscellaneous Static Service vide **Catalogue No. : MSS-KGP-4STN-PS. Auction Date : 01.07.2024. Auction start/close time: 11.30 hrs. & 12.30 hrs. respectively which are notified in the https://www.ireps.gov.in website. Interested parties and contractors to take note of this and go through the website as mentioned above for details and related information about the e-Auction notice. For enquiries/clarifications, if any, please contact the office of the undersigned.**
(PR-269) Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager/Kharagpur
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Appendix IV (Rule 8(1))
POSSESSION NOTICE
(For Immovable Property)

Whereas,
The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Punjab National Bank, under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of Power conferred under Section 13 read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued a demand notice Dated 21.03.2024 calling upon the Borrowers M/s Sudhir Electricals Prop: Mr. Sudhir Tandon & Guarantor: Smt. Vandana Tandon to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs. 54,34,857.92 (Rs. Fifty Four Lac Thirty Four Thousand Eight Hundred Fifty Seven & Paise Ninety Two Only) as on 21.03.2024 with further interest at the contracted rate and other charges until payment in full within 60 days from the date of notice / date of receipt of the said notice.

The Borrower/guarantors having failed to repay the amount, Notice is hereby given to the Borrower and the Public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of power conferred on him/her under Sub-Section (4) of section 13 of Act read with rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002 on this 15th day of June, the year 2024.

The Borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealing with the property / properties will be subject to the charge of the Punjab National Bank, M G Road Branch for an amount of Rs. 54,34,857.92 (Rs. Fifty Four Lac Thirty Four Thousand Eight Hundred Fifty Seven & Paise Ninety Two Only) as on 21.03.2024 with further interest at the contracted rate and other charges until payment in full and other applicable charges.

The Borrower's/Guarantor's/Mortgagor's attention is invited to provisions of Sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY
EQUITABLE MORTGAGE OF RESIDENTIAL FLAT BEING FLAT NO-3C ON THE THIRD FLOOR MEASURING AN SUPER BUILT UP AREA OF 1141 SQ. FT. BE THE SAME A LITTLE MORE OR LESS INCLUSIVE OF THE MEASUREMENT OF COMMON AREAS AND COMMON SPACES CONSISTING OF THREE BED ROOMS, ONE DINING CUM LIVING ROOM, BATHROOM CUM WATER CLOSETS, KITCHEN BEING PREMISES IN BUILDING NO.16C OF "BRIJDHAM HOUSING COMPLEX" COMPRISED IN THE DEMARCATED PORTION OF THE DAG NO.232, KHATAN NO.614 J.L. NO.28, R.S. NO.2(G.D.I) DIVISION II SUB-DIVISION-2, TOUZI NO.1298/2833 MOUZA-KANKURI, COLLECTORATE HOLDING NO.637 LYING WITHIN THE JURISDICTION OF SOUTH DUMDUM MUNICIPALITY POLICE STATION LAKE TOWN IN THE DISTRICT OF NORTH 24 PARGANAS.

Place: Kolkata Date : 15.06.2024
Authorised Officer Punjab National Bank

Nishant perfectly channelises anger, frustration to bagging Paris quota

TRIDIB BAPARNASH
NEW DELHI, 18 JUNE

Nishant Dev was nowhere in the national scene when India's five famed male boxers drew a blank from the Tokyo Olympics, leading to widespread criticism, and eventually forcing a change in guard. Three years later and with barely four months to go for the Paris Olympics, Indian boxers, including Nishant, found themselves at a similar crossroad, when Irish High Performance director Bernard Dunne resigned after none of the male pugilists managed to book a quota.

A young Nishant, who burst onto the scene with a quarterfinal finish in the light middle weight (71kg) category at the 2021 World Championships, was among a handful of men boxers whom the country had high hopes from during the first qualifying event in Italy. But the 2023 World championships bronze medallist returned home empty-handed after going down to World



Championships silver medalist Omari Jones of the US in the 71kg quarterfinals in March this year.

Trailing the more experienced American boxer after

the opening round, Nishant went toe to toe with his opponent for the rest of the fight. He managed to draw level after the second round before going down by a nar-

row margin.

"That was a big disappointment. The first round was a bit slow. I put in a lot of effort in the second round, which I won and in the third round as well. I did not realize it in the ring, but the disappointment hit me after I had returned to the dressing room when I that I had lost an Olympic quota," Nishant said.

"I was absolutely sure that I had won the third round. But the judges' decision went against me. Mentally, I was under a lot of pressure after that defeat because I had only one chance left to qualify for the Olympics. I was quite disturbed and went through a lot of mental torment over the next few days," he added.

Devastated after the heart-break, Nishant didn't want to leave anything to chance when the do-or-die opportunity came in Bangkok during the final Boxing World Qualifier, earlier this month. Giving a clinical performance in all the three bouts, Nishant booked his berth for the

Paris Games. In the quota-deciding bout, the 23-year-old defeated Moldova's Vasile Cebotari by a unanimous 5-0 verdict.

"I had only one chance left to qualify and very little time to prepare. After returning from Italy, we got a brief 4-5 day break and during that period I went back to my home, and spoke to my coaches. I worked on my stamina, and endurance, as I used to tire in the third round. But in Thailand, I enjoyed boxing in the final round, so it eventually worked in my favour."

"I was under a lot of pressure before the Thailand tournament. But I took the defeat as a source of motivation and worked hard to prepare for the Thailand qualifier. I was better prepared this time, physically and mentally. I lost in the previous qualifier by a very small margin, so this time I wanted to make sure I did not make any errors," he added.

Nishant, who has been one of the most consistent boxers in recent couple of

years, boasts of a perfect blend of speed, timing and power. With fast hands and nimble foot movement, Nishant has the ability to adapt inside the ring, and this makes the southpaw a dangerous opponent. He used the combination of right jab and left cross against Cebotari to good effect en-route clinching the Paris quota.

"I think my strength is that I can adapt to my opponent's style. I try to grab as much as I can from the international exposures over the past couple of years, and implement those during training sessions. I try and execute all those different gameplans to perfection inside the ring. I'm happy that on most occasions, the ability to adapt has worked in my favour," he noted. Now left with a little over a month to prepare for the first Olympics of his career, the young boxer from Karnal is focussing to get the basics right, and remain injury free as he aims to keep the Tricolour flying high in Paris.

Warner hopes to be remembered as someone who tried to change the game

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 18 JUNE

Australia's swashbuckling opening batter David Warner is relieved that the constant 'flak' he has copped since the Newlands Sandpapergate saga will be put to rest once he bids adieu to T20 cricket at the end of the ongoing T20 World Cup. Warner has already retired from the other two formats.

Warner was held as the chief orchestrator of Sandpapergate, the 2018 scandal that cast a shadow over Australian cricket and led to wholesale changes within the national team's culture and leadership. While Cameron Bancroft received a nine-month ban from the sport for rubbing sandpaper on the ball in Cape Town, Warner and Steven Smith were each handed a year's ban.

Smith was also stripped of his captaincy while Warner was banned from holding any formal leadership role in



Australian cricket, the only lasting sanction from the incident. On the verge of his final few weeks in international cricket, the 37-year-old opener reflected on his journey ahead of Australia's clash against Bangladesh on Thursday, claiming he had been left to fend for himself in the aftermath of the infamous Sandpapergate scandal.

"Coming back since 2018 I've probably ... been the only one that's ever copped a lot of flak. Whether it's people who don't like the Australian cricket team or don't like me, I've always been that person who has copped it," Warner was quoted as say-

ing by cricket.com.au in Antigua.

"It's fine if they want to do that, but I always feel like I've taken a lot of pressure off a lot of guys as well and I think understandably I've been that person to be able to absorb that. But one can only absorb (so much). For me, it's great to go out knowing I'm not going to cop it anymore."

Warner hoped that the scandal won't be the only thing for which he will be remembered but as someone who tried to change the game, more specifically Test cricket.

"I think it's going to be inevitable that when people talk about me in 20 or 30 years' time, there will always be that sandpaper scandal. But for me, if they're real cricket tragics and they love cricket, (as well as) my closest supporters, they will always see me as that cricketer - someone who tried to change the game," he said.

बिहार सरकार विज्ञान, प्रौद्योगिकी एवं तकनीकी शिक्षा विभाग आवश्यक सूचना				
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