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ONE NATION ONE JOY

AFTER 13 YEARS, A WORLD COUP: 17 years after winning the 1st T20 World Cup, 13 yrs after winning their 2nd ODI WC, and after 2 heartbreaking losses in the World Test Championship and ODI WC finals in 2023, India finally ended their title drought, edging out South Africa by 7 runs in a thriller for the ages at Barbados. Virat Kohli, player of the match, retired from T20Is and so did skipper Rohit Sharma. A look at the game, in all its swinging glory:

- India score 15 off the 1st over as Kohli races to 14 off 5 balls, but then tumble to 34/3
- Kohli goes into a shell as India rebuild, eventually gets to 50 off 48 balls – his slowest T20 half-ton ever. Doesn't hit a boundary from the 4th over to the 18th
- Promoted to No. 5, Axar Patel responds with a useful 47 off 31 balls but is brilliantly run out by SA keeper Quinton de Kock
- Shivam Dube contributes 27 off 16 balls even as Kohli accelerates at the death before falling for a 59-ball 76 – 1 more than his aggregate of 75 runs in 7 matches before the final
- India score 42 runs in the last 3 overs to finish

- at 176/7, the highest total in a T20 WC final
- Bumrah and Arshdeep strike to reduce SA to 12/2. Tristan Stubbs and de Kock counter-attack, and Heinrich Klaasen slams 52 off 33 balls. Needing 30 to win off 30 balls with 6 wickets in hand, SA seem set for victory. But Hardik Pandya dismisses Klaasen and India begin to extract victory from the jaws of defeat
- Bumrah (2/18) and Arshdeep (2/21) bowl superbly at the death. Pandya, booed throughout the IPL, has to defend 16 in the final over
- Suryakumar Yadav pulls off an unbelievable catch to dismiss David Miller. Rabada swings lustily but it's a Bridge(town) too far for SA



THIS WORLD IS ENOUGH

“It's the stuff of dreams. One day you feel like you can't get a run and then this happens. God is great....It was my last T20 match for India...Time for the next generation to take the game forward – Kohli”



Fitting Farewell For Coach Dravid

Rahul Dravid, who never won a World Cup in a distinguished career as a player, finally bagged a title in his last assignment as Team India coach. He leaves with a superb track record:

	Won	Lost	Tied	Draw/NR	Success	
Tests	24	14	7	0	3	58.3%
ODIs	53	36	14	0	3	72.0%
T20Is	71	52	16	2#	1	75.7%

India won both tied matches in super overs

SKY IS NOT THE LIMIT

Catches win matches, goes the maxim. This one won the World Cup. With SA needing 16 in 6 balls, Miller hit Hardik for what looked like a sure sixer till Suryakumar Yadav (SKY) ran full tilt, grabbed the ball, lobbed it into the air as he went over the ropes, and then stepped back to complete a catch that became an instant legend. A couple of inches literally made all the difference for India and SA

FULL COVERAGE | P 21 & 22

CHAMPIONS! Our team brings the T20 World Cup home in STYLE! We are proud of the Indian Cricket Team. This match was HISTORIC – PM Narendra Modi



Cricket fans in Kolkata celebrate Team India's win over South Africa in the T20 World Cup in (top) Gariahat and (above) Tollygunge



Late Vaidyraj Krushnashastri Puranik (1839-1905)



Late Vaidyraj Vishnushastri Puranik (1864-1914)



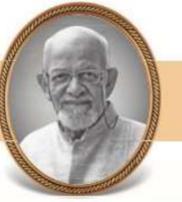
Late Vaidyraj Rambhau Puranik (1883-1933)



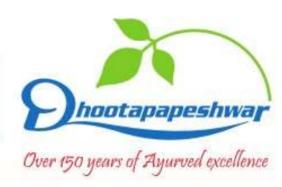
Late Vaidyraj Gangadhar Puranik (1907-1980)



Late Vaidyraj Mahadev Puranik (1912-1987)



Late Anand Puranik (1937-2023)



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Hawker-trader fight reaches flashpoint at New Market

5,000 Shops In Eight Markets In Vicinity Down Shutters After Assault

Subhro Niyogi
& Saikat Ray | TNN

Kolkata: Simmering tension over the hawker pushback drive reached a flashpoint in the New Market area on Saturday afternoon with hawkers first threatening and manhandling a functionary of the traders' body at Shreeram Arcade in the presence of a union leader and then attempting to attack the traders with rods, sticks and a machete used to slice coconuts. Cops detained a member of the hawker union till last reports came in.

Though police intervened in the nick of time to avert a clash that could have turned ugly, chaos ruled in the area for the next four hours as shoppers scammed to safety and 5,000 shops in eight markets in the area downed shutters to protest against the hooliganism. As the traders marched to the police station to file the complaint, a group of hawkers shouting "dukandar hoshiyar" and waving party flags trooped down to New Market PS for another confrontation. Again, police intervened in front of the police station on S N Banerjee Road and managed to drive hawkers back to Bertram Street. But incensed traders then continued to agitate on the road, paralyzing traffic on the thoroughfare for nearly 35 minutes.

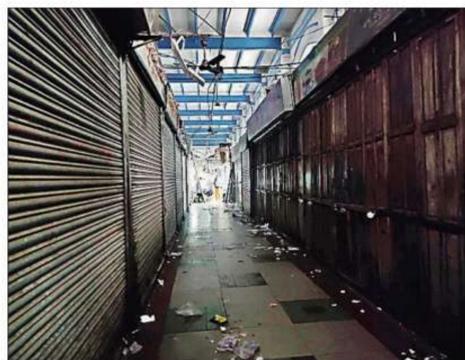
"We will not accept this hooliganism by hawkers. How dare they assault a trader who is doing business legitimately? We want the arrest of union leader Rehan Khan who instigated the assault," demanded Shreeram Arcade Shop Owners' Association secretary Maqsood Khan who was manhandled and threatened with dire consequences if traders did not remove the two-wheelers parked in the designated parking lot opposite Lighthouse as hawkers said they would set up stalls there.

The problem had started when the union leader, who also runs a store at Shreeram Arcade on rent, posted a message on the traders' WhatsApp group asking everyone to clear the parking lot. He claimed the New Market PS OC had ordered the occupation of the parking lot by hawkers. Traders claimed Maqsood Khan was assaulted when he challenged Rehan's claim.

This assault took place at 11.45 am. As news spread like wildfire, several dozen traders converged on the spot in support and then squatted on the eastern flank of Jawaharlal



Biplab Bhattacharjee



(Top) Hawkers and (middle) traders of the New Market area stage an agitation on Saturday; the shut Shreeram Arcade (right) and New Market (above right) and Maqsood Khan, who was allegedly manhandled

Nehru Road, blocking traffic for 45 minutes. Though they relented when DC-Central reached the spot and assured a fair probe into the issue, the situation flared up again when a mob of hawkers tried to assault the traders with sticks, rods and a machete in front of Shreeram Arcade around 2.30 pm. In no mood to give in, traders rushed towards the hawkers before police stepped in to act as a barrier between

the two groups. Soon thereafter, the Joint Traders Federation (JTF), a platform of seven markets in the area, gave a call for a shutdown of all shops in protest.

Things again took a turn for the worse before New Market PS on S N Banerjee Road around 4 pm when a group of hawkers shouting slogans and waving party flags rushed towards traders who had assembled there to file a complaint.

Again, police intervention managed to avert the violence. Caught in the melee, shoppers — many of them women and children — were seen fleeing in terror.

"The police have to give us assurance that traders, employees and customers will get protection from hooliganism by hawker union leaders. The CM had urged hawkers to exercise restraint and be disciplined. But in New Market,

Hawkers protest near CNMC

There was an impromptu protest by hawkers on CIT Road on Saturday after KMC officials and cops deployed a bulldozer to remove encroachments in front of Calcutta National Medical College. The hawkers claimed that the CM had given them a one-month deadline but the administration was trying to forcibly evict them. As soon as municipal workers began removing illegal shops, hawkers and owners of semi-permanent shops started resisting them. A hawker laid in the middle of the road in front of two cars amidst other moving vehicles. A driver managed to stop in time, saving the protester's life. However, the hawker then began banging his head on the car's hood. The civic workers eventually left after managing to remove a few makeshift stalls. "We make a living by selling tea. If our shops are razed, how will we sustain our families?" a hawker asked. TNN



they are a law unto themselves. We will not accept this anymore," said JTF president Ashok Gupta.

Reacting to the hawker-trader fracas, mayor Firhad Hakim said he believed in the 'live and let live' theory and expressed hope that both would find an amicable solution to the unnecessary tension being created. "We want to protect the livelihood of the hawkers but at the same time will ask them to abide by hawking rules and refrain from encroaching on the carriageways and pavements," said Hakim.

Police have registered a case regarding the fracas between the hawkers and the shopkeepers at New Market. Cops said charges pertaining to stopping a public servant from carrying out his/her duty have been added. "We have enough footage of the incident and we will proceed against them legally," said an officer.

Showers bring plastic back in hawking zones



Hawkers put up plastic sheets to protect their stalls from rain at Esplanade on Saturday

Zeeshan Jawed
@timesgroup.com

Kolkata: It took only a few smart showers overnight for plastic sheets in all hawking zones to reappear on top of the stalls on Saturday, bringing back the fire safety risk they present to their vicinity. The canopy of plastic sheets was back in New Market, Gariahat, Hatibagan, Chandni, Brabourne Road and Canning Street after it rained on Friday night and Saturday afternoon.

After a rap from CM Mamata Banerjee, cops had not only instructed hawkers to remove from the carriageway and leave two-thirds of the pavements for pedestrians but also remove the plastic sheets which pose fire safety risks to markets and residences nearby.

Under pressure from the law enforcement agencies, hawkers had removed the sheets. In some areas in Salt Lake the vendors even started

operating under large umbrellas after removing their structures.

But much to the shock of traders, cops and civic officials, plastic sheets were out on Saturday.

"It has been raining so hard since Friday night. We don't want our stock to get damaged," said Bablu Ghosh, a street vendor in Hatibagan.

Some hawkers also accepted that the rain had presented them with an excuse to bring out the plastic sheets in the face of police crackdown. "They cannot force us to remove the sheets as we can challenge them on humanitarian grounds," said Ashok Gupta, a vendor on Kalakar Street at Burrabazar.

On Brabourne Road plastic sheets were back, blocking the view of the pavements and the shops on the other side. On Canning Street vendors use the signboards and sheds of the shops they are

blocking to tie the plastic sheets. At New Market vendors said their wares would get damaged if they didn't use plastics. Even when the rain stopped the plastic sheets remained in place with no attempts to remove them.

In the past several blazes spun out of control due to indiscriminate use of plastic by hawkers. In Sept 2019, a fire from a hawker's stall gutted a large portion of Bagri Market damaging goods and property worth several hundred crores. Earlier that year, a fire at a hawker's stall in Gariahat gutted the building housing the Traders' Assembly and the Adi Dhakeswari Bastralaya stores on the Gariahat crossing.

"These fires had spread rapidly due to the plastic sheets. We managed to convince the hawkers to remove the plastics during the crackdown. But the rain has given them an excuse to use plastic sheets again," said an officer of Burrabazar police station.

SAFETY RISK

FOOTBALL AS STRESS BUSTER

Debobrata Shome



A football match proved to be a perfect stress reliever for a section of Gariahat hawkers going through a traumatic experience since a KMC-KP joint team started an anti-encroachment drive across all major hawking hubs. Over 100 hawkers participated in the match held at Vivekananda Park on Saturday

Opinion divided, cops stop clamping of vehicles a day after crackdown

Zeeshan Jawed
& Dwaipayan Ghosh | TNN

Kolkata: Divided opinion — among the citizens as well as the police — on the practice of clamping illegally parked vehicles has forced the men in uniform to put the drive on hold.

On Friday, police clamped a few vehicles parked in unauthorized zones and slapped fines on others. This included spots like Lenin Sarani, APC Road, Jorasanko, Mayo Road, Hazra Road and Diamond Harbour Road. This had led to protests and anger amongst a section of motorists who said that they suddenly found themselves to be law breakers despite abiding with the law in all spheres of their lives.

The local traffic guards — especially those handling the commercial zones — have now been asked by Lalbazar to rework on the specific zones where vehicles will be clamped. These areas will now be marked with "Clamping Zone" boards along with no-parking signs. On Saturday, a holiday, clamping cases remained confined to just a couple of roads in central Kolkata.

"As a policy, we have done away with clamping. On Friday, vehicles were clamped to send a strong message. But even that was not arbitrary. We gave owners time to remove vehicles. Only in cases where the owners remained untraceable even after our men tried contacting them that their vehicles were clamped," claimed a top official at Lalbazar.

"If my vehicle is parked in a 'no-parking zone' by mistake, the police can slap a fine. Nowadays, all violations are



Cops' drive to clamp illegally parked cars and two-wheelers drew flak from the motorists across the city

captured by the camera and we pay our fines online. But the practice of clamping vehicles is unfair. I abide by the law in every sphere of life but suddenly, I am reduced to a lawbreaker in front of a traffic constable or sergeant," said a motorist.

Another resident of Convent Road said that sometimes people are forced to park in a 'no-parking zone' as there is no adequate space in the designated parking zones. "If the govt provides proper parking zones, nobody would park on carriageways or pavements," he said.



On Saturday, the cops on the road said they were being questioned repeatedly on where to park after the Friday experience. "We have no option but to ask motorists to vacate the non-authorized parking lots. But when they ask for options, we have no answers. It is much better that we have options in hand before we start clamping. We need parking slots on an immediate basis," said a sergeant.

A traffic sergeant on Lenin Sarani said: "We normally warn people for the first offence. But when the owners can't be traced, we clamp vehicles."

6,000 spot fines over two days

Dwaipayan Ghosh
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Kolkata: The Kolkata Traffic Police has slapped over 6,000 fines since Friday for illegal parking. They have identified around 2,200 spots cutting across several dozens of roads where unauthorized parking has taken place. A comprehensive list of such spots have now been compiled and will be sent to the Kolkata Municipal Corporation.

Lalbazar said that they have also decided to extend their 100 Dial services whereby citizens can call up and inform police about unauthorized parking or extortion revolving around parking. "We are forwarding all parking related complaints to KMC. We have also decided to video-record our actions for easy reference," said an officer.

Lalbazar claimed it had yet to receive any complaint from any quarter regarding parking extortion in the past 72 hours. For the cops on the road though, the problem was different. "I have been asked to ensure that parking fees of Rs 10 per hour are charged throughout the EM Bypass area. But how can I ensure Rs 10 for areas where parking is unauthorized? The KMC has to join us in joint drives with us to stop this menace," claimed a sergeant.

The Howrah Bridge Traffic Guard carried out a massive drive in the Posta area from Saturday morning. Kalakar Street and KK Tagore Street were

ILLEGAL PARKING

> Kolkata Traffic Police has slapped over 3,000 fines per day in the past two days for illegal parking

> Cops identified around 2,200 spots cutting across several dozens of roads where unauthorized parking had taken place

> A comprehensive list of such spots has been compiled and will be sent to KMC

> Lalbazar said they have decided to extend their 100 Dial services whereby citizens can call up and inform police about unauthorized parking or extortion revolving around parking

prime areas where the drive was carried out with police announcing on loudspeaker to stick to one lane of parking.

Cops said they waited for 30 minutes before clamping commercial vehicles that parked on the wrong side. By evening though, TOI found out that KK Tagore Street had vehicles parked on both sides of the road. Kalakar Street was better with most vehicles parking well within the blue line. However, even here, a few vehicles were found parked on the footpath.

Responding to a TOI query, Lalbazar said they had resorted to a second round of drive late evening, slapping illegal parking cases on both roads. (With inputs from Sukhomoy Sen)

Hindustan Park locals' plea against parking ills

Subhro Niyogi@timesgroup.com

Kolkata: A citizens' action group has written to KMC commissioner Dhaval Jain and Kolkata Police commissioner Vineet Goyal, highlighting the plight of the locals in a south Kolkata neighbourhood due to unfettered parking on the streets and pavements.

Not only is it a challenge to walk or drive through Hindustan Park due to parking of cars on either side of the narrow streets, the residents also complain of traffic snarls caused by the parking and the resultant sound pollution due to honking.

"I am afraid of taking walks around the neighbourhood alone or with my child as illegal parking forces me to use the road instead of the footpath

Aditi Mukherjee | LOCAL RESIDENT

"In the context of what the media has described as the Chief Minister's 'outburst' on the quality of civic services in Kolkata, we write this letter to you jointly because the service we are seeking — tighter enforcement of parking rules — concerns both your offices. In our experience as an NGO that has been working to improve the quality of life in Kolkata for many years, parking is a major issue because it affects people's ability to move around in our city. Our observations in Hindustan Park, a residential locality that the city is proud of, shows that weak enforcement of parking rules is causing a range of problems," PUBLIC founder-member Pradeep Kakkur wrote.

The issues highlighted include illegal use of footpaths to park two-wheelers, parking of cars and two-wheelers on both sides of narrow roads that reduces the available space and increasing honking to unbearable levels, parking of vehicles right up to street corners instead of leaving free space as per law and parking attendants that fleece drivers by charging twice the official rate.

The transformation of Hindustan Park, a quintessential south Kolkata neighbourhood that was home to



Parked cars and two-wheelers have made it difficult to drive or even walk along the pavements, alleged Hindustan Park residents

the likes of writer Nabanita Deb Sen, linguist and educationist Suniti Kumar Chattopadhyay and former CM Jyoti Basu, to a commercial hub with shops and restaurants has resulted in the influx of cars. Also, with many houses being pulled down and apartments being constructed in its place, the number of cars owned in the locality has also shot up.

PUBLIC further pointed out that though the letter talks about one locality, the problems were endemic to many neighbourhoods in the city that were similarly impacted and needed stricter enforcement of laws.



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App help soon for KMC and cops to weed out 'ghost' hawkers

Address, Hawking Spots, ID Details & Photographs Just A Click Away

Saikat.Ray@timesgroup.com

Kolkata: Kolkata mayor and urban development minister Firhad Hakim has asked the state IT department to help develop an app that will be a ready reckoner on hawkers available with police officers and civic officials.

The app will contain all verifiable data of hawkers and geo-fence them at the spot where they are conducting the trade.

IT DEPT TOLD TO DEVELOP APP

"Either the Kolkata Municipal Corporation or the urban development department that is in charge of the other civic bodies in the state will develop the app that will contain the hawker details," a civic official told TOI.

The details collected will include address of residence,

BID TO CHECK SALE OF PAVEMENT SPACE



Cops' anti-encroachment drive in the New Market area on Saturday

hawking spot, Aadhaar card details, hawker's photograph and the goods being sold. The street name, section of sidewalk, and how much space (latitude and longitude) each

hawker occupies will be recorded and each hawker's location will be GPS-tagged.

These details collected during the ongoing survey will be vetted against two earlier

- > Photograph hawkers at the spot
- > Identity of hawker, name, age, residential address
- > Record the Aadhaar number of the hawker
- > Get GPS location of the stall manned by the hawker
- > The stall location will be GPS-tagged



KMC's geo-tag move to check 'ghost' hawkers

surveys conducted in 2015 and 2022. Once finalised, the date will be uploaded on the app that will be made available to civic officials and cops who will conduct surprise

checks, either once in six months or annually, to see if hawkers that are listed are the ones that are actually doing business.

This, officials say, will lead to easy identification of "genuine" hawkers against "ghost" ones, curb uncontrolled hawker influx and prevent the sub-letting or sale of pavement space, often for lakhs of rupees.

The problem that has existed for over a decade and a half came to light during a survey two years ago in Gariahat when the Town Vending Committee (TVC) came across scores of "ghost" hawkers whose names did not figure in any list that had been prepared earlier.

Initially, the app will be developed on a trial basis for hawker hubs in Kolkata. Once it gets the CM's nod, data on all hawkers in Kolkata and the state would be included in the app.

15ft to 3ft: Hawkers retract stalls to free up road space

Subhro.Niyogi@timesgroup.com

Kolkata: Hawkers who had captured nearly 15ft of Bertram Street retracted to just 3ft on Saturday morning and reduced the height of display shelves at the rear from 9ft to 5ft but police refused to allow them to open their stalls until the Kolkata Municipal Corporation allowed them to do so.

Hawker stalls have been shut since Wednesday evening when Kolkata Police commissioner Vineet Goyal did a round of the area. On Friday, mayor Firhad Hakim along with ministers Aroop Biswas and Moly Ghatak, the top cop and KMC commissioner Dhaval Jain had visited the area and asked hawker unions to reduce the stall and free up road space.

In other parts of the city, including Gariahat and Hatibagan, hawker unions acted voluntarily after word got around that they needed to toe the line or face eviction.

"I have asked all hawkers to restrict the stall size to 5ft x 3ft so that those who are displaced can be accommodated. I have also urged everyone to display goods on the stall platform and not erect shelves above it," said Gariahat Indira Hawkers Union general secretary Debraj Ghosh.

At Hatibagan, too, hawker unions have asked stalls to reduce the display heights and also regulate the size of stalls. "We have asked hawkers to self-regulate because that is the need of the hour. We cannot flow against the tide," said union leader Prabhat Das.

RULES TO BE FOLLOWED

- > Hawker stalls to be 5 ft x 3 ft with no additional display shelves
- > Ensure that hawkers stay within the line demarcated for hawking
- > If someone has a stall with a 5 ft frontage, it will be reduced to 3 ft to accommodate the displaced
- > No new hawkers will be allowed to set up stalls in the area
- > If KMC or government provides a godown, all goods will be stored there after trading hours
- > Unions to ensure that hawkers don't misbehave with customers



The hawkers also reduced the height of display shelves at the rear of their stalls from 9ft to 5ft on Saturday morning

At New Market, where there are hawkers who are migrants from other states, the unions have decided to regulate and allow only those who have valid voter ID cards registered in Bengal. "The CM has raised a concern about hawking as a livelihood for local youths. We appreciate the sentiment

BERTRAM STREET

and will ensure that outsiders do not take up hawking here," said Hawkers' Joint Action Union president Lakhi Nath Shaw.

He has also told hawkers to pack their goods and remove them from the site after business hours. "Goods will not

stay dumped on the roads or pavements. We do not want the encroacher tag. It is true that on Bertram Street, the only hawking space is on the road but we have decided to restrict ourselves to just 3ft so that it does not inconvenience motorists or pedestrians," said Sunny Shaw, another union leader.

Most hawkers along Bertram Street also said they wished to earn their living in harmony and denounced the actions of union leaders who heckled and manhandled traders at Humayun Place on Saturday. "I am sorry for what happened on Saturday. We cannot misbehave with customers or traders. We will not support hooliganism," he said.

Distribute certificates, incentivise hawkers to become disciplined: Vending panel members

Saikat.Ray@timesgroup.com

Kolkata: Town Vending Committee members stressed on the need for distribution of vending certificates to those who were doing the trade by the rules and also prevent the influx of new hawkers.

Hawker Sangram Committee general secretary and TVC member Saktiman Ghosh said streamlining hawkers at some of the city's major hawking hubs like Gariahat, New Market and Hatibagan will largely depend on identifying genuine hawkers and providing them with vending certificates. "Distribution of vending certificates is a must to incentivise hawkers to be disciplined. The exercise that had been

700 YET TO BE GIVEN

- > KMC started distribution of vending certs based on a survey in major hawking hubs a couple of years ago
- > It had distributed 250 certs to hawkers
- > 700 vending certificates have been kept ready for distribution
- > The distribution will begin once the ongoing survey is over

gun a couple of years ago was abruptly put on hold," said Ghosh.

This issue was raised by several

other members of TVC and the message was communicated to the newly formed high powered committee set up by CM Mamata Banerjee to find a solution to the hawker stalemate.

According to Saktipada Mondal, a hawker union leader and a TVC member, unless certificates are given to the bonafide hawkers, the tendency to grab pavements will continue. "If we want to give citizens relief from pavement encroachment and at the same time protect the livelihood of the hawkers, we will need to arm the existing hawkers with vending certificates which is a recognition for them," Mondal said.

A source in the TVC said after a temporary survey of hawking hubs

two years ago, they had agreed to distribute certificates to hawkers who had applied for the same and were adhering to rules. In the first phase, KMC had distributed 250 certificates. Around 700 more such certificates are ready for distribution, said a TVC member. It had agreed to distribute the vending certificates following an appeal from hawkers whose names were listed as eligible for the certificates after the CM told KMC to initiate steps for recognising genuine hawkers.

A member of the high powered committee said the KMC would wait for the completion of the ongoing survey and then a decision would be taken to start fresh distribution of certificates.

CHITTARANJAN LOCOMOTIVE WORKS

OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE

The following e-Tenders can be accessed under the link www.ireps.gov.in. Offers for such e-Tender can be submitted only electronically by accessing the link www.ireps.gov.in → login → E-Tender Stores/Supply. Vendors may also contact the following officials to obtain clarification regarding particular tender or IREPS related information if any. Dy. CMM/HQ/CLW/Chittaranjan, 0341-2525594 or SMM/CON/HQ, 0341-2535631. Office Address: Office of the PCMM / CLW/Chittaranjan.

[A] 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 follows: [1]; 75244132; Stainless Steel Pressed Section for WAG-9 HC Loco, as per Specn. 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.

[C] No. COS/CRJ/PUB/e-Tender/19/0162, Date: 25/06/2024. Sl. No.: [1]. Tender No.: 91241011. Brief Description of Item: Rotor Shaft [Finish Machined], Drg. No. 11TW06.099.061-I and 2TJF.096.015 ALT-4, SKEL 5032 ALT.0, SKEL 5043 Alt.0. Specn. No.: 4TMS.096.071 Rev.-1, Alt.-1, STR No.: CLW/TM/0394/Rotor Shaft [Finish Machined] Rev.-2. [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery]. Quantity: 951.00 Numbers. Earnest Money Deposit (Rupees): ₹ 17,63,490.00. Tender Closing Date & Time (IST): 05/08/2024 at 11:00 AM. [PR/492] PCMM/CLW/Chittaranjan. Like us on: www.facebook.com/clwrairways

[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 follows: [1]; 75244396; Fire Extinguishing System for 22.5 kg. CO2 with Accessories (consisting of 14 items) excluding 'Clamp for cylinder with pad' for WAG-9HC Loco to Specn. No. CLW/MS/3/108 Alt.8 [One set consists of 14 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 Duty Assy. for WAG-9HC Loco as per Specn. No. CLW/MS/3/159 Alt. Nil, Drg. No. 1209-11.444-025 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];

891.00 Set; ₹ 9,01,030.00; 12/08/2024 at 11:00 AM.

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

Notice Inviting Open e-tender

Commercial Branch, Headquarters Office

Tender No. SR/YSATPA/04/2024 dated 28.06.2024

For and behalf of the President of India, acting through the Principal Chief Commercial Manager, Commercial Branch, Headquarters, Southern Railway, Parktown, Chennai-3 invites e-tender for the following work.

Tender No. SR/YSATPA/04/2024

Nature of the work

To conduct inspections and submit periodical reports on Passenger services provided by the Yatri Seva Anubandh Service Provider in 6 pairs of Vande Bharat trains of Southern Railway, their related base kitchens and other services on these trains for a period of 03 (Three) years.

Advertised value

₹30,55,140/- (Rupees Thirty lakhs fifty five thousand one hundred and forty only) for three years.

Earnest Money Amount

₹61,100/-

E-tender document available at

www.ireps.gov.in

System of e-tendering

Single-stage; two-packet system

Date of Pre Bid Meeting

04.07.2024 at 11:00 Hrs Sulekha meeting hall, 2nd floor at Southern Railway Headquarters office.

Date and time of closing of submission of tender

19.07.2024 at 15.00 Hrs

Date and time of opening of tender (Technical)

19.07.2024 at 15.30 Hrs

Validity of offer from the date of e-tender

60 days from the last date for submission of bids

Contract period

Three years

Deputy Chief Commercial Manager/Passenger Services
E-mail: dycmps@sr.railnet.gov.in
Mobile No.90031 60980

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

PWD TENDER NOTICE

Superintending Engineer, Southern Circle, Social Sector, P.W.Dte. invites online e-tender for the work of "Vertical extension of 3rd to 9th floor over the existing three storied Academic Building in the Campus of State Aided Diamond Harbour Women's University at Diamond Harbour in the district of South 24 Parganas, (Balance Work)". eNIT No. 2024/WBPWD/700950.1. Bid Submission Start Date (online): 05.07.2024 at 03:00p.m. Bid Submission Closing Date (online): 26.07.2024 upto 03:00p.m. Corrigendum if any will be extended in the website only. Details of N.I.T. and Tender Documents may be downloaded from the website of HDA. www.hda.gov.in Sd/- Chief Executive Officer, HDA. ICA-T10130(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

HALDIA DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

City Centre, P.O. Debhog, Haldia Dist. Purba Medinipur, PIN-721657 Toll Free No. 1800-345-3224 CORRI GENDUM NOTICE NIT No. 8/HDA/EC/2024-25(2nd call) In partial modification of the above NIT for the work: "REPAIRING OF KITCHEN ALONG WITH DINING HALL AND ROOF TREATMENT AT HALDIA BHAWAN", the last date of online submission of Technical and Financial Bid through www.wbtenders.gov.in has been extended to 01.07.2024 upto 3.30 PM. Information in details is available in the office and in the website of HDA. www.hda.gov.in Sd/- Chief Executive Officer, HDA. ICA-T10137(2)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

HALDIA DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

City Centre, P.O. Debhog, Haldia Dist. Purba Medinipur, PIN-721657 Toll Free No. 1800-345-3224 CORRI GENDUM NOTICE NIT No. 8/HDA/EC/2024-25(2nd call) Online (e-Tender) tender in a two bid system is hereby invited for "Inside and Outside repairing and painting of Tribeni Sangam Guest House at Geonkhali". Estimated Cost: ₹ 6,57,595/-. Document downloading dates: 29.06.2024 to 08.07.2024 upto 3:30 P.M. Last date for bid submission through www.wbtenders.gov.in: 08.07.2024 upto 4:00 P.M. Information in details is available in the office and website of HDA: www.hda.gov.in Sd/- Chief Executive Officer, HDA. ICA-T10134(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

PWD TENDER NOTICE

Executive Engineer, Murshidabad Division, Social Sector, P.W.Dte. invites online e-tender for 10 (ten) nos. work 1) Repair and renovation of Laboratories and Lavatories in Science Building at Nawab Bahadur Institution, Lalbag, Murshidabad. Estimated Amount: ₹ 28,02,21,000. Tender ID: 2024/WBPWD/700592.1 2) Repair and renovation for setting up of X-Ray Unit and C.R. System at Salar B.P.H.C., Bharatpur-II Block in the District of Murshidabad. Estimated Amount: ₹ 10,28,42,000. Tender ID: 2024/WBPWD/700592.2 3) Repair and renovation and colour painting of entire building of Aurangabad PHC at Sut-II Block in the district of Murshidabad. Estimated Amount: ₹ 24,66,938.00. Tender ID: 2024/WBPWD/700592.3 4) Repair and Renovation Indoor and Outdoor Building at Rajanagar BPHC, Murshidabad. Estimated Amount: ₹ 11,08,614.00. Tender ID: 2024/WBPWD/700592.5 6) Balance work of new building beside canteen and internal repairing works of Civil Engineering Lab at Murshidabad Institute of Technology. Estimated Amount: ₹ 29,11,916.00. Tender ID: 2024/WBPWD/700592.6 7) Repairing and Renovation works of Bahara PHC, Murshidabad. Estimated Amount: ₹ 11,89,583.00. Tender ID: 2024/WBPWD/700592.7 8) Repair, Renovation and Extension of patient waiting shed and Toilet blocks at Hariharpara BPHC, Murshidabad. Estimated Amount: ₹ 15,87,411.00. Tender ID: 2024/WBPWD/700592.8 9) Repair and Renovation Indoor and Outdoor Building at Rajanagar BPHC, Murshidabad. Estimated Amount: ₹ 11,08,614.00. Tender ID: 2024/WBPWD/700592.5 6) Balance work of new building beside canteen and internal repairing works of Civil Engineering Lab at Murshidabad Institute of Technology. Estimated Amount: ₹ 29,11,916.00. Tender ID: 2024/WBPWD/700592.6 7) Repairing and Renovation works of Bahara PHC, Murshidabad. Estimated Amount: ₹ 11,89,583.00. Tender ID: 2024/WBPWD/700592.7 8) Repair, Renovation and Extension of patient waiting shed and Toilet blocks at Hariharpara BPHC, Murshidabad. Estimated Amount: ₹ 15,87,411.00. Tender ID: 2024/WBPWD/700592.8 9) Repair and Renovation Indoor and Outdoor Building at Rajanagar BPHC, Murshidabad. Estimated Amount: ₹ 11,08,614.00. Tender ID: 2024/WBPWD/700592.5

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

E-TENDER NOTICE OF WEST BENGAL STATE WAREHOUSING CORPORATION

(A STATUTORY CORPORATION) OF SE, W.B.S.W.C. email: ce-sw@wb.gov.in NIET No. 53(2ND CALL) of 2023-24 of SE/WBSWC Tender ID-2024/WBSWC_699621_1 REPAIRING OF FLOOR AT GODOWN NO. 2, WALL CLADDING AT GODOWN NO. 5, 6, 7, 8, CLEANING OF ENTIRE GODOWN PREMISE AND INSTALLATION OF NEW WEIGH BRIDGE ALONG WITH OPERATING ROOM AT SHALINAR GFD IN THE DISTRICT OF HOWRAH. Rs. 28,05,065/- LAST DATE OF SUBMISSION: 16.07.2024. For detailed NIEP see www.wbtenders.gov.in Sd/- Superintending Engineer, West Bengal State Warehousing Corporation. ICA-T10118(3)/2024

City gets 92.4mm showers in 24 hrs, Met predicts consistent rain for now

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Kolkata: The city received persistent drizzles on Saturday, after a spell of heavy late evening shower on Friday, reducing the rainfall deficit count for the month significantly.

An active monsoon trough has triggered a wet spell that is set to continue for the next five days, said the Met office. While Kolkata is likely to receive light to moderate rain, some parts of adjoining south Bengal could receive a few spells of heavy rain.

On Saturday, Kolkata received 17.4 mm rain till 5.30 pm. Between Friday and Saturday evening, the city received 92.4 mm rain.

After Friday night's rain, the city woke up to a cloudy morning. The cloud cover persisted even as it kept drizzling at regular intervals.

"The monsoon currents were very weak when they reached Kolkata last week. But now, they have strengthened and led to the formation of an east-west trough that runs from north-west Uttar Pradesh to the centre of a low-pressure area across a cyclonic circulation over east Uttar Pradesh and Jharkhand," said Regional Meteorological Centre weather scientist H R Biswas.

77-yr-old hurt as parapet collapses

A 77-year old woman, a resident of Janak Road in Tollygunge in KMC ward 87 area, was injured when a portion of the parapet on the top floor of a three-storied dilapidated building collapsed and fell on the adjacent tin shed room. The incident occurred around 12.40am on Saturday. The woman, who received minor injuries, was rushed to a nearby hospital where she was treated and then discharged. TNN

tion of an east-west trough that runs from north-west Uttar Pradesh to the centre of a low-pressure area across a cyclonic circulation over east Uttar Pradesh and Jharkhand," said Regional Meteorological Centre weather scientist H R Biswas.

This system, coupled with the stronger monsoon currents, will lead to consistent rain now, added Biswas. The showers pulled the maximum temperature down by two degrees to 31.8°C on Saturday.

The tender for this tape was taken less than a week after Lalbazar asked all traffic guards to ensure that all guard rails that are put up at night should have retro-reflective stickers so that they are visible from a distance. Lalbazar also stated, the guard rails have to be set up in a "scientific manner." The rails, if put up in a zig-zag manner, should be placed in such a way that no two-wheeler can squeeze past along with another bigger vehicle. The instructions were issued following five biker deaths in the past two months.



An active monsoon trough has triggered a wet spell that may continue for the next five days, said Met office

NKDA SOP to check snake bites, vector-borne diseases

Suman.Chakraborti@timesgroup.com

Kolkata: With the onset of monsoon, New Town Kolkata Development Authority has issued guidelines on snake bite management and prevention of mosquito breeding grounds at construction sites.

For managing snake bite cases, the second campus of CNCI at New Town DJ block in Action Area 1 will be serving as a dedicated snake bite management centre. Regular training on snake bite management is being provided to the medical staff. There is a consistent supply of medicines, saline and antivenom serum available at the facility. All the urban primary health centres and urban health and wellness centres can also offer assistance in this matter. Citizens can also dial 18001037652 to avail the free 24-hour ambulance service. NKDA personnel will spray carbolic acid across the township to reduce snake sightings.

Reflective tapes on guard rails to check accidents during rain

Dwaipayan Ghosh@timesgroup.com

Kolkata: Kolkata traffic cops have ordered 1.4 km of retro reflective tapes to be used at night on around 4,000 working guard rails. The order comes months after a similar amount was ordered in December last year. Lalbazar claimed that it is essential in preventing accidents when visibility is low. "With the onset of monsoons, all safety measures are being taken," said an officer. The tender for this tape

Landslides hit traffic on NH-10

Roshan Gupta | TNN

Siliguri: Traffic along National Highway-10 came to a halt, cutting off the major link of the north-eastern state capital Gangtok and Kalimpong from Siliguri on Saturday following continuous rainfall on Friday night, triggering multiple landslides along the highway. Single-lane traffic was restored by evening. The Kalimpong district administration has appealed to use alternative routes to avoid delays and ensure safe movement. Friday's rain triggered multiple landslides between Likhuvver and the 28th Mile, blocking vehicular movement along NH-10 and affecting traffic towards Kalimpong and Sikkim on Saturday. Vehicles were diverted in the morning to avoid the part of NH-10 damaged between Likhuvver and the 28th Mile. According to officials, the area is still vulnerable to further slides. Kalimpong district magistrate Bala Subramanian said, "Single-lane traffic at the 27th Mile and the Likhuvver stretch has been restored after the quick efforts of the PWD, police and forest department officials. Though NH-10 is open, the public is requested to use alternative routes for safe movement."

Cops get training in new legal codes before Monday rollout

Jurists, Academics Laud Certain Provisions But Point Out Grey Areas Too

Dwaipayan.Ghosh
@timesgroup.com

Kolkata: The city police, along with Bengal Police, are set to implement the three new legal codes from July 1 and major commissionerates were frantically preparing for it on Saturday. Special public prosecutor Bivas Chatterjee trained around 550 Bidhannagar City Police personnel as well as cops from Chandernagore Police Commissionerate. A special class has been arranged for Kolkata Police's detective department officers on Monday, the day that Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), Bharatiya Nagrik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhinyam (BSA) will come into effect.

Sources said officers from the level of sub-inspector and above have received "adequate training". However, the lower ranks, especially at the level of ASI, need to be trained

SOME OF THE CHANGES

302 IPC 103 BNS (murder)	(obscene acts and song)
304(A) IPC 106 BNS (death due to negligence)	509 IPC 79 BNS (outraging modesty)
304(B) IPC 80 BNS (culpable homicide)	323 IPC 115 BNS (voluntarily causing hurt)
307 IPC 109 BNS (attempt to murder)	341 IPC 126 BNS (punishment for wrongful restraint)
294 IPC 296 BNS	376 IPC 64 BNS (Rape)

further. "The SIs are the backbone of investigations. While they have received at least three-four days of training from various resources, including advocates and law school faculty, we are now planning intra-departmental training.

"It is not just that the mere sections will change, like murder will now be BNS 103 instead of IPC 302, death due to negligence will be BNS

106 instead of IPC 304A and rape will be BNS 64 instead of IPC 376. There will be some massive changes to how a cop goes about his work as well," said Chatterjee.

There will now be a designated officer of ASI rank or above at each police station who has to be notified of arrests and he has to immediately upload the same for public view.

Officers who attended the

Workshop held

A media workshop — Vartalaap — on the three new legal codes was organized by PIB at Kolkata Press Club on Friday to create awareness and highlight the salient features. Besides senior PIB officers, the event was attended by WBNUJS professors Faisal Fasih, Surjakanta Baladhikari and Sarfaraz Ahmed who addressed the journalists. TNN

There will be massive changes to how a cop goes about his work

Bivas Chatterjee | SPECIAL PUBLIC PROSECUTOR

larger pool of forensic experts, a police source said.

Sources pointed to how IOs visiting crime spots have to learn to create digital evidence and store it on a phone or camera. "These dedicated equipment might have to be submitted in court at any point of time. Hence, an ample number of such equipment is the need of the hour at each police station," a source said.

Even police doctors, who will have their roles redefined, are expected to undergo training.

The new legal codes were passed by the Parliament in the winter session. President Droupadi Murmu gave her assent to the three codes on Dec 25, 2023. Though jurists and academics have hailed certain provisions, WBNUJS assistant professor Faisal Fasih found certain grey areas in case of issues like section 69 and 113 that deal with sexual intercourse using deceitful means and terrorism.

Hostel lynch: After ransom call, 14 kept beating man

Dwaipayan.Ghosh
@timesgroup.com

Kolkata: Fourteen residents of Udayan Hostel on Nirmal Chandra Dey Street have been arrested and sent to police custody till July 4 for being allegedly involved in a lynching at the hostel. The initial post-mortem report indicated that the victim — Irshad Alam, a 37-year-old TV and mobile mechanic from Belgachhia — died after being hit repeatedly "over a long period of time".

Cops said that the death was probably due to hypovolemic shock, an emergency condition in which severe loss of blood or other fluid makes the heart unable to pump enough

blood into the body. This type of shock can cause many organs to stop working and cause internal bleeding. In court on Saturday, the public prosecutor claimed that the victim had called his employer Mohammad Imran for help, stating he had been kidnapped from a spot near a popular Bowbazar confectionery, and asking him to bring money.

Sources said that while Rs 10,000 was demanded, the victim could not be contacted again, presumably because the accused continued hitting him even before his employer could contact him again.

According to police sources, Imran informed cops but even after police arrived around 8.45 am, the hostel door re-



The accused being produced in court on Saturday; (far left) cops posted in front of the hostel on Nirmal Chandra Dey Street

TMC netas worried over lynch cases

Tirumool has expressed anxiety over the twin cases of lynching in the city. Kolkata mayor Firhad Hakim said, "This has been happening for a few days. People are being lynched based on rumors. People are losing their patience. Why would I participate in a mob beating? If I have any complaint, I will inform the police. The police will arrest the person and investigate. If the complaint is true, the criminal will be punished. Taking the law into one's hands is a serious matter. Some are beating people under the pretext of child abduction, some under the accusation of witchcraft. Here, I saw someone being beaten for being called a mobile thief." Former RS MP Kunal Ghosh said that while police and administration were doing their best, he could not understand why educated people — studying in universities — indulge in such acts. TNN

maintained closed. Police said the victim could finally be taken to hospital around 10.30 am.

The prosecutor, arguing that more people were involved in the incident, some of whom had fled, and it was necessary to interrogate the detainees, requested 14 days' custody. The judge ordered police custody until July 4.

Police said the attack seems to have been executed with a plan. Irshad was taken to a room on the first floor and his hands and feet were tied before he was beaten with a blunt object. Cops have seized bats and wickets from the hostel which will be sent for forensic examination.

Cops also said CCTV footage was missing and suspect it was tampered with to destroy evidence. Police sources claimed that while Irshad was being assaulted, three hostel

residents tried to delete the CCTV footage.

"On Friday morning, Irshad left home to buy beverage in Bowbazar. Around 8.15 am, the owner of a nearby shop informed the hostel residents that a youth was loitering in the area and could be a cellphone thief. Allegedly, Irshad was dragged into the hostel and his assault was led by two former students of Udayan Hostel. It seems he was assaulted on the second floor," a source said.

The defence lawyer argued that the main perpetrator's name was not mentioned by cops and it was unclear who had beaten the man. Requesting bail, the lawyer said the 14 arrested individuals were taken into custody merely on suspicion and that they were bright students with no intent to kill.

The victim is survived by his wife and two kids.

NEWS DIGEST

2 dead, 3 hurt in van-truck crash

Two persons died and three were injured in a head-on collision between a truck and a pick-up van in Baruipur on Saturday. Cops said the driver of the van control of the vehicle, hit a power pole and then crashed into a truck. The injured were taken to Baruipur Hospital and later transferred to Kolkata. The incident sparked tension in the area and cops have been deployed at the spot.

5 held for gambling

Five people were arrested for gambling in the Garia Panchpota area on Saturday. The accused — Srikrishna Das, Khokon Adhikari, Suman Sardar, Gopal Sau and Madhusudan Sardar — will be taken to Baruipur Sub-Divisional Court on Sunday. Cases under sections 3 and 4 of the Gambling Act have been filed against them.

Cyclist killed

A 28-year-old cyclist, a resident of Garden Reach Ramnagar area, was killed after being hit by a heavy goods vehicle on CGR Road around 11.50 pm on Friday. He was taken to SSKM Hospital where he was declared brought dead.

'Pine Cone' shuns intimacy taboo in LGBTQ+ films

Priyanka.Dasgupta
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Kolkata: Prior to the pride month screening of 'Pine Cone' at the American Centre, director Onir divulged that the film was captured on an iPhone as a poignant response to the defence ministry's refusal to grant permission for filming his script inspired by the real-life story of a gay Army major.

Wednesday's screening of his film ignited a fervent debate on the portrayal of intimacy in LGBTQ+ cinema and compelled many from the community to courageously share their personal stories of being subjected to abuse by heterosexual men in relationships.

Elizabeth Lee, director of the American Center Kolkata, affirmed that the institute serves as a safe haven for everyone, including LGBTQI+ individuals. "It is crucial to sustain these discussions not only during Pride Month but throughout the year," she said.

Onir revealed to TOI that it was a deliberate choice for him to celebrate desire within the LGBTQ+ community. "I believe that we of-



A panel discussion featuring Onir, Elizabeth Lee, Myna Mukherjee and Sandeepa Das at the American Centre on Saturday

ten tend to perceive sex in a negative light. My aim was to shatter that taboo and celebrate desire," Onir said.

'Pine Cone' highlighted how LGBTQ+ community members are frequently betrayed due to their partner's inability to be open and unashamed. "I did not intend to portray gay men as epitomes of virtue. No one is perfect, and often, we adopt these shades of grey after enduring severe hurt and abuse," Onir said.

Transwoman Sandeepa Das said, "I noticed myself in those narratives through the scenes where all of our reflections can be found, irrespective of our gender identities and sexualities.

Heterosexual biological males kill trans feminine emotions and their bodies not because they just hate us. They kill us because they hate the idea being in love with us," Das told TOI. Chaitanya Sharma, who recently celebrated two years of socially marrying his gay partner, also found the film relatable. "It was highly relatable to the community, capturing their experiences, struggles and triumphs in a way that resonated with many individuals. The creators took care to ensure the portrayal was accurate and respectful, providing a thorough and insightful depiction of the community's stories," Sharma said.

3 gangsters from Bihar held for BT Rd shooting

Sanjib Chakraborty | TNN

Kolkata: Three Bihar-based gangsters — Salil Paswan, Ankit Kumar and Rahul Singh — were arrested from Bihar's Samastipur by the detective wing of the Barrackpore Commissionerate on Friday in connection with the shooting on BT Road (Belgharia). Businessman Ajay Mondal of Barrackpore's Nonachandanpukur had a close shave after bike-borne miscreants riddled his luxury car with bullets on June 15. The trio was brought to Barrackpore on Saturday ontransit remand.

Mondal had received at least three threat calls demanding money where the caller introduced himself as Bihar-based jailed gangster Subodh Singh.

Mondal on Saturday claimed he received another threat call on Friday while the caller introduced himself as Anish Thakur, who is lodged in Dum Dum Central Correctional Home in connection with the murder of the Titagarh councillor and a lawyer Manish Shukla.

Another businessman in Barrackpore, Tapas Bhakat, also claimed that he received an extortion call on Friday.

Man lynched on theft suspicion, 3 arrested

Dwaipayan Ghosh
& Mayukh Sengupta | TNN

Kolkata: A 22-year-old man, identified as Prasen Mondal alias Prasenjit — was allegedly lynched on Saturday by three of his neighbours, including a father-son duo and a Bangladeshi national, on suspicion of theft.

The accused alleged that the youth had stolen a mobile phone from their residence at the Pollenite locality in the Electronic Complex police station area

in Salt Lake. According to police sources, two of the accused — Tapan Sarkar and his son Harshit — were sleeping in their house with their windows open. The Sarkars realized that one of their mobile phones was missing and informed their Bangladeshi neighbour and friend Sreedam Mondal.

The three suspected that Prasen — who allegedly had been involved in petty thefts before — might be involved in stealing the cellphone as well.

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KP closes probe into Kasba school death

Dwaipayan.Ghosh
@timesgroup.com

Kolkata: The Kolkata Police's detective department has submitted to court that it is closing the probe into the alleged "murder" of 16-year-old student Sk Shaan, a student of class X, in a Kasba school on Sep 4 last year. Four teachers, including the principal, had been facing murder charges.

Cops submitted the report in the final form as "Mistake of Fact" last month, following which the case has now been officially declared closed.

"Considering the facts revealed by witnesses, seizures, scientific evidence, circumstantial evidence and medical documents, no iota of evidence could be achieved against the FIR accused... the investigation has been completed. The complaints of murder made by Shaan's father in the unnatural death could not be substantiated for want of proper evidence," an officer quoted the final report.

Initially probed by Jadavpur division, the case was currently being probed by the detective department.

Police have spoken extensively to classmates of Sk Shaan, who died following a fall on the school premises, to find out what had transpired on that day. The investigators had also sent CCTV images to forensic experts, the primary report of which, too, failed to establish anything

Cops rule out foul play Kasba school death

conclusive. Autopsy experts have so far ruled out foul play though Shaan's father had alleged murder. Police have still not officially called it an accidental fall nor a case of suicide.

Pointing at certain evidence — CCTV footage showing the boy walking in and out of an under-construction room on the fifth floor and a witness account of him trying to sit on the terrace parapet with his legs hanging out — police said the victim was unlikely to have been murdered. "We have so far questioned 31 school employees, including the teachers. Three students, too, have volunteered to record their statements." The post-mortem report, along with a forensic report, had officially confirmed death was not homicidal.

The school, which was shut for several days last year, is currently functioning normally. The top brass has asked the Kasba Traffic Guard and Kasba police to ensure smooth daily school activities.

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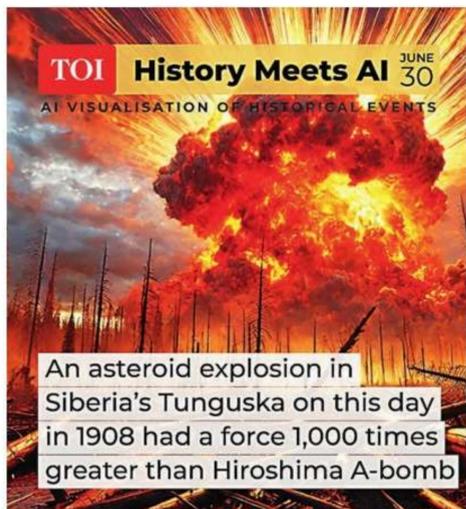
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TMC shoots back as gov says he will file libel case against Didi

Bengal governor CV Ananda Bose on Saturday told ANI that he would file a defamation case against CM Mamata Banerjee, drawing sharp reactions from Trinamool.

Speaking to ANI in New Delhi, Governor Bose said, "I will file a defamation case against the individual, Mamata Banerjee who happens to be the CM." Bose's reactions came in wake of CM Banerjee remarking on Thursday that "women did not feel safe to go to Raj Bhawan."

Two newly elected Trinamool MLAs — Sayantika Banerjee and Reyat Hossain Sarkar — are staging a dharna at assembly, demanding their oath-taking be held in the assembly itself, and not Raj Bhawan. Former TMC RS MP Kunal Ghosh said: "We have no information on whether the governor has filed, or plans to file, any defamation case against anyone, including

CM Mamata Banerjee. Courts are for all, anyone can go there, but then one also has to bear the pain of losing a court battle. Raj Bhawan mein kuch kuch hua hai (a few things have happened in Raj Bhawan). The police have learnt of it, so has the CM. Based on such information, the CM made certain observations. That is it."

Speaking to ANI, the governor said: "Mamata Banerjee has crossed all the limits. She has to function within the requirements of civilized conduct. As a CM, I gave her all regard and respect, considering her as my esteemed constitutional colleague. But she feels that she can bully anybody and cast aspersions on my character. My character is not to be negotiated by an individual like Mamata Banerjee... Any amount of assassination of my self-respect will not be tolerated... She cannot bully or terrify me." TNN & AGENCIES

Four workers die in TN fireworks unit explosion

Virudhunagar: Four workers died in a blast at a fireworks manufacturing unit in Tamil Nadu's Virudhunagar district on Saturday.

The blast happened at Guru Star Fireworks — licensed by the district revenue officer — in Banduvarpatti village. On Saturday morning, a blast was triggered due to friction when some workers

were mixing chemicals in a one of the 10 sheds. Four workers — M Rajkumar, 45, of Achankulam, K Marisamy, 40, of Soorangudi, M Selvakumar, 35, and M Mohan, 30, of Vembakottai died on the spot. The watchman of the unit Ramachandran, 60, sustained minor injuries and was admitted to the Satur hospital. TNN

CPM received crime proceeds in Kerala bank scam, says ED

'Party Collected Money From Beneficiaries Of Benami Loans'

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Kochi: Kerala's governing CPM is in possession of proceeds of crime in the Karuvannur bank fraud and it has been invested in immovable properties and credited to five accounts of the party in Karuvannur Service Co-operative Bank Ltd, Enforcement Directorate claimed on Saturday.

CPM received funds from beneficiaries as donations through the bank's governing body, the central agency said in a statement.

ED sources said the agency was carrying out PMLA (Prevention of Money Laundering Act) investigation in the case by considering the party as a respondent. Official sources said the party may be named as an accused in the next supplementary chargesheet to be filed in this case. If so, it will be the second political party to be arraigned as accused in a money laundering investigation after Aam Aadmi Party. AAP was recently named by the ED in the Delhi excise policy case.



Loan amounts were disbursed in cash to prevent money trail, ED said

ED confirmed in the statement that it has provisionally attached assets worth Rs 29.29 crore of various individuals and entities, including CPM's Thrissur district secretary, as part of the investigation. The attached assets include 18 immovable properties valued at Rs 28.65 crore, consisting of land and buildings in Kerala belonging to beneficiaries of the scam, the agency said. This includes an

Sources said CPM may be named as an accused in the next supplementary chargesheet to be filed in this case. If so, it will be the second political party to be arraigned as accused in a money laundering investigation after AAP

immovable property valued at Rs 10 lakh registered in the name of the CPM district secretary for its party office. The

attached assets also include balances of Rs 63.62 lakh in eight bank accounts of CPM committees in Thrissur.

ED claimed in the statement that benami and illegal loans were sanctioned by the co-operative at the behest of the CPM Thrissur district committee. In return, the party district committee collected money from the beneficiaries.

The statement added that bogus loans were sanctioned by Karuvannur bank on the same property multiple times without the knowledge of society members. Benami loans were sanctioned to non-members against inflated property valuations in the names of other members and such loan funds were siphoned off and laundered by the beneficiaries, the ED claimed. The loan amounts were disbursed in cash to prevent a trail of the money, the statement said.

The total proceeds of crime attached so far in this case by the ED is Rs 117.78 crore. The chargesheet was filed by the agency in Nov 2023.

CJI: Every Indian can eat what they want to eat, marry whom they want to marry

Continued from P 1

CJI D Y Chandrachud, speaking at the National Judicial Academy's regional conference in Kolkata, said: "We exist in a federal structure marked by a great deal of diversity, which allows all citizens to think as they wish to think, speak as they wish to speak. Every Indian citizen can worship as they intend to worship, follow people they want to follow, eat what they want to eat and are entitled to marry whom they want to marry, or not marry at all."

Chandrachud also expressed his reservations at the use of the term "temple of justice" for courts. "I get reticent when I am told we are in the temple of justice," he said. "There is a grave danger when we perceive ourselves as deities in those temples. Because 'temples' postulate that judges are in the role of deities. I would rather recast the role of judges as servers of the people. Then you bring that compassion and empathy — judging people but not being judgmental about people."



CJI D Y Chandrachud in Belur Math on Saturday

"I am not saying that judges do not possess their own personal philosophies," the CJI said.

"The most important point is how we, as judges, convey the work we are doing. For instance, 'I find justice writing I will not give a direction for police protection to a couple', merely because that couple was in a consensual relationship outside marriage. But our law protects relationships which are in the nature of marriage and not exactly marital relationships."

"Yet, you find judges writing that if they have not entered into a marriage and you are staying together, I as a

judge will not grant direction of protection to the young couple even if there is a risk that the couple may be subjected to an honour killing," the CJI said, adding, "Is that the true nature of a judge? Or are we giving effect to our own personal ideas of what is moral or immoral in place of constitutional mortality. Or, you come across a case in which the judge has said, because this is an interfaith marriage and you have not taken the permission of your parents, I am not going to grant you the benefit of protection of the law. Is the judge giving vent to their own personal view of how society should live their life?"

Mamata: Must uphold purity of judicial process

Continued from P 1

Sharing the stage with CM Mamata Banerjee were CJI D Y Chandrachud, SC judges Justices B R Gavai, Dipankar Datta and Rajesh Bindal and Calcutta HC CJ T S Sivagnanam. Banerjee spoke briefly with the CJI, referring to him as "a popular chief justice of India". Chandrachud and his father (Y V Chandrachud, the 16th CJI), she said, have been serving the country "for generations", she said.

Banerjee posted X, "Judiciary stands as a guardian of our constitutional rights, a beacon of justice, and a cornerstone of our democratic framework. In these times, more than ever, we must strive to uphold the purity and honesty of our judicial processes, free from any political bias. People place immense faith in the judiciary, looking to it as a source of fairness and truth. It is this trust that we must honour and protect."

TMC, Cong & SP mull picking Faizabad MP as dy speaker face

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Kolkata: Trinamool Congress, SP and Congress are exploring the option of projecting SP's Faizabad MP **Awadhesh Prasad** as INDIA bloc's deputy speaker candidate. This comes amid reports that Congress was keen to have K Suresh — eight-time MP from Kerala — as the opposition bloc's deputy speaker pick. TMC general secretary Abhishek Banerjee, SP president Akhilesh Yadav and leader of the opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi have already discussed this, said sources, and were likely to take this up with other alliance partners. Sources say that the nomination of Prasad was an idea of Bengal CM and Trinamool chief Mamata Banerjee who conveyed it to Abhishek.

According to sources, the three INDIA bloc seniors seemed to agree that Prasad would be an "out-of-the-box" candidate and his nomination would have "strong symbolism" since Ayodhya was a part of Faizabad LS constituency which 78-year-old Prasad won by over 50,000 votes. Prasad is a Dalit who won from an unreser-

ved seat. While conferring with Rahul and Akhilesh, Abhishek suggested that choosing INDIA bloc's deputy speaker candidate should "send out a strong message", said sources. He focused on symbolism since numbers don't stack up well for INDIA bloc if there is a contest. A senior Trinamool MP said: "INDIA bloc will contest for the deputy speaker's post. In the remaining three days of this session... even later... we will collectively demand the post. A consensus is being worked out by the parties' leadership on possible nominees."

Article 93 of the Constitution says that the Lok Sabha "shall choose two of its members as Speaker and deputy speaker". The 17th LS was the first since Independence which didn't have a deputy speaker.

Asked about the situation in which NDA didn't accept the opposition's proposal of a deputy speaker election, a TMC MP said: "The 17th Lok Sabha and the 18th Lok Sabha are different. There's an NDA govt now, not a BJP govt. We will continue to aggressively push for the election in this session and all following sessions."

CM keeps promise, 2 north Bengal schools get grant for facelift

Pinak Priya Bhattacharya | TNN

Cooch Behar: Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee kept her promise made to students of two prominent schools in Cooch Behar who had requested her to arrange for renovation of their schools. On Thursday, Jenkins School was granted Rs 29 lakh while Chakchaka High School was sanctioned Rs 46 lakh.

The CM was in Cooch Behar on June 17 on her visit to meet victims of the Kancharjungha Express crash. "Students of Jenkins School met her with flowers while she was going to Madan Mohan temple to offer puja. They appealed to her about the renovation of classrooms. Similarly, while Banerjee was on her way to meet Rajya Sabha MP Ananta Ma-

haraj, she was greeted by students of Chakchaka High School who requested the CM to ramp up the infrastructure of the school by adding classrooms and developing the playground," said a source. The CM had asked officials to look into the matter so that the funds could be sanctioned at the earliest.

Sources said that after the CM's visit, DM Arvind Kumar Meena conducted a survey of the schools. "At Chakchaka, the money will be spent on development of the playground and constructing two additional classrooms. The PWD has already started the work and it will be completed within three months. Jenkins School is a heritage building and the sanctioned money will be spent on its overall repairing," said Meena.

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New terminal was supposed to be completed in '24

Continued from P 1

Sources said the canopy is made of a sustainable fabric using wood pulp considered a high-end material known for being soft and durable.

The airport has been functioning in a temporary building meant for cargo handling. The new permanent terminal was supposed to be completed by end of Feb 2024. However, it is still under construction and the new deadline has been set for Aug 15 this year. The greenfield airport spread over 1,025 ha was built at the cost of Rs 1,405 crore. With a 3,040m-long and 45m-wide runway, it handles 10 to 12 flights connecting destinations like Delhi, Mumbai, Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Pune and Goa, and 3,000 to 4,000 passengers travel every day.

The greenfield airport spread over 1,025 ha was built at the cost of Rs 1,405 crore

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Airport roof collapse: TMC hits out at Centre over 'failing infra'

Dwaipayan Ghosh @timesgroup.com

Kolkata: Trinamool on Saturday criticized PM Narendra Modi-led central govt for the "failing infrastructure" in the country following the collapse of a canopy outside Rajkot terminal in Gujarat and similar instances in Delhi and Jabalpur that had led to a death.

Taking to X, TMC listed the series of recent mishaps that have shown how constructions have been "shoddy and hurried" ones. "The Modi Govt. is falling apart — quite literally. Following similar incidents at Delhi and Jabalpur, the canopy outside Rajkot airport terminal in Gujarat has now collapsed. Everything inaugurated by PM @narendramodi must undergo rigorous safety evaluations before more lives are put at risk by their shod-



The canopy at the forecourt of Terminal 1 at Delhi's IGI Airport collapsed on Friday morning, leaving a cab driver dead

dy, hurried constructions," it said. In another post, TMC said: "Ayodhya's Rampath caves in thrice in a matter of four days while Ram Mandir's roof faces leakage! The

failing infrastructure of Ayodhya exposes how @BJP4India rushed the Ram Mandir Project before the elections without having any regard for the safety of people." "The nation crumbles under the burden of Modi 3.0!" it added.

TMC's Birbhum MP Sababdi Roy described the Delhi airport incident as "unfortunate". She attributed the tragedy to the haste of completing the work for political gains. Roy said: "The roof collapse at Delhi airport Terminal 1 proves that the work was rushed to gain recognition before the Lok Sabha polls."

Roy also criticized the water seepage at Ram temple in Ayodhya. "The Modi govt should also take responsibility for these irregularities and respond. We have seen the consequences of vote-centric work," she said.

Woman 'dies' twice as hubby, son claim ₹1.1 crore insurance

Sandhya.Nair@timesgroup.com

Mumbai: In an insurance fraud involving Rs 1.1 crore in claims of which close to Rs 70 lakh was already received, a 45-year-old woman from Bhayander, Kanchan Pai, also known as Pavitra, allegedly faked her death twice in two years.

Her husband and son collectively claimed Rs 1.1 crore from five private sector insurance companies between 2021 and 2023. They had received nearly Rs 70 lakh in death claims and were awaiting the remaining amount when the fraud was exposed. All three are absconding.

The scam involved obtaining death certificates and cremation receipts with the help of a medical practitioner, identified as Dr Ashutosh Yadav (50), who is also absconding.

The first fake death was reported on Oct 11, 2021, with the

ALL 3 ON THE RUN

cause stated as cardiac respiratory arrest. Kanchan's son, Dhanraj (30), submitted the necessary documents, and the insurance company transferred Rs 20.4 lakh to his bank account after a third-party verification that included visiting the family. Similarly, another private sector insurance com-

pany settled another claim of Rs 25 lakh for the first "death" to the nominee, Dhanraj.

The fake death came to light on Jan 30, 2024, when another private insurance company approached the complainant seeking details of Kanchan's death claim. This time, the policy was under the name Pavitra, with her husband, Rohit (48), as the nominee. The death was recorded as Oct 20, 2023, with a claim amount of Rs 24.2 lakh.

Two more claims of Rs 24 lakh and Rs 17 lakh for the second "death", in which Rohit was the nominee, were pending when the fraud came to light.

Telangana cops arrest homeless 'serial killer'

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Hyderabad: A homeless daily wage labourer named B Kamsaiah aka Kasim allegedly turned out to be a serial killer following his arrest in Mahabubnagar district of Telangana, more than a month after a woman was found murdered in May. Police said the arrested man, who used to sleep on pavements, is suspected to be involved in five other murders since 2022.

Of the six people killed in the past two years, five were women, Mahabubnagar SP D Janaki said. This is the first time the accused has been arrested, police said.

5 hurt as car driven by teen runs amok

New Delhi: Five people sustained injuries after they were hit by a car driven by a 16-year-old boy in New Delhi on Saturday. Police have apprehended the minor, who is the son of a businessman, and seized the car. They plan to book his father who owns the vehicle. The injured were rushed

to the hospital after the incident. All of them have minor injuries.

Police said that they received information about the incident, which took place around 8 am. A team of cops apprehended the driver at the spot. Further investigation revealed the boy was returning home

with two friends after having breakfast in Krishna Nagar. Around 7.40 am, the car collided with a cart vendor near Karkardooma Court.

The boy told the cops that when the vendor shouted, he panicked and lost control of the vehicle. This led to him hitting four more. **TNN**

MVA consensual face for polls: Pawar

Kolhapur: NCP (SCP) chief Sharad Pawar on Saturday countered ally and Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Sanjay Raut's claim about the necessity for a CM face in the Maharashtra assembly elections later this year, reports Abhijeet Patil.

Pawar said that instead of any individual, the alliance — Maha Vikas Aghadi — itself is a "consensual face" and collective leadership would be the approach.

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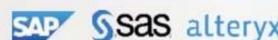
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GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
TENDER NOTICE
NIEQ No. PHE/NTKC/SE/NieQ-01/2024-2025 is invited by the Superintending Engineer New Town Kolkata W/S Circle, PHE/Dt. Details information about the tender will be available in the website - www.wbtenders.gov.in as well as in the office notice board ICA-T10115(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
O/O the Executive Engineer, P.W.Dt., Paschim Medinipur Electrical Division, Sahid Mangal Pandey Sarani, Midnapur-721101
NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER
No. WBPWD/EE/PMED/NIQ-01/e-Q/2024-2025
Tender ID: 2024_WBPWD_701039_1
Last date of submission of bid: 19.06.2024 upto 1:00 P.M. Name of Work: E work for providing electrical supply in Bidhan Block, Midnapore Medical College & Hospital, Paschim Medinipur. EMD Amt. Rs. 41,000.00. Further details can be seen in the above mentioned office during working hours or in Official Website www.wbtenders.gov.in For all details and online tender submission visit <https://wbtenders.gov.in> Sd/- EE, PMED, P.W.Dt. ICA-T10141(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER
NIE No. 02/2024-25 of E.E. Mid.Div./SS/P.W. Dte. The e-Tender is being invited for (i) Annual maintenance of plants/trees with cleaning of compound premises including drains within the campus of Social Sector, P.W.Dt. (ii) Construction of Drone Demonstration Platform with access Road from Ghat, ITI Midnapore in the District of Paschim Medinipur. against Tender ID: 2024_WBPWD_700804_1 to 2. Last Date of Submission of Tender is on 16.07.2024 at 14:00. Other details and Corrigendum if any will be obtained from the website <https://wbtenders.gov.in> & Departmental website only. Sd/- Executive Engineer, Midnapore Division, Social Sector, P.W. Dte. ICA-T10127(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
HALDIA DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
City Centre, P.O. Debhog, Haldia Dist. Purba Medinipur, PIN-721657
Toll Free No. 1800-345-3224
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
No. 04/HDA/ELECT/2024-25
Online (E-Tender) tender in a two bid system is hereby invited for "SUPPLY (TEMPORARY), INSTALLATION, ANNUAL OPERATION & MAINTENANCE OF 12KVA, 415V, 3PH GREEN DIESEL GENERATOR (SOUND PROOF) FOR TWO YEARS AT HALDIA BHAVAN". Estimated Cost of work: rate to be quoted by the bidders. Document downloading date: 28/06/24 to 12/07/24 up to 1:30 p.m. Starting date of bid submission: 05/07/2024 at 5:00 p.m. Last date of online bid submission: 12/07/2024 up to 1:30 p.m. Information in details is available in the office and in the website of HDA : www.hda.gov.in Sd/- Chief Executive Officer, HDA. ICA-T10135(2)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
e-TENDER NOTICE
No. 658/01-NIT/E-Tend/AG-PMBND/2024-25 Dated: 21.06.2024
Notice Inviting e-Tender for supply of P.P. Chemicals & Micronutrient etc. from the bonafide, resourceful suppliers/manufacturers etc. by the office of the Deputy Director of Agriculture (Admin.), Paschim Bardhaman, Shaban Bhawan, Upper Chelidanga, Sarani-721304 under the Department of Agriculture, Govt. of West Bengal during the FY. 2024-25. Tender Papers containing all the terms & conditions can be obtained from the website: <https://wbtenders.gov.in> w.e.f. 28.06.2024. Last date of submission of tender paper is upto 17.00 hrs. on 12.07.2024 and it will be opened on 15.07.2024 from 12.00 hrs. onwards. Sd/- Z. Khan, Deputy Director of Agriculture (Admin.), Paschim Bardhaman. ICA-T10141(1)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
PWD TENDER NOTICE
The Executive Engineer, N.H. Division-IX, P.W.(Roads) Directorate, Matigara invites online percentage rate e-tender for the works: 1) "Repairing of Potholes in different stretches from km. 654.00 to km 670.00 of NH 31 in the district of Jalpaiguri under N.H. Division IX, during the year 2024-25" amounting to Rs.19,92,500.00, vide NIT No.: 2 (tender ID: 2024_NH_701056_1) of 2024-25 of EE/NHD/IX; Bid submission closing date (online): 15.07.2024 upto 17.00 hrs.; Details of NIT and Tender documents may be downloaded from the website: <https://wbtenders.gov.in> and for any other queries please contact through e-mail: nhdvision9.pwd@gmail.com Corrigendum if any and other information regarding bid evaluation will be published in the through e-tender portal only. Sd/- EE/NHD-IX, Matigara, Siliguri. ICA-T10143(3)/2024

South East Central Railway
Tender Notice for miscellaneous work
Srl. No. (1) E-Tender No. DRM-ENGG-BSP-T-71-24-25. Date: 21/06/2024.
Work: Provision of Galvalume Sheets, Sprinkler and other allied miscellaneous work at Bhupdeopur & Robertson goods shed under the jurisdiction of Assistant Divisional Engineer Raigarh of Bilaspur Division. Tender Value (In Rs.): ₹ 14,77,33,434/-, EMD (In Rs.): ₹ 8,88,700/-, Completion Period: 12 Months.
Start date of Submission of Tender: From 01-07-2024. Last date of Submission of Tender: Upto 11.00 hrs. on 15-07-2024. The complete information of above e-Tender. Notices is available on websites <https://www.reps.gov.in> Bids other than e-bids shall not be accepted against above Tenders.
Div. Railway Manager (Engg.) CPR/10/FL/15 S.E.C.Railway, Bilaspur

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY
NOTICE INVITING OPEN TENDER
TENDER Notice No. 25/TRD/DNR/OT/24-25
The Divisional Railway Manager, E.C. Railway Danapur invites sealed tender on behalf of the President of India for the following works. Tender No.: TRD/DNR/OT/25/24-25 (1) Name of work with its location : (Outsourcing of PSI maintenance activities for electrified sections over DNR Division for Two (02) years). (2) Approx. cost of the work (NIT value) : Rs. 4,48,82,169.08 (3) Earnest money to be deposited : Rs. 3,74,300/- (4) Date & Time for selling, submission and opening of Tender : The tender have to be submitted online on www.reps.gov.in upto 12.00 hrs. on the date of opening i.e. 19.07.2024 and will be opened on the same day at 12.30 hrs. (5) Website particulars, notice board location where complete details of tender can be seen and address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased etc. : Detailed tender notice, eligibility criteria & tender documents can be seen from the CRIS website: <http://www.reps.gov.in> & full details of notice can be seen in notice board of Sr. DEE (TRD/E.C. Railway Danapur. All corrigendum will be uploaded on website if required.

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
PWD TENDER NOTICE
EE, JCD, PWD, Jalpaiguri, invites e-Tender for the work of "Repair and restoration works of the footbridge between Jalpaiguri Treasury Building and Annex building, Under Jalpaiguri Construction Division, P.W.D. Jalpaiguri during the year 2024-2025". WBPWD/EE/JCD/PWdte NIT No. 06 of 2024-2025. Estimated Amount up to Tender Rs. 39,71,700. Tender ID: 2024_PWD_701107_1. Bid submission start date (online) 02.07.24 from 11.00 A.M. Bid submission closing date (online) 09.07.24 up to 11.00 A.M. Corrigendum if any will be published in website only. Details of NIT & tender documents may be downloaded from <http://wbtenders.gov.in> Sd/- EE, JCD, PWD, Jalpaiguri, Govt. of W.B. ICA-T10153(2)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
PWD TENDER NOTICE
Executive Engineer, Barasat Division, P.W.D. invites online e-Tender for the work of "Development of Flank of Badaria Municipal Road from 0.050 kmp to 0.500 kmp, 1.960 kmp to 2.480 kmp and 2.530 kmp to 2.920 kmp (Total length 1360 Mtr. under Barasat Division P.W.D. in the district of Jajrapur, 24 Parganas e-NIT No. WBPWD/BSTD/EE/NIT16e/24-25, Tender ID: 2024_WBPWD_701440_1. Bid submission start date (online) 27/06/2024 from 6:30 P.M. Bid submission end date (online) 20/07/2024 up to 3:30 P.M. Corrigendum if any will be published in website only. Details of N.I.T. and Tender document may be downloaded from: <http://wbtenders.gov.in> Sd/- Executive Engineer-I, Barasat Division ICA-T10152(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
PWD TENDER NOTICE
e-Tender of NIT No. 02/2024-25 by the of E.E./Diamond Harbour Highway Division
EE, Diamond Harbour Hwy Div, Dakshin Hazipur, Diamond Harbour-743331 invites online percentage rate e-tender whose ID No. 2024_SH_701428_1. The details can be obtained from the website: <https://wbtenders.gov.in> & office notice board. Corrigendum if issued will be published only on website previously mentioned. Documents download end date (online) & Bid submission end date (online) will be 09.07.2024 up to 15.00 Hrs. Sd/- EE, Diamond Harbour Highway Division, P.W.(Roads) Directorate, Govt. of WB ICA-T10157(2)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
Office of the Deputy Director of Agriculture (Admin.), Birbhum
NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER
No. AGR/BIR/DDA(ADMIN)/NIT/02/2024-25 (<https://wbtenders.gov.in>)
Supply of Plant Protection chemicals & Micro nutrients under different schemes during the FY. 2024-25 for Birbhum district. Last Date of application for submission of online bid 06.07.24. Details of advertisement will be available on the O/D DDA(Admin.), Birbhum at www.wbtenders.gov.in Sd/- Director of Agriculture, West Bengal ICA-T10111(2)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER
Executive Engineer Berhampore Division-I, PWD invites tender through online for 10 (ten) Nos. of Regular maintenance work in different locations under this Division vide NIT No. WBPWD/EE/BD/VE-NIT-02/2024-25. Tender ID: 2024_PWD_700815_1
Tender ID: 2024_PWD_700815_2
Tender ID: 2024_PWD_700815_3
Tender ID: 2024_PWD_700815_4
Tender ID: 2024_PWD_700815_5
Tender ID: 2024_PWD_700815_6
Tender ID: 2024_PWD_700815_7
Tender ID: 2024_PWD_700815_8
Tender ID: 2024_PWD_700815_9
Tender ID: 2024_PWD_700815_10
Bid Submission end date: 11.07.2024 at 6.00 P.M. Details will be available from the website: <https://wbtenders.gov.in> and notice board of this office on all working days within office hours. Sd/- Executive Engineer, P.W.D., Berhampore Division-I. ICA-T10140(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
e-TENDER NOTICE
E-tender is invited by the Commissioner of Police Kolkata for 1) "Construction of Underground Reservoir of Forty Thousand (40,000) Litres capacity for storage drinking water supplied by K.M.C. within the compound of Narkeldanga Police Housing Estate, Kolkata-700009, during the year 2024-25". 2) "Construction of Child Friendly Corner, construction toilet attached to Addl. OC's room, repair & renovation of Addl. OC's room and Addl. OC's rest room and painting of Western side Boundary wall of Muchipara Police Station, Kolkata, during the year 2024-2025". The last date for submission of the e-tenders is 16/07/2024 up to 15.00 hours. The NIT document and other details will be available in the website: www.wbtenders.gov.in Sd/- for Commissioner of Police, Kolkata. ICA-T10117(2)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
PW (ROADS) TENDER NOTICE
EE, Cob Hwy. Divn., P.W. (Roads) Dte. invites online e-tender for the work of - 1) Emergent potholes and patch repair work at Dhalpal - Natabari road from Ch. 1.50 kmp to 4.50 kmp under Cooch Behar Highway Sub-Division-II under Cooch Behar Highway Division, P.W.(Roads) Directorate in the district of South 24 Parganas during the year 2024-25. NIT No. 02(E) of 2024-25, (SI No. 1), Estimated Amount: Rs. 24,42,837.00, Tender ID: 2024_SH_701115_1. 2) Urgent protection or embankment between 0.00 Kmp and 1.00 Kmp of Hazrahath Nayarhat road of Mathabhanga Highway Sub division under Coochbehar Highway Division in the district of Coochbehar. NIT No. 02(E) of 2024-25, (SI No. 2), Estimated Amount: Rs. 34,69,999. Tender ID: 2024_SH_701115_2. Bid submission Start date (online): 01/07/2024 from 9.00 A.M. Bid submission closing date (online): 15/07/2024 up to 06.00 P.M. Corrigendum if any will be published in website only. Details of NIT and Tender documents may be downloaded from <https://wbtenders.gov.in> Sd/- Executive Engineer, Cooch Behar Highway Division, Cooch Behar. ICA-T10165(3)/2024

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE
E-Tenders are invited for execution of the following works by Chief Project Manager (GATI SHAKTI), E.C. Railway, Dhanbad dt 21.06.2024
Sl. No. E-Tender No.: 05-GS-DHN-2024-25. Name of the work with its location & completion period: DHN-CRP Section: Elimination of Level Crossing No. 3/A/3T, 4/A/2T, 6/C/3T, 6/A/1T, MC-7 & JK 07/08 by or Road Under Bridge (RUB) in DHN-CRP section. 18 (Eighteen) Months. Approx. Cost of work (In Rs.): ₹ 65,32,594.97. Earnest money (In Rs.): Earnest money is applicable as shown in <http://www.reps.gov.in> portal. Date & time for closing and opening of e-tender: Date of closing of e-tender at 17-00 hours on 22/07/2024, Date of opening of e-tender from 12.00 hrs. on 23.07.2024. Website particulars, notice board location where complete details of tender can be seen and address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased etc. : Detailed tender notice, eligibility criteria & tender documents can be seen from the CRIS website: <http://www.reps.gov.in> & full details of notice can be seen in notice board of Sr. DEE (TRD/E.C. Railway Danapur. All corrigendum will be uploaded on website if required.
Chief Project Manager (Gati Shakti) East Central Railway, Dhanbad PR/00595/DHNGS/ENGG/T24-25/36

World Bank OKs \$1.5bn financing for green H₂ projects in India

New Delhi: The World Bank's Board has approved \$1.5 billion loans to help India accelerate the development of low-carbon energy. The operation will seek to promote the development of a vibrant market for green hydrogen, continue to scale up renewable energy, and stimulate finance for low-carbon energy investments, according to the agency.

The programme will support reforms to boost the production of green hydrogen and electrolyzers. It supports reforms to boost renewable energy penetration. The financing includes a \$1.46 billion loan from International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) and a \$31.5 million credit from International Development Association (IDA).

"The World Bank is pleased to continue supporting India's low-carbon development strategy which will help achieve the country's net-zero target while creating clean energy jobs in the private sector," said Augustine Tano Kouame, World Bank Country Director for India. TNN

Wrong-side driving: 7 dead, 4 hurt as car hits another

Mohammed.Akhef
@timesgroup.com

Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar: Seven people died and four were seriously injured Friday in a head-on collision between two cars, one of them coming from the wrong side, on Samruddhi Mahamarg in Maharashtra's Jalna district.

Deceased include Fayyaz Mansuri, Faisal Mansuri and Altamash Mansuri, all from Mumbai, who were travelling in one car. The second car's driver, Sandeep Budhwant, and passengers Pradeep Misal, Vilas Kayande, and Aniket Chavan also perished in the accident. The injured are Shaleel Mansuri, Altamash Mansuri, driver Rajesh Kumar and an unidentified man.

As per preliminary probe, the Mansuri family was heading to Mumbai from Nagpur. People in the other car, driven by Budhwant, but instead of driving towards Mumbai and taking U-turn a few kilometres ahead, Budhwant decided to drive on the



Mangled remains of a car after an accident on Mumbai-Nagpur Expressway in Jalna on Friday

wrong side of the highspeed corridor. Mansuri family's driver, Rajesh Kumar, who was maintaining an estimated speed of 100kmph, did not expect any vehicle on the opposite direction.

Patrol teams of the highway traffic police reached the spot and carried out rescue operation. Highway traffic police inspector Ganesh Giri, in his report to the highway traffic headquarters, said wrong side driving was the reason for the accident. Taluka police station in Jalna registered a case and initiated probe.

Wrong-side toll: From 7.3k in '20 to 9k in '22

Dipak.Dash@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Road deaths due to wrong side driving have increased consistently for three years from 2020 to 2022 for which data is available. Chances of fatalities in such accidents is more on highways and expressways as vehicles travel at a higher speed. Govt data shows that in 2020, wrong side driving claimed 7,332 lives and in 2021 and 2022, the numbers increased to 8,122 and 9,094, respectively.

Data on road crash and fatalities of 2023 has not been published yet. Road safety experts said wrong side driving should attract stringent punishment and sections of penal law must be slapped on violators as such offenders are aware of the consequences of their road behaviour. They said there is a need to put a bet-

ter and more effective surveillance system to prevent wrong side driving.

Under BNS, which comes in to effect from July 1, rash and negligent driving attracts a penalty of jail up to six months, and/or fine up to Rs 5,000 for first offence (it was Rs 1,000 earlier). Any subsequent offence within three years attracts jail up to two years and/or a fine up to Rs 10,000.

Commuters caught driving against the flow of traffic will be booked under BNS in addition to getting challans as per Motor Vehicle Act. They must be held under Section 279 of IPC, which will be Section 184 under BNS. By driving against the flow of traffic, they intentionally attempt to risk others on the road," said Anil Chhikara, an expert on motor vehicle law and road safety.

At key meet, JD(U) reiterates spl status demand for Bihar

Akhilesh.Singh
@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Janata Dal (United) chief and Bihar CM Nitish Kumar Saturday appointed his confidante, Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Jha, a BJP-friendly face as his number-two (working president), while reiterating his demand for special status or a special package for Bihar, an issue on which there have been differences between Centre & the state in the past.

"Time has come when states should get special status or a special package so that the script of a developed Bihar could be written," the party said in the resolution. The decision was taken at a meeting of JD(U)'s national executive where the party reiterated its demand for special category status for Bihar, while adding that Centre could consider an alternative in a special package, its functionary Neeraj Kumar said. JD(U) demanded stringent action against culprits in paper leak cases and called for a strong law to rule out such incidents in future.

The decision to appoint Jha as working president is significant since he is known to have a good equation with BJP as he started his political innings with the saffron party before switching to JD(U). He also played a crucial role in reviving BJP-JD(U) alliance, which defied the challenge of INDIA bloc in Bihar.

Following his appointment, Jha said PM Modi has always paid attention to Bihar and expressed hope that the party's demand for special category status or a package for the state would be met.

Indira put us in jail, but never abused: Lalu

BJD chief and former Bihar CM Lalu Prasad Yadav Saturday recalled what they went through during the dark days of Emergency and said that PM Indira Gandhi put many functionaries behind bars, but never abused them. In a post on X, Lalu shared an article "The Sangh Silence in 1975" written by him and journalist Nalin Verma. In the article, they attacked BJP-led govt and said that although 1975 is a stain on country's democracy, let's not forget who doesn't respect the opposition in 2024. TNN

Following his appointment, Jha said PM Modi has always paid attention to Bihar and expressed hope that the party's demand for special category status or a package for the state would be met.

'Pre-term retirement norms not followed'

Continued from P1

In an office memorandum dated June 27, DoPT asked the departments concerned to furnish a report in this regard "by 15th day of each month starting from July 2024".

FR 56j/1 empowers the appropriate authority to retire any govt servant, if it is in public interest, by giving him a three-month notice in writing or three months' pay and allowances in lieu of such notice. The broad criteria followed in recommending premature retirement is that the govt servant should be of doubtful integrity and ineffective and not fit or competent to continue in the post held.

As per information shared by junior minister for personnel Jitendra

Singh with Rajya Sabha in Feb 2021, a total 340 officers were prematurely retired between 2014 and 2020. For Group A and B employees, premature retirement under Rule FR 56j may be handed after the employee turns 50 years if he has joined service before 35 years of age, and 55 years in other cases. For Group C employees, the premature retirement in public interest can be done after they complete 30 years of service. Rule 48(1)(b) too allows govt to retire an employee after completing 30 years of service, in public interest.

DoPT on Thursday regretted how various ministries and departments "are not adhering to the said guidelines, resulting in delay in identifying the govt employees due for review".

Chief Administrative Officer Air Force Station Chabua invites sealed quotation from the registered firm/vendor for purchase of Push back Chairs Qty-149 (123 Normal + 26 Executive) and carpet for 4450 Sq Ft proposed area. Bid documents may be collected from OIC Vanashree, Air Force Station Chabua by 07 July 24. Contact No 7542065901/ 8699964447.

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
Office of the Deputy Director of Agriculture (Admin.), Birbhum
NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER
No. AGR/BIR/DDA(ADMIN)/NIT/02/2024-25 (<https://wbtenders.gov.in>)
Supply of Plant Protection chemicals & Micro nutrients under different schemes during the FY. 2024-25 for Birbhum district. Last Date of application for submission of online bid 06.07.24. Details of advertisement will be available on the O/D DDA(Admin.), Birbhum at www.wbtenders.gov.in Sd/- Director of Agriculture, West Bengal ICA-T10111(2)/2024

e-TENDER NOTICE
Goenka College of Commerce & B.A. invites e-tenders for deployment of two Security Guards (F.Y. 2024-25) & other items. Detailed information provided at www.wbtenders.gov.in and www.goenkacollege.net (Security Guard NIT Number: GCCBA/NIT-1/2024-2025/2 Second Call)
Principal
GCC&BA, Kolkata

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
Gangasagar Bakhalh Development Authority
Gangasagar, Sagar, PIN-743606
NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER
No. EG_GBDA_85_2024-25
Dated: 26.06.2024
(E-Auction of Bakhalh Picnic ground) published on 25.06.2024. Bid submission start date (Online) 25.06.2024 at 09.00 hrs. Closing date of online bid for e-tender: 16.07.2024 at 15.00 hrs. Detailed information available in the website: www.gbdaonline.in and www.24pages.gov.in and in the office of the GBDA. Sd/- EG, GBDA. ICA-T10124(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
PWD TENDER NOTICE
Executive Engineer, Nadia Division, P.W.D. invites online e-tender for the work of "Checking, repairing and maintenance of different sorts of Electrical Installation of C. Roy Market, Kolkata under Assembly House Electrical Sub-Division, PWD for 12 months" Vide e-tender no. WBPWD/EE/KE/DE/NIQ-02/2024-25. Tender ID: 2024_WBPWD_701485_1. Bid submission end date is 11.07.2024 upto 12.00 P.M. Details of Tender documents including corrigendum, if any will be available at website: <http://wbtenders.gov.in> ICA-T10154(2)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
PWD TENDER NOTICE
Executive Engineer, Nadia Division, P.W.D. invites online e-tender for the work of "1. Annual maintenance and repair of Civil works for all Government Residential buildings under the jurisdiction of Krishnagar Sub-Division, P.W.D. during the year 2024-25". Tender ID: 2024_WBPWD_700851_1 Sl. 2 "Annual maintenance and repair of Civil works for all Government Non-Residential buildings under the jurisdiction of Krishnagar Sub-Division, P.W.D. during the year 2024-25". Tender ID: 2024_WBPWD_700851_2 Sl. 3 "Annual maintenance and repair of Sanitary & Plumbing and Civil works of the residential bungalow of the Executive Engineer, Nadia Division, P.W.D. under the jurisdiction of Krishnagar Sub-Division, P.W.D. during the year 2024-25". Tender ID: 2024_WBPWD_700851_3 Sl. 4 "Annual maintenance and repair of Sanitary and Plumbing works for all Government Non-Residential buildings under the jurisdiction of Krishnagar Sub-Division, P.W.D. during the year 2024-25". Tender ID: 2024_WBPWD_700851_5 Sl. 6 "Periodical repair and maintenance of Sanitary and Plumbing works of different Government offices within Collectorate Compound at Krishnagar, Nadia under Nadia Division, P.W.D. during the year 2024-25". Tender ID: 2024_WBPWD_700851_6 Sl. 7 "Periodical repair and maintenance of Sanitary and Plumbing work of different buildings inside and outside of Krishnagar District Correctional Home under Nadia Division, P.W.D. in the District of Nadia during the year 2024-25". Tender ID: 2024_WBPWD_700851_7 Sl. 8 "Annual maintenance and repair of Sanitary and Plumbing works for all Government Non-Residential buildings under the jurisdiction of Krishnagar Sub-Division, P.W.D. during the year 2024-25". Tender ID: 2024_WBPWD_700851_8 Sl. 9 "Annual maintenance and repair of building and Sanitary & Plumbing works at all non-residential buildings under the jurisdiction of Plassey Sub-Division, P.W.D. during the year 2024-2025". Tender ID: 2024_WBPWD_700851_9 Bid submission start date (online) 26/06/2024 from 06:30 P.M. Bid submission end date (online) 08/07/2024 up to 11:00 A.M. Corrigendum if any will be published in website only. Details of N.I.T. and Tender document may be downloaded from <https://wbtenders.gov.in> Sd/- Executive Engineer, Nadia Division, P.W.D. ICA-T10132(2)/2024

The West Bengal Power Development Corporation Limited
(A Govt. of West Bengal Enterprise)
Corporate Identity No. U40104WB1985SGC039154
Sagarighi Thermal Power Project
P.O. Monigram, P.S. Sagarighi, Dist.- Murshidabad, Pin - 742237
Notice Inviting e-Tender
Ref. No.: WBPDDL/Tend-Adv/24-25/SgTTP/CC-1931 Date: 20.06.2024
NIT No.: WBPDDL/SGTTP/NIT/E2972/24-25
E-Tenders in prescribed format are invited at <https://wbtenders.gov.in> by the General Manager SGTTP, WBPDDL from eligible Agencies/Companies in three (03) Part bid system for "Procurement of Overhauling of Unit 4 in 2024 for Sagarighi Thermal Power Project, WBPDDL". Tender Document Download Start Date: 24.06.2024 at 03.00 PM. Bid Submission End Date: 15.07.2024 at 03.00 PM. Contact Person: Mr. Arun Mandal, Senior Manager (Purchase), Phone: 8336903813. E-mail: amondal@wbpdcl.co.in For details please visit: <https://wbtenders.gov.in> ICA-T10123(2)/2024

The West Bengal Power Development Corporation Limited
(A Govt. of West Bengal Enterprise)
Corporate Identity No. U40104WB1985SGC039154
Sagarighi Thermal Power Project
P.O. Monigram, P.S. Sagarighi, Dist.- Murshidabad, Pin - 742237
Notice Inviting e-Tender
Ref. No.: WBPDDL/Tend-Adv/24-25/SgTTP/CC-1941 Date: 28.06.2024
NIT No.: WBPDDL/SGTTP/NIT/E2972/24-25
E-Tenders in prescribed format are invited at <https://wbtenders.gov.in> by the General Manager SGTTP, WBPDDL from eligible Agencies/Companies in three (3) Part bid system for "Procurement of Different Types of Additional Steel Materials for Upcoming U4 Overhauling at SGTTP under BM2 Dept". Tender Document Download Start Date: 28.06.2024 at 09.00 AM. Bid Submission End Date: 20.07.2024 at 09.00 AM. Contact Person: Mr. Arun Mandal, Senior Manager (Purchase), Phone: 8336903813. E-mail: amondal@wbpdcl.co.in For details please visit: <https://wbtenders.gov.in> ICA-T10119(2)/2024

The West Bengal Power Development Corporation Limited
(A Govt. of West Bengal Enterprise)
Corporate Identity No. U40104WB1985SGC039154
Sagarighi Thermal Power Project
P.O. Monigram, P.S. Sagarighi, Dist.- Murshidabad, Pin - 742237
Notice Inviting e-Tender
Ref. No.: WBPDDL/Tend-Adv/24-25/SgTTP/CC-1943 Date: 28.06.2024
NIT No.: WBPDDL/SGTTP/NIT/E2880/23-24 Dated: 22.03.2024
E-Tenders in prescribed format are invited at <https://wbtenders.gov.in> by the General Manager SGTTP, WBPDDL from eligible Agencies/Companies in three (03) Part bid system for "Biennial Maintenance Contract for C&I System (Mandatory Overhauling & Other Jobs) under the scope of C&I-II (2x500MW), SgTTP (both main plant & outside system)". Tender Document Download Start Date: 01.07.2024 at 10.00 hrs. Bid Submission End Date: 24.07.2024 at 15.00 hrs. Contact Person: Mr. Manas Mallick, AGM, M&C, SGTTP, WBPDDL. Mobile: 8336903847. E-mail: m.mallick@wbpdcl.co.in For details please visit: <https://wbtenders.gov.in> ICA-T10120(2)/2024

INLAND WATERWAYS AUTHORITY OF INDIA
Ministry of PS&W, Govt. of India
P-78, GARDEN REACH ROAD, KOLKATA - 700043
E-mail address of issuing Officer: dirkol.iwai@nic.in
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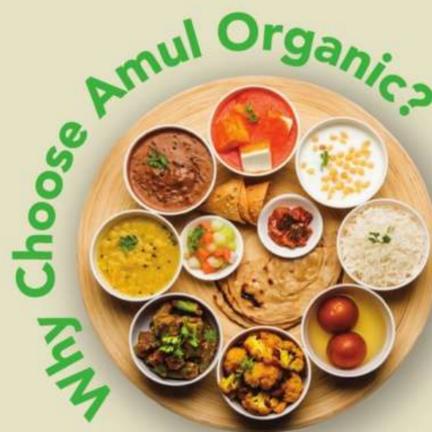
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THING?**



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chemicals and pesticides in it.

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The food we grow and the food we eat should always be chemical-free and nutrient-rich. At Amul, we believe in doing things the natural way. Which is why we introduced the Amul Organic range, keeping in mind the well-being of our customers. We source harvest from farmers who grow crops without pesticides. This chemical-free produce is then processed and packed in organic certified facilities.

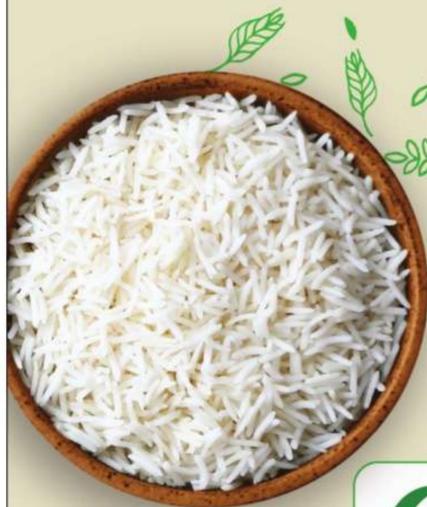
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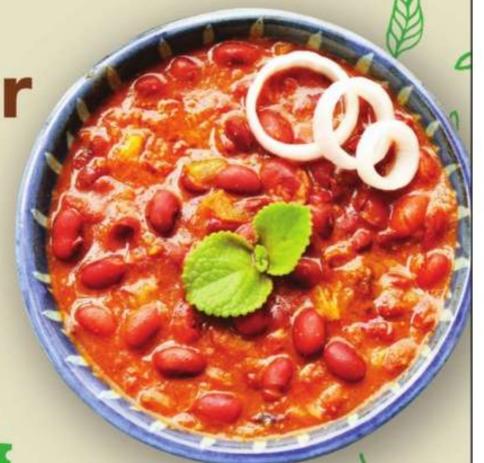


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GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
e-TENDER NOTICE
Principal, Dr. B.C. Roy, P.G.I.P.S. invites e-tender for disposal of condemned goods of Dr. B.C. Roy, PGIPS Hospital in three daily newspapers. The tender paper was purchased from 08.07.24 to 09.07.24 (12 noon to 2pm). Last date of submission of tender is 15.07.24 (3pm). Opening of Bid - 18.07.2024 (2PM). For details log on to www.wbtenders.gov.in Sd/- Principal, Dr. B.C. Roy, P.G.I.P.S. ICA-T101191(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
ABRIDGED TENDER NOTICE
Enr-04/2024-2025/EE/DWSO/PHE DTE. Tender Publication Date-27/06/2024 at 18.30 Hrs. Bid submission dated online on-24/07/2024 up to 18.30 PM. For any kind of details are available in website-wbtenders.gov.in and wbphed.gov.in Sd/- Executive Engineer, Durgapur W/S Division, PHE Dte. ICA-T101703(3)/2024

X-8
DIRECTORATE OF ECONOMICS & STATISTICS, ODISHA, BHUBANESWAR
CORRIGENDUM No.3569, dtd. 29.06.2024
The detailed Corrigendum of Request for Proposal (RFP) issued vide file No.DES-WB-OSCRGPP-0005-2023/dt.23.05.2024 on Hiring of Project Management Consultancy for Strengthening of State Statistical System in Odisha under Odisha State Capability and Resilient Growth Policy Programme are available in the official website of DE&S, <http://www.desorissa.nic.in/> and Planning and Convergence Department, <https://pc.odisha.gov.in/>. Besides, the last date of submission of the proposals has been extended up to 06.07.2024 by 5.00 PM.

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
PWD TENDER NOTICE
EE/NH Division No VII, P.W. (Roads) Directorate invites e-Tender for the work of "Repairing and maintenance work over the damaged surface in stretch between Km 3.500 to Km 5.000 on N.H.- 512 of Balurghat NH Sub Division Under N.H. Division No. VII, P.W. (Roads) Directorate In The District of Malda & Dakshin Dinajpur during the year 2024-2025. Tender ID: 2024_WBPWD_701580_1. Bid Submission closing date 13.07.2024 at 11.30 pm. Details of NIT and Tender documents may be downloaded from on website: <https://www.wbtenders.gov.in> Sd/- EE/NH Divn. VII ICA-T101591(2)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER
e-NIT (Item Rate) invited for the work "Construction of 50 Bedded Critical Care Block (CCB)(G+2) within the campus of District Hospital, Balurghat in the District of Dakshin Dinajpur Civil & Electrical Work". SITC of A.C. Machine. Tender ID: 2024_WBPWD_700942_1. Last date of bid submission 30.07.2024 up to 12:00 Hrs. Details information may be had from the Office of the undersigned on any working days & Website: www.wbtenders.gov.in Sd/- Superintendent Engineer, P.W.D., Northern Electrical Circle Malda ICA-T101581(4)/2024

O-71
GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, SUNABEDA
No. _____ Date: _____
Repair and Maintenance of Rural Roads Under PMGSY & Other Scheme e-Procurement Notice
Bid Identification No. CCERWCSBD Online - 03/2024-25
The Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Sunabeda on behalf of Odisha State Rural Road Agency invites percentage rate bids in electronic tendering system for maintenance of 5 year completed PMGSY roads under Post DLP e-MARG module in the Districts of Koraput, Malkangiri, Nabrangpur & Rayagada for 28 (Twenty Eight) number of packages with estimated cost totaling to Rs. 29.57 Cr including maintenance for five year from the eligible contractors registered with State PWD / CPWD / MES / Railways. The registered bidder of outside Odisha, can also participate in this process, but shall have to subsequently undergo registration with the appropriate authority of the State Govt. preferably within a month of the deadline for bid submission, but prior to signing of the contract.
Date of release of Invitation for Bids through e-procurement.dtd. 03/07/2024.
Availability of Bid Documents and mode of submission: The bid document is available online and should be submitted online in <http://www.pmgstenders.gov.in>. The bidder would be required to register in the web-site which is free of cost. For submission of the bids, the bidder is required to have a valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities. The bidders are required to submit (a) original Demand Draft towards the cost of bid document and (b) original bid security in approved form and (c) original affidavit regarding correctness of information furnished with bid document as per provisions of Clause 4.4 B (a) (ii) of ITB with Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Sunabeda & Superintending Engineer/ Executive Engineers of the concerned Division, on a date not later than three working days after the opening of technical qualification part of the Bid, either by registered post or by hand, failing which the bids shall be declared non-responsive.
Last Date/Time for receipt of bids through e-procurement: 18/07/2024 upto 5.00 PM For further details please log on to <http://www.pmgstenders.gov.in>.
Chief Engineer
Rural Works Circle, Sunabeda
OIPR-25182/11/000624-25

O-70
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, BALASORE
"e" Procurement Notice for Road Work
Identification No.- Online Tender- Road N.C.B. No. 02 for 2024-25 Date: 27/06/24
Letter No. 2499WE
1. Name of the work - Road under MMSY-TRIP
2. Total No. of work - 1 Nos. of Roads.
3. Estimated Cost - Rs. 696.28 lakhs (Approximately)
4. Eligible Class of Contractor - As per Annexure
5. Period of Completion - As per Annexure.
6. Other details -
By E-Mail/De-Despatch
E-MailID: serwsb2003@yahoo.com in Ph.No - 06782280318
Balasore, Balasore
Availability of tender On-line for bidding
Last Date & Time of opening of Tender in Technical Bid
Date & Time of Opening of Tender in Financial Bid
Procurement Officer Bid Identification No. From To Technical Bid Financial Bid
1 2 3 4 5 6 7
Chief Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Balasore NCB No.-02 04.07.2024 at 11.00 A.M. 18.07.2024 Up to 5.00 P.M. 18.07.2024 Up to 5.00 P.M. 20.07.2024 at 11.00 P.M. Will be intimated later
Further details can be seen from the website: www.tendersodisha.gov.in
Sd/-
N.V. Harihar Rao
Chief Engineer,
R.W. Circle, Balasore.
OIPR-25105/11/000224-25

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
e-TENDER NOTICE
e-Tender is invited by the Executive Engineer, Central Mechanical Division, PHE Dte. on behalf of Governor of West Bengal vide Ref. No. PHE/CMD/ENIT_02/24-25 and I.D. 2024.PHED.701846_1 to 60 for Operation and Guarding of pumping machinery (Manual and Automatic Operation) including all allied electro-mechanical components installed at different W/S Scheme in the district of Purba-Bardhaman Division, under CMD, PHE. Dte. Details will be available in the Website wbtenders.gov.in in the last date for submission of tender is 18.07.2024 upto 16:30 P.M. Hours. Sd/- The Executive Engineer, Central Mechanical Division, PHE Dte. ICA-T10169(2)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
NOTICE INVITING e-QUOTATION
WBPRD/R/EE/NH-1/e-NIQ-01/2024-25 Online e-quotation (Tender ID: 2024_WBPWD_701534_1) under 2(two) bids system is invited for the work Supplying of Security Personnel (without Arms) on purely temporary basis for guarding at Miglala Inspection Bungalow, Kakrapur NH Sub-Division office etc. under the jurisdiction of Executive Engineer, National Highway Division-I, P.W. (Roads) Directorate in the district of Hooghly & South 24 Paraganas. Closing date of submission tender (online) - 16.07.2024 other details information may be had from the office of the u/s on any working day during office hours and through website www.wbtenders.gov.in Sd/- EE/NH-1/PW(DTE., Bhabani Bhaban, Kolkata. ICA-T10162(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
PWD TENDER NOTICE
Executive Engineer, P.W.Dte., Kolkata Electrical Division, invites e-tender for the work of "Checking, repairing & maintenance of all sorts of Electrical Installation and providing Lift Operator of West Bengal Legislative Assembly, Kolkata under Assembly House Electrical Sub-Division, PWD for 12 months". Vide e-tender No. WBPWD/EE-KED/e-NIQ-09 Q / 24 - 25. Tender ID: 2024_WBPWD_701305_1. Bid submission end date is 18.07.2024 upto 12.00 P.M. Details of Tender documents incl. Corrigendum, if any will be available at website: <http://wbtenders.gov.in> Sd/- Executive Engineer, P.W.Dte., Kolkata Electrical Division. ICA-T10147(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
NOTICE INVITING e-QUOTATION
Online NIQ is invited by the EE, BNWD, P.W. Dte., Govt. of W.B., vide e-Quotation Tender No. WBPWD/EE/BNWD/NieQ-04e/2024-25 for the work of "Annual maintenance work of water treatment plant of capacity 12.15 M3 per hour for existing 1220mm. dia x 2350mm ht. water softener installed at Bijan Bhawan, Salt Lake, during the year 2024/2025." (TID: 2024_WBPWD_701798_1). Bid proposal submission start date & time (Online)- 02/07/2024 from 06.55 P.M. Bid proposal Submission end date & time (Online) 10/07/2024 upto 01.00 P.M. Intending bidders are requested to visit the website: <http://tenderswb.nic.in> and this office notice board. Sd/- EE, PWD, BNWD. ICA-T10167(2)/2024

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Graduating To A Professional World

Responsekolkata.Edit
@timesgroup.com
The graduation ceremony holds special meaning in a student's life. The 'grads' must be super happy to have earned their degree. But the dilemma in their hearts is known to all - what next? "Students need to choose wisely according to the profession one is going to pursue," says Devinder Narain, senior director, Corporate Relations and Human Resource, at a university. Here are a few professional courses that are available to the students to pursue after graduation.

With their baccalaureate intact, students get into the formidable realm of choosing the best career to stay ahead with the right qualifications



RIGHT APPROACH
Specialised graduate-level degrees are a must for jobs that require specific knowledge and practical training. This is where students with professional expertise score high

❖ **MBA**
Masters in Business Administration (MBA) is the most popular professional degree in the world. It is a two-year course which covers core areas of Business Administration like accounting, HR, finance, marketing etc. "MBA acts as a gateway to various job opportunities in the corporate sector. Candidates with a graduation degree and a minimum of 50 per cent marks can join the course. Admission to the course is based on entrance exams like CAT, MAT, CMAT, etc.," informs Nilanjan Mitra, dean at an MBA institute.

❖ **MTech**
Master of Technology or MTech is yet another two-year engineering post-graduate course. The curriculum consists of various courses like civil engineering, computer science and engineering, mechanical engineering, electronics and communication engineering, etc. Candidates with BE/ BTech degree in

relevant disciplines and valid Graduate Aptitude Test in Engineering (GATE) score card, are eligible for admission.

❖ **PGDM in Finance**
For the two-year professional course in finance management, the syllabus includes a number of topics like accounting systems, cost and management accounting, financial markets, international finance and much more. A candidate must possess a Bachelor's degree with at least 50 per cent marks and a valid score card of CAT/ XAT/ CMAT, etc., to be eligible for admission to this particular course.

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❖ **MSc in Computer Science**
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❖ **PGDM**
Post-Graduate Diploma in Management is a two-year management course offered across B-schools in India. PGDM is also considered equivalent to MBA. To qualify, candidates must have completed their graduation with at least 50 to 70 per cent marks, to be eligible for the course. "PGDM admission is done

on the basis of management entrance exams like CAT, MAT, XAT etc, followed by personal interview and group discussion. Candidates pursuing the course can get jobs in banks, research organisations, financial institutions, educational institutions, manufacturing sectors, etc.," says Manu Singh, appearing for his PGDM this year.



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Navigating The Next Step

With many options today, students should set their goals much ahead of finishing school

Among the many milestones in a student's life, completing Class 10 or 12 holds a special place. It sets the tone for him/her to inch closer towards a satisfying and enjoyable career. The choices are many in all streams, be it Arts, Science or Commerce. However, one should always delve deep into what would best suit him/her, or where his/her interest lies.

❖ **Setting Targets**
When a student passes out of Class 12, many a times he is unable to figure out what kind of course he should take up, which would lead him to a lucrative and satisfying job. This should not happen as last moment decisions are likely to hamper a bright career.

student will be lost trying to adjust to the new stream, which could lead to confusion," says Vikrant Jawla, career counsellor.

Of all the streams, Science is one of the most challenging, though lucrative. The options for higher studies in Science and Technology are many, including an MBBS degree, engineering, computer science etc. Similarly, Commerce offers one of the highest-paying careers to students who opt for a BBA, BCom or BA Economics degree at the under-graduate level. Careers range from banking, chartered accountancy, company secretaryship, digital marketer etc.

❖ **Right to Choose**
Says Ritu Kela, psychologist, "It is true that one should decide one's options while in Class 9. The course a student undertakes has to be both fulfilling and in sync with one's innate talents so that he/she makes a mark and is happy with the professional career."

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Boy undergoes op at AIIMS after 6-yr wait

Anuja.Jaiswal
@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: After waiting for almost his entire life of 6 years, Aayansh Kumar, a young ailing boy from Bihar, was finally operated upon for his heart disorder at AIIMS on Saturday.

The little boy was detected with his cardiac ailment when he was 3 months old in 2018 but was not operated on, despite being given several dates, until TOI highlighted his and his family's plight earlier this month.

According to doctors, there was a hole in the child's heart, and he was also suffering from "Tetralogy of Fallot", a congenital heart defect. On June 19, NHRC had taken suo motu cognisance of the TOI report on the boy. The surgery was performed by Dr A K Bisoil. The boy's father, told TOI, "The doctors informed me that the hole in the heart has been closed and the issue related to the veins has also been fixed."

4 drown in underpasses as Del rain fury toll rises to 11

IMD Alert For Heavy Showers Mon And Tues

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The flooded underpasses in the capital have taken a heavy toll with four lives being lost in them between Friday and Saturday following the torrential rain which disrupted normal life. This has brought the toll in the city in the aftermath of the intense downpour to 11.

A 60-year-old security guard's body was removed from an underpass in Okhla in south Delhi while another body of a young man, about 20 years old, was taken out of the flooded Shalimar Bagh underpass in north-west Delhi on Friday. Meanwhile, two boys, aged around 12, drowned in another waterlogged underpass in Samaypur Bad-



On Saturday, the bodies of three labourers who fell into a pit at a building site in south Delhi's Vasant Vihar on Friday were recovered

li, also in north-west Delhi, on Saturday.

The reasons for the deaths was in one case a desperate attempt to cross to the other side for work and in the rest going for a swim or bath. In either case, the authorities must be blamed for being negligent in not barring access to the underpasses early enough and not draining out the water fast

enough. Though some parts of the city witnessed light rain on Saturday, IMD has sounded an orange alert for moderate to heavy rain Sunday and heavy rain Monday and Tuesday.

At 6.23am on Friday, police received information about a man having drowned in the water at the Okhla underpass. He was identified him

as Digvijay Kumar Chaudhary, a resident of Jaitpur Extension.

He worked as a security guard at a private firm in Okhla Phase 2 and was probably on his way to work when the incident occurred.

In the incident at the Samaypur Badli underpass, bodies of the two boys were fished out at 4.15 pm on Saturday after the police responded to a call at 2.25 pm.

In other incidents, two kids had drowned in a ditch in northeast Delhi while a 40-year-old man was electrocuted in north-west Delhi.

Meanwhile, bodies of three labourers were finally recovered from a pit in Vasant Vihar on Saturday morning, more than 24 hours after they got buried in mud because of a mishap at a construction site.

On Friday, a canopy at the forecourt of Terminal 1 at IGI Airport had collapsed, leaving a cabby dead.

2 bike-borne men shoot bouncer dead in busy mkt

Ankita.Anand@timesgroup.com

Gurgaon: A 24-year-old bouncer with a local club was shot dead in the middle of a crowded market in the city on Friday night by two bike-borne men.

Anuj Dayama, who lived in Kadarpur village, was having juice in his car at Ullawas market when the two assailants — wearing T-shirts of a food delivery app and online grocery store — crashed into the vehicle from behind around 8.45pm, police said. No sooner did he come out to check what had happened, he was fired at. As Anuj started to run to save himself, the two attackers chased him down the road for around 100m, firing at him almost a dozen times.

Six bullets hit Anuj. Four bullets pierced his body while two scraped past his arm.

Footage from CCTV cameras installed in the market shows a youth in a black T-shirt — Anuj — running through the market crowd. As two men in red and yellow tees chase him, Anuj crashes

As Anuj started to run to save himself, the two attackers chased him down the road for around 100m, firing at him six times

into a tin shed and slumps to the ground. The attacker in the yellow T-shirt fires at him first, while his accomplice joins him after a few seconds.

Anuj's father Ranbir Singh lodged a police complaint. He said his son was returning home to Kadarpur village from HBR Chowk along with his uncle when he was attacked.

An FIR was lodged against the unknown attackers under sections 302 (murder), 34 (common intent) and other provisions of IPC. A senior police officer said they were scanning CCTV footage to identify the attackers. "We have come across three FIRs against Anuj as well. We are analysing them to find out if the attack on him was the result of some old enmity," a cop said.

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HC orders early release of two life convicts

Chennai: The Madras HC has ordered the premature release of two people serving to life sentences for murder in Puducherry even though jail authorities had denied them the relief citing threats to their lives from rivals, reports Sureshkumar K. A division bench passed the order while allowing appeals by Venu Shankar and Ravi, challenging the order passed by chief superintendent of prisons denying them premature release. Both petitioners had been sentenced to life imprisonment for murder and lodged in jail for the past 20 years. As per Puducherry Prison Rules, any life convict who has completed 14 years of imprisonment is eligible to apply for premature release.

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We often hear of 'history' as war and peace, celebrating heroic deeds and assigning not-so-heroic motivations to others. Those histories are occasionally inspiring — and often disturbing for history is power, holding the ability to unfurl action in the present. It is time, wise reader, to engage with real history — the chronicles of Earth — which comes from rock-hard sources (literally, given the geological layers scientists mine). Today, climate history is essential knowledge. The United Nations estimates between 1980 to 1999, 4,212 natural disasters occurred worldwide, claiming 1.19 million lives and costing US\$ 1.63 trillion. Between 2000 to 2019, this rose to 7,348 disasters, affecting 4.2 billion and costing US\$ 2.97 trillion.

Climate history explains the difference. The field is a many-layered one. It encompasses Earth's physical history, from the emergence of its biosphere to the proliferation of its biodiversity. It records diverse elements — carbon, hydrogen, oxygen, etc. — which, in stability, ensure life. It also tracks how humanity is making this balance wobble. Climate-related events, doubling between 1999 to 2019, stem from anthropogenic imbalances — between 1850 to 2022, humans emitted several billion tonnes of 'greenhouse gases', a planet-heating bouquet of carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide, by burning fossil fuels, destroying forests and polluting ecosystems. Many of us can't easily see the link between human actions and environmental repercussions. Here, climate history shines (a renewable) light. By illuminating how Earth works, how it breathes and exhales, how its oceans and forests dance with currents and clouds, how its wetlands and peatlands store water and carbon and its species evolve, climate history warns us to stop rushing in where the cosmos fears a heavy tread.

It also encourages. As Times Evoke's global experts emphasise, climate history helps us prepare for today's challenges. With extreme weather, the world needs new paradigms of building, growing and being. Climate history offers panaceas of resilience. Also, it is part of your own extraordinary tale — you live on the universe's only known home to life. You arrived here, a mix of stardust and personality, after 14 billion years. You hold journeys and prophecies in your hands — don't overlook that in the maze of everyday thrills, bills and prattle. Join Times Evoke in exploring climate history — and your life.

'Climate history warns us to limit warming to 2°C — humans may not be able to adapt beyond that'

Dagomar Degroot is associate professor of history at Georgetown University. Speaking to **Srijana Mitra Das** at Times Evoke, he discusses archives of climate collapse — and resilience:

What is the core of your research?

I'm an environmental historian. I work on identifying how climate changed in the past, often by collaborating with scientists and scholars from related disciplines, and figure out how such climate change influenced diverse populations. Some collapsed while others managed to survive, even thrive. My work explores this and sees if these findings can inform climate policy now.



work explores this and sees if these findings can inform climate policy now.

What sources are used in such history?

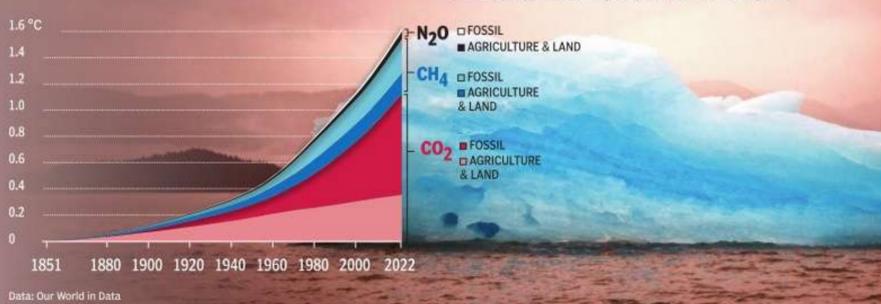
For identifying past climatic changes, I work with scientists in part. They use 'the archives of nature', aspects of the natural world that record the influence of earlier climatic variations. The rings of trees are an example — these correspond to how much a tree has grown. Bits of these rings could be thicker or thinner, depending on weather. You can use their width to figure out how the weather changed over a tree's lifetime. Ice cores also accumulate gradually as layers, akin to tree rings. There's some melting at the poles in summer, causing these layers. By measuring different isotopes in the layers, you gain a sense of the temperature of the whole planet because heavier isotopes tend to evaporate more when Earth is warmer and then precipitate into ice sheets.

Researchers like me also use 'the archives of society'. These can be direct reports of weather. Educated people would often keep weather diaries while officers on ships would record changes in wind direction and velocity. Many texts describe



LORDS OF THE RINGS: Trees have growth rings which record changing weather

HOW WE GOT HERE: GLOBAL WARMING CONTRIBUTIONS BY GAS & SOURCE



activities profoundly influenced by the weather — the date of harvests, sowing times, when cherry blossoms would reach full bloom or how battles were conducted, all these indicated weather. Archaeological remains show us material cultures while oral histories, through word of mouth, mirror the state of climates. You can combine all these different sources and synthesise them to see how the planet changed — and people responded.

When did it become clear humans were impacting climatic processes?

Humans have been altering the atmosphere for thousands of years, changing landscapes, wiping out megafauna and developing agriculture. Potentially bigger changes came with the 15th century genocide in the western hemisphere when European colonisers began killing millions of indigenous people, perhaps so many that previous agricultural and forest management regimes were no longer viable on a scale which could allow the regrowth of tropical forests that pull carbon dioxide (CO₂) out of the atmosphere.

Large-scale pollution of the atmosphere came with industrialisation and the use of fossil fuels like coal, oil and natural gas releasing vast amounts of CO₂, methane and other greenhouse gases — the weight of all the greenhouse gases pumped into the atmosphere over the last 150 years is estimated to be about 2 trillion tonnes. That outweighs the

weight of all organisms on Earth plus everything we have built. In the mid-1890s, Svante Arrhenius, a Swedish chemist, wrote about how industrialisation was releasing warming gases into the atmosphere which would cause a 'benign' heating of Earth. By the 1930s, Guy Callendar, an English engineer, figured out Earth was already warming due to CO₂. The emergence of a climate consensus between a vast majority of scientists and experts, on the links between a warming world and human emissions, came in the 1970s-1980s.

Why do you posit the Dutch flourished under climate change?

Some of my work focuses on the Dutch but they were not an exception. I've been working with scholars all over the world to identify such resilience globally. Humans endured climatic changes even before industrialisation. Our species evolved in the Pleistocene epoch. This was distinguished by spectacular climate changes, a vast transition between glacial conditions, when Earth was about 7°C colder than now, and inter-glacial conditions when it was as warm as now. There was a huge oscillation with short-term instability but humans adapted.

Then, the Holocene enabled agriculture 11,700 years ago. The global climate became relatively stable but even here, there were profound regional changes, the most important being the drying-up of the Sahara, a grassland at the Holocene's start, becoming

the world's largest desert very rapidly. Another example was the Little Ice Age, a period of dramatic cooling from the 13th to the 19th century. This was globally modest but locally powerful. In this cooling climate, the Dutch built up a trade empire with networks that gave them access to diverse resources which could be imported from several locations — if the prices of commodities like grains went up, they benefitted. Trade also meant breaking away from battles where you had to besiege cities for ages. Waiting around for very long was hard to do when it was so cold. Spanish soldiers, with a huge empire, had a terrible time waiting

in sieges while the Dutch discovered sailing. They relied on wind power while other states were more dependent on



FOSSIL FURY: Burning coal, oil and gas has released once-sequestered carbon



The ostrich evolved 23 million years ago as rainfall reduced and dry savannas emerged across Africa. While being flightless, ostriches have long legs and powerful feet — they cover five metres in one stride and run at 70 kms per hour, despite being 8 feet tall and 159 kgs. Armed with a 10-cm-sharp claw, the peaceful-looking ostrich can also kick — to kill — as many savanna predators, from lions to hyenas, discovered over aeons

SEEING THE SIGNS

● An awareness of climate existed in India before modern climatological science. In the 2nd century BCE, **Chanakya**, Chandragupta Maurya's eminent minister, wrote the **Arthashastra**, which

recognised how rain worked — and impacted stability. He centralised water management and curbed profligacy, pricing water through labour or crops, taxing the wealthy more. He also gave tax breaks to communities managing water tanks — a worthy idea today

● 18th century palaeontologist **Georges Cuvier** linked **organismal biology** to Earth's epochs. Organising species into 'branches' as vertebrata, articulata (arthropods), mollusca (soft invertebrates) and radiata (aquatic animals), and studying the mammoth-like **mastodon**. Cuvier proved **extinction — animals vanishing forever due to climatic instability**

● **Paul Crutzen** discovered certain substances damaged **Earth's ozone layer — 1987's Montreal Protocol**, to phase these out, is due to him. In 2000, the Nobel Laureate outlined how human-induced changes had started a new climatic epoch on Earth — **the Anthropocene**

Research: IMD, BBC Science Focus Magazine, NASA

farming, made harder by the Little Ice Age. But wind currents didn't change then, which powered the Dutch.

Can climate history empower people today?

● The world is currently headed for warming of about 3°C by the end of this century. This is extremely dangerous. Many collapses, from the Mayans to the Vikings, occurred when the climate wasn't changing as much. Resilience might not be readily available because there are eight billion humans on the planet now. We must limit warming to 2°C because there is a possibility we can't adapt beyond that. We've recently seen tragic losses of life due to heatwaves in India. Societies which survived climate change were very proactive — climate history can tell a hopeful story but only if we learn its lessons.

Photos: Getty Images



THEY'VE GOT STORIES TO TELL...

● It's not just humans — other species have also seen Earth changing. **Horses evolved 55 million years ago** when the dog-sized Hyracotherium roamed forests covering North America. Initially, horses were **small-sized forest browsers**. But **changing climates and new grasslands** saw species evolve 20 million years ago. While the Caspian horse emerged in 3000 BCE, an intriguing breed is the **Akhal-Teke — the 'golden horse'** — which originated in Turkmenistan 3,000 years ago, famed for its shimmering coat

● **Crabs** are tough survivors of Earth's climatic swings — the **horseshoe crab**, with its spiny tail, split from its arachnid kin **480 million years ago**. As ice gave way to marsh, **crabs developed legs to walk over land and shields against predators** — they survived continents separating and dinosaurs perishing and **250 million years ago**, diverse species started developing legs for paddling, digging under sediments and **even climbing trees**



Research: Smithsonian Magazine, National Geographic, American Museum of Natural History

'We must draw from India's climate history. This respected topography, hydrology and nature as capital'

Mahesh Rangarajan is professor of history and environmental studies at Ashoka University. Speaking to Times Evoke, he discusses India's rich climatic history — and the insights it offers in times of increasing weather turbulence:

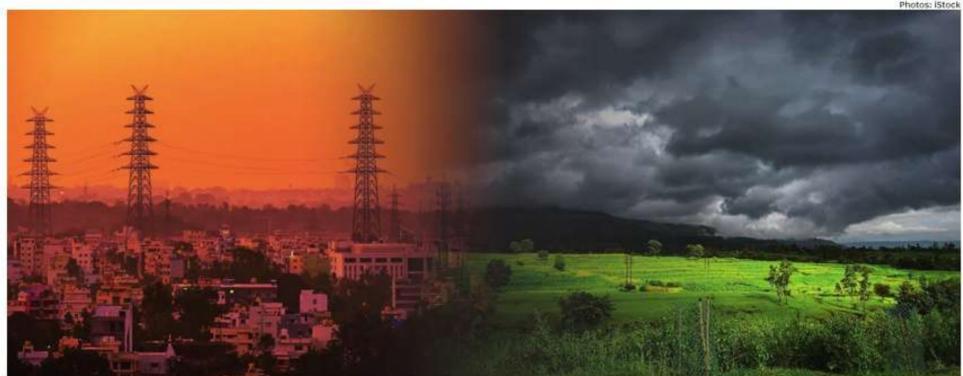
Several parts of India have swung from extraordinary heatwaves to extreme rainfall in a matter of days — just one day ago, Delhi, which was reeling under severe heat, experienced the maximum daily rainfall seen in June in 88 years. This huge volume of water fell over a few hours, flooding the capital, leaving its roads waterlogged and traffic submerged. India has seen weather swings before — but today, the rate of stochasticity or unpredictable, sudden changes has increased. Some of this is due to global

warming and the atmospheric concentrations of heating emissions. But some comes from self-inflicted wounds, which also reflect a lack of awareness of India's rich climate history.

India has a tropical system and a monsoon regime, with a clearly defined wet and dry period. Today, the dry period is growing exceptionally parched and extremely hot, testing the ability of vertebrates to survive. The flipside is very wet periods of intense rain in short durations. Such tumult, impacting people's lives, well-being and resources, reemphasises the importance of climate history. Any subject of the past is seen through the lens of the present. In the 20th century, after World Wars I and II in particular, many fields of study emerged researching how to create conditions for international peace and prevent nuclear war. Today, studies look at how to achieve peace — with nature. Climate history explores how human civilisations over



UNCERTAIN HARVESTS: Rain-dependent Indian agriculture faces climate change



IN A FEW HOURS, JUST LIKE THAT: Several regions of India recently endured a blistering heatwave which claimed lives and challenged infrastructure — in a matter of days though, many parts were experiencing intense rains and flooding which broke historical records

time understood the nature of the biosphere — the thin skin of blue-green in which all life exists.

Humanity has relied on climatic stability for thousands of years, including in the recent Holocene, characterised by regular atmospheric, weather and moisture conditions. Such stability enabled the thriving of societies. Many of these conditions are changing now. Societies across Asia and Africa experience the monsoon — earlier, this weather phenomenon had specific dates by when it would wax and wane, its waters enriching Earth accordingly. The stability of these dates shaped much of Indian civilisation — consider how rain-regulated our agricultural cycles and how the availability of water helped create cities, which could depend on a flourishing countryside. As several of these conditions are transformed, we can expect turbulence in what remains a largely agrarian country. Already, the times of sowing and ripening for crops like wheat are changing, influenced by altering winters and transformed rain. India has multiple agro-climatic zones which grow diverse crops — agriculturalists everywhere will face climate challenges now.

Yet, unless we draw from our climatic history, we will be locked into cycles of

harsh heat and intense rain, with their accompanying impacts. Heatwaves in cities will intensify unless we retain old urban planning styles, liberally planting shade-giving trees — from neem to peepul, tamarind to jamuns, whose sour purple fruit were eagerly picked by children in the monsoon and loved by birds and small animals too — instead of concretising and deforesting. We also need more intelligent construction — once, we had low-slung buildings with high ceilings and cross-ventilation which made summer bearable. Today, we live and work in towers of metal and glass which intensify heat and need air-conditioning to cool. As we increase air-conditioning units, we create urban heat islands pumping out more emissions — these deepen heatwaves. Older forms of construction were far more sensitive to our ecotype.

Interestingly, climate history spotlights wetlands as a buffer between heatwave and rain. It is noteworthy that Delhi's recent rain and flooding were preceded by a period of harsh water scarcity. To prevent this, we need to preserve wetlands from being taken over for construction because these are crucial for absorbing rain and renewing aquifers. The book 'Shades of Blue', by Harini Nagendra and

Seema Mundoli, analyses issues of water across diverse Indian cities, each of which have their own ecological stories — yet, one common factor binds these locations, from Guwahati to Mumbai and Delhi. They have all been draining their wetlands, causing drought vulnerability in summer and floods in the rains. The flooding in Delhi impacted areas urbanised in the last few years where earlier, rivulets flowed or old stream beds existed. In many places, housing and infrastructure have been built on low-lying areas while channels leading to the Yamuna have been blocked. We need to bring back a sense of respect for topography and local hydrology in what we build — and leave alone.

History is learning of the past to be enlightened for the present. There were long periods of climatic instability in the past too — interestingly, India in the 17th century and Tokugawa Japan coped better than many societies in Europe. One reason was India's elites valued nature. Before the arrival of the British, Indian rulers often gave people interest-free loans to build check dams or wells. The Vijayanagara empire, as Kathleen Morrison's research shows, provided for long dry periods. There could even be a decade when the monsoon fell short but populations adapted. They used crops which needed less water — today's push for millets is apt — and learnt

how to conserve water in lakes and tanks. While many of these rulers could be exploitative or hierarchical, they saw nature as capital. Their perspective was different from contemporary times when we imagine 'capital' as the number of tall buildings, miles of highways and colours of expensive vehicles around us. These are all legitimate aspirations but seeing nature as capital meant investing in resources which would protect us from nature's turbulence, perhaps the most dangerous existential threat. Our climatic history shows a good deal of cooperation thus between rulers, elites and common citizens. We should take a leaf out of these lessons. As both its heatwaves and floods show, Delhi must protect its floodplain — if the Yamuna can flood naturally, water will sink through sand and aquifer and provide protection from extreme weather impacts.

We also need more discussion of climate issues in our political discourse but these should be framed differently. Voters vote for day-to-day welfare issues — if a political party posited it would recharge the water in aquifers, so farmers don't have to drill hundreds of feet for a drop, that would bring cultivators to it. If a party promised to cover large parts of a city with greenery where the young could play and the elderly relax, both these groups would support it. If a party promised to protect India's beautiful birds and animals, those who enjoy biophilia or a love of nature would form a constituency for it. These issues should be presented in positive ways, bridging the gaps between India's ecological realities and solutions — some of which lie in our own climatic past.



PEACE FOR YOU & ME: Preserving wetlands is a boon for humans and other species

READERS WRITE

Dear Times Evoke, As an MSc Microbiology student, I find TE perpetually fascinating. The piece on elephants (15th June) was particularly enlightening; learning that they communicate using each other's names was both astonishing and endearing. Thank you, TE, for always presenting such fresh and enlightening stories.

— **Shipra Gautam**, Lucknow

I'm in school and I love Times Evoke! I was so delighted to read about elephants. It was the first time I got to know that humans are not the only intelligent beings on Earth, elephants are too! Elephants give each other names — just like we humans do! Thank you so much for such wonderful information, TE.

— **Priyanshu Roy**, Siliguri

I was amazed to learn elephants use unique vocalisations to 'name' each other. This incredible discovery by George Wittemyer, unravelled through machine learning, showcases their remarkable intelligence. I'm very grateful to TE for deepening our understanding of nature.

— **Soumyadeep Dutta**, Kolkata

Thanks, TE, for informing us how elephants have languages. This fascinating article looked exquisite and I agree with George Wittemyer that animal intelligence is highly underrated by humans. This article made me realise how there's so much more to know in life!

— **Vijayalakshmi Thiyyagarajan**, Mumbai

Thank you for your superb articles, TE! I was awestruck reading about elephant vocalisations! I eagerly await such wonderful TE articles.

— **Ayaan Abbas**, Barabanki

It was simply amazing to read about elephants' naming patterns. With decades of research, George Wittemyer and his team have achieved a great scientific breakthrough. Kudos to them and TE for such wonderful work!

— **Saurabh Thakur**, Mysuru

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Serve people with devotion: PM to babus

Dipak Dash & Sidhartha | TNN
New Delhi: PM Narendra Modi on Saturday instructed top civil servants to be completely focused on meeting the needs and aspirations of citizens, saying that they should be served with the same devotion that is shown for God, while advocating a flexible approach to ensure that good policies don't get entangled in a web of legal provisions and make them stillborn.
TOI has learnt that PM told officers "niyam ki maal mein niti ki baal mrityu mat karayiye", echoing the la-



It was Modi's first meeting with officers after returning to office

ment over numerous instances of well-intentioned policies turning out to be stillborn after they were sucked into complex webs of rules and regulations.

During his first meeting with secretaries after returning to office, Modi described the top officials as "assets" and said that it was due to their efforts that policies and schemes had been implemented, helping his govt win a third term. He also spoke about policy-based governance and the need to do away with adhocism while putting focus on Ease of Living of common citizens.

Sources said Modi told officers that India being an aspirational society, govt agencies need to look at fulfilling the aspirations as an "opportunity" and not as a burden.

The PM said there has to be greater focus on faster and effective addressing of public grievances and that all should treat service to common citizens as service to God, said an official. The focus was clearly on a citizen-centric approach with Modi underlining that people should get precedence in governance.

The PM is also learnt to have urged officers to look into methods of giving incentives to govt entities for capacity development since progress on that score remains patchy despite this being talked about for years.

Remember Emergency to safeguard democracy: RSS

New Delhi: Amid political tensions both outside and within Parliament on "emergency" and its aftermath, RSS media head Sunil Ambekar on Saturday emphasised that understanding the "kind of people, tendencies, and reasons" that lead to its imposition is crucial, reports **Manash Gohain**.

"We must remember the days of the emergency because they remind us of the type of people, tendencies, and reasons that create situations where our democratic system and rights are under threat," he said. Hinting at the Congress party without directly naming it, Ambekar said the emergency, imposed within 25 years of India becoming a sovereign republic, was a threat that arose not from abroad but from "our own political system".

"I think society should be clear that we need to remain vigilant. A vigilant society can only protect its democratic rights. It's time to pay constant attention," Ambekar said.

STF arrests B'desh nat'l in Cooch Behar; lens on 'terror links'

Dwaipayan Ghosh | @timesgroup.com
Kolkata: The Bengal STF on Saturday arrested a Bangladeshi national from Cooch Behar, who used to prepare fake Indian documents after illegally crossing over through the northeast. Cops said his terror links with Bangladesh-based banned organizations are being investigated.

"On Saturday, one Sarif Mondal alias Ali (64) of Dhaka was apprehended by an STF team in Cooch Behar. It has been learnt that Mondal had entered the northeastern states of India illegally from Bangladesh and later came to Cooch Behar for some illegal activity," said SP (operations) Indrajit Basu.

During his stay in India, Mondal illegally procured several identity documents like Aadhaar, PAN, school certificate and birth certificates. Cops claimed that Mondal was instrumental in settling many people il-

During his stay in India, Sarif illegally procured several identity documents like Aadhaar, PAN, school certificate and birth certificates

legally across the NE and north Bengal.

Bengal STF has lodged an FIR against Mondal under the Foreigners Act at Cooch Behar Kotwali PS.

"During investigation, the details of the racket for procurement of false documents will be enquired into. The purpose of his visit is also being probed," said Basu.

A similar racket was busted in 2023-end when police apprehended a Bangladeshi national named Muhammad Liton from Cooch Behar. He was found in possession of an Aadhaar card and was "settling" people from Khulna.

ED searches 8 premises owned by 4 bizmen in Kol

Kolkata: The ED on Saturday conducted searches at eight premises owned by four businessmen in a Ponzi scam probe. The CBI is also investigating the case.

On Saturday morning, ED teams reached the residences of the businessmen at Jadavpur, Lake Town and Alipur. CBI had earlier filed a chargesheet against the

company run by the quartet. The firm allegedly lured people into investing large sums with the promise of high returns.

ED sources said the company has allegedly siphoned off money to several countries including Singapore. The officials seized some documents during the search. TNN

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GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL PWD TENDER NOTICE
 Executive Engineer-II, Birbhum Division, P.W.D. invite online Tender vide NIT No.-02 of 2024-25 for the work "Pre monsoon emergency patch repairing work of Vatna-Narayan road from 0.00 Km to 2.50 Km under Bolpur Sub Division of Birbhum Division, P.W.D. in the District of Birbhum." Bid submission start date (online) 28.06.2024 after 2:00 P.M. Bid Submission end date (online) 05.07.2024 upto 2:00 P.M. Tender ID: 2024-WB/PWD-701347-1. Details of NIT and Tender documents may be downloaded from <http://wbtdenders.gov.in> Sd/- Executive Engineer-II, Birbhum Division, P.W.D. ICA-T10148(3)/2024

NOTICE District North 24 Parganas In the Court of the LD. District Delegate at Barasat Misc. Case No. 67/2024 (Probate)
 Petitioner: SANJAY BHOWMICK, Son of Late Rai Milan Bhowmick alias Raimilan Bhowmick, Resident of BL-15, Sector-I, P.O.-Sech Bhawan, P.S.-Sech Bhawan, (East) District-North 24 Parganas, Pin Code-700091.
 It is hereby notified to the public at large that the deceased Rai Milan Bhowmick alias Raimilan Bhowmick, who died on 11.03.2024, left behind a parcel of land and/or property along with two storied residential building (on the ground floor measuring about 115.84 Sq. Metre and on the first floor 114.53 Sq. Metre) thereon measuring about 3.14867 Cotars. The last will dated 29/02/2024 by Late Rai Milan Bhowmick alias Raimilan Bhowmick.
 If anyone has any objection to this, they should submit a written objection within 30 days of publication of the notification. Otherwise, the case will be heard unilaterally.
 By permission, Supriya Gupta, Sersastadar District - North 24 Parganas in the Court of the LD District Delegate at Barasat

NOTICE IN THE COURT OF LEARNED DISTRICT DELEGATE AT ALIPORE District - South 24 Parganas Deceased AND In the matter of: SMT. SUSHMITA MITRA, daughter of Late Sujit Kumar De and Late Dalu De, aged about 62 years, residing at 16/10 Temple Gardens, Mondal Temple Lane, New Alipore, Kolkata-700053, Police Station-New Alipore. Applicant
 This is to notify all concerned that my client Smt. Sushmita Mitra daughter of Late Sujit Kumar De and Late Dalu De, aged about 62 years, residing at 16/10 Temple Gardens, Mondal Temple Lane, New Alipore, Kolkata-700053, Police Station-New Alipore, applied for Succession Certificate in respect of the Estate of her father Late Sujit Kumar De. WHEREAS the deceased left behind him surviving at the time of his death, his only daughter and Legal Heir behind, who resides at his place currently. That the applicant is supposed to receive an amount of Rs. 30,01,375.13/- (Rupees Thirty Lakhs and Seventy-Five point one three only) as mentioned in the main petition, from Bank of India, New Alipore Branch, Sundaram Diversified Equity Fund and Nippo India Mutual Fund. Now it is noticed for general information that any person having objection thereto may appear in person with all supporting documents before this Learned Court with 30 days from date of this publication, otherwise later any claim, demand or objection shall be null and void. By Order of the LD. court-21-06-24 SUSANTA SAHA, Sersastadar Alipore Court, 24 pgs (6)

NOTICE IN THE HIGH COURT AT CALCUTTA Testamentary and Intestate Jurisdiction
 In the Goods of: Samar Dhawa son of Late Manick Lal Dhawa, lastly resided at Ranapara, Deora, Police Station - Amta, District - Howrah 711401, a male Hindu inhabitant deceased.
 TO
 1) Lipika Dhawa, W/o. Late Samar Dhawa, Ranapara, Deora, Police Station - Amta, District - Howrah - 711401
 2) Suman Dhawa, S/o. Late Samar Dhawa Ranapara, Deora, Police Station - Amta, District - Howrah - 711401
 Madam/Sir,
 If both of you, as mentioned above, are claiming to have any interest in the estate of the deceased abovenamed are hereby cited to come within 2 (Two) weeks from the date of publication of this citation and to show cause as to why Letters of Administration of the deceased abovenamed should not be granted by this Court unto 1) Prabar Kumar Dhawa, son of Late Manick Lal Dhawa permanent resident of Guzarpur (Paschim Para), Amta, Police Station - Amta, District - Howrah 711401, 2) Ashok Kumar Dhawa son of Late Manick Lal Dhawa permanent resident of Ranapara, Deora, Police Station - Amta, District - Howrah 711401, 3) Biman Dhawa son of Late Manick Lal Dhawa permanent resident of Jadurberia, Uluberia, Police Station - Uluberia, District - Howrah 711316, 4) Dibakar Dhawa son of Late Manick Lal Dhawa permanent resident of Ranapara, Deora, Police Station - Amta, District - Howrah 711401, 5) Arun Kumar Parua son of Milan Parua permanent resident of 25, Laxmi Narayan Tala Road, Shibpur, Police Station - Shibpur, District - Howrah 711103, 6) Barun Kumar Parua son of Milan Parua permanent resident of 25, Laxmi Narayan Tala Road, Shibpur, Police Station - Shibpur, District - Howrah 711103, 7) Shiba Patra, wife of Late Sanjit Kumar Patra permanent resident of 23/2/A/1/1 Kali Kundu Lane, Howrah, Police Station - Howrah, District - Howrah, 711101, 8) Chhaya Samanta wife of Biswanath Samanta permanent resident of Chotto Akna Kalakori, Police Station - Chandrakona, District - Paschim Medinipur, 721201, 9) Tapasi Hazra, wife of Santanu Hazra, permanent resident of Jagannathpur, Amta, Police Station - Amta, District - Howrah, 711401, 10) Tapati Chowdhury wife of Subodh Chowdhury, a permanent resident of Ward No.-16, Konnagar, Ghatal (M), Police Station - Ghatal, District - Paschim Medinipur, 721212 represented by their constituted attorney Pravarak Dhawa, son of Late Manick Lal Dhawa permanent resident of Ranapara, Deora, Police Station - Amta, District Howrah, 711401 and 11) Pravarak Dhawa, son of Late Manick Lal Dhawa permanent resident of Ranapara, Deora, Police Station - 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ICRA UPGRADES APEEJAY SURRENDRA PARK HOTELS LIMITED TO A+

THE PRICE BAND FOR NEPHROCARE ISSUE HAS BEEN FIXED AT ₹85-₹90 PER SHARE

CBD: A DISTRICT IN MOTION

With over 150 years of history, Kolkata's Central Business District (CBD) was one of the first business districts in Asia. Initially including areas like Esplanade, Dalhousie and Strand Road and later expanding to Park St, Camac St, Minto Park and Park Circus, here's the latest on the most prominent movers and shakers in the financial hub



Siddha Esplanade
premium office space in Dalhousie is consistently high, translating to better rental yields and long-term capital appreciation. The availability of state-of-the-art amenities and efficient public transportation, including new metro connectivity, makes BBD Bag accessible and attractive for businesses looking to establish their offices.
Sanjay Jain, MD of Siddha Group, which has a project in Esplanade, argued, "The CBD serves as Kolkata's primary commercial hub, hosting numerous government offices, corporate headquarters, banks, financial institutions, convention centers, trading houses, a transportation hub, a metro station, an e-mail, and more. We have previously completed two successful commercial projects, Siddha Gibson and Siddha Weston, in the CBD area. Recently, we completed Siddha Esplanade, our iconic commercial building on Chowringhee."

Major Projects
The city will soon have a helipad in its CBD, thanks to the Keventer One project. Currently, Kolkata lacks a helipad in its traditional commercial hub in Dalhousie. The Keventer One project will feature twin towers with a helipad, a business club, premium infrastructure, and state-of-the-art facilities. Designed by architect Stephen Coates, the G+32 building will offer over one million square feet of space, with parking up to the 7th floor.
Siddha Esplanade, a B+G+17 story building, stands tall next to the Esplanade Metro station. It features various offices with views of the Maidan and much of the CBD on one side, and

the Victoria Memorial, Eden Gardens, and the expansive Eastern Metropolitan Bypass stretch on the other.

Intellia Business Park, a joint venture between Srijan, PS Group, and Signum includes a business club called The Quarters, encompassing nearly 70,000 square feet. The business park will offer over 700,000 square feet of office space and 34 guest rooms. The project, with a total investment of Rs 400 crore, is expected to be completed in June 2027.

Demand for Space in CBD

An official from Keventer noted, "The demand for space in Keventer One has been phenomenal, and the initial expression of interest has surpassed all expectations and is more than the workspace on offer." Sanjay Jain, MD of Siddha Group, added, "The demand for commercial spaces at Siddha Esplanade has been remarkable, with a diverse range of buyers securing their offices here. With very limited inventory remaining, we anticipate a swift sell-out. This project is an ideal choice for corporate houses, entrepreneurs, trading companies, chartered accountants, lawyers, consultants, and other professionals looking for a business center with all conveniences within easy reach."

Keshav Agarwal, Director of Srijan, pointed out, "The first integrated business park in the central business district of the city of joy has garnered encouraging response with over 40% booking so far. It has already got a booking for close to 3 lakh square feet. The average booking size is 5,000-7,000 square feet. The minimum size



is 2,000 square feet. We are also getting a lot of queries. The price is Rs 9,000 per square foot. We are seeing good demand from larger companies/corporations with requirements for bigger office spaces. The reason behind it is the fact that our product is a business park with an environment, unlike any other standalone commercial building in the heart of the city."

Mayank Jalan, CMD of Keventer, said, "We are excited to commence the construction of 'Keventer ONE,' a landmark commercial building in the heart of Kolkata's central business district. This iconic development will not only enhance the city's skyline but also serve as a testament to the revival and resurgence of business in Kolkata. We believe this project will cre-

INDUSTRY SPEAK

Sanjay Jain | MD, SIDDHA GROUP
The CBD serves as Kolkata's primary commercial hub, hosting numerous government offices, corporate headquarters, banks, financial institutions, convention centers, trading houses, a transportation hub, a metro station, an e-mail, and more. Recently, we have completed Siddha Esplanade, our iconic commercial building on Chowringhee

Mayank Jalan | CMD, KEVENTER
We are excited to commence the construction of 'Keventer ONE'. This will not only enhance the city's skyline but also serve as a testament to the revival of business in Kolkata. We believe this project will create new opportunities, foster economic growth, and contribute to making Kolkata a global business hub.

Keshav Agarwal | DIRECTOR, SRIJAN
We are seeing good demand from larger companies/corporations with requirements for bigger office spaces. The reason behind it is the fact that our product is a business park with an environment, unlike any other standalone commercial building in the heart of the city

ate new opportunities, foster economic growth, and contribute significantly to making Kolkata a global business hub."

Future of Commercial Real Estate in CBD
Real estate developers believe that the demand for commercial real estate in CBDs will remain strong due to their central location, which is essential for businesses seeking prestige and connectivity. Future commercial buildings are expected to incorporate more technology for smart building management, energy efficiency, and improved tenant experiences. The trend towards flexible workspaces and coworking spaces is likely to grow, with commercial real estate adapting to provide versatile office solutions.

Uditprasanna.Mukherjee@timesgroup.com

In the early 21st century, a new commercial hub emerged in Salt Lake Sector V, focusing on IT and related businesses. Additionally, New Town (Action Area I) and the stretches of the Eastern Metropolitan Bypass have become thriving commercial zones. Recently, the CBD has experienced a revival with several major commercial real estate projects either completed or underway. TOI previously reported on this trend a year ago, and now provides a status update on these projects.

Why CBD?

Real estate developers with projects in the CBD highlight several reasons for their investment, including prime location, economic significance, high demand, rental yields, and superior amenities and infrastructure. An official from Keventer Projects, which has a project on Strand Road, noted, "The Central Business District (CBD) of Kolkata has a strategic location for businesses due to its accessibility, visibility, and established infrastructure and connectivity. Being in the heart of the city, it attracts a high footfall of professionals, clients, and tourists."

The official further explained, "Historically, BBD Bag/Dalhousie has been an economic powerhouse, hosting numerous multinational companies, financial institutions, and high-end retail outlets. Investing in commercial real estate here ensures proximity to key business players and potential clients, especially in a state-of-the-art workspace like Keventer One. Demand for

TIMES NATION

'I considered a medical career, but feel unsure after the NEET scam'

To help readers cope with their anxieties in these stressful times, TOI has launched Talk it Out, a series in which expert counsellors answer your mental health queries. This week's advice is from counselling psychologist Dr Jyoti Kapoor

I am a 17-year-old who just started class 12. I opted for the physics-chemistry-maths-biology combination, with hopes of having numerous opportunities and a clear goal. However, it's been a year, and I still don't know what to pursue. Initially, I considered a medical career, but after the NEET scam this year, I feel apprehensive. Competitive exams, in general, intimidate me. Moreover, I lack distinct interests or hobbies; I simply enjoy reading and lazing around. Lately, I've developed a general aversion to studying or anything academic. Even when I attempt to study, I get easily distracted and struggle to focus. Please advise on what steps I can take and other career opportunities.

— Anonymous

As we approach higher classes, the emphasis is often on opting for a stream that allows for maximum career opportunities, that's the classical approach. But, you may have heard from a number of sources now, your choice of profession should depend upon your interest and personal inclination rather than what the socio-economic sector offers. Because if you choose something you enjoy, you are more likely to learn it better, practice it with enthusiasm and passion and thus succeed in it. If you can't pinpoint what you enjoy, you may go for aptitude tests which are conducted by qualified clinical psychologists to help you in career counselling. To your current response to the stress associated with indecisiveness, I would say it's an obvious avoidant response because you are overwhelmed by the situation. This makes one anxious, unable to focus or enjoy the things one is not sure of



and feel distracted. It may help to write down what you think you enjoy like reading, what skills you possess that can be explored keeping this interest in mind and what are the available resources to help you get into the field that aligns your interests and skills with accessible career options.

I've been feeling really overwhelmed and anxious lately, especially about my academics and career. Seeing my classmates excel makes me feel like I'm lagging behind. Despite exercising to stay healthy, my mental health is suffering. I often dwell on embarrassing past events, and it's hard to move forward. I also find myself pulling away from social interactions, only really talking to my mother. I often feel demotivated and procrastination is my biggest problem. Please help.

— Anonymous

Anxiety is a response to stress and it becomes overwhelming if the stress is not mitigated. Chronic stress thus causes a chronic state of hyperarousal of our nervous system, i.e. you stay in a continuous flight or fight situation thereby not able to relax or focus on the day to day activities and gradually may slip into social withdrawal and persistent state of sadness. So the first step is to identify your stressors. Make a stress diary. Identify people, places or situations that make you uncomfortable. Then ask yourself why it happens. Is the person or situation as important as you are making it out to be or just an automatic pattern of thoughts based on perceived notions or beliefs. And finally, what is the best way to deal with it? Thinking of past events or repeating negative scenarios in the brain only increases the stress chemicals causing you to get stuck in the loop of anxiety and avoiding what may cause anxiety. It's useful to take professional help because it gives you a safe and non-judgmental space to express yourself and develop better coping mechanisms.

I have been devoid of a happy family ever since my birth and never seen peace, contentment, and love among the three of us till date. There is hardly any communication between my parents, and whenever they do talk, even about a minor thing, it always results in disagreements and fights, which leads to bitterness for a long period of time. Added to this, my neighbours verbally and mentally harass my mother as the entire neighborhood knows that nobody would support her, and my father would instead blame my mother for everything. Even her own family has never supported her. This is causing me a lot of mental stress and unfortunately, I no longer desire to stay in such a negative environment. I am moreover a single child and no one talks to me either here or much at school. I am lonely and sad and even frustrated at times. Please help.

— Anonymous

It's unfortunate that a young person has to deal with an environment that is stressful and feels negative all the time. Our early environment impacts the stress threshold in our nervous system making us wary of any circumstance that can cause harm, be it physical or mental. It's therefore important to either change that environment or learn to manage stress by developing positive perspectives and engaging in activities that inspire positive attitudes. You haven't mentioned your age but I am assuming you are in school and are aware how the environment is impacting you. Even though it's easier said than done for a child to take the necessary action to change their environment, I strongly recommend that your parents are apprised of the situation and seek psychological counselling. Sometimes parents are so overwhelmed with their own issues that they become oblivious to what's happening to their own child and it may help when they are informed what is happening. You need to let them know how you are feeling. If you think you can't talk to your parents directly, please reach out to a school counsellor, family relative, or another adult in your surroundings you can trust to convey your distress and garner your support. At the same time, try to focus on activities that make you feel happier, like sports or theatre. Expressive arts can help you deal with your emotions and understand other people's perspectives. Physical exercise, having a balanced diet and proper sleep pattern helps in better stress coping. I hope you can find a way to communicate with your parents. Sharing this column might help.

AAP protests Kejriwal's arrest by CBI

New Delhi: Terming Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal's arrest by CBI in the excise policy case "illegal", AAP on Saturday staged protests across the country and accused central govt of "misusing" investigating agencies. AAP said that party workers staged protests at BJP offices in 21 states, including Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Telangana, Maharashtra and Gujarat. Delhi BJP, however, said the protest was organised to divert the attention of people from the mayhem of waterlogging.

In a statement, AAP said Delhi emerged as the epicentre of these demonstrations, as hundreds of party workers, led by ministers, MLAs, and municipal councillors, carrying placards and chanting slogans, marched towards the BJP headquarters. They were stopped by police barricading much before the BJP office. The demonstrators staged a sit-in demanding immediate release of Kejriwal. **TNN**

Court sends Kejriwal to judicial custody till July 12

Vineet Upadhyay @timesgroup.com

New Delhi: A Delhi court on Saturday sent chief minister Arvind Kejriwal to judicial custody till July 12 in a corruption case related to the alleged excise scam after his three-day CBI custody ended.

"Considering the fact that the conspiracy alleged against the accused involves a large number of persons who were involved in the formulation and implementation of the excise policy and also the persons who acted as facilitators in the use of ill-gotten money, I find that there exist sufficient grounds for remanding the accused to judicial custody," said vacation judge Sunena Sharma of the Rouse Avenue courts. She pointed out that the investigation was still in progress and may require custodial interrogation of the accused to confront him with more material likely to be collected. The court allowed Kejri-



Kejriwal being brought to a court by CBI officials on Saturday

wal to carry medicines and medical devices required for monitoring and controlling his diabetes. Earlier during the hearing, the court allowed him to meet his family and lawyers inside the court. The court passed the order after CBI, did not seek an extension of police custody but requested the court to send Kejriwal to judicial custody for 14 days.

The court, taking note of the available material, said the investigation had revealed that Vijay Nair, media in-charge of AAP and an accused in the case, was a close associate of the Delhi CM. He was contacting various liqu-

or manufacturers and traders "for demanding undue gratification" in order to incorporate provisions favourable to them in the policy, said the court.

The name of Kejriwal had surfaced as one of the main conspirators in the criminal conspiracy, the court said. The agency claimed in its application that Kejriwal did not cooperate with the investigation, gave evasive replies and had failed to give a proper and truthful explanation regarding enhancement of the profit margin for wholesalers from 5% to 12% under the policy without any study or justification.

CBI told the court that Kejriwal could not explain why during the peak of the second wave of Covid pandemic in 2021, cabinet approval for the revised policy was obtained in a hurried manner and within a day when the accused persons of the South Group were camping in Delhi holding meetings with Nair.

Man charged with dacoity 10 days after his lynching

Agra: Ten days after a mob allegedly lynched Mohammad Farid, 35, in Aligarh, an FIR was filed against him, his brother and five others Saturday. The FIR was registered under IPC sections 395 (dacoity) and 354 (assault or criminal force to woman), reports **Deepak Lavania**.

In her complaint, the wife of textile trader Mukesh Chand Mittal, alleged that Farid, his brother Zaki and their aides carried out a dacoity at her house. She claimed that Farid threatened her at gunpoint, snatched her gold chain, and took Rs 2.5 lakh cash and jewellery from her. DSP Rakesh Sisodia said, "On basis of the complaint, an FIR was filed against seven persons, including Farid, who died purportedly after being beaten by a mob, and two unknown persons. The matter is being investigated."

Court orders further probe into Cadila case

Ahmedabad: A local court ordered Saturday further investigation into the rape allegations levelled by a 27-year-old Bulgarian woman against Cadila Pharmaceuticals CMD Rajiv Modi and sought a report in two months.

Acting on a protest petition filed by the former flight attendant, additional chief judicial magistrate did not accept the Sola police clean chit given to Modi and a Cadila employee named Johnson Mathew at this stage. Instead of accepting the summary report, the court ordered the investigator to probe further under CrP Section 173(B)—(further investigation can be done in respect of an offence wherein a police report or chargesheet has been forwarded to a magistrate). As per complainant's advocate Rajesh Mishra, the court observed that important

witnesses in the case who were cited by the Bulgarian were not examined by the investigator. It said that not recording statements of important witnesses caused damage to case and these witnesses need to be examined.

The court also said the police ignored important documents and directed the investigator to take them into consideration during further investigation. The court noted that electronic evidence made available during the investigation was ignored and, besides documents, electronic evidence on which the complainant relied should have been considered. The court noted the investigator did not investigate allegations of human trafficking by Cadila and its management. It directed the roles of all those allegedly connected with this be probed. **TNN**



WANT SOME ADVICE?

Sharing can help your recovery so write to us at talkitout@timesgroup.com with your question, name and place. But if you wish to stay anonymous, do indicate that in your email.

You can also visit bit.ly/TOITalkitOut or scan this QR code to send in your concern.



UGC's push for pen-paper NET, CUET-UG now under scanner

New Delhi: National Testing Agency (NTA) late on Friday announced new dates for three exams: National Common Entrance Test (NCET), University Grants Commission-National Eligibility Test (UGC-NET), and Joint Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)-UGC-NET. All these exams will be conducted as computer-based tests (CBT). This raises the question: why were UGC-NET and Common University Entrance Test-Undergraduate (CUET-UG), overseen by UGC and administered by NTA, shifted to pen-paper and hybrid (partially pen-paper) modes respectively? Ministry of education as well as seven-member exam reform panel are reviewing these changes made "at the insistence of UGC", reports Manash Gohain.

Investigations into the alleged Central Selection Board of Constable (CSBC) and National Eligibility cum Entrance Test-Undergraduate (NEET-UG) 2024 paper leak cases revealed security breaches during transportation of question papers. This has led to scrutiny of NTA, which was established to conduct "high-quality" exams digitally with minimal human interference and in collaboration with a credible technology partner.

An NTA source stated, "UGC insisted on making CUET-UG hybrid or pen-paper in 2023 itself. However, NTA disagreed and conducted the exam in CBT mode. The first edition faced a lot of criticism due to technical glitches, and in 2023, it was conducted over a month. However, like JEE (Main), the exam's integrity was not questioned and there were no technical glitches. With change of leadership in NTA last year, UGC once again wanted the exam to be conducted in hybrid mode, with papers for a large number of candidates delivered in pen-paper mode."

Despite criticism over delays, glitches, and centres lacking basic amenities, NTA has been "performing adequately with computer-based JEE (Main) and UGC-NET since 2018," according to a senior MoE official. "It is intriguing that UGC wanted UGC-NET to be in pen-paper mode, and this decision by the commission also needs to be questioned."

Principal's arrest stuns Hazaribag

Haque Had Turned Oasis Into One Of Dist's Most Prestigious Schools

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Hazaribag: Arrest of principal of Hazaribag's Oasis School, Ehsanul Haque, by CBI in NEET-UG paper leak case has left those who have known him since his days of struggle in shock. Many find it hard to accept that the soft-spoken teacher, who built the reputation of Oasis as the city's premier school from scratch, could be involved in the paper leak.

Haque, 42, once ran a coaching institute called "Seed" on Pugmil Road in the city. In 2013, he was roped in to head the Oasis School, located on Mandai Road in Hazaribag district, at its inception by its owner and chairman, Shabbir Ahmad.

He faced significant challenges, right from taking the school to new heights to securing a CBSE affiliation, but succeeded in both, making Oasis one of Hazaribag's most sought-after schools, thanks to its top-notch infrastructure and faculty.

The school, which started with 100-odd students in 2013, now has over 4,000 students and over 40 teachers, and runs from a modern building with state-of-the-art facilities for academics and sports. The school got CBSE affiliations for classes X and XII in 2020.

Sources said a total of 118 students appeared in class X board exams in 2022-2023, and the school had a 100% pass percentage, with 38 students securing marks above 85%. In

2022-2023 and 2023-2024, too, all students who appeared for class X and XII board examinations passed.

The academic success of the school also established Haque, who holds PhD and BEd degrees, among the noted academicians in Hazaribag. After being appointed as CBSE coordinator, he became a prominent figure of the city and was often invited to various programmes organised by different schools, said one of his acquaintances. Haque, his friends revealed, comes from a humble background. His father, a former employee of Central Coalfields Limited, passed away recently. A bachelor, he takes care of his two younger brothers and their families, and a married sister. "He always remained busy from morning to evening, with most of his time spent at the school," one of his friends said.

The staff at Oasis School and his neighbours in the Hasmia colony are still in shock over his arrest on Friday. None in the school or the locality wished to speak anything on record on Saturday.

"It's beyond my expectation as to why he did what he did. It's a tough time for his family," said one of the locals, who did not wish to be identified. Another person said, "When the almighty gave him everything, right from the chair of a big school to the CBSE coordinator, what was the use of indulging in wrong activities?"

Prime accused among 9 held in Gauhati univ marksheet scam

Guwahati: Nine people, including the prime accused, have been arrested so far in an alleged marksheet scam in Gauhati University, police said on Saturday. Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma had on Thursday revealed the alleged scam at a press briefing in Barpeta, reports Mukut Das.

The arrests were made from Guwahati, Barpeta and Dhubri. The latest one was made on Friday. Six to seven cases have

come to light in Barpeta and the prime accused, who is in charge of the firm responsible for computerised marksheets system, was arrested.

The scam came to light when authorities at Ganeshlal Chaudhary College in Barpeta Road detected forged marks of Azizul Haque, a sixth-semester undergraduate student, prompting a detailed probe that led to arrest of eight individuals from across Assam.

CAUGHT IN THE NEET NET

A nationwide investigation into the NEET exam fraud has led to numerous arrests, uncovering a vast network of people — including junior engineers, teachers, school administrators, students, and political functionaries — suspected of involvement in leaking question papers, providing answer keys, and arranging dummy candidates

BIHAR, JHARKHAND

May 5/6 (Patna) | 13 arrested, including four aspirants and three parents. Key figures: Sikandar Yadavendu (junior engineer), his driver Bittu, Amit Anand, Nitish Kumar, Mukesh, and Roshan Kumar. Charges: Providing question solvers, handling aspirants, transporting to safe houses

June 21 (Deoghar, Jharkhand) | Six arrested — Paramjit Singh alias Bittu, Baldev Kumar alias Chintu, Prashant Kumar alias Kaju, Ajit Kumar, Rajiv Kumar alias Karu, Pinku Kumar. Charges: Leaking question papers, providing solvers, coordinating leaks

June 27 (Patna) | Manish Anand and Ashutosh Kumar arrested by CBI. Charges: Sheltering aspirants to memorize answer keys

June 28 (Hazaribagh, Jharkhand) | Principal Ehsanul Haque, vice principal Intiaz Alam, and journalist Jamaluddin arrested. Charges: Leaking question paper

RAJASTHAN

May 5 | 22-year-old female student and Bhagwan Singh arrested for appearing as dummy candidates. Hukma Ram Godara (AIIMS Jodhpur) allegedly appeared as dummy candidate in Bihar; currently on the run

May 8 | Student mediator and six students from Jhalawar Govt Medical College arrested by Delhi police



Economic Offences Unit personnel with an arrested accused in Patna on June 23, 2024

June 13 | 21-year-old student from Jhalawar Govt Medical College arrested in Mumbai for liaising with the female dummy candidate

UTTARAKHAND

June 25 (Dehradun) | Gurgaon resident Gangadhar Gunde, originally from Marathwada, arrested while on the way to Mussoorie. Charges: Helping leak question papers in Bihar

MAHARASHTRA

June 23/25 (Latur and Solapur) | Headmaster Jaleel Khan Pathan (34) in Latur district and Santosh

Jadhav (40), a teacher in Madha of Solapur, arrested. Charges: Identifying students, collecting hall ticket photos, collecting money, and passing info to an absconding ITI instructor

GUJARAT

May 10 | Parshuram Roy, a Vadodra-based overseas education consultant, arrested. Charges: Coordinating with other accused in medical exam leaks

May 12 | Tushar Bhatt, a teacher at Jalam School in Vadodra, and Godhra-based

Arif Vahora, a suspended BJP functionary, arrested. Charges: Receiving money (Rs 7 lakh or more) for students, coordinating with other accused. Roy gave a list of students to Bhatt on WhatsApp

May 19 | Vibhor Anand Singh, a Bihar native living in Vadodra, arrested. Charges: Referring students to Roy

May 20 | Parshottam Sharma, principal of Jay Jalam School in Godhra, arrested. Charges: Ensuring school selection as exam centre; conspiring with Bhatt

New NEET-PG schedule 'in one or two days', says Pradhan

New Delhi: National Board of Examinations (NBE) will announce the new schedule for NEET-PG "in one or two days", Union education minister Dharmendra Pradhan said on Saturday. Last week, NEET-PG was among the several exams that were cancelled

as a pre-emptive measure against alleged irregularities in competitive tests.

Pradhan told this to reporters in Panchkula during Haryana BJP's extended state executive meeting. His comment follows the announcement of revised dates

for three cancelled exams by NTA. UGC-NET, which was cancelled a day after being conducted on June 18 due to "compromised exam integrity", will now take place from Aug 21 to Sep 4.

Pradhan mentioned that the UGC-NET question paper

was leaked on the darknet and circulated via the Telegram app, and the matter is under CBI investigation. UGC-NET determines eligibility for the junior research fellowship (JRF) award, assistant professorships and PhD admissions. **TNN**

Nadda hits out at Bengal govt over violence 'inaction'

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Kolkata: BJP national president J P Nadda on Saturday hit out at Bengal govt for the "inaction" over post-poll violence. Nadda, who had sent a fact-finding committee to the state, also blamed it for turning into a mute "spectator".

A four-member committee led by former Tripura CM Biplob Deb submitted its report on Friday night. It recommended the localized deployment of CAPF and suggested that all commissions should visit, take cognizance and award compensation in appropriate cases. The committee also called for extending the tenure of CAPF in the state.

The report claimed that Trinamool was perpetuating "political revenge by using the govt system and killing the Constitution and democracy". The report noted the intervention of courts for appropriate relief, particularly in cases where investigations should be conducted by central agencies. It also mentioned that the court's intervention was necessary to enable karyakartas to return home safely.

TMC's former Rajya Sabha MP Kunal Ghosh said Deb was the CM of Tripura when a Trinamool team had gone there to protest the "atrocities on party workers". "His men tried to enter the police station and kidnap our workers. Now that they have lost the poll, they are looking for a face-saving measure," Ghosh said.

Comic cancels show after MLA's threat

Hyderabad: A stand-up show by comic Daniel Fernandes at a restaurant in Hyderabad's Jubilee Hills was cancelled on Saturday after BJP MLA T Raja Singh threatened to disrupt it allegedly over the artist's objectionable remarks on the Jain community. Raja released a video threatening to beat up Fernandes if he went ahead with the show. Police reached the restaurant only to find that the organisers had cancelled the event. **TNN**

Govt panel recommends Challa Setty as next SBI chairman; to succeed Khara

TIMES NEWS NETWORK



Mumbai: The Financial Services Institution Board (FSIB) has recommended Challa Sreenivasulu Setty, MD, State Bank of India, as the next chairman of the bank.

The board conducted interviews to select a successor for the incumbent Dinesh Khara, whose extended term ends in Aug 2024.

According to a statement from FSIB, the board interviewed three candidates on June 29 for the position of chairman at SBI. "Keeping in view their performance in the interviews, their overall experience and the existing parameters, the board recommends CS Setty for the position of chairman," the statement said.

The other two candidates were understood to be Ashwini Kumar Tewari and Vinay Tonse.

Setty (born Sept 1965) currently oversees the In-

ternational Banking, Global Markets, and Technology divisions at SBI. He started his career with the bank in 1988 as a probationary officer. Setty holds a BSc in agriculture and is a Certified Associate of the Indian Institute of Bankers.

Before being appointed MD in 2020, he held several critical positions at SBI, such as Deputy MD of the Stressed Assets Resolution Group, Chief General Manager, General Manager in the Corporate Accounts Group, Deputy General Manager in the Mid-Corporate

Ravi Agrawal to be new CDBT chief

Govt on Saturday appointed Ravi Agrawal as the new chairman of the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT). He replaces Nitin Gupta, whose extension ends on June 30. An official statement said Agrawal's tenure will start from July 1 and he would be in office till the date of his superannuation on Sept 30 this year. After that he'll be re-appointed on a contract basis up to June 30 next year on terms and conditions applicable to re-employed central govt officers, according to the statement from the secretariat of the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet. Agrawal is a 1988 IRS officer. **TNN**

Group, and Vice President and Head of Syndications at SBI's New York Branch.

Initially, as MD, he led the Retail and Digital Banking verticals before taking on his current responsibilities. His term as Managing Director was extended by two years in Jan 2023.

Setty's proposed elevation comes at a time when the bank is undergoing a digital transformation, and profits and asset quality are at an all-time high. Motilal Oswal had in a report highlighted the turnaround of the bank in the last six years

from a loss of Rs 6,500 crore in FY18 to profits of Rs 61,100 crore in FY24. "We note that the cumulative profit of the bank over the past three years (FY22-24) is equivalent to what the bank earned in the prior 20 years combined," the report said.

FSIB is an autonomous body in India responsible for recommending appointments and evaluating the performance of top management in public sector banks, insurance companies, and financial institutions. It was earlier established as Banks Board Bureau (BBB).

BJP set to contest Haryana polls on its own, says Shah

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Undeterred by the loss of five seats during Lok Sabha polls in Haryana, senior BJP leader and home minister Amit Shah on Saturday announced that the party will contest the forthcoming assembly polls in the state solo and exhorted party workers to gear up for a two-thirds majority.

"We have lost a few seats in Haryana by small margins but our vote share has gone up by 5% from 2014. This time too, we will not ally with anyone and will contest on our own and win. This time, we must win Haryana with a two-third majority," Shah said, in his first public rally after Lok Sabha polls, as he addressed BJP workers at Panchkula.

The decision to go alone is significant after Congress halved BJP's tally from the state. Just before LS polls, Dushyant Chautala-led Janayak Janta Party (JJP), which was an ally of BJP in the state, severed ties and



Shah sought to play down BJP's less-than-expected performance in LS polls, focusing on Modi's feat

contested the polls on its own. Shah made it clear that the party does not intend to make concessions to woo the former ally back.

Shah sought to play down BJP's less-than-expected performance in LS polls, focusing instead on Narendra Modi's feat in being the first PM in 60 years to score a third consecutive victory "How can this be possible without the blessings of the people of India?" the home minister said. He said that Congress is trying to make their defeat in the Lok Sabha election look like a victory through false propaganda.

4 cops held for extorting ₹24L from Hry man

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Four policemen have been arrested for allegedly extorting Rs 24 lakh from a Panipat resident by threatening to slap hawala money laundering charges on him.

Police sources said these officers had previously been suspended. On May 29, the victim, aiming to send his son abroad for studies, contacted an agent who assured him assistance with a visa. The man was directed to stay at a hotel in Laxmi Nagar.

"The trouble began when someone claiming to be an associate of the agent visited me. He recorded the money and left," the complainant said. Later, the associate returned with four policemen. They escorted the man to a police station and threatened to level false hawala charges against him. Fearing serious consequences, he handed over Rs 24 lakh to them.

A senior officer said inspector Prakash Roy and three other officers from the Laxmi Nagar police station were arrested on June 28 after their involvement was established.

After 2 shootouts with cops, man dies in 'accidental firing'

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Ghaziabad: A 22-year-old man who allegedly put up staunch resistance against a relative's arrest, first thwarting a Delhi Police team and then taking on a UP Police team, died of a gunshot wound on Friday, apparently sustained during a scuffle with the cops just as they had managed to corner him.

Rehan, who police said was injured when his own pistol fired accidentally during the scuffle, was admitted to GTB Hospital in Delhi where he succumbed to his injuries.

A Delhi Police team was in Loni to arrest Mannu alias Sohail in a vehicle theft case. Rehan allegedly tried to stop them and fired at the police team, which allowed Mannu to escape. Subsequently, a

two constables from Ankur Vihar police station. Mannu was arrested but just as they were taking him away, Rehan fired a few rounds. The Delhi cops also fired but Mannu escaped. Later, the Delhi team left. The constables informed Loni police station about the incident through wireless.

A five-member Ghaziabad police team led by sub-inspector subsequently went to Mannu's house but came under fire from Mannu and Rehan, who had taken cover on the terrace of a neighbouring house. "One of the bullets hit Vijay's shoulder," said the DCP.

Police said the exchange of fire continued for around five minutes after which the cops caught Rehan. "When the team tried to take the pistol from his hand, it fired accidentally and a bullet hit his thigh," Yadav said.

DCP (rural) Vivek Yadav said, "Around 2.30pm, a Delhi Police went to Dabar Talab to catch the accused. They were accompanied by

Antibiotic to fight superbugs by year-end

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Mumbai: A city-based pharma company designing a new antibiotic to combat superbugs said its clinical trial should be complete by year-end.

Stating that its novel antibiotic candidate, WCK 5222, has shown "100% success rate" in 30 patients who got it on compassionate grounds within India and abroad last year, Indian drugmaker Wockhardt on Thursday said it's in the process of getting the DCGI's approval. The drug could thus be launched by the end of financial year in India. The World Health Organisation has listed antibiotic resistance as one of the new public health challenges that kills approximately 5 million people annually across the world.

BRO in final stages of completing road from Sasoma to DBO outpost

Continued from P 1

The Border Roads Organisation, incidentally, is in the final stages of completing a new alternate 130-km road from Sasoma in the Nubra Valley through Saser Brangta to the DBO outpost. The strategically-located DBO, which includes an advance landing ground (ALG) at an altitude of 16,614-feet, overlooks the Karakoram Pass and is just a few km from LAC and China-occupied Aksai Chin region beyond.



India has forward deployed over 50,000 troops after PLA's multiple incursions into eastern Ladakh

Expressing deep sadness at "the loss of lives of the five brave soldiers in the unfortunate accident", defence minister Rajnath Singh said, "We will never forget the exemplary service of our gal-

lant soldiers to the nation. My heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families. The nation stands firm with them during this hour of grief."

China has till now refused to undertake troop disengagement at the two remaining major face-off sites in Depsang Plains and the Charding Ninglung Nallah (CNN) track junction at Demchok.

No NEET answer, but time to make merit matter again

THE UNDERAGE OPTIMIST



CHETAN BHAGAT

It's fair to say that NEET, the national-level medical entrance exam, has become a mess. Allegations of paper leaks, mismanagement of centres, unfair marking schemes, mathematically improbable result patterns abound. This is not only stressful to the millions who took the exam, but to those planning to take it in the coming years.

Even with no irregularity, Indian entrance exams are already intensely stressful. Long after one has stopped being a student, the recurrent nightmare is usually to do with an exam. NEET is extremely competitive. Some 23 lakh students took NEET-UG this year, aiming to get one of the approximately 50,000 seats in government medical colleges. This makes it a rejection rate of 97.8%. There are some more seats for private medical colleges, but they are a) not as prestigious and b) are expensive to study in, sometimes costing crores (compared to a few lakhs for government ones). Even including private colleges, total medical seats cap out at a little over 1,00,000.

The big fight is, however, for government seats, or to obtain one of the top 50,000 ranks. Imagine the value of obtaining this top rank in NEET. Ignore all morals, merit, hard work. Let's just go into pure greedy, shameless, crony-capitalist mode. What if you could auction and sell those top ranks? How much do you think they would sell for? You save in crores given the lower fee at government colleges. There's higher prestige. You avoid the stress and hard work of preparation and save the coaching fee as well. Perhaps these top ranks could be sold off, in a greedy pure capitalist world, for Rs 3 crore each. So, for the top 50,000 ranks, we are talking about a potential Rs 1,50,000-crore revenue opportunity annually, if we were ready to sell our souls. This is why there is a massive incentive for things to go wrong. It's the same story with other entrance exams — the money to be made in rigging them is massive. In a nation that has rarely prioritised merit and ethics, is it really surprising that a mini industry has come up to make money off these tests?

When did we care about fairness, integrity and merit anyway? It isn't how our politics works which is almost always about identity — some mix of religion, caste, regionalism and nationalism. So why care now? Why bother with silly things like merit? Why not sell everything? If we can have crony capitalism, where certain corporates who pay up have an advantage, why not let rich families buy seats for their kids? But it bothers us, doesn't it? It makes us sick actu-



TESTING TIME: Exams like NEET give young people an opportunity to jump class so leaks feel like a betrayal

ally. Mass-level cheating in our few, extremely difficult but supposedly honest exams shakes us to the core. It isn't just about students. It is about all of us, who suddenly feel nothing is sacrosanct, nobody can be trusted and, finally, it is only power and money that talks. Exams like NEET, JEE, UPSC are the only outlets in our country for young people to jump class. For someone to get a better life of dignity for themselves and their parents. They are extremely hard, but at least carry hope in a country with few avenues to rise.

Hopefully, this NEET fiasco wakes us up. It makes us realise that values such as integrity, honesty, merit, and respect for hard work are values that need to be guarded. Humans are flawed. If there is massive opportunity to rig and cheat, some people in the system will do so. But we as citizens must stay vigilant. Students are the victims here but here's a bit of feedback for them. They may not like to hear this, but over the last few years, the average Indian student has disconnected from politics. Lost in their Insta reels, YouTube videos, memes, OTT series and video games, they say, 'Who cares, politics doesn't affect me. Let boring oldies do it.' No, you must care. For if you don't, you will suffer the most. How did NEET finally attract national attention? When enough students finally kicked up a fuss. Stay engaged in your democracy. Don't check out. Don't think voting every five years and ignoring national issues otherwise is enough. Your regular vigilance is needed to keep everyone accountable.

For this specific NEET situation, all problems lead to National Testing Agency (NTA) which conducts these high-stakes exams without good systems in place. With lakhs of crores in malpractice possible, we deserve a more foolproof organisation. For exams like NEET, centres must be reputable and secure. If enough good centres are not available, exams can be phase-wise, like elections. For this, multiple question papers can be set of equal difficulty and scores normalised. Only a tight circle should be aware of which exact paper will be used on exam day. Conducting an exam with integrity is possible but it depends on those conducting it. Leaking papers is essentially selling of seats. It is selling Indian merit, honesty and hard work. It is selling India's soul. We can't let that happen. ■

In these polarised times, we need to be aware of what we share as humans

British-Turkish writer **Elif Shafak**, who became an international sensation with 'Forty Rules of Love', has just written her 19th book, a novel that connects ancient Mesopotamia, Victorian England and present-day Turkey through a single drop of water. Shafak, who listens to heavy metal when she writes, spoke to Namita Devidayal about literature, ecofeminism, and being gentle and radical at the same time

■ Your new book, 'There are Rivers in the Sky' melds history and geography. What motivates you to take that route repeatedly?

As a writer, I'm not only interested in stories, but also silences — people who have been silenced throughout history. Most stories told to us, especially in Turkey, are from the point of view of a man in a position of power. But the stories of women, of minorities, of men who do not have power, for instance, have been forgotten. I've always been interested in the untold stories, the silences, the taboos, the gaps. Literature has the power to re-humanise the people who have been dehumanised, to make the unheard heard. That said, this book was very difficult for me to write because all the worlds are built around a single tiny drop of water.

■ Why water?

Even at this age (52), I really don't know where the stories come from. All I know is I am interested in nature. We have turned ourselves into consumers and the more you consume, the more value you have. I think we need to question that. We need to understand that we are only a small part of a very delicate ecosystem in which trees have a voice, water has presence. I am also interested in ecofeminism. When we talk about the climate crisis, we are actually talking about a freshwater crisis, and this especially impacts

women all around the world, for they carry water to their communities and often have to walk long distances, increasing the possibility of gender violence. So, everything is connected. This is my love poem to water.

■ Tell us about how your childhood in Turkey shaped you as a writer.

I was born in France but shortly afterwards, my parents got separated and my mother brought me to Ankara in Turkey. So, two things are very crucial to me: First, the sense of displacement and the idea of homeland. The second is the solidarity and sisterhood between my mother and my grandmother. Even though they are very different, they supported each other tremendously. My grandmother was barely educated but she wholeheartedly believed in women's independence. So, when my mum returned as a young divorcee with no career, no money, no diploma, it was my grandmother who encouraged her to go back to university so that she could have choices, and she took care of me. At a very vulnerable moment in our life, my grandmother's support changed our destiny. I'm a big believer in women supporting women.

■ Do you consider yourself spiritual or religious or secular? Can one be all three things at the same time?

I'm not religious at all, especially when it comes to organised religion. I think spirituality

is an individual quest and everyone's journey is different, like fingerprints. Secularism is crucial — where religion does not try to dominate and shape public life, especially for women.

■ You said somewhere that you don't like certainties — that you can learn equally from faith and doubt, from being simultaneously gentle and radical. Could you please elaborate on this non-binary approach?

I think it's one of the most important questions of our time precisely because of how deeply and bitterly polarised we have become. For storytellers, there is no such thing as us versus them. There are only human beings. There is no 'other'. So, we have to question these dualities that are constantly being imposed on us. We have to find a new narrative that is aware of what we share as human beings. To me, words like diversity and multiculturalism are precious — not only the diversity outside, but also the pluralism within my own soul. I sincerely believe that in life, we don't learn so much from sameness but from differences. I don't want to be surrounded by people who think like me, dress like me, talk like me, because that is a very self-centred existence. If what you're telling me makes sense, I'm willing to revise my opinions, to leave the door a little open. What we have lost in the age of internet is real intellectual exchange. Coming back to the question of certainties, the absolute certainty of dogma really frightens me. It is a beautiful thing to be able to say, 'I don't know'. I like the humility of people who say, 'I'm on a journey, I'm learning, I'm a student of life.'

■ What's your advice to a young writer?

While giving talks at schools, I found that six- and seven-year-olds have so much courage and chutzpah. When you ask if there are any artists or poets in the room, many hands go up. At that age, girls are so confident, sometimes more than boys. But in middle and upper school, it's amazing how much things change. Girls don't want to speak up. No one wants to be an artist or writer. We have basically told these kids — don't stand out, blend in. So, little by little, we chip away their confidence and creativity. All I can tell the young writer is: Don't let that happen to you. Go back to that inner garden you had as a child and rebuild it.



Photo courtesy: Ferhat Elilk

Rahul versus Modi: LS session reveals two different approaches to politics

RIGHT & WRONG



SWAPAN DASGUPTA

There was an eerie predictability about the disruptions and manufactured controversies that greeted the brief, inaugural session of the Lok Sabha last week. Inspired by what it perceived as its great success in denying the ruling BJP an outright majority on its own, opposition can now be expected to reduce Parliament to a boisterous slugfest. The underlying belief is that agitational politics both inside and outside Parliament will expose the Narendra Modi government's fragility and make governance difficult. Since BJP had crafted its election plank on the promise of providing a smooth route to its Viksit Bharat destination, opposition now believes it is positioned to throw a spanner in the works, at least at frequent inter-

vals over the next five years.

On his part, Prime Minister Modi has entered his third term with a business-as-usual approach. The selection of senior ministers suggests that continuity will be the hallmark of the government. The restiveness apparent in different layers of BJP, not to mention the wider Sangh Parivar, at the reduction of the government's majority and the big losses in UP, Maharashtra and West Bengal, has not found expression in the functioning of the government. Whether this insouciance is strategy or merely an interim decoy pending a more considered assessment of the outcome is not known. However, govt strategists need to consider the mismatch between the unbridled optimism of stock markets and a mood of tentativeness among people over the future.

No doubt some of the question marks have arisen out of the episodic anger over the NEET turmoil. There are suggestions that the Agniveer issue is also on a slow burning fuse. There will

be other such hiccups that the govt will have to confront in the future. What matters is whether its sincerity of purpose is accepted by the public.

However, BJP's loss of seats has also been accompanied by a media-inspired resurrection of tensions involving the RSS, a facet of public life that had been eased out of the political imagination after Modi's 2014 victory. Political speculation along such lines tends invariably to be salacious and these, in turn, gnaw away at the moral integrity of a govt. The Modi govt has so far made its mark on the strength of its achievements in governance and on the development front. People's perception has been shaped by its energy and record of delivery. Modi hasn't been distracted by the political shenanigans that prime ministers from P V Narasimha Rao to Manmohan Singh had to expend their energies on. It is in his own interest to ensure that the fears of 'coalition adharma' turn out to be false scares.

India, it would seem, has unexpectedly been

confronted by two different approaches to politics. Quite unwittingly, Rahul Gandhi detected the conflicting impulses in his first speech as Leader of Opposition. In welcoming the Speaker, he said: "Speaker sir, the question is not how efficiently the House is run, the question is how much of India's voice is allowed to be heard in this House. Speaker sir, so the idea that you can run the House efficiently by silencing the voice of the Opposition is a non-democratic idea."

While willfully overstating and mocking the disciplinarian compulsions of a Speaker, he astutely identified a unique facet of the Modi govt: its use of efficiency as the yardstick of good governance and politics. From directing govt employees to attend office punctually, using technology to stop the proverbial transmission losses of government funds, to holding periodic audits of ministerial and departmental performance, Modi's political priorities are implicitly non-discursive. He seems to loathe yesterday's meandering pravachans.

This is in marked contrast to the political imagination of the INDIA combination that (at least for the moment) wants elaborate parliamentary deliberations to set the tone of politics. There is a view of liberalism that celebrates decision-making which flows from the laboured aggregation of conflicting philosophies — a confederal system where even the views of CPI (ML-Liberation) and AIMIM are given disproportionate weightage. This approach is at best akin to taking the scenic route or, more likely, travelling by the mail train that stops at every station. What matters is the journey, never the destination.

Maybe there are countries where non-urgency and plebiscitary democracy are ideals. But does it suit the imperatives of an India where the real challenge is to bring all parts of a vast and diverse country into the 21st century, without losing our sense of who we are? It is shaping up to be a battle between the cacophony of liberal democracy and the choral chants of national democracy. ■

Buy British, huh? Mahatma Gandhi is having the last laugh

BY INVITATION



SANDIP ROY

In 1921, Gandhi took a pledge to boycott foreign goods by burning 1,50,000 pieces of English cloth in Bombay. The swadeshi movement had started earlier after the Partition of Bengal in 1905 with calls to boycott Manchester cloth and Liverpool salt. But now it truly captured the imagination of the Indian public. Gandhi called it the soul of the dream of swaraj.

Almost 100 years later, a British prime minister of Indian origin has given the call for swadeshi in London in the hope that he too will capture the imagination of his public as Britain heads into an election next week. In a tweet Rishi Sunak exhorted his fellow countrymen to "Buy British", saying, "We shouldn't be reliant on foreign food."

An X user's post saying, "Babe wake up the Brits are starting a Swadeshi movement," promptly went viral. Gandhi, the man Britain's great hero Winston Churchill described as a "seditious half-naked fakir", would have been amused that a British PM seems to be wanting to take a page out of his playbook.

Sunak's aim was to appeal to national pride and promote self-reliance. His opponents pointed fingers at the role his own party has played in the decline of British agriculture as well as the impact of Brexit on food supply. A London School of Economics study said British households paid 7 billion pounds since Brexit to cover the cost of trade barriers on food imports from the European Union. Controversial trade deals with Australia and New Zealand have flooded British markets with cheap beef from Down Under. But, for Indians, this was a juicy moment to give the Brits a history lesson.

When Indians launched the swadeshi movement in 1905, thousands were arrested and sent to jail. Colleges whose students had been part of the movement found their grants and scholarships cancelled. Sunak's clarion call, instead of igniting a similar fervour, has set off a meme fest and social media hilarity.

One X user said it was a great idea, but could Sunak direct them to the nearest British tea garden. Also, the 'Buy British' slogan rings a little hollow in a country where curry-houses are as

ubiquitous as pubs and chicken tikka masala is the unofficial national dish.

But there was a more sobering message as well. Britain once boasted that the sun never set on the British Empire. Even after Independence many Indians remained fascinated by London and knew more about British history than their own. But now, it has truly been cut to size. The emperor has no clothes (and no spices of its own either).

While the Indian leaders' call for swadeshi actually made an impact, Sunak's plea just had people rolling on the floor in laughter as some asked for a "squeeze of British lemon" and a "drizzle of British olive oil" and "those British spices." In the comedy series 'Goodness Gracious Me', the characters once go out for 'an English' which meant ordering 12 bread

rolls and the "blandest thing on the menu." "Goodness Gracious Me" was a spoof on English culture by British-Asian comedians but now Sunak himself has become the joke. He is pretty much the "blandest thing on the menu."

It was actually also an unwitting reminder of how a very small country had colonised so much of the world and cornered so much of its resources for its own gain for so long. The mention of "British spices" is particularly pointed because it was in the name of spices that European colonisers ravaged many parts of the world. That is why Amitav Ghosh used nutmeg as a way to recount a larger story about colonialism and capitalism all leading us towards climate change through the exploitation of the planet's resources in his book 'The Nutmeg's Curse: Parables for a Planet in Crisis'. Now, as Sunak tells his countrymen to buy British, it reminds us that the British went out to colonise so many parts of the globe precisely because there wasn't that much to buy at home. The raw materials of places like India finally gave Britain its chicken tikka masala, and there's no going back to mashed peas and boiled potatoes.

In fact, if they had just bought British in the first place, the history of the world would be very, very different. In that light, Sunak's plea sounds more plaintive than passionately patriotic. He has made it with a rather stoic disregard of the intertwined histories of both the country he leads and the country his ancestors came from. Social media is chortling that this is Gandhi's revenge, but Sunak remains straight-faced and impassive. Revenge might be a dish best served cold but post-colonial comeuppance, it seems, must come with a stiff upper lip. ■



SWADESHI PITCH: Sunak has ignored the histories of both the country he leads, and the country his ancestors came from

INBOX

Roadmap to dealing with heat waves

Apropos of the interview 'How will cities...' (ATM, June 23), the ongoing heat wave conditions in the country reflect the effects of global climate change. To be more effective, heat action plans must be tailored to each region, keeping in mind differences in meteorological and socioeconomic conditions. They should also focus on long-term nature-based mitigation measures. Additional funds should be pledged for this.

—Kamal Laddha, Bengaluru

I read Dileep Mavalankar's interview 'How will cities...' (ATM, June 23) with interest. It is indeed undoubtedly true that most of the state governments do not properly report deaths due to heat waves. As a forensic surgeon, there have been instances where I have had to perform autopsies on 10-12 bodies in a single day during the month of May, all of which were heat stroke deaths, yet the vital statistics rarely reflect this. As the interviewer rightly said, a national health action plan is need of the hour.

—Dr K R Reddy, Visakhapatnam

AI-generated exams?

Apropos of 'NET is far...' (ATM, June 23), the cancellation of exam fails to mitigate the issue in the long run. With the advent of new tech and AI, competitive exams shouldn't be conducted on pre-set question papers which are prone to leaks. Instead, we can have instant AI-generated papers based on the prescribed syllabus.

—Amit Tiwari, Amethi

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Atmanirbhar with a twist: India's different from Korea, Latin nations

SWAMINOMICS



SWAMINATHAN S ANKLESARIA AIYAR

Last week, this column described how the govt's atmanirbhar policy was evolving into an Indian version of the Korean chaebol, where industrial conglomerates are backed by their govt with support and subsidies to become world-class national champions. Similar policies mark other East Asian countries.

Will India emulate East Asia? Or will it go the way of Latin America, which also aimed to create national champions with high tariffs, quasi-monopolies, cheap credit, and ended with disasters in country after country? The chaebol bribed politicians. But Latin American corruption was enormously higher, with crony capitalism ruining economies. Despite historical advantages, the region failed to move from middle-income to high-income status. Argentina, among the richest countries in the 19th century, went bust seven times and regressed.

East Asian countries were always export-oriented and, hence, globally competitive. By contrast, Latin Americans aimed at self-sufficiency. The resulting lack of competitiveness doomed them.

Will India succeed in its version of chaebolisation? Or will it go the Latino crony way, as liberals like Raghuram Rajan fear? Consider three major fears...

● One is incomplete chaebolisation. Korea kept out big multinationals. But atmanirbhar has mixed aims. It seeks national champions but also wants to attract the biggest multinationals. It boasts of success in attracting Apple to make and export billions worth of iPhones, and Micron (with subsidies of 70% of cost) for semiconductor assembly and testing. This has been denounced as an unwarranted gift to foreigners. By contrast, Korea never allowed foreign investment in production, reserving favours for chaebol. Samsung and Hyundai rose by first buying foreign technology and, later, investing massively in R&D to become technological leaders.

India's atmanirbhar is far from pure chaebolisation. It is a jumbled mix of attracting FDI and backing India's Big Three — Tata, Ambani and Adani — to become national champions to take on the world.

Atmanirbhar includes high tariffs (hopefully temporary) to keep out imports, subsidies through production-linked incentives (PLIs), and rules favouring national champions. Govt has raised import duties on many low-tech items, protecting small producers of items like kites, candles, clocks, and textiles. But it wants multinationals like Amazon and Walmart too, even while changing e-commerce rules to benefit homegrown companies like Reliance. So, unlike Korea, India seeks both MNCs and national champions.

● The second fear is that Indian businessmen will become mainly uncompetitive palm-greasers buying favours from corrupt govts. Some Indian economists say India is going the Latino way of crony capitalism, with companies



NOT JUST LOOKING INWARD: Unlike Korea, India wants both multinationals and national champions

like Ambani and Adani making money in non-competitive sectors like infrastructure. Much of this criticism reflects caste bias against Marwaris and other Vaishyas. Ambani runs one of the biggest oil refineries in the world, and has made petroleum products India's biggest export. His refining margins are higher than those of Singapore's famed refineries. These are not crony feats. Reliance Jio has given India one of the cheapest telecom networks in the world.

Adani is mostly in infrastructure. He started with Mundra port. It had to be competitive to attract cargo away from major ports like Mumbai and nearby Kandla. Today, Mundra is India's biggest port with the biggest attached Special Economic Zone.

A decade ago, Adani audaciously decided to invest \$16 billion in a new Carmichael coal mine project in Australia. No crony would make such a huge bet in a foreign country. He had to battle environmentalists and tribal groups for years. Besides, rival miners said Carmichael would need an export price of at least \$110/ton to succeed, which was unlikely as the world gradually stopped using coal. Adani fought critics for years, finally got all the permits, and commenced production. The price of Australian coal today is \$140/tonne, so Adani calculated rightly and his critics did not.

Tata is an established global player. It is now the biggest private sector employer in Britain, running TCS, Tata Steel Europe (formerly Corus) and Jaguar Land Rover.

● The third fear of critics is that Indian companies will fail for want of R&D. India spends only 0.6% of GDP on R&D against China's 2.4% and Korea's 4.8%. Most Indian R&D is by the govt, not corporations. This must change radically if India is to chaebolise. However, top Indian companies are aiming to do just that. Ambani and Adani plan massive R&D in renewables. They aim to reduce the price of green hydrogen from \$3/kg to just \$1/kg, which is cutting-edge stuff. Jaguar's R&D will help Tata become world class in e-cars. Bajaj's India's fourth biggest group, has converted most of its Pune factory into an R&D centre.

Success is by no means assured. But India is well-placed to charge uphill. Let us be optimists. ■

BANO UNKE FUTURE KE OPENING BATSMAN

CHOOSE SBI MAGNUM CHILDREN'S BENEFIT FUND



India prise Cup out of SA's hands

Virat Kohli, Pacers Star In Nerve-Shattering, Soul-Redeeming 7-Run Win As Proteas Choke Again With Finish Line In Sight

TIMES IN THE CARIBBEAN

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Bridgetown (Barbados):

There was a new sunrise for Indian cricket on the banks of the North Atlantic Ocean on Saturday. All the agony of losing at the final hurdle is a thing of the past. The balm for years of hurt — that reached its crescendo on Nov 19 last in Ahmedabad when India lost to Australia in the final of the 50-over World Cup — has been provided by a group of bravehearts who refused to give up. In lifting the T20 World Cup after 17 long years, India gave Virat Kohli the ultimate T20 farewell as he announced his retirement from the format while accepting the Man of the Match award.

There can be a million moments that you'll keep talking about all your lives, but the one that will never be forgotten is Suryakumar Yadav's outstanding catch off the first ball of the 20th over. South Africa needed 16 runs off the last over and Hardik Pandya was the desperate choice. A yorker gone wrong had been hit in the air and it seemed to be going for six, but only until Suryakumar completed a catch that will be remembered as the

most memorable, after the one taken by Sreesanth to send Misbah-ul Haq home off the last ball of the 2007 final.

It was a battle of nerves after that and Hardik, who has gone through so many upheavals in his life recently, kept landing every ball on the spot. As Keshav Maharaj's last shot went nowhere, Hardik just sat down on the pitch with tears in his eyes. He had redeemed himself and so had Team India.

It wasn't just the last over. Hardik had the ball in his hand when Heinrich Klaasen and Miller were going great guns. All South Africa needed were 26 off 25 balls. Jasprit Bumrah's over had been negotiated, the flags were being folded, the journalists were switching their laptops off. Hardik bowled one slightly wide and Klaasen, who probably believed the World Cup was theirs by then, tried a punch that got a nick and went to the wicketkeeper. And that's where the infamous South African choke started setting in.

A team that had played with remarkable positivity until then started thinking about losing the game. Once such emotions start creeping in, there's a man in the Indian lineup who can simply hammer you. In came Bumrah for the 18th over and Marco Jansen's stumps were shattered.



ROHIT'S BRAVEHEARTS: Indian players celebrate the fall of Kagiso Rabada's wicket in Bridgetown

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South Africa managed virtually nothing from those six balls and that turned the game. South Africa stuttered and stumbled, as they always do.

And now let's talk about a man who might not have played this game if the world had had its way. Captain Rohit Sharma had said before the

final that Kohli was saving his best for the final. And how the 'King' kept his word!

Things had gone wrong for India after they were reduced to 45-3 in the first Powerplay. Kohli (76 off 59 balls), after the first three boundaries that he hit in the first over, struggled to force the pace in the middle. But he didn't throw his wicket away and held one end up as Axar Patel (47 off 31 balls) played an innings of quality.

At a time when left-arm

spinner Maharaj was looking to get on top, Axar took on the slog sweep and attacked the longer boundary, clearing it with ease. Axar and Kohli ran well between the wickets and the partnership of 72 was central to India reaching a score of respectability. Axar was looking for quite a few more, but a moment's lapse of concentration allowed Quinton de Kock to take an aim at the stumps and break the stumps at the far end.

176/7

India recorded the highest total in the final of the T20 World Cup, bettering Australia's 173/2 vs NZ in Dubai on Nov 14, 2021. India's previous highest in the T20 WC final was 157/5 vs Pak in Johannesburg on Sept 24, 2007.

1 Virat Kohli has become the first Indian batter to post two fifties in the final of T20 World Cups — 77 vs Sri Lanka in Mirpur on April 6, 2014 and 76 vs SA in Bridgetown on June 29, 2024. Gautam Gambhir is the only other Indian to score a fifty in the final — 75 vs Pak on Sept 24, 2007.

17 Arshdeep Singh, with 17 wickets at 12.64 in 8 matches, and Fazalhaq Farooqi, with 17 at 6.31 in as many matches jointly hold the record for most wickets in a T20 WC.

72 Runs put on by Kohli and Axar Patel for the 4th wicket, India's highest partnership in the final of the T20 WC, going past the 63 for the 3rd wicket between Gambhir and Yuvraj vs Pakistan on Sept 24, 2007.

—Stats: Rajesh Kumar

SCOREBOARD

India: R Sharma c Klaasen b Maharaj 9, V Kohli c Rabada b Jansen 76, R Pant c de Kock b Maharaj 0, S Yadav c Klaasen b Rabada 3, A Patel run out 47, S Dube c Miller b Nortje 27, H Pandya 5 not out, R Jadeja c Maharaj b Nortje 2; **Extras:** (nb1, w6) 7; **Total: (20 ovs; RR: 8.80): 176/7; FoW: 1-23, 2-23, 3-34, 4-106, 5-163, 6-174, 7-176; Bowling:** Jansen 4-0-49-1, Maharaj 3-0-23-2, Rabada 4-0-36-1, Markram 2-0-16-0, Nortje 4-0-26-2, Shamsi 3-0-26-0.

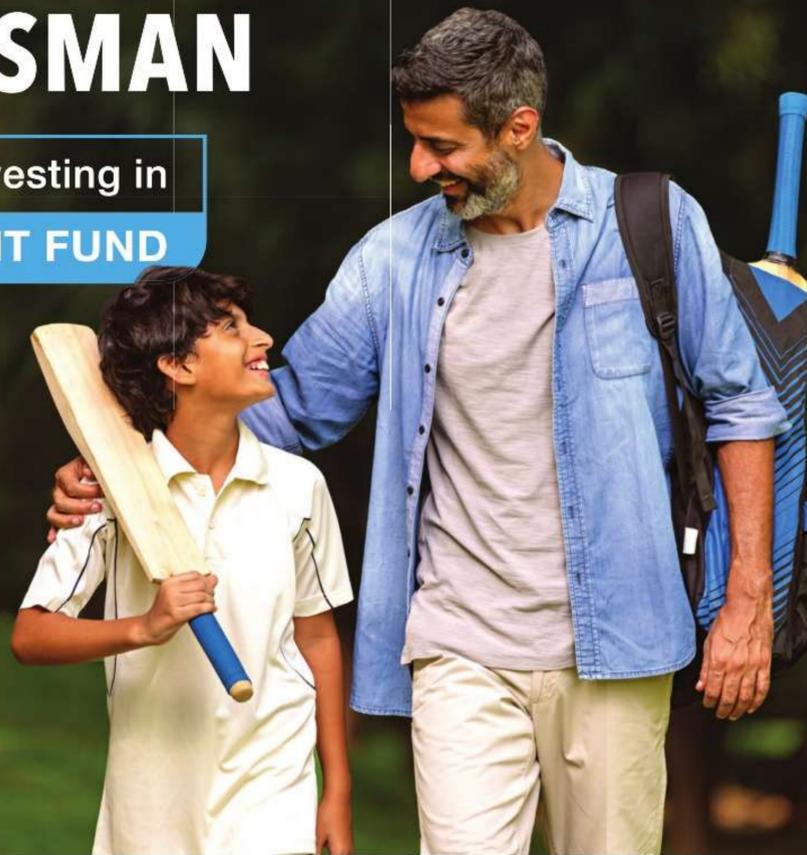
South Africa: R Hendricks b Bumrah 4, Q de Kock c Kuldeep b Arshdeep 39, A Markram c Pant b Arshdeep 4, T Stubbs b Axar 31, H Klaasen c Pant b Pandya 52, D Miller c Kuldeep b Pandya 21, M Jansen b Bumrah 2, K Maharaj not out 2, K Rabada c Kuldeep b Pandya 4, A Nortje not out 1; **Extras** (b1, lb4, nb1, w3): 9; **Total (20 ov; RR: 8.45): 169/8; FoW: 1-7, 2-12, 3-70, 4-106, 5-151, 6-156, 7-161, 8-168; Bowling:** Arshdeep 4-0-20-2, Bumrah 4-0-18-2, Axar 4-0-49-1, Kuldeep 4-0-45-0, Pandya 3-0-20-3, Jadeja 1-0-12-0

Result: India won by 7 runs
Player of the Match: Virat Kohli
Player of the Tournament: Jasprit Bumrah



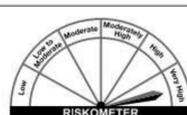
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GALLERY

Prasad, Hirwani and Manoj for Vision programme

Former India seamer Venkatesh Prasad and spinner Narendra Hirwani were roped in for the next cycle of Cricket Association of Bengal's (CAB) grassroots development programme - Vision 2028, the state body announced on Saturday. While Prasad will train aspiring pacers, Hirwani will groom rising spin bowling youngsters. Former India batter and Bengal skipper Manoj Tiwary will be the batting coach, CAB stated. The first phase of the programme will feature cricketers in the U-16 and U-19 category. The first phase of the Vision 2028 will get underway from Sunday and will conclude on July 7.

Dilmeris appointed Punjab FC's new coach: Punjab FC have appointed Panagiotis Dilmeris as the head coach for the upcoming ISL season. Konstantinos Katsaras will join him as assistant coach and Papaioannou Ioannis as the strength and conditioning coach.

HI names core probable group: Hockey India on Saturday announced a 33-member Indian women's probable group for a two-month long training camp at SAI centre starting in Bengaluru from Monday. The camp will conclude on August 31.

Fritz, Kasatkina win titles: Taylor Fritz completed a hat-trick of Eastbourne International ATP titles on Saturday as the American 26-year-old top seed defeated Australia's Max Purcell 6-4, 6-3 in the final of the Wimbledon warm-up event. Meanwhile Daria Kasatkina won her first grasscourt title by defeating Leylah Fernandez 6-3, 6-4 to win the Eastbourne International on Saturday.

ACTION TODAY

AUTO: FI, Austrian GP, Main Race, 6.30 pm (Fancode); **BADMINTON:** US Open, Finals, 10.30 pm (Jio); **CRICKET:** India Women vs South Africa Women, only Test, Day 3, 9.30 am (Jio)

Pop queen Swift gives Swiatek sleepless nights

London: World number one tennis player Iga Swiatek admitted on Saturday she was so starstruck by Taylor Swift that a concert by the pop music queen has been giving her sleepless nights.

Swiatek was amongst the thousands of fans packed inside Liverpool's Anfield football ground last weekend for the singer's latest stop on her ground-breaking Eras Tour.

"It was amazing. I actually was thinking about going here for the second time," said Swiatek.

"My team was like, 'Okay...' Basically after this concert, like three days after, I was so excited I couldn't sleep and everything."

"We decided it's better to focus on the tournament. But it was a great experience." AFP

Top seed Sinner in good shape

London: Top seed Jannik Sinner says winning his first grasscourt title in Halle has set him up perfectly for Wimbledon.

"Obviously I'm happy how I played last week. I'm trying to find a good form here on these courts," the 22-year-old Sinner said on Saturday. "I feel like, especially on grass, when you have a good confidence with yourself, it can help you. Obviously last week for me was an important week."

Alcaraz ready for Big W title defence: Defending champion Carlos Alcaraz said he has shaken off an early defeat at Queen's Club and is ready to start the defence of his Wimbledon title on Monday. "I'm feeling great. Honestly, after Queen's, I had a lot of days to adapt my game, to practice, to get better," the third seed told reporters on Saturday. "I remember after losing in Queen's, the next day I started practising my movement, my shots, just to be more comfortable moving on grass." AFP

Jamaican Thompson sets world-leading 100m mark

Kingston: Kishane Thompson registered a sizzling world-leading mark of 9.77 seconds to win the men's 100 metres at the Jamaican Olympic trials on Friday, becoming the joint ninth fastest man in history.

Two-time World Championships finalist Oblique Seville was second in 9.82, while World Indoor 60m bronze medallist Ackeem Blake finished third in 9.92.

Thompson, who is in only his second season as a professional, had not raced at all this season before the Jamaican championship and said he believes he can go faster.

"My coach instructed me just to run the first 60 metre, nothing more, after that, shut it down," he said.

"If I came second or third, I would've made the team. The goal wasn't to prove anything tonight, just run the 70 or 60 metres and see where I was."

Thompson, now the fourth fastest Jamaican — behind Usain Bolt, Yohan Blake and Asafa Powell — said he had

much to improve on making his Olympic debut in Paris. "It's kind of new to me, but I'm getting it slowly," he said.

Shericka Jackson recovered from a poor start to win the women's 100m in 10.84, clawing her way from the back of the field after 30 metres to power past Tia Clayton (10.90) and twice Olympic champion Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce (10.94).

Malik James-King won the 400m hurdles in 47.42, moving up to number five in the world this season as he crossed the finish 0.62 seconds ahead of national record holder Roshawn Clarke, while Jaheel Hyde was third in 48.35.

On the women's side, twice world championship bronze medallist Rusehella Clayton sped to a lifetime best 52.51, the second-fastest time this season, to secure her first Olympic berth. REUTERS

Kohli saves his best for the last

I Got The Job Done When It Mattered, Says Star Batter While Announcing Retirement From Format

Dwaipayan.Datta@timesgroup.com

Bridgetown (Barbados): Virat was smiling one moment and crying the next. It was a moment that was meant for 'King Kohli' and he deserved every bit of it. As India's greatest T20 cricketer announced his international retirement from the format, he had a Man-of-the-Match award in his hand. And he had just fashioned a World Cup victory for India.

Nothing had gone wrong for Virat in this World Cup. If the twitterati had its way, he wouldn't have been playing the final, but there was a team management that believed Kohli would come good. "He is saving his best for the final," captain Rohit Sharma said after India won their semifinal without much of a hassle.

Even on Saturday, the world ranted as Kohli was fighting it out in the middle. After hitting three beautiful boundaries in the first over, India had lost three quick wickets and Virat was suddenly left to pull off a rescue act. Yes, he wasn't connecting, but the old pro knew how to deal with those moments.

Many of those who remember Kohli from his days in the 2016 World Cup — when he took Australia apart in Mohali to fashion one of India's greatest-ever run chases — believed he would play in the same vein every day, year after year.

On Saturday at the Kensington Oval, the homeground of Sir Garry Sobers, Kohli showed the world that taking a few blows on the chin and battling it out is also a rare quality.



Virat Kohli during his knock of 76 against South Africa on Saturday

"One day you feel you can't get a run, then things happen. I got the job done for the team on the day it mattered. It was now or never for me, I wanted to make the most of it. I wanted to lift the cup, wanted to respect the situation rather than force it," Kohli said.

The champion batter said about his T20I retirement that "this was an open secret". In fact, he might not have played the T20 World Cup had India won the ODI World Cup last year. But it was the hurt of that defeat that kept Virat pushing for it. He had a magnificent IPL and put all speculation about his inclusion in the squad to rest.

The team management opened a slot for him — that of the opener

— to make his game relevant for the format. Kohli was there for the insurance he provided at the top of the order, which wasn't happening till the final. But he was not ready to let go. Some of his batting in the nets of Barbados against Jasprit Bumrah, India's greatest white-ball match-winner, was beyond brilliant as he prepared himself for the moment.

And once he got it done, the 'King' announced that was time for the younger lot to take over. "It's time for the next generation to take over, some amazing players will take the team forward and keep the flag waving high."

They will surely do, but Virat will never be forgotten.

Emotions, tears flow as Indian players savour the triumph

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

It was a time for the tears and emotions to flow freely. India beat South Africa in a humdinger of a final in Bridgetown to clinch the T20 World Cup. Obviously, the stars found it difficult to articulate their thoughts. But Jasprit Bumrah, who was named Player of the Tournament, was his usual calm self.

"Usually, I'm the one who tries to keep my emotions in check and get the job done but today I don't have many words. I don't usually cry after a game but the emotions are taking over. We were in trouble but we're really over the moon to win from that stage. My family is here, we came close last time and we got the job done, there's no better feeling than to get your team through in a game like this."

The ace bowler added, "It just felt good, and I tried to keep myself in a bubble and tried not to think too far ahead. When the big day comes, you have to do it. Throughout the tournament I felt very clear. I always think about one ball and one over at a time, don't think too far ahead. Emotions can take over, it was taking over but you have to keep it in check but now that the game is over, it can come out and you can scream and shout."

Player of the Match Virat Kohli finally showed his class in the final with a superb 76. "This was my last T20 World Cup, this is exactly what we



Jasprit Bumrah celebrates with teammates after taking the wicket of South Africa's Reeza Hendricks during the final on Saturday

wanted to achieve."

The master batsman revealed that he would have announced his retirement from T20 Internationals even if India had lost. "It's time for the next generation to take the T20 game forward. It's been a long wait for us, waiting to win an ICC tournament. You look at someone like Rohit, he's played 9 T20 World Cups and this is his sixth. He deserves it. It's been difficult to hold emotions back and I think it's going to sink in later. It's an amazing day and I'm thankful."

Axar Patel, who chipped in throughout the tournament with stellar allround contributions, said, "It means everything for me. The last few years I've been getting injured, not getting that performance. I wanted to do something for India and I'm feeling proud. I tried to keep it simple. Just thought of it as

another match. That worked for me."

Axar added, "I went to bat, I didn't think of what'll happen if I get out."

Talking about Rohit Sharma, he said, "Rohit is an amazing captain. He led India very well in this tournament. Rahul (Dravid) bhai asked us to enjoy, not take pressure. I thought I was going to bat down the order. When we lost three wickets, Rahul bhai suddenly asked me to pad up. I didn't have time to think about batting and it helped me."

Meanwhile, Hardik Pandya, who found his form in the tournament and helped India immensely, was seen crying his heart out after the triumph.

"It means a lot. I'm very emotional, we've been working very hard and something wasn't clicking. But today we got what the whole nation wanted."

Most open Wimbledon in 20 years: Zverev

London: Alexander Zverev



placed himself amongst the serious contenders for the Wimbledon title on Saturday, insisting that this year's showpiece "is the most open in 20 years".

The world number four has never got past the last 16 at the All England Club.

However with Roger Federer retired, Rafael Nadal resting and both Novak Djokovic and Andy Murray carrying injuries, the 27-year-old predicts a power vacuum in south-west London.

"I think this is the most open Wimbledon Championship that we maybe had in 20 years in terms of favourites, in terms of potential winners," said Zverev.

"I think there's multiple guys who have a very decent chance of going deep and very decent chance of winning the tournament."

"I don't think it has been like that for maybe 20 years since before Roger started playing, right? After Roger came Rafa, Novak, Andy. I really feel it's different this year."

Since Lleyton Hewitt claimed the 2002 Wimbledon title, the tournament was dominated by Federer (eight titles), Djokovic (seven), Nadal (two) and Murray (two).

Carlos Alcaraz's victory over Djokovic in the 2023 championship match finally broke the 'Big Four' stranglehold.

Djokovic and Murray are 37 and both arrive at the tournament fresh from bouts of surgery — Djokovic on his right knee while Murray needed an operation to remove a cyst on his back.

"It's the first time I really feel like I'm here to be a competitor, to maybe win the title," said Zverev.

"I didn't feel like that previous years when I came here. I didn't feel like I was capable. I didn't believe I was capable." AFP



Defending Wimbledon champion Carlos Alcaraz during a practice session at All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club in London on Saturday

Missing Big W would not have been correct, says Djokovic

London: Novak Djokovic said on Saturday it would not have been "correct" to miss Wimbledon despite having undergone knee surgery just over three weeks ago.

The 37-year-old Serb, who is looking to equal Roger Federer's record of eight Wimbledon titles and become the oldest champion of the modern era, said he was driven by his "incredible desire to play and compete".

Djokovic needed surgery to repair the damaged meniscus in his right knee after being injured at the French Open earlier this month.

He was forced to withdraw before his quarter-final and hasn't played since.

"I do have something that is described as a feeling of not missing out at a Grand Slam while I can still play and while I'm still active and at this level," said Djokovic.

"I wouldn't call it a fear of missing out. I would just say it's this incredible desire to play, just to compete."

"Particularly because it is Wimbledon, the tournament that always has been a dream tournament for me when I was a kid. Just the thought of me missing Wimbledon was just not correct. I didn't want to deal with that."

Djokovic arrives in London without a title to his name this season.

"I'm confident about the health of my knee and just general physical state is really good," said the Serb who is chasing a 25th Grand Slam title.



Novak Djokovic during practice on Saturday

"I haven't had any setback. If I had one setback, I would be then questioning whether I should be here or not. But I haven't had a single one. Why not give it a shot?"

Alcaraz has been impressed by what he's seen of Djokovic just 24 days after going under the knife.

The Spaniard on Saturday described Djokovic as "superhuman".

But the Serb said he was inspired by Taylor Fritz, the American player who was back on court 21 days after requiring similar knee surgery in 2021.

After surgery, he returned at Wimbledon and made the third round.

"I think Taylor Fritz is a superhuman," insisted Djokovic. "His situation really gave me optimism that I can make it, too." AFP

Sabalenka doubtful starter after a rare shoulder injury

London: Australian Open champion Aryna Sabalenka said on Saturday she is "not 100 per cent" certain of playing her first-round Wimbledon match due to a "really rare" shoulder injury.

Sabalenka, a two-time semifinalist at the All England Club, had to quit her quarter-final match against Anna Kalinskaya in Berlin last week due to the problem.

"I'm not 100 per cent fit now," admitted the 26-year-old Belarusian who is due to face 106th-ranked Emina Bektas of the United States in the first round on Monday.

"We're doing everything we can with my team to make sure I'll be able to play my first match here. But, no, I'm not 100 per cent ready."

When asked if there was a chance she may withdraw on Monday, she said: "There is always a chance, yeah."

Sabalenka said her doctors had told her that she was "just the second or the third tennis player who injured the (shoulder) muscle".

"It's really a specific injury, and it's really a rare one."

Gauff ready to put last year's setback behind her: Second seed Coco Gauff said she went through a dark time after her first-round exit from Wimbledon last year.

"I wish a year ago, me after that match could see me now," the American said on Saturday. "That was a tough moment for me. I think the first two, three weeks after that, I was really in a dark place."

"It was tough for me to realise I have so much time. When that happens you just feel the weight of everything on you. I think I had high expectations at that age. I still do." AFP

SA fight back after India pile up record total

Neha.Surana@timesgroup.com

Chennai: Gritty half-centuries from Sune Luus (65, 164; 6x4, 1x6) and Marizanne Kapp (69*, 125; 8x4) sparked a South African resurgence as they crawled their way to 236-4 after India declared their record-shattering innings at 603-6 on Day Two of the one-off Test. They stitched a near-century stand to stay alive in the contest.

The visitors remained unfazed about India's gigantic total and went about their business calmly on Saturday. Proteas openers Laura Wolvaardt (20) and Anneke Bosch (39) were undeterred by the scorching heat in their seven overs at the MA Chidambaram Stadium as they began their innings in smooth fashion. Both got off the mark with a four and went on to hit the pacers for boundaries occasionally.

To separate the duo, India

skipper Harmanpreet Kaur, who had closely observed the passage of play in the morning session, was tempted to bring in the ever-reliable Sneha Rana (3-61) on the spin-friendly surface. Right after the lunch break, Sneh hit the nail on the head by giving India their first breakthrough.

The right-arm off-break bowler looked determined to get rid of South Africa captain Wolvaardt. In the eighth over, she first lost a review when a sharply turning delivery appeared to be on the path of Wolvaardt's stumps.

Three deliveries later, she finally got her prized wicket as the ball kept low and did not turn as much as it did in the previous deliveries, trapping Wolvaardt LBW.

Brief scores: India 603/6 decl (S Verma 205, S Mandhana 149, H Kaur 69, R Ghosh 86), South Africa 236/4 (Marizanne Kapp 69*, Sune Luus 65; Sneha Rana 3/61).

Verstappen takes pole

Spielberg (Austria): Red Bull's triple world champion Max Verstappen followed up a Saturday sprint win by putting his car back on pole position for Sunday's Austrian Grand Prix, with McLaren's Lando Norris again alongside on the front row.

The pole was a career 40th for the Dutch 26-year-old and his fifth at the team's home Red Bull Ring, where he has won more times than any current driver and can count on huge support from his 'orange army' of fans.

George Russell was third fastest for Mercedes, after McLaren's Oscar Piastri was ruled to have exceeded track limits and was demoted to seventh on the grid. Ferrari's Carlos Sainz will start fourth with Mercedes's Lewis Hamilton fifth and Ferrari's Charles Leclerc sixth. REUTERS

STARTING GRID

Row 1: Max Verstappen (Red Bull), Lando Norris (McLaren). **Row 2:** George Russell (Mercedes), Carlos Sainz (Ferrari). **Row 3:** Lewis Hamilton (Mercedes), Charles Leclerc (Ferrari). **Row 4:** Oscar Piastri (McLaren), Sergio Perez (Red Bull). **Row 5:** Nico Hulkenberg (Haas), Esteban Ocon (Alpine). **Row 6:** Daniel Ricciardo (RB), Kevin Magnussen (Haas). **Row 7:** Pierre Gasly (Alpine), Yuki Tsunoda (YB). **Row 8:** Fernando Alonso (Aston Martin), Alexander Albon (Williams). **Row 9:** Lance Stroll (Aston Martin), Valtteri Bottas (KICK Sauber). **Row 10:** Logan Sargeant (Williams), Zhou Guanyu (KICK Sauber)

Sable and Parul clinch steeplechase gold

Panchkula (Haryana): Paris Olympics-bound star athlete Avinash Sable ran in the "training mode" but his modest timing was still good enough to win gold in the men's 3000m steeplechase on the third and penultimate day of the National Inter-State Championships here on Saturday.

The 29-year-old Sable, who holds the national record of 8:11.20 in his pet event and was representing Maharashtra, clocked 8 minute 31.75 seconds to win the race under humid conditions at the Tau Devi Lal Stadium.

"The Athletics Federation of India has made it mandatory for all the athletes to take part in the National Inter-State, so I ran the race as practice, just like in training (in the USA). I was not thinking of timing, hence I was taking it easy; there was no pressure at all," Sable said later.

Sable, who has been training in the USA, has run just one 3000m steeplechase race this year



PARUL CHAUDHARY

— on June 8 at Portland Track Festival — and he said it was a strategy chalked out by him and his coach.

"We don't want too many events before the Olympics. So, it was a plan to run less and to have more training. I am hoping to start peaking this month only. I will take part in the Paris Diamond League (on July 7) and then will be in Europe before the Paris Olympics."

Sable has already qualified for the Olympics. Sumit Kumar of Madhya Pra-

des was a distant second with a time of 8:46.93 while Haryana's Shankar Swami was third in 8:47.05.

In the women's 3000m steeplechase, another Paris Olympics-bound runner Parul Chaudhary easily won gold, and just like Sable, she timing was not her concern as well. Parul clocked a modest 9:45.70 while her national record stands at 9:15.31.

"I was running like practice. I am told that Paris will be warm during the Olympics. So, I thought it would be good to run here

under these (warm and humid) conditions. The plan before the Olympics is to run less. I want to peak during the Olympics."

Sable was the cynosure of all eyes but the most fierce competition of the day was in the men's high jump final between national record holder Tejaswin Shankar of Delhi and Sarvesh Kushare of Maharashtra.

Kushare won the duel as he cleared 2.25m. Shankar could only leap 2.21m.

Kushare attempted to get past Shankar's 2.29m national record but failed to clear the height. The Olympic qualifying height is 2.33m.

National record holder Tajinderpal Singh Toor, won the men's shot put event with the best throw of 19.93m. His national record stands at 21.77m.

Long jump national record holder Jeswin Aldrin's struggles continued as he was beaten by Arya S of Karnataka who cleared 7.78m to win the gold. PTI

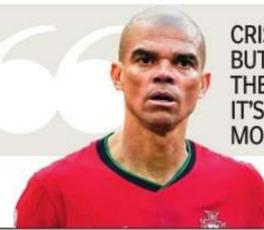
EB begin CFL campaign today

Kolkata: East Bengal FC kick-off their 2024-2025 season with a CFL Premier Division match against Tollygunge Agragami on Sunday, hoping to go the distance this time and looking to keep their reserve team players battle-ready for bigger challenges in the season.

"After narrowly missing out on the CFL Championship last year, we have tried to build a much stronger team this season by retaining the consistent performers and adding some new faces. Besides winning the championship, our aim is to continue promoting more players from the B team to the first team," East Bengal coach Bino George said on Saturday.

The match will kick off at 3pm at the Barrackpore stadium. TNN

SATURDAY'S CFL PREMIER DIVISION RESULTS: Bhawanipore SC 4 Police AC 0; Calcutta Police 2 Eastern Railway 0; Peerless 3 George Telegraph 2; Calcutta Customs 3 Rainbow AC 2; Kailight Lovers 3 Railway FC 0.



CRISTIANO LIVES FOR GOALS, THAT'S A FACT, BUT HAVE YOU SEEN HIS AVAILABILITY ON THE FIELD TO HELP THE NATIONAL TEAM? IT'S INCREDIBLE. HE'S THE PLAYER WITH THE MOST MINUTES IN OUR TEAM, AT 39 YEARS."

—PEPE | PORTUGAL DEFENDER

CIAO ITALY! HELLO SWISS!

Murat's Men Stun Defending Champions To Enter Quarterfinals With An Impressive Display

Berlin: Switzerland dumped reigning champions Italy out of Euro 2024 with a stunning 2-0 victory on Saturday to reach the quarter-finals for the second time in their history.

Murat Yakin's supremely well-drilled side outplayed the flat two-time winners in the last 16 clash in Berlin and will face England or Slovakia in the next round.

Ruben Vargas teed up Remo Freuler for Switzerland's 37th minute opener before curling home superbly himself right at the start of the second half to deservedly double their lead. A new-look Italy, short on star power and without many of the key figures that led them to Euro 2020 glory, offered little in response to Switzerland's energetic display.

Former Arsenal midfielder Granit Xhaka, arriving at the Euros after a stunning season with German champions Bayer Leverkusen, pulled the string.

Italy coach Luciano Spalletti dropped Jorginho after his worrying group stage performances, bringing in Nicolò Fagioli in defensive midfield among a hefty six changes which failed to bring the Azzurri to life. The 23-year-old started a major tournament match for the first time, having missed most of the season with Juventus after a seven-month ban for gambling on football matches.

Spalletti said his team had no alternative but to improve in the knock-out rounds. However it was Switzerland who grew in confi-



HEADING FOR THE TOP CORNER: Ruben Vargas curls in a stunning effort for Switzerland's second

"We were compact and we created chances. We made a really good game and we scored at the right moment."
—Brel Embolo | SWITZERLAND STRIKER

ROUND OF 16

SWITZERLAND 2
Freuler 37, Vargas 46

ITALY 0

dence and pulled off their best display yet, making a bright start at the Olympiastadion in a sweltering Berlin, where a far more impressive Italy won the 2006 World Cup.

Former goalkeeper Gianluigi Buffon has been regaling the squad with stories from that triumph but it did not inspire a convincing performance – apart from his modern day counterpart, Gianluigi Donnarumma.

The Paris Saint-Germain goalkeeper could not stop Freuler from firing Switzerland ahead after 37 minutes when the midfielder controlled Vargas' low cross and drilled home at the near post. Augsburg midfielder Vargas, who started in place of the suspended Silvan Widmer but on the left of the attack, broke into the area and arced a superb curling shot over Donnarumma in the 46th minute. AFP

33 Switzerland kept the ball for well over a minute in the build-up to the first goal, stringing together 33 passes before Remo Freuler, who plays for Serie A side Bologna, applied the finishing touch.

PASSING THE SPEED TEST

Players Are Getting Quicker And Putting In The Distance

Players are getting quicker, with Slovenia's Benjamin Sesko clocking a top speed of 35.9 kph (22.3 mph), fastest among the 45 players who, according to the UEFA numbers, eclipsed the 33.8 kph reached by both Hungary's Loic Nego and Italian Leonardo Spinazzola in Euro 2020.

And they are putting in the distance. Five players in Germany have beaten the 36 km (22.4 miles) covered by Russia's Aleksandr Golovin in the group stage of Euro 2020, with Albania's Ylber Ramadani running 37.5 km at an average 12.3 km per match.

Slovenia defender Erik Janza scored the most powerful goal of Euro 2024 in the group stage at 128.76 kph (80 mph), while Danish midfielder Morten Hjulmand's 28-metre (30.6-yard) strike was the longest. The built-in technology of the tournament's ball also showed that Hungary's Kevin Csoboth hit the goal with the most spins in his last-gasp strike against Scotland with a total of 16 rotations.



THE FASTEST: SESKO AT 35.9KPH



SECOND BEST: ROMANIA'S VALENTIN MIHAILA AT 35.8KPH



HARDEST WORKER: ALBANIA'S RAMADANI COVERED 37.5KM IN 3 GAMES



STAR RUN: FRANCE'S MBAPPE CAME IN JOINT 10TH AT 35KPH

Tricks and treat: Spain's perfect record to be tested by Georgia

Velbert: Willy Sagnol ranked just qualifying for Euro 2024 with Georgia as one of the finest achievements in his impressive football career, but the Frenchman topped that by leading the tournament's rank outsiders into the knockout stages where they face Spain on Sunday.

The country of 3.7 million people in the Caucasus sits 74th in the FIFA rankings and had never been to a major tournament since gaining independence from the Soviet Union in 1991. "I thought we reached our maximum by qualifying in March," Sagnol admitted after Georgia beat Cristiano Ronaldo's Portugal 2-0 to reach the last 16.

Georgia got to the Euros in a rather roundabout way, finishing fourth in their qualifying group behind Spain, Scotland and Norway. However, their impressive performances in the Nations League gave them another crack at making it via the play-offs, in which they beat Luxembourg and then defeated Greece on penalties.

Georgia's success on the pitch, where they are led by Napoli's old-school winger Khvicha Kvaratskhelia, comes at a time of political turmoil in the country.

On Friday, there was a much more laid-back atmosphere as Sagnol gathered his players together in the sunshine on their training pitch in Velbert, where the stadium looks down over the Ruhr valley towards the city of Essen.

Just after taking charge, Sagnol's Georgia played Spain at home in a 2022 World Cup qualifier. They went ahead, but Spain came back to win 2-1 thanks to a stoppage-time goal. Spain beat them 4-0 at home in that campaign, and won both meetings in qualifying for this tournament, including a 7-1 victory in Tbilisi. That shows the size of the task awaiting Georgia in Cologne. AFP



SPAIN VS GEORGIA
12.30 am Live on Sony Sports network

Spain beat Georgia twice in qualifying. A 7-1 rout saw Lamine Yamal set a record for youngest ever goalscorer in a Euros qualifier, two months after his 16th birthday since then. Georgia have shown improvement, their low block and quick counterattacks are similar to those of Albania, who caused Spain problems in the group stage



NICO WILLIAMS

"(AGAINST PORTUGAL) WE COULD SEE THAT IT IS POSSIBLE TO PLAY WITH EVERY TEAM AND IT IS POSSIBLE TO WIN. IT DOESN'T MATTER WHO YOUR OPPONENTS ARE BECAUSE THERE ARE NO EASY TEAMS AT THE EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP."
—Khvicha Kvaratskhelia | Georgia striker

SPAIN VS GEORGIA
Cologne Stadium

HEAD TO HEAD (7 games)

SPAIN WON 6 DRAWS 0

GEORGIA WON 1

FORM GUIDE

SPAIN
W W W W W

GEORGIA
W D L W D
(most recent first)

ENGLAND SEEK SPARK, SLOVAKIA SEE OPPORTUNITY

Mainoo May Start, Shaw Set To Return As Southgate's Men Face Fierce Criticism

Gelsenkirchen: Gareth Southgate's gamble of naming long-injured Luke Shaw to his squad for Euro 2024 could soon pay off with the left back expected to make an imminent return in what would be his first game in more than four months.

England face Slovakia in the Round of 16 on Sunday in Gelsenkirchen and while the 29-year-old is not expected to start, he could provide a boost off the bench to a squad that has been without a left-footer in his position. "It's a calculated risk," Southgate told reporters when his squad was announced earlier this month. "I think you can take one gamble and that's a gamble, we've got enough evidence to believe it can pay off."

Southgate is also reportedly considering starting teenager Kobbie Mainoo in midfield. Defence has been the most positive part of England's performance in Germany, with them conceding one goal in the group stage. While boasting some of the world's best attackers, England mustered only two goals in three games and were 20th in goal attempts.

Newcastle's Kieran Trippier is right-footed and so tends to turn inside, while Shaw is an attacking defender who loves to

ENGLAND VS SLOVAKIA
9.30 pm Live on Sony Sports network

make overlapping runs down the left flank much like the team's right back Kyle Walker. England's two goals by Jude Bellingham and Harry Kane were assisted by Bukayo Saka and Walker on the right.

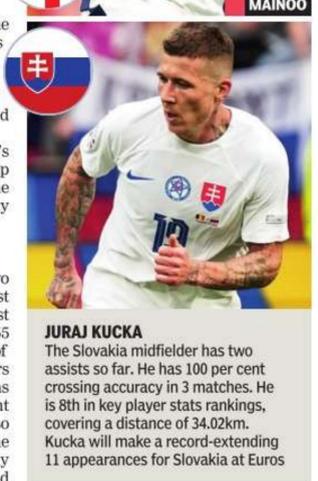
Shaw was solid in England's 2020 European Championship run, scoring an early goal in the team's loss to Italy in a penalty shootout in the final.

Bitter revisit
England also scored only two goals in the group stage of the last Euros before progressing to a first major tournament final in 55 years. However, it is the shades of Euro 2016 that will send shivers down the spines of England fans heading to Gelsenkirchen. Eight years ago Roy Hodgson's side also stumbled their way through the group phase with five points only to be handed a seemingly kind draw against Iceland. Iceland pulled off a shock 2-1 win.

Under coach Francesco Calzona, Slovakia have produced one of the shocks of the tournament by beating Belgium 1-0 in their opening game. AFP



KOBBIE MAINOO



JURAJ KUCKA

The Slovakia midfielder has two assists so far. He has 100 per cent crossing accuracy in 3 matches. He is 8th in key player stats rankings, covering a distance of 34.02km. Kucka will make a record-extending 11 appearances for Slovakia at Euros

"We remember where we started. When our coach first took the job, we were playing friendly matches in front of 2,000 people in the stadium. And now, after two years of hard work, we're among the best 16 teams in Europe. So, it's really wonderful, and we're happy about it."
—Milan Kriniar | SLOVAKIA CAPTAIN

0-0 England's one failure to defeat Slovakia was at Euro 2016 in their only previous major tournament meeting, a goalless draw in Saint-Etienne, in which the Three Lions had their most shots (29) in a European Championship match on record (since 1980).

England
2 Goals (0.67 avg. per match) 336.09km Distance covered (111.67 avg. per match)

Slovakia
3 Goals (1 avg. per match) 342.36km Distance covered (113.67 avg. per match)

30 The average age of the Slovakia starting XI (30 years, 218 days) in the group stage was the oldest in the competition. They've handed 809 minutes to players aged 35 or older, with only Italy at Euro 2016 giving more at a single Euro (870).

"Everything that's happened is now pretty irrelevant. We have things that we can build on, but also, each individual game can take wild directions at times."
—Gareth Southgate | ENGLAND MANAGER

ENGLAND VS SLOVAKIA
Arena AufSchalke, Gelsenkirchen

HEAD TO HEAD (6 games)

ENGLAND WON 5 DRAWS 1

SLOVAKIA WON 0

FORM GUIDE

ENGLAND
D D W L W

SLOVAKIA
D L W W W
(most recent first)

VINICIUS STEPS UP FOR BRAZIL, FINALLY

Atlanta: Vinicius Jr unleashed his inner beast in a little over 45 minutes of pure Brazilian football mayhem to guide the five-time World Cup champions to their first 2024 Copa America win against Paraguay on Friday.

The 23-year-old electric winger scored twice and delivered a much-needed statement performance that Brazilian fans have long been waiting for. The Real Madrid rising star may be one of the best players in the world but until now that fiery spark has not been seen in his na-

tional team performances. Even in Brazil's Copa America opener this year - a goalless draw against Costa Rica - Vinicius ended up being substituted halfway through the second half after not managing a single scoring attempt. After that, Brazil manager Dorival Jr changed tack and that decision paid back in a major way.

Instead of being deployed as more of an orthodox winger wide on the left against Costa Rica, Dorival gave Vinicius the freedom to roam across the front line on Friday against Para-



"I played a game that is compatible to the level of the player I am. I always say that I never play for myself, I play for the team, for Brazil. Always try my best, but it's not always possible."
—Vinicius

guay and fans were shown why he is a strong contender to win the Ballon d'Or after guiding Real to a LaLiga-Champions League double. After their disappointing opener, Brazil were initially struggling against another defensive opponent and almost lost their composure when Lucas Paqueta badly missed a penalty halfway through the first half.

But instead, they were rescued by Vinicius, who took charge and was all over the field, striking twice and creating another chance that allowed Savinho to score, helping Brazil to go to the break with a comfortable 3-0 lead. That was more than enough for a Brazil who were playing under huge pressure. REUTERS

COLOMBIA BEAT COSTA RICA TO BOOK LAST-8 SPOT

Glendale: Colombia cruised to a 3-0 win over Costa Rica in Group D on Friday and booked their spot in the Copa America quarters thanks to strikes from Luis Diaz, Davinson Sanchez and Jhon Cordoba. Colombia started the match well and took the lead in the 31st minute through Liverpool winger Diaz, who confidently converted from the penalty spot after Costa Rica goalkeeper

Patrick Sequeira bundled over Cordoba in the box. As Costa Rica pressed for an equaliser they left themselves open on the break and Colombia made them pay, with Sanchez outmuscling defender Juan Pablo Vargas to head Jhon Arias' corner past Sequeira from close range in the 59th minute. After scoring, Sanchez held up the jersey of team mate Jhon Lucumi, who missed the match due to an injury. Cordoba rounded out the scoring three minutes later after timing his run perfectly to stay outside and latch onto James Rodriguez's long ball. REUTERS

Shuttler Malvika makes US Open semifinal

Fort Worth (US): India's **Malvika Bansod** stunned Scotland's Kristy Gilmour in a thrilling three-game match to advance to the women's singles semifinals of the US Open Super 300 badminton tournament here.

The 22-year-old from Nagpur, ranked 49th, registered a 10-21, 21-15, 21-10 win over Kristy, a 2014 Commonwealth Ga-

mes silver medallist. Malvika had defeated Kristy at the Hylo Open in 2022 when the Scot shuttler had retired in the second game due to an injury. The Indian had lost twice to Kristy in the past. The Indian will face sixth seeded Japanese Natsuki Nidaira next.

In men's singles competition, Priyanshu Rajawat pro-



duced a good show but couldn't get past fourth seed Lei Lan Xi of China, losing 21-15, 11-21, 18-21 in a quarterfinal match that lasted just over an hour. Second seed Treasa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand lost 17-21, 21-17, 19-21 to Japanese sixth seed Rui Hirokami and Yuna Kato to also end their campaign in the last eight round.

India beat Philippines to enter quarters: India booked quarterfinals berth at the Badminton Asia Junior Mixed Team Championship with a 3-2 victory over Philippines in their second Group C clash at Yogyakarta, Indonesia, on Saturday.

Tanvi Sharma started India's march with a 21-9, 21-17 win against Funtespina

Christel Rei, but Chauhan went down Jamal Rahmat Pandi 15-21, 21-18, 21-12. Vennala and Shrivani then defeated Hernandes Andrea and Pecious Libaton 23-21, 21-11. The boys' doubles of Arsh Mohammad and Sankar Sarawat then put the result beyond doubt with a 21-16, 21-14 win over Christian Dorega and John Lanza. PTI

Chelsea sign 18-year-old Kellyman

London: Chelsea have signed 18-year-old Aston Villa forward Omari Kellyman on a six-year contract, the south London club said on Saturday.

from Derby County in 2022 and is an England youth international.

British media reported that the deal between the two Premier League clubs was worth some 19 million pounds (\$24.02 million).

Villa signed Dutch defender Jan Maatsen from Chelsea for a reported fee of some 40 million pounds on Friday.

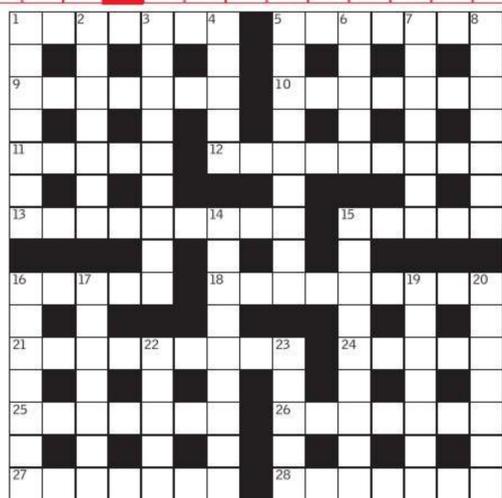
Kellyman has made six first-team appearances for Villa. He joined the Birmingham club's youth academy

Ziyech joins Galatasaray: Galatasaray have signed Morocco international Hakim Ziyech from Chelsea on a free transfer, the Turkish Super League champions said in a statement. AGENCIES

THE TOI CROSSWORD

CROSSWORD No. TCC#0174

The TOI Crossword contest is on a short break, but the crossword itself will continue to be featured in The Sunday Times of India, so that you can continue to relish the challenge every week. Stay tuned!



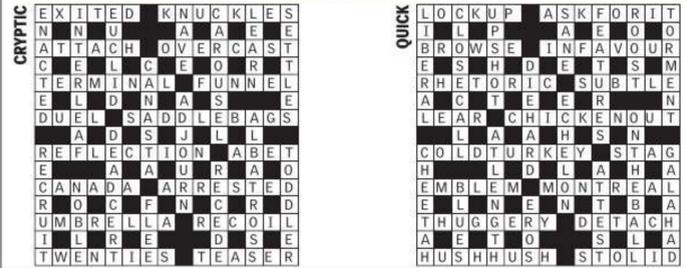
CRYPTIC CLUES

- Across**
- Tells of twinges after exercise (7)
 - He had an uncle and sisters on the stage (7)
 - Husband shows reticence (7)
 - A rising little place noted for its industry (3,4)
 - Her sister is a superior person (5)
 - Australian haven providing unrestricted cover in the sound (9)
 - Has a note to mail first - must be quick (9)
 - Many poems need deciphering (5)
 - Ease off the downward pressure? (3,2)
 - Called without once becoming stuck-up (9)
 - No striking example of the horologist's craft (9)
 - Tracks of birds (5)
 - Ends an academic period in Italian capital (7)
 - An early caller (7)
 - Gulpers out to go the whole hog (7)
 - Train to be articulate (7)
- Down**
- Vegetable described in a newspaper cutting? (7)
 - Promises certain to be kept by a fool (7)
 - One of those animal crackers? (9)
 - Novel supporter in the flesh perhaps (5)
 - Changed circumstances may put a different complexion on it (9)
 - He's paid to say nothing (5)
 - Given a lift from this ode (7)
 - A plant from the list (7)
 - Depressed areas (7)
 - About four hide being reticent (9)
 - It's not alphabetical; that's obvious of course (5,4)
 - TS Eliot play shows understatement (7)
 - Some were carried away in it and lost their heads (7)
 - 19 A plant from the list (7)
 - Abandons wastelands (7)
 - Coming before the deputy head perhaps (5)
 - 22 Cook before a fire (5)
 - 23 Postpone (5)
 - Strange oriental lake (5)

QUICK CLUES

- Across**
- Supplement to will (7)
 - Larva of toad (7)
 - Definite military task (7)
 - Medicine for cough (7)
 - Scene of conflict (5)
 - Highly controversial issue (3,6)
 - Completely (2,3,4)
 - A dominant theme (5)
 - Disparage (5)
 - Diocese (9)
 - Regain consciousness (4,5)
 - Structure supporting power cables (5)
 - Green gem (7)
 - Type of escort warship (7)
 - Perfumed (7)
 - Place of seclusion (7)
- Down**
- An agreement (7)
 - Family origin (7)
 - Sharp practice (9)
 - Execute by mob action (5)
 - Report maliciously (4,5)
 - Australian wild dog (5)
 - Person rejected by society (7)
 - Slacken (4,3)
 - Infinite (9)
 - Matter open to debate (4,5)
 - Author of The Old Curiosity Shop (7)
 - Vie (7)
 - Set free (7)
 - Satisfied (7)
 - 22 Cook before a fire (5)
 - 23 Postpone (5)

SOLUTIONS TO LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD



Sharma shares lead in Rome

Rome: Looking to end his title drought which has lasted six years on the European Tour, **Shubhankar Sharma** carded a bogey-free 4-under 67 to get into a four-way lead after three rounds at the Italian Open here.

Sharma, who had already secured his berth at the Open in Royal Troon next month by the virtue of a top-10 finish in 2023, is now 10-under with rounds of 68-68-67.

He shared the lead with Marcel Siem (66), the winner of the 2023 Indian Open. Sharma birdied third, fifth, 14th and 15th.

Aditi misses cut: Aditi Ashok and her Thai partner, Pajaree Anannarukarn missed the cut despite a good second round of 4-under 66 in the Dow Championship golf championship on the LPGA Tour in Midland, USA.

The Indo-Thai combination, which had finished in the top-10 of this event before, shot 72 and 66 to be 2-under for T-59 position but missed the cut, which fell at 7-under.

Tvesa, Vani tied fourth: Tvesa Malik joined Vani Kapoor in the top-four of the Swiss Ladies Open with a fine round of 3-under 68 after a similar first round at Rotkreuz.

Vani Kapoor, who had a share of the lead after the first day with 5-under under 66, managed a 1-under 70 in the second round.

Both Vani and Tvesa were 6-under and two behind Fatima Fernandez Cano of Spain (68-66) at 8-under. For India, the third player assured of making the cut was Ridhima Dilawari (72-69). Amandeep Drall (72-73) was hanging by a slender thread just outside the projected cut line of 2-over. Seher Atwal (77-73) missed the cut. AGENCIES

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Project approved by

Last Date of Application 12th July '24

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MRF CONGRATULATES TEAM INDIA ON AN AMAZING VICTORY.

Team India wins the ICC Men's T20 2024 World Cup at The Kensington Oval in Bridgetown in Barbados.

Well played Team India.

KYA BAT HAI!





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JUNE 30, 2024 | PAGES 36 | INCLUDING CALCUTTA TIMES

INDIA'S LARGEST ENGLISH NEWSPAPER

Democrats who once united behind Biden are now scouring candidate resumes for Prez polls after his harrowing debate with Trump, **PAGE INSIDE**

VOL. XXV NO. 26 KOLKATA

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Why France will vote twice in polls it didn't see coming

Trounced By The Right Wing In EU Polls, French Prez Macron Thrust Snap Elections On The Country That's Hosting Next Month's Olympics. It's Anybody's Match As Voting Begins Today

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

In elections to the European Parliament on June 9, the far-right National Rally party secured double the vote share of Emmanuel Macron's Renaissance party, which narrowly escaped coming third by staying just ahead of the left. Macron immediately called for elections within 20 days to the French National Assembly, or parliament, taking colleagues and the opposition by surprise.

His party did not have a majority in the outgoing parliament, which meant he had to constantly look for support from others to push through laws, or use constitutional provisions to controversially enact them, like his pension reforms, which have faced wide opposition among the French public. Parliamentary elections were last held in 2022 but failed to return a clear winner with Macron appointing a govt led by his own party.

The assembly was not required to go to polls till 2027, but Macron would've been chafing at the constant hassle of cobbling together support and the attendant threat of facing a no-confidence vote.

TOI Explains

Why Vote Twice?

French people will vote once today and, in most constituencies, again on July 7 to send representatives to the 577-member parliament. The majority mark is 289 with Macron's party holding 250 seats in the now-dissolved assembly. National Rally had 88 seats but is expected to vastly improve its tally and emerge as the single-largest party even if it falls short of majority. Much of the outcome will depend on the turnout and political dynamics between like-minded parties.

In constituencies where at least 25% of voters cast their ballot on Sunday, the candidate who corners more than half the votes is declared the outright winner. Failing that, every candidate who bags more than 12.5% of the votes will be on the ticket for the July 7 runoff, where the winner is the one who secures the majority of votes.

This system provides scope for 'tactical voting', that is, voters whose candidate doesn't make it to the runoff may choose to vote for another party (usually to keep out the far-right). Parties also withdraw candidates for the



ALL OR NOTHING: Marine Le Pen and far-right National Rally chief Jordan Bardella are expected to lead their party to a historic win while Macron and French PM Gabriel Attal will be hoping that the snap poll gamble pays off and they secure a majority in parliament

runoff to improve the chances of an ally. This time, the main worry for Macron and his centrist Ensemble alliance will be the broad left New Popular Front coalition, part of which is the well-known radical left figure of Jean-Luc Melenchon of the France Unbowed party. Experts say that the left coalition may eat into Renaissance party's votes, leaving Macron faced with the prospect of running only the fourth 'cohabitation' — implying a president and PM belonging to two different parties — in French govt and the first in the last 20 years.

Roles Of Prez And PM

France has a presidential system of govt, but the PM wields considerable powers. As president, Macron leads foreign policy, European affairs and defence. He is also the commander-in-chief of the army. The PM, on the other hand, is in charge of running the country, formulating domestic legislative policy and introducing bills and getting them cleared by parliament.

As with any democratic set-up, having the same party,

or like-minded leaders, in both offices makes governance easier. However, in the present circumstances, experts say it's unlikely that Macron and a PM from either the far right or left will see eye to eye and bridge their significant differences over everything from French support for Ukraine in the war against Russia to the Palestine issue amid the conflict between Israel and Hamas.

Who's Likely To Form Govt?

Opinion polls put Macron's party at third behind National Rally and New Popular Front. But Jordan Bardella, leader of the National Rally — the outfit associated most closely with Marine Le Pen and her father Jean-Marie Le Pen — has said his party won't form the govt unless it wins a majority. The 28-year-old Bardella stands a chance to break the record of becoming France's youngest PM if he takes over from Gabriel Attal, who was 34 when Macron named him PM in January this year.

Macron has the constitutional prerogative of appointing the PM, but his choice has to reflect the composition of

the assembly. If National Rally wins and refuses to form the govt, experts say a 'technocratic' dispensation comprising members unaffiliated to any party could be put in place to run the day-to-day affairs till the next elections.

High Stakes

Macron's gambit would be to confront the French public with the choice of having an extreme far-right govt or voting for liberals and moderates to run the republic. French football star Kylian Mbappe recently said that "the extremes are at the gates of power", inviting a strong reaction from Bardella, leader of the National Rally — the outfit associated most closely with Marine Le Pen and her father Jean-Marie Le Pen — has said his party won't form the govt unless it wins a majority.

The 28-year-old Bardella stands a chance to break the record of becoming France's youngest PM if he takes over from Gabriel Attal, who was 34 when Macron named him PM in January this year. Macron has the constitutional prerogative of appointing the PM, but his choice has to reflect the composition of

the assembly. If National Rally wins and refuses to form the govt, experts say a 'technocratic' dispensation comprising members unaffiliated to any party could be put in place to run the day-to-day affairs till the next elections.



A left alliance that includes prominent far-left leader Jean-Luc Melenchon is tipped to gain at the expense of Macron's Ensemble combine



Footballer Kylian Mbappe recently warned about radical parties winning power, inviting a strong reaction from far-right leader Bardella

Pak CJJ slams 'unlawful' killing of women over adultery charges

Islamabad: Chief Justice of Pakistan Justice Qazi Faez Isa said on Saturday women in the country were killed in the name of honour without fulfilling the Islamic condition of producing four witnesses in cases of adultery.

Speaking at a conference here on 'Access to Justice for All', the Chief Justice said that the constitution mandates women's representation across all sectors.

He lamented a disregard for social history within the Muslim community and condemned the misuse of honour killings in the name of dignity. He said according to Islamic teachings, "the condition of four witnesses is necessary (to prove the act of adultery)."

He also said that accusing a woman of adultery is called a 'Qazf' and is punishable in Islam and under laws in Pakistan. "Accusing or desecrating a woman is punishable by 80 lashes in the Quran," he said, adding he had not heard anyone punished for wrongly accusing a woman of adultery. **PTI**

Pak seeks US arms to fight terrorism

Washington: Pakistan's ambassador has urged the US to provide small arms and modern equipment to his country to ensure the success of Operation Azm-i-Istehkam. Islamabad's newly-approved counter-terrorism initiative. Ambassador Masood Khan made the request while addressing US policymakers at a Washington think tank last week. **PTI**

AI race: US states try to make sure workers aren't left behind

Hartford (US): With many jobs expected to eventually rely on generative artificial intelligence, US states are trying to help workers beef up tech skills before they become outdated and get outfoxed by machines.

Connecticut is working to create what proponents believe will be the country's first Citizens AI Academy, a free online repository of curated classes that users can take to learn basic skills or obtain a certificate needed for employment. "This is a rapidly evolving area," said state Democratic Senator James Maroney. "So we need to all learn what are the best sources for staying current. How can we update our skills? Who can be trusted sources?"

Determining what skills are necessary in an AI world can be a challenge for state legislators given the fast-moving nature of the technology and differing opinions about what approach is best. Gregory LaBlanc, professor of finance, strategy and law at the Haas School of Business at Berkeley Law School in California, says "we need to figure out what is AI not good at and then teach those things to workers".

This year, at least four states — Connecticut, California, Mississippi and Maryland — proposed legislation that attempted to deal with AI in the classroom somehow. They ranged from Connecticut's planned AI Academy, which was originally inclu-

ded in a wide-ranging AI regulation bill that failed but the concept is still being developed by state education officials, to proposed working groups that examine how AI can be incorporated safely in public schools. Such a bill died in the Mississippi legislature while the others remain in flux. One bill in California would require a state working group to consider incorporating AI literacy skills into math, science, history and social science curriculums.

While Connecticut's planned AI Academy is expected to offer certificates to people who complete certain skills, Maroney said the academy will also include basics, from digital literacy to how to pose questions to a chatbot. **AP**

Turbulence in WaPo as daily loses dollars

The prestigious *Washington Post* is in crisis, with pressure on from owner Jeff Bezos to change its money-losing ways. The *Post's* managing editor abruptly resigned; a chosen successor withdrew under fire, and a boss has been targeted in the newspaper's columns.

At the heart of the storm is the "WaPo's" new CEO, Britton Williams Lewis, who was given a mission by Amazon founder Bezos when he appointed him last autumn. Lewis was asked to turn around a newspaper that continues to pile up Pulitzer Prizes half a century after the Watergate scandal it instigated, but which has lost \$77 million in 2023 despite job cuts and the disappearance of its Sunday supplement. However, the for-



ALL EYES: For many observers, the outcome of the crisis lies in the hands of billionaire Bezos, who bought the *Post* for \$250 million in 2013. So far, Bezos has backed his CEO

Murdoch family's conservative media group about 12 years ago, in a scandal of illegal phone tapping by the tabloid *The News of the World*. On Friday, Lewis was at the centre of an investigation by his own journalists. According to the *Washington Post*, he gave the go-ahead in 2011 for the destruction of thousands of emails, fuelling suspicions that he was destroying evidence, which he denies.

As the US presidential election approaches, the affair is poisoning the atmosphere at a long-vaunted newspaper that is "not doing well economically," says Northeastern University journalism professor Dan Kennedy. The *Post* was among trusted news outlets that benefited from the upheaval that

Here's what it would take Democrats to replace Joe Biden as party nominee

Forcing Him Out To Be A Huge Task

Democrats have ways to replace Joe Biden at the top of their presidential ticket after a harrowing debate against Republican Donald Trump — but doing so without their standard-bearer's acquiescence would be a daunting task. Party members once united behind Biden are now scouring candidate resumes and researching rules for a contingency plan to present voters with a different nominee after a universally planned performance Thursday cemented worries about the President's ability to serve a second term.

"The easiest one is, Biden takes himself out of the race," said Elaine Kamarck, a Democratic National Committee member and author of a book about the presidential nomination process. "Then yes, there's rules and procedures and the party would replace him." While pushing Biden off the ticket is possible, the lack of an obvious candidate to replace him makes such a gambit unlikely, Kamarck said.

The debate saw months of Democratic anxiety over Biden, already the oldest US president in history at 81, and his prospects for defeating Trump, boil over.

The president Friday acknowledged the limitations of his debate showing but dismissed calls to exit the race.

TOI LINE OF NO CONTROL SANDEEP ADHWARYU



If Biden doesn't step aside, forcing him out would be a Herculean undertaking for Democrats. Any rival would first have to collect 600 delegate signatures on a petition to place his or her name in nomination at the Democratic convention — with no more than 50 signatures from any one state. That's about 13% of the delegates. But with Biden controlling 99% of the pledged delegates, that would require challengers convincing Biden loyalists to flip their support.

"The odds are not insurmountable, but they're very high for any scenario that involves a delegate revolt," said Josh Putnam of FHQ Strategies, a non-partisan consul-

ting firm specializing in delegate selection rules.

The Biden campaign has vetted his delegates for their loyalty, but they do have room to change their minds. Unlike Republican delegates, who are often legally bound to cast their vote for a particular candidate, Democratic rules say only that pledged delegates "shall in all good conscience reflect the sentiments of those who elected them."

A move to change the ticket — whether Biden agrees to go willingly or is pushed out — would bring a convention free-for-all not seen for decades.

In an "open" or "brokered" convention, no candidate comes into the roll-call vote with

enough delegates to be guaranteed the nomination. Voting could last any number of rounds until a candidate wins.

Such a convention would also put so-called "super-delegates" in the spotlight. Those delegates — leaders and elected officials who get to the convention by virtue of their position — have been stripped of some powers in recent years as the party worried their influence in the process was undermining. But if a nomination goes into a second ballot, those automatic delegates, who number more than 700, could sway the convention.

Another wild card is that the party is free to change its rules at any time before the nomination, potentially lowering or raising the bar for a Biden challenger.

The most obvious heir apparent is vice-president Kamala Harris — but Democrats don't have to pick Biden's running mate. Some of the most discussed alternatives include Governors Gavin Newsom of California, JB Pritzker of Illinois and Gretchen Whitmer of Michigan, all of whom say they still support Biden.

The nomination vote was scheduled for Aug 21, but the DNC has raised the possibility of a virtual roll call before Aug 7 to accommodate early ballot deadlines. If Biden steps aside after the convention, the decision on how to replace him would be up to the 400 plus members of the DNC — the chairman would consult with Democratic congressional leaders and governors and make a recommendation. **BLOOMBERG**

No place for Hinduphobia in UK, says Labour leader

Naomi Canton

London: Labour leader Sir Keir Starmer, who is widely expected to become the next British prime minister, visited the Shree Swaminarayan Mandir in Kingsbury on Friday where he said "there is absolutely no place for Hinduphobia in Britain" and that Labour would "build a new strategic partnership with India".

He began his speech with "Jai Swaminarayan" and praised British Hindus for not having forgotten their roots, for their "rich Hindu heritage and deep commitment to Britain's future". "If we're elected next week we will strive to govern in the spirit of seva to serve you and a world in need," he said. "Strengthened by Hindu values, you're not only contributing massively to our economy, you're bringing innovation and expertise that keeps us competitive on the global market."

He said Labour had a record number of Hindu candidates in the general election.



Labour Party leader Sir Keir Starmer during a visit to the Shree Swaminarayan Mandir in Kingsbury, London, Friday

If selected, they will "stand with the entire Labour party — firmly behind the Hindu community, representing your concerns, listening to your voice, working with you, on issues at home as well as on the global stage," he said.

Starmer was received by an Indian pipe band in Scottish regalia. He performed "anjali mudra" and then inside the mandir he performed puja which included

"abhisheka", interacted with local schoolchildren and was given "prasad".

Dr Neeraj Patil, chairman of Hindus for Labour, said: "He is going to address anti-Hindu hatred, which is most welcome. He is sending a strong positive signal to 1.7 million British Hindus that the prospective Labour govt will include Hindus in the growth and prosperity of this country."

Orban takes helm of EU presidency

Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban's frequent attacks against Brussels and his warm relations with Russia have left the country increasingly isolated as it takes over the bloc's rotating presidency on Monday. The longest-serving leader in the European Union, Orban has recently ramped up his rhetoric against what he calls the "technocratic elite of Brussels", warning "we will rack our brains to hurt them".

"It's unbelievable. It's like the defendant in a trial has suddenly taken over the prosecution," said his biographer, and journalist, Paul Lendvai.

While he warned not to "overestimate the importance" of Hungary's six-month presidency, he predicted that Orban would continue to block key issues as he did with EU aid for Ukraine while "loosening restrictions" on rule of law issues on which he has been censured by Brussels in order to unlock blocked EU funds.

Orban openly supports former American president Donald Trump. **AFP**

Russian attacks on Ukraine kill at least 12

Kyiv: Russian attacks across eastern Ukraine killed at least 11 people on Saturday, while rescuers in the city of Dnipro dug through rubble after a Russian strike ripped through a nine-story residential building, leaving one dead, officials said.

The attacks came as Russia continues to stretch out Ukrainian forces in several areas along the 1,000-kilometre front. Moscow has stepped up airstrikes in a bid to drain Ukraine's resources, often targeting energy facilities and other vital infrastructure.

TASS news agency reported citing Kursk governor that

Priests freed in prisoner exchange

Ukraine and Russia said Saturday that priests were among the dozens of captured soldiers and civilians they had exchanged earlier this week. Two Ukrainian Greek Catholic priests taken captive in Moscow-held Berdiansk were handed back to Ukraine after the mediation of Vatican. **AFP**

a Ukrainian drone has killed five people in Russia's border Kursk region. **AFP, REUTERS**

Iran to hold runoff election

Dubai: Iran will hold a runoff presidential election on July 5 pitting little-known reformist Masoud Pezeshkian against hard-line former nuclear negotiator, Saeed Jalili, after results Saturday showed the lowest-ever poll turnout in the Islamic Republic's history. More than 60% of voters cast no ballot in the race. Of the 24.5 million votes cast in Friday's election, Pezeshkian got 10.4 million while Jalili received 9.4 million.

Iranian law requires that a winner gets more than 50% of all votes cast. If not, the race's top two candidates advance to a runoff a week later. Jalili, once described by CIA director Bill Burns as "stupefyingly opaque" in negotiations, would have won outright had the three hard-liners not split vote. **AP**

AROUND THE WORLD



THE K FACTOR: K-Pop band Seventeen performs on the Pyramid Stage on the third day of the Glastonbury festival at Worthy Farm in the village of Pilton in Somerset, southwest England, on Friday

Man killed after 'crossbow attack' on Israel embassy

An attacker who fired a crossbow at a police officer guarding the Israeli embassy in Belgrade was shot dead on Saturday in what President Aleksandar Vucic called a terrorist attack against Serbia.

No embassy staff were wounded in the attack, the Israeli foreign ministry said, and the policeman was in a stable condition in hospital following surgery to remove an arrow from his neck, Vucic said. Vucic named the attacker as Salahudin Zujovic, a man from central Serbia who had converted to Islam from Serbian Orthodox Christianity, and said he had worked with an accomplice who is at large.

China tightens management of rare earths: China tightened the management of its rare earths industry with the approval of the first comprehensive regulation governing the mining, metal smelting and circulation of the mineral. Rare earths

belong to the country and no organization or individual are allowed to claim them, the State Council said in a statement on its website. The state will take charge of protective mining of the resource, it said. The new rules take effect on Oct 1.

Aus says arrogant Meta should pay for news: Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese called social media companies arrogant and irresponsible, as the government's battle to have Meta Platforms continue to pay local media organizations for content escalated. Meta's regional policy director Mia Garlick told a parliamentary committee Friday that "all options were on the table," when asked whether the company would ban news on its platforms.

5 missiles land near ship in the Red Sea: A ship sailing through the Red Sea came under repeated missile fire Friday in an attack launched by Yemen's Houthis rebels, authorities said, the latest targeting the maritime route.



Remo Freuler & Ruben Vargas (pic) help their Swiss team knock defending champion Italy out of Euro 2024 **P 23**

VOL. XXV NO. 26 KOLKATA

HAWKER-TRADER FACE-OFF PARALYSES CITY'S HEART



Simmering tension over the hawkers' pushback drive reached a flashpoint in the New Market area on Saturday afternoon, with hawkers first threatening and manhandling a functionary of the traders' body at Shreeram Arcade in the presence of a union leader and then attempting to attack the traders with rods, sticks and a machete. Though police intervened in the nick of time (pic left) to avert a clash that could have turned ugly, chaos ruled in the area for the next four hours as shoppers scampered to safety and 5,000 shops in the area downed shutters. As the traders marched to the police station to file the complaint, a group of hawkers shouting 'dukandar hoshiyar' trooped down to New Market PS for another confrontation. Again, police intervened at S N Banerjee Road, in front of the police station, and managed to drive hawkers back into Bertram Street. But incensed traders then continued to agitate on the road, paralyzing traffic on the thoroughfare for nearly 35 minutes (pic right) **P 2**

NEET: CBI arrests scribe who 'helped' Jharkhand principal, Bihar 'link'

Abhijit Sen & Kalyan Das | TNN

Hazaribag/Dehradun: A journalist from Jharkhand's Hazaribag and another suspect in Uttarakhand's Dehradun, believed to be linked to the accused in Bihar, have been arrested by CBI over the NEET leak even as the agency took remand of other accused in Bihar and Gujarat.

► Push for pen-paper mode under scanner, P 19

Journalist Md Jamaluddin, 35, was taken into custody Friday for allegedly helping Ehsanul Haque, principal of Hazaribag's Oasis School and district coordinator for National Testing Agency. Haque and vice-principal Imtiaz Alam are in CBI net. Jamaluddin, Haque and Alam were taken to Patna, where they were sent to

NEET-PG schedule in 1-2 days: Pradhan

National Board of Examinations will announce the new schedule for NEET-PG "in one or two days", education minister Dharmendra Pradhan said on Saturday. NEET-PG was cancelled as a pre-emptive measure against alleged irregularities in competitive tests. **P 19**

CBI custody for five days, sources said.

Jamaluddin, a journalist-cum-ad executive with a local Hindi paper, allegedly tried to help Haque and Alam, sources said. According to CBI sources, Jamaluddin had organised a news conference recently for Haque to clear his stance on the leak.

► U'khan d suspect... P 19

Five Army soldiers in tank swept away in flash floods near LAC

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Five Army soldiers drowned when their tank got stuck after a flash flood in Shyok river in the Daulat Beg Oldie region of eastern Ladakh, which is near the Line of Actual Control with China, late on Friday night.

The Russian-origin T-72 main-battle tank, which had a crew of one junior commissioned officer (JCO) and four jawans, was 'de-inducting' from a military exercise when the mishap occurred while fording the river near Saser Brangsa due to "a sudden increase in the water level" around midnight. "Rescue teams, including combat engineers in boats, rushed to the location. But the soldiers could not be saved due to the strong current in the river. All bodies were later recovered," an officer



A file photo of Indian tanks in Pangong Tso region of Ladakh

said. The 52 Armoured Regiment soldiers who died were identified as MRK Reddy (JCO), Subhan Khan, Bhupendra Negi, Ekeidaung Teibam & Sadarbonia Nagaraju.

The night exercise, which included the river crossing drill, was taking place amid the continuing military confrontation with China in eastern Ladakh, which is into its fifth year now.

► BRO in final stages... P 19

Kejriwal sent to judicial custody till July 12 in CBI case

Delhi court on Saturday sent Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal to judicial custody till July 12 in a corruption case related to the alleged excise policy scam after his three-day CBI custody ended. He was allowed to meet his family and lawyers. **P 18**

To Our Readers

Times Evoke appears in the paper today on P16. It will be back on Saturday as usual from next week. TOI's weekly quiz, 'Inquizitive', will appear in Monday's edition

WEATHER

☀️ Max 31.6 °C(-1.3) Min 27.2°C(+0.4). Sunrise: Mon 4.55am. Sunset: Sun 6.25pm. Generally cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain/thundershower. Max & min temp may be around 31°C & 26°C. Max humidity 98% min 85% Rain: 92.4mm

Please ensure judiciary does not have political biases: CM to CJI, sr judges

Debashis.Konar@timesgroup.com

Kolkata: CM Mamata Banerjee, speaking in an event in the presence of CJI D Y Chandrachud and other judges in Kolkata on Saturday, said the judiciary should ensure no "political biases" in judges. The CM was speaking at the inauguration of a two-day conference organised by the National Judicial Academy conference. "My humble request will be to all of you..." Banerjee said, hands folded. "I want to apologise to even mention this to you. It is not my intention to humiliate anyone. But it is my kind submission, a humble submission. Please see there are no political biases in the judiciary. The judiciary must be pure, honest, sacred, and let people revere it like a temple."

► 'Uphold purity of judicial process', P 6

Express views enshrined in Constitution, not your own ideology: CJI to judges

Kolkata: Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud said the values judges had to espouse were ones enshrined in the Constitution — "a society based on human dignity, fraternity, equality, liberty, respect for all, tolerance for all and inclusion for all", reports Debashis Konar. He was speaking against judges "writing about their own ideologies in judgments".

"The heart of the nation is the realisation of the importance of diversity... the pursuit of tolerance... Which defines why we are, 75 years after the birth of a nation, still a nation with such beautiful diversity," he said.

The CJI reminded his listeners that they were "servants" of the Constitution, not its "masters". We, maybe, can be the masters of constitutional interpretation because the task of interpretation is given to us but we are yet servants to the Constitution," he said.

► 'Every Indian can eat...', P 6

Day after IGI, canopy outside Rajkot airport collapses after rain

Rajkot: A day after a roof collapsed at Delhi airport, killing one person and leaving scores injured, a fibre canopy outside Gujarat's Rajkot International Airport terminal crashed on Saturday just when a flight from Mumbai was scheduled to land.

► 4 drown in underpasses, Delhi rain toll 11, P 15

No one was injured and no flight operations were affected due to the incident that occurred at the pick-up and drop-off point outside the interim terminal building. The airport, located at Hirasar, was inaugurated by PM Modi in July last year. "The canopy collapsed due to water accumulation and heavy wind, and nobody



A portion of the canopy outside the terminal's pick-up/drop area came down on Saturday

was injured in the incident. We have deployed a team to clear the water above the canopy," Diganta Borah, airport director, told TOI. **TNN**

► Completion in 2024, P 6

Hold periodic review of staff, weed out deadwood, DoPT tells ministries

New Delhi: Pointing out laxity on part of certain Union ministries and departments to periodically review their staffers' performance to ascertain if they are deadwood and fit cases for premature retirement in public interest, the department of personnel and training (DoPT) has instructed the defaulting ministries to immediately identify the employees due for review under Fundamental Rules 56 j/1 and Rule 48 of the CCS (Pension) Rules, 1972, and submit their cases expeditiously to the review committee.

"All ministries/departments/organisations are... requested to strictly adhere to the timeline mentioned in DoPT's OM dated 28.08.2020 for undertaking the exercise of review of performance of

PM: Don't make good policies 'stillborn'

PM Modi on Saturday asked civil servants to be focused on meeting the needs of citizens, saying they should be served with the same devotion shown for God. He advocated a flexible approach to ensure good policies don't get entangled in legal provisions and become stillborn. **P 17**

the govt servants and for employees of PSUs/banks/autonomous institutions/statutory organisations to ensure employees with doubtful integrity or found to be ineffective are not allowed to continue in govt," DoPT stated. **TNN**

► 'Pre-term retirement...', P 6

Xi invokes Panchsheel as key to end today's global conflicts

'It Set A Historic Benchmark For International Rule Of Law'

TNN & AGENCIES

Beijing/Delhi: Chinese President Xi Jinping on Friday highlighted the relevance of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, which gained traction with the Non-Aligned Movement, to end the present-day conflicts and sought to expand influence in the Global South amid its tussle with the West.

Xi, 71, invoked the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, termed as Panchsheel by India, at a conference in Beijing to mark its 70th anniversary and also sought to juxtapose them with his new concept of Global Security Initiative envisaging a shared future for mankind.

The Panchsheel pointers were first formally enunciated in the Agreement on Trade and Intercourse between the Tibet region of China and India signed on April 29, 1954, according to the MEA.



Chinese President Xi Jinping highlighted the relevance of Panchsheel at a conference in Beijing to mark its 70th anniversary. No Indian official was reported to have participated in the conference

No Indian official was reported to have participated in the conference on Friday. The invitees included former Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapaksa and several political and officials from various countries that have close ties with China.

The five principles formed part of the legacy of the then PM Jawaharlal Nehru and his Chinese counterpart Zhou

Enlai in their unsuccessful quest to find a solution to the vexed boundary issue.

"The Five Principles answered the call of the times, and its initiation was an inevitable historic development. The Chinese leadership in the past specified the Five Principles in their entirety for the first time, namely, 'mutual respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity', 'mutual

non-aggression', 'mutual non-interference in each other's internal affairs', 'equality and mutual benefit', and 'peaceful coexistence', Xi said.

"They included the Five Principles in the China-India and China-Myanmar joint statements which jointly called for making them basic norms for state-to-state relations," Xi said.

The Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence were born in Asia but quickly ascended to the world stage. In 1955, over 20 Asian and African countries attended the Bandung Conference, Xi recalled.

The Non-Aligned Movement that rose in the 1960s adopted the Five Principles as its guiding principles, he said.

"The Five Principles have set a historic benchmark for international relations and international rule of law," he said, highlighting their relevance to ending the present-day conflicts.

'39 broken idols found at Bhojshala complex in MP during ASI survey'

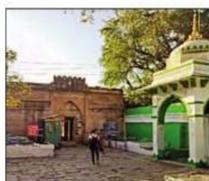
Rajesh Jauhari | TNN

Mhow: As many as 1,710 relics, including 39 broken idols, were found during the 98-day high-court-ordered survey carried out by Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) to establish the 'true nature' of disputed Bhojshala/Kamal Maula Mosque complex in MP's Dhar district.

The idols include those of Vagdevi (Saraswati), Mahishasur Mardini, Ganesh, Krishna, Mahadev, Brahma and Hanuman, say sources. The Muslim side doubts these findings, wondering "where they came from".

The multi-disciplinary scientific survey concluded on Thursday, and ASI is expected to submit its report on the findings before the court on July 4. Highly placed sources said ASI might seek a second extension to 'dig deeper into the structure and surrounding areas'.

Hindus believe Bhojshala



ASI is likely to submit its report in HC on July 4. The Muslim side doubts the findings, wondering 'where they came from'

was a temple to Goddess Vagdevi (Saraswati), while Muslims say it has always been a mosque. The Hindu Front for Justice moved Indore bench of high court, seeking an ASI survey, which was granted in March this year. Representatives from both Hindu and Muslim sides were allowed to accompany ASI experts during the survey every day.

On June 27, the last day of the survey, ASI found at least seven structures during ex-

cavation in the northern side of Bhojshala, said HFJ representative Gopal Sharma. "One of them was the broken idol of a goddess, and the rest are broken pieces of a pillar. Only the neck and face of the idol were found," he added.

ASI roped in Geological Survey of India and used ground-penetrating radars to examine the area in and around the Bhojshala complex.

HFJ's Ashish Goyal told TOI, "ASI has declared end of excavation, stating that all the work related to it has been completed and they don't find need for any further excavation." All the relics found so far have been cleaned, numbered and many have been sent for carbon dating.

The Muslim side says court norms were not adhered to during the inspection. Dhar Shahar Qazi Wakar Saadiq said, "Our main objection is that the survey was not conducted as per the guidelines of Supreme Court."

EAM to visit Qatar today, to focus on trade, energy, security

New Delhi: Foreign minister S Jaishankar will pay an official visit to Qatar on Sunday, Indian govt said in an announcement. During the visit, he will meet the prime minister and foreign minister of Qatar, Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani.

Jaishankar's visit will enable both sides to review various aspects of bilateral relations including political, trade, investment, energy, security, cultural and people-to-people as well as the regional and international issues of mutual interest, govt said.

India and Qatar share historic and friendly relations which are marked by regular exchange of high-level visits, said the MEA in a statement, recalling PM Modi had visited Qatar on 14-15 Feb 2024 and held discussions with Qatar's Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani. TNN

No help for Indian helps when 'dream' foreign job turns into a nightmare

Both nanny institutes and immigrant consultancies are mushrooming but as Hinduja case shows, domestic workers need legal protection

Sneha.Bhura@timesgroup.com

Anjali from Ulhasnagar in Thane has quite a few stamps on her passport. Having worked in Dubai, Hong Kong and Muscat (where she was employed by a 'sheikh') as a domestic worker, she reels off the dos and don'ts. "Do not give your phone to your employer. Remember, they need you more than you need them. Ensure that you are allowed to speak to your family every day. Clients will say they have spent lakhs on your visa, so they have a right to take away your passport but don't fall for that. Don't go for a lower salary, and don't fall for scummy agents," says the 35-year-old, who has drawn a salary of up to Rs 45,000 a month abroad and wants to go to London for her next job.

Not everyone is as savvy. While the money is more than what they would get in India for a similar job, it's still nothing compared to what a local would be paid. Before that comes the hurdle of getting there. Many of them take loans to pay greedy agents who don't give them the proper paperwork. Without that, they are held hostage by employers who take their passports and withhold salaries. As the recent Hinduja case in which four members of the family were convicted for exploiting domestic staff at their luxury villa in Geneva showed, even wealthy NRI tycoons can behave that way and not just a sheikh in the Gulf. Besides other charges



HELD TO ACCOUNT: Hinduja conviction in Swiss court spotlights how domestic workers are treated even in some wealthy households

es like confiscation of passports, low salaries and long hours, the lead prosecutor pointed out that the family's annual spend on their pet dog surpassed the salary they offered their house-help.

In the Hinduja case, the domestic workers took a rare step and fought back against exploitation, but the case highlights a larger problem — that of India's lack of protective mechanisms for domestic workers at home and abroad. India has not ratified the ILO Domestic Workers Convention No 189, which requires signatory governments to protect the rights of domestic workers. "India should negotiate stronger bilateral labour agreements with destination countries to ensure that domestic workers are granted legal protections, fair wages, and safe working conditions," says Karan S Thukral, a Delhi-based immigration lawyer. "Implementing accessible and effective reporting mechanisms for workers who don't speak the local language to report abuse and exploitation is critical. These mechanisms should ensure confidentiality and protection against retaliation," he adds.

Sister Josephine Amala Valarmathi, Tamil Nadu state coordinator at the non-profit National Domestic Workers' Movement, says people use loopholes to not formalise this labour. "More often than not, domestic workers are taken abroad as 'relatives' to escape any formal work agreement or contracts."

That several 'nanny institutes' have sprouted across north India shows that there is a demand to cater to busy NRI couples who seek help with child and elderly care. These institutes teach aspirants, who must have studied till either class 10 or 12, the basics of nutrition, first aid, etiquette, child behavioural psychology, etc through six-month certificate courses. Sometimes they are even required to take IELTS exams as part of the course, after which they travel on special caregiver visas.

The day the Hinduja was convicted, the Kerala government became the first in the country to announce plans for a legislation for safeguarding house-holds, with the draft laying out minimum wage, fixed hours, workplace security, rest time, and outlining responsibilities of the employer and private placement agencies. Sonia George, vice-president of SEWA, a union of informal workers, and an executive committee member of International Domestic Workers' Federation, points out that while this is a welcome step, it isn't applicable overseas. "The draft immigration Bill proposed by the external affairs ministry in 2019 and revised in 2021 would have addressed the concerns of overseas Indian domestic workers had it seen the light of day. Post-pandemic international migration of domestic workers acquired through illegal recruitment agencies has gone up in Kerala. These agencies tap into the most marginalised sections, including workers from tribal communities, Dalits and fisherfolk," says George, adding that the urgency to pay off debts accrued during the pandemic has only increased the need to go work abroad.

FORGOTTEN AYAHS OF THE RAJ

Indian female domestic workers going abroad for higher wages is not new. The experiences of 'travelling ayahs' who traversed between India and Britain during the imperial era have been well documented. These women primarily served families onboard ships rather than in stable residences in either country.

While generally treated adequately at sea, they often faced abandonment and mistreatment upon arrival in Britain. In 1825, a women's committee founded



A 'travelling ayah' on a troopship in 'Waiting on Empire'

the Ayahs' Home in Aldgate, England, to help stranded ayahs find new jobs and return to India.

Historian Arunima Dutta, who researched the subject for her 2023 book, 'Waiting on Empire: A History of Indian Travelling Ayahs in Britain', says some found ways to engage in entrepreneurial activities while they waited, while others went to the India Office in London to appeal. "There were some who even took their irresponsible employers to court for failing to pay the ayah's return passages," says Dutta.

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