

The Sunday Statesman

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PEOPLE'S PARLIAMENT. ALWAYS IN SESSION

WEATHER

Generally cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain/thundershower. Maximum and Minimum Temperature most likely be around 31°C and 26°C respectively.

RAINFALL: 92.4 mm
RELATIVE HUMIDITY
 Max: 98% Min: 85%
TEMPERATURE
 Max: 31.6 °C (-1.3) Min: 27.2°C (+0.4)
SUN RISES 04:52 hrs
SUN SETS 18:22 hrs
MOON RISES 12:28 hrs
MOON SETS 00:06 hrs
 New Moon on 06 July

THUMBNAILS



Pedestrians waded through a waterlogged street in Kolkata on Saturday. ■ MOUL MONDOL

EPF amended to provide withdrawal benefit to members having less than 6 months service: The government has amended the Employees' Pension Scheme (EPS), 1995 to ensure that EPS members with less than 6 months of contributory service also receive withdrawal benefits. This amendment will benefit more than 7 lakh EPS members every year who leave the scheme with less than 6 months of contributory service. (Page 5)

India end 11-year title drought, lift T20 World Cup in Barbados

Men In Blue hold their nerve to snatch victory from the jaws of defeat, beat South Africa by 7 wickets in final

TRIDIB BAPARNASH
 NEW DELHI, 29 JUNE

Sixteen needed off the final six balls, and Hardik Pandya gets rid of South Africa's last recognised batter, David Miller, off the first ball of the final over - SKY seizing the moment with a sensational catch! There was no dearth of emotions and drama in the title clash for the ICC men's T20 World Cup but Rohit Sharma & Co held their nerves to finally end the title drought after 11 long years.

Tears of joy rolled down the cheeks of the Indian players as the celebrations sparked off with hugs from the teammates.

India snatched victory from the jaws of defeat with a change of strategy in the 16th over of the chase, before Pandya kept his nerves to help the team to a seven-run triumph in a befitting send-off to outgoing head coach Rahul Dravid.

Chasing the highest World Cup final target of 177, SA were jolted with two early blows with just 12 on the board before Quinton de Kock and Tristan Stubbs



(L) Virat Kohli on the way to a 56-ball 76 during the ICC Mens T20 World Cup final against South Africa, at Kensington Oval in Barbados on Saturday; (R) Indian players celebrate the dismissal of South Africa's Reeza Hendricks. ■ ANI

stabilised the innings with a 58-run stand. Axar Patel gave India a breather by crashing through Stubbs' legs after he fired a 21-ball 31.

Heinrich Klaasen then joined the party to keep the Proteas in the hunt. He took Pandya, Ravindra Jadeja and Kuldeep Yadav to the cleaners before de Kock (39 off 31 balls) tried to do an encore against Arshdeep Singh, but perished, holing out to Kuldeep at the fine leg fence.

Klaasen and David Miller kept the tempo alive and the turnaround came in the 15th over when Klaasen hit Axar for two sixes and as many fours to fetch 24 runs and bring the equation do-



wn to 31 off 30 balls. In the process, Klaasen brought up his 50 off 23 deliveries and almost threatened to take the cup from India's grasp.

But Rohit got back in his faster men, and with SA needing 30 off 30 from the final five, Bumrah almost had set it up in the 16th over for Pandya to pack back Klaasen after the latter nicked one behind to walk back after scoring a 27-ball 52. Bumrah then sent back new man Marco Jansen (2) to raise India's hopes, even as SA pinned their hopes on their last recognised batter in David Miller. But it was simply not their day in the end.

Earlier, India's talismanic right-hander Virat Kohli came up with a calculative half-century to propel India to a competitive 176 for 7. Kohli, who had come to the final with just 75 runs from seven innings, finally got into his groove when it mattered the most for the team.

Despite India losing Rohit Sharma for a 5-ball 9, and then Rishabh Pant for a duck in the same over, it hardly mattered to Kohli. Suryakumar Yadav (3) also perished cheaply. Axar Patel, was promoted up the order after the mini collapse saw India struggling at 34 for 3 inside the powerplay, grabbed the opportunity with both hands, putting together a 72-run

This was my last T20 World Cup: Virat Kohli
 NEW DELHI, 29 JUNE

Moments after India clinched the ICC T20 World Cup, batting maestro Virat Kohli announced that the T20 World Cup was his last appearance in the shortest format.

"This was my last T20 World Cup, and this is what we wanted to achieve. One day you feel you can't get a run, then things happen. God is great, and I got the job done for the team on the day it mattered," Kohli said.

With India comfortably getting past the three-figure mark, and the two batsmen set to change gears, Axar departed to a mix-up after slamming a 31-ball 47, laced with a boundary and four massive sixes.

Shivam Dube continued from where Axar left off and kept swinging at 150+ strike rate, to ensure the Indian innings never stalled.

Kohli got to his fifty off 48 balls, and switched gears, depositing Kagiso Rabada over long on and then getting a boundary to help India cross the 150-run mark. He eventually departed for

Judiciary should be unbiased: CM

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
 KOLKATA, 29 JUNE

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Saturday stressed that the judiciary should be sacred, honest and free from political bias and judges also should refrain from allowing personal beliefs to influence their rulings. The sentiments were echoed by the Chief Justice of India (CJI), DY Chandrachud.

Speaking at the inaugural programme of the East Zone II regional conference of the National Judicial Academy in the city on Saturday, Miss Banerjee called for a judiciary free from any political bias, maintaining that it should be 'absolutely pure' and 'honest'. "Please see to it that no political bias should be there in the judiciary. It must be absolutely pure, honest and sacred. Let people worship it," she said.

The CJI in his address focused on how judgments should be based on constitutional morality and not a judge's concept of morality. Calling judges 'servants and not masters of the constitution', he warned the judiciary of the pitfalls of personal values and beliefs of judges interfering with judgments that are opposed to values enshrined in the Constitution.

Arvind Kejriwal sent to 14-day judicial custody

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
 NEW DELHI, 29 JUNE

A special court in Delhi on Saturday sent Chief Minister and AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal to 14-day judicial custody in the excise policy case.

Mr Kejriwal was brought before the court at the Rouse

Avenue complex by the CBI upon the expiry of the 3-day remand in connection with the corruption case linked to the liquor policy case.

Vacation Judge Sunena Sharma sent the AAP chief to judicial custody till 12 July.

Advocate DP Singh, appearing for the CBI, while seeking

direction to send Mr Kejriwal into judicial custody, alleged that during the police remand, Mr Kejriwal was questioned but he did not cooperate with the investigation and deliberately gave evasive replies. The counsel said he did not give a proper explanation regarding the enhancement of the prof-

Five soldiers killed after T-72 tank swept away near LAC

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
 JAMMU, 29 JUNE

A junior commissioned officer (JCO) was among five Army personnel killed early morning on Saturday when a T-72 tank was swept away in the Shyok river near the Line of Actual Control (LAC) with China in the Eastern Ladakh region.

Confirming the mishap, a defence spokesperson said in a statement: "On 28 June night, while deinducting from a military training activity, an army tank got struck in the Shyok River, near Saser Brangsa, Eastern Ladakh due to sudden increase in the water level. Rescue teams rushed to the location, however, due to high current and water levels, the rescue mission didn't succeed and the tank crew lost their lives. Indian Army regrets loss of five brave personnel while being operationally deployed in Eastern Ladakh. Rescue operations are underway."

Army sources said that the tank belonged to the 52 Armoured Regiment.

The tank was moving towards Tangste in the Leh district and the mishap occurred some distance away from the Galwan valley.

The tank turned turtle in the river at about 3 am and the strong current of water swept it away. The bodies of the killed soldiers have been recovered, reports said. The killed JCO has been identified as MRK Reddy. The four jawans have been identified as: Bhupender Negi, Akdum Taibam, Havaladar A Khan and Nagraj P.

Homage to the Valiant Martyrs
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Hool Divas

Mamata Banerjee
 Chief Minister, West Bengal

Government of West Bengal

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Asansol civic body drops hike in water tax, defers garbage tax

New rate of Rs10 per kilolitre has been withdrawn, instead old rate of Rs 7 per kilolitre will continue

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE ASANSOL, 29 JUNE

The mayor of Asansol Municipal Corporation (AMC), Bidhan Upadhyay has announced withdrawal of hikes in water tax of highrise buildings and apartments in Asansol.

Besides, he has also announced that Asansol Municipal Corporation is also not implementing the garbage tax as announced earlier.

The mayor said that on the instructions of chief minister and municipal affairs minister Firhad Hakim, the new rate of Rs10 for per kilolitre of water has been withdrawn and instead the old rate of Rs 7 per kilolitre of water



will continue.

This will benefit several hundreds of residents who stay in highrises.

The various chambers of

commerce and traders have also objected to the implementation of the garbage tax. The civic body has also withdrawn the garbage tax imple-

mentation at this moment.

Recently, Mamata Banerjee in a meeting instructed that the local bodies will have to take a stand for increasing any kind of taxes from the state government.

Like all other civic bodies in the state, Asansol is also becoming congested and the civic body has also started announcing through public address systems, urging all illegal encroachers to vacate their lands in Asansol town, Burnpur Steel township, Raniganj and other places.

The civic body and the BLLRO office is also probing the papers about a land of a RSS building in Asansol North area, after complaints from the state chief minister, based on inputs of law minister

Moloy Ghatak.

The advocate of RSS has sought 15 days time to submit all necessary documents and already a notice has been served.

Asansol, the headquarters of the newest district in the state, is an unplanned city and is over 250 years old. But its importance has become immense after the formation of the new district headquarters.

In the coming days, a number of modernization and renovation works will take place including setting up of renovated Asansol railway station, modernization of IISCO Steel Plant in Burnpur, setting up of two new greenfield hotel projects, shopping malls etc.

Police swing into action after civic body plaint on sand mining



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE BURDWAN, 29 JUNE

Desperate sand mining within the prohibited zone had been posing a severe threat to the Rs300cr drinking water project for Burdwan town.

The police, followed by a complaint by the civic body, cracked down on the offenders, booking 12 miscreants yesterday.

After the chief minister, Mamata Banerjee spoke about organised sand mafia on Monday, chairman, Burdwan Municipality lodged a complaint with the district police yesterday where he expressed concern over the desperate sand mining in the Damodar riverbed, close to the water project.

Pareesh Chandra Sarkar, the chairman said, "The miscreants were using country boats for lifting sand from the restricted zone reserved for the water infiltration gallery and this posed a severe threat to the entire project."

The infiltration galleries are the horizontal source made from open jointed or perforated pipes and are laid below water tables for collection of groundwater. Such underwater galleries need permeable soils to allow sufficient water collection, hourly.

Sarkar added, "Police was informed about the mining

in the gallery areas, but remained indifferent."

The Burdwan Municipality had kicked off the work for the ambitious Rs300cr Amrut project four-and-a-half years ago. The pump house for the purpose was installed beside the Damodar at Jujuti village in Galsi PS area, exactly 15.4 km away from the town.

The first piped drinking water supply arrived in the town on 29 November, 2021 and in June, 2023, the civic body invited bidders for the second phase.

The civic body already has endured 50,000 drinking water connections and supplies are made directly through 10 overhead reservoirs.

The ministry of urban development has launched the Amrut Mission for augmentation of infrastructure for drinking water supply aiming to ensure every household gets access to a tap with assured supply of water, besides improving the quality of life with a sewage connection.

After the civic body lodged a complaint yesterday, a joint force of the police from Galsi, Khandaghoosh and Burdwan thanas suddenly cracked down on the offenders heavily this morning.

The SP, East Burdwan, Amandeep Singh, said, "Twelve offenders were arrest-

ed and six tractors, three loaded trolleys were seized from the spot."

Some country boats used for ferrying sand also were seized.

The accused have been slapped with the charges of theft and pilferage of national property and criminal conspiracy (under Sections- 411, 413, 414, 379 & 120 B of the IPC) and two separate cases have been registered at Burdwan and Galsi PS respectively. The district police, from last January till 28 June, 2024, seized 241 vehicles used for trafficking of sand from the Damodar and the Ajoy riverbed.

This month, 71 such vehicles had been seized so far and 14 were from the Ausgram PS area. On the same Damodar riverbed, a mechanized excavator from Galsi drowned in Bankura. On 2 May, Chief Justice, Calcutta High Court, TS Sivagnanam ordered the Bankura administration to hold a sudden inspection of the riverbed within eight weeks to see whether machines were deployed illegally for sand extraction.

The mishap had occurred within six weeks and no official had visited the site before that despite the CHC order.

RPF inspector, two others suspended for pilferage of Railway property worth over ₹17 lakh

AGENCIES KOLKATA, 29 JUNE

An inspector along with a sub-inspector and a head constable of the Railway Protection Force (RPF), South Eastern Railway (SER), have been suspended for pilferage of railway property worth Rs 17,65,456 over the last two years from a store.

An official said that department proceedings have also been initiated against the accused. In addition to this, a criminal case has also been lodged against them that may land them behind bars.

"The crime came to light after the handover of store charge between two inspectors recently. The officer who took over noticed discrepancies in the distribution of UPS units and their accessories. These were procured in 2022. The inspector who had taken over immediately brought this to the attention of the RPF administration of SER and an inquiry was initiated by the Internal Vigilance Wing (IWW) of the RPE," an SER Spokesperson said.

He said that the report prepared by the IWW on June 20, 2024, substantiated the allegations and found primary facie evidence of involvement of the three accused.

He said that the department proceedings were immediately initiated and a criminal case under the Railway Property (Unlawful Possession) Act, 1966, was registered against the trio at the RPF Post at Garden Reach in Kolkata.

Further inquiry is in progress and appropriate action will be taken if the three are found guilty, he said.

STUDENT PROTEST



A protest against privatisation in education sector by RSF members in front of Presidency University. ■ MOUL MONDAL

Man beaten to death in Salt Lake

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE KOLKATA, 29 JUNE

Yet another youth was allegedly beaten to death in Salt Lake area on Saturday, a day after the incident of lynching of a 37-year-old man on Nirmal Chandra Street in Bowbazar, under the Muchipara police station area on Friday. Today, Prasen Mondal, a 22-year-old youth suspected to be a thief, was beaten to death by some youths at Polenite under Electronics Complex police station.

According to police, some people caught Prasen and beat him up severely, suspecting him of being a thief of mobile phones in the area.

He was brought dead to a private hospital at nearby Karunamoyee early this morning. But the doctors found something wrong with the person, who rushed the victim to the hospital. They didn't allow the person to leave the hospital and informed the local police. Police rushed to the hospital and interrogated the youth about the incident. During interrogation, he divulged everything about

the incident to police, who later detained three persons, including the person in connection with the death of Prasen. The three detained persons are Tapan Sarkar, Harshit Sarkar and Sreedam Mondal. One of them is a Bangladeshi national, it's learnt.

Meanwhile, police investigating the alleged incident of lynch in the Muchipara area have seized sticks and cricket bats from the students' hostel on Saturday.

A team of investigating police officials reached the hostel Udayan today and seized the items from the second floor of the building.

They suspected that the students might have beaten the man Irshad Alam to death using the lathis and bats.

Irshad suspected to be a thief was lynched allegedly by boarders of a students' hostel reportedly run by the state government on Nirmal Chandra Street on Friday morning. The arrested 14 students in Muchipara lynching case have been remanded to police custody after their bail petitions were rejected by the court.

Siliguri mayor blames PM for delay in housing funds

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE SILIGURI, 29 JUNE

Siliguri mayor Goutam Deb has urged those in need to apply for the housing programme. This decision was made by the mayor after a resident of Siliguri called during his 'Talk to Mayor' session today.

The person, who made the call, notified the mayor that there were five families residing in Kopajjote, within ward 46, who did not have proper housing. These households lack the resources necessary to build their own homes. Upon receiving this information, the mayor urged the caller to promptly apply for housing assistance.

During the 'Talk to Mayor' session, it should be mentioned that Mr Deb received two additional calls regarding the housing scheme. One caller inquired about the

progress of their application while the other asked for information on how to apply.

In response to their inquiries, Mr Deb did not hesitate to hold Prime Minister Narendra Modi responsible for the delay in distributing funds for the housing programme. Additionally, he highlighted that despite the BJP winning both MLA and MP seats in this area, they showed reluctance in addressing the issue when the Centre deliberately withheld its financial contribution.

In conclusion, Mr Deb provided reassurance that chief minister Mamata Banerjee has decided to provide financial assistance only in July of this year.

"This means that we must wait patiently for the processing of applications from many beneficiaries that have been pending for a while," Mr Deb said.

Mayor also emphasized that the chief minister is dedicated to implementing the housing for all projects with support from the state government, therefore those interested should submit their applications promptly.

Classified

SITUATION WANTED SITUATION VACANT PUBLIC NOTICES PUBLIC NOTICES

EXPERIENCED Female (27), M.A. (First Class English) B.Ed., ISBC School Teacher, seeks change. Contact: 9748282659.

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ADVERTISEMENT (B.Ed.) - Application invited for VSTTC (B.Ed.) in the vacant post of Librarian (1) as per norms of NCTE & BSAEU. E-mail: vsttcbcd@gmail.com

CHANGE OF NAME

I, SRI Subrata Roy, on behalf of my father, Sri Gobinda Roy, of Santra Para, Post: Khalisani, P.S.: Chandannagar, District: Hooghly, Pin-712138, West Bengal, India. I notified that my father's name is wrongly spelled as Gobinda Chandra Roy in my Passport, lying and changed via an affidavit sworn before the Judicial Magistrate 1st Class 3rd Court Chinsurah on 12-06-2024. Hence, Sri Gobinda Roy & Sri Gobinda Chandra Roy is the same and identical person.

I, Tirthankar Singh, S/o. Late Nanda Lal Singh, residing at 46, Naskarpara, Roy Nagar, P.S.: Bansdroni, Kolkata-700070, hereby state that my son Mainak Singh shall henceforth be known as Kian Singh as declared before the First Class Judicial Magistrate at Alipore (South 24 Parganas / West Bengal) their vide Affidavit Number: 33988 dated: 06-06-2024 stating Mainak Singh and Kian Singh both are same and identical person.

I, SANTOSH Thakur, S/o. Kameshwar Thakur, residing at Plot No. 17, Dag No. 9/62, Mouza: Jagatipota, P.O.: Dhulia, 24 Pgs (South), W.B.-700150 shall henceforth be known as Santosh Kumar Thakur as declared before the Notary Public vide Affidavit No. 96AB 758568 dated 28-06-2024. Santosh Thakur and Santosh Kumar Thakur both are same and identical person.

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE High Commission of India, London has received a notice of intended marriage from Mr. Rohit Bhattacharjee, S/o Phalguni Sankar Bhattacharjee, holder of Indian Passport No. 26103271 and Miss Pausali Sengupta, D/o Biswajit Sengupta, holder of Indian Passport No. N8879254 under the Foreign Marriage Act, 1969 of India. Objection, if any (along with valid reasons), to the intended marriage may be conveyed to the High Commission of India, London within 30 Days of publication of this notice at the following address: Second Secretary, High Commission of India, India House, Aldwych, WC2B 4NA

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PUBLIC NOTICES

My client Mrs. Bulbul Barman, W/o. Sudhangshu Barman, residing at Annapurna Diagnostic Centre, Sodepur Road, P.O.+P.S.: Madhyamgram, Kolkata-700130, District: North 24 Parganas, has lost an original registered Deed No. 12111 dated 29-12-2016 of the Plot No. U-155 having total area of 630 sq. ft., Khasra No. 453m, lying and situated at Vill.: Badedi Rajputan, Tehsil Roorkee, District Haridwar, Anandam City which is registered in the office of Sub-Registrar Roorkee II, recorded in Book No. 1, Volume No. 3426, Pages-115 to 136, being No. 12111 in the year 2016. My client have lodged one GDE being No. 1629 of 2024 dated 20-05-2024 at Madhyamgram Police Station. If any person finds it please contact Mausumi Paul, Advocate, Contact No.: 9830164379.

LOST & FOUND

NOTICE is hereby given that one original Bengali Kobala (Bengali Sale Deed) executed between SK ABDUL BARI and SMT. SATI RANI ROY in respect of the premises 47, Jadavgarh Colony, mailing address 3/16, Jadavgarh Colony, Kolkata-78, registered at Sub-Registrar Alipore, South 24(P) bearing Book No. 1, Volume No. 113, Pg 41 to 43, being No. 6391, Year 1956 is misplaced/lost and not traceable yet since August 2009. The report of the same has been lodged at Kasba Police Station vide GDE No. 1719 dated 25-12-2009. If found kindly inform to Mr. Debabrata Roy (M): 9874669261.

PUBLIC NOTICE This is for the information of all concerned that my Client Usha Maheshwari, being the owner of 4631 sq.ft of land of Premises No. 10/9, Girish Chandre Ghosh Road (Dag- 3614 & 3619, Kh. No. 592, Mouza-Kalidaha, Ward-19 of SDDM) P. S. Lake Town, Kolkata - 7 0 0 0 4 8 purchased under Deed No. 12322/2013, registered at ARA, Kolkata, lost that deed from her custody. One G. D. has been made at Lake Town P. S. on 17.05.2024. If any one has obtained that deed or any one has any claim over the said portion shall come with valid document in the following address within 15 days from this notice, otherwise no claim shall be entertained. SUBHASHISH GHOSH, Advocate, 10, Old Post Office Street, Kolkata-700001. Mobile: 7980114041. Email: advocate.sghosh@gmail.com

This is to notify that the Chain Deed of Conveyance dated 20.06.1986 in respect of a property at 63J, Charu Chandra Place East, Kolkata - 700033, registered in the office of the District Sub-Registrar, Alipore and recorded in Book No. 1, being No. 11664, for the year 1986, in possession of my client, Piew Guha, has been missing. The incident was intimated to Lake PS vide GDE No. 1591 dated 28.06.2024. My client has not encumbered the said property in any manner whatsoever since the purchase as above. M Ritwika Advocate Enrol No. WB 967A/2018

NOTICE IN DEBTS RECOVERY APPELLATE TRIBUNAL AT KOLKATA 9, Old Post Office Street, 7th Floor, Kolkata - 700001 Appeal No. 49 of 2024 Arising out of SA 58 of 2022 in DRT-I, Kolkata Smt. Alpans Paul & Ors. ...Appellants -Versus- Union Bank of India & Ors. ...Respondents

SUMMONS 1. WHEREAS the appellant has filed an appeal U/S 18 of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets & Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 against the order passed by the Ld. Presiding Officer, DRT-1, Kolkata and other reliefs. You are hereby summoned to appear and file written statement before this Tribunal at 10.30 a.m. or at such time immediately thereafter according to the convenience of Tribunal on 16.08.2024 to answer the claim. 2. If you intend to file any documents, you may file the same with a list along with the written statement. 3. You should file your respective registered addresses and a memo of appearance when you enter appearance before the Tribunal either in person or by a pleader/Advocate duly instructed. 4. Take notice that, in default of your appearance on the day mentioned herein before, the proceeding will be heard and determined in your absence. Given under my hand and the seal of this Tribunal on this 25th day of June, 2024. Signature of the officer Sd/- 25.06.2024 Registrar Authorized to issue Summons Debts Recovery Appellate Tribunal Kolkata

NOTICE Notice is hereby given that my client Sri Bimal Kumar Sureka intend to mortgage 24 decimal Sali Land situated at Mouza-Ramdevpur, J.L. No. 7, L.R. Khatian No. 131, L.R. Dag No. 442 & 4.6 decimal Sali Land at L.R. Khatian No. 129 & 154, L.R. Dag No. 437, under Khagramuri Gram Panchayat, P.S.: Bishnuapur. Any person having objection in respect of this land should inform the undersigned within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which presumed that no adverse / objection in respect of the said land. Dipa Sarkar, Advocate 4, No. Govt. Place North, Delta House, 7th Floor Suit No.-725, Kol.-01, Mob.: 9903721815

TENDERS

E-tenders are being invited by the Principal, Bangabasi Morning College, Kolkata for Design, supply, installation, testing & commissioning of Electrical installation of 15 Kw roof-top Solar panel-grid. For details, please go through https://wb-tenders.gov.in Tender No. 2024_DHE_702642_1.

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THUMBNAILS



Protest by AIJAL and PUCL members against the three new criminal laws, in Kolkata on Saturday. — MOUL MONDAL

Maiden win: The Kolkata Tigers have emerged victorious in the thrilling Bengal Women's Pro T20 League 2024. Led by Mita Paul, the Kolkata Tigers delivered standout performances both with the bat and in the field. In a thrilling final at the Eden Gardens, Kolkata Tigers prevailed over the Murshidabad Queens by 5 runs to lift the inaugural women's title of the Bengal Pro T20 League. — SNS

2 veg vendors killed, 3 injured in road mishap

According to police, the accident occurred this morning when a Kolkata-bound matador van loaded with vegetables collided with a truck carrying sand coming from the opposite side on Baruiপুর-Joynagar Road at Sahapara

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, 29 JUNE

Two vegetable vendors died while three others were critically injured in a road accident at Sahapara in the Baruiপুর police station area of South 24-Parganas district on Saturday.

The three injured were shifted to a medical college hospital in the city from a state-run hospital in Baruiপুর after their condition deteriorated.

According to police, the accident occurred this morning when a Kolkata-bound matador van loaded with vegetables collided with a truck carrying sand coming from the opposite side on Baruiপুর-Joynagar Road at Sahapara.

Both the vehicles travelling on high had a head-on collision, according to police. The truck loaded with sand dashed the matador van when it suddenly lost control and hit a road-side light post. Two vendors died on the spot and the three others sustained severe injuries.

All the victims, who bought vegetables from the local wholesale market at Suryapur, were going to Kolkata by the matador van to sell the items.

Locals in the Sahapara area alleged that there has been an alarming rise in cases of reckless driving, ignoring minimum speed limit along the Baruiপুর-Joynagar road because of no police vigilance.

As a result of which, the number of road accidents are on the rise in the area.

Traders, hawkers clash, SN Banerjee Road blocked

It is alleged that some hawkers attacked the permanent traders



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, 29 JUNE

Clashes between hawkers and traders in the Esplanade market area of Kolkata broke out this afternoon.

The protesting traders blocked SN Banerjee Road. In response, hawkers also protested with Trinamul flags. As a result, a part of Esplanade was paralyzed on Saturday afternoon.

A large police force arrived

at the scene to manage the situation.

There were clashes between hawkers and traders in New Market area. It is alleged that some hawkers attacked the permanent traders.

In protest of this incident, the permanent traders of New Market took to the streets. As a result, traders have decided to keep New Market closed on Saturday afternoon. It is learned that the conflict between permanent traders and hawkers in the New Market area has created chaos in



the Esplanade area.

The traders of New Market allege that at least 40-50 people attacked them, all armed with rods. It is also alleged that one member of the traders' union was injured in this attack.

Meanwhile, the police also struggled to handle the situation.

Deputy commissioner of police and other senior police officers reached the spot and tried to talk to the traders.

However, the permanent traders of New Market have

one demand: the attackers must be arrested otherwise, New Market will not be reopened.

It is noteworthy that New Market is a favourite shopping place for the city's residents and people from the suburbs.

This area has many permanent traders as well as numerous hawkers setting up stalls on the streets. Since Saturday morning, the situation progressively worsened, leading to a deadlock situation.

Street hawkers happy with Mamata's directive to halt eviction for a month

HEMANT JACOB
HOOGHLY, 29 JUNE

The encroachment of footpaths and busy thoroughfares in the district by hawkers and street vendors has turned into a serious issue in suburban towns of the district.

Chief minister Mamata Banerjee mentioned that footpaths were constructed on both sides of the road with colourful slabs and the entire road was illuminated. But, with the passage of time, the permanent shops, adjacent to the newly-built footpaths occupied a part of the footpaths.

People hailed the decision of state chief minister Mamata Banerjee to get the footpaths clear of any encroachment and removal of hawkers from the streets.

The prompt action by different civic body heads and police to clear the roads and footpaths drew lot of resentments among the hawkers and street vendors. They cried losses. They feared loss of livelihood. But the halt to the eviction drive for a month has brought some relief to the hawkers.

The joint eviction drive was carried out at Uttarpara, Rishra, Tarkeswar and Aram-

bagh.

The district TMC president Arindom Guin, chairman of Rishra, Serampore, Uttarpara municipalities and others said a spot survey is being carried out and then the names of hawkers will be enlisted and identity cards issued to the hawkers but only for ones who are local residents. Hawking and non-hawking zones will be specified. The hawkers and the vendors have thanked the state chief minister for prohibiting any person employed with the state government or any public representative from demanding money from hawkers and vendors.

BJP gaining vote share at the cost of CPM: Left leaders

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, 29 JUNE

In Bengal and across the country, the CPM faced a severe setback in this Lok Sabha election. This trend has been continuing since the Lok Sabha election in 2019.

In Kerala too, the CPM's vote share has decreased this time.

The BJP is making significant inroads in Kerala. In this context, the CPM's central committee meeting began in Delhi on Friday.

At the start of the meeting, CPM general secretary Sitaram Yechury delivered his opening speech.

He expressed concern over the CPM's performance across the country, particularly the setbacks in Kerala and Bengal.

According to CPM sources, Kerala has become a major headache for the party.

The CPM is in power in Kerala.

Traditionally, Kerala sees a change of government every five years, but an exception occurred in 2021 when the CPM-led Left Democratic Front government came to power for a second consecutive term.

However, it appears that



The CPM's vote share has dropped by nearly 10 per cent in 2024 compared to the 2021 Assembly election.

The central committee considers this 10 per cent drop over three years politically very "dangerous."

On Friday, Mr Yechury raised this issue. He also expressed concern over the dismal outcome of the CPM in Bengal.

The BJP is beginning to establish its influence in Kerala, winning a seat in this Lok Sabha election.

Mr Yechury said, "The party should certainly have independent opinions emerge, and those opinions should be prioritized."

Additionally, it has been reported that there will be detailed discussions on the CPM's performance in Bengal today.

Another eatery owner receives threat call

The caller named himself as Arjun Singh and said that he has been given the responsibility to kill the businessman. Police began an investigation

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, 29 JUNE

Another Barrackpore restaurant owner Tapas Bhakti has reported to police that he has been threatened over phone from a Bihar jail.

The businessman claimed that he received a call from one Subodh Singh on his mobile phone, a day ago. Tapas Bhakti gave the phone audio clip to the police.

The caller named himself as Arjun Singh and said that he has been given the responsibility to kill the businessman. Police began an investigation.

Earlier, miscreants who targeted businessman Ajay Mondal's car in Belgharia and opened fire are still at large.

However, Ajay was warned over phone, moments after the incident.

Barrackpore City Police arrested two people from Bihar on that charge.

According to police sources, the house of the two criminals named Salil Paswan and Ankit is in Samsipur in Bihar.

The name of convict Subodh Singh, lodged in Bihar's Beur Jail, came up during the investigation into the 15 June shooting at Ajay's car on BT Road.

On the day of the incident, when Ajay was giving details of the incident to the policemen at Belgharia police station, he received a call.

The warning was from Subodh. It is also alleged that Subodh threatened Ajay again on 16 June.

Alok Rajoria, police commissioner of Barrackpore, said, "In the preliminary investigation, we have learned that they are threatening people over the phone. We are trying to get more information."

Investigators want to know whether the two miscreants called on the instructions of Subodh or someone else.

Preparations are underway to bring Subodh to the state. Investigators may take him into custody and return to Barrackpore in early July.

WET CITY



City of Joy on a rainy Saturday afternoon. — MOUL MONDAL

1 injured in explosion at Baguiati house

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, 29 JUNE

On Friday night around 10 pm, a powerful explosion shook Arjunpur Paschimpara in Baguiati.

The intensity of the explosion shattered the windows of nearby houses. It was reported that the explosion occurred inside a wardrobe in a house.

A forensic team visited the house today to find out what was inside the wardrobe that caused such a powerful explosion. It has been learned that a woman lives in the house with her 13-year-old daughter. The woman was not at home at the time of the incident.

The explosion occurred when her daughter returned home from tuition and opened

the door. She was injured and has been admitted to a hospital. The police have already sealed the house.

Both wardrobes in the room were damaged, but the gas cylinder remained intact. The police's initial assumption is that gas might have leaked somehow.

The room had been closed for a long time, and when the girl entered and turned on the light switch, the explosion occurred. Neighbours reported that the explosion not only damaged the house but also shattered the windows of nearby houses. They allege that there was some explosive substance inside the wardrobe that caused the explosion.

Terrified neighbours have demanded an investigation into the incident.

ED conducts raids at multiple locations in Kolkata

AGENCIES
KOLKATA, 29 JUNE

Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Saturday conducted raids at multiple locations in Kolkata related to a money laundering case of 2021, which was earlier investigated by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).

Sources said that the raids which were conducted related to money laundering has also some overseas links.

When this report was filed, parallel raids and search operations were being conducted at eight different locations in the city including New Alipore, South City Residential Complex at Jodhpur Park, Lake Town and Jadavpur among others.

The ED teams are being

escorted by Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) personnel.

Sources said that the main charge in the case is about illegally collecting public deposits under different multi-level marketing schemes similar to that in Ponzi scam cases like Saradha Group and Rose Valley Group among others.

Sources said that besides West Bengal, such deposit collections were also made in states like neighbouring Odisha, Punjab, Haryana and Delhi.

The operators have offices and agents' networks scattered in different important cities in these states.

The financial involvement in the case is thousands of crores of rupees.

State STF arrests terror suspect from Chennai

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, 29 JUNE

Officers of the special Task Force of the state police today arrested one terror suspect of a banned Bangladeshi terror group from Chennai, state police sources said.

The person arrested as terror suspect has been identified as Seikh Anwar.

According to police sources, Seikh Anwar, who was a resident of a Mangalkot village of East Burdwan, had shifted to Chennai for work. There, claimed police, the 33-year-old suspect would work as a washer man.

State police sources said that Anwar, who had his link with the banned Bangladeshi terror outfit, was a member of the sleeper cell of that outfit and was engaged in radicalizing young minds in Chennai.

The STF sources said that the leads regarding Anwar's whereabouts surfaced following interrogation of another suspect Habibullah, who was picked up on 22 June from Panagarh, Kanksa by the state STF.

Interrogation of the suspect revealed that he was associated with a banned Bangladeshi terror outfit Ansar Al-Islam, which again was found to have its link with Al-Qaeda group.

Bengal police sources said, interrogation of Habibullah led them to believe that he was actually an active member of Ansar Al-Islam.

Interrogation of Habibullah led to the arrest of one Harez Seikh, who was arrested by the state STF on 25 June. Interrogation of both led to the arrest of Seikh Anwar today from Chennai.

Clarivate withholds impact factors for 17 journals citing manipulation

BISWABRATA GOSWAMI
KRISHNANAGAR, 29 JUNE

Clarivate, the organisation responsible for calculating journal impact factors (JIFs), has withheld this year's metrics for 17 journals due to suspected citation manipulation. This marks a significant increase from the previous year, when only four journals were excluded.

The surge in exclusions can be attributed to Clarivate's expansion in their 2024 journal citation reports, which now include an additional 7,200 journals from the Emerging Sources Citation Index (ESCI) and the Arts and Humanities Citation Index (AHCI).

This broader inclusion has inevitably led to a higher number of impact factor suppressions.

Clarivate has a history of suppressing journals for citation irregularities.

In 2020, the organization penalized 33 journals for self-citation, while in 2021, they suppressed 10, and only three in the following year.

A spokesperson from Clarivate explained that journals are excluded due to "anomalous citation behaviour," which includes excessive self-citations and citation stacking between journals. However, they clarified that this does not imply any wrongdoing by the journals.

"Anomalous citation behaviour" refers to patterns that suggest manipulative practices to artificially inflate a journal's impact factor.

Such practices can distort the true influence and quality of a journal. Clarivate's stringent measures aim to maintain the integrity and reliability of JIFs, which are widely used to gauge journal quality and evaluate researchers' work.



The controversy surrounding JIFs continues to grow, especially as many institutions rely on them for key decisions regarding academic promotions and funding allocations.

Losing an impact factor can have significant repercussions for both authors and journals, potentially leading to decreased submissions and a tarnished reputation.

Scholars and professors express concern that the loss of a journal's impact factor could negatively impact their Academic Performance Index (API) scores, which are cru-

cial for their career advancements.

Despite ongoing controversy surrounding the validity and impact of journal impact factors, many institutions still use them to gauge journal quality and evaluate researchers' work.

In India, the academic community is particularly concerned about the implications of these exclusions. Many scholars and professors fear losing their academic performance indicators (API) score in academic activities, as prescribed by the University Grants Commission (UGC).

This score is critical for academic promotions and evaluations, making the loss of an impact factor a substantial setback for researchers and institutions alike.

Clarivate's actions highlight the ongoing challenges in ensuring the accuracy and fair-

ness of these influential rankings. The organization emphasizes that their decision to withhold JIFs is part of their commitment to uphold the highest standards in scholarly publishing.

As the academic community grapples with these developments, it is clear that the debate over the value and impact of JIFs is far from settled. Clarivate's efforts to address citation manipulation are a step towards more transparent and trustworthy metrics, but they also underscore the complexities and pressures inherent in academic publishing.

For now, the affected journals and their contributors must navigate the challenges posed by the absence of an impact factor, while the broader academic community watches closely for further developments in this ongoing saga.

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TN Gov extends tenure of VC facing corruption charges

The development is the latest in Governor R N Ravi's ongoing feud with the DMK government

MC RAJAN
CHENNAI, 29 JUNE

Continuing his confrontational approach with the DMK government, Tamil Nadu Governor RN Ravi has extended the tenure of the Salem Periyar University's Vice-Chancellor who is facing charges of corruption and irregularities.

Due to retire on June 30, the tenure of Dr R Jagannathan, has been extended by a year, till May 19, 2025, even as the governor is accused of

delaying the constitution of a search committee to scout for a new VC.

Jagannathan was appointed as the VC in June 2021 for a three year term. His stewardship of the nascent varsity has witnessed many controversies and the non-teaching employees as well as the faculty remaining on a warpath.

Ever since Ravi took over the reins of the Raj Bhavan, he remains unrelenting in debunking the Dravidian ideology and relishing in taking on the elected government of



MK Stalin on several occasions. He had been sitting on many bills passed by the Assembly, including those stripping him

of the power to appoint VCs.

As chancellor of the state-run universities, he has been unilaterally taking decisions on appointment of VCs, forcing the state government to drag him to the courts.

The extension of Periyar University VC's tenure is the latest in his crossing swords with the state government. He had unilaterally convened vice-chancellors' conferences and conducted many convocations, boycotted by state Higher Education Minister K Ponmudi.

Jagannathan was arrested

in December last on the charge of misappropriation of funds following a complaint by I Elangovan, advisor to the Periyar University Employees Union.

As per the complaint, the VC along with the Registrar, DrThangavel had floated the Periyar University Technology Entrepreneurship and Research Foundation (PUTER) in their own names using varsity funds without necessary approval from either Government or the university syndicate. The foundation functions from the varsity premises.

Will deal with ED politically and legally: Kerala CPI-M



AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, 29 JUNE

A day after the Enforcement Directorate (ED) temporarily attached CPI-M's office land and eight bank accounts in Kerala's Thrissur district totalling Rs 29 crore in a bank fraud case, state party secretary M.V. Govindan said the ED is engaged in nonsense and there appears to be no change in the style of the Centre.

"We will deal with this issue politically and legally. All that we have heard is through the media about this attachment. The practice of

buying property in the name of the district secretary is the practice of the party for long," said Govindan, who is presently in Delhi to attend CPI-M's national committee meetings.

Surprisingly, the ED has now named CPI-M as a key accused in the case after a probe revealed that money involved in the scam was diverted to party bank accounts.

The ED has found fault as the land has been registered in the name of Thrissur district secretary M V Varghese. Varghese on Saturday said

he has no clue of what the ED has done as neither he nor the party has any information of what has happened and the only thing he knows is what the media has been saying.

Affairs of the Thrissur unit of the CPI-M have come under ED scrutiny ever since the Karuvannur Service Cooperative Bank scam to the tune of Rs 300 crore surfaced and top CPI-M leaders including a sitting legislator A.C. Moideen, former Lok Sabha member P.K. Biju, former legislator M.K. Kannan, Varghese and quite a few top local leaders have been questioned.

This is the third attachment done by the ED as they have attached properties worth Rs 87 crore so far in the bank scam.

During the recent Lok Sabha polls, this bank scam was at the centre of politics and the BJP and its winning candidate actor-turned-politician Suresh Gopi had raked up the issue during his campaign.

Gopi helped the BJP to open its account in Kerala by winning a stunning victory with a margin of over 72,000 votes.

e-TENDER NOTICE

e-TENDERS are invited (Start: 01/07/2024) by the Prodnan Swarupganj Gram Panchayat, Nadia. NIT No: 01/15th FC/2023-24/SWARUPGANJ to NIT No: 03/15th FC/2023-24/SWARUPGANJ. Last date of application: 10/07/2024 at 11 AM. Technical Bid open: 12/07/2024 at 11 AM. For details please visit: <https://wb.tenders.gov.in>

SOUTH EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

TENDER NOTICE FOR COMPREHENSIVE MAINTENANCE
Tender Notice No. Sr. DEE (RS&G) BSP/OT/24-25-06. Date: 25/06/2024.

Name of Work: "Comprehensive maintenance of different type of Silt, Window Air-Conditioner, Refrigerator and Water Cooler of Elect. (RS&G) department over BSP Division (Excluding BSP settlement) for a period of two years."

Tender Value (Approx.): ₹ 94,10,72,84/- EMD: ₹ 1,88,200/- Tender Closing Date: 17/07/2024, 15:00 Hrs.

For further details eligibility criteria & complete details for the above work, please refer/download tender document which is available on website www.irops.gov.in.

Sr. Divl. Elect. Engineer (RS&G) CPR/10/124 S.E.C. Railway, Bilaspur.

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

OPEN TENDER
Batch No-13/24 Dated-28.06.2024

E-Tender Notice for supply of materials "Participation in through" Web Portal of IREPS - www.irops.gov.in Offers are invited for supply of the following materials.

The closing time for all tenders is at 14.00 hr.

Sr. No : 1, Tender No. : 04244731, Brief Description: Primary Brake Beam Assy Escorts, Quantity : 285 Nos, Published on time : 24.06.24/17:45:13, Closing on : 25.07.24

Sr. No : 2, Tender No. : 06245056, Brief Description: Supply, installation wiring, testing & commissioning of dual redundant arrangement of UFSBI, Quantity : 36 Pairs, Published on time : 24.06.24/17:52:14, Closing on : 25.07.24

Sr. No : 3, Tender No. : 04244838, Brief Description: Axle Box Pivot Bush, Quantity : 14345 Nos, Published on time : 24.06.24/17:34:33, Closing on : 25.07.24

Sr. No : 4, Tender No. : 04244396, Brief Description: Wheel Set Earthing Equipment, Quantity : 1862 Set, Published on time : 24.06.24/17:35:52, Closing on : 25.07.24

Sr. No : 5, Tender No. : 07245042, Brief Description: Manufacture & Supply of 60 kg Special Fish Plate Glued insulated Rail Joint, Quantity : 2396 Nos, Published on time : 25.06.24/16:47:20, Closing on : 22.07.24

Sr. No : 6, Tender No. : 06242403, Brief Description: Magneto Telephone, Quantity : 5240 Nos, Published on time : 24.06.24/17:49:37, Closing on : 22.07.24

Sr. No : 7, Tender No. : 11230003, Brief Description: Inhibited Mineral Insulating Oil, Quantity : 46167 Ltrs, Published on time : 25.06.24/16:50:32, Closing on : 22.07.24

Sr. No : 8, Tender No. : 04240429, Brief Description: Inter car Gangway Mounting to RCF's, Quantity : 345 Nos, Published on time : 25.06.24/16:41:46, Closing on : 25.07.24

Sr. No : 9, Tender No. : 04240209, Brief Description: Secondary Vertical Damper for LHB Non-AC coaches, Quantity : 2002 Nos, Published on time : 25.06.24/16:16:14, Closing on : 05.08.24

Sr. No : 10, Tender No. : 04244851A, Brief Description: Secondary Lateral Damper, Quantity : 2299 Nos, Published on time : 25.06.24/16:46:13, Closing on : 12.08.24

Sr. No : 11, Tender No. : 04244661, Brief Description: L-Type Non-asbestos Composition Brake Block, Quantity : 101924 Nos, Published on time : 25.06.24/13:32:27, Closing on : 05.08.24

Sr. No : 12, Tender No. : 04244712, Brief Description: Air Brake Hose Coupling Feed Pipe, Quantity : 14665 Nos, Published on time : 25.06.24/16:57:24, Closing on : 23.09.24

Sr. No : 13, Tender No. : 03243213, Brief Description: Gear case Assy for WAG7 loco, Quantity : 284 Set, Published on time : 27.06.24/15:45:41, Closing on : 05.08.24

Sr. No : 14, Tender No. : 03240118, Brief Description: Axle box Assy, Complete with Roller Bearing for WAG7 loco, Quantity : 07 Set, Published on time : 27.06.24/15:43:23, Closing on : 05.08.24

Sr. No : 15, Tender No. : 03244955, Brief Description: Overhauling kit for Control Portion, Quantity : 35 Set, Published on time : 27.06.24/15:55:23, Closing on : 22.07.24

Participants are required to submit their offer only on-line through the web Portal of IREPS - www.irops.gov.in before the closing date.

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY

E-Procurement Tender Notice No.: 24/45 Date: 28.06.2024
E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE
On behalf of the President of India, The Principal Chief Materials Manager, North Central Railway, Prayagraj, (An ISO 9001:2015 certified unit) invites the following E-procurement Tenders.

S.N.	Tender No.	Short Description	Qty.	Tender Opening Date
1	80241441B	TRANSFORMER OIL FOR THREE PHASE LOCOMOTIVES	22200 Litre	16.07.2024
2	30232878C	FLEX BALL CABLE LONG	31 NOS.	16.07.2024
3	30242884	FLEXBALL CABLE	39 NOS.	22.07.2024
4	30242712	RUBBER SPRING FOR FIAT BOGIE	1618 NOS.	22.07.2024
5	30242836	MAINTENANCE KIT-03	967 NOS.	22.07.2024
6	30241643A	LOWER SPRING SEAT	1563 Nos.	15.07.2024
7	30242820	FOOT STEP COMPLETE	493 Nos.	22.07.2024
8	38241217	BOLSTER SPRING OUTER	1216 Nos.	31.07.2024
9	38242521	BOGIE CENTRE PIVOT BOTTOM (e-RA)	9973 Nos.	31.07.2024
10	20241675	ARCHING CHAMBER	25 NOS	24.07.2024
11	20241001	AUXILIARY SWITCH ASSLY	717 NOS	24.07.2024
12	20242509	LATERAL DAMPER	103 Nos.	25.07.2024
13	8424RGC03	RUNNING CONTRACT FOR SUPPLY OF PLASSAR MAKE SPARES FOR TRACK MACHINES FOR THE YEARS 2024-25 AND 2025-26.	1 Set	25.07.2024
14	20243115	Set [Motor Set] of MP/CP Coils	14 Set	22.07.2024
15	20243600	IOH Kit for Pantograph Assy.	48 Set	22.07.2024
16	20242023	1.25"[1-14]" ANGLE COCK WITH VENT	4706 Nos.	24.07.2024
17	20243657	ROTOR BAR FOR SCHEME-1	6227 Nos.	24.07.2024
18	20243143A	Driver Seat & pedestal assembly	154 Nos.	24.07.2024
19	20235012E	ELECTRONICS RACK COMPLETE UNIT	03 Nos.	31.07.2024
20	40231321A	LED TYPE EMERGENCY LIGHT	1437 Nos.	23.07.2024
21	40243403	Voltage phase control	444 Nos.	25.07.2024
22	64235126A	Load Chain	300 MTR	19.07.2024
23	64245125	Tamping Tool Holder	14 Nos.	08.07.2024
24	64245161	Water Drain Valve	08 Nos.	22.07.2024
25	64245133	Cylinder	12 Nos.	06.08.2024
26	64235150D	Self-Starter 11 Teeth	05 Nos.	29.07.2024
27	64245074B	Cutting Chain Cap	460 Nos.	09.07.2024
28	30241751B	NON ASBESTOS BASED 'K' TYPE HIGH FRICTION COMPOSITE BRAKE BLOCKS	15144 Nos.	18.07.2024
29	30241684	HANGER FOR BOLSTER SPRING	6935 Nos.	25.07.2024
30	38242762B	SNUBBER SPRING FOR CASNUB	3500 Nos.	29.07.2024
31	30242048	SECONDARY VERTICAL DAMPER	1470 Nos.	01.08.2024
32	30242229	UIC TYPE RUBBER VESTIBULE ARRANGEMENT	140 Nos.	01.08.2024

Note: The complete information about above tenders can be seen and downloaded from IREPS website i.e. <http://www.irops.gov.in>. For any change/corrigendum in tender, please visit this website regularly. No separate corrigendum/change will be published in news paper.

1136/24 (A)

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY

Tender Notice No. 432024205 Date: 28.06.2024
E-Tender Notice
Divisional Railway Manager (Engineering) North Central Railway/Prayagraj, for and on behalf of the President of India, invites the following E-Tenders on prescribed form for the following works up to 13.30 hrs. on 19.07.2024. The details of the Tenders are as under:-

S.N. :01	Tender No.:	Approx Cost of work (₹) :
S.N. :01	Tender No.: 107	Approx Cost of work (₹) : ₹ 1,53,80,677.53
Name of work: Loading Leading and Unloading of P-way material in the section of ADEN/Line/CNB		
S.N. :02	Tender No.: 108	Approx Cost of work (₹) : ₹ 1,40,00,000.00
Name of work: Annual civil maintenance and minor new works in Zone Central for period ending 30.06.2025 in the section of SSE/W/Str./CNB under ADEN/HQ/ICNB.		
S.N. :03	Tender No.: 109	Approx Cost of work (₹) : ₹ 78,00,000.00
Name of work: P-way Zone work for the period ending 30.06.2025 in the section ADEN/Line/CNB.		
S.N. :04	Tender No.: 110	Approx Cost of work (₹) : ₹ 2,29,10,619.36
Name of work: Manual Deep Screening of Ballast in the Section of SSE/PW/HQ/East/CNB & SSE/PW/HQ/West/CNB & Jungle cleaning and removing weeds and bushes from cress in section under ADEN/Line/CNB.		
S.N. :05	Tender No.: 111	Approx Cost of work (₹) : ₹ 1,73,44,184.58
Name of work: Supply, installation & commissioning -operation of ETP/STP for waste/sewage water recycling at Kanpur in the section of SSE /W/HQ/CNB and other associated works near sub divisional hospital Kanpur under ADEN/HQ/ICNB.		
S.N. :06	Tender No.: 112	Approx Cost of work (₹) : ₹ 1,95,32,442.08
Name of work: Supply, installation & commissioning-operation of ETP/STP for waste/sewage water recycling and sewer line & other associated works in Govindpuri Colony in the section of SSE/W/SPL/ICNB under ADEN/HQ/ICNB		
S.N. :07	Tender No.: 113	Approx Cost of work (₹) : ₹ 1,90,59,777.50
Name of work: Improvement of General store depot by providing a new ward in scrap yard, one RCC road, a lunch room for staff and some other miscellaneous work under ADEN/HQ/ICNB		
S.N. :08	Tender No.: 114	Approx Cost of work (₹) : ₹ 78,51,247.14
Name of work: Sale of abandoned Structures of Kanpur-Rura Section under ADEN/ICNB & ADEN/HQ/ICNB Jurisdiction as & where basis excluding Wooden, Serviceable AC Sheets and Ferrugineous material including disposal of unusable material as Directed by Engineer-In-Charge		
Earnest Money (₹) : S.N.: 1- ₹ 2,26,900.00, S.N.: 2- ₹ 2,20,000.00, S.N.: 3- ₹ 1,56,000.00, S.N.: 4- ₹ 2,64,600.00, S.N.: 5- ₹ 2,36,700.00, S.N.: 6- ₹ 2,47,700.00, S.N.: 7- ₹ 2,45,300.00, S.N.: 8- ₹ 1,57,000.00. All Completion Period : S.N.: 1: 18 Months, S.N.: 2 & 3: 12 Months, S.N.: 4: 08 Months, S.N.: 5 & 6: 39 Months, S.N.: 7: 06 Months, S.N.: 8: 04 Months, Date of Opening of All Tender : 19.07.2024. Similar work for Eligibility Criteria : S.N.: 01 - Any Civil Engg. work or transportation work, S.N.: 02, 7 & 8 - Any Civil Engineering work, S.N.: 3 & 4 - P-Way work, S.N.: 5 & 6 - Supply installation, testing, commissioning of STP/ETP, (Note) : (1) Tender on line can be submitted up to 13:30 hrs. on 19.07.2024. (2) The complete information along with tender document of above E-tenders are available on Website www.irops.gov.in upto 13:30 hrs. on the due date of tender opening i.e. 19.07.2024.		
1135/24 (DG)		

TENDER

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY
Tender Notice No.: 422024205 Date: 27-06-2024
E-Tender Notice
Divisional Railway Manager (Engineering) North Central Railway/Prayagraj, for and on behalf of the President of India, invites the following E-Tenders on prescribed form for the following works up to 13:30 hrs. on 22.07.2024. The details of the tenders are as under:

Tender No. :	Approx Cost of Work (Rs.)	Bid security (Rs.) :
Tender No. : 106	₹ 69880128.68	₹ 499400.00
Name of Work : SKB-FBD : Balance work for elimination of Level Crossing by RUB at LC No. 70 in the section of ADEN/FZD.		
Completion Period : 06 months, Date of Opening of tender : 22.07.2024, Similar work for Eligibility Criteria : Any civil Engineering Work. Note :-1. The complete information along with tender document of above E-Tenders is available on website www.irops.gov.in up to 13:30 hrs. on the due date of tender opening i.e. 22.07.2024. The tender shall be opened at or after 15:00 hrs on due date of opening. 2. Bids other than in the form of E-Bids shall not be accepted against Tenders. For this purpose, vendors are required to get themselves registered with IREPS website along with Digital Signature Certificates issued by CCA under IT Act-2000. 3. Rates entered into Financial Rate page and duly signed digitally shall be considered Rates and any other financial entity in any other form/letterhead if attached by vendors shall be straightaway ignored and shall not be considered. 4. Tender No. 106 is having advertised value more than 50 Lakhs, therefore, Annexure-V & V(A) (Document Verification Certificate) is required. The supplier/contractor of goods and/or services would be subject to GST Act and Rules as applicable from time to time. 5. Document being attached should be signed by the tenderer on its body. 6. This tender notice has also been uploaded on www.nccr.indianrailways.gov.in . 7. Bid Security can be deposited Online through Internet Banking or Payment Gateway or Bank Guarantee Bond as detailed in para 12 of tender document. 8. In case of any difficulty helpdesk available on the website of IREPS may be approached. 9. Tender online can be submitted up to 13:30 hrs. on 22.07.2024. 10. Along with other instructions given to Tenderers, Tenderers are required to pay special attention on Para 12.0 of Tender Document for Bid Security Deposit. 11. E-Tender Forms shall be issued free of cost to all tenderers. 12. For tender no. 106 : The tenderer has to submit necessary document in compliance of clause 10 to 18 (Part-I) of IRGCC-2022 (Works matter) Mandatorily, otherwise their offer will be considered as incomplete Offer and accordingly shall not be considered.		
1131/24 (D)		

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY

Tender Notice No. 04-Elect/G/PRYJ/24-25 Dt. 28.06.2024
Tender Notice
Senior Divl. Electrical Engineer/Gen/N.C. Rly/Prayagraj, for and on behalf of the President of India, invite the following E-Tenders on prescribed form for the following work up to 15.00 hrs. on 22.07.2024. The details of the tenders are as under:

TN	Cost of work	Bid Security	Duration of completion
ELG-05-2425	₹ 10362543.98	₹ 201800.00	06 Months
Name of work: Electrical work in connection with "Utility shifting in connection with construction of ROB from GT road to Airport via near SFG by UPSBCL".			
TN	Cost of work	Bid Security	Duration of completion
ELG-06-2425	₹ 29024386.71	₹ 295100.00	24 Month
Name of work: Electrical work in connection with "Provision of 50 KLD Sewage Treatment plant (STP) & other associated work at Subedarganj colony, Provision of new toilet block with other wellness facilities at DSA ground Prayagraj, Allahabad Division- Construction of new Crew Running Room at Allahabad. Provision of air conditioning in new crew running room at Kanpur. Electrical work in connection with "Renovation of swimming pool, out side area and dismantling of school in Coral Club at Prayagraj."			
TN	Cost of work	Bid Security	Duration of completion
ELG-07-2425	₹ 13662873.92	₹ 218300	06 Months
Name of work: DDU-Ghaziabad:- Provision of the chiller plants at the NSG3 & NSG4 category station and enhance the capacity of the water cooler over ALD Divn.			
TN	Cost of work	Bid Security	Duration of completion
ELG-08-2425	₹ 14515200.00	₹ 222800.00	06 months
Tender Opening Date: 22.07.2024, 15.00 Hrs., Note: 1. The complete information along with tender document of above E-Tender is available on website www.irops.gov.in up to 15.00 hrs. on the due date of tender opening. 1140/24 FA			

CHITTARANJAN LOCOMOTIVE WORKS

OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE
The following e-Tenders can be accessed under the link www.irops.gov.in. Offers for such e-Tender can be submitted only electronically by accessing the link www.irops.gov.in → login → E-Tender Stores/Supply.

[A] No. COS/CRJ/PUB/e-Tender/19/0162, Date: 24/06/2024. Sl. No.: Tender No.; Brief Description of Item; Quantity; Earnest Money Deposit (Rupees); Tender Closing Date & Time (IST) are as follow: [1]; 75244132; Stainless Steel Pressed Section for WAG-9 HC Loco, as per Spec. No. CLW/MS/3/038 Alt-11 (each set consisting of 16 items as per set details attached) [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery]; 396.00 Set; ₹ 1,28,780.00; 16/07/2024 at 11:00 AM. [2]; 75244115; Safety Sling Arrangement for Hanger lever for WAG-9HC as per Spec./Drg. No.-1209-01.416-066. [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery]; 900.00 Set; ₹ 0.00; 31/07/2024 at 11:00 AM.	891.00 Set; ₹ 9,01,030.00; 12/08/2024 at 11:00 AM.
[B] No. COS/CRJ/PUB/e-Tender/19/0162, Date: 25/06/2024. Sl. No.: Tender No.; Brief Description of Item; Quantity; Earnest Money Deposit (Rupees); Tender Closing Date & Time (IST) are as follow: [1]; 75244132; Stainless Steel Pressed Section for WAG-9 HC Loco, as per Spec. No. CLW/MS/3/038 Alt-11 (each set consisting of 16 items as per set details attached) [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery]; 1459.00 Set; ₹ 17,26,050.00; 15/07/2024 at 11:00 AM. [2]; 75244136; Transition Duct Assy. for WAG-9HC Loco as per Spec. No. CLW/MS/3/159 Alt. Nil. Drg. No. 1209-11.144-025 Alt-8 & 1209-11.244-024 Alt-4. Cat. No. R/9/0047. [Each set consisting of 02 items as per set details attached] [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery];	

Comedian's show cancelled after Raja Singh's threat

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD, 29 JUNE

Comedian Daniel Fernandes' show in Hyderabad was cancelled today following a threat issued by BJP MLA Raja Singh over his comic act on Jains buying goats before Bakrid. Two years back T Raja Singh had threatened another comedian, Munawar Faruqui against performing in Hyderabad which had snowballed into a law and order issue. Fernandes today posted a video on Instagram informing that his show had to be rescheduled in Hyderabad because of the unrest caused by his last video. "Nobody is ready to guarantee the

Kharge endorses Sonia Gandhi's editorial attacking PM Modi

The CPP chairperson wrote that the election verdict signaled a political and moral defeat for a PM

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 29 JUNE

Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge on Saturday endorsed Congress Parliamentary Party (CPP) Chairperson Sonia Gandhi's write-up slamming Prime Minister Narendra Modi on several issues including the recent election of the speaker of the Lok Sabha, 1975 Emergency and NEET-UG exam 2024.

Kharge, who is also the leader of the Opposition in Rajya Sabha, while sharing the editorial in a national English daily titled "Preaching consensus, provoking confrontation" in a post on X, quoted Gandhi as saying, "There is no evidence that the Prime Minister has come to terms with the electoral outcome or has reflected on the message sent to him by voters".

Referring to the results of the recently concluded Lok Sabha elections, the CPP chairperson wrote in the editorial that the verdict of the



country signaled a personal, political and moral defeat for a prime minister who had awarded himself a divine status during the election campaign. Notably, earlier this month at the CPP meeting, she had

said the prime minister who sought the mandate solely in his name to the exclusion of both his party and its allies had suffered a political and moral defeat. "In reality, he has lost the mandate he sought and thereby lost the right to lead-

ership as well. We do not expect him to change the substance and style of his governance, nor take cognizance of the will of the people," the CPP chairperson had said. Mentioning about the elec-

tion of the Speaker in the Lower House, Gandhi in her editorial wrote, "He (Modi) preaches the value of consensus but continues to value confrontation."

She also narrated how the ruling dispensation refused to give the post of the deputy speaker to the INDIA bloc in lieu of support to its candidate for the post of Speaker.

On raking up the 1975 Emergency issue by the BJP-led NDA government, Gandhi said, "This was an attempt to divert attention away from the assault on the Constitution, on its foundational principles and values".

It may be mentioned here that the INDIA bloc has been accusing the ruling BJP of attacking the Constitution of India. Alleging a scam in the NEET-UG exam 2024, the CPP chairperson questioned Prime Minister Narendra Modi's silence over the matter.

"The prime minister who does 'Pariksha pe charcha' has been conspicuously silent on the leaks," she wrote.

Named JD(U) working president, Sanjay Jha raises demand for Spl status for Bihar

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 29 JUNE

The JD (U), a key constituent of the BJP-led NDA Government at the Centre, appointed Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Jha its working president on Saturday while Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar will continue to be the party's chief.

The decision was taken at a meeting of JD (U)'s National Executive here chaired by Nitish Kumar. During the meeting, the party vowed to continue its fight for special status and an economic package for Bihar.

The JD (U), after winning 12 Lok Sabha seats from the state in the recently concluded general elections, has become part of the NDA Government.

Expressing his gratitude to the party supremo for his elevation, Jha said, "Our leader and our party's national president, CM Nitish Kumar, has given me a huge responsibility."

On the NEET row, he said, "A strict law should be brought to ward off such a fiasco in the future. Action should be taken against those found guilty so that people's confidence in the system could be restored."

Speaking to the media after the party's national executive meeting, JD (U) leader KC Tyagi said, "He (CM Nitish Kumar) has announced in front of the national executive that he would always be part of the NDA. We will go to the Supreme Court to seek a stay on the Patna High Court verdict on the state government's reservation policy. We will continue to fight for special status and an economic package."

The Patna High Court struck down the laws passed by the Bihar Legislative Assembly providing 65 per cent reservation to the domiciles of Bihar belonging to Schedule Castes (SCs), Schedule Tribes (STs), and Other Backward Classes (OBCs) in matters of public employment and admission to education institutions.

Meanwhile, Bihar Minister and JD (U) leader Dr. Ashok Choudhary said, "Special status and special package for Bihar is our old demand and we still stand by it. Our Rajya Sabha MPs, Lalan Singh and Sanjay Jha, along with members of the Lok Sabha, will soon meet the prime minister to put forth our point strongly."

Prior to the meeting, JD (U)

leader Neeraj Kumar said the 2024 Lok Sabha election results have made it clear that the country's politics would now revolve around Nitish Kumar.

KC Tyagi said Nitish Kumar is the leader of the NDA and hence the next elections would be fought under his leadership. "The 2025 elections will be fought under the leadership of Nitish Kumar. Not only have the prime minister but both the state party presidents of the BJP and the leader of the House publicly announced it," he added.

Earlier on Thursday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said the JD (U) and the BJP would keep working together for good governance in Bihar. Modi conveyed the message after meeting with JD (U) MPs in Delhi on Thursday.

"Had a great meeting with @Jduonline MPs. Our parties have a long history of working together and fighting poor governance, corruption, and criminalisation in Bihar. The leadership of @NitishKumar Ji has taken Bihar on the path of development. We will keep working together for good governance," PM Modi said in a post on X and shared pictures from the meeting.

'Indira Gandhi put many of us behind bars, but she never abused us': Lalu Yadav on Emergency

AGENCIES
PATNA, 29 JUNE

Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) Chief and former Bihar Chief Minister Lalu Prasad Yadav on Saturday recalled what he went through during the dark days of Emergency and said that the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi put many of the leaders behind bars, but she never abused them.

In a post on X, the RJD chief shared an article "The Sangh Silence in 1975" by him and journalist Nalin Verma. In the article, they attacked the BJP-led central government and said that although 1975 is a stain on the country's democracy, let's not forget who doesn't respect the Opposition in

2024. "I was the convener of the steering committee that Jayaprakash Narayan - had constituted to carry forward the movement against the excesses of Emergency imposed by the then PM Indira Gandhi. I was in jail under the Maintenance of Security Act (MISA) for over 15 months. My colleagues and I did not know many BJP ministers speaking about the Emergency today. We hadn't heard of Modi, J P Nadda, and some of the PM's other ministerial colleagues who today lecture us on the value of freedom," he posted on X.

"Indira Gandhi put many of us behind bars, but she never abused us. Neither she nor her ministers called

us "anti-national" or "unpatriotic". She never enabled vandals to defile the memory of Babasaheb Ambedkar - the architect of our Constitution. 1975 is a stain on our democracy but let's not forget who doesn't respect the Opposition in 2024," the RJD leader added.

On June 25, 1975, Indira Gandhi, the then Prime Minister, imposed a 21-month state of emergency. This year marks the 50th anniversary of the Emergency, which is considered one of the most controversial periods in India's political history.

Earlier on Thursday, President Droupadi Murmu addressed the joint sitting of the Parliament and criticised the imposition of 'Emergency'.

MP CM Mohan Yadav reviews preparedness for assembly polls

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
BHOPAL, 29 JUNE

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Dr Mohan Yadav has emphasized the need for departments and their heads to prepare comprehensive reports on departmental accomplishments and promptly respond to queries in the upcoming Assembly session.

The CM took a meeting of senior officials at the State Secretariat at Bhopal and apprised himself about the preparations for the monsoon session of the Madhya Pradesh Assembly starting from July 1. The state government would also present its budget during the session to be held from 1 July to 19 July.

Dr Yadav gave necessary instructions to senior officials of the departments regarding the action to be taken at the government level in connection with the session.



The CM said that the Assembly serves as a crucial platform for disseminating vital government information and highlighting its notable accomplishments to the public. He stressed the need for

timely and thorough responses to inquiries from Assembly members, ensuring that the information provided is complete and relevant.

Chief Minister Dr Yadav said that the necessary process related to the bills to

be passed in the Assembly session should be completed as soon as possible before the session.

Simultaneously, information related to questions should also be prepared and sent to the Assembly Secre-

tariat. He said that the nodal officers designated by the departments should be present regularly during the session. The concerned officers should be present on duty even on the day the budget is presented in the session.

Officials of the departments should provide detailed descriptions of the good work being done by the departments as per the requirements.

Chief Secretary Mrs Veera Rana, Additional Chief Secretary Chief Minister's Office Dr. Rajesh Rajora, Additional Chief Secretary Legislative Affairs Department K. C. Gupta, Principal Secretary Vidhan Sabha A.P. Singh, Principal Secretary Chief Minister's Office Sanjay Kumar Shukla and Raghavendra Kumar Singh, Principal Secretary Public Relations and Aviation Sandeep Yadav, and other senior officials were present in the meeting.

EPF amended to provide withdrawal benefit to members having less than 6 months service

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 29 JUNE

The government has amended the Employees' Pension Scheme (EPS), 1995 to ensure that EPS members with less than 6 months of contributory service also receive withdrawal benefits.

This amendment will benefit more than 7 lakh EPS members every year who leave the scheme with less than 6 months of contributory service.

Further, the government has modified the Table D and has ensured that every completed month of service rendered is taken into account to give proportionate withdrawal benefit to the members.

The amount of withdrawal benefit will henceforth depend upon the number of com-



pleted months of service rendered by the member and the wages on which EPS contribution was received. The above measure has rationalised the payment of withdrawal benefit to members. It is estimated that every year more than 23 lakh members will benefit from this modi-

fication of Table D. Every year, lakhs of EPS 95 members leave the scheme prior to rendering the requisite 10 years of contributory service for pension. Such members are given withdrawal benefits as per the provisions of the Scheme. More than 30 lakh with-

drawal benefit claims were settled in the financial year 2023-24, an official release said. Till now, the withdrawal benefit was being calculated on the basis of the period of contributory service in completed years and the wages on which EPS contribution has been paid.

Therefore, only after completing 6 months and above of contributory service, the members were entitled for such withdrawal benefit.

Consequently, the members leaving the scheme, before contributing for 6 months or more, used to get no withdrawal benefit. This was a cause of many claim rejections and grievances as many members were exiting without having less than 6 months of contributory service.

During the financial year 2023-24, approximately 7 lakh claims for withdrawal benefits were rejected due to contributory service being less than 6 months. Henceforth, all such EPS members who have not attained the age of 58 years as on 14.06.2024 will become entitled for withdrawal benefit.

MP govt fixes responsibility of mandi secretaries in farmers' interest

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
BHOPAL, 29 JUNE

Stressing the need to ensure that interests of farmers are not compromised and their faith in the Mandi system remains intact, Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav passed strict directives that if irregularities are found anywhere in the Krishi Upaj Mandi, the concerned Mandi secretary would be held responsible, and stringent action would be taken against them.

Addressing a meeting at the State Secretariat at Bhopal, focusing on beneficiary-oriented schemes for farmers, including the Prime Minister's Crop Insurance Scheme and agricultural diversification, the CM highlighted the importance of

expanding the cultivation area for kodo-kutki to balance the use of water and electricity and improve the crop cycle.

"Farmers must be motivated to grow kodo-kutki and the production of tur should also be encouraged in the state," the CM said. He added that it is also crucial to make farmers aware of the negative impact of summer crops on the crop cycle.

Dr Yadav said that to keep the system of Krishi Upaj Mandi in order, senior officials should continuously conduct surprise inspections of weighing scales, financial transactions, and other systems of the Mandi.

The CM highlighted the state's diverse climatic conditions, soil types, and crops, crediting the tireless efforts of farmers for the state's

leading position in agricultural development. He noted that the state ranks first in the country for the area and production of pulses and oilseeds.

He said that continuous efforts are being made to increase farmers' incomes and make agriculture a profitable venture. Dr Yadav emphasized the importance of taking necessary corrective measures to ensure that maximum marginal and small farmers benefit from the 'Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana'.

Additionally, he stressed that every possible effort should be made under the 'Rani Durgavati Shri Anna Promotion Scheme' to increase the production of nutritious Millets and to encourage farmers who produce it.

Human settlement close to big cat territory a risk for both, says VP Singh Badnore

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
JAIPUR, 29 JUNE

On the third edition of Royal Ranthambore International Tiger Week in Sawaimadhopur, Rajasthan, former Punjab governor and wildlife expert VP Singh Badnore said on Saturday that human settlements close to tigers' territory are dangerous for both.

He pointed out that Initiatives have always been taken to relocate villages near tiger movement areas, reducing human-tiger conflict. "If territories become smaller and tiger populations increase, they will end up

fighting each other to death," he added.

He said tigers now cover long distances to reach other forests to avoid conflict with humans. An example of this is tigers from Ranthambore going all the way to Sariska to expand their population.

Speaking on the occasion, IFS Somasekhar and WWF's Director General Ravi Singh dwelt at length on ways to check poaching and illegal trafficking to ensure conservation.

He mentioned about poachers killing tigers and sending their body parts to China and other countries via Nepal for use in medicine.

"It is crucial for local people and the administration to be vigilant against tiger poaching. The Forest Department is using foreign tracking technology and camera monitoring," he said.

Another big cat expert A K Raha highlighted the impact of climate change on the reproduction of tigers. Each region has its own flora and fauna, air, and water, which, when changed, cause physical changes in animals, Raha said. Tigers near the Sundarbans delta survive on salty water, while tigers in Rajasthan cannot, emphasizing the need to save forests and climate.

Chhattisgarh's educational initiatives for backward classes earn praise from commission chairman

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
RAIPUR, 29 JUNE

Hansraj Gangaram Ahir, Chairman of the National Commission for Backward Classes, commended Chhattisgarh's Prayas Residential School and UPSC coaching programmes. Ahir praised the implementation of government schemes, stressing the importance of ensuring benefits for backward classes in both private and public institutions. He emphasised the need for effective execution of both state and central initiatives. He also recognised the role



of the state's Commission for Backward Classes in providing beneficiaries access

to information about various income sources. Discussing the state's

backward classes list, Ahir noted that 67 out of 95 castes are included in the central list and recommended proposing additional inclusions.

Ahir gathered detailed information on the implementation of state government schemes for backward classes in Chhattisgarh and commended the efforts. He stressed the need for proper implementation of both state and central government schemes and programmes for backward classes. People of backward classes should receive benefits under reservation in both pri-

private and government institutions, he added.

The meeting was attended by National Commission for Backward Classes Secretary Ashish Upadhyay, Adviser Rajesh Kumar, Additional Chief Secretary Manoj Pingua, Secretary General Administration Anbalagan P, Secretary Skill Development Dr S Bharathi Dasan, Commissioner Medical Education Janak Pathak, Director Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Department Narendra Dugga, Director Social Welfare Smt. Roktima Yadav, and other senior departmental officials.

Balancing Act

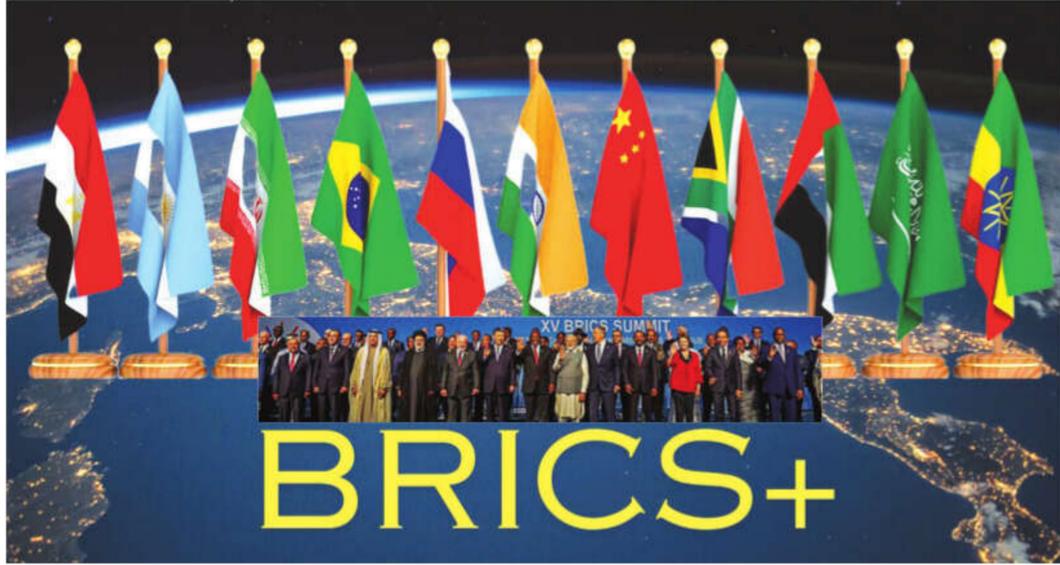
The intricate dynamics between India, the United States, and Russia have come into sharp focus with recent developments highlighting the complexity of this trilateral relationship. With US Deputy Secretary of State Kurt Campbell's expression of concern over India's close ties with Russia potentially affecting the sharing of high technology, it becomes evident that India's foreign policy strategy is under significant scrutiny. Simultaneously, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov's assertion that the US is attempting to pull India into an anti-China coalition adds another layer to this geopolitical conundrum. India's historical ties with Russia, dating back to the early days of Indian independence, have been a cornerstone of its foreign policy. This relationship has been characterised by substantial cooperation in various sectors, including defence, energy, and space technology. However, the shifting geopolitical landscape, marked by the rise of China and the deepening US-China rivalry, has placed India in a delicate position. Washington's concerns are not without basis. India's acquisition of Russian military hardware and its significant imports of Russian crude oil in the midst of the Ukraine conflict have raised hackles in Washington. The apprehension that sensitive technologies shared with India could inadvertently end up in Russian hands is a genuine strategic concern. Yet, Mr Campbell's comments also underscore a broader confidence in India's ability to navigate these complex relationships without compromising its strategic autonomy. India's membership of the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad) alongside the US, Japan, and Australia is often viewed as a counter-balance to China's assertiveness in the Indo-Pacific region. However, New Delhi has consistently emphasised that the Quad is not a military alliance but a platform for promoting economic, technological, and infrastructural cooperation. Mr Lavrov's scepticism about the Quad, viewing it as a potential military and political tool against China, reflects Russia's anxiety over losing its strategic partner to a US-led bloc. India's approach to its foreign policy has always been marked by careful balancing. Its refusal to publicly criticise Russia over the Ukraine invasion and its significant purchases of Russian oil are indicative of its desire to maintain a multipolar world order. Simultaneously, India's deepening ties with the US in areas such as defence, technology, and energy signify its recognition of the importance of a robust partnership with Washington in countering regional threats, particularly from China. The proposition to revive the Russia-India-China (RIC) trilateral format, despite India's hesitance due to border tensions with China, points to a possible avenue for India to maintain its strategic autonomy. The RIC grouping, a precursor to the BRICS forum, could serve as a platform for fostering dialogue and cooperation on key issues affecting the Eurasian continent and the global agenda. However, the success of such an initiative hinges on the resolution of bilateral issues, particularly the on-going border dispute between India and China. The challenge for India will be to maintain this delicate balance, ensuring its national interests are safeguarded while contributing to a stable and multipolar world order.

Far-Right Surge

As France heads into the first round of parliamentary elections today, the surge of the far-right National Rally (RN) under Ms Marine Le Pen has captured global attention. The RN, long a marginal force in French politics, now stands on the brink of a historic breakthrough, potentially securing a majority in the National Assembly. This development is not just a seismic shift for France but a moment of reckoning for Europe and democracies worldwide. The polls indicate that the RN could secure up to 37 per cent of the vote, a rise that reflects deep-seated discontent with the current political order. The centrist bloc, led by President Emmanuel Macron, appears to be losing ground, and the left-wing New Popular Front remains stagnant. This fragmentation of traditional political forces underscores the growing polarisation in France. Several factors have contributed to this surge. Mr Macron's presidency, marked by pro-business reforms and a perceived aloofness from the struggles of ordinary citizens, has left many feeling alienated. Issues like the rising cost of living and deteriorating public services have created fertile ground for populist rhetoric. Ms Le Pen has skilfully capitalised on these grievances, softening the party's image and broadening its appeal beyond its traditional base. The implications of an RN-led government are profound. For France, it would mean a dramatic shift in domestic and foreign policy. Despite efforts to moderate its stance, the RN's core positions remain deeply Eurosceptic and nationalistic. A government led by the RN could strain France's relationship with the European Union, posing a significant challenge to the bloc's cohesion at a time when unity is crucial. The RN's fiscal policies also raise concerns about economic stability, as promises of increased public spending clash with the need for fiscal responsibility. Moreover, the potential for political paralysis looms large. Should the RN fall short of an outright majority, France could face a hung Parliament. This scenario would lead to a fraught "cohabitation" between Mr Macron and an emboldened far-right, creating legislative gridlock and undermining effective governance. The stakes are high, and the uncertainty is palpable. The rise of the RN is not an isolated phenomenon. Across Europe and beyond, far-right and populist movements are gaining traction, fuelled by economic anxiety, cultural shifts, and a sense of disenfranchisement. This trend poses a direct challenge to the liberal democratic order established after World War II. It calls into question the effectiveness of mainstream political parties in addressing the needs and concerns of constituents. The outcome of France's Parliamentary elections will resonate far beyond its borders. It is a pivotal contest that could reshape the country's future and alter the trajectory of European politics. The rise of the RN reflects broader global trends that challenge the foundations of democracy and demand a renewed commitment to addressing the root causes of populism. The world holds its breath, contemplating the implications of this critical juncture in history.

Expansion of Brics ~ II

Every nation crafts its foreign and foreign economic policies based on its national interests. India's position on Brics' expansion is no exception. It is for this reason that India stressed on the consensus principle with a view to block some countries aspiring to be in Brics, as it feels their presence in the group would be unpalatable to its interests. The core point is the strained relationship with China, which remains the primary driving force in determining its stance on the membership issue



When South Africa hosted the 15th Brics Summit from 22 to 24 August 2023 in Johannesburg, several world leaders including Prime Minister Narendra Modi attended. The issue of the bloc's expansion was extensively deliberated.

Russian President Vladimir Putin decided not to travel and thus skipped the summit. In a move to strengthen its claim of being a 'voice of the Global South', six countries - Argentina, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE - that had shown interest were invited to join the alliance.

As mentioned, this decision raises hope as well as fear of China's increasing dominance. It is however a truism that the addition of the developing nations to the bloc indicates establishing a solid coalition to serve the interests of the Global South.

In this scenario, it would be relevant to examine India's position and what it means for New Delhi when some members of the Asean group have evinced an interest to join.

Some reports say that more than 40 nations have indicated an interest in joining the bloc of major developing economies. Other reports claim that 30 countries have conveyed their willingness to join the group, with 22 of them applying formally.

This figure might increase with the interest of some countries of the Asean grouping. The fact is that many countries see that being a part of Brics is a major opportunity.

It was China that first initiated the conversation in 2022 about expanding the body as it tried to build diplomatic clout to counter the West's dominance in the United Nations and push forward its economy after the Covid slowdown.

While China and South Africa support the expansion and Russia should fall in line with China, India and Brazil are concerned that their own influence will diminish.

India views such a rapid expansion of the group with suspicion, but has not opposed it in public. India's official position is that BRICS' expansion process should go through "full consultation and consensus" among members of the bloc.

External affairs Minister S. Jaishankar has clarified in the past that the expansion of the Brics bloc is still a work in progress and member countries are approaching the idea with a positive intent and an open mind.

India suggests that if Brics intends to expand, it should consider emerging economies and democracies like Argentina and Nigeria, rather than Saudi Arabia with its autocratic rule. New Delhi is also sceptical of the inclusion of new members as it could tilt the bloc more towards China. What does the expansion mean for India? That is a moot question.

India is cognizant of the perception that the expansion move is a direct challenge to the West, as the move supported by China and Russia is seen as a way to counter Western dominance and the global trade in dollars.

The expansion of Brics could serve a major blow to the US dollar, which is currently the world's reserve currency. If Brics were to launch its own currency, it could provide an alternative to the dollar and could reduce its dominance.

When the Ukraine war broke out and the West imposed sanctions on Russia, a number of countries including India started using alternate currencies for trade.

New Delhi also used Chinese yuan to make payments for Russian oil imports. Because of this experience, it could be a

good idea if member states start exploring the possibility of launching a Brics currency.

If done successfully, it could be a major step towards a more multi-polar world economy. The New Development Bank (NDB), which was established by Brics countries, can play a crucial role in providing funding for infrastructure projects, sustainable development initiatives and other priority areas.

Every nation crafts its foreign and foreign economic policies based on its national interests. India's position on Brics' expansion is no exception.

It is for this reason that India stressed on the consensus principle with a view to block some countries aspiring to be in Brics, as it feels their presence in the group would be unpalatable to its interests.

The core point is the strained relationship with China, which remains the primary driving force in determining its stance on the membership issue.

For example, it is a truism that India's alignment with the West remains a major factor for its decisions regarding certain states. For example, India's decision to block Belarus from joining the Brics stemmed from its stance on Ukraine and sanctions from the West.

Another example is its stance on Cuba as India endorsed the US position that Cuba provides a safe haven for Chinese spies and thus blocked the South American developing economy in the Brics framework. As can be discerned, India is opposed to several countries that hold anti-Western positions aspiring to be in the Brics fold.

India's stance on Pakistan is not surprising. Given China's

interest in Pakistan's integration into the Brics framework and against the Indo-Pak rivalry over a host of issues, India is not expected to endorse China's efforts to rope in Pakistan to develop Brics as a geopolitical rival to the Western group.

On its part, Islamabad is aware that India is committed to its principle of unanimity in the expansion mechanism of Brics and therefore knows that India would resist Pakistan's inclusion at all costs.

Also, India would not yield space for China's designs to bring countries subscribing to its policies into Brics, as that would undermine its own interests. India is sensitive to the possibility that China could utilise Brics to expand its strategic influence in the developing world, which might undermine India's growing engagement with these nations.

Pakistan needs to be aware that India maintains its policy of Neighbourhood First minus Pakistan, which stems from its historical experiences.

So long as India-Pakistan relations are not brought to normal, India is likely to block any effort by any other Brics member to bring Pakistan into the framework.

Critics might argue that India's stance on Pakistan or that of any other country obstructing inclusion into an economic bloc meant to further the interests of third-world countries contradicts the very principles underlying the formation of the alliance.

But when national interests and security comes into play, there cannot be any compromise and India must not be expected to deviate from its stance.

India is unlikely to concede an inch to China's design to rope in Pakistan into the Brics framework, and thereby expand its strategic influence in the developing world which would be detrimental to its interests.

(Concluded)



RAJARAM PANDA
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

editor@thestatesman.com

Biden fumbles

SIR, Please refer to today's report "A halting Biden tries to confront Trump at debate". US President Joe Biden is 81, his challenger Donald Trump is 78. In the first debate between the US presidential candidates, the age gap seemed much larger.

The most important job for President Biden was to put to rest concerns about his biggest vulnerability - his fitness for office, given his age. He failed, and badly at that. Mr Trump pressed his case for a second term with limited

resistance as Mr Biden meandered and mumbled through answers. At one point, after Mr Biden had trailed off while defending his record on border security, Trump said, "I really don't know what he said at the end of that sentence. I don't think he knows what he said, either." The debate was a setback for the Democrats, who expected Mr Biden to turn the election into a referendum on Mr Trump, reminding voters of the chaotic nature of the latter's presidency.



The President's dismal show is sure to lead to a blame game within the Democratic party over whether handing him a second nomination with only nominal opposition was the right move. Some may be thinking about how they still could put up a different nominee. However, the Biden campaign has two months to calm the waters before the second debate in September. For now, more people will be talking about Biden's performance in the debate than Trump's as President.

Yours, etc., Khokan Das, Kolkata, 29 June.

RONALDO'S CLOUT

SIR, Apropos the article, "Euros 2024: Cristiano Ronaldo registers unfortunate record during loss to Georgia," in today's edition, it is remarkable how much attention the talismanic striker receives when he does not do something as much as when he does. Undoubtedly, he is the star with the most name recognition in the tournament due in part to his appearance in every edition since

INDIA CRUMBLES

SIR, Come the much-awaited monsoon period, and India goes into a panic mode. Bill-boards fall, roofs leak, rivers overflow, roads crack, potholes reappear, sewers spill over, fields flood, villages inundate, trains collide, boats capsize, bridges collapse, flights divert, lightning strikes, mosquitoes bite, flies buzz, power snaps and chaos reigns. Meanwhile, our *netas* (leaders) are at their quibbling and quarrelling best, trying to divert the blame and responsibility for all the hardships caused by nature's fury and man's negligence. The common man, with uncommon patience, continues to suffer for no fault of his.

Yours, etc., Avinash Godbole, Dewas, 29 June.

2004. While the very talented Portuguese team is one of the favourites to win this competition, Ronaldo's presence may indeed be more of a liability than an asset. Fernando Santos, the previous Portuguese coach, was sacked in some measure because he dared bench Ronaldo mid-way through Portugal's FIFA World Cup campaign in Qatar. Though this move initially proved to be successful in terms of Portugal's 6-1 win over Switzerland, Portugal's subsequent defeat to Morocco in the quarter-final of that contest was swiftly blamed on the

trainer's decision to make Ronaldo a substitute.

The same saga continues, and Ronaldo's clout may adversely affect the new manager Roberto Martinez's game plans for Portugal. Ronaldo's declining abilities have been amply evident during the group stage of the championship.

It may prove to be a costly mistake to be hindered by his past record and influence in making decisions about the starting eleven in the knockout phase.

Yours, etc., Animesh Rai, Noida, 28 June.

Mental health of students

When Ms Matin saw Mamun after a decade since his kindergarten years, she was appalled. The child she knew was happy and energetic: what became of him in his adolescent years? Mamun looked frail, lacked energy, and had a distant and troubled expression on his face. His father recounted how Mamun had withdrawn from his friends and social activities, had difficulty concentrating on studies, and suffered bouts of headaches and other ailments that did not respond well to treatment. His friends seemed to have abandoned him and his teachers left him alone, whispering among themselves about this strange and alien being. Here was an adolescent child drifting away, far from friendly shores, alone and helpless.

Mamun's mental health situation is not uncommon and probably reaching contagion proportions in schools worldwide. In Bangladesh, the subject is taboo. Lack of understanding, fear, and social stigma often prevent school children and their families from seeking timely help.

This exacerbates the child's difficulties and hinders her/his overall well-being. Unfortunately, a child like Mamun is often told, "get over it" or "it's all in your head." The problem gets quickly swept under the rug with its attendant burdens and severe consequences.

Troubled school children suffer mental stresses for a variety of reasons: The competitive education system, family and societal expectations, em-

The Daily Star

phasis on academic success over learning, authoritarian teachers, and insensitive peers who make life miserable.

Many children find themselves struggling with high academic standards without guidance or support, abused by the acerbic tongue of some teachers, and being bullied day in day out by peers. It's a rough world for the throbbing little hearts, yearning to be free like the butterfly; yet being battered constantly by the whirlwinds of family, teachers, and peers.

Family dynamics and expectations are the starting point of the travails of many children. High expectations, strict parenting styles, pressures to conform to societal norms, and career aspirations deemed prestigious or financially rewarding begin to build pressure at home with crushing force.

Some children find their achievements constantly compared with the children of other family members, friends, or peers. Constant criticism or disapproval when the child is unable to perform leaves her/his self-esteem in tatters and contributes to feelings of rejection.

Families also have specific expectations for how boys and girls should behave and what career paths they should pursue even if their abilities and interests are at cross-purposes. Beyond academics, families may also expect their children to excel in extracurricular activities such as sports, arts, or music. In some families, the emphasis on success is so high - to claim "first boy" status - that "second boy" is not acceptable! Expressing vulnerability, seeking emotional support, or even giving up under the circumstances is not an option and severely discouraged. The constant demands of family expectations can significantly impact, even cripple, the mental health of school children, sometimes leading to suicidal inclinations.

Parents must understand the weight of their words on their children and take a balanced approach to academics, emphasising individual growth over strict achievement targets.

NOW AND AGAIN

On the grid

SHOVANLAL CHAKRABORTY

My deepest and most abiding puzzle romance is with The Statesman crossword. I average a couple of puzzles per day, a simultaneously mindful and mindless diversion, a way to keep half my brain busy while the other half unpacks experiences and emotions for which there is no language, or no language yet.

I started doing crossword puzzles in my early 30s, thanks to my uncle, who was an avid reader of The Statesman, a regular contributor to the Calcutta Notebook, Letters to the Editor and a master of solving the crossword. The crossword filled gaps in my cultural and historical education, gave me an edge in bar trivia.

Solving crosswords was like working out, something I got better at the more I did it. But while I acquired some niche familiarity with puzzle arca, I never felt that I was getting smarter about the world that I lived in. In the past several years, as puzzles have evolved from slightly esoteric entertainment to work that's more quirkily personal, the experience has changed, so that doing a crossword today is less a quiet test of mid-20-century minutiae and more a spirited conversation with modern culture.

The reasons are manifold. The technology used to make crosswords has improved, the online spaces where people commune over puzzle-making and solving have proliferated, and there has been an industry wide effort to increase constructor diversity. Now, crossword puzzles regularly include modern slang, internet speak, references to memes and films that weren't shot on celluloid. This has, for me, resulted in a puzzle that's more exciting, but I've spent enough time on online crossword forums to know that every long-time puzzler's reaction might not be so enthusiastic.

When I began doing puzzles, I didn't question whether they were meant for me. It wasn't until I started seeing clues and answers more relevant to my everyday life that I understood how much of a tourist I was then. Of course, you don't need to see yourself in a puzzle in order to enjoy it or complete it. A well-constructed puzzle is solvable, even if there are niche entries. Those niche entries are what make the newer puzzles so much fun for me.

I'm not just calling up esoteric words from my weird-puzzler's lexicon. I'm participating in an activity that feels relevant to my everyday life. That doesn't mean I'm not a little wistful for the days when I felt I'd established a sort of mastery of the crosswordese that comprised every puzzle, when solving a crossword was a bit dutiful, like reciting a memorized poem. I'm less sure-footed in solving these days, but I'm also more often delighted, which seems like a respectable trade-off.

100 YEARS AGO

"EULOGY OF MURDER"

COMMONS AND LEGAL ACTION

IN the House of Commons to-day, replying to Mr. Thomas Johnston (Lab.) with regard to the Madras Government discharging officials who were sympathizers with the non-co-operators, in which connection Mr. Johnston instanced the discharge of Subha Rao from the Telegraph Department, Mr. Richards said he had no official knowledge of the case or of any general orders of dismissal, but Government servants were prohibited from subscribing to or aiding any political movement in India.

Colonel Howard Bury (Cons.) drew attention to Mr. C. R. Das's support of the Swarajist resolution at the Serajganj Conference paying homage to the murderer of Mr. Day and to the indignation of Europeans in India at the eulogy of murder as a political weapon. He asked whether the Government of India contemplated taking any legal action against the movers of the resolution.

Mr. Richards replied that he had not received any official intimation that legal proceedings were contemplated.

Colonel Howard Bury asked whether Mr. Richards dissociated himself from Lord Olivier's statement in his letter to Mr. Satyurmurthi that the Swarajists were using a perfectly constitutional weapon and whether he considered murder a constitutional weapon.

Mr. Richards in his reply drew attention to Mr. Gandhi's condemnation of the resolution.

DELHI AFFRAY

OFFICIAL REPORT OF DISTURBANCE

IN connection with the fracas reported yesterday between Arya-Samajist Hindus and Moslems the Senior Superintendent of Police has communicated his report to the Press. The inquiry classifies the disturbance as a minor affray, the immediate cause of which was that while a party of Arya-Samajist boys and girls was returning from the Samaj a Moslem got mixed up in the party, and some Moslems raised a cry that the boy was being kidnapped and went to rescue him. Seven Arya-Samajist Hindus and two Moslems were injured in the affair. Of these one Hindu was admitted to hospital. No arrests have been made as there was no sufficient cause for such a course.

The foregoing official account of the cause of the disturbance is approved in other responsible quarters.

How should world deal with AI transformation?

ANDREW SHENG

The world is in a mess, and the acceleration of AI usage is disrupting every business and the way we live. We are struggling to understand what the AI transition means for each of us as consumers, parents, teachers, businesses or government leaders. The debate over the pros and cons of AI is raging, especially in its dual military-civilian usage. AI will guide the next drone or missile at you with faster accuracy than ever imagined. It can also develop the next miracle drug to change our health. We simply do not know what whether AI is ultimately good or bad, only that the bandwidth of risk and opportunity is widening at frightening speed.

We have never seen technology being adopted as AI in daily activities in terms of speed, scale and scope. The AI revolution has pushed the Nvidia and other AI platform stock valuations into the trillion-dollar league. Big Powers and Big Platforms are all investing in AI, trying to figure out how to beat the competitors in achieving scale and domination.

The digital divide means that those who are ahead in AI will be richer, faster, smarter and more powerful, whereas those who don't implement AI tools are being marginalized. Clearly, the rich and advanced economies stand to gain more from AI and technology, whereas emerging and developing market economies (EMDEs) are still struggling on how to use AI to help them develop or at the minimum, tackle their myriad problems of people and planetary injustices.

The most obvious benefit of AI is that it could improve productivity, which has declined globally across



the board for several decades. McKinsey research suggests human-centric generative AI adoption may well automate up to 30 per cent of business activities across occupations by 2030. Analyzing 63 user cases, they estimated that generative AI could add roughly \$2.6 trillion to \$4.4 trillion annually to the global economy, equivalent to adding 2.5-4.2 per cent to current global GDP, which has been forecast by the World Bank to slow down to half the growth before the global crisis in 2008.

The potential for turning around development in multiple directions using AI looks huge. How can this be achieved?

AI is essentially a human-invented tool for learning and using for change. Given the right amount of data, it can help make better decisions and eliminate inefficiencies in the system. It can also do bad things at scale. Ethics in the usage of AI is at the heart of the current debate. In the wrong hands, AI is what rockstar historian Yuval

Noah Harari calls "data colonization and digital dictatorship".

Nobel Laureate economist Joseph Stiglitz propounded that the job of governments was to create a learning (knowledge) society, since knowledge is a public good. Fellow Nobel Laureate Robert Solow (1924-2023) first quantitatively identified that the most important determinant of economic growth was technological change. Kenneth Arrow (1921-2017) showed that markets by themselves do not yield efficiency in the production and dissemination of knowledge. More recent case studies on building tech ecosystems showed that learning is really about copying or imitating global knowledge and adapting these to local needs. Korean Professors Kim and Lee (2022) showed that Taipei and Shenzhen evolved into tech powerhouses by first importing foreign technology through welcoming multinational companies (MNCs) and then developing local champions that increased research and development, primarily in

process engineering, and then moving to original ideas, products and services that began to rival foreign competitors.

In short, human learning is always about copying others and then personalizing or internalizing such knowledge to create new ideas and actions. This "copy-learn-adapt-innovate-scale" approach is exactly the path that AI usage is following.

When we face something totally new, we have four essential choices. The first is to deny or reject because we fear the unknown. The second for those who are curious is to learn and experiment. The third is to do nothing or simply follow the crowd, because that appears to be the safest way out of disruptive change. The brave and risk-takers are those who decide to leap into the unknown and become innovative or entrepreneurs. They become the change agents.

In today's existential threats of nuclear war, ecological collapse and technological disruption, doing nothing or business-as-usual is not an option. You either eat lunch or be lunch.

There is no complacency shown in the financial sector, with the Bank of International Settlements (BIS) and Citi (AI & Finance: Bot, Bank & Beyond) recently warning about the profound impact and opportunities and threats of AI on the financial landscape.

The amount of start-ups working on implementing AI in different domains is staggering. In 2023, close to \$315 billion was invested in tech companies globally, a large chunk being in AI applications.

The World Economic Forum has been promoting application of AI in

social innovation to tackle social and ecological issues. Although the WEF report stressed that "Artificial intelligence has the potential to scale impact in several domains but requires collaboration to help social innovators realize its maximum potential", the greatest barriers to successful AI implementation are lack of trust, partnerships and funding. The pattern in adopting AI in every domain, from personal to communities, businesses and government is common. You must approach change from a complex system perspective, noting that there are no simple one-size-fit-all solutions. Change management is not rocket science - it is about changing mindsets, addressing vested interests, and having the passion and management skills to execute change.

An excellent Japanese study on regulation shows that 20 per cent of staff time is spent on compliance issues, so that small and medium enterprises face overwhelming costs and barriers to deal with daily regulatory and bureaucratic issues. Just simplifying overlapping silos in bureaucracies using AI tools could increase productivity by 8 per cent.

In sum, we all need to adopt AI tools to generate the productivity that is needed to achieve more with less. Although change is best tackled bottom-up, it needs leadership, courage and passion to engineer change. That takes human intelligence, with AI as a tool, but impactful change is never about one individual, but about the whole and all of us.

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

POLITICAL DIARY KALYANI SHANKAR

Can we expect discourse without acrimony?

How will the 18th Lok Sabha function? Will the Government and the Opposition seek consensus or confrontation? Will the Government be more conciliatory and the Opposition less belligerent? The prediction is pending, although at the start of the session, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi said the appropriate words to show they wanted consensus.

The 18th Lok Sabha is interesting because, for the first time in ten years, Modi is facing a Parliament in a weaker position. He has to run a coalition and face a resurgent opposition.

Modi stated that in his third term, his Government would aim to build consensus. Before the session, Modi sought agreement on all matters and criticized the Opposition for causing problems, thus setting the tone. Despite this, the first session of the new Lok Sabha saw animosity between the Government and the Opposition.

Rahul Gandhi also emphasized the importance of the Opposition's role in representing the voice of the people in the House. He expressed willingness to assist in the House's functioning and stressed the need for trust-based cooperation.

The Lok Sabha has shown potential for positive functioning, but confrontations have already begun. Signs of animosity between the BJP-led Government and the

Opposition were visible within a week of the first session. Contentious issues will likely include the Uniform Civil Code, One Nation One Poll, the National Register of Citizens, the Agnipath scheme, census, and delimitation.

Congress leader Sonia Gandhi has remarked, "There is no evidence that the Prime Minister has come to terms with the electoral outcome or has reflected on the message sent to him by voters." She said Modi preaches the value of consensus but continues to value confrontation.

The BJP aims to show that Modi 3.0 is firmly in control. However, the Modi government now relies on crucial support from two key allies - JD(U) and TDP. This means decisions are made together, and the NDA allies greatly influence the Government's plans and actions. In 2019 and 2014, the BJP had a substantial majority. The increased presence of the Opposition in various parliamentary panels is expected to generate greater engagement.

The first session of the 18th Lok Sabha began with a strong Opposition asserting its rights. Before the session even started, there was a dispute over the appointment of BJD MP Bhartruhari Mahtab as the pro-tem Speaker to administer the oath of office to the newly elected members. The Congress and the INDIA bloc members felt that Congress MP Kodukkunil Suresh, elect-

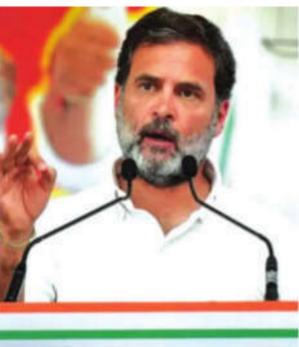
ed eight times, should have been given the position.

However, the BJP argued that they followed the rules. Mahtab was elected to the House seven times in succession, while Suresh lost two elections.

Secondly, Rahul Gandhi said he would back Om Birla, the NDA candidate, but only if the Deputy Speaker position, usually given to the Opposition, was assured. In the 17th Lok Sabha, there was no Deputy Speaker. Article 93 says that two Lok Sabha members should be chosen as Speaker and Deputy Speaker. But the Government disagreed.

Om Birla has been re-elected as the Speaker of the Lok Sabha, bringing continuity and stability to the House and solidifying the position of the Modi government.

Thirdly, what happened next was surprising. After receiving congratulations, the newly elected Speaker took a paper out of his pocket and read a resolution against the 1975 Emergency imposed by late Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. This provoked the Congress. The Government's decision to have the Speaker pass a resolution on his first day in office shows an inclination towards confrontation. This led the Leader of the Opposition, Rahul Gandhi, to lead a delegation to the Speaker to convey their objection to a political reference from the chair.



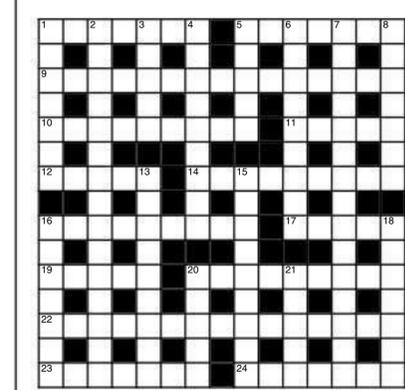
Fourthly, some opposition parties thought the president's first speech to Parliament ignored the country's most serious problems. Also, other opposition parties called for removing the Sengol, which the Prime Minister had installed with much fanfare earlier.

Fifthly, Rahul and other Opposition MPs proposed discussing the NEET matter first. The Speaker, however, insisted that a discussion on the Motion of Thanks to the President's address be taken up first.

The first week's confrontations show that despite the decrease in numbers, the BJP is unlikely to change its working methods. An energized opposition will also make itself heard loudly. The Government will face many more challenges.

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WALKOVER SURGE
T L E E T C S
AGITATO TORPEDO
C S C I A Y N R
ON THE BLINK EYOT

ACROSS

- 1 Bread from dining room sent back after tea (7)
5 Excellent sect from the east in island nation (2,5)
9 Rotten people sin to produce malicious missile (6-3,6)
10 Black couple to protect composer reversing in road (9)
11 One bounding area that separates two major cities (5)

- 12 Russian female revolutionary in American election (5)
14 Quietly detests being involved in key software trial (5,4)
16 Neglected animal given signal amid tangled gorse (6,3)
17 God needing name for Germanic character (5)
19 Net profit at last drawn that voids margins (5)

- 20 Approaches snooker table but loses form? (4,2,3)
22 Two kids lost? New angle: three lads lost! (6,3,6)
23 Time pressure on in war zone (7)
24 Characters seen in flannelette or cotton garment? (7)

- 3 Relaxed game ends on schedule (5)
4 Bloke caught out, venture being random (9)
5 Yankee stops lecturers travelling up for meeting (5)
6 We initial changes to prepare ambush (3,2,4)
7 Doctor at this place? Go to small medical institution (7,8)
8 American Satan devouring Republican alongside (7)

- 13 Diversion giving an essential cover for English soldiers? (9)
15 Revolting animals were so stubborn! (3-6)
16 Mechanical device skinned fantasy author (7)
18 Folded card husband lost in TV fundraiser turned up (7)
20 Peer outside entrance to Lords in coat (5)
21 Finnish port one from Ankara found acceptable (5)

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

THUMBNAILS

Nasscom Foundation, SME Council launch upskilling initiative for marginalised youth: Marking International MSME Day, Nasscom Foundation and nasscom SME Council have announced a programme to assist Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in achieving their CSR goals. This collaborative effort involves leading tech SMEs focused on enhancing the tech skills and employability of marginalised youth. The initiative was launched in Delhi, with expansions being held in Hubballi and Trivandrum simultaneously.

RNLIC declares ₹346 crore bonus benefiting over 5.1L Par Policyholders, launches RNL STAR: Reliance Nippon Life Insurance Company Limited has declared a total bonus of ₹346 crore for its participating policyholders in FY24. The company showcased robust financial performance in FY24 achieving 22% growth in several new policies sold, 10% growth in individual New Business Premium, 16% growth in AUM and, 82.5% 13th-month persistency. The company declared Profit Before Tax of Rs. 198 crore, representing 84% growth over FY23. The company recently launched a new Participating product, Reliance Nippon Life Smart Total Advantage Return (RNL STAR), which can solve many life stage solutions such as second stream of income, child's education, retirement, or legacy creation.

'Power Within: The Leadership Legacy of Narendra Modi' book launched: Distinguished development scholar and author, Dr. Ramaswami Balasubramanian (Dr. Balu), also well-known for his pioneering development work with rural and tribal communities in Karnataka, India, launched his latest book, Power Within: The Leadership Legacy of Narendra Modi in New Delhi on Friday night. The book is a compelling narrative that offers a unique perspective on leadership, contrasting Western trait-oriented approaches with Indian practice-oriented philosophies. The book was launched by Ajay Piramal, chairman of Piramal Group, Former Niti Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant, NASSCOM President Debjani Ghosh, and Prof. B Mahadevan from IIM Bengaluru in an event at Pradhanmantri Sanghalaya that drew thought leaders, philanthropists, industry captains, policymakers, and avid readers to explore the civilizational wisdom of Bharat as seen through the lived experiences of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

'ProCAT: UFO Moviez, one of the largest in-cinema advertising networks in India, announced their latest offering 'ProCAT', a first-of-its-kind web-based data analysis platform that will measure the number of footfalls, and provide cinema advertisers with data-driven insights to make informed decisions to plan, review, update and evaluate their cinema ad campaigns.

7th Fit India conclave: On Doctor's Day, Medscape India introduced the #RedFlag Campaign at the 7th Fit India Conclave, organised in New Delhi. The campaign aims to end violence against healthcare professionals. Over the past decade, the Fit India movement has focused on enhancing CPR literacy to promote self-sufficiency in healthcare across India.

Atal National Award: The Atal National Award Distribution Ceremony, held on Thursday at the Prime Minister Sanghalaya, celebrated the achievements of 37 distinguished individuals. These awardees were recognised for their exemplary contributions across various fields, showcasing the dedication and talent that drive India's progress. Among the honorees was Raja, a well-known figure in the food industry. Founder of the popular momos and Chinese food chain 'Mokart', Raja received the award in the Social Service category.

Our export in goods and services will be around \$800 billion: Goyal

India's overall exports in goods and services saw 0.04 per cent growth at \$776.68 billion in FY24

AGENCIES MUMBAI, 29 JUNE

Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, Piyush Goyal, stated that India is on track to achieve a landmark export target of USD 800 billion this year in goods and services.



Addressing a gathering in Mumbai at an event organised by the Gems and Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC), he said, "We expect that this year will see positive growth in goods and services exports, our exports will be around \$ 800 billion."

Notably, India's overall exports in goods and services saw 0.04 per cent growth at \$776.68 billion in FY24.

Goyal's declaration reflects the confidence and ambition that the Indian government has in its industrial and export sectors, which are poised for a historic performance despite global economic uncertainties.

"The industries and exporters of India are in good shape and we expect this year

to be the year of historic export... The PM always says to us that whatever we will do will be of global standards. He is sensitive towards this sector as he knows that lakhs of youths will get opportunities in it," said Goyal.

This target signifies a pivotal moment for India's trade dynamics, reinforcing its status as a key player in the global market. Highlighting the government's vision for quality and excellence, Goyal echoed the sentiments of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Goyal said, "The Prime Minister says that whatever India will do now will be at a

global standard."

"He (PM) is sensitive towards this sector as he knows that lakhs of youths will get opportunities in it," Goyal added, emphasizing the PM's commitment to maintaining and enhancing the global standards of Indian exports.

Prime Minister Modi's insistence on global standards reflects a broader strategy to ensure that India's economic initiatives are not just competitive but exemplary on the world stage.

"The Prime Minister says that whatever India will do now will be at a global standard," Goyal reiterated, underscoring the gov-

ernment's focus on quality and international competitiveness.

Goyal also said that the Gems and Jewellery sector will be a thrust area that will give jobs to lakhs of young boys and girls in the years to come, adding to the economic activity of India.

"I think this (Gem and Jewellery sector) is one area which will be a thrust area. It will not only help us grow in terms of our international business, but it will also give jobs to lakhs of young boys and girls in the years to come. It will add to the economic activity of India and give newer opportunities in our journey of Amrit Kaal. As we work towards a Viksit Bharat, a developed nation in 2047, we see tremendous potential for this sector and Mumbai will be at the forefront," said the Union Minister.

In addition to discussing the export targets, Goyal addressed local development initiatives in his constituency, Mumbai North. He highlighted the critical need for advanced healthcare facilities in the area, which has historically lacked modern medical infrastructure. "Mum-

bai North constituency is a huge area, no modern healthcare facility was there. When I became the MP, I requested a foundation and soon there will be a hospital of 1000 beds, that will be the biggest private sector hospital in Mumbai. It will be the most modern multi-specialty hospital," Goyal announced.

This new healthcare facility is set to be a game-changer for the residents of Mumbai North, offering state-of-the-art medical services and addressing a long-standing gap in healthcare provision.

Goyal also held productive interaction with stakeholders and reviewed the progress of Santacruz Electronics Export Processing Zone (SEEPZ), Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India (ECGC) & Controller General of Patents, Designs and Trademarks (CGPDTM), at Bharat Ratnam - Mega CFC.

He said that with significant infrastructure development, SEEPZ is striving towards boosting India's exports & accelerating employment growth.

FSIB recommends CS Shetty as next SBI chairman



AGENCIES NEW DELHI, 29 JUNE

The Financial Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB) has recommended the name of Challa Sreenivasulu Setty as the Chairman of the State Bank of India (SBI), the country's largest lender.

Setty, currently the senior-most Managing Director of SBI, will replace Dinesh Kumar Khara as the Chairman when the latter's tenure ends in August 2024.

The other two MDs who were interviewed are Ashwini Kumar Tewari and Vinay M Tonse. "Keeping in view their performance in the interface, their overall experience and the

extant parameters, the Bureau recommends Challa Sreenivasulu Setty for the position of Chairman in SBI," FSIB said.

The SBI Chairman is appointed from a pool of serving managing directors of the bank. After FSIB makes a recommendation, the proposal has to be finally approved by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

FSIB is headed by Bhanu Pratap Sharma, Former Secretary of the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT). The members include the Financial Services Secretary, the Department of Public Enterprises Secretary and a Deputy Governor of the RBI.

NEWSFEED MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY CELEBRATES 10TH IDY



Ministry of Commerce & Industry celebrated the 10th International Day of Yoga on 21 June, at Bharat Mandapam in the presence of Jitin Prasada, Minister of State for Commerce & Industry, Shri Sunil Barthwal Commerce Secretary, Rajesh Kumar Singh, Secretary DPIIT and Pradeep Singh Kharola, CMD ITO, besides other senior government officials.

'PNB RAKSHAK PLUS'



PNB, nation's leading public sector bank, has enhanced the insurance coverage and other benefits for all serving personnel of the Indian Army under its flagship scheme - 'PNB Rakshak Plus' from 1 April. The addendum to the existing MOU was signed by PNB Chief General Manager Sunil Agrawal and Major General V K Purohit, AVSM, YSM, SM, Additional Director General Personal Services in the presence of PNB Executive Director Kalyan Kumar and Lt. Gen. V Sreehari, AVSM, SC, SM, Director General Manpower Planning & Personal Services, and other senior officials from the Bank and the Indian Army.

Scorching heat: E Rly installs giant fans at Howrah station amid



Air-Conditioning Engineers), HVLS fans can prevent heat stress, increase comfort, and boost productivity for both workers and livestock.

In the long term, HVLS technology reduces CO2 emissions and electricity usage. Besides being beneficial during hot summer days, HVLS fans can also be used in winter by reversing the operating sequence, which pulls warm air down from the ceiling to the floor, further reducing heating costs. "These fans ensure you get air wherever you are in the concourse. Earlier, there would be a scramble to stand or sit near a pillar with a fan," said Sourjo Dutta, Director of Six Turtle Private Limited and a frequent traveler to Asansol, Patna, and Ranchi.

"The environment of Howrah Station should be befitting its iconic stature. Passenger amenities are a top priority," added Sanjeev Kumar, the Divisional Railway Manager of the Howrah.

NCAHT launches assistive tech products for visually challenged at IIT Delhi



The ICMR (Indian Council of Medical Research)-supported National Center for Assistive Health Technologies (NCAHT) at IIT Delhi launched various assistive technology products for visually challenged people.

Dr Rajiv Bahl, director general, ICMR, unveiled these products in the presence of Professor Rangan Banerjee, Direc-

tor, IIT Delhi. The recently launched assistive technology innovations by NCAHT at IIT Delhi included Shapescapes (a geometry learning kit), high-quality White Canes, and an Accessible Kit for STEM Education. Dr. Rajiv Bahl, DG, ICMR, while launching the products, emphasised the need for developing indigenous assistive technology solutions for unmet needs in this space.

Professor Rangan Banerjee, Director, IIT Delhi, emphasised the importance of grooming students into ambassadors of social innovation by engaging them in state-of-the-art R&D activities.

Notice to policyholders of LIC

The Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has clarified its position in response to news reports that some businesses were considering buying policies from current LIC policyholders instead of having them surrendered to LIC.

The life insurance behemoth has urged all policyholders to proceed with extreme caution before making any decisions about their policy that might compromise their family's risk coverage and financial stability.

In the interest of all our policyholders, we wanted to clarify that LIC is not associated with any such entity, or the

products and/or services being offered by such entities, and any statements made by former employees/personnel of LIC are personal to such individuals.

We urge all policyholders to exercise complete caution before making any decision on their policy which may jeopardise their financial security and the risk cover for their family.

Before responding to any offers, kindly consult with any of our LIC officials in our branches. We, at LIC, are committed to transparency and protecting the best interests of our policyholders.

THDCIL signs MoU with TCIL at Rishikesh

THDC India Limited (THDCIL), a prominent leader in the Power Sector, has embarked on a pioneering initiative by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with M/s Telecommunications Consultants India Limited (TCIL), a Public Sector Undertaking of Government of India under Department of Telecommunication, Ministry of Communications at Corporate Office, Rishikesh.

This agreement focuses on the development of a state-of-the-art 3D-scanned digital twin of the Tehri Hydro Power Plant.

The project also includes



its integration into a metaverse environment and the deployment of an advanced application system within the Tehri Museum for public access.

R K Vishnoi, Chairman and Managing Director, THDCIL commended the efforts of

the THDCIL team for their dedication in advancing the development of the Tehri Museum.

Vishnoi emphasised the ambitious scope of the project, highlighting its potential to transform stakeholder engagement and redefine how visitors interact with our Flagship i.e., Tehri Hydro Power Plant.

Shallinder Singh, Director (Personnel) at THDCIL, highlighted the strategic benefits of the metaverse-based virtual plant.

The MoU was signed by S K Chauhan, HoD (R&D), THDCIL and Sh. Rajesh Puri CGM (IT&T-BD), TCIL.

GAIL opens new round for solicitation of proposals from start-ups

In a bid to support the start-ups operating in identified focus areas, GAIL (India) Limited, a Maharatna company and one of the leading investors among oil PSUs, plans to invest in such companies through its Start-Up initiative 'Pankh'.

GAIL has now opened a fresh round, which is 9th round for solicitation of investment proposals from Start-Ups operating in focus areas. Details of focus areas are available on GAIL website (<https://gailonline.com>) under the 'GAIL Pankh' Section.

The focus areas mainly include natural gas and its adjacencies, city gas distribution, pipeline operation and maintenance, petrochemicals, energy, renewable and alternate energy sources, energy storage, energy sector related software products, project management, nano-materials, IOT, automation and robotics, emerging mobility, data mining, environment, health, social, safety and security, etc.

GAIL advances net zero target for scope-1 and scope-2 GHG emissions to 2035

GAIL (India) Limited Board of Directors accorded approval to advance its Net Zero target for Scope-1 & 2 emissions by five (05) years, from the year 2040 to year 2035 on 28 June. This decision follows an extensive study undertaken by GAIL to enhance its sustainability goals and align with India's broader Net Zero commitments.

GAIL plans to achieve this ambitious goal through a strategic approach involving Electrification of NG based equipments, Renewable Energy, Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS), Compressed Biogas (CBG), Green Hydrogen, CO2 Valorization initiatives and afforestation.

By advancing its emission reduction targets to 2035, GAIL reaffirms its role as a trailblazer in India's energy landscape, driving sustainable development and contributing significantly to India's Net Zero emission target.

Punjab & Sind Bank celebrates 117th Foundation Day

Punjab & Sind Bank announced a series of innovative new offerings to mark its 117th Foundation Day under the theme of 'Igniting Growth, Innovation and Excellence'.

The initiatives included brand new products and services, new digital offerings within the PSB UniC app, new partnerships, and CSR activities. The Foundation Day celebration started with Akhand Path Bhog at Bangla Sahib Gurudwara, followed by opening of ATM mobile van and inauguration of Model



branch at Safdarjung Enclave, New Delhi. Under the new products and services "Nayi Shuryat", the Bank launched a Mobile ATM Van, PSB Gaurav Bachatt Salary accounts for Defence sector, Agniveers & Paramilitary forces (SB Salary

Product with lucrative component of Insurance coverage of Rs 1 crore), PSB RERA PLUS Current accounts (Current account product for builders/realtors etc.), PSB Shubharambh (a current account product with lucrative

waivers in service charges for first time on boarded MSME Customers with PSB). The Bank also introduced PSB Pink debit card for women and transformed its Safdarjung branch into a model smart branch. The event was spearheaded by Swarup Kumar Saha, MD&CEO of Punjab & Sind Bank, at the Bank's corporate office in New Delhi, and was graced by the Bank's Executive Directors Shri Ravi Mehra and Arun Kumar Agarwal, Chief Vigilance Officer, GMS, Senior officials, and other Bank staff members.

Victoria Metro station's construction work continues in Kolkata

Construction work of Victoria Metro station of Purple Line of Kolkata Metro has been going on smoothly.

Joka-Majerhat stretch of this Purple Line has already been operational and efforts are now on to extend it further in order to reach the heart of the city. Construction work of Mominpur (Excl.) to Esplanade stretch of this Corridor has been going on in that direction.



Work Order for construction of this stretch has already

been issued to M/s. Larsen & Toubro in last July. Out of the four stations on this stretch (Khidderpore, Victoria, Park Street and Esplanade) construction work of the underground Victoria station has been taken up by the executing agency Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL).

At first, diaphragm walls (D-walls) are being constructed and then the station slabs will be constructed following

the Cut and Cover Top-Down Method.

Already construction of 115 metre of diaphragm walls has been completed. At Victoria station, total 709 metre of diaphragm walls will be constructed. During the construction of the station, special care has also been taken to assess the vibration level generated and also for the nearby Victoria Memorial Hall.

SAIL joins LeadIT in Sweden, demonstrates strong commitment to climate action

Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL), the Maharatna Public Sector Steelmaker, announced its recent induction as a member of The Leadership Group for Industry Transition (LeadIT) which was announced on June 25, 2024 at the 'Engaging India at Almedalen' held in Visby, Sweden. LeadIT was launched by the governments of Sweden and India at the UN Climate Action Summit in Sep-



tember 2019 and is supported by the World Economic Forum. This strate-

gic move of SAIL to align with the LeadIT vision emphasizes SAIL's commitment to

climate action and also aligns the company with global efforts to combat climate change. While recently visiting Sweden to firm up the collaboration, Amarendra Prakash, Chairman, SAIL, was a guest speaker at the session with the theme 'Samband for Climate Action'.

He commented, "The infrastructure push in India is set to be immense and the Indian steel industry has

ICG airlifts two critically ill patients from Lakshadweep Islands

The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) District Headquarters at Lakshadweep Islands received request for urgent medical evacuation of two critically ill patients from the Union Territory of Lakshadweep (UTL) administration.

Responding to medical emergency, ICG successfully coordinated a medical evacuation on 27 June 2024 through the ICG Dornier aircraft former Coast Guard Air Enclave, Kochi, evacuating two critically ill patients

from Agatti Island to Kochi despite extreme weather conditions.

The patients, including one critically ill preterm baby (suffering from respiratory depression and on ventilator) and the other female patient (53 yrs old with head injury and severe anaemia), along with medical escorts have been evacuated amid inclement weather conditions to Kalamassery medical college at Kochi.

The aircraft transited a distance of approximately 950



km in these challenging weather conditions thereby

ensuring safe evacuation of the patients.



There is no place for extremism in Australia. That documentation that was made is very concerning, including threats not just to Labor MPs but to others, to my family

ANTHONY ALBANESE AUSTRALIA'S PRIME MINISTER

WEATHER

Table with columns: CITY, MAX(C), MIN(C), H. Rows include Singapore, Hong Kong, Tokyo, London, Dubai, San Francisco, New York, Moscow.

S= sunny, CL= clear, H=hazy, R= rainy...

THUMBNAILS

Another US soldier charged with sexual assault in Okinawa: Public prosecutors in Japan's southernmost prefecture of Okinawa have indicted a 21-year-old US Marine on charges of yet another non-consensual sexual intercourse resulting in injury.

AGENCIES

5 dead in dormitory fire in Moscow: At least five persons were killed as a fire raged through a dormitory in a Moscow suburb, Russian media reports quoted emergency services as saying early on Saturday.

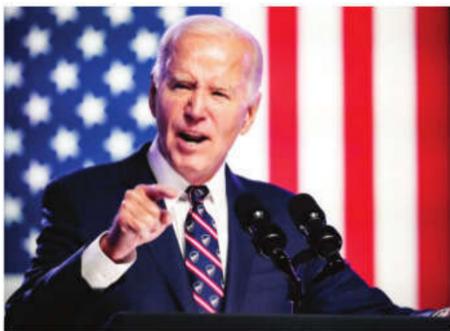
AGENCIES

Post debate, Biden seeks to quell Dems' anxiety

Biden acknowledges criticism of debate fumbles, vows to fight for democracy

AGENCIES WASHINGTON, 29 JUNE

President Joe Biden worked forcefully Friday to quell Democratic anxieties over his unsteady showing in his debate with former President Donald Trump.



But he added, "I know how to do this job. I know how to get things done." Speaking for 18 minutes, Biden appeared far more animated than he had the night before as he excoriated Trump for his "lies" and for waging a campaign aimed at "revenge and retribution."

Biden's halting delivery and meandering comments, particularly early in the debate, fueled concerns from even members of his own party that at age 81 he's not up for the task of leading the country for another four years.

Biden appeared to acknowledge the criticism during a rally in Raleigh, North Carolina, saying "I don't debate as well as I used

to." But he added, "I know how to do this job. I know how to get things done." Speaking for 18 minutes, Biden appeared far more animated than he had the night before as he excoriated Trump for his "lies" and for waging a campaign aimed at "revenge and retribution."

Even before the debate, Biden's age had been a liability with voters, and Thursday night's faceoff appeared to reinforce the public's deep-

seated concerns before perhaps the largest audience he will garner in the four months until Election Day.

Privately, his campaign worked to tamp down concerns and keep donors and surrogates on board. Democratic lawmakers on Friday acknowledged Biden's poor showing, but tried to stop talk of replacing him as their standard-bearer.

"Well, the president didn't have a good night, but neither did Donald Trump with lie after lie and his dark vision for America," North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper told The Associated Press on Friday.

Former President Barack Obama backed up his former vice president, posting on X that "bad debate nights happen", alluding to his own poor showing in the first debate of his reelection campaign in 2012.

Research expert tells UN it has 'irrefutably' established missile debris in Ukraine is North Korean

AGENCIES UNITED NATIONS, 29 JUNE

The head of a research organization that has been tracing weapons used in attacks in Ukraine since 2018 told the United Nations Security Council on Friday it has "irrefutably" established that ballistic missile remnants found in Ukraine came from North Korea.

He said the organization documented the missile's rocket motor, its tail section and almost 300 components manufactured by 26 companies from eight countries and territories, and it determined the missile was either a KN-23 or KN-24 manufactured in 2023 in the DPRK.

The organization reached its conclusion based on the missile's unique characteristics - its diameter, distinct jet vane actuators that direct the missile's thrust and trajectory, the pattern around the igniter, the presence of Korean characters on some rocket components, and other marks and components dating back to 2023, he said.

documentation, our teams inspected three additional identical DPRK missiles that struck Kyiv and Zaporizhzhia earlier this year," Leff said. They also observed additional conventional weapons, including an artillery rocket produced in 1977, "that had been seized on the front lines and had not been observed on the battlefield previously in Ukraine" that were manufactured by the DPRK, and might have been part of a recent larger consignment of rockets.

The United States and its Western allies clashed with Russia and North Korea at the meeting, saying both countries violated a U.N. embargo on arms exports from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the country's official name. Russia dismissed the "baseless accusations,"

and the DPRK dismissed the meeting as "an extremely brazen act" to discuss "someone's alleged 'weapon transfers.'" Jonah Leff, executive director of Conflict Armament Research, gave the council a detailed analysis of the remnants of the missile that struck Ukraine's second-largest city, Kharkiv, on Jan.

T E N D E R

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY CORRIGENDUM: Notice closing date of Tender notice no. CNB2024202510, dated 24.06.2024, invited by Chief Engineer/Construction (North).

FURNISHING & TRIMMING WORKS: Tender Notice No.: DBWS-NIET-07-2024-25. Dated: 26-06-2024. E-Tender are invited by the undersigned for the following work: Name of Work: Furnishing and Trimming works of POH Coaches at Dibrugarh Workshop.

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE: Sr. Divisional Signal & Telecommunication Engineer, Jhansi, DRM's office, Jhansi, for and on behalf of President of India invite open Tender through on Line (E-Tendering) for the following works.

WESTERN RAILWAY PROVISION OF ESCALATORS: Sr. DEEP/IBCT, Invites E-Tender No.: EL166/133/WA/4 (R) dated 27-06-2024. Work and location: Mumbai Division - Provision of 12 nos. escalators in connection with the work of "Western Railway Provision of 25 nos. escalators at stations with average footfall more than 25000 per day".

MORE TENDER ADS ON PAGE 4

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY E-AUCTION NOTICE: On Behalf of The President of India, The Divisional Railway Manager (Commercial), Jhansi invites e-auction as per categories given as under:-

CENTRAL RAILWAY Open E-Tender Notice No.: DY.CE (C) NGP/02 OF 2024: Name of Work: Construction of Road Over Bridge (Railway Portion) and limited height subway 1/5.5 x 4.0 m RCC box by pushing / sliding method in lieu of LC No. 269 at km. 937/26-937/28, at Pandhurna. Approx. Cost: ₹ 2492.02 Lakhs. Completion Period: 18 Months. Validity of Offer: 90 days from date of opening of the tender. Bid Security: ₹ 13,96,000/-.

Expression of Interest (EOI) Tie Up with Private Hospital for Dialysis: Expression of Interest (EOI) are invited by the Chief Medical Superintendent, Workshop Railway Hospital, Eastern Railway, Kancharpara, Pin-743145 for entering into a Tie-up with Private Hospital in North 24 Parganas (including Naihati, Kancharpara and Kalyani) for Cashless Dialysis of Railway beneficiaries belonging to Kancharpara jurisdiction and registered with Workshop Railway Hospital, Kancharpara as and when required which could not be done in Workshop Railway Hospital, Kancharpara for 1 (one) year at CGHS rates through a MOU (Memorandum of Understanding).

ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES BHOPAL NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT): NIT No. AIIMSBHOPAL/E-Tender/NIT24-25/004 Date: 29/06/2024. AIIMS Bhopal invites e-Tender from registered manufacturers/dealers/distributors/Contractors for below mentioned items:

TP SOUTHERN ODISHA DISTRIBUTION LIMITED (Procurement Department) BPR North Star Building, 2nd Floor, Khodasingi, Berhampur, Odisha-760010. NOTICE INVITING TENDER Dt.: 30.06.2024. TP Southern Odisha Distribution Ltd. invites tender from eligible vendors for following:

Bolivia's leader says the general accused of leading failed coup wanted to 'take over' as president

AGENCIES LA PAZ, 29 JUNE

Bolivian President Luis Arce said Friday a former general planned to "take over" the government and become president in a failed coup, and he denied that the Andean nation was in an economic crisis.

In an interview with The Associated Press, the embattled leader denied once again that Wednesday's attack on the government palace was a "self-coup" designed to garner him political points. "I didn't escape. I stayed to defend democracy," Arce said.

Arce washed his hands of claims by relatives of the 21 people detained by the government that they were innocent of attempting a coup and had been tricked by ex-Gen. Juan Jose Zúñiga. "It's a problem of those who were involved, it's not the government's problem," Arce told AP.

BENFISH G.N. 31, Block, Sector-V, Salt Lake City, Kolkata - 700091. Memo No.: 881/IV-248/2012 Date: 27.06.2024. ADVERTISEMENT. Applications are invited for running restaurant at BENFISH Ganga Bhawan, South 24 Parganas.

INFORMATION WANTED: This is the photograph of Indrajit Halder @ Nital, Son of Ratan Halder, of Vill-Daulatpur, PO-Siddhberia, PS-Kulpi, 743351, who has been missing since 26.05.2024 from Residence, Kulpi, Sundarban Police District, W.B., Description of this missing person is: Age-20 years, Complexion-Sallow, Height-153 cms., Wearing- Gray Colour T-Shirt, Language-Bengali, Identification Mark-Small Mole below the Lips. 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.

INFORMATION WANTED: This is the photograph of Bristi Sarkar, Daughter of Biswajit Sarkar, of Vill-Chowgacha, PO-Baikara, PS-Gaighata, 743249, who has been missing since 12.06.2024 Residence, Gaighata, Bongaon Police District, W.B., Description of this missing person is: Age-18 years, Complexion-Fair, Height-153 cms., Wearing-Blue Kurta, White Pant, 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.

Debts Recovery Tribunal Kolkata (DRT 3) 8th Floor, Jeevan Sudha Building 42-C, Jawahar Lal Nehru Road, Kolkata - 700 071. CASE NO.: OA/280/2019. Summons under sub-section (4) of Section 19 of the Act, read with sub-rule (2A) of Rule 5 of the Debt Recovery Tribunal (Procedure) Rules, 1993.

INFORMATION WANTED: This is the photograph of Priyanka Nandi, Spouse's Name-Ganesh Nandi of Vill+PO-Hoomgarh, PS-Goaltore, 721157, who has been missing since 23.04.2024 from Residence, Goaltore, Paschim Medinipur, W.B., Description of this missing person is: Age-24 years, Complexion-Fair, Height-161 cms., Wearing-Black Printed 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.

INFORMATION WANTED: This is the photograph of an Unknown Male Deadbody, of PO-Kamarkundu, 712407, found on 23.05.2024 from KM Post 44-20 Porabazer RS under Kamarkundu GRPS, Description of this Deadbody is: Age-4 Years, Height-166 cms., Sex: Male, Wearing- Sky Blue Half T-Shirt, Blue Full 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.

WHEREAS, OA/280/2019 was listed before Hon'ble Presiding Officer / Registrar on 29.04.2024. WHEREAS this Hon'ble Tribunal is pleased to issue summons / notice on the said Application under Section 19(4) of the Act, (OA) filed against you for recovery of debts of Rs. 12,57,358.00 (application along with copies of documents etc. annexed).

INFORMATION WANTED: This is the photograph of Tarun Halder @ Tojo, Son of Sanat Halder, of Vill-Barendragali, Main Road, PO+PS-Halisahar, 743134, who has been missing since 11.06.2024 from Residence, Halisahar PS, Barrackpore Commissionerate, W.B., Description of this missing person is: Age-18 years, Complexion-Fair, Height-166 cms., Wearing- Red Shirt, Black Pant, 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.

INFORMATION WANTED: This is the photograph of Brijay Kr Jha, Son of Ram Lakhon Jha, of S-52 Jagadipota, PO-Dhalua, PS-Narendrapur, South 24 Parganas, 700152, who has been missing since 12.06.2024 from House, Narendrapur, Baruipurt, W.B., Description of this missing person is: Age-56 years, Complexion-Fair, Height-166 cms., Wearing- White Sando, Blue Lungi. 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.

WHEREAS, TA/958/2014 was listed before Hon'ble Presiding Officer / Registrar on 26.04.2024. WHEREAS this Hon'ble Tribunal is pleased to issue summons / notice on the said Application under Section 19(4) of the Act, (OA) filed against you for recovery of debts of Rs. 66,14,961/- (application along with copies of documents etc. annexed).

INFORMATION WANTED: This is the photograph of Tanjima Midda, Daughter of Md Asraf Ali, Spouse's Name-Bakibillah Midda of Vill-Gayeshpur, PS-Memari, Dist-PO-Purba Bardhaman, PO-Memari, 713146, who has been missing since 18.01.2024 from Residence, PS-Memari under Purba Bardhaman, Memari, Burdwan, W.B., Description of this missing person is: Age-32 years, Complexion-Fair, Height-153 cms., Wearing-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.

INFORMATION WANTED: This is the photograph of Bristi Mohinta, Daughter of Shishobh Mohinta, of 4 No Deshabandhu Nagar, PS-Khardah, Dist-North 24 Parganas, PO-Sodepore, 700110, who has been missing since 10.06.2024 from Residence, Khardah, Barrackpore Commissionerate, W.B., Description of this missing person is: Age-15 years, Complexion-Fair, Height-138 cms., Wearing-School Uniform, 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.

Form No. 3 See Regulation-15(1)(a)/16(3) DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL KOLKATA (DRT 3) 8th Floor, Jeevan Sudha Building 42-C, Jawahar Lal Nehru Road Kolkata - 700071. Case No.: TA/958/2014. Summons under sub-section (4) of section 19 of the Act, read with sub-rule (2A) of rule 5 of the Debt Recovery Tribunal (Procedure) Rules, 1993.

INFORMATION WANTED: This is the photograph of Sanjit Kumar Saha and Ors. To: (1) Sanjit Kumar Saha and Ors., P-170, CIT Road, Scheme VII-M, Kolkata, North Twenty Four Parganas, West Bengal - 700054.

INFORMATION WANTED: This is the photograph of Pankaj Shaw, Son of Prakash Shaw, of near Priya Cinema Hall Line Par, PS-Kulti, Anasol-Durgapur Police Commissionerate, PO-Sitampur, 713359, who has been missing since 02.06.2024 work palce Neha Store under Kulti PS, Kulti, Anasol-Durgapur Police Commissionerate, W.B., Description of this missing person is: Age-22 years, Complexion-Fair, Height-153 cms., Wearing-Purple Colour Trousers, Black Ganjee, Language-Hindi, Identification Mark-Cut mark in Right Hand Wrist. 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.

Form No. 3 See Regulation-15(1)(a)/16(3) DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL KOLKATA (DRT 3) 8th Floor, Jeevan Sudha Building 42-C, Jawahar Lal Nehru Road Kolkata - 700071. Case No.: TA/958/2014. Summons under sub-section (4) of section 19 of the Act, read with sub-rule (2A) of rule 5 of the Debt Recovery Tribunal (Procedure) Rules, 1993.

INFORMATION WANTED: This is the photograph of Tanjima Midda, Daughter of Md Asraf Ali, Spouse's Name-Bakibillah Midda of Vill-Gayeshpur, PS-Memari, Dist-PO-Purba Bardhaman, PO-Memari, 713146, who has been missing since 18.01.2024 from Residence, PS-Memari under Purba Bardhaman, Memari, Burdwan, W.B., Description of this missing person is: Age-32 years, Complexion-Fair, Height-153 cms., Wearing-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.

INFORMATION WANTED: This is the photograph of Bristi Mohinta, Daughter of Shishobh Mohinta, of 4 No Deshabandhu Nagar, PS-Khardah, Dist-North 24 Parganas, PO-Sodepore, 700110, who has been missing since 10.06.2024 from Residence, Khardah, Barrackpore Commissionerate, W.B., Description of this missing person is: Age-15 years, Complexion-Fair, Height-138 cms., Wearing-School Uniform, 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.

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INFORMATION WANTED: This is the photograph of Jalal Sk, Son of Sk Samsher, of Dakshin Rajpur, PS-Nodakhali, PO-Dakshin Rajpur, 743318, who has been missing since 07.02.2024 from Residence, Nodakhali, Diamond Harbour Police District, W.B., Description of this missing person is: Age-38 years, Complexion-Fair, Height-168 cms., Wearing-Black and White T-Shirt, Gray Colour Full Pant, 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.

J'khand is a land of courageous people, says Hemant Soren

'Many will try to scare us, but that is momentary, and we don't need to be scared,' headed

AGENCIES RANCHI, 29 JUNE

After being released on bail, former Jharkhand Chief Minister and Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) leader Hemant Soren on Saturday said that the state is a land of courageous people and there is no need to be scared from anyone. Speaking with the reporters, Soren said, "After coming out of jail after five months, I have bowed down to Bhagwan Birsa Munda. The hurdles he had to face, more or less, Adivasi, farmers, and minorities are facing a similar fate, even today." The former Chief Minister also said, "Jharkhand is a land of courageous people. Many will try to scare us, but



that is momentary, and we don't need to be scared." He added further, "'Manuvaadi' ideas (philosophy of occupational segregation described in Manusmriti), even today are getting successes in its expansion. But, we haven't accepted our defeat and moving ahead. Whatever we have achieved has been achieved through struggle and our future generations will come forward with the strength to end this struggle. For future generations, things should progress as per their wish, culture and civilization, and we will work towards this." Hemant Soren was released

from the Birsa Munda Jail following a bail order from the Jharkhand High Court. Soren was arrested by the Directorate of Enforcement (ED) in January on charges related to an alleged land scam and money laundering. The investigation concerns the purported generation of substantial proceeds through the forgery of official records, involving fake sellers and buyers to acquire large parcels of land worth crores. In related events, on March 22, a Special PMLA court extended Soren's judicial custody until April 4. Soren was presented via video conferencing. The Ranchi police had also issued a notice to ED officials to join the investigation following an FIR filed by Soren

under the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act. The Jharkhand High Court had previously ordered no coercive action against ED officials after the agency filed a petition challenging Soren's FIR. Soren had alleged that the ED's searches at his residences were aimed at tarnishing his image and harassing him for being a tribal. The ED had claimed to have recovered Rs 36 lakh in cash and documents related to the investigation, alleging that Soren had acquired 8.5 acres of land through fraudulent means. The investigation revealed that a syndicate, including Revenue Sub-Inspector Bhanu Pratap Prasad, was involved in corrupt property acquisitions.

IMD forecasts heavy rains in north-west, north-east India in the next five days

AGENCIES NEW DELHI, 29 JUNE

India Meteorological Department on Saturday forecast heavy to very heavy rainfall over Northwest India including Delhi & the Northeast states during the next 4-5 days. IMD also said that the Southwest Monsoon has further advanced into the remaining parts of East Uttar Pradesh and some more parts of West Uttar Pradesh on Saturday. The northern limit of the monsoon now passes through Jaisalmer, Churu in Rajasthan, Bhiwani, Delhi, Aligarh, Hardoi, Moradabad, Una (Western UP), Pathankot in Punjab and Jammu. The weather office said conditions are favourable for further advance of south-west Monsoon into some more parts of West Rajasthan, Haryana-Chandigarh &



Punjab and remaining parts of West Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh and Jammu during the next 2-3 days. Isolated heavy rainfall is very likely over Delhi, Haryana Chandigarh, Punjab Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and East Rajasthan from June 29 to July 3; West Rajasthan on June 29, July 2 and 3; Chhattisgarh, Gangetic West Bengal, Jharkhand, Odisha on June 29 and 30 and Bihar during June 30-July 2, the weather bulletin states. The IMD bulletin has forecast widespread light to mod-

erate rainfall accompanied by thunderstorms, and lightning very likely over North-west, Central and East India during the next five days. IMD also said that widespread moderate rainfall accompanied by thunderstorms is very likely over Kerala, Karnataka, Konkan and Goa, Gujarat, Madhya Maharashtra; isolated to scattered light to moderate rainfall over Marathwada, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Coastal Andhra Pradesh, Rayalaseema, Telangana, during the next five days. Widespread light to moderate rainfall accompanied by thunderstorms, lightning and isolated heavy to very heavy rainfall is also likely over Sub-Himalayan West Bengal and Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam and Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura during next five days, IMD added.

Chaudhary Vijendra Singh bids goodbye to BSP

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE BIJNOR, 29 JUNE

Chaudhary Vijendra Singh, who recently contested the elections from the Bijnor Lok Sabha seat on the Bahujan Samaj Party ticket, has bid goodbye to the party. Singh resigned from all his posts on Friday evening and has sent a letter of his decision to BSP supremo Mayawati. The ex-BSP leader, however, has not made any disclosure about his future course of action. Sources on Saturday hinted that Chaudhary can contest the assembly by-election from Meerapur as an RLD candidate. After the Lok Sabha election results, Vijendra Singh met RLD chief Chaudhary



dra Singh leaving BSP intensified. It is also being discussed in the political circles that he has been close to the RLD chief for a long time. On the other hand, Vijender Singh has expressed gratitude to the BSP supremo for giving him the Lok Sabha ticket. Chaudhary Vijendra Singh says that he will soon take the next step after talking to his supporters. However, former BSP division president Shahjahan Saifi says that BSP is not going to suffer any loss due to his leaving the party.

'More farmers in Assam will be included in PM Kisan Samman Nidhi'

AGENCIES GUWAHATI, 29 JUNE

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Saturday expressed his gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for releasing the 17th instalment of the PM Kisan Samman Nidhi on June 18th, which benefited a total of 9.26 crore farmers nationwide, said the Chief Minister's office. "HCM Dr @himantabiswa expresses his gratitude to the Hon'ble PM Shri Narendra Modi for releasing the 17th instalment of the PM Kisan Samman Nidhi on June 18th, which benefited a total of 9.26 crore farmers nationwide," the Assam Chief Minister's office posted on X. The Chief Minister's office



said that in Assam alone, Rs 350 crores were disbursed to 17.5 lakh beneficiaries of the scheme. The Chief Minister said that in the coming days, more farmers will be included as beneficiaries of the scheme. On June 18, PM Narendra Modi released the 17th instalment of the PM-KISAN

and distribute around Rs 20,000 crore. PM-KISAN scheme was launched in 2019, to supplement the financial needs of all land-holding farmers subject to certain exclusion criteria of higher income status. The financial benefit of Rs 6,000 per year in three equal installments, every four months, is transferred into the bank accounts of farmers' families across the country through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) mode. Till now, over Rs 3.04 lakh crores has been disbursed to more than 11 crore farmers across the nation and with this release, the total amount transferred to the beneficiaries since the inception of the scheme will cross well over Rs 3.24 lakh crores.

'Respecting teachers reflects respect for present, future generations'

LUCKNOW, 29 JUNE
Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, on Saturday, stated that respect for teachers signifies respect for the current and future generations of the country. Addressing the 'Shiksha Samman Samaroh' of an educational institution here, the Chief Minister said, "We need to make the art of teaching more engaging through small proverbs and continually pursue new research in this field." Honoring those who are building the future of the country is a matter of great respect in itself, the CM added.

UP Tourism hosts 'Bodhi Yatra' conclave to celebrate Lord Buddha's journey

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE LUCKNOW, 29 JUNE

Bringing spirituality and rich heritage of Uttar Pradesh together, the Uttar Pradesh Tourism Department organized the 'Bodhi Yatra' conclave in New Delhi on Friday to commemorate the extraordinary journey of Lord Buddha. The event highlighted Uttar Pradesh's significance as a Buddhist pilgrimage destination and the tourism potential of the state. Ambassador of Singapore, H.E. Simon Wong, Ambassador of Thailand, H.E. Pattarat Hongtong, Ambassador of Myanmar, H.E. Moe Kyaw Aung and ambassadors from many other countries like Bhutan, Japan, Indonesia,

Argentina, Mongolia, Sri Lanka, Vietnam etc. graced the conclave reflecting India's strong international ties. In his address, the Union Minister of Tourism and Culture Gajendra Singh Shekhawat said, "India is not the land of war, but the land of Buddha". This holy land gave the message of truth, non-violence, kindness and compassion to the entire world and Uttar Pradesh is a prominent part in this legacy. The Prime Minister had envisioned creating various tourist circuits in the country. The first circuit in that is the Buddha Circuit. I want to congratulate Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and Tourism Minister Jaiveer Singh that the UP government did important work to bring the Prime Minister's vision to reality."

UP Minister of Tourism and Culture, Jaiveer Singh said, "UP is the fourth largest state in terms of area. It is the largest state with a population of 25 crores and is equal to the fifth country in the world in terms of population. Fortunately, all the places from the birth of Lord Buddha to his education, attainment of knowledge, preaching and religious awakening campaigns and Mahaparinirvana (death) are located here. Under the guidance of our Chief Minister, we are developing the Buddhist circuit propagating the strong historical, cultural and spiritual ties of Buddhism with Uttar Pradesh on the world map and attracting Buddhist pilgrims from India and abroad in large numbers."



UP Chief Secretary Durga Shanker Mishra said, "Uttar Pradesh is cradle of Buddhism and this Bodhi Yatra is an initiative to make you experience the serenity and divinity of Lord Buddha. The significant events of Buddhism took place in UP and this event aims to promote these Buddhist sites on the global map. "Working under the vision of our Prime Minister and through constant efforts of the State government and the Tourism Department, we have developed infrastructure and

world class tourist facilities at these sites emerging as the top tourist destinations in the country. Through our investor-friendly tourism policy, the stakeholders can become a significant part of this transforming journey of Uttar Pradesh in the tourism sector." Speaking at the event, Union Secretary, Union Ministry of Tourism V. Vidyaavati said, "Buddha resides in the heart and soul of UP. Govt of India in collaboration with the Govt. of Uttar Pradesh aims to not only create a memorable experience for the Buddhist pilgrims but also ensure the development and better employment opportunities for the local communities. We are also keen to enhance the infrastructure and amenities

of Buddhist Museums in the state as they are a living source of history." In his speech UP Principal Secretary, Department Of Tourism and Culture Mukesh Meshram said, "UP has emerged as a popular tourist destination attaining number one spot in domestic tourism and we are hopeful of attracting a higher number of inbound foreign tourists as well in near future." He said, "We wanted to reveal the spiritual and cultural connection with different countries in South Asia and Southeast Asia and improve cultural diplomacy with the support of the Ministry of External Affairs and promote Foreign Direct Investment in the state. "We have already allotted 02 acres of land in Varanasi

to Bhutan Govt. for the construction of temples and guest houses. Through this platform we also offer all the other countries to invest in the hospitality and tourism sector of all these six sites and we assure you that we will provide all the mutual cooperation needed." Attendees were treated to a cultural show depicting the life of Lord Buddha, from his birth to his enlightenment and attaining Mahaparinirvana. It highlighted the foundation of Buddhism and celebrated its rich historical, cultural and spiritual connection with Uttar Pradesh. It also underlined how the Buddhist circuit is one of the favorite travel destinations for both National and International visitors.

LEISURE

10 MINUTE CROSSWORD



ACROSS
1 Rap (5)
4 Aquatic bird (4)
7 Abandon (6)
8 Accident (6)
9 Furniture item (6,5)
11 Goad (4)
12 Repose (4)
16 Domestic appliance (6-5)
17 Leave (6)
18 Tooth layer (6)
20 Dressed (4)
21 Muscular (informal) (5)

DOWN
1 Patella (7)
2 Mineral (3)
3 Young cat (6)
4 Salad fruit (6)
5 Soft fruit (9)
6 Cook in an oven (4)
10 Prevent in advance (9)
13 Magic (7)
14 Checked (6)
15 Part of speech (6)
16 Sharpen (4)
19 Reverence (3)

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

ACROSS
12 Squall, 13 Locker, 15 Salamander, 18 Prosecco, 20 Amen, 21 Knotty, 8 Arboreal, 9 Optimistic

DOWN
11 Squadron, 1 Arms, 14 Certain, 3 Jab, 4 Nares, 5 Examined, 6 Manilla, 10 Melodion

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

BEETLE BAILEY/Mort Walker



RED EYE/Bill Yates & Mel Casson



DADDY DAZE/John Kovalski



NEED TO KNOW

Ambulance
FD Block Association (Amb) 9830452536, 9830181286
Happy 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

Bank Sanks
Ashok Laboratory 24720333
Central Blood Bank 23510619

Life Care 2284-6940
Peoples Blood Bank 2455-5164/ 5957
RK Mission Seva Pratishthan 2475-3636/39

Police/Fire
Lalbazar (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

CEEC Fault Reporting
1912 and 4403-1912

Trains
Howrah Station Old Complex 1331/1332 (Auto Telephone Numbers), 1310, 2636-7412/3542/2581 (manual).
Sealdah: 2390-3535/2537
Shalimar Station: 2668-1121, Eastern Railway and South-Eastern Railway: 139.

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SCRABBLE® YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION BY JUDD

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SUDOKU
Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

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

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.

THUMBNAILS

Rüdiger set to be available for Germany after hamstring problem for Euro match vs. Denmark: Germany defender Antonio Rüdiger looks to have recovered from a hamstring problem to be available for the round-of-16 match against Denmark at the European Championship on Saturday. Rüdiger had a "good" training session and will be monitored to see how he recovers from it, Germany coach Julian Nagelsmann said at a news conference on Friday. "At the moment, it looks like he will be fit again," Nagelsmann said of the Real Madrid center back. Rüdiger's return would be significant for Germany because Jonathan Tah, the team's other first-choice center back, is missing through suspension. Rüdiger was seen holding his leg last Sunday as he left the field after straining a hamstring muscle in Germany's 1-1 draw with Switzerland.

Formula 1: Verstappen pips Piastri, Norris to win Austrian Sprint race in Austria: Red Bull's Max Verstappen outperformed the McLarens of Oscar Piastri and Lando Norris to win the Sprint race at the Austrian Grand Prix on Saturday. Verstappen held the lead since the start before Norris soon closed in and briefly moved into P1 with a bold overtake, only for the reigning world champion to reclaim the position moments later in a squabble that enabled Piastri to pass his teammate. Behind the top three drivers, who maintained that formation to the chequered flag despite some more moments of excitement, George Russell and Lewis Hamilton sandwiched Carlos Sainz, followed by the recovering Charles Leclerc and Sergio Perez. Sainz got the jump on Russell with a fine move around the outside of Turn 4, as Hamilton held sixth over the fast-starting Leclerc, Perez, Kevin Magnussen and Lance Stroll — the Alpines of Esteban Ocon and Pierre Gasly dropping out of the top 10 places.

Vinícius Júnior scores twice to lead Brazil to 4-1 win over Paraguay in Copa America

With four points, Brazil is two behind group leader Colombia, which defeated Costa Rica 3-0 earlier Friday

AGENCIES
LAS VEGAS, 29 JUNE

Vinícius Júnior scored two first-half goals to lead Brazil to a 4-1 victory over Paraguay on Friday night and put itself in position to advance out of Group D in the Copa America.

"Today, he played almost a perfect match," Brazil coach Dorival Júnior said through an interpreter. "He was dynamic."

Sávio also scored a first-half goal for Brazil and Lucas Paquetá scored on a penalty kick in the second half. Omar Alderete scored Paraguay's goal.

There were plenty of tense moments with five yellow cards and a red handed out. Andres Cubas was sent off for a red card in the 81st minute, forcing Paraguay to play the last part of the match down a man. Yellow cards were handed to Brazil's Wendell, Vinícius Júnior and Lucas

Paquetá and Paraguay's Fabián Balbuena and Hernesto Caballero.

The victory was quite a response for the Seleção, who opened the tournament Tuesday with a scoreless draw against Costa Rica despite outshooting their opponent 18-2.

"There was a certain level of disappointment for the lack of results in the first match," Dorival Júnior said. "But I think our performance was of a great level. We've made great progress in very little time. We almost never have 20 days to work together."

"I told you be patient because this team is trending on the right path."

With four points, Brazil is two behind group leader Colombia, which defeated Costa Rica 3-0 earlier Friday. A victory or tie by Brazil against Colombia on Tuesday ensures one of the group's two spots in the knockout stage. Brazil also has a six-goal differential advantage over Costa Rica, so



a loss likely won't keep out the nine-time Copa America champions.

Paraguay will not advance to the next round, leading to some tense back-and-forth between coach Daniel Garnero and reporters who questioned

the team's continued struggles in this tournament. The country has won Copa America twice, but not since 1979.

"There have been many head coaches and nobody's finding the solution," Garnero said through an inter-

preter. "You're talking about a match that just finished. I can't talk about something that happened ages ago."

Brazil has had its difficulties against Paraguay in Copa America play, having drawn in their previous five meetings.

That tied for the second-longest unbeaten streak against Brazil in this tournament, which Paraguay also was part of from 1963-83.

But Brazil won the most recent meeting, defeating Paraguay 4-0 two years ago in World Cup qualifying, and there was little doubt about the outcome of this match after two late goals broke it open in what was a contentious end to the first half.

Moments after teammate Bruno Guimaraes hit the crossbar, Sávio put Brazil up 2-0 in the 43rd minute.

Both teams got into a scrum in first-half stoppage time, with Chilean referee Piero Maza handling yellow cards to Wendell and Balbuena at three-plus minutes. Then Vinícius Júnior delivered the crushing blow five minutes into first-half stoppage time.

Paraguay had its chances and even outshot Brazil 8-5, including 4-3 on goal. Brazil goalkeeper Alisson Becker

made a tremendous save diving to his right to prevent a goal from Damián Bobodilla 15 minutes into the match.

Early in the second half, however, Alderete scored to close the deficit to 3-1.

Then 17 minutes later, Lucas Paquetá made up for a missed penalty kick in the first half by converting to give back Brazil its three-goal lead.

"We played against two world class teams," said Garnero, referencing Paraguay's 2-1 loss to Colombia in its opener. "It's complicated being in my place. I'm seeing a great effort by the team. They've measured up, but we still need to achieve the results."

Dorival Júnior made a bold and controversial move by deciding not to start Raphinha. The move, with national team legend Neymar watching from the stands, clearly paid off.

Raphinha was a late-game substitute, entering the match at the 72nd minute in place of Sávio.

Indian-American Akshay Bhatia takes lead in Detroit on PGA Tour

AGENCIES
DETROIT, 28 JUNE

Indian-American Akshay Bhatia, already a two-time winner on the PGA Tour at the age of 22, continued his rise on the Tour, as he shot 8-under 64 at Detroit Golf Club to take the lead at the Rocket Mortgage Championship on the PGA Tour.

The wiry left-hander, who won the Valero Texas Open this season just before the Masters, was Tied-fifth last week at the Travelers and played in the final group alongside World No. 1 Scottie Scheffler, who won the event in a play-off with Tom Kim of Korea.

Bhatia, who missed the cut in Detroit last year, had a fantastic finish with birdie-eagle-birdie in his last four holes, according to a release.

On his birdie-eagle-birdie finish, Bhatia said, "Yeah, it's



always nice to finish like that. This tournament's always kind of a birdie-fest, so birdies and eagles help a lot. It's nice to finish that way."

He went on, "I putted great. I missed one green today, so I got that up and down. All in all, I hit it pretty nice with the irons and I made some putts. Driver, 3-wood didn't feel too good, but I've got some time to go work on that."

On his recent run, he said, "I've been playing good the last three weeks. I feel like the results haven't been where I've wanted them to be, but I've been playing pretty solid. I've been right there for, you know, over 40 holes I would

say the last couple weeks. It's just I'm having some hiccups either Saturday or Sunday."

The highlight for Bhatia was the chip-in for eagle from 83 feet on the 17th hole and he closed with a birdie for an 8-under 64.

England's Aaron Rai, whose parents have an Indian-Kenyan connection, shot 66 and was Tied-fourth.

Tom Kim, playing his ninth straight week he shot 73 and was T-115 needing a strong second round to make the cut.

Taylor Montgomery and Michael Kim were a stroke behind Bhatia. Montgomery had a 6-under 30 on his front nine and added one more birdie on the back in a bogey-free round. Defending champion Rickie Fowler shot 66, closing with three straight birdies. Will Zalatoris, Eric Cole, Matti Schmid and Rai also were at 66.

Wimbledon 2024: Iga Swiatek calls herself a perfectionist and now she wants to improve on grass

AGENCIES
WIMBLEDON, 29 JUNE

Shortly after Iga Swiatek completed the most lopsided French Open final in 17 years, ceding a grand total of three games against an overmatched opponent to claim a third consecutive title in Paris, she was asked whether that represented a perfect performance.

Swiatek's mind immediately went to what little went wrong in Court Philippe Chatrier that afternoon.

"Obviously, I mean, I got broken at the beginning," she said, "so it wasn't maybe perfect."

A few minutes later, Swiatek used the word "perfectionist" to describe herself, perhaps offering some insight as to how she is approaching Wimbledon, the grass-court major that begins Monday — and the only Grand Slam tournament where she hasn't been past the



quarterfinals.

"Overall, tennis is different on grass," said Swiatek, who was a junior champion at the All England Club in 2018. "I'll just see and I'll work hard to play better there."

The 23-year-old from Poland has won four of the past five trophies on the red clay at Roland Garros, capped by a 6-2, 6-1 victory against Jasmine Paolini for the championship on June 8.

"It's hard. You have to err very little. Match her intensity. Play deep shots. Try to be aggressive whenever there's an easier ball," said Paolini, who is now ranked in the top 10 but hardly looked that caliber in the final. "But it's not easy. It wasn't for me, and it's a challenge that is the most difficult thing in women's tennis at the moment. How to do it? I don't know."

Swiatek also was the 2022 champion at the hard-court U.S. Open and made it to the Australian Open semifinals on that surface earlier that season. But she is just 9-4 on the grass of the All England Club, by far her worst winning percentage at a Slam.

For someone who talks a lot about wanting to get "better and better," not to mention someone who wants to do things perfectly on and off the court, it would make sense if she wanted to improve at Wimbledon.

Ronaldo, soccer's ultimate showstopper, still Portugal's main man despite slow start to Euro 2024

AGENCIES
DORTMUND, 29 JUNE

Cristiano Ronaldo has been a showstopper, as expected, at the European Championship.

Just not necessarily in the way he'd like to be.

The Portugal superstar with 632 million followers on Instagram and a never-ending stream of endorsement deals has had to deal with a raft of on-field selfie-seekers, during matches and in training. One presumed superfan even leapt from the stands over the players' tunnel toward a startled-looking Ronaldo as he headed to the locker room after Portugal's match against Georgia.

He's raged at a referee (earning a yellow card), booted away a water bottle, and angrily remonstrated in the dug-out. He's also had 12



shots, more than anyone else at Euro 2024.

What Ronaldo hasn't done is score a goal — and that's the currency he deals in, at least in soccer.

OK, there was that moment

he passed up a golden chance to score by passing unselfishly to Bruno Fernandes for Portugal's third goal in the 3-0 win over Turkey. A double-stepover that befuddled Abdulkarim Bardakci and left

the Turkey center back on his back has proved a hit on social media and gave the world a reminder of the Ronaldo of 10, 15, even 20 years ago.

Ronaldo, though, is 39 now. Those big moments have

become fleeting, especially when it comes to the big tournaments and when he's playing against top-level defenses.

Make that seven straight matches in which he has failed to score at a major tournament, covering the 2022 World Cup and Euro 2024. For the first time in his 21-year international career taking in five World Cups and six European Championships, he has ended a group stage without a goal.

So, with the powers of this undoubted soccer great on the wane, the question will again be asked heading into the knockout stage: will the constant drama surrounding Ronaldo wind up being a distraction for the Portugal team in its bid for another big soccer title, eight years after winning its only one at Euro 2016?

AIFF move to streamline unregistered tournaments

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, 28 JUNE

The Executive Committee of the All India Football Federation, in its meeting held on June 6 in Kolkata, has taken a serious view of the fact that various unauthorised and unregistered football tournaments are conducted across the country.

The committee felt that this practice often goes against the interests of the states, clubs, footballers, and all stakeholders of the game.

To put a stop to this, the Executive Committee has reached the following decisions in the meeting:

► No AIFF-registered player, coach, or referee should be permitted to participate in unauthorised tournaments that do not have permission from the State Association and their affiliated district or taluk units.

► If any of the state, district, club, or academy should

flag these issues to AIFF, and simultaneously to the state, then the state should take strong action against those players, coaches, or referees found to be guilty, as per the constitution and other by-laws of the respective State Association.

► All MAs are advised to develop and implement their own tournament registration policies. If any organisation or private body intends to conduct a tournament in a particular district or state, they need to reach out to their respective district and/or state association for due permission or registration that can be accepted on the following conditions:

(a) only registered clubs/academies can participate

(b) only players registered in the registered clubs can represent the teams

(c) only licensed referees should be officiating the

games (d) organising bodies should provide the full security for the players/officials

The AIFF Acting Secretary General, M Satyanarayan, said, "The decision has been taken after careful consideration of several aspects. We regularly receive complaints from the clubs, whose players sometimes take part in these unauthorised and unregistered tournaments and often suffer injuries while playing on substandard surfaces. It forces the clubs to lose the services of the unfit players."

"It has also come to our notice that these tournaments witness the presence of a large number of foreign players, who do not have players-specific visas. It often leads to security risks and unwarranted situations, causing problems for the state associations and all other stakeholders of Indian football."

Argentina coach Scaloni suspended from Copa America match vs. Peru for being repeatedly late

AGENCIES
MIAMI GARDENS, 29 JUNE

Argentina coach Lionel Scaloni has been suspended for one match and will miss his team's last Copa America group match against Peru on Saturday.

Scaloni was suspended because Argentina was late returning for the second half in its two Copa matches, a 2-0 win against Canada and a 1-0 triumph over Chile, the disciplinary commission of CONMEBOL said on Friday.

Scaloni also can't attend the post-match news conference.

Later, Chile coach Ricardo Gareca was also suspended for one match for the same reason. Chile plays Canada on



Saturday in Orlando.

Defending Copa America champion Argentina has already secured a berth in the

knockout stages.

Argentina assistant Walter Samuel said during Friday's press conference that Scaloni

"was a little bitter about the situation."

"We consider ourselves a correct coaching staff," Samuel said. "In these six years (on the job) we have almost never had this type of sanction. (It is) a little abnormal. He wanted to be with the team tomorrow."

Copa America regulations say players must be on the pitch at the right time after the break and will be warned after a first violation. The sanction came after the second violation.

Canada's players publicly complained about Argentina's late return for the second half of their match on June 20. Argentina needs a draw against Peru to secure first place in Group A.

Croatia fined \$112,000 by UEFA for fan misconduct at Euro 2024

AGENCIES
FRANKFURT, 29 JUNE

Croatia was fined 105,000 euros (\$112,500) by UEFA for fan misconduct at a European Championship elimination game against Italy, the federation said on Friday.

The financial penalty is the biggest by UEFA announced at the tournament, and the second for Croatia. A separate investigation by UEFA is ongoing into alleged racism involving both sets of fans at Croatia's second Euro 2024 game, against Albania.

The separate fines for incidents at the Croatia-Italy game on Monday were 45,000 euros for throwing objects, including beer cups, 30,000



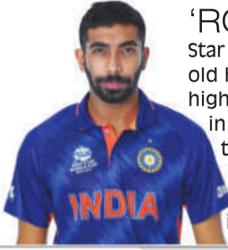
euros for lighting flares and fireworks, and 30,000 euros for "inappropriate behavior" that was not specified. UEFA fined Croatia 27,500 euros for fans lighting and throwing fireworks at the game against Albania.

The Croatian federation earned 9.2 million euros in tournament prize money by UEFA.

Croatia was eliminated by drawing with Italy 1-1 in Leipzig. Italy scored in the eighth and final minute of

stoppage time.

The game could have been the international farewell for Croatia great Luka Modric, at age 38. His goal against Italy set a tournament record as the oldest ever scorer.



'ROHIT SHARMA HAS BEEN ABSOLUTELY PHENOMENAL'
Star India pacer Jasprit Bumrah showered praise on skipper Rohit Sharma and said that the 37-year-old has been phenomenal. In the ongoing T20 World Cup 2024, Rohit Sharma is currently the third highest run getter in the tournament. He scored 248 runs at a strike rate of 155.97 after appearing in seven matches. Speaking in a video shared on the official Instagram account of ICC, Bumrah said that in the previous ODI World Cup 2023 Rohit was very proactive. Bumrah revealed that the India skipper gave a lot of freedom to his players. Both South Africa and India have had a contrasting run in the tournament. The Rohit Sharma-led side has dominated each side that they have faced in the tournament, including heavyweights like Australia, Pakistan, and England.

For more updates www.thestatesman.com

SA eves fight back to reach 236 for 4 on Day 2 of one-off Test

Both Sune and Marizanne displayed commendable resilience and technique during their half century knocks



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 29 JUNE

South Africa fought back from the initial jolts to reach 236 for 4 on the second day of the one-off Test in Chennai after India declared their first innings at a record 603 for 6. At stumps, the visitors were still 367 runs behind.
Sune Luus and Marizanne Kapp began the repair work for the Proteas with a 93-run stand for the third wicket after

the Proteas were 96 for 2 at one stage. Both Sune and Marizanne displayed commendable resilience and technique during their half century knocks.
Captain Laura Wolvaardt and Anneke Bosch looked composed in the six overs before lunch, before Sneha Rana got the first breakthrough in the eighth over when she bowled one rare short ball. But it kept low and Wolvaardt completely missed her pull to be trapped lbw after scoring a 36-ball 20.

Bosch continued to build the innings in the company of Sune with a 63-run second wicket partnership. However, once the pair got their eyes in during their 23 overs in the middle, Rana struck once again to end Bosch's resistance that came in the form of a 73-ball 39, with the help of four fours and a six, falling a few overs before tea.
At 96 for 2, South Africa found stability with Kapp and Luus mixing caution with aggression. Luus respected



the good deliveries, scoring almost equally on the off and leg side. In all, she scored 65 off 164 balls that included six fours and one six over long-on against Rana before Deepthi broke the stand when she beat Luus' inside edge and trapped her lbw.
Luus reviewed the on-field decision but it was in vain. Delmi Tucker became Rana's third victim when Richa Ghosh took a sharp catch to dismiss her for an eight-ball duck.
Kapp, however, scored pre-

dominantly on the off side, with seven of her eight fours coming in that area as she reached her 50 off 87 balls and remained unbeaten on 69 off 125 at stumps, despite battling cramps and a stiff back. Nadine de Klerk, who joined Kapp at the fall of Tucker, stitched an unbroken 38-run stand off 56 balls. De Klerk showed good intent in the final hour and hit five fours in her unbeaten 27 off 28 balls.
Earlier, Richa Ghosh and captain Harmanpreet Kaur

started cautiously but soon converted their starts into half-centuries. The pair stretched their stand to 143 runs. Harmanpreet made 69 off 115 balls before being dismissed in the 15th over of the day when fast bowler Tumi Sekhukhune trapped her in front to leave India at 593 for 5. Ghosh hit seven more boundaries on Saturday, 16 in all, to get to a career-best 86 before being trapped in front while attempting a sweep off left-arm spinner Nonkululeko Mlaba.



Euro 2024: Foden back and Mainoo could be one of England's changes for game against Slovakia

AGENCIES
GELSENKIRCHEN, 29 JUNE

England plays Slovakia in the round of 16 at Euro 2024 on Sunday after facing fierce criticism for its performances during the group stage. Still, the runner up three years ago is unbeaten and on the opposite side of the draw to France, Spain, Germany and Portugal. Kickoff is at 9 p.m. local time (1600 GMT) in Gelsenkirchen.
► England advanced to the knockout phase as group winner and unbeaten in three



games, but fans showed their anger at the team's performance against Slovenia on Tuesday with loud jeers at the end of the match and some threw beer cups toward manager Gareth Southgate.

Sports minister Mandaviya meets Paris Olympics-bound athletes at NIS, Patiala

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 29 JUNE

India's new sports minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Saturday caught up with Olympic-bound athletes weightlifter Mirabai Chanu, javelin thrower Annu Rani and shot putter Abha Khatua at the Netaji Subhas National Institute of Sports (NIS) here and took stock of their preparations for the quadrennial showpiece event in the French capital.
Mandaviya also inspected the progress of the new infrastructure coming up at the NIS, Patiala.
"My conversation with Mirabai, Annu Rani and Abha convinces me that our athletes have received the best possible support in their preparation for the Paris 2024 Olympic Games," the minister said.
Mirabai expressed her gratitude for the support from



the sports ministry, particularly in being able to secure the services of world renowned sports scientist Dr. Aaron Horschig from St. Louis in the United States of America while Annu spoke glowingly about being able to train for an extended period of time at European bases.
Mandaviya also interacted with other athletes enrolled in the National Centre of Excellence here and some prominent coaches. He asked them for suggestions on reducing the drop-out rates from

competitive sport.
"You are getting the needed support. However, many of those who started with you, but didn't win medals get left behind. What can we do for them?" he asked.
He also shared that in keeping with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's wish for overall development of sports, the government would encourage the identification and nurturing of the grassroots talent.
The Sports Minister also took a review of NSNIS and

visited the various Fields of Play, Sports Science facilities and the new infrastructure project sites. He was also pleased with the progress of the High Performance Centre for Sports Science and the kitchen and dining.
"I am delighted to be at hallowed NIS, the traditional home of Indian sport. It continues to a critical hub to not only produce coaches of quality who can make a change at the grassroot level but has also a great training facility. Some of our athletes who have trained at other centres around the world believe NIS is comparable with the best," Mandaviya said.
The minister then left for Panchkula where he was to unveil the Athletics Federation of India's new logo at the National Inter-State Athletics Championships in the Tau Devi Lal Stadium there.

Most amazing feeling in the world: Gayle on T20 World Cup glory

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 29 JUNE

Two-time T20 World Cup winner Chris Gayle has described both occasions of lifting the trophy among his life's "most special experiences" ahead of India's meeting with South Africa for 2024 accolades.
Reflecting in his own achievements as a key member of the West Indies side to lift the trophy in 2012 and 2016, the destructive former opening batter shed light on the euphoria of final wins over Sri Lanka and England, respectively.
The Universe Boss also indicated that the West Indies side commemorated both tournament victories with rings, and the 44-year-old, who is one of the ongoing T20 World Cup brand ambassadors, revealed his plans to pass down the keepsakes to his future generations.
"I have so many treasured items from my career but my two rings for winning (T20) World Cups are the standouts. They are like Super

Bowl rings, almost physical proof that you have climbed to the top of the mountain and become champions of the world," Gayle said.
"When she's older, I will give both of my rings – for being part of the West Indies sides that won the T20 World Cups in 2012 and 2016 – to my daughter and I can't wait for that moment. I will tell her to keep one, and then pass the other one down to my future grandchildren, and I'm so proud to keep them in our family for generations.
"I promise the winners, it's the most amazing feeling in the world," Gayle said.
Saturday's final pits two undefeated teams in Barbados, with India seeking to reclaim the trophy they last won in the inaugural 2007 edition, and South Africa looking to etch their name on a senior World Cup trophy for the first time.
Looking ahead to the match at Kensington Oval, Gayle finds it tough to split the two sides. "It is going to be so hard to call – with two teams who have played clean



and aggressive cricket throughout the tournament," he said.
"We have a final fit for the occasion."
As for who could shine in Saturday's final, Gayle picked out Jasprit Bumrah as a potential point of difference for India against South Africa's batting line-up. The pace spearhead has claimed 13 wickets in his seven outings at an

almost unthinkable T20 economy of 4.12, and comes off a spell of 2/12 (2.4) against England in their semi-final victory in Guyana.
While the right-arter holds the key, Gayle had earmarked South Africa as potential winners ahead of the tournament, and a victory over a world-class bowler and team would make a maiden senior tournament win that little bit sweeter.
"India are going to be so hard to beat. They bat so deep and in Jasprit Bumrah, have a world-class death bowler who can break the hearts of the opponents. In contrast, I picked South Africa as a dark horse before the tournament began, and it is very special to see them finally reach their first final after so many semi-final upsets," he said.
"Getting over the hump and winning a World Cup is so special and if they can do it, it will create memories that will last a lifetime for the players and the nation," expressed the well-built south-paw.

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

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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

For any query please write to prasantob57@gmail.com





Music connects people:
Tabla maestro
Durjay Bhaumik

Tuning talent in melodic maze

ANWESHA SANTRA

In this season of reality music shows The Statesman goes behind the scenes

On a warm summer afternoon, a small town (let's call it Autumn Grove) buzzed with excitement over a new reality show searching for young vocal talents. For eleven-year-old Emma, with her voice like honey, this was a dream come true. She had spent countless hours singing in her room, imagining the applause of an audience far beyond her home's walls.

When the letter arrived inviting her to audition, it felt like destiny. Emma's performance captivated the judges, earning her a spot on the show. Yet, the joy of her success was soon overshadowed by a tough decision. Emma had also been accepted into an advanced placement programme at school, a significant opportunity for her academic future.

Participating in the show meant weeks of rehearsals and travel, clashing with the demands of her new academic programme. Emma found herself at a crossroads. Her parents, supportive yet practical, reminded her of the importance of education. "Opportunities like these don't come often," her father said, "but neither does a chance to build a solid foundation for your future."

After days of contemplation, Emma made her decision. She wrote a heartfelt letter to the show's producers, explaining that she had to prioritise her education. Though her heart ached, she knew it was the right choice for her.

But today, it won't be Emma's story. Perhaps she moved away from Autumn Grove as she grew up. Did she continue singing? We may never know. Today, we turn our attention to the doorsteps of a voice coach, someone whose expertise and dedication made vocal music reality shows possible.

The Statesman reached out to Suvodeep Mukherjee, a former voice groomer at Zee Bangla Sa Re Ga Ma Pa, who shared his insights into the art of training vocalists for reality show performances.

The excerpts are as follows:

Q. Taking music lessons and practising singing at home differs significantly from performing on a reality show. What is the first step involved in preparing someone for such a performance?

It's crucial to note that the harmonium, unlike the tanpura, uses scales borrowed from the organ and piano. In music, a song is structured around chords rather than scales. It's possible to compose an entire song using just 2-3 chords. Memorising harmonium reeds does not contribute to this process. Without proper scale

designation from a music teacher, contestants may struggle to perform in their preferred key, leading to potential elimination in competitions.

After the selection phase concludes, the grooming process commences. During the early days of Sa Re Ga Ma Pa, I pioneered the practice of grooming participants, implementing my own methods to

Rahul Dutta speaks

"I began my musical journey in 2008, during a time when cassette players were a cherished tradition. I would play songs on them and practice relentlessly. In 2009, I participated in Zee Bangla Sa Re Ga Ma Pa Little Champs. Unlike my peers, I didn't come with a repertoire of songs. I knew only one song, which I sang at the audition, earning a standing ovation from Suvodeep Mukherjee, my guruji.

Steering through the 7-8 rounds of auditions, I sang that same song and advanced each time. On the show, I always performed new songs without prior preparation. I would learn, rehearse and perform them directly on stage. The grooming techniques I acquired there have been invaluable to me ever since.

When I won the championship, I was astounded by the performance offers that started coming my way. People asked how much I would charge for a concert—a concept entirely new to me. Coming from a background where my father ran a business, the idea of earning money through singing was surprising and humbling. In the same year, I won the Zee Bangla Sa Re Ga Ma Pa Duet Champs. I was nine years old then.

After a few years of participating in various shows, I developed a voice infection as I transitioned into adolescence, causing my voice to crack. This was a significant setback for my musical career, and it took me until 2017 to fully recover. When

they teach them about scales. However, contemporary contestants are well-versed in these aspects compared to earlier times.

Q. How to groom someone who exhibits exceptional talent but lacks significant knowledge of the specifics of music?

Every aspiring singer must understand that proficiency in Indian classical music is essential for singing. Techniques such as meend, khatka,

and others require dedicated practice to master and apply effectively in songs. Knowledge of chords enables composition and arrangement, while proper vocal training allows for the performance of diverse genres including thumris, tappas, kheyals, ghazals and commercial songs. It's essential for singers to be aware of their vocal range to avoid voice distortion when attempting notes outside their capability.

I had won the championships, the trend of promoting oneself on social media was not prevalent, and I faded from public view. The sudden drop in calls and offers was disheartening, and I considered giving up. However, my parents and guruji provided immense support.

In later years, I started my own YouTube channel and composed a song called Radha, which now has 12 million views. The positive reception to my song signalled my comeback.

One crucial lesson I've learnt is to never give up. Despite participating in numerous shows, I never stopped practising. I consistently attended my music classes and did an hour of riyaz daily, which was sufficient for me. Even now, during the off-season, I get ample time for more intensive practice sessions.

Finally, I would emphasise that being a good human being precedes being a good artist. Success holds different meanings for each person. Never cease learning and always remain humble."

As told to ANWESHA SANTRA

Rahul was the winner of Zee Bangla Sa Re Ga Ma Pa Little Champs (2009) and Zee Bangla Sa Re Ga Ma Pa Duet Champs (2009). He was also a participant in Zee TV Sa Re Ga Ma Pa (2009). He continues to be a dedicated disciple of Suvodeep Mukherjee.

Q. Each year, reality shows introduce many brilliant vocal artists, yet they often fade from the limelight afterwards. What does their future hold?

Frankly, I believe the future is bleak. After the shows, contestants are in high demand, performing frequently for substantial sums of money. This leaves little time for riyaz (practice). Initially, they earn a lot, but over time, the offers diminish,



leading to depression. Eventually, the calls stop, and a new batch of contestants takes the spotlight, perpetuating the cycle.

Q. What is the solution to this problem?

Singers should never cease practising (riyaz). They should continue to take regular lessons from their guru, who will provide proper mentorship and guidance. This practice ensures that their voices remain strong and improve over time.

Q. Children today sing a variety of songs, often without fully understanding the lyrics, especially if the language is unfamiliar to them. How do you ensure their voices and actions are appropriately modulated and convey the right emotions in the song?

It is unreasonable to expect children to deliver the same emotions and singing style (gayaki) as a mature, older singer. Additionally, having them sing songs solely for publicity purposes is inappropriate. I have witnessed children performing adult-themed songs with inappropriate phrases that they do not understand. It is the responsibility of teachers and parents to select suitable songs for children.

To develop children's vocal expressions according to emotional requirements, it's essential to communicate in a language they comprehend. Children may not grasp the nuances of songs expressing agony. My approach involves prompting them to imagine personal experiences, such as their favourite snack being unavailable or a promise of a gift going unfulfilled. Gestures play a vital role in performances on reality shows. Understanding the appropriate attire that complements the song is equally important.

Q. What guidance would you offer to budding singers?

Aspiring singers must recognise that participating in a reality show is not the ultimate objective. Prioritising music education is essential. While receiving applause is rewarding, continual learning and practice are crucial. Ceasing either will hinder progress.

Sound of song

DOLA MITRA

Try to practise detachment. This is because that which we are deeply attached to is transient. People we love. Other living things. Pets for instance. Hypothetically speaking, the dog that you picked up from the road perhaps, now long gone, whose haunting, heart-rending image of weakly wagging its tail as it looked up at you with those expectant eyes when you fed it. Or the scrawny cat which strayed into your existence when on a rainy day, abandoned and alone, it mewled outside your door. I don't believe in keeping animals in the house because first of all I think they belong to the great outdoors and also because I have an aversion to the idea of close proximities between humans and beasts. Birds should fly in the sky and live in trees. They should not be cooped up in cages. Even dogs and cats ought to live in separate spaces. The age-old and ubiquitous practice of domesticating them and keeping them in one's home, especially if these houses are tiny flats, seems wrong to me. Yes, the puppies and kitties are very cute and lovable but they need a lot more than the little space that you can offer them so that they can run around freely.

But one's aversions and ideas get thrown out the window when life throws situations at you, treacherously trying to trip your endeavour at practising detachment.

The practice of detachment of course has to do with self-preservation. In order to numb oneself against the pain of losing loved ones. But life is such that there is no escaping from feeling the depths of despair because loss hits you unexpectedly, and quite literally, out of the blue.

Like a couple of birds that had built a nest in a nearby tree and I

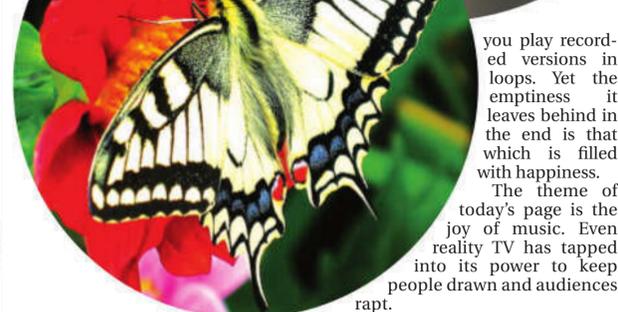
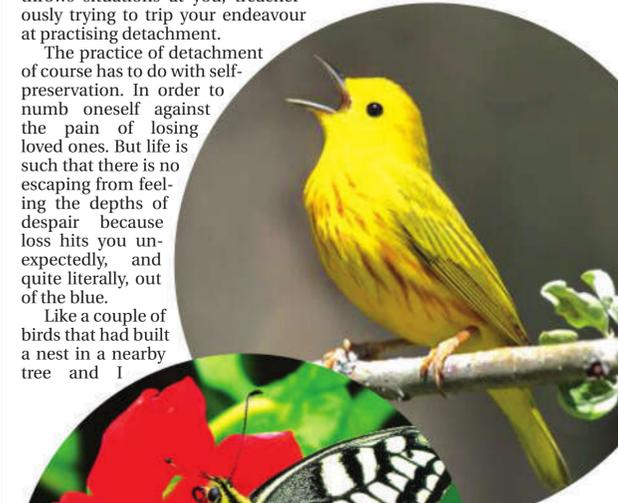


felt for the birdie had crept in inadvertently, so insidiously that even I did not know it. The hollow feeling of loss seeped in treacherously and no matter how much you tried to shake it off or erase it from your memory, you kept remembering the chirps of sheer happiness that the little bird emitted when its parents fed it.

No, I do not actually think that it is possible to inure oneself against the pain of loss in life. Practising detachment is futile. Unless one renounces the world and heads to the mountains for lifelong meditation.

However, I deduced recently that perhaps one CAN live in the mundane world and actually attach oneself to the transient without falling prey to the pain of loss. But that transience would necessarily have to be in the realm of the abstract. In the realm of ideas.

And identified the one thing that can offer enduring happiness though transient. And that is the sound of the song. Music. Melody. It fleets through time, yes, even when



you play recorded versions in loops. Yet the emptiness it leaves behind in the end is that which is filled with happiness.

The theme of today's page is the joy of music. Even reality TV has tapped into its power to keep people drawn and audiences rapt.

To the readers, I say, no you do not need to practise detachment. Do attach yourself to the transient. But let it be that transience which is timeless.



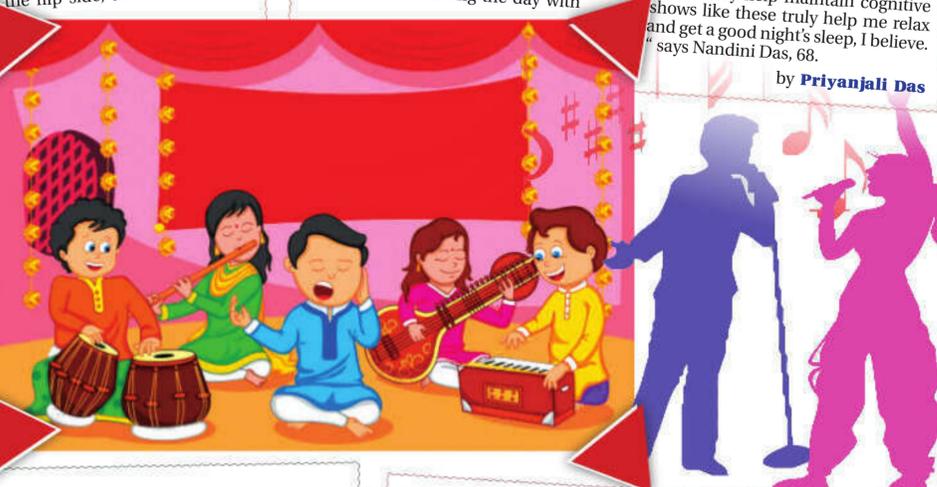
Hitting the right note

Derek O'Brien strutted into Indian living rooms with the iconic Bournvita Quiz Contest back in 1972, and Indian television has never been the same since. Now, dinner time is incomplete without a side serving of Dance India Dance or Kaun Banega Crorepati!

Reality shows are a hit amongst the Indian audience, garnering loyal viewership from people all over the nation, especially popular among working women, to whom reality television offers a way to escape mundanity and monotony after a long day of work. Yamini, a homemaker from Dehradun, not only enjoys the entertainment value of reality shows but also appreciates the heartwarming aspect. She sees these shows as a platform for discovering hidden talent from all over the country. On the flip side, she feels that the judges are now reluctant to criticise the participants, resulting in less thorough performance analysis compared to the past. "The judges shy away from criticising participants" she mentions. "They don't analyse their performance as well as they used to."

With the widespread adoption of OTT platforms across the country, musical reality shows have also gained immense popularity. These shows have made it convenient for viewers to access musical talent right from their smartphones, leading to a significant increase in viewership.

by Shambhavi Naithani



A platform encouraging well-being among seniors

Two heads with high-powered glasses huddled in front of the TV as a well-known music reality show started broadcasting on the flat TV screen. This probably is a picture we are well-attuned to as we see our grandparents being hooked to performance (And no, you won't get the TV remote then, no matter how much you ask for it.) "It brings me great joy to see such young talents getting a platform to showcase their skills and talents. Not just now, music has always lifted my spirits. And at this age, I wait for such shows. They are not only the biggest highlight of my day, but in a true sense, they uplift my sense of loneliness. My doctor had asked me to listen to music or do breathing exercises as they help maintain cognitive functions, and ending the day with

shows like these truly help me relax and get a good night's sleep, I believe," says Nandini Das, 68.

by Priyanjali Das

Balancing academics and extracurriculars

Music reality shows prove that music acts as a healing power for students who are under unnecessary pressure to study. Music soothes the mind and improves concentration skills, which rejuvenates them to study with a fresh mind.

Although it has been a common notion that academics can't be continued with the same seriousness if we get involved in extracurricular activities, where in reality, these extracurriculars are what develop our intellect and personality.

To shed light on this prejudice, The Statesman conducted interviews with several individuals. Gargee Sen, a high-school student, says, "Continuous hours of rigorous studying make me feel dull-witted. Hence, I need breaks. I practise singing, which enhances my concentration capabilities and enables me to re-engage with my studies with a fresh mind."

Soma Roy, a mother of two kids, also gave her insights. She says, "Maintaining the mental health of my kids has always been my priority. Hence, I never hindered them from participating in extracurriculars. My elder excels in cricket, and my younger one is aspiring to be a singer and has performed on many local platforms. Therefore, music reality shows are a golden opportunity to grab a national platform for a few minutes to showcase talents."

by Purbasha Karmakar

Musical reality shows fuel the passion of aspiring singers

While talking to The Statesman, Srotoswini De, an aspiring singer herself, said, "For me, personally, I am a singer who wants to excel in this field. Music reality shows are the perfect platforms to help me stay motivated in the domain. It showcases really talented singers who are out there struggling to make a name for themselves and their families, and that is a really good influence for me and, as a matter of fact, for all the avid viewers of such shows. My parents spend a lot of time enjoying such shows as they enhance their tastes in music and make them aware of the various evolutions happening in the music industry. I always try to see how perfectly they portray the emotions and expressions of a song, resulting in perfect performances. The judgements given there are not only helpful for the participants but are actually applicable to any singer out there. I really want to participate in a music reality show someday to improve my strengths and weaknesses and, in the process, make my family proud. Music is an entertainment for most of the people in the world."

by Dipali Banka

Turn to page 15 for more stories...



Translations of Tagore's tiny poems

DOLA MITRA

During his travels to the Far East, namely China and Japan, Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore used to be approached by many an autograph seeker, who also asked him to pen a few lines of poetry along with his signature. Not just on paper or notepads but they would offer him small pieces of silk cloth or fancy hand fans on which to write these pithy poems. This oriental tradition of expressing emotions and feelings in only a few words rather than long-drawn sentences and paragraphs as in traditional poetry delighted the bard and he took to the practice independent of any demand or request.

Such interesting facts and details make *Sparkle*, a new book of translations of Tagore's tiny poems a fascinating read though this is only a minuscule part of the collection, contained in the one-page introductory chapter and foreword.

The greater part of the book authored by Sukumar Sarkar, a retired corporate official and scientist with an avid love for literature

and poetry, is of course the translations of the some 260 short verses.

Good translations are rarely literal reproductions of a work of literature into another language. "A translator requires to have an equal command over not just both languages but also both cultures in order to be able to capture and convey the nuances of the underlying meanings," Prasun Mitra had said. Mitra was the translator of such works as celebrated playwright Tennessee Williams' English play *A Streetcar Named Desire* into Bengali (*Trishna Jajabori*, also titled *Ruper Kheyra*), published by National Book Trust, Delhi) and renowned author Munshi Premchand's short stories from Hindi into Bengali (*Premchander Golpo Guchho*, published by National Book Trust). As an example of the timeless appeal of an excellent work of translation one can point to Constance Garnett's English translations of the Russian literary giants including Anton Chekov, Fyodor Dostoyevsky, Ivan Turgenev, Leo Tolstoy and Nikolai Gogol. Her translation of Dostoyevsky's *Crime and Punishment*, which I read as though it was

an original, continues to remain relevant nearly eight decades after her death. In other words, what one looks for in a translation is its lack of, if I may use the expression, "translation-ness". It ought to read like an original.

Sarkar's translations of Tagore's tiny, pithy, poems do, for the most part, retain a flavour of originality. He is able to, again, for the most part, capture the spirit of the verses and convey them convincingly.

Consider this poem:

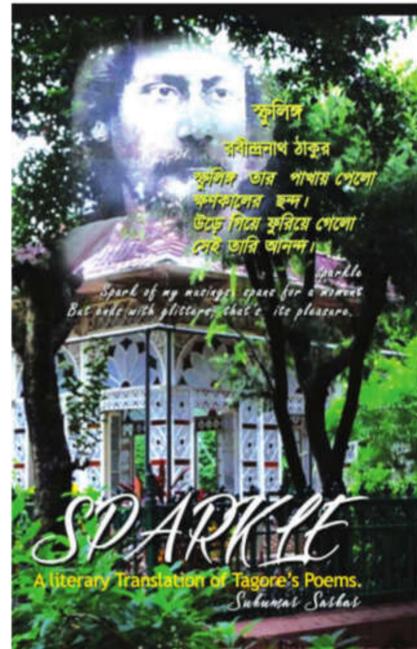
"The sky plants its tender kiss of rains/
Upon the earth's vales and plains/Earth returns its lustres/With a bevy of beauties/
With its flowers drenched in colours."

Or this one:

"From the rise of the day to its set/Men laugh and cry/On their way they tread/And aspire to leave their marks/On the path laden with dust/But Lo! Those marks fade and melt/As the day tends to its end."

For anyone who is not literate in Bengali or really anyone who does not have access to Tagore's original (fortunately in this book we do), these poems ought to be able to convey the inherent ideas, thoughts and emotions independently. And as I said earlier, for the most part, they do. However, there are other poems which do not quite make the mark. A few of the poems come across as a little forced, as though in an attempt to capture and convey the meaning of the original, the words became a tad bit too literal.

There are some 260 poems. Sarkar explains in his introduction that "Sphulinga" which means "Sparkle" or a "Spark" and which was the original name of Tagore's book of these pithy poems, was first published in 1945, followed by a second edition in 1949. In 1960, on Tagore's 100th birth anniversary, the collection of poems was published again as an omnibus. "To commemorate the 125th birth anniversary of Tagore, his writings were published in a series of volumes by Viswabharati, Kolkata in 1991," he writes. "Sphulinga" appeared in the 14th volume."



Spotlight

Sparkle

By Sukumar Sarkar
Asian Press Books, 2024
125 pages, Rs 299/-

Transcending borders of orthodoxy & ritualistic practices

SANJUKTA DASGUPTA

Literary translation invariably demands the dual skills of a creative artist and a craftsman. Literary translation is a fusion of the craft of translation with creative artistry, or the creative crafting of words in the target language, so that the purpose and aesthetic style of the source text are recreated and transferred with felicity into the target text.

In his general editor's preface to the Oxford Tagore Translations: Selected Writings on Literature and Language, Sukanta Chaudhuri observed that there could not be any "uniform strategy for translation". Chaudhuri elaborated, "Literary translation proceeds by a series of particular, contingent judgements, virtually a species of inspired adhocism. For a start, it soon becomes imperative to break the translator's shibboleth that the same word in the original must always be rendered by the same word in the translation." These observations can be read as validating freedom for the translator from charges of infidelity and cannibalism, but the intention of the observations of Chaudhuri is not to set free the translator from criticism about misrepresentation and incomprehension, which sadly can very well tarnish a translated text.

Significantly, Girish Karnad stated with perception that "all Indian languages share some structural patterns and cultural concepts. I feel that translating from one regional language to another is easier than translating into English. The basic problem for the translator lies in his search for appropriate cultural equivalents... A word is capable of reviving cultural memory, which might be difficult to carry into another linguistic set up. Dialects too, are quite impossible to be rendered intact through translation".

Literary critic and translator Tania Chakraverty's selection of these two Bengali literary texts that were awarded the Sahitya Akademi Prize does gesture towards the recent surge in translating canonical vernacular literature into English. This is undoubtedly a praise-worthy cultural bridge-building project, as a classic text written in the Bengali language is being transported to the Anglosphere through the medium of English translation.

Of the two translated books, Buddhadev Bose's play *Tapaswi O Taranginee*, based on Puranic texts, was first serially published in the prestigious Bengali journal *Desh* in 1966. Transcreation and its problems ensued as Buddhadev Bose was criticised by scholars of Indology for having taken liberties with the chronological timeline of various Puranic protagonists. Bose's response to such sticklers for historical accuracy is indeed worth citing here, as he was underpinning the fact that recreating ancient texts was not about mindless fidelity; the past needed to be remodelled to assert its relevance in modern times. This argument was not unlike TS Eliot's views that tradition needs to be activated in contemporary times through a process of fine braiding that could only be achieved by talented litterateurs. So when *Tapaswi O Taranginee* was published in book form in 1966, Bose wrote in the preface, "I have taken an ancient tale and laid it my own way; I have added the mentality and the pain and dilemma of modern human beings. Needless to say, in texts like these, one cannot blindly follow the ancient tales; it is erroneous to point at exceptions as errors. Though they belonged to the ancient world, the *Rishyasringa* and *Tarangini* of my imagination are our contemporaries in terms of their psychic state; if this is accepted, then there is a mention of characters of the *Dvapara* Yuga; by

characters belonging to the *Treta* Yuga, it will not lead to a profanation of the *Mahabharata*; in other words, it will not lead to any serious lapse."

It is in this mood that one needs to read Buddhadev Bose's classic poetic drama *The Hermit and Taranginee*, rendered into English in a breezy, eminently readable style that makes this profound and philosophical play remarkably reader-friendly. In fact, this is indeed the benefit perception factor of Tania Chakraverty's translation.

The free-flowing English translation is remarkable. The reader remains absorbed in the reading, not pondering over what may be lost in translation. Buddhadev Bose was not just a towering intellectual but a creative artist and translator as well. Chakraverty is able to unobtrusively ease into Bose's deeply philosophic and ironic observations in the translated version. The secular mind of the author resonates through the pages, transcending the borders of orthodoxy and ritualistic practices.

Interestingly, in a sequence in the play, the messengers lament the lack of rain and the miseries of the poor people as their crops perish in the parched land. A messenger exclaims, "Oh dear, So much of worshipping is being done in front of sacred fires, day and night; could not the smoke conglomerate and create a piece of cloud?"

The original Bengali version, *Tapaswi O Tarangini*, was awarded the Sahitya Akademi Prize in 1967. This is probably the first English translation of this complex, nuanced, and often intriguing play that challenges stereotypes of the prevalent Bengali plays of the times, both in terms of content and structure, dialogue, and conception of the characters. Bose's play is a poetic drama and a play of ideas that breaks free from canonical sources and reinvents the well-known characters and their roles that seem to subvert normative practices. As *Taranginee* declines Chandraketu's offer of marriage, she says, "I will not become your wife. I will not be any man's wife. Don't you know that by nature I am an unbound woman and I walk according to my own will?"

This is perhaps where Bose takes a different path, despite a few thematic resemblances to Tagore's poems *Patita* and *Avishar* and, tangentially, the dance drama *Shapmochan*. This mode of reinvention is akin to what T. S. Eliot tried to explain in his timeless essay *Tradition and the Individual Talent*. Bose's play is timeless too. In the appendix, Bose's advice to the producers, followed by the glossary and notes provided by the translator, add to the value of Chakraverty's English translation of Buddhadev Bose's inimitable play.

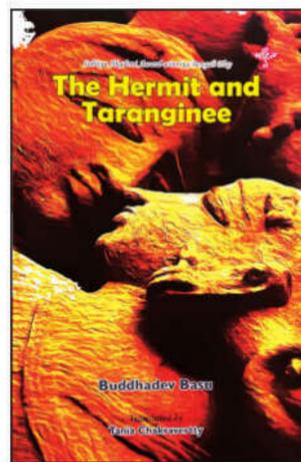
The much-acclaimed writer Ramapada Chowdhury's novel *Bari Badle Jay* won the Sahitya Akademi Award in 1988. Tania Chakraverty has translated into English Chowdhury's novel *Bari Badle Jay*, and the English title, *Dwellings Change*, is remarkably befitting in its innuendo. The English translation captures the staccato, clipped Bangla narrative style of Chowdhury, whose writing primarily focused on the urban Bengali middle class' angst, frustration, hopes and experiences. In fact, *Ramapada Chowdhury* caused quite a flutter in the eighties among young readers and the Bengali intelligentsia as his content and use of language ushered in significant freshness as he balanced the pertinent and the contemporary with the perceptions and insights of yesteryears.

Moreover, *Ramapada Chowdhury* reset the standards of narration in his representation of the Bengali urban milieu. He used conversational dialogue and colloquialisms, which were apparently simple yet could be

loaded with introspective gravity. This self-analytical mode of representation of the minds of the pivotal characters, Dhruva and Preeti, the married couple in search of secure housing that would become a home, is powerfully narrated in this slim novel of 126 pages. The glossary and notes from the translator provide the necessary appendix to the translated text, as the source language and target language represent entirely different cultures and ethnicities.

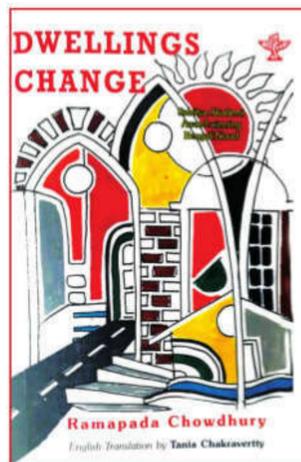
Tania Chakraverty's English translations of Buddhadev Bose's poetic play *Tapaswi O Tarangini* and Ramapada Chowdhury's novel *Bari Badle Jay* will immensely benefit students, faculty members and researchers of comparative literature studies, world literature studies, cultural studies and translation studies.

The reviewer is former dean, faculty of arts, University of Calcutta



Spotlight

The Hermit and Taranginee
By Buddhadev Bose
English Translations by Tania Chakraverty
Delhi, Sahitya Akademi, 2022



Spotlight

Dwellings Change
By Ramapada Chowdhury
English Translations by Tania Chakraverty
Delhi, Sahitya Akademi, 2023

A story of family, upheaval and cross-cultural experiences

APARNA SINGH

Persian Nights by Alaka Rajan Skinner is a graphic memoir that weaves the magic of storytelling with the historical and political contexts of a young Indian girl growing up in Tehran in tumultuous times and the geopolitical ramifications. The novel treads difficult political issues through the lens of a child's wondrous imagination, which can accommodate the seemingly mundane with the serious.

The storyline traces the journey of an Indian family that moves to Tehran in the 1970s, as the father gets a job teaching English at the university there. With two young children, the parents set up a home in an ancient and beautiful city. Here, the children learn to read and write Farsi; they go to school and begin to understand the deep connections the land of Persia has with India. Things changed in no time with the Islamic Revolution, followed by the Iran-Iraq war, and the once-existing ways of life were gone forever.

The novel begins with a surreal image: a ten-year-old holding a machine gun surrounded by a circular mosaic of geometrically aligned diamond-shaped figures with evenly spaced Molotov cocktails. The graphic squarely places us at the crossroads of innocence and experience, where contradictions coexist in ambivalent interactions. The child's narrative voice offers unfiltered veracity, poised from a distinctive point of view.

Skinner takes us through her father's reluctant acceptance of relocation from Hyderabad, where he "was quite content teaching at the Central Institute of English and Foreign Languages" when the "Head of Tehran University Language Centre and her deputy arrived to recruit teachers." Egged on by her mother, "the more adventurous of the two," "father left for Tehran". Navigating her insecurities about her to-be-born sibling and the emotionally troubling absence of her father, the reunion takes place after almost what "seemed like forever". Housed in a small, cosy apartment in central Tehran, they soon discover the open-mindedness of the Iranians in their "hospitality", full of warmth and affection. Images of cross-cultural transactions, differences and similarities celebrate transnational solidarity.

The tricky nature of language learning is brought about in a quirky and humorous way when her father asks a student's businessman relative about the number of children he had. The reply is an unusual 39. It is eventually revealed that the incredible number refers to the children in his wife's class.

In a brief run of images, the stark reality of the revolution bursts on the pages as anti-America and anti-Shah slogans reverberate through the thickly crowded streets. The school bus windows, the conduits for accessing the outside world, are now shut as the cheerful revelry inside is

outvoiced or replaced by aggressive, noisy protests and blockades.

Skinner reconstructs these images through an adult-once-a-child eye. Sensitive to these liminal spaces that can turn problematic, she lends them an inclusive, apolitical aura. The image of the gun-toting "chador-clad female revolutionaries" confronting her father boldly impresses the inescapable presence of women in the revolution. Skinner embalms it with her characteristic, almost nonchalant humour. The seamlessly paced narrative traces the transitions as she "saw that many Iranian women were now wearing chadors". Her enthusiastic, funny, and incisive recollection of the chador she got as a gift, which she had now outgrown when she first came to Iran, had tiny red flowers on it. This interjection reinforces the child's worldview, bereft as it is of the insidious political, social and cultural whirlwinds that had swept away the Iran that nostalgically coloured her memory.

The juxtaposition of the Molotov Cocktail (an improvised weapon for combat) with the "sort of fancy drinks" she "had seen at the parties" her parents hosted reminds us of how drastically removed these two worlds are. Their continuing intersections, unsuspectingly unsettling, keep us glued to the narrative.

There are moments when the escalating tension slips into much-needed comic relief. For instance, Skinner's father is seen nervously enquiring about wall graffiti "at the base of the stairs, scrawled in red paint" since, unlike his daughter, he could not read Farsi. Quite contrary to his apprehensions, it had nothing to do with the demand of foreigners to go home; it merely stated, "Please do not put your trash here". This brief episode unwraps, however innocuously, the contested notion of home that informs politically fraught discussions on national boundaries as much as the deepening implications of the growing identity crisis.

Years later, Skinner is appreciative of how well her parents "had shielded" them "from the harsh realities of the uprising". Back then, they only had to deal with sibling and school dynamics. Amid everything, they were happy. When asked to go back to her grandparents, the question that bothers her most is, "How could missing school possibly be more important than missing my family and friends?"

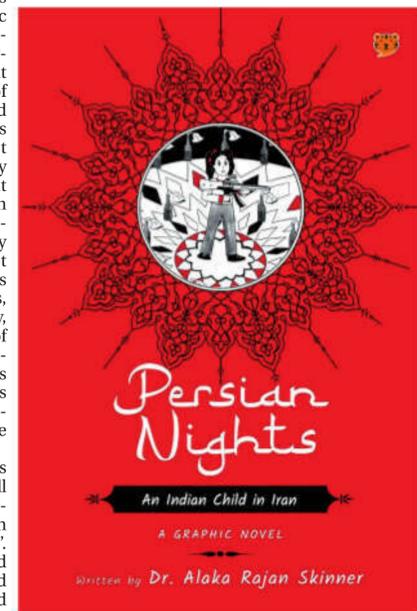
In a year, it was time to head back to Tehran, "into the warm, welcom-

ing arms of Mother and Father, and Kish..." But she quickly realised that many things had changed. Many of her friends and classmates had already left Iran as an almost empty classroom stared back. And then, not long after, a fiery war broke out between Iran and Iraq. In Tehran, they "now experienced air raids, nightly curfews and black-outs," so every evening they would huddle in the kitchen and have dinner by the light of a lamp.

Finally, with fond memories of a well-spent childhood and of a nation that was their home, they head back to India. Skinner is particularly wistful about the "beautiful magic carpet" they had to leave behind, besides "the toys" or even her "precious books".

It is Skinner's deft storytelling, entwined with the sophisticated immediacy of the visuals by Allam, Jadhav and Aher, that makes *Persian Nights* an eminently skilled magical sojourn. Although it bears traces of influence from iconic graphic novels like *Persepolis*, *I Remember Beirut*, and *Sisters*, it throbs with a poignant vitality that blurs and even upends the insider/outsider rubric. It remarkably blends memory, desire and the pristine, unadulterated reality so unique to a child.

The reviewer is assistant professor in the department of English, Diamond Harbour Women's University



Spotlight

Persian Nights: An Indian Child in Iran
By Dr Alaka Ranjan Skinner
Talking Cub, an imprint of Speaking Tiger Books (2024)
73 pages, Rs 499/-





Rishi Bankim Chandra
College: At the forefront of
intellectual excellence



Kolkata celebrates fusion melodies

PRIYANJALI DAS

On a Friday evening, with the gloomy sky promising to bring rain with it and the lanes and bylanes of New Market buzzing with shoppers and shopkeepers hollering, trying to get the best deals, the heritage abode located at the heart of the city, Peerless Hotel, provided a sweet escape from the ordinary. Organised by the Embassy of France in India, the French Institute in India (IFI), and the Alliance Française network to facilitate smoother discourse on the diverse musical landscape between France and India, the vintage yet modern minimalist pub Bass and Barrels inside the quaint hotel provided the audience with an evening that would remain in their hearts for a long, long time.

Kolkatans grooved to songs played by Akoda, a three-piece Creole jazz band from Bordeaux, on Friday evening. From dance numbers to more harmonious romantic songs, Akoda truly left a mark with their tunes and lyrics, even though the renditions were not always completely deciphered. This was not their first show in India, but their first in Calcutta, and just like this city makes you fall in love with its warmth and vivacity, the trio group did not fail to garner the audience's love with every song, making them roar 'once more' at the end of the concert.

The concert is a part of the ongoing two-week cultural celebration 'Fete de la Musique 2024', with three international musical groups and artists winning the audience's hearts with their exhilarating performances. The musical celebration highlights the journey and the talent of groups, namely Brö, GEG, and Akoda, until 30 June 2024. Having started on 14 June, not just shows, the celebration also witnessed workshops and panel discussions, which were all in an enriching experience for all attendees.

Valérie Chane Tef, leading the ensemble Akoda along with Thomas Boude on the bass and Eric Perez on percussion, gifted the eager audience with Creole ballads that were lively and contagious, pulling everyone to the dance floor, proving that their songs create the perfect 'joie de vivre' environment.

Akoda is a group that was founded by Valérie Chane Tef almost 15 years ago and is based in Bordeaux. Her songs are a captivating fusion of jazz and Creole, and she incorporates language from the islands of Reunion, Guadalupe, and Martinique, as well as their own invented language. Her irresistible melodies came out in the form of her first album in 2019, named *Muzik Pou Lo Kèr*, which garnered a massive response and was influenced by her roots when she was on tour on Reunion Island. In 2014, Akoda won the 'Action Jazz Tremplin' and also came out with their second album in 2022, titled *Nout Souk* which is a depiction of her story through her irresistible melodies.

The two other members of the trio—Thomas Boude, a multitalented instrumentalist whose passion since childhood has been music and art, while Eric Perez has several feathers in his cap, being a drummer, a composer, and a vocalist. The stage has been his home since he was 14, and he has participated in numerous projects, garnering a huge fan following.

As 'Fete de la Musique 2024' comes to its last innings with Akoda's last show on 30 June in Jaipur, The Statesman indulged in a conversation with Valérie Chane Tef at the end of the show on her musical journey and whether she had the time to explore the city or not!

Q. Can you tell our readers a little bit about Akoda, and how did you get started?

I started 15 years ago. It's not just the trio you see now; we have worked with several musicians, and we still do. Akoda, for me, is an experience because it allows me to compose and play music with a diverse group of musicians, and the lineup is different every time, and that is what makes it fun every time.

Q. What really connected you to jazz and Creole music in the first place? Being a classical pianist first and then transitioning towards Creole jazz, what inspired you towards this?

I have always wanted to compose, and that is a big reason behind the foundation of Akoda. I wanted to work on some fusion music inspired by Creole music and jazz, and for me, doing this was extremely important. With Akoda, I create and work on my own projects; hence, there is freedom as well. In fact, Thomas and Eric, who were on stage with me today, are part of the new lineup, new members who have joined Akoda.

I come from Reunion Island, and playing Creole music was important for me, and I love jazz, too. You will hear classical music melodies in my work, too. Music, for me, is not just one way but rather a fusion of everything that inspires me.

Q. How has the journey been?

As you know, I started with classical piano and am now composing fusion music; the challenges were there. Do you know how, in classical music, there are notes in front of you, and you play on a set tone; that is the composition by the composer? So, when I started Akoda, it was a challenge because I had to create my own music by getting inspired by all the influences I had been exposed to.

Q. How did your cultural heritage influence your work?

A lot of music, including a lot of renowned music artists, has come from Reunion Island, and that played a huge role in influencing my work. What really excites me about Creole music is its rhythm. Also, Creole is not just one language; it's a marriage of different cultures and languages, and that is what makes it so interesting.

Q. What is the inspiration behind your second album, *Nout Souk*, which came out in 2022? What was on your mind while composing it?

Akoda has been there for 15 years, and that has allowed me to create music with several artists. 'Souk' means market, and Akoda is our 'souk', which includes all these artists. The music of Akoda and my compositions have always been inspired by my travels, everything I see around the world, and all the people I meet and interact with, and that shows in my music.

Q. What are the major themes when it comes to your compositions?

Love is really important, and you will feel it in my compositions. Love among family, love for your friends, and love that you receive while travelling the world—all these have always played a key role in my creation of music. Humanity is another theme.

Q. Your tour in India has garnered a massive response from audiences in the cities where you have played. Were you nervous about how well-received Akoda would be?

I am very happy to be here, and the Indian audience is truly remarkable. The audience is great because they actually listen to the music, and that is a gift for me. In each and every country I have been to, the response is always good, but with

the Indian audience, it is really special. You know my grandmother was born in Pondicherry, and therefore, I have a long connection with India. Therefore, being able to share my music with everyone here is significantly important to me. I don't play Indian music, but I feel that the people here truly understand my music. This is my third time in India, and I would say that the culture here is very different. The people here are so expressive, and the culture here is so special and extremely pleasant. I love travelling, and I wish to come here every year if possible.

Q. This is your first time in Calcutta. Did you get a chance to explore the city?

No. We came here on Thursday, and we performed on Friday. Now, we have to gear up to leave this beautiful city and go to Jaipur, where we have another show. We did not have



Photos by MOUL MONDAL

Music connects people: Tabla maestro Durjay Bhaumik

SOMNATH PAL

Renowned tabla maestro Durjay Bhaumik passionately advocates for the unifying power of music, asserting that it transcends religious and cultural divides. Speaking at a recent cultural event, Bhaumik said, "All are equal in the eyes of music," capturing the universal and inclusive nature of music. His statement highlights music's ability to unite people across diverse backgrounds, regardless of religion, race, gender, culture or socio-economic status.

In his address, Bhaumik shared insights from decades of performing and collaborating with artists from various religious and cultural backgrounds. "Music is a universal language that speaks to the soul. It doesn't recognise boundaries of religion or culture; instead, it brings people together, creating a shared space for comprehension and harmony," he said.

Delhi-based tabla maestro Durjay Bhaumik is acclaimed for his innovative performances and deep understanding of classical Indian music. He has performed globally, collaborating with artists from various genres and backgrounds. Bhaumik is committed to using music as a means of promoting cultural understanding and unity.

Bhaumik's comments come at a time when communal tensions have been a significant concern worldwide. His message emphasises the power of music to connect people, promote understanding, and celebrate the richness of human diversity. Through his illustrious career, Bhaumik has consistently demonstrated how music can be a force for good, breaking down barriers and building bridges between communities.

An independent tabla virtuoso, awarded the title of 'New Age Tabla Maestro' by the Indo-African Chamber of Commerce, Durjay's talent is globally recognised. His journey spans from the Ram temple in Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh, to Dartington, a quaint village three hours from London. A graded artist with the Indian Council of Cultural Relations, Durjay has showcased his versatility by performing alongside Brazilian drums, the Vienna Youth Choir, piano,

cello, guitar, and traditional Indian instruments like the shehnai, violin, sarod, sarangi, santoor, sitar and flute, as well as vocal music.

At the event, Bhaumik performed alongside artists from various religious backgrounds, showcasing a repertoire that highlighted India's rich musical



heritage. The performance was a testament to his belief that music is a powerful tool for promoting unity and understanding. "Over the years, I have had the privilege of playing with many of the greatest maestros of Indian classical music. I believe music is a universal language that speaks to the heart and soul, transcending boundaries and connecting people across cultures and beliefs. In the realm of music, the religion of the musician is irrelevant. As musicians, we have a r

responsibility to use our art to bring people together," he said.

In Delhi, Durjay balances his time between his family and disciples. His wife, Kakali, a vocalist, is instrumental in managing their home and nurturing NADD (Noble Art Documentation and Development Foundation), which she conceptualised in 2011. The Foundation maintains a digital library of all concerts held during the Music for Harmony Festival across India every year between October and March, a project supported by the Ministry of Culture.

The Music for Harmony festival aims to create a better world for future generations. "Through the Music for Harmony festival, we try to give equal representation to musicians from all communities regardless of caste, creed, or religion," explains Durjay.

Bhaumik concluded, "In a world that often emphasises differences, music reminds us of our shared humanity."

The writer is a freelancer



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

The journey of music



Mother-daughter duo's musical evening ritual

'Music is the food of life'. It is hard to comprehend when this Shakespearean quote seeped its essence into the Sanfui household in Kolkata. As the clock strikes 8:30 in the evening, Kalpana Sanfui and her daughter Zinnia Sanfui often find themselves feasting on music reality shows with a platter of alur chop (potato fritters) and bubbling hot tea.

To them, that hour in the evening is a respite from the day's struggle. The contestants are performing on stage, stringing together a space where the language of music does the talking. And besides the singing, the Sanfui duo is very keen on the stories shared during the show's time. From the contestant's journey and dreams that brought them there to the judges' recounting their own tales and often guest musicians sharing how a particular piece was composed and the little anecdotes attached to it keep them intrigued.

"If I miss the show for a day, Maa will definitely tell me what new fact she discovered there," says Zinnia.

Growing up in Manipur, Kalpana would often stay glued to a radio and listen to music, where she heard the legendary Lata Mangeshkar for the first time. She says, "Listening to her was incredible. I would wait the entire day to listen to one of her songs. Now, when I watch these shows on TV, it's like I am sitting in the same hall with all of them."

by Srishti Bhowmick

A platform to showcase diverse musical genres

Music reality shows hold a huge audience base in today's world due to their popularity in unearthing hidden talents. Arpita Dasgupta (45), a housewife from Kolkata, says, "Music has always been there for me in all my highs and lows. I remember that when I was unmarried, during evenings, our whole family used to gather together in front of the television in the living room to watch music reality shows. After my marriage, nothing much has changed."

Growing up, I was always surrounded by classical Indian music, which made a lasting impression on me. Being a Bengali, like most other kids, I was even trained in Indian classical music for years. The fact that musical reality shows provide a platform for such a diverse range of musical genres, from classical to modern film hits, is interesting.

Musical reality shows like these help me show an appreciation for our age-old musical traditions and share our heritage and history with my children. Also, another thing we should appreciate about these shows is how they discover new talent. To see the journey of such young kids right from the first round of auditions to the grand finale is very uplifting and motivating. The judges have profound knowledge, years of experience and expertise, so you know that they will tell you things that are for benefit in the long run."

Shankar, a chai seller from Kolkata, adds, "As a chai seller, my life is tough and busy from morning to late evenings. As I reach home at the end of the day and switch on the TV, music and dance reality shows, bring me a lot of relaxation at the end of a tiring day."

Music has always been very close to my heart. My parents would sing folk songs while doing their work, and we (me and my brothers) would listen to it for hours. Music brings back my lost childhood to me, something that I left behind when the burden of responsibilities became too much.

Musical reality shows provide me with the chance to listen to old classics by Rafi Sahab, Kishore Kumar, and Manna Dey, as well as new film songs. Watching the contestants sing and improve each week is truly a treat. It shows that with hard work and talent, anyone can achieve their dreams, which is what I often tell my children, too. Their stories of struggle and success make me proud and hopeful."

by Raisa Basu



Rishi Bankim Chandra College: At the forefront of intellectual excellence

NISITH SINHA ROY



Rishi Bankim Chandra brings a separate reverence to the minds of Indians. The words 'Vande Mataram' penned by Rishi Bankim Chandra worked as a seed mantra for every Indian aspiring for freedom in the colonial period. He is further described as the 'Emperor of Literature' for his immortal creations. Rishi Bankim Chandra was born in Kanthalpara, the twenty-fourth pargana of the North 24 Parganas district.

Rishi Bankim Chandra College is established in his name in Kanthalpara, Naihati. In the realm of education and culture, this college holds a special place. Besides Rishi Bankim Chandra, the area has produced eminent figures like Pandit Haraprasad Shastri, distinguished litterateur Samaresh Basu, and acclaimed singer Shyamal Mitra. Vatta Pally, or Vattpara's Panditkul of Naihati, was a renowned learning centre in the 19th century. The name of Pandit Jeev Jyoti Tirtha is still revered in the 'pandit mahal' (academic arena). Certain educationalists and freedom fighters in this area felt the need to establish a college for the newly liberated country. The college was established as the fruit of their dream. The pioneer of these visionaries was educationist Anang Mohan Bhattacharya. The college's

first steering committee convened on 2 November 1947, resolving to name this new seat of learning after Rishi Bankim. With the seal of approval, the college was named Rishi Bankim Chandra College. The college held its inaugural assembly on 15 January 1948, at Naihati Mahendra High School. Since then, 15 January has been observed as college foundation day. In June 1948, the college moved to its current location. It was established on nearly four acres (eleven bighas) of land. Currently, the college proudly houses two buildings on 1.3 acres of land. Around the main courtyard, the college's sports grounds, adorned with fences, cover an area of 3.5 acres. Another two-storey building has been erected by the college, known as the Haraprasad Shastri Building (Rishi Bankim Chandra College Annex Building). At the college's main courtyard, a three-storey Students' Amenities Block is notable, highlighted by the Dinesh Majumdar Building. The students' canteen is on the ground floor, the students' union room is on the second floor and a seminar room is on the third floor. On the top floor of the Diamond Jubilee Block is a language lab, where the college's five language departments provide modern teaching methods. The college also houses the Kamalakanta Auditorium, a temperature-controlled auditorium named after the immortal creation of Kamalakanta Chakravarti. It serves as the venue for various events at the college.

The college was the first and only higher education centre in the vast areas of North 24 Parganas. Not only that, but it was also influential in some parts of the Nadia and Hooghly districts. Upon its establishment, the college was under the University of Calcutta. Since 2008, it has operated under West Bengal State University. Over its seventy-seven years, from 1947 to 2024, this institution has left an indelible mark in the educational field. Many eminent professors were associated with this college; professor Saroj Bandyopadhyay of the Bengali department was one of them. Saroj Bandyopadhyay's seminal work 'Kalantar of Bengali Novel' continues to be highly regarded in Bengali literature. The college has benefited significantly in terms of student numbers for a long time. Later on, to ensure

substantial educational services and efficient management, Rishi Bankim Chandra College was divided into three separate colleges.

Presently, there are three fully autonomous colleges named Rishi Bankim Chandra College for Women for the morning slot, Rishi Bankim Chandra College for the day slot, and Rishi Bankim Chandra Evening College for the evening slot. The students of these colleges have excelled in various fields. Tapati Mondal, champion of the Asian football team, former minister Bidyut Gangopadhyay, Alok Chattopadhyay (later became the President of Rishi Bankim Chandra Evening College), minister Parth Bhaumik, and president of Bangya Sahitya Parishad Dr Ratan Kumar Nandi are all alumni of the college.

Currently, the college offers undergraduate degrees in arts, science, and commerce with a total of 22 subjects and postgraduate studies in English and zoology. There is a special provision for smart classrooms in the college. The laboratories of the science department are quite advanced, and efforts are ongoing to modernise them further. Researchers from universities also come here to conduct examinations and evaluations as needed.

The central library houses over 50,000 books, many of which are rare. Additionally, there are e-resources in the library that benefit both teachers and students alike. There is a separate reading room arrangement for students and teachers in the library to ensure no one faces any difficulty in their studies. Apart from the central library, each department has a remarkable collection of books, and students can also receive necessary assistance from there when needed.

Dr Gautam Kumar Ghosh, the college principal, mentioned that currently there are nearly three thousand students in the college. 98 teaching and 49 non-teaching staff manage the various activities of the college. Faculty members are actively involved in research and writing articles and books. Their research articles are regularly published in various UGC-approved journals. Teachers in the physics and botany departments are also conducting research. All departments of the college organise various events throughout the year. The college promotes seminars, student seminars, faculty

induction programmes, workshops, etc. In addition to the curriculum, add-on courses are also offered to students to enhance higher education and develop professional skills in various disciplines. Nearly two decades ago, under the auspices of UGC, 'Pratistha: The Career Hub' was established, where computer training and consultation on various professional subjects are provided to students.

The principal of the college further explained that students from different departments who got the highest marks in their respective subjects in the university exams are awarded by the college with Rishi Bankim Chandra Medha Purashkar. Additionally, various memorabilia awards and student council-initiated awards are also distributed in this regard. Every year, an award ceremony is held on the college foundation day under the supervision of the college's award subcommittee. The vice chancellor of West Bengal State University and other dignitaries graced the programme.

In both units of the National Service Scheme (NSS), various social service activities are conducted throughout the year, including special camps, such as blood donation camps, health check-up camps, etc., in the college's affiliated areas. The activities of the NCC unit are notable; both boys and girls are enrolled in this program. Along with high proficiency in NCC, they engage in various social service activities throughout the year. They participate in the Republic Day parade organised by the NCC, which is very attractive.

Under the coordination of the college's internal complaints cell and grievance redressal cell, various aspects of relevant complaints are monitored, and necessary arrangements are made. The SC/ST/OBC and minority cell address issues related to different classes and minority groups. The anti-ragging squad ensures that no one falls prey to any form of ragging. Adequate arrangements are in place through the internal helpline. The women's cell of the college has installed sanitary napkin vending machines for female students. Under the management of the sports subcommittee, students have participated in various sports organised by the university, as well as other district and state-level sports, demonstrating their capabilities.

Under the initiative of the cultural committee, various cultural events are held throughout the year, including the celebration of various national and international commemorative days. Noteworthy among them are Constitution Day of India, International Mother Language Day, Women's Day and Environment Day. Under the management of the teachers' association, the college annually organises a pre-Puja gathering before the Durga Puja holiday, where college teachers and their families enthusiastically participate. Many former and retired teachers also actively participate in this event.

Dr Saurav Majumdar, the IQAC coordinator of the college, stated that the college has been accredited and approved by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) for proper evaluation. The college has signed MoUs with other colleges and various accredited institutions, making faculty and student exchanges easier. This year, the college is preparing extensively for the third-cycle NAAC accreditation. All this work is progressing with everyone's sincere cooperation. He further mentioned that the college's alumni organisation, 'Praktonika', has been actively supporting the college in various ways, including various social work programmes throughout the year. Before the accreditation of two cycles, the college had enhanced various infrastructures, including the library, with grants from UGC and RUSA. He expressed hope that, in the future, the college will gain more respect in the higher education sector.



'She is the root that has nourished me'

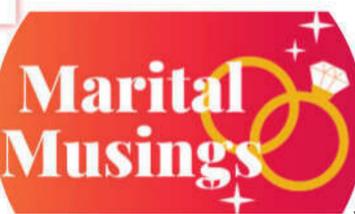
PURBASHA KARMAKAR

Over the years, Bollywood has kept us hooked with its cute college love stories. Although we subconsciously know that love stories shown in the reel and in real life are quite different, those that are actually successful in real life are the ones we root for.

This week, The Statesman spots light on one such couple who were initially batchmates at college but later tied the knot for a lifetime partnership. We came across professor Sreetanwi Chakraborty, the assistant professor of Amity Institute of English Studies and Research (AIERSRK) in Kolkata, and her partner Supriyo Chakraborty, the founder and director of Penprints Private Limited.

In 2004, Sreetanwi and Supriyo first crossed paths in the portico of Presidency College in Kolkata. Although they had a large group of friends, they became best friends within a couple of weeks and used to hang out on and around the campus.

"We articulated thoughts about politics, films, buying old books, songs, rain, food, travel, love, separation, jokes, gossip, tiffin sharing, critical thinking—literally every



mundane thing that could make us talk for hours. It was his transparent, honest and reliable nature as a friend that amused me," narrates Sreetanwi.

It was around the end of 2006 when Supriyo made a call from a local booth and asked her hand for marriage, promising her to talk to her parents with the utmost respect and responsibility.

Initially, the couple united through a legal registry marriage conducted in 2007 rather than a traditional social ceremony. But after a few years, on 15 August 2010, despite initial problems posed by some of the relatives from Sreetanwi's side, the social ceremony was fancifully done with dedicated event planners and an extensive guest list.

The couple then elaborated on their personal experiences and perspectives regarding their shared journey together.

"We together have a well-balanced and compatible life. We often spend time at coffee shops, escape to serene hill stations or seaside, cook and experiment with new dishes, stay awake talking nonsense all night, show the first draft writings to each other, work together as part of the Penprints publication team, plan poetry events, and go on nostalgic trips to all those places in Kolkata from where we started our journey. We even fight a lot and cry over trifling matters, yet we love each other in body and soul. At times, we do feel that we give more importance to our inflated ego, but with age and maturity, I think, we can now handle and manage our arguments better," says Sreetanwi.

She recounts an emotionally stirring incident that made her love for her husband more deep and strong. "During my gall bladder stone operation in 2012, Supriyo did not return home for four days while I was admitted to a nursing home. It was a rainy season, and during one or two nights, due to huge footfalls in the hospital, he had to remain in the rain outside, yet he didn't return home. On asking, he told me that he would only return home once the surgery was done, and not without me."

The husband also adds his insights from the journey. "I am blessed to have Sreetanwi as my better half. She stood by my side during the most challenging phase of my life, when I faced the devastating loss of my parents. She is the only root that has nourished me throughout my life's journey till now. Apart from that, discussing English literature with Sreetanwi is a major challenge to me because I have to listen to her classroom lectures, and that makes me a half-graduate in English too!"

Supriyo reminisces and says, "Allow me to share another cherished memory that remains etched in our minds. Just after our marriage, we spent a whole night on the terrace of a hotel in Santiniketan. It was raining and we were drunk, and it was the most treasured night that still forces us to drench in the rain whenever possible. In fact, rain has a telepathic connection with us."



If you have a story of success to share about your marriage, you may write to us at the email id given in the **Comments Corner** mentioning your name and phone number, and we will contact you

Comments Corner

readers@thestatesmangroup.com



A young lad of eighteen years of age was collected in an Austin A 90 by his favourite cousin from his public school near Nottingham in 1956 to meet the favourite cousin's venerable uncle and for a typical Bengali lunch at Platts Lane, West London. During the said journey, it was of significant consequence that a roving constable admonished the two for speedy driving. Entreaties from a worthy oriental gentleman from the East cooled tempers down, and, after being let off, we were happily on our way, soaking in the beauty of the English countryside.

Arriving at Platts Lane, the young lad glanced upon the petite, attractive member of the opposite sex, related to all around, and put the image into his memory, knowingly or unknowingly. During one of his holidays in Calcutta from Oxford, the young lad, now twenty-two, happened to meet the same lady.

Interesting to them, both exchanged likings and dislikings, inter alia, of Western classical music. The young lad, now a man, also introduced her to opera, particularly Puccini and Verdi. These one-on-one communications led to the notion of a lifelong partnership. Both families vehemently opposed the idea because the girl was older than the boy by some three years. Age was NOT just a number. Then, Both protagonists stood their ground. Ali Hussain blew into his Shehnai melodiously and warmly at the wedding. People appreciated, putting down the feast.

The fight for marriage has produced two children, and the two grandchildren do not seem at all interested in being tied down. The couple's marriage is now 62 years old., still going strong like one Johnny Walker.

The slings and arrows of varying hues and the joys of Puccini and Verdi have today brought them to this stage.

Yours etc., Subrata Kumar Ghose

Kolkata, 28 June

