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South City Mall | 17 Park Street | 7A Elgin Road | 105 SPM Road, Rashbehari



28th June Friday, 11:00 am onwards at South City Mall

Savings upto 35%* on Apple products & upto 30%* on accessories

Product	iPhone 15	iPhone 13	MacBook Air (M1)	MacBook Air (M3)	iPad (10th gen)	Apple Watch Series 9
MRP	₹79,900	₹59,900	₹89,900	₹1,14,900	₹34,900	₹41,900
Instant Discount	₹7,000	₹7,000	₹15,000	₹5,745	₹500	₹1,000
Instant Bank Cashback	₹6,000	₹1,000	₹5,000	₹10,000	₹3,000	₹2,500
Exchange Bonus*	₹8,000	₹8,000	₹12,000	₹12,000	₹500	₹2,000
Tentative Value of Old Device*	₹20,000	₹20,000	₹18,000	₹20,000	₹5,000	₹5,000
Net Effective Price*	₹38,900	₹23,900	₹39,900	₹67,155	₹25,900	₹31,400
Savings*	26%	27%	36%	24%	11%	13%
24 Months No Cost EMI Starting*	₹3,038	₹2,204	₹3,121	₹4,548	₹1,433	₹1,704

Inclusive of up to ₹10000* instant cashback on credit cards of



Exchange Bonus up to ₹12,000*

Powered By CASHIFY

First 50 Customers get free Bluetooth Speaker worth ₹10,990*

First 100 Customers get Vouchers worth ₹5,000

Buy iPhone 15 Pro Max and get AirPods 2nd gen free*

Free Service Camp: 28th-30th June at Tresor, 7A Elgin Road

No Cost EMI schemes available on



Protect+ with AppleCare Services Flat 50% off

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*Terms and conditions apply. Savings % shown on Apple products is inclusive of Imagine instant discount + Bank instant cashback on ICICI Debit and Credit Cards and SBI Credit Cards and Exchange Bonus. Bank instant cashback and exchange bonus varies with products. Imagine Gift Vouchers are applicable on select categories of products. Products available without these offer as well. Trade-in value is subjective to the device submitted and also to terms and conditions of the trade-in partner. Offer valid till 30th June, 2024 only. Offer can be withdrawn at any given point of time. TM and © 2024 Apple Inc. All rights reserved.

e-Tender Notice
Office of the Mai Panchayat Samity Mai: Jalpaiguri
Notice inviting Tender by the undersigned for different works vide NIT No. WB/35/EO/MAL PS/2024-25 dated 26-06-2024. For further details you may visit <https://wbenders.gov.in>

Office of the Assistant Director of Horticulture, District Horticulture Office, Jalpaiguri Hort. Res. & Dev. Farm Mohitnagar, Jalpaiguri
TENDER NOTICE
Sealed E-Tender are invited from bonafide Person/Organization/Nurseryman for preparation and maintenance of good quality horticulture crop saplings under Jalpaiguri Hort. Res. & Dev. Farm, Mohitnagar, Jalpaiguri.
For details please visit <http://www.wbenders.gov.in> or contact Office of the District Horticulture Office, Jalpaiguri Hort. Res. & Dev. Farm, Mohitnagar, Jalpaiguri.
Sd/- Assistant Director of Horticulture Mohitnagar, Jalpaiguri

New volume of book on Vivekananda's influence on Freedom Struggle soon: Paschim Bangla Academy has brought out six volumes of Vivekananda O Samakalin Bharatbarsha, written by Professor Sankari Prasad Basu. The seventh and last volume of the books is expected to be brought out by the end of this year. The book originally published by Mandal Book House was out of circulation for some years. SNS

CHHATTISGARH STATE POWER GENERATION CO. LTD.
(A Govt. of Chhattisgarh Undertaking)
No.: 03-03/P-I/TN-28/2024/900 Raipur, dtd. 21/06/2024
E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE No. TN-28/2024
Online bids with reverse live auction are invited through CSPCL's SRM e-procurement portal for the supply of following items to various power stations of CSPGCL as per details given below:-

Tender Specification No.	Description	Due date & time for receipt of bid (EMD, Tech. Bid) & time	Bid opening date (EMD, Tech. Bid) & time
03-03-P/ICP-39/2024 (with RLA) RFX No.: 8100037485	Supply of Copper Control Cable for all thermal powers stations of CSPGCL.	18/07/2024 Up to 15:00 Hrs.	18/07/2024 Up to 15:30 Hrs.

For qualifying conditions of tender and other details kindly visit our website www.cspc.co.in/cspgcl/tender/centraloffices. The tender document can be viewed and downloaded online from CSPCL's E-procurement portal <http://www.msteccommerce.com/eproc/home/cspgcl>. Any Corrigendum/amendments, if required, shall be displayed on this website only.

SAVE ELECTRICITY 40600/3 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR(S&P-GEN) CSPGCL-RAIPUR

EASTERN RAILWAY
Tender No.: SDSTE-ETN-LLH-HGY-TIB, Dated 26.06.2024. Open e-Tender is invited by Divisional Railway Manager, Eastern Railway, DRM Building, near Howrah Railway station, Howrah-711101 in Single Packet System for the following work. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids upto closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Name of Work: Replacement of Overaged Old version TIB, PA system & GPS Clock from Lluah to Hooghly stations in suburban sections over Howrah division. Advertisment Value: ₹ 5,88,75,746.82. Earnest Money: ₹ 4,44,400.00. Bidding Start Date: 05.07.2024. Tender Document Cost: 0.00. Period of Completion: 12 Months. Validity of Offer: 60 Days. Tender Closing Date & Time: 19.07.2024, 15.00 hrs. Date & Time of Uploading Tender: 26.06.2024, 16.30 hrs. (HWH-138/2024-25)
Tender Notice is also available at websites: www.er.indianrailways.gov.in / www.reps.gov.in
Follow us at: @EasternRailway @easterrailwayheadquarter

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
e-TENDER NOTICE
The Deputy Director of Agriculture (Admn), Malda has invited e-Tender Notice vide Notice No. AGRI/MLD/e-NIT-09/2024-25 DATE 27.06.2024 for rate contract for procurement of Insecticides / Bio-Pesticides / Fungicides. Bid submission date starts from 28.06.2024 at 6.00 PM onwards & Bid submission closing date 19.07.2024 at 5.00 PM. Details will be available from the office of the undersigned on any working day between 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. or visit e-tender portal <https://wbenders.gov.in> of Govt. of West Bengal.
Sd/- Deputy Director of Agriculture (Admn) Malda

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
e-TENDER NOTICE
The Deputy Director of Agriculture (Admn), Malda has invited e-Tender Notice vide Notice No. AGRI / MLD / e-NIT-10 / 2024-25, DATE: 27.06.2024 for rate contract for procurement of Micronutrient / Bio-fertilizer. Bid submission date starts from 28.06.2024 at 6.00 PM onwards & Bid submission closing date 19.07.2024 at 5.00 PM. Details will be available from the office of the undersigned on any working day between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. or visit e-tender portal <https://wbenders.gov.in> of Govt. of West Bengal.
Sd/- Deputy Director of Agriculture (Admn), Malda

WESTERN RAILWAY
MATERIAL MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT
E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE NO. S/27/2024 DATE 24.06.2024

Sr.No.	Short Description of Item	Quantity	T.O.D.
390	APRICOT YELLOW	30660 Ltr	08-Jul-24
391	INHIBITED MINERAL INSULATING OILS PER TYPE II TRANSFORMER OIL	52953 Ltr	08-Jul-24
392	SUPPLY, TRANSPORTATION AND COMMISSIONING OF SMPS BASED IPS	32 Set	09-Jul-24
393	METALISED CARBON STRIP FOR AC PANTOGRAPH TYPE AM-12	3364 Nos	11-Jul-24
394	OUTER DOOR ASSEMBLY	273 Nos	12-Jul-24
395	SET OF PU LINING	14173 Set	12-Jul-24
396	MULTI STRAND TIN COATED COPPER 70 SQ.MM	4839 Mtr	15-Jul-24
397	EOT CRANE CAPACITY 10/3T	1 Nos	15-Jul-24
398	CNC DRILLING & OXY-FUEL PROFILE CUTTING MACHINE, CUTTING CAPACITY	1 Nos	15-Jul-24
399	ROLLER BEARING FOR HITACHI TRACTION MOTOR	208 Nos	15-Jul-24
400	ARTICULATED SPHERO ELASTIC RUBBER BEARING	190 Nos	15-Jul-24
401	CUT OFF ANGLE COCK WITH VENT FOR AIR BRAKE COACHES	5023 Nos	15-Jul-24
402	VERTICAL TAKE OFF CABLE HEAD TERMINAL SYSTEM	48 Nos	15-Jul-24
403	L-TYPE COMPOSITION BRAKE BLOCK	15805 Nos	15-Jul-24
404	STICK TYPE MASTER CONTROLLER	120 Nos	16-Jul-24
405	DUMP VALVE WITH BRACKET COMPLETE	153 Nos	17-Jul-24
406	RUBBER SPRING PLATE FOR DRAW AND BUFF GEAR	4252 Nos	18-Jul-24
407	SET OF PROTECTIVE RELAYS	26 Set	18-Jul-24
408	INTRA VASCULAR ULTRASOUND CATHETER	60 Nos	18-Jul-24
409	MICROPROCESSOR BASED CONTROL AND FAULT DIAGNOSTIC SYSTEM	60 Set	22-Jul-24
410	TRACTION MOTOR	148 Nos	22-Jul-24
411	DRUG COATED PTCA BALLOON	125 Nos	22-Jul-24
412	SET OF SLIDING DOOR ASSEMBLY COMPLETE FOR BCNHL WAGON	144 Set	24-Jul-24
413	SINGLE PHASE TO THREE PHASE 02 X 130 KVA CONVERTOR	55 Nos	30-Jul-24
414	OCT SYSTEM WITH WIRELESS FFR WITH 2 YEARS COMPREHENSIVE WARRANTY	2 Nos	30-Jul-24

Reverse Auction
28 6 QUAD CABLE 1.4MM DIA 171 KM 12-Jul-24

Regarding detailed notice EMD, Purchase restrictions and detailed tender conditions, please visit website www.reps.gov.in and www.wr.indianrailways.gov.in

Music lovers celebrate RD's birth anniversary

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE KOLKATA, 27 JUNE

The 85th birthday of RD Barman was observed in the city with great enthusiasm. The only statue of Barman on Southern Avenue was garlanded by music lovers from the morning. People from all walks of life garlanded his statue. Son of Mira and SD Barman used to stay with his parents on South End Park off Ballygunge Lake. He had studied in two schools in south Kolkata. From his childhood he could play the mouth organ and SD Barman had used his mouth organ in the famous Hindi song Hai Apna Dil to Awara, sung by Hemant Kumar in Hindi feature film Solva Saal. RD's music still haunts thousands of his fans across the globe. The Kolkata Municipal Corporation gave the land and Amit Kumar Fan Club installed the statue of RD on the boulevard opposite Nazrul Mancha. The statue has been made by sculptor Sanjib Narayan Dutta. The statue was inaugurated by Amit Kumar in presence of state minister for information and cultural affairs Indranil Sen, Usha Utthup among others.

MoHUA approves proposals worth ₹860.35 cr for Bengal

The state has received a major push for waste-to-energy with the ministry's approval for 460 compressed bio-gas (CBG) plants

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, 27 JUNE

The ministry of housing & urban affairs (MoHUA) has approved proposals worth Rs 860.35 crore for West Bengal, under Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban (SBM-U) 2.0. "During the first phase of SBM-U (2014-19), a total fund of Rs 911.34 crore was allocated to West Bengal which has been increased by 1.5 times to Rs 1449.30 crore in SBM-U 2.0 (2021-26)," the ministry said on Thursday. The ministry has been working closely with West Bengal to achieve significant advancements in waste management and sanitation. There are 118 legacy waste dumpsites in West Bengal of which only 5 per cent waste has been remediated. The Dhapa landfill, Kolkata's main municipal dumping ground since 1987, has been undergoing biominning and bioremediation, the methods chosen by the National Green Tribunal (NGT) for clearing legacy waste, which allows extraction of usable materials from the waste. Cities in West Bengal generate around 4,046 tonnes of municipal solid waste per day. Under SBM-U 2.0, the state has proposed projects to manage this huge quantity of waste that includes over 4,800 composting plants and 4,500 material recovery facilities (MRFs). To facilitate disposal of solid waste in an environmentally safe manner, 2,216 secured landfill facilities (SLFs) have been proposed by the state. The state has received a major push for waste-to-energy with the ministry's approval for 460 compressed bio-gas (CBG) plants. Proposals worth Rs 217 crore have been approved under SBM-U 2.0 for the remediation of legacy waste dumpsites in over 100 urban local bodies (ULBs). "To maintain a seamless flow of funds for managing sanitation and waste management, the GoI released an additional tranche of Rs 209 crore to fast-track the proposed projects by the state. The target is to have waste processing plants in all cities of the state by 2026 under Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban," the ministry added.



employee at Raj Bhavan had lodged complaint of sexual harassment against the Governor CV Ananda Bose with police on 2 May. Kolkata Police are investigating the allegations brought against Mr Bose though he has already denied the charges. On Wednesday, Ms Banerjee and Mr Hossain Sarkar staged dhama at the Assembly premises demanding the Governor to administer them the oath at the Assembly instead of Raj Bhavan. Today, the two MLAs sat under Ambedkar's statue with the copy of the constitution in their hands. On the other hand, Mr Bose stuck to his earlier decision to administer the oath at Raj Bhavan making the issue uncertain.

Women scared to visit Raj Bhavan: CM

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE KOLKATA, 27 JUNE

Aggrieved with the ongoing tussle between Raj Bhavan and Assembly on the issue of administering the oath to two newly-elected Trinamul Congress MLAs, Sayantika Banerjee and Rayat Hossain Sarkar from Baranagar and Bhagwangola constituencies, respectively, the chief minister Mamata Banerjee, broke her silence on Thursday on the issue. The two MLAs are yet to take oath even after 23 days of the results of bypolls in Baranagar and Bhagwangola constituencies were announced on 4 June. "What is this? They can't take oath as MLAs. It's either the Speaker or deputy Speaker, who will administer them the oath. Why is he (Governor) preventing them?" Miss Banerjee said today at the state secretariat, Nabanna. "Women are scared of what is happening there at Raj Bhavan and that's why they fear to go there," the chief minister said. A contractual woman

LPG explosion in school: Two teachers hurt

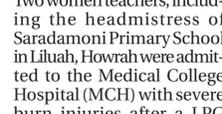
STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE KOLKATA, 27 JUNE



Two women teachers, including the headmistress of Saradmoni Primary School in Lluah, Howrah were admitted to the Medical College Hospital (MCH) with severe burn injuries after a LPG cylinder burst inside the kitchen of the school on Thursday. The condition of the two injured were stated to be critical. According to police, the incident occurred this morning when students were offering prayers inside the school premises. Teachers, students and locals heard the sound of a huge burst inside the premises. Some teachers rushed to the kitchen after hearing the sound and saw the fire. They also spotted two of their colleagues Irapasi Goswami (headmistress) and Emily Saha writhing in pain, caused by burn injuries inside the kitchen. The teachers along with some students raised an alarm and locals rushed to the spot. They informed police and fire brigade services. Two firefighting engines were pressed into service to bring the fire under control. The firemen along with police rescued the two teachers and took them to the MCH in a critical condition. Mrs Goswami sustained around 70 per cent burn injuries, police said. Some teachers said that the incident happened when Mrs Goswami and Mrs Saha were making tea there. (Representational image)

Mamata's warning fails to stir Midnapore councillor into action

BISWABRATA GOSWAMI MIDNAPORE, 27 JUNE



Chief minister Mamata Banerjee strongly criticized the civic bodies and administration for their under-performance in various municipal services, particularly highlighting the issue of inadequate garbage clearance. Despite her reprimand, municipal commissioners in several wards of the Midnapore Municipality remain unresponsive, showcasing a glaring disconnect between leadership directives and ground-level execution. A stark example of this indifference is evident in ward 24 of the Midnapore Municipality. Contrary to the municipality's bold vision statement on its official website, which promises to transform Midnapore into an environment-friendly city with assured water supply, quality infrastructure, safe sanitation, and effective solid waste management, the reality on the ground tells a different story. (http://midnaporemunicipality.com/mun_vision.php?page=3). The residential area of ward 24, particularly the aristocratic Dak Bungalow Road in Saratpally, is plagued with indiscriminate garbage dumping. Waste is being deposited opposite a newly-built apartment, contaminating a private vacant plot and spilling onto the streets. Overgrown bushes and shrubs have turned the area into a haven for harmful animals and a breeding ground for mosquitoes, posing significant health risks such as dengue and malaria. The Trinamul-dominated municipality appears to be turning a blind eye to this growing public nuisance. Dr Abhijit Guha, a resident of Sagarika Apartment, has been at the forefront of raising this issue. After his complaint to the district magistrate last year yielded no results, Dr Guha filed an RTI application on 10 January, seeking information on the actions taken by the authorities. When he received no response, he made a first appeal on 28 February. The district magistrate subsequently transferred the RTI application to the executive officer of Midnapore Municipality on 20 March, but this, too, led nowhere. Frustrated with the lack of action, Dr Guha filed a second appeal under the RTI Act of 2005 to the West Bengal Information Commission. This appeal, received by the commission on 1 June, was assigned diary number 601486. Despite these efforts, the issue of garbage dumping persists unabated, right under the nose of Trinamul councillor in the ward. The situation in Midnapore is a stark reminder of the challenges faced by residents due to the apathy of local authorities. As the community continues to grapple with these issues, it remains to be seen whether the chief minister's admonition will translate into tangible improvements on the ground.

Cancellation of Two Pair Trains for Traffic Block over Howrah Division

For Track Maintenance work, Traffic Block for 06 days will be necessary from 29.06.2024 (Saturday) to 17.07.2024 (Wednesday) intermittently on Khagrachal Road - Karna Subarna DN Line (from KM 153 to KM 158) in Azimganj-Katwa section. Consequently, the following Trains will remain cancelled on 29.06.2024, 03.07.2024, 06.07.2024, 10.07.2024, 13.07.2024 and 17.07.2024: From Azimganj - 03090, 03076, From Katwa - 03089, 03075. Note: Special or Late Running Trains during the block period, if any, will be suitably diverted/controlled enroute. Passengers are requested to follow the Public Address System of stations. Inconvenience is regretted. Divisional Railway Manager, Howrah

EASTERN RAILWAY
Follow us at: @EasternRailway @easterrailwayheadquarter

Govt push for e-vehicles: No road tax for a year

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE KOLKATA, 27 JUNE

In good news for those who have planned to buy EV two and four wheelers, the state government has waived the road tax and registration fees for one year for all green vehicles. The state government has taken special measures to set up more charging stations across the state. Because of inadequate charging stations across the country, the sale of EV two and four wheelers has not picked up. On the highways, the number of charging stations is almost negligible. The state transport department has proposed to introduce 10,000 e-buses in the next one decade. Some ministers, the state chief secretary and some additional chief secretaries are given e-vehicles, which are rarely used. It was in New Town where Housing Infrastructure Development Corporation (HIDCO) first introduced electric buses, four years ago, when Debashis Sen was the chairman. The buses cover the entire New Town.



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INDIA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1818

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FRIDAY
28 JUNE 2024

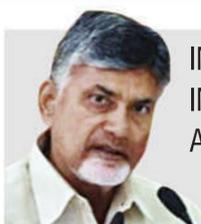
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KOLKATA | NEW DELHI | SILIGURI | BHUBANESWAR



ASSANGE SAGA

P6



INVESTORS SHOW
INTEREST IN
AMARAVATI AGAIN

P4



BOLIVIAN GENERAL
ARRESTED AFTER
FAILED COUP ATTEMPT

P9

AFGHANISTAN'S
FAIRY-TALE WC ENDS
IN DISAPPOINTMENT

P12



SENSEX 79,243.18 ▲568.93

NIFTY 24,044.50 ▲175.70

₹ vs \$ 83.44

GOLD 71,730 ▼270

SILVER 90,000

BRENT CRUDE (IN \$) 83.23 ▲0.48

WEATHER

Generally cloudy sky. Light rain/thundershower likely to occur. Maximum and minimum temperatures likely to be around 32 °C and 27 °C respectively.

RAINFALL: 2.1 mm

RELATIVE HUMIDITY

Max. 88 % Min. 66 %

TEMPERATURE

Max: 33.8 °C (+0.9) Min: 29.2 °C (+2.4)

SUN RISES 04:55 hrs SUN SETS 18:25 hrs

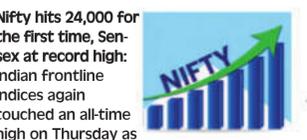
MOON RISES 22:50 hrs MOON SETS 09:50 hrs

New Moon on 06 JULY

THUMBNAILS



People enjoy the monsoon high tides lashing the shore at Marine Drive, in Mumbai on Thursday. ■ ANI



Nifty hits 24,000 for the first time, Sensex at record high: Indian frontline indices again touched an all-time high on Thursday as strong buying was seen in IT stocks. Sensex and Nifty hit an all-time high of 79,240 and 24,036 respectively. This is the first time that Nifty crossed the 24,000 mark and Sensex exceeded the 79,000 level. At 12:55 p.m., Sensex was up 418 points or 0.53 per cent at 79,092, and Nifty was up 135 points or 0.53 per cent at 24,004. Among the sectors, buying was seen in IT, oil and gas, and FMCG while, PSU banks, auto, pharma, and media were top laggards. (Page 8)

Murmu: Don't obstruct parliamentary work

Govt committed to a fair investigation into paper leaks, says President



President Droupadi Murmu with Vice-President Jagdeep Thakur and Prime Minister Narendra Modi ahead of President Murmu's address to both Houses of Parliament, at Parliament House in New Delhi on Thursday. ■ ANI

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 27 JUNE

President Droupadi Murmu on Thursday addressed the first joint session of Parliament after the election of the 18th Lok Sabha, and said there can be opposition to policies, but obstruction of parliamentary work has to be avoided.

She said the present times are "very favourable" for India in every way. In the coming years, the decisions taken and policies framed by the government and Parliament will be keenly watched by the whole world. "It is the responsibility of every Member of Parliament as well as of the government, to ensure the country gets utmost benefits during this favourable period," she said.

The Opposition raised

noises when the President spoke of the government getting a "clear majority" in the recent elections, the 1975 Emergency, NEET examination paper leaks and that the "government is continuously working for lasting peace in the North-East."

Mrs Murmu said the Indian Constitution had stood up to every challenge from the time it was framed. Recalling the imposition of Emergency on 25th June 1975, she said this was the biggest and darkest chapter of direct attack on the Constitution. The entire country felt outraged, she said. The country emerged victorious as traditions of the republic lie at the core of India, she said.

The Constitution has also fully come into force in "that part of India, our Jammu and Kashmir, where the conditions were differ-

President's address presented roadmap of progress: PM Modi

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, 27 JUNE

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said that President Droupadi Murmu's address to both the House of Parliament presented a roadmap of progress and good governance.

PM Modi shared a post on X and called the President's address comprehensive adding that it covered the strides India has been making and also the potential that lies ahead. "Rashtrapati Ji's address to both Houses of Parliament was compre-

hensive and presented a roadmap of progress and good governance. It covered the strides India has been making and also the potential that lies ahead.

Her address also mentioned some of the major challenges we have to collectively overcome to ensure a qualitative change in the lives of our citizens," Mr Modi wrote on X.

Union Minister Jayant Chaudhary said that the President gave a message of solidarity, of taking the country forward and how can we make it a developed country by 2047.

(More on Page 5)

ent due to Article 370," the President said.

Mrs Murmu said her government's resolve to Reform, Perform and Transform had made India the fastest growing economy in the world. In the past 10 years, India has risen to become the fifth largest economy from being the 11th ranked economy. From 2021 to 2024, India has grown at an average rate of eight per cent annually.

"Regarding the recent instances of paper leak in some examinations, my government is committed

to a fair investigation and ensuring strict punishment to the culprits. Even earlier, we have witnessed many instances of paper leaks in different states," she said.

The President said: "It is important that we rise above party-politics and undertake concrete measures nationwide. Parliament has also enacted a strict law against unfair means in examinations. My Government is working towards major reforms in examination related bodies, their functioning and all aspects of the examination process."

State govt suspends hawkers eviction drive for a month

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, 27 JUNE

The drive to evict hawkers illegally occupying space on roads and pavements in Kolkata has been suspended for a month, chief minister Mamata Banerjee announced on Thursday.

During a review meeting held at Nabanna Sabhaghar attended by top bureaucrats and police officers, including the district magistrates and district police superintendents, Miss Banerjee gave hawkers encroaching on roads and pavements a month's time to shift with their wares, and gave the administration three months' time to complete the ground work of survey and identification of the locations where the displaced hawkers can be rehabilitated.

"I'm giving you a month's time to set the places in order by doing the needful. I will sit with you a month later. Till that time no further eviction drive would be carried out," the chief minister told hawkers' representatives present at the meeting.

"To make someone unemployed by evicting them is not my purpose. I have no right to rob someone's earnings. I still consider the hawkers as my brothers and sisters. What I want to do is to bring them under a system," Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee said.



To make someone unemployed by evicting them is not my purpose. I have no right to rob someone's earnings. I still consider the hawkers as my brothers and sisters. What I want to do is to bring them under a system ■ BENGAL CM MAMATA BANERJEE

Miss Banerjee said.

The Chief Minister however, remained sharply critical against the trend of encroachments on government land and public spaces. Miss Banerjee said: "The local councillors keep mum doing nothing and police too are busy extorting money, allowing encroachments to continue. That should be stopped. From now on, the areas where this trend is found to be going on unabated, the councillor of the area or any leaders, however big they are, would be arrested. If any police officer is found involved in extorting money, they will be arrested. No one would be spared," Miss Banerjee was reported as saying.

Miss Banerjee mooted a series of measures to tackle the issue of encroachment by hawkers. She said that a portal should be started to designate hawk-ing zones and no-hawking zone. A building should

be earmarked near hawk-ing zone, where a fire fighting equipment could be set up. The secretaries of municipal affairs department and urban development departments would visit districts to identify places where hawk-ing zones could come up. Identity cards for the registered hawkers should be introduced, Miss Banerjee said.

She also issued a note of caution for the government contractors engaged in public works, especially, those related to road construction and road repairs.

"Once a new road is constructed or an existing road is repaired, they should be in intact condition for the next five years. Otherwise, the contractors concerned will be blacklisted. The illegal buildings will be taken over by the state government. Dilapidated buildings will also be taken over if not repaired in time," the Chief Minister said.

L K Advani discharged from AIIMS

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 27 JUNE

Veteran BJP leader Lal Krishna Advani was discharged from the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) here on Thursday after a minor procedure.

"Lal Krishna Advani was discharged at 2 pm today. His condition is stable," an official of the premier institute told The Statesman.

Mr Advani, who had served as Deputy Prime Minister under the Atal Bihari Vajpayee-led government, was admitted to the AIIMS on Wednesday evening. He was kept in the geriatric department of the institute.

On Wednesday, the premier institute in a statement said, "Lal Krishna Advani is admitted at AIIMS, New Delhi. He is stable and under observation." In March this year, he was conferred with the Bharat Ratna, the highest civilian award of the country.

'RBI watchful of emerging risks; be cautious of tech disruptions'

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 27 JUNE

RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das on Thursday said the central bank is watchful of emerging risks.

He also cautioned against disruptions in the financial system from new technologies. Mr Das said the matrix of financial stability is perhaps at its best, but the real challenge is to maintain it and improve upon it further.

"New technologies offer gains in efficiency and customer experience, but they can also bring with them sudden and widespread disruptions to the financial system," Mr Das said in the foreword of the June edition of the Financial Stability Report.

"This requires that all stakeholders not only invest adequately to take full advantage of technological advancements, but also take steps to safeguard the security and soundness of their systems,"



he added. Mr Das observed that stress tests showed capital levels of banks and non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) will remain above the regulatory minimum even under severe stress scenarios.

He said even in this stable environment, the regulator is watchful of the emerging risk including those from cyber hazards, climate change and global spillovers.

At a time when the global financial system faces major risks which include alarming levels of public debt, stretched asset valuations, increasing economic and financial fragmentation;

and frequent geopolitical conflicts, the Indian economy is exhibiting strength and resilience, with strong macroeconomic fundamentals and buffers, he said.

"Economic activity is expanding at a steady pace, with the financial system being stronger and more vibrant than what it was before the onset of the recent period of crises," he said.

The governor emphasised that it was important to consolidate the gains and nurture a financial system that is future ready and supports the needs of India's growing economy.

"Furthermore, as India's contribution to global growth rises, our financial system must also modernise and deepen as it prepares to go more global," he said.

He said efforts must be made to develop an ecosystem that puts the interests of the customer at the forefront.

INDIA bloc expected to raise NEET issue today



Indian Youth Congress (IYC) supporters protest against the alleged NEET 'scam' and paper leaks in various exams, at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi on Thursday. ■ ANI

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 27 JUNE

A meeting of leaders of the INDIA bloc was held here on Thursday to chalk out strategy on various issues, including NEET, amid the ongoing session of the Parliament.

The meeting convened by Congress president and Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha, Mallikarjun Kharge along with Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, at his residence here, was attended by party leader K C Venugopal, NCP (SCP) president Sharad Pawar,

TMC leader Derek O'brein, DMK leader Tiruchi Siva, Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut, AAP leader Sanjay Singh, JMM leader Mahua Maji, among others.

Informing about the INDIA bloc meeting, Rahul Gandhi in a social media post wrote: "We are all committed to fighting for the issues and rights of the people."

Mr Venugopal, who is the Congress General Secretary in-charge of organisation, in a post on X wrote: "Floor leaders of INDIA parties met at INC President Mallikarjun Kharge ji's residence to chalk

out the strategy for the rest of the Parliament session."

Talking to a news agency, Congress General Secretary in-charge of Communications Jai Ram Ramesh said: "Several issues were discussed in today's meeting. There was also discussion on the Speaker election (in Lok Sabha) and President's address."

"We will give notices (in Parliament) on the NEET issue tomorrow," DMK MP Tiruchi Siva told ANI news agency after the INDIA bloc meeting. INDIA leaders also told the news agency that if the NEET issue is not taken up for discussion tomorrow, then they would stage a protest inside the House.

Meanwhile, in a post on X, Mr Kharge slammed Prime Minister Narendra Modi after President Droupadi Murmu's address to the joint session of both the Houses. "Overall, Modi ji is making a futile attempt to gamersome applause by making the Honourable President read lies, which the people of India have rejected in the 2024 elections," he said.

CBI apprehends two from Patna



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 27 JUNE

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) as part of its ongoing probe into the alleged irregularities in the NEET-UG exam, on Thursday arrested two individuals from Bihar's Patna, sources said. These are the first arrests made by the probe agency in the NEET-UG alleged paper leak case.

According to sources, the two accused, identified as Manish Kumar and Ashutosh Kumar, allegedly provided safe space to the aspirants prior to the exam who were also aided to prepare for the exam.

The two operated in Patna, the sources said, adding that both were produced before a court by the central investigating agency.

Sebi okays norms to regulate 'finfluencers'

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 27 JUNE

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) on Thursday approved norms to regulate misinformation through financial influencers or "finfluencers" by restricting association of regulated entities with any unregistered person.

After its board meeting, the market regulator said: "The persons regulated by the Board and the agents of such persons shall not have any association, like, any transaction involving money or money's worth, referral of a client, interaction of information technology systems or any other association of similar nature or character, directly or indirectly with any per-



son who directly or indirectly provides advice or recommendation." SEBI has provided a window for investor education from such associations with a condition that they do not provide any recommendation or claim any return or performance.

This ensures that mutual funds, stock brokers, research analysts, or registered investment advisors do not associate with finfluencers.

It has also introduced flex-

ibility framework by introducing a fixed price process as an alternative to reverse book building process. The market regulator also provided an alternate framework for the delisting of investment holding companies. Sebi also provided certain funds exemption from granular disclosures under the Foreign Portfolio Investor (FPIs).

Financial influencers are persons who provide advice on social media platforms on various financial topics such as investing in securities, personal finance, banking products, insurance and real estate investment, among others. In recent years, finfluencers have drawn lot of flak for misguiding and exploiting gullible investors and traders.

Arundhati Roy wins the 2024 PEN Pinter Prize



AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, 27 JUNE

Weeks after the Delhi Lieutenant-Governor cleared her prosecution under the stringent UAPA, author Arundhati Roy, was on Thursday awarded the prestigious Pen Pinter Prize 2024 for her "unflinching and unswerving" writings.

The PEN Pinter Prize was set up in 2009 by English PEN

(Poets, Playwrights, Editors, Essayists, Novelists) in memory of Nobel laureate playwright Harold Pinter.

Ms Roy will receive the prize on 10 October 2024 in a ceremony co-hosted by the British Library.

The Prize is awarded annually to a writer resident in the United Kingdom, the Republic of Ireland, the Commonwealth or former Commonwealth who, in the words of Harold Pinter's Nobel speech, casts an "unflinching, unswerving" gaze upon the world, and shows a "fierce intellectual determination...to define the real truth of our lives and our societies".

TN officials deny discrimination against women in hiring at Foxconn facility

MC RAJAN
CHENNAI, 27 JUNE

Even as the Union government sought a report about the allegation of married women not being hired by Foxconn at its facility in Sriperumpudur, a key supplier for Apple, officials of the Tamil Nadu government dismissed the claim as not true.

The report about discrimination in hiring practices, particularly the systematic exclusion of married women on the ground that they have family responsibilities and pregnancies, at Foxconn has created ripples and the Union Labour Ministry has requested a detailed report from the



state government.

It was also alleged that the women workers are not allowed to wear religious symbols and ornaments.

When contacted, officials with the Directorate of Industrial Safety and Health (DISH) at Sriperumpudur, who did not want to be named, maintained that there is no truth in such allegations.

However, they admitted that there is no hostel facility for married women and they

have to look for accommodation outside.

"We have sent a report to the government on the issue," an official said, adding the labour laws of Tamil Nadu too prohibits discrimination by industries in employment, subject to conditions pertaining to the industry. "If women are employed, they should be given maternity leave as per norms," he said.

Foxconn has also denied the allegations and clarified that 25 per cent of the latest hires are married women, and only 30 per cent of the total workforce is men. Rumours of discrimination are spread by vested interests, it was pointed out.

CMYK

epaper.thestatesman.com

KCR should apologise for engineering defections, says CM Revanth Reddy

AGENCIES HYDERABAD, 27 JUNE

Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Thursday demanded that Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) president K. Chandrasekhar Rao apologise for engineering defections of legislators when he was the chief minister. Stating that KCR has no moral right to speak about defections, Revanth Reddy claimed that it was KCR who started this and "bought" 61 MLAs and MLCs. Addressing a news conference in Delhi, the Chief Minister demanded that the BRS supreme should come to Telangana Martyrs' Memorial and apologise for encouraging defections. Revanth Reddy was replying to a question about the BRS finding fault with the defection of its five MLAs to the Congress.

The Chief Minister recalled the statements by BRS leaders K. T. Rama Rao and Harish Rao that the Congress government would collapse within 100 days. He said the BJP leaders had also made similar statements. The Congress leader remarked that KCR's eyes have not opened even after BRS drew a blank in recent Lok Sabha elections. He mentioned that the vote share of BRS has plunged to 16 per cent. He reiterated that KCR helped BJP win Lok Sabha seats to defeat the Congress party. Revanth Reddy remarked that KCR, who was not even allowing his MLAs to come closer to him till recently, had now opened the doors of his farmhouse. He slammed the former chief minister for not accept-

ing the invitation to attend state formation day celebrations. "Is there any tradition of the leader of the opposition speaking at state formation day celebrations," he asked while responding to a statement by BRS leaders that KCR did not attend the ceremony as he was not given an opportunity to speak. The Chief Minister said the Congress party would benefit from the experience and services of senior Congress leader T. Jeevan Reddy. He alleged that the opposition tried to take advantage of Jeevan Reddy's reported unhappiness. Jeevan Reddy, a member of the Legislative Council, had come out openly against the Chief Minister's move to admit BRS MLA M. Sanjay Kumar into the party without consulting him.

AIADMK holds protest seeking CBI inquiry over hooch tragedy

The protest was aimed at pressing CM Stalin to resign owning moral responsibility for the deaths

MC RAJAN CHENNAI, 27 JUNE

Mounting pressure on the DMK government of MK Stalin, the principal Opposition AIADMK on Thursday held a protest in the city demanding a CBI probe into the Kallakurichi hooch tragedy that claimed 63 lives so far. The hunger strike, led by party general secretary Edappadi K Palaniswami (EPS), was aimed at pressing Chief Minister Stalin to resign owning moral responsibility for the deaths due to the killer brew. Meanwhile, even as the toll of the hooch tragedy soared to 63, 130 people are still undergoing treatment. The state government had entrusted the CB-CID with the investigation besides ordering a Judicial Inquiry into the issue. Addressing the protesters, EPS squarely blamed the DMK government for the Kallakurichi tragedy that rattled the entire state, charging it with 'incompetence'.



"The chief minister is hesitant to have a debate on the issue in the House," he said. "Why has Stalin not visited Kallakurichi to meet the families of the victims and the affected even after the toll had crossed 60," he asked. The hunger strike follows the AIADMK submitting a memorandum to Governor

RN Ravi on Wednesday for a CBI probe and urging him to report to the President about the alleged breakdown of the Constitutional machinery in the state. The MLAs, in black shirts or sarees, were joined by a large number of party functionaries and workers took part in the protest. All 61 AIADMK legisla-

tors, including EPS, were suspended on Wednesday for the rest of the current session for demanding a debate on the hooch tragedy and disrupting the proceedings for the third consecutive day. While Speaker M Appavu maintained that a debate would be allowed after question hour, the AIADMK mem-

bers remained adamant on the suspension of all other business for the debate. The House had been passing the demands for grants for various departments in the absence of the principal Opposition, t. Desiya Murpokku Dravida Kazhagam (DMDK) leader Premalatha Vijayakanth also joined the hunger strike in solidarity with the protest. She said her party would meet the Governor on Friday with the demand for a CBI investigation into the issue. Earlier, the BJP too approached the Governor with a similar memorandum. On his part, Governor Ravi, who has been at loggerheads with the DMK government, termed the tragedy 'painful' and expressed dissatisfaction over the state government's handling of the issue. 'We must not be in denial' about the prevalence of drug abuse across the state, he had observed while launching an awareness campaign early this week.

Remission row: Vijayan govt suspends three jail officials

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, 27 JUNE

The LDF government in Kerala has on Thursday suspended three prison officials at the Kannur Central Jail who had sought police reports on CPI-M workers undergoing life sentences in the T P Chandrasekharan murder case in a move to grant them special remission. The officials suspended are, Kannur Central Jail joint superintendent KS Sreejith, assistant superintendent Grade-I B.G. Arun, and assistant prison officer OV Raghunath. The orders were issued by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, who holds the Home Department portfolio. The prison officials had sought the police report on the convicts of T P Chandrasekharan murder case, who are serving life imprisonment. Despite a court directive stating that they are not



entitled to any leniency before completing a 20-year prison term, the officials included them in the list of inmates eligible for premature release. The decision to suspend the prison officials was announced ahead of the Leader of the Opposition's submission in the Kerala Assembly on Thursday. The incident has embarrassed the state government, as the opposition took up the matter in the assembly. KK

Rema Vatakara MLA and widow of TP Chandrasekharan moved a notice on Tuesday seeking leave for an adjournment motion on the issue, which was turned down by Speaker A N Shamseer. Denying permission for the notice moved by KK Rema, the Speaker stated that no such move had taken place. Responding to the Speaker's decision, Leader of the Opposition VD Satheesan accused the Speaker of com-

mitting a shocking breach of parliamentary etiquette by endeavouring to reply to the government. He pointed out the impropriety in the Speaker responding to an issue on behalf of the government. Satheesan alleged that Speaker was scared to allow discussion on the issue. Though VD Satheesan tried to make his point clear, the Speaker didn't permit him to speak, and switched off his microphone. Angered over the Speaker's attitude, Opposition legislators trooped to the well of the House and disrupted the proceedings. The opposition legislators shouted slogans against the government. The Speaker hurried through the day's business and adjourned the House for the day. Later, speaking to media persons in the Assembly's media room, VD Satheesan on Tuesday alleged that conspiracy to repeal the sen-

tence was a long and drawn-out process that commenced in 2018. "The government had set the sentence remission process in fast motion. Denying it is a barefaced lie and challenge to the rule of law," he said. Satheesan blamed the state government, alleging preferential treatment for the convicts in TP murder case in jail. "These convicts are getting undue preference and five-star facilities even in the prison. It's they who decide their menu. Rema had sought clarification on the parole details of these prisoners five months ago but to no avail. We understand that they have been blackmailing the CPM," Satheesan said. Satheesan said he's in possession of a letter from the jail superintendent to the police commissioner seeking details of the prisoners - including the murder convicts - for early remission.

K'taka CM Siddaramaiah to meet PM Modi on Saturday

AGENCIES BENGALURU, 27 JUNE

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has said that he will be meeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday. "The PMO has scheduled the appointment for 8 a.m.,"

he stated. Speaking to the media here after garlanding Kempe Gowda statue on the occasion of his 515th birth anniversary at Vidhana Soudha in Bengaluru, CM Siddaramaiah said that he will also meet Union Home Minister Amit Shah. "The appointment has not yet been confirmed by Amit Shah's office. However, Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari, has confirmed the appointment," he said. "I am leaving for New Delhi today to meet all MPs elected from the state. I will also meet the Union Ministers. We will present a list of pending projects launched by the Central government in Karnataka. We will also urge them to sanction new projects for the state, release funds, and provide more financial resources to the state government," CM Siddaramaiah stated.

LS poll debacle: CPM Kerala leadership stunned over harsh criticisms against CM

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, 27 JUNE

The CPI-M's Kerala leadership is stunned by the harsh criticism levelled against Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and the party leadership in the district committees. The harsh criticisms that are levelled against the Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and the party leadership in the district committees put the CPI-M Kerala leadership in a state of shock. It is to be noted that despite the criticism raised against the Chief Minister's style to the controversies involving the family, there is no significant resistance from the leaders. The stance of the chief minister and party leadership that the LDF's debacle in the Lok Sabha polls was not because of the anti-incumbency factor, has not been accepted by the lower

rung of the party committees. It has been pointed out that even during the height of the VS-Pinarayi dispute, there has never been such criticism like this within the CPI-M. After a second consecutive term for the LDF, it was customary for the Chief Minister to underline the party and the government. There are hardly any discussions in the state leadership meetings and the central leadership does not interfere in the state party. Now, after the heavy defeat in the Lok Sabha elections, things are changing. The chief minister's style of functioning and the allegations levelled against his daughter are coming under sharp criticism in the party committees. After the state committee, the leadership is fumbling before the fierce criticism raised against the chief minister in the district committees

. The party leadership was shocked by the criticism, including from Kannur. At the CPI-M Ernakulam District Committee held on Sunday to discuss the report of the party state committee regarding the LDF's debacle in the Lok Sabha polls, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan's unwillingness to address the allegations raised against his daughter in front of the media came in for criticism. Some members in the committee said when allegations were raised against his son, Kodyeri Balakrishnan, party then state secretary, had openly told the media that his son is solely responsible for the allegations levelled against him, and that the party has nothing to do with it. However, the Chief Minister was not ready to make any kind of explanation anywhere on the Exalogic controversy, they said.

With CM Naidu back at helm, investors show interest in Amaravati again

AGENCIES AMARAVATI, 27 JUNE

With N. Chandrababu Naidu back at the helm in Andhra Pradesh, investors are once again showing interest in Amaravati, the greenfield capital city. As the new government of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) headed by the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) began the groundwork to resume construction activity, domestic and foreign investors are evincing interest to pump in money. Some of them have already approached the Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Devel-



opment Authority (APCRDA) to convey their interest. After a gap of five years, Amaravati sprang to life with the TDP-Jana Sena-BJP alliance storming to power with a landslide majority this month. Reiterating his commitment to developing Amaravati

as the only state capital, Naidu last week visited the region and reviewed the status of various components of his dream project launched during his earlier term. The APCRDA and officials of the state government are busy preparing revised cost proposals to seek Central assistance. Naidu, whose party TDP with 16 MPs is a key partner in the BJP-led NDA government at the Centre, is likely to seek liberal assistance to complete the project in two to three years. Parallely, the Chief Minister has started inviting private investors to Amaravati. During a brief stopover in

Bengaluru, while returning from his home district Chittoor on Wednesday, Naidu met some top executives of a couple of companies. He invited Century Real Estate Holdings to invest in Amaravati. Company's Executive Director Ashwin Pai told Naidu that they would soon decide in this regard. Two days ago, the Australian Consul-General for Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Puducherry, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, and Lakshadweep, Silai Zaki visited Amaravati and called on APCRDA Commissioner Katamani Bhaskar.

नॉर्थ बिहार पावर डिस्ट्रीब्यूशन कंपनी लिमिटेड
(निबंधित कार्यालय : विद्युत भवन, बेली रोड, पटना)
(सामान्य प्रशासन विभाग)
(CIN No. :- U40109BR2012SGC018920), वेबसाइट :- www.nbpdc.co.in

सूचना

श्री सीरम सिंह, तदेन कनीय विद्युत अभियंता, विद्युत आपूर्ति प्रशाखा, हथुआ (स्थाई पता - पिता श्री अशोक कुमार सिंह, जयंती इन्कलेव, फ्लैट नं०-2डी0, 28, Apar garden G.T.Road, P.O - Chelidanga, PS- Asansol South, Dist- Burdwan, West Bengal- 713304) द्वारा दिनांक 04.07.2019 को कंपनी की सेवा से त्याग पत्र समर्पित किया गया है। कंपनी स्तर से बार-बार पत्राचार करने के बावजूद श्री सिंह द्वारा त्याग-पत्र स्वीकृति हेतु विहित प्रक्रिया पूर्ण नहीं की जा रही है। इसके कारण उनके त्यागपत्र आवेदन पर नियमानुसार कार्रवाई लंबित है। अतः सूचित किया जाता है कि इस सूचना प्रकाशन की तिथि से 15 दिनों के अंदर श्री सिंह द्वारा त्याग-पत्र स्वीकृति हेतु निर्धारित प्रक्रिया पूरा नहीं करने पर कंपनी प्रबंधन द्वारा इस मामले में एकतरफा निर्णय लिया जा सकता है। उक्त सूचना state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar पर भी देखी जा सकती है।

PR-002684 (B & C) 2024-25 **महाप्रबंधक (मा0सं0/प्र0)**

नरो से बचने का है एक ही उपचार, दृढ़ संकल्प और परिवार से प्यार

Govt. of Bihar
OFFICE OF ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF-CUM-ADDITIONAL COMMISSIONER-CUM-SPECIAL SECRETARY, RURAL WORKS DEPARTMENT, GOVERNMENT OF BIHAR
PRESS RELEASE

Rural Works Department, Government of Bihar has the mandate to strengthen the rural infrastructure and is primarily responsible for providing connectivity to the unconnected rural habitations by constructing rural roads to the extent of approx. 130000 km and about 2000 Long Span bridges across the state. The construction of cement concrete pavements and High-Level Bridges involve use of Ordinary Portland Cement in large scale grade - 43/53.

In this regard, the undersign intends to interact with the cement manufacturers, suppliers and their authorized representatives to understand the possibility of OPC cement supply at work locations and other factors to ensure unhindered work progress at site with proper quality.

In view of the above, Rural Works Department is planning to have an interaction meeting on 24th July in Conference Hall at 5th floor Vishveshwarya Bhawan where in the interested cement manufacturers & their CNFs, their authorized representatives are invited for discussions. The meeting will be attended by the HQ officers of RWD implementing the project.

Larger participation of such representatives from cement manufacturers/suppliers will be highly solicited.

This information is available on www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar

Bhagwat Ram
Engineer-in-chief-cum-additional Commissioner-cum-special secretary

PR.No.002766 (RWD) 2024-25 **नरो की मार, बर्बाद करे सुखी परिवार।**

Short-termination & Short-origination of Trains for Traffic & Power Block over Howrah Division

For dismantling of Road Overbridge No. 122 at Sainthia station in Khana-Rampurhat section over Howrah Division, Traffic & Power Block for 7 hours (from 11.15 hrs. to 18.15 hrs.) will be necessary on 30.06.2024 (Sunday). Consequently, the train regulations will be as follows:

- Short-termination / Short-origination on 30.06.2024: 03577 Andal-Sainthia MEMU Special will be short terminated at Kunuri station at 09.38 hrs., 03580 Sainthia-Andal MEMU Special will be short originated from Kunuri station at 10.54 hrs., 03579 Andal-Sainthia MEMU Special will be short terminated at Kunuri station at 15.13 hrs. & 03584 Sainthia-Andal MEMU Special will be short originated at Kunuri station at 16.54 hrs. Passengers are requested to follow the public address system at stations. Inconvenience is regretted.

Divisional Railway Manager, Howrah

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REGULATION OF TRAINS FOR TRAFFIC & POWER BLOCK OVER HOWRAH DIVISION

For the maintenance work of Road Over Bridge No. 15A at Bally by National Highway Authority of India (NHAI), one day Compensation Power & Traffic block for 2 hour 30 minutes on 02.07.2024 (Tuesday) will be required on Reverse Main Line, Down Main Line & Down Loop line on KM 08/03-08/05 at Bally Station Limit in Howrah - Bardhaman chord & Main line section as one day block was not undertaken due to Remal. Consequently, following arrangements in train running have been made:-

- Controlling of Mail/Express on 02.07.2024: (1) 13030 DN Mokama - Howrah Express will be controlled for 1 hour 15 minutes Between Bandel and Uttarpara. (2) 13024 DN Gaya - Howrah Express will be controlled for 15 minutes enroute. Note: (1) After Passing of 37354 DN Tarakeswar - Howrah Local at Belur (00.11 hrs.) block will be granted. (2) After Cancellation of block first train will be 13030 DN Mokama - Howrah Express. Special Note: Spl. or late running Trains & any further newly introduced Train/Parcel Train/TOD during the block period, if any, will be controlled/diverted suitably enroute during block. Passengers are requested to follow the Public Address System of stations. Inconvenience is regretted.

Asstt. Operations Manager/Goods, Howrah

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झारखंड सरकार
कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय सिंचाई प्रमंडल दुमका।
ई-प्रोक्वोरमेंट सूचना

e-Tender Ref. No: WRD/Irr.Div.Dumka/SBD-IFB-02/2024-25 (2nd call) Dt: 26.06.2024

1. कार्य का नाम	Construction of office building Water ways circle at Bijaypur, Dumka
2. प्राकृतिक राशि (₹0 में)	₹0 3,36,96,673.72 (रुपये तीन करोड़ छत्तीस लाख छियास हजार छः सौ तीसहजार एवं छह बहारा मात्र)
3. परिमाण विवरण का मूल्य (₹0 में)	₹0 10,000/- (रुपये दस हजार मात्र) (Online mode Only)
4. अग्रपान की राशि (₹0 में)	₹0 3,37,000.00/- (रुपये तीन लाख सत्तीस हजार मात्र) (Online mode Only)
5. कार्य समाप्ति की अवधि	365 दिन
6. वेबसाइट पर निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि एवं समय	दिनांक 05.07.2024 पूर्वाह्न 11.00 बजे
7. वेबसाइट से निविदा डाउनलोड करने की तिथि एवं समय	दिनांक 05.07.2024 पूर्वाह्न 11.00 बजे से दिनांक 26.07.2024 अपराह्न 5.00 बजे तक
8. निविदा प्रारंभ ऑनलाइन प्राप्त करने की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय	दिनांक 26.07.2024 अपराह्न 5.00 बजे तक ।
9. तकनीकी निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय	दिनांक 29.07.2024. अपराह्न 3.00 बजे
10. निविदा प्रकाशित करने वाले पदाधिकारी का नाम एवं पता	कार्यपालक अभियंता, सिंचाई प्रमंडल दुमका Mob. No. +919801476699 Email ID- eedmkin@gmail.com
11. ई-निविदा आमंत्रण रोल का हेल्य लाईन नं०	06432357181

नोट: सिर्फ ई०-निविदा ही स्वीकार किये जायेंगे।
(1) निविदा मुक्त एवं अग्रपान की राशि केवल online mode द्वारा स्वीकार्य होगी।
(2) निविदा मुक्त एवं अग्रपान की राशि का ई-भुगतान जिस खाता से किया जायेगा उसी खाते में अग्रपान की राशि वापस होगी, अगर खाता को बन्द कर दिया जाता है तो इनकी सारी जवाबदेही सम्बंधित निविदादाता की होगी।
(3) प्राकृतिक राशि घट-बढ़ सकती है।
(4) राज्य सरकार द्वारा निर्गत सभी अवतन आदेश / परिपत्र लागू होंगे।
(5) ज्यादा जानकारी <http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in> पर प्राप्त की जा सकती है।

कार्यपालक अभियंता सिंचाई प्रमंडल दुमका
PR 327830 Water Resource(24-25)D



I congratulate Om Birla as he has been re-elected as the Speaker of the Lok Sabha. In the last 5 years, he has conducted the proceedings of the Lok Sabha brilliantly and provided the opportunity to both, the ruling party and the opposition leaders to speak in Parliament.

UTTARAKHAND CHIEF MINISTER PUSHKAR SINGH DHAMI
CONGRATULATING OM BIRLA ON HIS RE-ELECTION AS LOK SABHA SPEAKER

Prez's address presented roadmap of progress, good governance: PM

The President said major economic and social decisions will be announced in the Union Budget

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, 27 JUNE

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said that President Droupadi Murmu's address to both the House of Parliament presented a roadmap of progress and good governance.

PM Modi shared a post on X and called the President's address comprehensive adding that it covered the strides India has been making and also the potential that lies ahead.

"Rashtrapati Ji's address to both Houses of Parliament was comprehensive and presented a roadmap of progress and good governance. It covered the strides India has been making and also the potential that lies ahead. Her address also mentioned some of the major challenges we have to collectively overcome to ensure a qualitative change in the lives of our citizens," the Prime Minister wrote on



X. Union Minister Jayant Chaudhary said that the President gave a message of solidarity, of taking the country forward and how can we make it a developed country by 2047.

"It's a very good, positive message and it's a special occasion. The President gave us a message of solidarity, of taking the country forward and how can we make it a developed country by 2047. There's a clear vision and a

clear path that she laid down. Our democratic institutions are strong. We take pride in them. We have faith in them," he said.

"She spoke about the excellent role the Election Commission has played, the way common people have come out and voted, the way women have decided their future by coming and voting for a government and a representative of their choice," the Union Minister

added. Union Minister Ramdas Athawale said, "President's Address mentions the decisions of the government. The new schemes will come through the Budget but there is no meaning in the Opposition criticising it. President's Address was good... There is no fact in the allegations of the Opposition."

Earlier, President Murmu on Thursday assured the nation that in the upcoming Parliament sessions, major economic and social decisions, and historical steps will be announced during the Union Budget.

"A stable government with a complete majority has been formed in the country after six decades. People have shown trust in this Govt for the third time. People are aware that only this Govt can fulfil their aspirations. The 18th Lok Sabha is historic in many ways. This Lok Sabha was formed in the early years of the Amrit Kaal.

This Lok Sabha will also be a witness to the 56th year of adoption of the Constitution of the country," she said.

"In the upcoming sessions, this government is going to present the first budget of this term. This budget will be an effective document of the government's far-reaching policies and futuristic vision. Along with big economic and social decisions, many historic steps will also be seen in this budget," President Murmu added.

In her address to the Parliament, the President said that the government is working towards making India the 3rd largest economy. "The resolve to Reform, Perform and Transform has made India the fastest-growing economy in the world today. In 10 years, India has risen from the 11th largest economy to the fifth largest. From the year 2021 to the year 2024, India has grown at an average rate of 8 per cent," she said.

Plea in Supreme Court against the newly amended criminal law bills

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, 27 JUNE

A Public Interest Litigation (PIL) has been filed before the Supreme Court against the implementation of the new criminal laws abolishing the colonial era IPC, CrP and Evidence Act.

It may be recalled that the top court in May this year had refused to entertain a similar PIL saying that the plea was liable to be dismissed.

The fresh plea, filed through advocate Sanjeev Malhotra, seeks directions to immediately constitute an expert committee to assess, identify the viability of the three criminal laws namely, Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam (BSA).

It said, "The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita retains most offences from the Indian Penal Code, 1860. It adds community service as a form of punishment. Sedition is no longer an offence. Instead, there is a new offence for acts endangering the sovereignty,



unity and integrity of India. The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita adds terrorism as an offence."

The PIL said that the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023, allows up to 15 days of police custody, which can be authorised in parts during the initial 40 or 60 days of the 60 or 90 days' period of judicial custody.

"This may lead to denial of bail for the entire period if the police have not exhausted the 15 days custody... and the provision could be misused since people, particularly those hailing from marginalised backgrounds, may be subjected to extreme

custodial violence," it added. Further, the plea said that there remains irregularity in the passing of laws in the Parliament as many members of Parliament were suspended with very less people participating in the passing of the three Bills.

It referred to the speech made by former Chief Justice of India, NV Ramana expressing his concern regarding enacting laws without debate in the Parliament as it leaves ambiguity in legislation and leads to a lot of litigation.

"The Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, 2023 retains most provisions of the Indian Evidence Act, 1872 including those on confessions, relevancy of facts, and burden of proof," the PIL said.

In a press statement, the Bar Council of India (BCI) on Wednesday urged all Bar associations across the country to refrain from any form of agitation or protest against the introduction of new criminal laws and said that it will initiate discussions with the Union Government to convey the concerns of the legal fraternity.

Chhattisgarh CM bridges gap with citizens through weekly 'Jandarshan'

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
RAIPUR, 27 JUNE

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai on Thursday inaugurated the Jandarshan program at his official residence, establishing a direct line of communication with citizens. This weekly initiative, set to take place every Thursday from 11 am to 1 pm, allows residents to present their grievances directly to the chief minister, contingent on his availability.

During the inaugural session, Chief Minister Sai engaged warmly with citizens from various parts of the state, attentively listening to their concerns and issuing necessary directives to officials for swift resolution.

Addressing the gathering, he said, "Our government has completed six months in office. We have consistently met with people to address their problems. Former Chief Minister Dr. Raman Singh



also used to meet people in Jandarshan. We will continue to meet all of you every Thursday and work towards solving your problems."

The Jandarshan program aims to be a comprehensive platform for voicing concerns across the state. In addition to addressing public grievances, Chief Minister Sai will review the implementation of government schemes and solicit feedback to enhance their effectiveness. This initiative high-

lights his commitment to transparency and responsive governance.

To facilitate efficient problem resolution, relevant departmental officers will be present during these sessions, ensuring that issues related to various sectors are promptly addressed. The meticulous planning behind this program aims to ensure smooth operations.

Citizens wishing to participate in the Jandarshan program must bring written

applications detailing their issues, along with any supporting documents. This structured approach is designed to streamline the process, making it easier for the Chief Minister to understand and act on the problems presented.

The inception of this program follows Chief Minister Sai's thorough review of various departments, setting a proactive tone for his administration.

By dedicating specific days to evaluate the performance and challenges of different sectors, he aims to ensure efficient governance and service delivery.

Chhattisgarh BJP President Kiran Singh Deo praised the initiative, stating, "The Jandarshan program is more than just a forum for public grievances. It is a bridge of trust between the government and the people, fostering dialogue, problem-solving, and state development. The program's revival has been met with enthusiasm, reflecting the public's eagerness to engage with their leader directly."

Chief Minister Sai's background as a tribal leader known for his simplicity and approachability adds a unique dimension to this initiative. His grounded approach and rural family background resonate with the common people, making him a relatable and trusted figure.

His decision to meet the public regularly through this program is both courageous and commendable, highlighting his dedication to understanding and addressing the issues faced by the citizens.

Chhattisgarh Health Minister Shyam Bihari Jaiswal lauded the initiative, stating, "The Chief Minister's decision to hold the Jandarshan program every Thursday is a testament to his commitment to good governance and public welfare.

Mizoram Police destroy drugs worth over ₹154 cr

AGENCIES
AIZAWL, 27 JUNE

Mizoram Police has made all-out efforts in the fight against drugs and have seized drugs worth Rs 66,82,35,070 and arrested 265 persons up to June 24 this year.

According to a press statement, the seized drugs include 48.882 kg of Heroin, 89.445 kg of Methamphetamine, and 13.49 kg of Crystal Methstate.

The state police have also registered 195 cases in this matter.

Meanwhile, according to reports, as part of the observance of the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, Mizoram Police on Wednesday carried out a large-scale disposal of seized drugs worth more than Rs 154 crore in various districts of the state.



Eyebrows up as BJP leaders hobnob with Shiv Sena (UBT)'s Thackeray

AGENCIES
MUMBAI, 27 JUNE

Political eyebrows shot up as some senior Bharatiya Janata Party leaders were seen rubbing shoulders and displaying bonhomie with their archrival Shiv Sena (UBT)'s top leaders, on the first day of the last session of the current Maharashtra Legislature Session, here on Thursday.

Legislators and media persons went into a frenzy as ex-Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray waited for a lift at the Vidhan Bhavan and suddenly, the ruling MahaYuti ally and BJP Deputy CM Devendra Fadnavis reached there.

When the lift stopped for them, a couple of persons in it were asked to step out and Fadnavis was seen beckoning Thackeray to join him,



even as others like Pravin Darekar and Minister Chandrakant Patil were already present inside (the lift).

A smiling Thackeray obliged and went up - in a cloud of speculation - from the ground floor to the upper floor where the Assembly is situated. But after alighting, both walked away in opposite directions.

Later, when media persons mobbed and quizzed

Thackeray for a bite, he airily replied that it was just a coincidence and nothing more.

In another development, Patil dropped in to meet Thackeray, Leader of Opposition (Council) Ambadas Danve, ex-minister Anil Parab and others at the SS (UBT) office.

An atmosphere of cheerful camaraderie seemed to prevail there, and a grin-

ning Patil even distributed chocolates and conveyed his "advance" wishes to Parab who contested the just-concluded MLC elections, the result of which is expected on Monday (July 1), while Thackeray asked the BJP visitor to "maintain cordial relations always."

However, MahaYuti ally Shiv Sena leader Bharat Gogavale sought to downplay the developments, and ruled out the possibility of any talks opening between the BJP-SS (UBT), while his colleague Sanjay Shirsat said Thackeray-Fadnavis may have "winked" at each other.

Rejecting all political and media speculation, SS (UBT) MLA Vaibhav Naik termed it as "mere coincidence and nothing else" that Thackeray and Fadnavis happened to travel in the legislature building lift.

Congress MP KC Venugopal writes to LS Speaker Om Birla, calls Emergency remarks 'shocking'

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, 27 JUNE

Congress MP KC Venugopal on Thursday wrote a letter to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla over his statement in Parliament regarding the emergency imposed in June 1975. He called it a grave matter that impacts the Parliament's credibility.

"I am writing this in the context of a very grave matter impacting upon the very credibility of the institution of Parliament. Yesterday that is 26 June 2024, at the time of offering felicitations on your election as Speaker Lok Sabha, there was a general camaraderie in the House as such occasions generate," wrote the Congress MP. Further calling the Lok Sabha Speaker's emergency remark "shocking",



he wrote, "However, what followed thereafter, which is a reference from the Chair after your acceptance speech, regarding the declaration of Emergency half a century ago, is deeply shocking. Making such a political reference from the Chair is unprecedented in the annals of the history of Parliament. This coming from the Chair as one of the 'first duties' from a newly elected Speaker assumes even graver proportions." "I, on behalf of the Indian National Congress,

express our profound concern and anguish over this travesty of Parliamentary traditions," the letter concluded.

Speaking to a news agency, he said that the political statements from the Speaker's mouth could have been avoided. "Lok Sabha Speaker officially declared Rahul Gandhi as the Leader of Opposition today. It was a courtesy from Rahul Gandhi to meet and thank him. Political statements from the Speaker's mouth could have been avoided, this kind of political message will not give a message of cooperation. What was there in the President's address? It was the same as last time. There was nothing new. No expectation for the youth, women, poor, farmers of the country..." he told a news agency.

First convoy of Amarnath pilgrims leaves for Kashmir

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, 27 JUNE

Tight security arrangements have been put in place for the safe travel of the first batch of pilgrims that will depart from here on early Friday morning for the two base camps of the 52-day-long Amarnath yatra in the Kashmir Valley.

The yatra is scheduled to commence from the Valley on 29 June.

Elaborate security arrangements have been made for the safe passage of the convoy of buses and light motor vehicles from here through the nearly 300-kilometer Jammu-Srinagar highway. The pilgrimage will conclude on 19 August.

Equal action will be taken against everyone: BJP leader Ashish Shelar on Pune car accident

AGENCIES
MUMBAI, 27 JUNE

Mumbai Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) president Ashish Shelar said on Thursday that equal action will be taken against all the accused involved in the Pune car accident.

The two IT professionals, who were travelling on a bike, died on May 19 at 2.30 am after a car allegedly driven by a drunk 17-year-old boy crashed into them. "Whether it is a big builder or a big name, equal action will be taken against everyone and an investigation should be done," the BJP leader said. When asked about the Maharashtra assembly election that is slated to be held this year, Shelar said, "In the matter of seat sharing in the Maha Yuti, Devendra Fadnavis, Eknath Shinde and Ajit Dada Pawar will talk and find a solution. There is also time



to decide who will be the face of the Chief Minister".

The tenure of the Maharashtra Assembly ends on November 26. Meanwhile, the Bombay High Court on Tuesday directed to immediately release the 17-year-old boy allegedly involved in the Pune car accident from the observation home. The juvenile was under observation at the home of the Juvenile Justice Board for 36 days after the incident.

The court deemed the orders remanding him to an observation home as illegal and

emphasized that the law regarding juveniles must be fully implemented and stated that justice must be prioritized above all else. The division bench of Justices Bharati Dange and Manjusha Deshpande of the Bombay High Court emphasized that justice must be realized regardless of consequences. The court made it clear that it was not swayed by the uproar surrounding the tragic accident that resulted in the loss of two innocent lives.

The High Court criticized the Juvenile Justice Board's remand orders as "illegal" and passed without jurisdiction. The court also reprimanded the police for their handling of the situation, noting that law enforcement agencies had succumbed to public pressure. The court emphasized that regardless of the seriousness of the crime, the accused is still a child under

the Juvenile Justice Act and must be treated as such. The Act aims at rehabilitation and social integration of juvenile offenders, and confinement in an observation home is only permissible when bail has not been granted. HC in its order stated, "For the aforesaid reason, we issue a writ of Habeas Corpus directing the release of the CCL from the Observation Home where he is detained, despite being released on bail by a validly passed order by the Board on 19/5/2024 forthwith. We also quash and set aside the impugned order dated 22/5/2024 the subsequent orders dated 5/6/2024 and the order dated 12/6/2024, which have authorized the continuation of the CCL in the Observation Home which, according to us, is illegal, as the orders being without jurisdiction conferred on the Board."

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NOTICE FOR ADMISSION 2024-25

The University invites online application to the PG Programmes (UGC-DEB Approved Academic Programmes, Vide F. No. 21-81/2020 (DEB-III), dated 05.08.2021 and Vide F. No. 22-14/2022 (DEBIII), dated 14.11.2022) of Semester with CBCS mode for session 2024-25, on first-come-first-serve basis (seats are limited) in the subjects of Bengali, English, Sanskrit, Education, History, Political Science Geography, Environmental Studies, Master of Social Work, Vocal Music, and Rabindra Sangeet, offered in ODL mode at Rabindra Bharati University, through the following Learner Support Centres recognized by the Rabindra Bharati University, Centre For Distance and Online Education, Salt Lake, Kolkata - 700091 from 01.07.2024 to 30.08.2024

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Director, RBU, CDOE

Talks only way to prevent trade war

Although Vice-Chancellor of Germany and Federal Minister for Economic Affairs and Climate Action Robert Habeck does not represent the European Commission, his three-day visit to China, which concluded on Sunday, has helped to ease tensions between China and the European Union over the issue to a certain degree.

In his packed itinerary that consisted of stops in Beijing, Shanghai and Hangzhou, Habeck not only met with business leaders of both China and Germany, he also had face-to-face meetings with Chinese Minister of Commerce Wang Wentao and Minister of the National Development and Reform Commission Zheng Shanjie in Beijing on Saturday.

Habeck's respective meetings with the Chinese commerce chief and head of the country's economic policymaking body have served to reinforce the two sides' consensus on the need to avoid a damaging trade war and produced some concrete bilateral cooperation agreements and projects on trade facilitation, the green economy and energy. This year marks the 10th anniversary of the establishment of the comprehensive strategic partnership between China and Germany. Both have been beneficiaries of economic globalization, and the two countries' economic interests are deeply intertwined. Both Beijing and Berlin know clearly that cooperation poses no risk, but that decoupling does. Habeck's hosts reaffirmed that China is willing to work with Germany to deepen mutually beneficial cooperation between

CHINADAILY

the two sides' enterprises, create an open and fair competition environment, and inject more positive energy into the healthy and stable development of China-Germany and China-EU economic and trade relations.

The productive exchanges during Habeck's visit clearly convey the common pro-free trade stance of the EU's largest economy and the world's second-largest economy, as well as their joint concerns over the dire implications of the European Commission's planned punitive tariffs on Chinese EVs. If implemented, the tariffs will unavoidably plunge the EU and China into a damaging trade war that will actually harm the EU's green transition and consumers' interests, as Habeck said. Beijing's announcement that it is launching an anti-dumping probe into imports of EU pork products indicates that China will resolutely defend its legitimate rights and interests.

The EU launched its anti-subsidy investigation on Chinese EVs in October, without any application from member states or the industry. And the details that have been disclosed regarding the investigation clearly indicate that the probe and the resulting planned punitive tariffs violate World Trade Organization rules. By adopting such protectionist measures, the EU aims to suppress the development of Chinese companies, which is doomed to failure, and will not help boost the global competitiveness of the EU's EV companies either.

As both China and Germany urge, Brussels should try and resolve its differences with Beijing through dialogue and consultation in good faith. In that sense, it is good to hear that after a video conference between the Chinese commerce chief and Executive Vice-President of European Commission Valdis Dombrovskis on Saturday, the two sides have agreed to launch consultations on the EU's anti-subsidy investigations into Chinese EVs.

If the EU is sincere in sitting down at the negotiating table, China is also willing to engage in dialogue to try and resolve the reasonable concerns of the EU. It is to be hoped that the EU will strive to avoid the expansion and escalation of trade frictions in a rational and professional manner by meeting China halfway in that direction.

(Concluded)

Failed Revolution ~ II

Had the panchayats functioned as apolitical bodies in accordance with the Constitutional objectives and implemented the government's plans and programmes, the face of rural India would have changed substantially. This has not happened. The mammoth panchayat structure and inherent conflicts with the State and the district administration have created more complications and bureaucracy than serving the cause of the common villager. What was supposed to be a silent revolution to bring about Gram Swaraj and decentralized democracy has lost its way



The Constitution-powered new-look Panchayati Raj was launched with great fanfare to achieve Mahatma Gandhi's dream of Gram Swaraj heralding a silent revolution to transform the face of rural India. The broad objectives had been: (a) to establish constitutional democracy at the grassroot level as the third tier of governance; (b) to empower every adult citizen of the village involving them in direct election process; (c) to empower women by reserving one-third seats for them; (d) to make the villages self-reliant; (e) to deliver social justice and (f) to establish social equality and eliminate caste and communal conflicts.

Apart from these broad objectives, the Panchayats were also required to undertake specific tasks of economic development and "are responsible for managing local affairs, including infrastructure development, public health, sanitation, and urban planning, minor irrigations, fisheries, social forestry, small scale industries, social welfare, electricity, sports and cultural affairs, poverty alleviation, housing etc."

Installation of the Panchayati Raj throughout India has been revolutionary in many ways. First, it laid the foundation for a decentralized democracy.

Secondly, it empowered the faceless village womenfolk to participate and hold leadership positions in the governance structure. Thirdly, it was supposed to deliver social justice. Finally, it gave a roadmap to make the villages self-reliant and progressive.

To say that the achievement of the Panchayati Raj has been disappointing would be an understatement. The rural distress, massive migration from rural areas, decreasing rural income, lack of quality education and healthcare, lack of employment, violence against women, caste and communal tensions do indicate that everything is not well with Panchayati Raj and beg the questions: where are the panchayats and what are the panchayats doing?

Where are the 31.5 lakh representatives hiding? How many panchayats have endeavored to solve the basic problems of the villages - safe drinking water, electricity, cooking gas, primary

education and health facilities, agriculture, employment, cooperatives and marketing?

Had the panchayats been fully functional and effective, there would have been no communal riots, rampant rapes and murders in rural areas. An effective panchayat should be able to deliver social justice, establish social harmony and prevent caste and communal conflicts.

Three decades have elapsed since Panchayati Raj was installed with great hope. Mahatma Gandhi wanted Panchayati Raj to be the basic framework for the free political order. Has it moved in that direction? The experience so far has not been uniform and has been as diverse as the diversity of the country and all the states cannot be painted with the same brush. Panchayati Raj has been successful to a limited extent in a few states like Kerala,

Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Rajasthan. Kerala is the only State where there has been considerable devolution of powers - the district panchayats have been given the responsibility of managing district hospitals and the schools and the panchayat Samitis to manage the sub-divisional hospital and schools.

Under pressure from NGOs, financial accountability of the panchayats could, to some extent, be established in Rajasthan where the audited accounts are required to be displayed on the notice boards of the panchayat office. Even in Rajasthan, in many areas, women have to travel five kilometers to fetch a pitcher of drinking water!

The Ministry of Panchayati Raj has from time to time formulated grand schemes and programmes to equip and rejuvenate the panchayats to achieve the goals of Gram Swaraj.

Some of the ambitious schemes have been: (a) Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA); (b) Gram Panchayat Development Plans (GPDP); (c) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); (d) Capacity Building

and Training Programmes; (e) Governance Initiatives including Audit online; (f) Financial Devolution Scheme and (g) SVAMITVA Scheme. The Svamitva scheme has been a unique plan for survey and mapping of villages with improvised technology and giving property rights to the villagers. The question arises: What has been the net impact of these grand programmes on the village panchayats? Except in a few enlightened panchayats in the southern parts of the country, the impact has been minimal.

How is it that even after 30 years of its existence, thousands of villages are still without potable drinking water, household electricity, cooking gas, basic education, social healthcare, isolated and without the benefits of economic development? This does indicate utterly lackadaisical development of this

great project in many States of the country.

A plethora of reports on the functioning of Panchayati Raj in various States, emanating from the offices of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India, the statutory auditors and the NGOs suggest that while there has been some progress in certain States, in general, the elephantine edifice of Panchayati Raj (2.6 lakh panchayats with 31.5 lakh elected lawmakers) as the foundation of decentralized governance, is tottering, if not collapsing. The reasons for the stagnation or atrophy have been too many; some of them are mentioned below.

(a) The panchayats suffer from perennial financial crunch. There has been no satisfactory devolution of powers from the Central government and the State Finance Commission.

(b) While decentralization of powers has been the objective, the system has been moving in the opposite direction - all the plans, programmes, and schemes have been Central ministry-driven and are thrust on the State governments and the panchayats. There has been

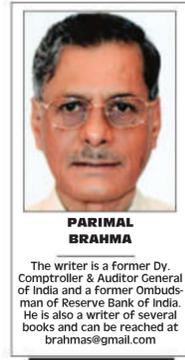
debilitating over-centralization of the system.

(c) One of the vital organs of Panchayati Raj is supposed to be the District Planning Committee (DPC) responsible for decentralized planning for each district. In most of the areas, the DPC has not been constituted and if constituted at all, they are not functional.

(d) The 3-tier Panchayati Raj (in practice it is 5-tier) is too complicated and bureaucratic. Induction of government officials and politicians at various levels imposing them on the elected representatives have made the whole system non-functional. The Gram Panchayat has to depend on the Panchayat Samiti, the Panchayat Samiti has to depend on the District Council (Zilla Parishad), the Zilla Parishad depends on the State government and the State government depends on the Central government - creating a web of dependency. This kills all local initiatives.

(e) Finally, total politicization and ingress of VIP culture have been the bane of the panchayats. While they are supposed to be apolitical, party politics has affected almost every panchayat often leading to violence during the panchayat elections. The Panchayat Pradhans have also inculcated the VIP culture and have developed deep vested interests and political ambitions, surrendering themselves to party politics. Also, in spite of 30-50 per cent reservation for women, male dominance and suppression of women continue unabated.

Had the panchayats functioned as apolitical bodies in accordance with the Constitutional objectives and implemented the government's plans and programmes, the face of rural India would have changed substantially. This has not happened. The mammoth panchayat structure and inherent conflicts with the State and the district administration have created more complications and bureaucracy than serving the cause of the common villager. What was supposed to be a silent revolution to bring about Gram Swaraj and decentralized democracy has lost its way. The Panchayati Raj has failed the people.



PARIMAL BRAHMA
The writer is a former Dy. Comptroller & Auditor General of India and a former Ombudsman of Reserve Bank of India. He is also a writer of several books and can be reached at brahmas@gmail.com

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

editor@thestatesman.com

Seed diversity

SIR, I refer to "Indigenous seeds help rural empowerment" by Bharat Dogra published in your columns. Based on rice and wheat, the Green Revolution was launched on account of the apparent threat of famine. India's vast traditional arena of ecofriendly cereals like millet and maize was ignored.



The Green Revolution eliminated food diversity and has reduced the importance of millets on our farms and plates.

Of the 30,000 edible plants just 30 crops account for 95 per cent of human food and that is dominated by rice, wheat, maize, millet, and sorghum.

Scientists say that over half of common plants and one third of the animals could decline this century due to climate change. "The line between abundance and disaster is becoming thinner and thinner and the public is unaware and unconcerned," Dan Saladino writes in his book Eating to Extinction.

India is the world's largest producer of millets, harvesting about 11 million tons per year.

Pearl millet (bajra), finger millet (ragi) and sorghum (jowar) are the most popular. Millets do not come under IPRs or patents that agro-monopolies are so keen to capture.

Seeds were in farmers' hands

and often preserved or exchanged for free. Patented seeds is where a company holding the patent makes money by selling those seeds year after year, upsetting the traditional system of farmers saving seeds from each year's har-

vest to sow the following year. Reliance on ultra-high-tech seeds to produce and seed control is moving in the wrong direction.

Yours, etc.,
H N Ramakrishna,
Bengaluru, 26 June.

MANUFACTURE

SIR, In a global marketplace reshaped by volatile forces - especially the animosity between the U.S. and China - some multinational retailers are turning away from Chinese factories. Instead, many are looking to India, which may be on the verge of becoming a major manufacturing power. The shift could fortify the global supply chain and lift fortunes in India.

The country has roughly one billion people of working age, but about only 430 million jobs, according to an independent research institution. Growing exports could be a source of new jobs - especially for women, who have been largely shut out of the formal working ranks. The shift to India could make the global supply chain more resilient, reducing its susceptibility to shocks.

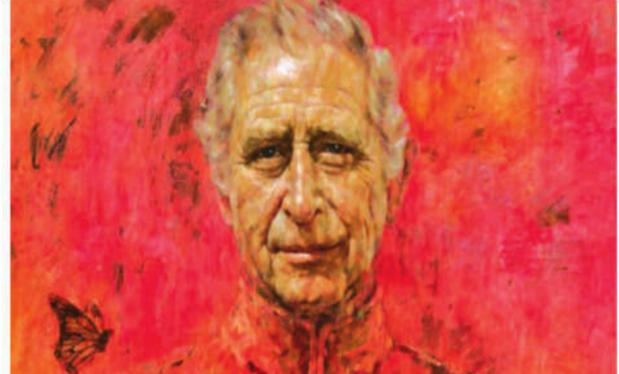
It could also boost fortunes in India, which missed out on the manufacturing boom that lifted hundreds of millions of people from poverty in East Asia - first in Japan, South Korea and Taiwan, then in China and, more recently, in Thailand, Indonesia and Vietnam. India presents a unique proposition as a country of 1.4 billion people, making it even larger than China. With abundant raw materials, from cotton to iron ore to chemicals, it holds the potential to develop its own supply chain. If any country might someday replicate China's role in the manufacturing realm, India may possess the best shot.

Yours, etc., Shovanlal Chakraborty, Kolkata, 27 June.

Seeing red over a king's painting

BASAB DASGUPTA

My good friend, Sharon, who is an amateur artist like me, brought to my attention the recent controversy related to a portrait of King Charles, unveiled a few weeks ago at Buckingham palace. It is a rather large painting, 8.5 ft by 6.5 ft in dimensions and the first portrait of the king since his coronation last year. A photo of the portrait is shown here.



It immediately generated a huge backlash because of the overwhelming presence of red colour in the image. The colour of his uniform represents the colour of the Welsh Guards (which included Charles as a member when the painting was first commissioned in 2020), but the red background was a choice of the artist. Viewers started to describe on social media as a devilish image. Here are some typical comments: "looks like a poster for a truly nightmarish horror movie"; "looks like the villain Vigo the Carpathian from Ghostbuster 2"; "looks like he is going straight to hell"; "antichrist in blood"; "satanic". Some even claimed that they can see demonic images by photo-shopping the image in various ways. It drew ridicule from people like Russell Brand and Alex Jones.

It seems that even the ones who praised it did so out of respect and courtesy for the king in a typically British polite way. According to reports, Charles was surprised by the bold red colour but "smiled approvingly". Queen Camilla was more definitive, telling the painter, "Yes, you got him". I wondered why the king liked it. Is it because Charles is colour blind like his son, Prince William, and perhaps the painting looked greenish to him? The Internet offered no such clue.

The painter is Jonathan Yeo, who is claimed to be one of the "most

in-demand portraitists" by GQ magazine and has painted images of Tony Blair, Tiger Woods, Sarah Palin, Arnold Schwarzenegger and other famous people in the past. In the painter's own words, "I do my best to capture the life experiences etched into any individual sitter's face. In this case my aim was also to make references to the traditions of royal portraiture but in a way that reflects the 21st century monarchy and above all enable to communicate the subject's humanity".

The reference to "21st century monarchy" can certainly refer to all the bloodshed going on in the world starting from 9/11 at the beginning of the century and the red colour symbolizes blood. Perhaps it is also a subtle reference to the root cause of all this violence which goes back to the days of colonization by the British and other European countries. The phrase "subjects' humanity" could mean the passion and romance Charles exhibited throughout his life in his relentless pursuit of Camilla even when she was married to another man. What colour

is more appropriate than red to indicate love and passion? There is one other interesting aspect of the painting: there is a monarch butterfly pictured on the right shoulder of the king. It is supposedly a symbol of the king's love of nature, freedom and metamorphosis (from prince to king). However, it appears to be small and without its own usual colourfulness. I am baffled by the colour scheme myself. Even if I could justify the overall red tint as a symbol of passion, I felt that the painter could provide a higher level of contrast between Charles' outfit and the background. The way it looks gives the appearance of a head floating in a sea of red. It also reminded me of that infamous prom scene from the movie "Carrie" where Carrie was drenched in pig's blood.

Just like many famous artists, Yeo probably wanted to create something very unusual. At the same time, he deliberately wanted to create some controversy which could bring him notoriety and with it, popularity and fame.

I was shocked to read the story of one of Yeo's techniques of creating portraits which he used in several of his past works and in a portrait of George W. Bush in particular. From a distance, they look like normal portraits but on closer inspection, one can see that they are made of collages of cut-outs of pornographic images. The Bush painting was supposedly a satirization of the assumed moral superiority of the extreme right in American politics.

Although I am a supporter of nudity in painting, pornography has no place in serious art in my view. Yeo seems to be eccentric and/or disturbed. It is surprising that there is apparently no official group assigned with the task of selecting the artists to paint royal portraits. Yeo was chosen by Draper's Company, a philanthropic institution, and originally commissioned in 2020 to celebrate Charles' 50 years of membership in the organization. I don't know why they chose Yeo with the full knowledge of his controversial past.

The fact that he used pornographic pieces to do paintings of American celebrities suggests that he is perhaps anti-capitalist, if not anti-American. Is it possible that he holds communist views and the red colour in Charles' portrait reflects the colour of "red" China? There has also been speculation that perhaps there is a hidden message underneath the dabs of red paint which can be revealed by sophisticated techniques.

I asked myself, if I were to change the colour scheme of Yeo's painting without starting over what I would do. I must say that I like Charles' face in the painting where, as Camilla said, the painter got him. However, I will replace red everywhere with some other colour; but what colour? My first thought was green because King Charles has

reportedly been an environmentalist from an early age. My second choice would be blue/navy. Since Charles served in the Royal Navy, I would paint his uniform in navy and blend it with a lighter blue in the background.

Sharon generated images in other colours using software in her computer. Any of those versions would have been less controversial and still represent a bold image of Charles. Being a fan of Gustav Klimt's paintings, I like the colour gold ala his "the lady in gold". Gold, after all, is a symbol of wealth, prosperity and success and would have been perfect for representing a king's image.

I was very dismayed by this painting at first because I have seen hundreds of magnificent paintings of royals in various museums and art galleries throughout the world, done in vivid realistic colours. I did not see the point of displaying such a grotesque painting. However, I have since learned that Charles already has 170 of his portraits in different poses at various exhibit halls in London and his mother, Queen Elizabeth II had more than 960 paintings done during her reign. I now believe that one abnormal painting out of hundreds does not have any significant impact on anything and it was all much ado about nothing.

A fitting postscript to this strange story is the protest by the animal activist group, "Animal Rising". Members of the group pasted cartoon images and messages on the portrait in a London art gallery to protest treatment of animals in the UK under supervision of RSPCA (RSPCA is patronized by King Charles). The portrait was not damaged. Perhaps the best place to store the portrait is a backroom in the palace.

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

OCCASIONAL NOTE

FROM the report of speeches delivered in the "Congress of the Red International" at Moscow, we gather that what is called the "British Communist party" is not yet a real power in the Labour movement; that Communists in British trade unions are still few in number; and that every British workman is an Imperialist. It is of interest to note these facts on Red International authority. One speaker described as a British delegate and bearing the well known Saxon name of Murphy, gave his advice that "the only way to conquer the British labouring classes" is to work within the existing organizations. Forewarned is forearmed. The British labouring classes, who will certainly object very decisively to any prospect of being "conquered" by Moscow "Reds," should be on their guard accordingly against any tampering with their trade unions. Utter inability to appreciate the psychology of the average Briton of any class seems to be one of the characteristics of Continental Communism.

NEWS ITEMS

MYSTERIOUS FALL

INCIDENT ON EASTERN BENGAL RAILWAY

AN air of mystery surrounds for the moment an incident which occurred on the Eastern Bengal Railway on Thursday night.

A European first class passenger joined a train at Khulna en route for Calcutta. When the train arrived in Calcutta he was missing, though in his compartment his bed was found laid out. It had not been slept in, his pyjamas were tucked under the pillows, a shoe was found on the footboard, and his luggage was intact.

The railway authorities and the police at once took the matter up as it was at first feared that a tragedy had occurred. News was subsequently received, however, stating that the passenger had returned to Khulna with injuries caused by a fall from the train between Nowapara and Chergutta.

The authorities have not received a full report of the occurrence but the suspicion of foul play at first feared is not now entertained.

BARODA SMALL HOLDINGS

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT)

THE Government of Baroda sent a deputation of officials and non-officials to inquire into and study the scheme of the Punjab Co-operative Department for the consolidation of small land holdings. The deputation has now presented its report giving the advantages and the methods of work in the Punjab. They have also made several recommendations for the adoption of the scheme. The question will again be taken up possibly in the next session of the Legislative Assembly.

BENGAL SOCCER LEAGUE

TEAMS FOR REPRESENTATIVE MATCH

FOR the representative match European and Anglo-Indian clubs versus Indian clubs, the following teams have been selected by the Bengal Soccer League :-

Europeans and Anglo-Indian Clubs:- D'Silva (E. B. R.); McInnes (Central Y. M. C. A.) and Perkins (E. B. R.); Sweeney (St. Xavier's), Buckle (E. B. R.) and Templeton (Central Y. M. C. A.); D. Hockley (St. Xavier's), Grant (Central Y. M. C. A.), Carbery (St. Xavier's) (Capt.) Williamson (E. B. R.) and Rodda (Jewish Sporting).

Reserves.-Brock (Central Y. M. C. A.) Perry (Central Y. M. C. A.), E. Ford (St. Xavier's), T. Cann (St. Xavier's), Phillips (Jewish Sporting) Graham (E. B. R.) Teasdale (E. B. R.) W. Hagan (Rovers) and Ball (Central Y. M. C. A.)

Indian Clubs.-P. C. Dutt (Telegraph Inst.); P. Dutt (sen.) (Alipore Sporting) and D. Ghosh (Howrah Union) K. Bural (Jaunbazar), E. Bose (Howrah Union) and S. Chatterjee (Alipore). A. Roy (Howrah Union), J. Mitter (Howrah Union), A. Ghosh (Telegraph Inst.), P. Dutt (jr.) (Alipore Sporting) and Samad (E. B. R.) (captain).

Reserves.-S. N. Shaw (Cornwallis), X. Bose (Howrah Union), Banerji (Cornwallis), S. Dutt (Howrah Union), M. Das (Howrah Union), H. K. Sen (Telegraph Inst.), S. C. Das (E. B. R.)

The game is to be played on July 4. An effort is to be made to obtain the use of the Mohan Bagan enclosure, as a large crowd is likely to be present. Both teams are the strongest possible, and a first class struggle should be the outcome. Mr. E. Green will referee, while the linesmen will be, Private McLeod of the Cameron Highlanders and Mr. MacArthur of Calcutta F. C.

Reproductive rights could be swing factor

KATHRYN SCHUMAKER

TWO years since Roe v. Wade was overturned, there's reason to believe reproductive rights could affect the outcome of the US presidential race.

Donald Trump's term as president left a devastating legacy for reproductive rights in the United States. Now, as Trump vies again for the presidency, his anti-abortion stance could come back to bite him.

There has been a subtle but noticeable shift among some Republicans away from a hard-line anti-abortion stance. And this month, the US Supreme Court rejected a bid to limit access to a common abortion pill - the latest in a string of wins for reproductive rights in the US.

But the extent to which reproductive rights will impact the presidential election result in November will depend on several factors, including whether pro-choice voters go to the polls in sufficient numbers to tip the balance in key states.

Trump's victory in 2016 has proved to be one of the most consequential events in shaping Americans' reproductive rights in the last 50 years.

In that campaign, Trump—who once called himself "the most pro-life president ever"—promised to appoint justices who would overturn Roe v. Wade, the 1973 US Supreme Court decision that established a person's right to terminate a pregnancy prior to fetal viability.

After he took office in 2017, Trump delivered on that pledge - appointing three justices who, in June 2022, went on to join the six-vote majority that overturned the Roe decision.



Following this ruling, Dobbs v. Jackson, old state laws criminalising abortion went back into effect, and some state legislatures have sought new ways to limit access to reproductive care.

Fourteen states now criminalise abortion in all circumstances except some medical emergencies, and three others ban the procedure after six weeks - before many women even know they are pregnant.

More than 29 million women of childbearing age live in states with total or near-total bans on abortion.

Despite these dramatic changes to reproductive rights, polls consistently show that fewer than one in five Americans (across all genders) believes abortion should be banned in all circumstances.

A 2024 Pew survey found that 63 per cent of Americans, including 64 per cent of women, believe abortion should be legal in "all or most cases".

The consequences of the Dobbs decision have mostly been felt in private, as many women are now forced to quietly travel across state lines for reproductive care.

But news reports of some high-profile cases have put the spotlight on stories of women being denied terminations of pregnancies that are non-viable or dangerous to the woman's health.

A Louisiana woman whose fetus had no skull was forced to travel to New York to terminate her pregnancy. A Texas woman, Kate Cox, was denied an exemption from the state's abortion ban to terminate her pregnancy. Her fetus was afflicted with Trisomy 18, a devastating chromosomal condition that nearly always results in stillbirth or death within the first year of life.

Other women and their families worry that medical professionals in states with abortion bans, wary of losing their medical licences or being sued, limit information about dangerous pregnancies to the detriment of their patients.

Given this state of affairs, there is much conjecture on what the end of Roe might mean for November's presidential election.

The issue of abortion access has proven to drive voter turnout in state

elections in the wake of Dobbs.

In a series of referenda, voters have sought to protect reproductive rights. In 2022, Kansas and Kentucky voters rejected amendments that would have declared that their state constitutions did not protect abortion rights.

Michigan voters added an amendment protecting abortion access to their state's constitution. In November 2023, Ohio residents voted in favour of an amendment to that state's constitution that protects abortion access. These were all states won by Trump in 2016.

There is more evidence that the issue of reproductive rights influences the outcomes of elections. In the 2022 midterm elections, support for abortion rights contributed to better-than-expected results for Democratic candidates.

A recent Gallup poll shows that 54 per cent of voters now identify as pro-choice, while the share of voters who view abortion as "morally wrong" has dipped to 37 per cent from 50 per cent in 2019.

The same poll revealed that nearly twice as many voters who favour abortion access say they will only vote for a candidate who shares their views on the subject as compared to those who oppose abortion.

The increased fervour to protect abortion access is primarily concentrated among those who already vote for Democratic candidates. And midterm elections typically have lower voter turnout than presidential elections.

What will happen in November is dependent on whether these voters go to the polls in sufficient numbers to tip the balance in state-wide elections. (The United States uses an electoral college system for presidential

elections that awards votes to the winner of the popular vote in that state.)

At the same time, there is evidence that the fallout from the Dobbs decision is already shaping Republican politics.

Abortion bans are not popular with a majority of voters. This has left Republicans on the defensive. There is some evidence that some Republicans are backing away from hard-line pro-life stances.

Trump himself has not yet clarified his abortion policy during his 2024 campaign. He has said, however, that voters in each state should decide the rules governing abortion, not lawmakers in Washington.

In several swing states, pro-choice stances have had success this year.

In Arizona, where the state supreme court recently allowed a Civil War-era abortion ban to go back into effect, the legislature recently voted to repeal the law. Both houses of the legislature are controlled by Republicans. Trump won Arizona in 2016, but Biden prevailed there in 2020.

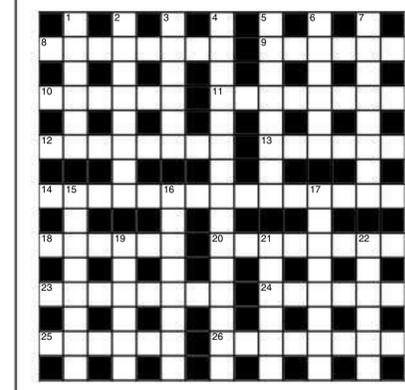
Abortion rights will be on the ballot in some other key states in November. In Florida—another battleground state—voters will decide whether to inscribe abortion access until fetal viability in the state constitution via a referendum. Similar measures will likely be on the ballot in Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, South Dakota and a handful of other states.

If the 2022 midterm elections are instructive, it appears that access to reproductive rights will shape at least some state elections this year—and the flow-on effects may well affect the outcome of the presidential race.

The Kathmandu Post/ANN.

CROSSWORD

NO-292824



YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

BECKETT DUCHAMP
IONRA RDA
RESERVOIR ANVIL
EOMWCEA
TOWEL BLINKERED
TO ONLTI
AFRICANS DISOWN
KORNER
ORWELL HODGKINS
SODRAA
MANSFIELD SOLAR
ODRMSNC
SCENAKHMMATOVIA
IRMNOLIAS
SUSPEND WOLFRAM

ACROSS

8 Woman in charge in Italian city (8)

9 Frank's happy to start firing a gun (4,2)

10 Don't dine outdoors after appearance of unknown growth hormone (6)

11 Foolish admirer filled with energy to become more romantic (8)

12 Judge changing a plea's not a hot thing (8)

13 Rubbish place to sleep? I'm not sure (6)

14 Going crazy here, late tonight, fully undressed (2,3,10)

18 Think about giving welcome to good man (6)

20 Attention diminishes with medication (8)

23 State extremists in Syria transfixed by row about Israel's borders (5,5)

24 Diffuse nebula lacking in strength (6)

25 Son of Darius succeeded old king from the East (6)

26 In confusion, I googled "keep a low profile" (3,5)

DOWN

1 Ambassador has lie-ins regularly with a woman (6)

2 Way to pay homage to all political leaders after they retire (8)

3 Group of women that is collecting clothes from Nelson Mandela (6)

4 Charlotte Baden's extraordinary crime novel (5,2,3,5)

5 Sack a very rich person disregarding society (8)

6 Perhaps lackey's son to become ordinary kind of farmer (6)

7 End timeless piano piece by Chopin in silence (8)

15 Groups of 9 or 11 out of 12 houses may be labelled thus? (8)

16 Shock when nonsense's written about Northern Ireland (8)

17 Herb Alpert ultimately right to visit part of Spain (8)

19 Stars laid-back in carefree surroundings (6)

21 Back of computer connected to external device (6)

22 Matter of indifference? (6)

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

THUMBNAILS

Laptop for students: Primebook, an Indian laptop brand, has developed a line of laptops specifically tailored to meet the unique challenges faced by students in Kolkata. These laptops operate on PrimeOS, an Android-based operating system that has been optimized for educational use. The devices are packed with a wide array of educational tools and applications that are designed to enhance the learning process.

MSME lending platform: Udyog Plus is capitalizing on its growth trend. Within nine months of its launch, the platform has attracted over 8 lakh users, highlighting its strong acceptance in the MSME sector. ABFL has played a major role in facilitating access to finance in two minutes for MSMEs. Udyog Plus has facilitated loan disbursements exceeding Rs 500 crore, with the Aditya Birla Group (ABG) ecosystem contributing about two-thirds of this amount.

India likely to see 5 times rise in data centre capacity expansion: Driven by steep data usage and digital adoption, India is likely to see a five times rise in data centre capacity expansion in years to come, a new report said on Thursday. The country requires an additional 1.7-3.6 GW (gigawatt) data centre capacity over and above the planned development of 2.32 GW (colocation) capacity. It is estimated that India will be adding 464 MW of new colocation data centre capacity each year until 2028, according to the report by Cushman and Wakefield.

Markets rally for third consecutive session

Among the sectors, the bank and financial services index had surged ahead

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 27 JUNE

The stock market rallied for the third consecutive session on Thursday supported by Information Technology and energy names. Sensex opened at a record high of 77,543.22, and closed at 77,337.59, up 36.45 points, or 0.05 per cent.

The index created a fresh all-time high of 77,851.63, as investors piled onto banking stocks, and touched a low of 76,954.87. Nifty 50 opened at a record high of 23,629.85 closing at 23,516, down 41.90 points, or 0.18 per cent. It touched another record high at 23,664.00, before falling into the red as investors booked profit. BSE Sensex and Nifty 50 indices hit new record highs of 79,396.03 and 24,087.45, respectively while the Nifty Bank index also hit a fresh record high of 53,180.75.

Among the sectors, the bank and financial services index had surged ahead, led by



a rally in private sector banking stocks, and the IT index was also trading in the green.

Heavyweight indices like consumer durables, pharma, health, oil & gas, metal, FMCG, and auto were among the top sectoral losers and were trading in the red.

The broader market was in

the red, with the BSE SmallCap index down 0.53 per cent and the BSE MidCap down 0.85 per cent. Shares of the Reliance Industries after closing at Rs 2,883 on Monday, the Sensex heavyweight has managed to end higher for the past two sessions.

The opening of reliance

share price today was at Rs 3027.50 but it quickly gained momentum and reached an intraday high of Rs 3,075 per share on NSE.

Pune-based Emcure Pharmaceuticals is set to launch its maiden public issue for subscription on July 3. The price band will be announced by June 28. The IPO, which is a mix of fresh issuance of equity shares worth Rs 800 crore, and an offer-for-sale (OFS) of 1.14 crore equity shares by existing shareholders including promoters, will close on July 5.

Shares of IIFL Securities fell up to 2 per cent to Rs 222 apiece on Thursday after reports surfaced that market regulator Sebi has been investigating market expert Sanjiv Bhasin for his role in alleged stock market manipulation.

So far this year, the stock of this online trading platform surged over 55 per cent, outperforming the benchmark Nifty 50 index that climbed by 9 per cent during the same period.

India records dip in housing sales in April-June period: Report

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 27 JUNE

India recorded a dip in housing sales in April-June period compared to the previous quarter, data shared by real estate consultancy Anarock said on Thursday.

Notably, the decline was for the first time in two years.

In the January-March period, a total of 1,30,370 units were sold as compared to 1,20,340 homes sold in the April-June quarter. This was a dip of 8%.

According to Anuj Puri, chairman of Anarock Group,



the decline in April-June 2024 is due to an all-time high base in the previous quarter, when more than 1,30,000 units were sold. The last such quarterly

decline was in the April-June quarter of 2022 when sales fell by 15% to 84,925 units compared to 99,550 in the January-March quarter of that year.

Puri said most importantly, this drop is also due to the significant hike in property prices over the last year, which has prompted many investors to take a breather.

As per the Anarock's data, home prices in India have increased 7% compared to the January-March quarter while compared to the April-June quarter of 2023, the rise was steeper at 25%.

Sequentially, the National Capital Region (NCR) recorded the highest price hike of 10%, followed by Hyderabad at 9% and Bengaluru at 8%.

NCR was also the only major place that saw a rise in home sales compared to the previous quarter at 6%. Mumbai, Bangalore, Pune, Hyderabad, Chennai, and Kolkata also saw a dip in sales.

The data also showed that on a year-on-year (Y-o-Y) basis, the April-June quarter had a 5% jump in sales compared to 115,090 units in the April-June quarter of 2023.

NPG holds 73rd meet to evaluate eight significant infra projects

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 27 JUNE

The 73rd meeting of the Network Planning Group (NPG) focused on evaluating eight significant infrastructure projects, two from the Ministry of Railways (MoR) and six from National Industrial Corridor Development Corporation (NICDC), DPIIT, Ministry of Commerce & Industry said on Thursday. It said that the meet was convened in New Delhi on June 21 chaired by the Additional Secretary, DPIIT, Rajeev Singh Thakur.

The first project from the Ministry of Railways pertains to construction of 4th broad gauge railway line of 160 kms from Manmad to Jalgaon in Maharashtra's Nashik and Jalgaon districts.

The second project from the Ministry of Railways pertains to construction of 3rd & 4th broad gauge railway lines of 130.5 kms from Bhusawal in Jalgaon district of Maharashtra to Burhanpur and Khandwa districts of Madhya Pradesh. With an estimated investment of INR 2,594 crores, the first project seeks to enhance the section capacity of the existing line, facilitating smoother movement of cargo and passenger trains. It aligns closely with national infrastructure priorities and is crucial for meeting future transportation demands in the region.

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Chief Medical Officer of Health, Darjeeling invites Notice Inviting E-Tender vide No.: 418 / CMOH / SMP / 24, Dated 24-06-2024 in connection with Supply of Office Stationeries. The last date of submission of Bid is 10-07-2024. For details please communicate office of the undersigned at 2nd Floor, Siliguri Mahakuma Parishad Building, Hakimpura, Siliguri.

Sd/-
Dr. T. Pramanik
Chief Medical Officer of Health, Darjeeling

Classified

SITUATION VACANT	CHANGE OF NAME	TENDERS	PUBLIC NOTICES
<p>Lee Memorial Girls' High School, 13, Raja Subodh Mullick Square, Kolkata-700013, Phone No. 033-2236-0077 is a recognized fully Govt. aided Christian Minority Bengali Medium Girls' High School, invite applications from the eligible candidates for one post of Assistant Teacher in Pure Science in Normal Section and one post of Clerk. Minimum Qualification: For the post of Pure Science - 50% marks with Pass Graduate/Post Graduate in Pure Science and B.Ed. For the post of Clerk - Madhyamik or its equivalent with proficiency in English type writer/computer. Age & relaxation of age as on 01-01-2024 for both the posts as per norms of the School Service Commission, W.B. Scale of pay for the post of assistant teacher - Pass Graduate Scale of pay as per ROPA - 2019, W.B. and for the post of Clerk as per ROPA - 2019, W.B. Rules. Apply to the Secretary, by post only, within 15 days from the date of advertisement, with 2 sets of self attested copies of all testimonials, along with copy of Aadhar card/Passport. Only female candidates may apply to the post of Assistant Teacher in Pure Science.</p>	<p>I, KALPANA Spouse of SER No. 282986, EX-HFO Subhas Bhowmick, resident of 70, Sukanta Sarani, K.G. School Road, P.O.-Nona Chandanpukur, Dist-24 Pgs(N), Pin-700122, have changed my name from Kalpana to Kalpana Bhowmick vide affidavit dated: 24-06-2024 before 1st Class (JM) Court at Barrackpore, W.B.</p>	<p>THE UNIVERSITY OF BURDWAN For Design, Development and Maintenance of WCMS based Dynamic Portal for BU, please visit https://wbntenders.gov.in (Tender ID: 2024_BU_700420_I).</p>	<p>NOTICE That my client Jyotirmoy Biswas, son of Haridas Biswas, of 365/1, Main Road West, Shankarukur Par, P.O. New Barrackpore, Kolkata - 700131, has purchased the landed property 03 Cottahs, lying and situated at Mouza - Masunda, J.L No.34, Touzi No. 173, Re.Sa.No.96, R.S. Khatian No.280 corresponding to L.R. Khatian No.1347, comprised in R.S. Dag No. 284 under L.R. Dag No. 2291, within the local limits of New Barrackpore Municipality, Holding No. 352/1, Main Road West near Sankarapur Par, New Barrackpore, P.S.-Ghola (Earlier), P.S.-New Barrackpore(Now), ADSR-24 Parganas, District- North 24 Parganas, That my client Jyotirmoy Biswas has purchased the aforesaid property from Jugal Chandra Saha and his wife Smt. Basanti Saha, by virtue of a deed of sale, being No. being No.0759 for the year 2011. That Jugal Chandra Saha and his wife Smt. Basanti Saha have purchased the aforesaid property from Jyotirmoy Bhowmick and his wife Smt. Dipali Bhowmick, by way of sale deed, No. 1682 in the year 2005, wherein said Jyotirmoy Bhowmick and Smt. Dipali Bhowmick have executed a Power of Attorney, being No.202, dated 17/03/2004 in favour of Dipak Kumar Mitra, son of Sisir Kumar Mitra, to sale out the property, which was registered to the office of A.D.S.R.- Alipore. That Jyotirmoy Bhowmick and his wife Smt. Dipali Bhowmick have purchased the aforesaid property from Arun Kumar Basu, by deed No.7855, dated 07/12/1995, registered before the office of D.R.Barasat. If anyone wants to contest, they can appear before concerned BL&LRO, Barrackpore-II, at Sodepur, within 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice otherwise, action will be taken as per rules.</p>
<p>PUBLIC NOTICES Declaration My client Smt. Rupa Paul, W/O - late Madan Mohan Paul, do hereby solemnly affirm and declare that she and her husband late Madan Mohan Paul had jointly purchased a plot of land on 08/03/2009 bearing Plot No. 12677 from A.D.S.R.O. at Barrackpore at Mouza: Tolampara, L.R. Dag No. 3527 and L.R. Khatian No. 1900 total admeasuring 2 kottah 9 chittaks from 1. Shree Kartik Hazra 2. Shree Soumen Das 3. Shree Subrata Maity 4. Minor Tamal Das, on all their behalves Smt. Keya Das, W/O Shri Nanda Das vide a registered power of attorney being No. 617 dated 06/07/07 executed from A.D.S.R.O. at Barrackpore. Presently my client Smt. Rupa Paul became half share owner of the said land vide registered self deed and she alongwith her two daughters namely 1. Mimi Paul and 2. Simi Paul became absolute owner of the rest half jointly through inheritance of her deceased husband. If anybody has/have any objection regarding the said plot/particular mentioned above, in that event he/she is requested to raise the same within 30 (thirty) days from the date of publication of the present declaration with all relevant documents, otherwise law will take its own course.</p>	<p>LEGAL NOTICE This is for notification to all that two original Title Deeds (LINK DEEDS) One Lease Deed No. 1979/2001 in the name of Sri Dinesh Chandra Das, Son of Late Jitendra Nath Das and another Transfer Deed No. 420/2007 in the name of Smt. Sandhya Mandal, Wife of Sri Rajyeshwar Mandal duly registered at Addl. District Sub-Registrar Kalyani, Nadia had been lost at Last week of September in the year 2019 from my client namely Sri Rajyeshwar Mandal, Son of Late Brajendra Kumar Mandal on the way from State Manager Office to Land Registrar Office, Kalyani. The land area mentioned in the two lost Deeds is 7 Cottahs 15 Chittaks 37 Sq. Ft. more or less comprising Plot No. 121, Sub-Block No. 6, Block No. B, in the town of Kalyani, P.S. Kalyani, Dist. Nadia. Thereafter he had lodged a G.D.E. vide No. 1513 on 25/09/2019 at Kalyani Police Station. Kindly, inform me with the undersigned within 15 (fifteen) days from the date of publication of this notice if anybody find the aforesaid Title Deeds, failing which no information/complain will be entertained/accepted in the Court of Law.</p>	<p>Office of the Executive Officer, Rajnagar Panchayat Samity, Birbhum The Executive Officer, Rajnagar Panchayat Samity, Rajnagar, Birbhum invited E-tender NIT No. 01/2024-25, dated, 24/06/2024 and NIT No. 02/2024-25, dated, 25/06/2024 from resourceful bidders. For details pls visit wbntenders.gov.in Last date, 05/07/2024 @ 05/07/2024 up to 06.30 PM Sd/- Executive Officer Rajnagar Panchayat Samity</p>	<p>UTTAR BANGA KRISHI VISWAVIDYALAYA - PUNDIBARI: COCH BEHAR ABRIDGED NIT NO-03 of 2024-25. Ref. No. 0221/UBKV/Est./Tend (WD). Sealed Tender in two bid system is hereby invited for civil works and furniture Furnishing Works at Main Campus, RRS (HZ), Kalimpong and College of Agriculture, Majhian of UBKV from bonafide and experienced agencies. Last date of submission of tender is 15-07-2024 (Up to 2.00 pm). For details log on to website: www.ubkv.ac.in & www.wbntenders.gov.in Registrar (Actg.) Date: 25-06-24</p>
<p>PUBLIC NOTICES LEGAL NOTICE I, Md. Wasiq Imran S/o. Md. Shahid Salim R/o. 18F, Topsis Rd, (S) 24 Pgs. Kolkata-39, hereby declare that my father's Actual & Correct name is Md Shahid Salim (Correct Name) instead of Sahid Selim (incorrect name) vide affidavit no. 5998 on 24-06-2024. That Md. Shahid Salim & Sahid Selim is the same & one identical person (i.e my father) for all future purposes.</p>	<p>UTTAR BANGA KRISHI VISWAVIDYALAYA - P.O. Pundibari, Dist. Coch Behar, West Bengal-736165, Notification No. UBKV/Rect./01/2024, dated: 26-06-2024 & Notification No. UBKV/Rect./02/2024 dated: 26-06-2024. Applications in prescribed forms are invited from eligible Indian Nationals for various posts of Scientific Staff and Support Staff of AICRP/AINP/AICRN projects of the University within 26-07-2024. Details are available at the website www.ubkv.ac.in Registrar (Acting) Date: 26-06-2024</p>	<p>EDUCATION JADAVPUR UNIVERSITY Recruitment of one JRF in BRNS sponsored project. Visit the website: http://www.jaduniv.edu.in and https://jadavpuruniversity.in for details.</p>	<p>DECLARATION I, Md. Wasiq Imran S/o. Md. Shahid Salim R/o. 18F, Topsis Rd, (S) 24 Pgs. Kolkata-39, hereby declare that my father's Actual & Correct name is Md Shahid Salim (Correct Name) instead of Sahid Selim (incorrect name) vide affidavit no. 5998 on 24-06-2024. That Md. Shahid Salim & Sahid Selim is the same & one identical person (i.e my father) for all future purposes.</p>

RBI extends currency swap with SAARC countries till 2027

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, 27 JUNE

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI), with the approval of the Government of India, has introduced a revised Framework on Currency Swap Arrangement for SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation) countries, covering the period from 2024 to 2027, said RBI on Thursday.

Under this new framework, the RBI will enter into bilateral swap agreements with the central banks of

SAARC countries that wish to use the swap facility. The purpose of these agreements is to provide a safety net for short-term foreign exchange liquidity needs or balance of payment crises in SAARC countries until more permanent solutions are established.

A currency swap between two countries is an agreement or contract to exchange currencies with predetermined terms and conditions.

The SAARC Currency Swap Facility originally began on November 15, 2012. Its pri-

mary goal was to offer financial support for short-term foreign exchange requirements or balance of payment issues among SAARC nations. The revised framework for 2024-2027 introduces a new INR Swap Window, which includes various concessions for swap support in Indian Rupees. The total amount available under this facility is Rs 250 billion. This move aims to enhance financial cooperation among SAARC countries by providing them with easier access to Indian Rupees.

TENDER

Govt. of Bihar
BMSICL
Bihar Medical Services & Infrastructure Corporation Limited
2nd & 3rd Floor, Swasthya Bhawan, Behind IGIMS, Sheikhpura, Adjacent to State Health Society, Patna- 800014, Bihar
Phone/Fax: +91612 2283287, + 91612 2283289

(Notice Inviting E-Bids)
Re-Tender for the Procurement, Rate Contract and Supply & Installation of Medical Equipment for different Govt. Health Institutions of Bihar.
Notice Inviting Tender No.-BMSICL/2024-25/ME-362
(Only through E- Tender on website-<https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in>)

The Bihar Medical Services and Infrastructure Corporation Limited, Patna invites e-bids from interested parties for Procurement, Rate Contract, Supply & Installation of Medical Equipment for different Government Health Institutions of Bihar as listed below:-

SL. No.	Name of Medical Equipment	SL. No.	Name of Medical Equipment
1.	Ophthalmic OT Table	9	Flash Autoclave
2	Schiotz Tonometer	10	A-Scan
3	Gonio Lens	11	B-Scan
4	Small Incision Cataract Surgery (SICS) Set	12	Retinoscope
5	Distance Vision Chart	13	Nd- Yag Laser
6	Near Vision Chart	14	Indirect Ophthalmoscope
7	Applanation Tonometer	15	Direct Ophthalmoscope
8	Trial lens set with Trial Frame Adult & Children	16	Examination Light

Tender Schedule

Tender Reference No.	BMSICL/2024-25/ME-362
Date of Pre- Bid Meeting	05 th July 2024 at 15:00 Hrs in Conference hall of BMSICL, 3 rd Floor, Swasthya Bhawan, Behind IGIMS, Sheikhpura, Adjacent to State Health Society, Bihar. All pre-bid queries (as per form-16, Section -IV of bid document) to be submitted through e-mail on bmsicltendering@gmail.com upto 02 nd July 2024 till 15:00 Hrs (Note:- No pre-bid queries would be entertained after the above mentioned dead line)
Last date and time of submission of online bids	30 th July 2024 upto 17:00 Hrs.
Last date and time for submission of original document of EMD	31 st July 2024 till 14:00 Hrs.
Date, Time and Place of opening of Technical Bid	31 st July 2024 (at 15:00 Hrs.) on the website of https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in in the office of BMSICL
Date and time of opening of financial Bids	To be announced later on https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in
Validity of Tender	180 Days
Cost of the tender document	Rs.11,800/- (Eleven Thousand Eight Hundred only) Non- refundable.
Bid Processing Fee	Rs 590/- (on the website of https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in)
<p>1. To participate in E-Tendering the tenderer will have to be registered with E-Tendering service provider. For this, help desk -junctionservices limited RJ complex, 2nd Floor, Canara Bank, Campus, khajpura, Ashiana road, P.S-Shastri Nagar, Patna-800014, Toll Free No.-18005726571, Email-ID: eproc2support@bihar.gov.in can be approached.</p>	
<p>For further details please visit website state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar</p>	
PR- 002721 (B & C) 2024-25	GM (Procurement) BMSICL, Patna
<p>नरो की मार, बबाद करे सुखी परिवार।</p>	

TPCODL
TP CENTRAL ODISHA DISTRIBUTION LIMITED
(A Joint Venture of Tata Power and Government of Odisha)

TP CENTRAL ODISHA DISTRIBUTION LIMITED
A Joint Venture of Tata Power and Govt. of Odisha,
1st Floor, Anuj Building, Plot No.29, Satya Nagar, Bhubaneswar, Odisha - 751007

NOTICE INVITING TENDER: NIT No: TPCODL/P&S/NIT/24-25/08

Bids are invited from eligible bidders for the following tenders of TPCODL:

Sl. No.	Tender Enquiry No.	Tender Description
1	TPCODL/CCG/2024-25/1000000754	RC for Supply of LTCT & HTTV Meter Box for TP Odisha DISCOMs
2	TPCODL/CCG/2024-25/1000000756	RC for SITC of Relays for TP Odisha DISCOMs
3	TPCODL/CCG/2024-25/1000000759	RC for FUSE WIRES of various ratings for TP Odisha DISCOMs
4	TPCODL/CCG/2024-25/1000000770	RC for Supply of Ring type Current Transformer for TP Odisha DISCOMs
5	TPCODL/CCG/2024-25/1000000771	RC for Supply of Various Capacity of Distribution Transformer for TP Odisha DISCOMs
6	TPCODL/CCG/2024-25/1000000784	RC for SITC of Control Relay Panel (3 Tier & 2 Tier) for TPCODL.
7	TPCODL/P&S/1000000768/2024-25	One Year Rate contract for supply of Aluminium Binding wire at TPCODL.
8	TPCODL/P&S/1000000769/2024-25	One Year Rate contract for Supply of LT Terminal connector for DT at TPCODL.
9	TPCODL/P&S/1000000785/2024-25	One Year Rate contract for Supply of Portable Reference Standard Meter and Digital IR Tester at TPCODL.

For more details like bid due date, EMD, tender fee, bid opening date etc. of the Tenders, please visit "Tender" section at TPCODL website <https://www.tpcentralodisha.com>. All tenders will be available on TPCODL website w.e.f. from Dtd.28.06.2024. Future communication / corrigendum to tender documents, if any, shall be available on TPCODL website.



As we mourn the deaths and casualties inflicted on our soldiers, we value and are humbled by the sacrifices they have made for the cause of peace and stability in our region, and they shall not be forgotten.

SOUTH AFRICAN PRESIDENT CYRIL RAMAPHOSA AS HE MOURNED KILLING OF SOUTH AFRICAN SOLDIERS IN CONGO

KOLKATA, FRIDAY 28 JUNE 2024

Bolivian Gen. arrested after failed coup attempt

ASSOCIATED PRESS LA PAZ, 27 JUNE

Led by a top general vowing to "restore democracy," armoured vehicles rammed the doors of Bolivia's government palace Wednesday in what the president called a coup attempt, then quickly retreated — the latest crisis in the South American country facing a political battle and an economic crisis.



Within hours, the nation of 12 million people saw a rapidly moving scenario in which the troops seemed to take control of the government of President Luis Arce. He vowed to stand firm and named a new army commander, who immediately ordered the troops to stand down.

Soon the soldiers pulled back, along with a line of military vehicles, ending the rebellion after just three hours. Hundreds of Arce's supporters then rushed the square outside the palace, waving Bolivian flags, singing the national anthem and cheering.

Late Wednesday, Defense Minister Edmundo Novillo said "everything is now under control." Surrounded by the new military chiefs appointed by Arce, Novillo said that Bolivia lived a "failed coup."

The apparent coup attempt came as the country has faced months of tensions and political fights between Arce and his one-time ally, former leftist president Evo Morales, over control of the ruling party. It also came amid a severe economic crisis. The clashes have paralyzed the government's efforts to deal with the economic crisis.

SpaceX bags \$843 million NASA contract to de-orbit ISS

WASHINGTON, 27 JUNE

NASA has awarded SpaceX an \$843 million contract to build the vehicle that will bring the International Space Station out of its long-time orbit of Earth when its operating lifespan ends in a few more years.

SpaceX, a privately held company controlled by technology mogul Elon Musk, will build the vehicle that will bring down the space station, but NASA will still oversee the eventual mission. The International Space Station, launched in 1998, is expected to be brought out of orbit by 2030.

EU leaders set to endorse Vonder Leyen, Costa, Kallas for bloc's top jobs

ASSOCIATED PRESS BRUSSELS, 27 JUNE

European Union leaders were poised to approve Ursula von der Leyen, António Costa and Kaja Kallas as the heads of the 27-nation bloc's top institutions for the coming years, tasking them with shaping policy for the world's biggest trading bloc.

After the three main-stream political groups in the European Parliament reached an agreement earlier this week, the trio were expected to be approved at a two-day summit starting Thursday in Brussels, despite criticism from the far right, as per reports.

TENDER

SOUTH EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE NO. NIT/11/24/10. Dated: 06.06.2024. On behalf of the president of India, The Sr. Divisional Materials Manager/ South East Central Railway, Bilaspur Division invites e-tender for the following items:

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, KENDRAPARA-JAJPUR. AT-CHANDIKHOL, P.O. - SUNGUDA, JAJPUR-754236. Email-serv kpd@yahoo.com

EASTERN RAILWAY Tender Notice No.: 222-S1/NI-II, dated 26.06.2024. Following e-tender is invited online by Sr. Divisional Engineer/II, Eastern Railway, Sealdah, 2nd Floor, Remote Control Building, DRM Building, Kaiser Street, Kolkata-700014 for the following work:

West Bengal University of Animal and Fishery Sciences 37, Kabudir Bose Sarani Kolkata-700037. Walk-in-Interview For recruitment of one Young Professional-II under ICAR-NASF Funded research project entitled "Development of novel strategy... using nanotechnology" will be held on 15.07.2024.

DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL KOLKATA (DRT 3) 8th Floor, Jewar Sudha Building, 42-C, Jawahar Lal Nehru Road, Kolkata-700071. Case No.: OA/110/2024

INFORMATION WANTED This is the photograph of Sk Ramjan, Son of Sk Khalek, of Vill-PO-Gangasagar, PS-Gangasagar Coastal, PO-Dhantala, 43373, who has been missing since 06.06.2024 Residence, Gangasagar Coastal, Sundarban Police District, W.B., Description of this missing person is: Age-18 years, Complexion-Dark, Height-153 cms., Wearing-Yellow Ganji, Black Full Pant, Language-Bengali, Identification Nature-Mentally Disbalance. Please inform whereabouts of the missing person, to the Spl. Supdt. of Police, C.I.D. (W.B.), Bhabani Bhaban, Kolkata-700027, Ph. No.-033-2450-6120.

MORE TENDER ADS ON PAGE 8

E-NIT NOTICE The Chairman, Mal Municipality invited e-tender for Street Lighting as per given NIT within Mal Municipal area.

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

Abridge Copy of e-Tender being invited by the Executive Engineer, WBSRDA, Alipurduar Division vide eNIT No. 18 / APD / WBSRDA / MAINTENANCE / 2023-24 (2nd Call). Details may be seen in the state govt. portal https://wbtdenders.gov.in, www.wbprdnic.in & office notice board.

NOTICE This is to inform that Basudeb Pal has been accorded The Environment Clearance from the WBSEIAA for his proposed Benda sand block, with production capacity 1st year 46,750m³ & 2nd to 5th year 36,558.50m³, at Benda, P.S Bishnupur, Dist.- Bankura, West Bengal. EC Identification No. EC24B001WB129654 dated 24.05.2024.

NOTICE This is to inform that Basudeb Pal has been accorded The Environment Clearance from the WBSEIAA for his proposed Benda sand block, with production capacity 1st year 46,750m³ & 2nd to 5th year 36,558.50m³, at Benda, P.S Bishnupur, Dist.- Bankura, West Bengal. EC Identification No. EC24B001WB129654 dated 24.05.2024.

INFORMATION WANTED This is the photograph of an Unknown Deadbody, of PO-Kamarkundu, 712407, found on 29.04.2024 from KM No 23-18 to 20 in between Chandanpur RS and Madhusudan RS under Kamarkundu GRPS. Description of this Deadbody is: Age-35 Years, Height-166 cms., Sex: Male, Wearing-Yellow Half Ganji, Black Half Pant. Please inform whereabouts of the Unknown Deadbody/ person or contact (to) the Spl. Supdt. of Police, C.I.D. (W.B.), Bhabani Bhaban, Kolkata-700027, Ph. No.-033-2450-6120.

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE The Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer (G) East Central Railway, Samastipur for and on behalf of the President of India invites Tender from competent and experienced Contractors having valid Electrical Contractor's license, technical expertise, financial solvency through Website Online at https://www.bharat-electricstender.com for execution of the following works.

JADAVPUR UNIVERSITY Notice Inviting e-Tender NIT No.: JU/UE/0724-25 Dt. 27.06.24. e-Tenders are invited from the eligible contractors for civil works related Tender ID as under: 1. 2024 JU 699590.1 Rs.28,81,123/- EMD Amount: INR 57,600/-

NORTH BENGAL STATE TRANSPORT CORPORATION ABRIDGED TENDER NOTICE e-NIT is invited for the work at NBSTC, Paribahan Bhawan, Cooch Behar as mentioned in e-NIT vide e-NIT No.: NBSTC / 04 / CONSTN. (C) / PB / COB / e-NIT / 2024-25 Last date of bid submission is up 15.00 hrs on 12-07-2024.

SILIGURI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION e-Tender Notice 02 (two) nos. E-Tender Notice vide (1) NIT-08 / WBMAD / SMC / PW / 24-25, dt.: 05.06.2024 and (2) NIT-09 / WBMAD / SMC / PW / 24-25, dt.: 05.06.2024 is / are hereby invited from reliable resourceful bonafide, eligible contractors. For details please visit https://wbtdenders.gov.in or the Office Notice Board of SMC. Corrigendum or addendum if issued will be published only on website.

NOTICE That my client Kishan Shukta Son of Ram Shankar Shukta, Partner of Reliable Developers, residing at 50, Manick Bose Ghat Street, Kolkata : 700006 and his co-sharers are the absolute owners of Premises No. 39, Mohendra Gossain Lane, Ward No. 02B, P.S. Girish Park, Kolkata: 700006 have lost deed executed between Doorga Pada Chatterjee (Vendor) AND Smt. Sarat Coomart Devi (Purchaser) Vide a Deed registered in the Office of S.R Calcutta and from my client's residence pertaining to the above mentioned property and have not been found till date.

INFORMATION WANTED This is the photograph of an Unknown Deadbody, of PO-Kamarkundu, 712407, found on 29-5 to 29-7 Pole under Kamarkundu GRPS. Description of this Deadbody is: Age-0 Years, Height-163 cms., Sex: Male, Wearing-Black Half Ganji, Blue Check Lungi. Please inform whereabouts of the Unknown Deadbody/ person or contact (to) the Spl. Supdt. of Police, C.I.D. (W.B.), Bhabani Bhaban, Kolkata-700027, Ph. No.-033-2450-6120.

INFORMATION WANTED This is the photograph of an Unknown Deadbody, of PO-Kamarkundu, 712407, found on 29-5 to 29-7 Pole under Kamarkundu GRPS. Description of this Deadbody is: Age-0 Years, Height-163 cms., Sex: Male, Wearing-Black Half Ganji, Blue Check Lungi. Please inform whereabouts of the Unknown Deadbody/ person or contact (to) the Spl. Supdt. of Police, C.I.D. (W.B.), Bhabani Bhaban, Kolkata-700027, Ph. No.-033-2450-6120.

The University of Burdwan, Rajbati, Burdwan, Please visit website www.buruniv.ac.in and WB Govt. E-tender portal for purchase of instruments under CRG, SERB project Govt. of India

EAST COAST RAILWAY e-Tender Notice 01. Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (G) E.C. Railway, Samastipur PR/00579/SPJ/EGENT/24-25/48

S. E. RAILWAY - TENDER On behalf of President of India, Senior Divisional Signal & Telecom. Engineer, South Eastern Railway, Adra, Pin-723121, West Bengal invites following e-tenders with closing date & time of tenders are: 15.07.2024, 11.00 hrs. Details are available at website www.irops.gov.in.

EASTERN RAILWAY e-AUCTION NOTICE Awarding contract for operation of parking lots over Sealdah Division Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Eastern Railway, Sealdah, 2nd Floor, Room No. 44, Control Building, DRM Building, Kaiser Street, Sealdah, Kolkata-700014 (Auction Conducting Officer) has published e-Auction catalogue on www.irops.gov.in for the following work: Name of Work : Operation of parking lots at various stations over Sealdah Division.

SAHA INSTITUTE OF NUCLEAR PHYSICS, KOLKATA No.: SINP / Estt / Advt / 11 / 2024 Date: 12-06-2024 Recruitment of Project Engineer in DAE-CMS Project Please visit the institute website www.saha.ac.in for information on the above position. The last date of receiving applications by email is July 12, 2024.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF TEXTILES INDIAN INSTITUTE OF HANDLOOM TECHNOLOGY CHOWKAGHAT: VARANASI-221002 ADMISSION NOTICE POST DIPLOMA IN TEXTILE PROCESSING Applications are invited from eligible candidates by Indian Institute of Handloom Technology, Varanasi (U.P.) for admission to Post Diploma in Textile Processing for the Academic Year 2024-25 commencing from 16th July, 2024.

INFORMATION WANTED This is the photograph of Priyanka Mondal, Daughter of Liton Mondal, of Vill-Manasathi, PS-Dhantala, PO-Dhantala, 741202, who has been missing since 13.02.2023 Residence, Dhantala, Nadia, W.B., Description of this missing person is: Age-17 years, Complexion-Sallow, Height- 145 cms., Wearing- White Churidar, Language-Bengali. Please inform whereabouts of the missing person, to the Spl. Supdt. of Police, C.I.D. (W.B.), Bhabani Bhaban, Kolkata-700027, Ph. No.-033-2450-6120.

EASTERN RAILWAY Open E-Tender Notice No.: 75 & 76-MLDT-24-25, dated 19.06.2024. E-tender is invited by Divisional Railway Manager, Eastern Railway, Malda Town Office Building, PO-Jhaljhalla, Dist-Malda, Pin-732102 (W.B.) for following work: Sl. No. 1; Tender No.: 75-MLDT-24-25. Name of the work : Open e-tender for the work of Operation and daily maintenance of plants and Valve at different sidings (Sahibganj, Sakrigali-3 Nos., Karamtola, Mirzacheeki and Maharajpur, total 07 numbers of sidings) under Sr. Divisional Engineer-II/ER/Malda. Tender Value : ₹ 1,02,46,849.53. Sl. No. 2; Tender No.: 76-MLDT-24-25. Name of the work : Open e-tender for the work of Operation and daily maintenance of Valve for and guarding of pipe line against theft, maintenance of plants and other ancillary works at different sidings (Barharwa, Bakudi, Taljhari, Tinpahar and Rajmahal -12 Nos. sidings) under Sr. Divisional Engineer-II/ER/Malda for 01 (one) Year. Tender Value : ₹ 1,78,37,805.94. Tender closing date & time : 11.07.2024 at 15.30 hrs. (for Sl. No. 1 & 2). Website particulars & Notice Board : www.irops.gov.in / DRM Office/MLDT. Tenderer are requested to go through the detailed Tender Notice & document in the website.

EAST COAST RAILWAY e-Tender Notice 01. Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (G) E.C. Railway, Samastipur PR/00579/SPJ/EGENT/24-25/48

S. E. RAILWAY - TENDER On behalf of President of India, Senior Divisional Signal & Telecom. Engineer, South Eastern Railway, Adra, Pin-723121, West Bengal invites following e-tenders with closing date & time of tenders are: 15.07.2024, 11.00 hrs. Details are available at website www.irops.gov.in.

EASTERN RAILWAY e-AUCTION NOTICE Awarding contract for operation of parking lots over Sealdah Division Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Eastern Railway, Sealdah, 2nd Floor, Room No. 44, Control Building, DRM Building, Kaiser Street, Sealdah, Kolkata-700014 (Auction Conducting Officer) has published e-Auction catalogue on www.irops.gov.in for the following work: Name of Work : Operation of parking lots at various stations over Sealdah Division.

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF HANDLOOM TECHNOLOGY CHOWKAGHAT: VARANASI-221002 ADMISSION NOTICE POST DIPLOMA IN TEXTILE PROCESSING Applications are invited from eligible candidates by Indian Institute of Handloom Technology, Varanasi (U.P.) for admission to Post Diploma in Textile Processing for the Academic Year 2024-25 commencing from 16th July, 2024.

INFORMATION WANTED This is the photograph of an Unknown Male Deadbody, of PO-Kamarkundu, 712407, found on 14.05.2024 from Bahirkhand RS under Kamarkundu GRPS. Description of this Deadbody is: Age-45 Years, Height-163 cms., Sex: Male, Wearing-White Half Ganji, Black Jeans Pant. Please inform whereabouts of the Unknown Male Deadbody/ person or contact (to) the Spl. Supdt. of Police, C.I.D. (W.B.), Bhabani Bhaban, Kolkata-700027, Ph. No.-033-2450-6120.

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INDIAN INSTITUTE OF HANDLOOM TECHNOLOGY CHOWKAGHAT: VARANASI-221002 (U.P.) Phone: 0542-2203833 Note: Candidates may download the application form for admission from the website: www.iihtvaranasi.edu.in and www.handlooms.nic.in

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We have not reduced the distance limit to 100 metres from educational or religious institutes to encourage bars and liquor stores.

GOA CHIEF MINISTER PRAMOD SAWANT
GOA CM CLARIFIES OVER LIQUOR TRADE NEAR EDUCATIONAL, RELIGIOUS INSTITUTES



Row over Sengol: SP wants it removed from Parliament

BJP leaders called the Samajwadi demand outrageous and outlandish

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 27 JUNE

The 'Sengol' was prominent in Parliament on Thursday when it was carried in front of President Droupadi Murmu as she arrived in the Lok Sabha chamber to deliver her address to the first joint session of Parliament after the recent Lok Sabha elections.

The Sengol has been the focus of a political controversy ignited by Samajwadi Party (SP) MP R K Chaudhary's recent comments calling it a symbol of monarchy. He has written a letter to Speaker Om Birla requesting the Sengol be removed and in its place a copy of the Constitution be kept there.

He said "The Constitution is the symbol of democracy. The BJP government, under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, installed the Sengol in Parliament. 'Sengol' means 'Raj-Dand' or 'Raja ka



PM Narendra Modi installs the 'Sengol' at the new Parliament building on 28 May 2023.

Danda." After ending the princely order, the country became independent, he said. "Will the country be run by 'Raja ka danda' or the Constitution? I demand that Sengol be removed from Parliament. 'Sengol' means 'Raj-Dand' or 'Raja ka

BJP leader C R Kesavan called Mr Chaudhary's comments outrageous and outlandish. "R K Chaudhary's remarks are outrageous and outlandish. He insulted millions of devotees. He has also undermined the sanctity of Parliament. He has also abused the office of the President. But what better can you expect from a SP MP," he said.

Union Minister Anupriya Patel asked what were the SP's MPs doing when the Sengol was being established in the House. "When Sengol was established, the Samajwadi Party was in the House even then, what were its MPs doing at that time," she said.

Union Minister B L Verma said that SP leaders should look at the Constitution and parliamentary traditions. "Samajwadi Party MPs who are saying this first, should know the parliamentary traditions and then speak. And they are talking about removing something that is a symbol of self-

respect. I think that somewhere they should look at the Constitution and parliamentary traditions," he said.

RJD MP Misa Bharti said that the Sengol should be removed because it is a democratic country. "It should be removed because it is a democratic country. The Sengol should be kept in the museum where people can come and see it," she said.

Meanwhile, SP chief Akhilesh Yadav defended Mr Chaudhary, suggesting that the remark might be a reminder for the Prime Minister. "When the Sengol was installed, the PM bowed before it. He might have forgotten this while taking the oath. Maybe our MP's remark was to remind him of that," Mr Yadav stated.

On May 28, 2023, PM Narendra Modi installed the historic Sengol in the Lok Sabha chamber, next to the Speaker's chair in the new Parliament building, after performing a traditional puja.

SC seeks NTA's response on time limit for raising grievance about OMR sheet results

PARMOD KUMAR
NEW DELHI, 27 JUNE

The Supreme Court on Thursday sought response from the National Testing Agency (NTA) on a petition that alleged "inconsistent" calculation of marks on the OMR sheets used for the NEET-UG 2024 exam held on May 5, 2024.

Issuing notice and seeking reply from the National Testing Agency on the time limit to raise grievance on the calculation of marks on OMR sheets for NEET-UG 2024, a vacation bench of Justice Manoj Misra and Justice S.V.N. Bhatti tagged the petition with the earlier pending petitions listed for hearing on July 8, 2024.

"Let us know if there is a timeline to provide the OMR sheets. As of now we will tag it. Let NTA seek instructions on this," the vacation bench said in its brief order tagging it with earlier pending matters.

At the outset of the hearing, Justice Misra asked the senior advocate R. Basant appearing for the petitioner - Xylem Learning Private Limited - a learning app - how could it approach the top court invoking its jurisdiction under Article 32 - for the safeguarding of the fundamental rights. The fundamental rights are vested in the people and not private entities.

Telling the coaching centre that it has no role to play after the coaching is over, the bench observed, "This is a (Article) 32 petition at instance of a coaching centre. What Fundamental right of yours is violated? They have hardly any role to play. Their obligation and duty end after they have discharged their service, that is the end of the matter.

The senior advocate Basant told the vacation bench that besides the coaching centre, petitioner number 2,3,4 and 5 are candidates who appeared for the NEET-UG 2024. On the role of the coaching Centre, the senior advocate said that "One of the reasons is the moral obligation of the coaching centre."

Justice Bhatti quipped



Senior advocate Basant said that petitioner students (2 to 5) are before the court for obtaining the OMR sheets as some of the students, who appeared for NEET-UG 2024, have not been given the same yet. The top court has been approached by a number of petitioners seeking the cancellation of the NEET-UG 2024 results and to reconduct the examination afresh, alleging paper leakage and irregularities in the conduct of the test held on May 5.

The top court has already refused to stay the counselling of NEET-UG, 2024, that is set to commence on July 6, 2024.

NEET-UG examination is a stepping stone for admission to undergraduate medical courses - MBBS, BDS and AYUSH and other related medical courses in government and private institutions across the country.

"Everything that the Central government will do, will be taken care of by the coaching centre."

President's address ignored real issues, says Mayawati



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW, 27 JUNE

Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) supremo Mayawati has slammed the Centre for ignoring the real issues facing the country in the President's address during the joint Parliament session on Thursday.

In a couple of Tweets on X, Mayawati wrote, "Today, in her address to the joint session of Parliament, the President enumerated the achievements of the central government over the last 10 years, but they appear more in the air than on the ground."

"Besides, the central government is not at all serious about addressing the problems of poverty, unemployment, inflation, and the plight of the weaker sections, which are increasing day by day in the country. Their road map for the next 5 years also lacks substance," she claimed.

Mayawati further said, "Instead of merely trading allegations and counter-allegations during the motion of thanks to the President's address, MPs should focus on drawing the government's attention to important matters of public interest."

Hatras: NHRC issues notice to UP govt on suicide by 2 brothers

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW, 27 JUNE

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) served a notice to the Uttar Pradesh government on the suicide by two brothers in the Hathras district. The siblings were reported to have taken the extreme step as they were upset over alleged police atrocities at the Sadabad police station.

Taking a suo motu cognizance of a media report published on 25 June about the two brothers of Agra committing suicide within three days of the alleged police harassment, the Commission sought a report from the

The siblings were reported to have taken the extreme step as they were upset over alleged police atrocities at the Sadabad police station.

state DGP within a week.

A suicide note has been left by one of the brothers before committing suicide.

The NHRC, in a press statement on Thursday, observed that the contents of the media report, if true, point to a serious issue of human rights violation. Going by the media report, it appears

that the police personnel behaved inhumanly and cruelly with both the victims forcing them to end their lives.

The police are supposed to protect the people from any atrocity but in this case, it appears that they became perpetrators of atrocity which is a matter of concern.

Therefore, the Commission issued a notice to the UP Director General of Police demanding a detailed report within one week. The report should also include the status of the FIR registered in the matter, action taken against the responsible officials, and relief if any, provided to the next of kin of the deceased persons.

According to the media report, the police had detained the younger brother for two days on the charge of the abduction of a girl and released him only after taking a bribe of Rs 10,000. Two days later, his elder brother and nephew were picked up by the police demanding Rs 90,000 as a bribe to release them.

Reportedly, a part of the amount was also paid but the concerned SHO of PS Sadabad, Hathras was pressuring them to cough up more money. The elder brother had reportedly brought the matter to the notice of SHO for action against the SHO.

Govt committed to promote MSME units: UP Deputy CM

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW, 27 JUNE

Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Brijesh Pathak said here on Thursday that the state government is committed to promote MSME units for which it has made changes in its policies.

Addressing the 'Uttar Pradesh MSME Conclave' organised by The Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) here on the occasion of International MSME Day, Pathak said that

MSME products are an integral part of our lives. MSMEs are the lifeline of not only the state but the country's economy at large and to promote them, the state government has made many changes in its policies, he said.

Pathak further said, "Wherever industrialisation had not yet taken place in the state, be it Purvanchal, Bundelkhand or Central UP, we have also worked to take MSMEs forward. The government has created a conducive environment for business in the

state." Congratulating ASSOCHAM for organising the MSME Conclave, Pathak said that his government stands committed to the MSMEs. If there are any suggestions from this conference, the government would change the policies of our government and work together to take the state of Uttar Pradesh forward.

Stressing the need for reforms in the agriculture sector, the deputy chief minister said Prime Minister Narendra Modi emphasised natural farming and called for less use of pesticides in farm-

UP's Kukrail riverfront to match Sabarmati's banks in Guj

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW, 27 JUNE

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has initiated efforts to create a picturesque and modern riverfront along the banks of the Kukrail river in Lucknow, made in a similar manner on river Sabarmati in Ahmedabad, following the Kukrail river's revival.

Last year, a dedicated committee conducted a site inspection and tour of the Sabarmati riverfront in Ahmedabad.

The development of the Kukrail riverfront will be overseen by the Lucknow Municipal Corporation. To facilitate this, the Municipal Corporation has prepared a draft for the formation of a SPV which



will be in the name of Lucknow Riverfront Development Corporation Ltd.

Officials here said on Thursday that the consultant is currently preparing the Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the development of the riverfront along the Kukrail River, and it will soon be presented to the Chief Minister.

Following his instructions, departments have been tasked with making the Kukrail river clean, and pollution-free.

The objective is to prevent dirty drains from flowing into the Kukrail, beautify the riverbanks, develop the site, and create a green belt.

To make the Kukrail River pollution-free and revive it, the Chief Minister instructed the interception of 39 drains that flow into the river. In the first phase, work on tapping 17 drains is 95 per cent complete. The interception of 12 drains is ongoing and will be completed by the end of this month.

In the second phase, 22 drains will be tapped to prevent 6 MLD of untreated sewage from entering the Kukrail River. In the third phase, to maintain a minimum water flow, a 40 MLD capacity STP (Sewage Treatment Plant) will be built to release treated effluent upstream into the Kukrail River.

After demolishing illegal

constructions on municipal land in Akbarnagar, the STP will be built on a 1.50-hectare plot.

To ensure a continuous supply of water to the Kukrail river, ponds will be built to revive the river's water sources and bodies within the forest area. In rural areas, the Rural Development Department and the Lucknow Development Authority are working to revive water sources and bodies.

The Uttar Pradesh Jal Nigam (Urban) has proposed releasing water into the river from a 40 MLD STP. Additionally, the Irrigation Department will provide approximately 5 to 15 cusecs of water from the Sharda Nagar channel.

Six Assam police personnel given life sentence in 2013 murder case

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
GUWAHATI, 27 JUNE

Local court in Assam has sentenced six Assam police personnel to life imprisonment after finding them guilty of murder.

The case dates back to 7 October, 2013, when Ajit Sonowal was brutally beaten by police officers at Ambikapur market.

Following the assault, Sonowal was taken to Assam Medical College and Hospital in Dibrugarh, where he later succumbed to his injuries.

On 9 October, 2013, Sonowal's father filed an FIR at Sadiya police station, where an investigation was initiated.

The probe led to the filing of a charge sheet and the commencement of a trial in the Tinsukia District and Sessions Court.

After a thorough examination of evidence, witness testimonies, and arguments presented by government advocate Ashok Chaudhary, the court found the six police personnel guilty of murder and handed them life sentences.

LEISURE

10 MINUTE CROSSWORD



ACROSS
1 Central part (4)
4 Oaf (4)
8 Person in charge (4)
9 Foggyish person (8)
10 Branch of mathematics (12)
12 Prima donna (4)
14 Insincere talk (4)
17 Comprehensive (3-9)
19 Lazy (8)
21 Lopsided (4)
22 Ink stain (4)
23 Teller of untruths (4)

DOWN
2 Self-willed (9)
3 Give paid work to (6)
4 Portable computer (6)
5 Vase (3)
6 Harbour (4)
7 Colony of rabbits (6)
11 Filled tortilla (9)
13 Ticking over (6)
15 Wretched (6)
16 Trust (6)
18 Clothing (4)
20 Nocturnal bird (3)

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Whoa, 3 Full (Woeful), 9 Singers, 10 Rowdy, 13 Order, 12 Obscure, 13 Immediately, 17 Compact, 19 Anger, 21 Pearl, 22 Opinion, 13 Order, 24 Legs, 14 Mammals, 15 Tragic, 16 Drinks, 17 Capet, 18 Aids, 20 Grime.

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

BEETLE BAILEY/Mort Walker



RED EYE/Bill Yates & Mel Casson



DADDY DAZE/John Kovalieski



NEED TO KNOW

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

24 hrs Medical Oxygen Delivery
BOC India Ltd. 9831277777

Blood Banks
Ashok Laboratory 24720333
Central Blood Bank 23510619

Life Care 2284-6940
Peoples Blood Bank 2455-5164/5557
RK Mission Seva Pratishthan 2475-3636/39

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

Howrah 2666-8111; Behala 2497-6285

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

Calcutta Telephones
Changed Number Announcement 1951, 1952, 1953

Taxi Refusal
SMS 575756: Complaint and registration

Police Toll Free No. 1073
Transport Deptt. No. 6451-6718

CESC Fault Reporting
1912 and 4403-1912

Trains
Howrah Station Old Complex 1331/1332 (Auto Telephone Numbers), 1310, 2638-7412/3542/2581 (manual). Sealdah: 2350-3535/3537
Shallimari Station: 2668-1121, Eastern Railway and South-Eastern Railway: 139.

SCRABBLE

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

Answer to previous puzzle

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

According to WHO, homoeopathy is the second-largest system of medicine globally: Dr Batra

PRIVANJALI DAS

Climate chaos in India, with the ever-soaring temperature, heatwave, lack of rain, heat rashes, heat stroke and migraines, are just a few of the everyday unpredictable physiological strains humans are enduring. While modern science and medicine are what we exemplify as the sole remedy, homoeopathy, the more than 200-year-old system of alternative medicine, truly has in store some remarkable solutions that support the notion that the body can cure itself. One visionary leader who has become the face of homoeopathy not just in India but globally is Dr Mukesh Batra, founder and chairman of Dr Batra's Group of Companies. With more than five decades of experience in the field of homoeopathy, Dr Batra has brought forth homoeopathy's efficacy in treating various physical and mental ailments.

The Statesman caught up with Padma Shri recipient Dr Batra to learn about his humble yet rewarding journey as a homoeopath and how this field of alternative medicine, complementary to modern medicine, is still a much-debated topic.

Q. From being a first-generation entrepreneur to having your first clinical setup at Choupaty, the journey mustn't have been easy. Walk us through being India's only revolutionary visionary towards making homoeopathy visible in front of every-one globally.

A. I graduated college in 1974, and it's been almost 50 years since I started practising. During my initial years of practice, I observed how people did not take homoeopathy seriously; it lacked social acceptance. From social to commercial acceptance, people were not ready to leap forward with homoeopathy. In fact, when I started my first clinic in 1982, I had to borrow money at 36 per cent per annum, which took me 10 years to repay. It was a really difficult period, and

I used to call it the first mover disadvantage because it required educating the market and development costs, but then you are also opening doors for the next generations to benefit from it. It's a challenge and not an easy task to build something new, but I would say that I am blessed. Now we have clinics in six countries, with 225 clinics all over, so that's reaching out to almost 75,000 patients every month. Hence, you know you feel satisfied at the end, knowing that even though the journey has been difficult, it has been fruitful. In fact, according to WHO, homoeopathy is now the second-largest system of medicine globally.

Q. Was becoming a homoeopathy expert a passion you had inculcated from your very childhood?

A. No, it was never something I was interested in during my childhood. My father was a homoeopath, while my mother was related to allopathy. They were always so busy balancing roles at home and outside that I thought I would never become a doctor, but fate had other plans. I actually had planned on doing hotel management and went to my uncle's hotel, where I was given jobs like washing the dishes and cleaning the toilet, and I realised that hotel management is not as glamorous as one would think.

I then joined homoeopathy and realised it was not a piece of cake. One had to work hard for several years, and the practical applications that I had inculcated from my father have enriched me as well. During my first practice, I used to change three buses to reach my place of work, and from zero patients on day one, it gradually grew to 325 patients every day. Everything I have achieved in this life is because of my profession.

Q. Homoeopathy has been a subject of dispute in the modern medicinal world. How do you think

homoeopathy is transforming the course of healthcare in the modern world?

A. In today's world, NCDs, or noncommunicable diseases, are increasing in number day by day. Lifestyle disorders like high blood pressure, cholesterol, diabetes, and cardiac problems are extremely common, and modern medicine does not provide a cure for them; it helps you manage them. This is where homoeopathy comes in. Being a form of holistic medicine, it can actually treat these problems well.

In terms of prevention, antibiotic consumption in the modern world has increased, which results in medicines not working during severe infections when they should have worked because your body has already built resistance against them. Homoeopathy, I believe, can help in this regard as well.

Homoeopathy focuses on mental health too. In India, there are almost 60 to 70 million people suffering from mental disorders, especially among the youth, and homoeopathy focuses on the roots rather than just providing a cure. There was a case of a young girl who used to get asthma attacks whenever her father used to travel abroad for business, and as we know, asthma can get triggered by anxiety and stress. Homoeopathy, being a holistic medicinal approach, cured her of her asthma. Homoeopathy focuses on the root of the prob-

lem, which is extremely crucial for such lifestyle disorders.

In fact, there has been a new branch of homoeopathy emerging called agro-homoeopathy, which is related to the agricultural field and is used on soil and crops for them to reap the benefits of homoeopathic science. Homoeopathy is no longer a part of archival science; from AI to machines, several modern aspects have been incorporated into this field of medicine.

Q. There are several myths out there when it comes to homoeopathy. Can you help us identify a few of them and break those myths?

A. Today's generation wants everything fast, and they consider homoeopathy to be slow, which is a big myth. For example, if you are suffering from diarrhoea or even a cold and cough, you can get results by using homoeopathy in just a few hours. And because homoeopathy is holistic, you do not feel weak like you would after consuming antibiotics. For chronic problems, the result can take a bit of time because this field of medicine tries to cure it from the root.

Many believe that diet restrictions accompany homoeopathy. But I

would say that it is the easiest medicine to take. There are several other misconceptions out there, but in true words, it's just word of mouth, and there's not much sense behind it.

Q. In the modern world, hectic schedules and monotony in everyday life have become the most mundane factors in an individual's life. A modern life is pretty much equivalent to a busy life. How important do you think holistic healing is in managing and balancing one's emotional, physical, and spiritual attributes? How do you think homoeopathy can aid in this?

A. Homoeopathy, as we know, is a holistic form of medicine, and sickness is not just a disease; ultimate health stands for a balance of every aspect together. Homoeopathy is mind, body and medicine. Homoeopathy is cost-effective, easily available, safe, and non-addicted, making it far more important in today's world than it was in earlier times.

Q. Your recent book launch, *Feel Good, Heal Good, Staying Happy with Homoeopathy at the Cannes Film Festival* is an important milestone. While the book talks about mental health and creating awareness, what role do you think homoeopathy plays in striking a fine balance when it comes to one's mental health?

A. My earlier book was on physical health; the latest one is on mental health, while the next book I am working on will be on spiritual health. Hence, health is not just an absence of disorder; it's a balance of all the aspects. So, even if you think you are physically fit, if you cannot surpass the negative thoughts and are not mentally alert, trust me, your health is in jeop-



ardy. There are so many misconceptions out there regarding mental health, and there is very little open space to strike up a conversation about it. There's a lot of stigma out there, and I wanted to break it and create awareness. And unfortunately, even with the presence of various treatments, people do not opt for it. Homoeopathy is safe, without side effects, and one does not need to consume it throughout their life; rather, only until they get better, and I wanted to highlight that as well. My book delved into emotional well-being and how homoeopathy can aid in it as well.

Q. India has reached new temperature records this year, with heatwave warnings now becoming a constant in several parts of the country and with experts warning of hotter days ahead. Can homoeopathy be a way of managing heat stress, exhaustion, dehydration and preventing heat stroke?

A. There are several medicines out there when it comes to handling heat stroke and heat stress. One such medicine would be Belladonna. However, it's better to prevent it than to find cures. So make sure to stay hydrated and take the necessary measures to combat heat waves.



'Interaction from an early age is needed for the development of personality'



TARUN GOSWAMI

"If you really want the well-being and all-round development of your child, keep him or her away from mobile phones," said renowned child specialist Dr Arun Kumar Manglik.

Dr Manglik, who has been treating children for the past four decades, said that mobile phones do more harm than good to children.

"When children are given cell phones, they are glued to the screen. They hold the phones close to the eyes, resulting in eye problems at an early age. You will find more children wearing spectacles these days. There are many schools where the eyes of the children are checked, as it is seen that they cannot read letters on the black boards. The logic put forward by the parents is that children eat fast if cell phones are given to them. This is weak logic, though it is often seen that children finish their food fast when they are allowed to see mobile phones."

To make young parents aware of the dos and don'ts that need to be followed to raise their children, the Indian Academy of Paediatrics conducts awareness drives, and such sessions are attended by many parents. They ask questions and interact with the child specialists. "We invite more and more young parents to join such sessions, as, with the passage of time, it has become quite challenging to raise children in nuclear families."

Dr Manglik pointed out that it is often found that children start to talk late. "It is because they do not hear people talking around. In earlier days, the grandparents, aunts and relatives used to talk to children who were often six months old. Now, in nuclear families, people hardly have time to spend with the child. The parents are busy with their work. This affects the all-round development of the child, and at a later age, when the child becomes an adult, he or she finds it difficult to socialise."

Dr Manglik urged parents to ensure that the baby does not become obese. "The weight of a two-year-old child should be around 12 kg. It is often seen that their weight crosses 15 kg. When we ask the parents, particularly the mother, their reply is, 'Doc, my baby does not eat anything.' We fail to make them

realise that if the children become obese, they will develop major problems in later life," he said, adding, "Obesity in later life may lead to early heart attacks, diabetes and kidney-related problems. It all starts during childhood, and parents need to be extra careful, Dr Manglik maintained.

Dr Manglik said two and a half decades ago, children were found to be suffering from pneumonia, bronchitis and diarrhoea. "Now we have patients suffering from psychological problems. Many are found to be suffering from autism. I often conduct the tests, and there are many centres in Kolkata where autistic children are looked after properly."

He advised parents to get their children engaged. "Read out stories for them. There are good bedtime stories that are available on the market, and the parents should spend quality time with them. Give your child paper and a coloured pencil and ask him or her to write, draw on the paper, and reduce the time spent watching cartoons on television or computers."

He maintained that every person talks about changing their lifestyle to face the challenges of life. "There should be lifestyle changes involving children. In big housing complexes where all amenities are available, children are often seen not playing with each other. This has to change. Allow them to mix with children of their age. Take them to parks or swimming sessions, and ensure that they mix with children of their age. Interaction from an early age is needed for the development of personality."

Dr Manglik said, "I am not scaring young parents. If they are aware of and can follow these tips, the children will be healthy both physically and mentally. After Covid, socialising has been badly hit, and children are the worst sufferers. A good home is one where all the inhabitants live happily and peacefully."

Dr Manglik was a student at Calcutta Medical College and Hospital and was the first batch to be inducted through the Joint Entrance Examination. Dr Manglik is a model of a doctor-patient relationship and goes on to attend conferences across the country, delivering lectures before budding paediatricians.

Integration of AI and data science in healthcare

SAMADRITA GHOSH

Emerging technology, like AI fused with data, is set to make healthcare more accurate, accessible and sustainable. Imagine a world in which machines not only help but also anticipate the demands of healthcare workers, where massive amounts of medical data are converted into meaningful insights and patient outcomes are optimised with pinpoint accuracy. AI tools have a reputation for aiding and enhancing human labour, rather than replacing physicians and other healthcare professionals. AI is ready to assist healthcare staff with various duties, from administrative workflow to clinical documentation and patient outreach, as well as specialised help in image analysis, medical device automation, and patient monitoring.

IMPROVED DISEASE PREDICTION

Prediction systems use a machine learning model that primarily works on the symptoms given by the user. This is done by using algorithms and the comparison of datasets; thus, we must have the required and sufficient data to compare the symptoms shown by the patients.

AI can be trained to detect mammograms or X-rays that might be missed by human radiologists or during a shortage of hospital staff. Interrogating patients' records with a highly classified AI tool will diagnose rare diseases much faster, avoiding unnecessary investigations and thus benefiting thousands of patients.

By leveraging technology in healthcare, we can identify 'at-risk' patients who require immediate attention and cater to a larger number of patients in a very short period of time to identify abnormalities, detect fractures, and detect tumours. The more data accessible, the more accurate the AI system will become. The system then analyses this information to detect patterns or trends that may suggest a specific disease or condition. One of the primary benefits of utilising AI for diagnostics is its capacity to continually learn and increase accuracy over time.

PERSONALISED MEDICATION AND TREATMENT PLANS

In the age of globalisation, people are mostly on the move. Which makes it a challenge for individuals like her to visit a doctor whenever they are feeling sick. Thus, AI can develop a personalised treatment plan by analysing medical history, genetic data, and lifestyle factors. The advent of machine

learning in precision medicine is a revolution for healthcare that enables more tailored medicines with perhaps fewer adverse effects. AI-powered tools also recommend preventive methods to individuals based on specific risk factors.

Even though some patients have experienced positive outcomes from AI for cancer treatment and therapy, many users are scared of leveraging the new technology. 27 per cent of adults in the UK worry about too much dependency on AI for medicine allocation. 60 per cent of Americans are not comfortable with their provider relying on AI-powered technology. But on the brighter side, 75.7 per cent of radiologists believed that algorithmic outcomes based on AI were trustworthy.

ENHANCED CLINICAL DECISION SUPPORT

As per the writer's research, AI-based healthcare solutions have seen some of the biggest investments recently. The worldwide healthcare AI industry is anticipated to reach \$188 billion by 2030, with a 37 per cent CAGR from 2022 to 2030. Around one-fifth of healthcare organisations have already implemented AI models for their healthcare solutions.

The introduction of AI in healthcare saved around 20 per cent of physicians' time on administrative activities. About 10 per cent of medical practitioners use AI-powered technologies such as Med-PALM2 or ChatGPT to provide effective solutions. Moderna used AI to improve their COVID-19 vaccine. The market for artificial intelligence in healthcare is expected to reach \$20.65 billion in 2023.

According to the NCBI study, AI-based algorithms correctly identified 68 per cent of COVID-19-positive cases in a sample of 25 patients previously labelled as negative by healthcare personnel.

Artificial intelligence may serve as a virtual assistant for physicians and nurses. This may involve recommending pertinent medical material, medication interactions, and therapy choices based on the patient's situation. This frees up significant time for medical personnel to devote to patient engagement and difficult decision-making.

DRUG DISCOVERY AND DEVELOPMENT

The development of protein-based drugs has reached a concerning stumbling block. Fewer than 10 per cent of such medication ideas are suc-

cessful in clinical trials. Failure at this late stage of development costs between \$30 million and \$310 million for each clinical trial, possibly costing billions of dollars per medicine and wasting years of research as patients wait for therapy.

The writer is highly optimistic about the speed-up and boom in drug discovery caused by the increased use of AI because artificial intelligence combined with data may be used to speed up drug development by analysing large bio-databases of chemical structures and biological facts. This might lead to the discovery of novel therapeutic targets and the creation of more effective treatments, but only if we give it the right data.

The cost of discovering new medications will reduce significantly by 70 per cent with increased use of artificial intelligence and data science. The majority of the money AI produces in healthcare comes from the United States. It had a 58 per cent market share in 2022, with Asia-Pacific coming in second at 40.9 per cent. However, AI in healthcare statistics shows that 90 per cent of nursing tasks will still be performed by humans in 2030.

Skin cancer screening is one area where the public believes AI might be useful, with 55 per cent of respondents believing it would be even more accurate than traditional screening.

ADMINISTRATIVE EFFICIENCY AND COST REDUCTION

Artificial intelligence can easily automate repetitive processes like appointment scheduling, claim processing, and data input. This frees up staff time to focus on more complicated duties, resulting in increased operational efficiency. Additionally, AI-powered solutions can assist in identifying and preventing fraudulent medical claims, resulting in cost savings for healthcare providers.

Advanced chatbots or AI-powered AI nursing assistants are expected to save \$20 billion per year by reducing the 20 per cent of time nurses spend on patient maintenance tasks. Sensely's 'Molly' chatbot demonstrates this by asking patients questions, assessing their symptoms, and sending them to the appropriate resource. These days, more and more individuals are employing AI chatbots, such as ChatGPT, to obtain therapy without requiring human interaction. Now that AI therapy is so popular, 40 per cent of Americans would choose to use it instead of seeing a human therapist in person.

THE FUTURE OF AI IN HEALTHCARE



Even though healthcare took up artificial intelligence and machine learning a bit later than other industries like manufacturing and trade, the writer cannot emphasise more on the bright future of artificial intelligence in healthcare. However, she shows concern over ethical considerations around data privacy, bias in algorithms, and the need for human oversight, which should not be ignored.

It is a piece of great news for cancer patients because AI algorithms can predict cancer patients' survival with an accuracy of 80 per cent. Researchers at the University of British Columbia developed an artificial intelligence (AI) model that can recognise patient traits from oncologists' notes and predict cancer survival with 80 per cent accuracy.

AI has the highest accuracy for detecting early indicators of dementia. CognoSpeak, an artificial intelligence tool, can detect Alzheimer's disease 90 per cent of the time by analysing patient language and speech patterns, equivalent to traditional approaches.

Oncology and neurology will be the dominant fields in AI-powered precision medicine. In 2022, oncology (cancer diagnostics) accounted for more than 31 per cent of the revenue in the precision medicine market. Over the next 10 years, neurological disorders such as dementia and epilepsy are predicted to increase and dominate the market.

Artificial intelligence-powered robot surgery might cut patients' hospital stays by more than 20 per cent. According to the writer's studies, an artificial intelligence robot reduced problems in orthopaedic surgery by five times more than doctors working alone. Furthermore, this might result in a 21 per cent reduction in patients' hospital stays following surgery. Subsequent savings are expected to total \$40 billion each year.

Thus, it is very important to innovate in the healthcare landscape with AI to stay ahead of the race.

The writer completed her post graduation from Queen Mary University of London, and is a computer science engineer from Techno India University, Kolkata, India





'PRIORITISE INTERNATIONAL CRICKET'

Former New Zealand batter Ross Taylor feels international cricket can still reach the pinnacle amid the rising popularity of the T20 leagues as cricket can't replicate football's league model. Since the inception of the Indian Premier League (IPL) in 2008, franchise leagues in cricket have become quite famous with some players prioritising their options in those leagues. Taylor, who has played more than 100 matches for New Zealand in every format, feels that international cricket is suffering because of the Leagues.

For more updates www.thestatesman.com

Afghanistan's fairy-tale T20 WC run ends in anti-climactic fashion

One performance does not define the tournament, says head coach Jonathan Trott after Afghanistan's semi-final loss to South Africa

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 27 JUNE

This one performance doesn't necessarily define the tournament, Afghanistan head coach Jonathan Trott maintained after his side's fairytale campaign in the ongoing ICC men's T20 World Cup ended in an anti-climactic fashion with a nine-wicket drubbing at the hands of South Africa in the first semi-final at Trinidad on Thursday.

Afghanistan enjoyed a dream run throughout their campaign, beating top sides like New Zealand and Australia, before securing their maiden semi-final spot in a men's World Cup with a thrilling win against Bangladesh in their final Super Eight clash on Tuesday.

On Thursday, South African pacers dominated the proceedings immediately after Afghanistan captain Rashid Khan opted to bat on winning the toss. Azmatullah Omarzai (10) was the lone Afghan batter to get to double figures even as the entire team folded up for mere 56 runs in 11.5 overs. For the Proteas, pacer Marco Jansen and left-arm wrist spinner Tabraiz Shamsi bagged three wickets apiece while Kagiso Rabada and Anrich Nortje picked two wickets each.

In response, South Africa lost Quinton de Kock early but Reeza Hendricks (29 not out) and Aiden Markram (23 not



out) ensured that the Proteas reached their maiden T20 World Cup final without any more hiccups in 8.5 overs.

"If you told us we would be playing the semi-final against South Africa, we would accept that. Next time when we participate in a tournament like this, we will have the belief," said skipper Rashid Khan after the semi-final loss.

While professional cricketers are expected to perform irrespective of the scheduling of the tournament, if one has a closer look at Afghanistan's itinerary, especially after Tuesday's win, it would make one wonder if the team had enough time to recover well enough for a big semi-final the next evening.

Coach Trott didn't want to make it as an excuse while analysing the team's performance,

but expected his team to get used to such odds during major tournaments, even as the team is expected to be more hurt than proud in the immediate aftermath of the loss to the Proteas on a brutish track with excessively uneven bounce. "Obviously playing the last group game and then playing the first semi-final with travel yesterday and getting here and not really having a day off isn't ideal. But we knew the schedule, so that's not an excuse as such. When you go on in World Cups or tournaments, you can't have everything your own way, and you've got to fight and play against the odds which you've done at times and very proud of that but no, it's not the reason why we didn't win today," Trott said.

"(H)opefully we learnt from today, the batters cer-



tainly (about) what it takes to play international cricket and play against a bowling side like South Africa on a pitch that's perhaps not conducive to high scoring, finding ways of winning games. And we've found ways of winning games, we just couldn't find a way today," he added.

He candidly admitted that the team needed to work on their batting when he was asked if they were looking at the overall achievement more than this defeat.

"Maybe in a couple of weeks' time, when everything's sunk in and your emotions aren't in it. Once you're in it and part of a World Cup and you've been here for over five weeks preparing for a night like tonight, I think it's sort of hard to think like that,

a strong South African side and make sure we gave a good account of ourselves, and I feel like we haven't done that today. That's the most disappointing thing," he said.

India put on 171 for 7 in second semi-final:

India put on a total of 171 for 7 in their rain-interrupted second semi-final against England in Providence, Guyana, with skipper Rohit Sharma scoring a blistering 57 off 36 balls and Suryakumar Yadav putting on 47 off 38.

Rain played spoilsport in the match, stopping play after the 8th over of India's innings. India, put in to bat after England won the toss, had posted 65/2 at the time. Play resumed at 11.10 p.m. IST, with 153 minutes lost due to the rain.

After the interruption, India captain Rohit Sharma scored a blistering 57 before he was snapped up by Adil Rashid in the 14th over.

Suryakumar Yadav was also sent back by Jofra Archer, missing his 50 by just 3 runs. Chris Jordan got rid of Hardik Pandya (23 runs) and Shivam Dube (0) in back-to-back balls in the 18th over, before snapping up Axar Patel (10) in the last over.

Earlier, Reece Topley rattled India early when he snapped up Virat Kohli for just 9 runs while Sam Curran snapped up Rishabh Pant for just 4 at the Providence Stadium in Guyana.

but I'm sure we will in a couple of days or a week or so."

"So, it's important that a match like this doesn't overshadow all the good matches we had that got us to this situation or this position," he said.

Trott stated that he was proud of the effort put in by all the players, the coaching staff and management during this campaign, and one performance doesn't necessarily define the tournament. "Whenever you lose a game like this, it's always going to hurt. And it should hurt because we put so much into it. The sacrifices made by the players, coaching staff, management, officials all that sort of stuff. It hurts at the moment," he said.

"We arrived to the ground in high spirits ready to take on



Trinidad pitch comes in for criticism

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 27 JUNE

ing sharp criticism from cricket pundits.

Such a pitch wasn't expected for a crucial World Cup

The Queen's Park Oval in Port-of-Spain, one of cricket's legendary venues, was surprisingly overlooked in the ICC men's T20 World Cup and did not get to host a single match. Instead, the first semi-final between South Africa and Afghanistan was played at the Brian Lara Cricket Academy stadium, a venue that has hosted men's international cricket for less than two years.

In Thursday's semi-final, the first couple of deliveries, summed up the whole fixture, when the first ball rolled along the ground and the second reared off a similar length, earn-

knockout, Afghanistan coach Jonathan Trott said, and South Africa captain Aiden Markram appeared to agree.

Previously, in this World Cup, the track at this venue has produced scores of 40 all out, 78 all out and 95 all out.



UNION PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

PROGRAMME OF EXAMINATIONS / RECRUITMENT TESTS (RTs) — 2025

No. 22 / 23 / 2024-E.I (B) — The Commission's Programme of Examinations and Recruitment Tests (RTs) for the year 2025 is given below for the information of candidates. The annual calendar has also been placed on the Commission's website (www.upsoc.gov.in). Aspirants and candidates are advised to retain this advertisement for use as a ready reckoner for applying for the Commission's Examinations in 2025.

Sl. No.	Name of Examination	Date of Notification	Last Date for receipt of Applications	Date of commencement of Exam	Duration of Exam
1.	Reserved for UPSC RT/ Examination			11.01.2025 (Saturday)	2 DAYS
2.	Combined Geo-Scientist (Preliminary) Examination, 2025	04.09.2024	24.09.2024	09.02.2025 (Sunday)	1 DAY
3.	Engineering Services (Preliminary) Examination, 2025	18.09.2024	08.10.2024	09.02.2025 (Sunday)	1 DAY
4.	CB1 (DSP) LDCE	27.11.2024	17.12.2024	08.03.2025 (Saturday)	2 DAYS
5.	C1SF AC(EXE) LDCE-2025	04.12.2024	24.12.2024	09.03.2025 (Sunday)	1 DAY
6.	N.D.A. & N.A. Examination (I), 2025	11.12.2024	31.12.2024	13.04.2025 (Sunday)	1 DAY
7.	C.D.S. Examination (I), 2025				
8.	Civil Services (Preliminary) Examination, 2025	22.01.2025	11.02.2025	25.05.2025 (Sunday)	1 DAY
9.	Indian Forest Service (Preliminary) Examination, 2025 through CS(P) Examination 2025				
10.	Reserved for UPSC RT/ Examination			14.06.2025 (Saturday)	2 DAYS
11.	I.E.S./I.S.S. Examination, 2025	12.02.2025	04.03.2025	20.06.2025 (Friday)	3 DAYS
12.	Combined Geo-Scientist (Main) Examination, 2025			21.06.2025 (Saturday)	2 DAYS
13.	Engineering Services (Main) Examination, 2025			22.06.2025 (Sunday)	1 DAY
14.	Reserved for UPSC RT/ Examination			05.07.2025 (Saturday)	2 DAYS
15.	Combined Medical Services Examination, 2025	19.02.2025	11.03.2025	20.07.2025 (Sunday)	1 DAY
16.	Central Armed Police Forces (ACs) Examination, 2025	05.03.2025	25.03.2025	03.08.2025 (Sunday)	1 DAY
17.	Reserved for UPSC RT/ Examination			09.08.2025 (Saturday)	2 DAYS
18.	Civil Services (Main) Examination, 2025			22.08.2025 (Friday)	5 DAYS
19.	N.D.A. & N.A. Examination (II), 2025	28.05.2025	17.06.2025	14.09.2025 (Sunday)	1 DAY
20.	C.D.S. Examination (II), 2025				
21.	Reserved for UPSC RT/ Examination			04.10.2025 (Saturday)	2 DAYS
22.	Reserved for UPSC RT/ Examination			01.11.2025 (Saturday)	2 DAYS
23.	Indian Forest Service (Main) Examination, 2025			16.11.2025 (Sunday)	7 DAYS
24.	S.O./Steno (GD-B/GD-I) LDCE	17.09.2025	07.10.2025	13.12.2025 (Saturday)	2 DAYS
25.	Reserved for UPSC RT/ Examination			20.12.2025 (Saturday)	2 DAYS

Note: The dates of notification, commencement and duration of Examinations / RTs are liable to alteration, if the circumstances so warrant.

CBC 55101/14/0001/2425

THE STATESMAN AWARDS FOR RURAL REPORTING

In 1973; The Statesman instituted three prizes for excellence in rural reporting to encourage a better awareness of the social, political and economic challenges taking place in our villages

Three prizes are now ₹ 15,000 ; ₹ 10,000 and ₹ 7,500

We invite journalists to send in their investigative articles and reports concerning rural India, in English or any regional language (with or without translations into English), and published during 2023 in any newspaper or periodical in the country. Entries will be evaluated on the criteria of social relevance, factual accuracy, professional dedication and stylistic merit.

The competition is open to Indian journalists. All entries should be marked "Rural Reporting" and sent in the form of original clippings (photocopies will not be accepted) clearly showing the date and name of the publication to the address given below.

THE CUSHROW IRANI PRIZE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTING

The C R Irani Foundation, a not-for-profit body involved in improvement of journalistic standards, in 2011 set up an annual prize of ₹ 25,000 for environmental reporting. We invite journalists to send in their investigative articles and reports concerning the environment in English or any regional language (with or without translations in English), and published during 2023 in any newspaper or periodical in the country. Entries will be on the basis of content, accuracy, professional standards and quality of research. The competition is open to Indian journalists. All entries should be marked "Environmental Reporting" and sent in the form of original clippings (photocopies will not be accepted) clearly showing the date and name of the publication to the address given below.

THE AWARDS COMMITTEE

IMPORTANT
Journalists wishing to submit the same report(s) for both prizes are requested to send separate entries. Last Date for the 2023 awards is 30 July 2024

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