



# The Statesman



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INDIA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1818

KOLKATA | NEW DELHI | SILIGURI | BHUBANESWAR

PEOPLE'S PARLIAMENT, ALWAYS IN SESSION



### REVANTH MEETS GUV AMIDST BUZZ OVER CABINET EXPANSION

P4



### 'BE ALERT & PROACTIVE TO DEAL WITH COMPROMISE ON MORALITY'

P5



### 'PUBLIC SAFETY TOP PRIORITY DURING FLOODS'

P10



### 'SENIORS WILL CONTINUE AS INDIA TARGET 2025 CT'

P12

SENSEX 79,476.19

NIFTY 24,141.95

₹ vs \$ 83.44

GOLD 74,560.00

SILVER 90,200

BRENT CRUDE (IN \$) 85.55

## WEATHER

Generally cloudy sky. Rain/thundershower very likely to occur. Maximum and Minimum Temperature most likely to be around 31°C and 27°C respectively.

**RAINFALL:** 0.2 mm  
**RELATIVE HUMIDITY**  
Max. 95%  
Min. 88%  
**TEMPERATURE**  
Max: 30.3°C (+2.3)  
Min: 27.9°C (+1.2)  
**SUN RISES**  
04:56 hrs  
**SUN SETS**  
18:25 hrs  
**MOON RISES**  
00:40 hrs  
**MOON SETS**  
14:02 hrs  
New Moon on 06 July

## THUMBNAILED



Villagers shift their belongings on a boat as they move to a safer place at flood affected Mayong village, in Assam.

**Commercial LPG cylinder prices slashed by ₹30 from 1 July:** The state-backed oil marketing companies slashed prices of 19 kg commercial LPG cylinders by Rs 30 per cylinder with effect from July 1. After this price slash, a 19 kg cylinder will now be available for ₹1,646 in Delhi against ₹1,676 earlier. In Mumbai, a 19 kg cylinder costs ₹1,598 whereas it costs ₹1,756 in Kolkata.

# BJP created fear among people, says Rahul Gandhi

## PM Modi objected to Rahul's speech twice, says 'calling Hindus violent a serious issue'

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, 1 JULY

Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Monday spoke on President Droupadi Murmu's address to Parliament and said the BJP-led government in the last 10 years, had committed a systematic attack on the Constitution and the idea of India, creating fear among farmers and the common people.

In his first speech as the Leader of the Opposition in the House, Mr Gandhi said the BJP's government was characterized by concentration of power and whoever resisted BJP's ideas and the attack on the Constitution, was put in jail. There was aggression on dalits, poor and minorities and he himself had to undergo 55 hours of interrogation by the Enforcement Directorate.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah and some other Ministers objected to Mr Gandhi's observations that the BJP did not represent the true spirit of Hinduism as it "talked" of violence and tried to create fear among people.

Mr Modi said this is a serious matter, Mr Gandhi is calling the whole Hindu society violent. Mr Gandhi said "BJP does not rep-



resent the whole Hindu society; RSS too cannot claim to represent all Hindus."

The Congress leader said his party's symbol Hand represented the "abhaya mudra" (hand posture dispelling fear) which was also observed in the images of divine figures in all religions. Mr Gandhi said all religions want their followers to be fearless and not spread fear.

The Home Minister said crores of people are proud to be Hindus and the Leader of the Opposition calls them violent. It is not fair to link any religion with violence, he said. Mr Shah said how can a Congress leader talk of fear in the country when his party imposed the Emergency and the nation was



in fear, and there were killings of Sikhs during the Congress rule.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh responded to Mr Gandhi's charge that the Agniveer jawans getting killed in action were not cared for. The Defence Minister said the government gave Rs 1 crore compensation to families of the Agniveers dying in action.

As Mr Gandhi continued to attack the government on various issues, Speaker Om Birla had to intervene repeatedly because of frequent interruptions from the Treasury Benches. Mr Birla agreed to the government's request that Mr Gandhi's claims be verified.

The Leader of the Opposition said the Hindus do not spread fear while the BJP does so 24 hours and

its leaders created fear in the party also. He said Ayodhya, the birthplace of Lord Rama, had given the message to the BJP by rejecting its candidate for the Lok Sabha.

Mr Gandhi said the Ayodhya's Samajwadi Party MP Ayodhya Prasad, who sat by him, had told him the people of the constituency rejected the BJP because the party had created fear among people there by acquiring their land, and demolishing shops, without giving any compensation.

During his Bharat Jodi Yatra, he said, he had found women were living in fear because of price-rise, and getting beaten up by their husbands because they had no food to serve them because of price-rise. Fear was sought to be created among farmers through three farm laws. Mr Gandhi said they are still agitating for legally-guaranteed MSP for crops.

Students are financially and emotionally drained and have lost all hope because the professional exam NEET had been made commercial, enabling only the rich to get medical seats, he said. This has created a fear in the country. Manipur is forgotten.

Mr Gandhi said families of Agniveers also lived in fear and if his government came to power, it would end the Agniveer scheme.

## Oppn protest at Parl against 'misuse' of Central agencies



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, 1 JULY

Leaders of the INDIA bloc, including Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, staged a protest on the Parliament premises here on Tuesday against alleged misuse of Central investigative agencies.

The Opposition leaders held a demonstration in front of the Makar Dwar at the new Parliament building shouting slogans against the Narendra Modi Government and holding aloft placards reading, "End the reign of fear. Stop ED, Income Tax, CBI misuse; respect Opposition, stop intimidation."

The INDIA bloc has been accusing the ruling dispensation of misusing agencies to target prominent leaders of the Opposition alliance. They have become vocal in their criticism of the government on the alleged misuse

of the Central agencies after the arrest of Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and former Jharkhand chief minister Hemant Soren by the ED. It may be mentioned here that in March, at the "Save Democracy" mega rally organised by the INDIA bloc at the Ramliha Maidan, Opposition leaders vociferously demanded the release of Kejriwal and Soren.

While Soren, who was arrested by the ED in an alleged land scam case, has been released from jail last week after the Jharkhand High Court granted him bail, Kejriwal is still incarcerated with his bail plea pending a hearing in the Supreme Court.

Notably, the protest on Monday came close on the heels of a demonstration by the INDIA bloc at Parliament last week alleging an attack on the Constitution under the Narendra Modi-led NDA Government.

## 'Justice' replaces 'punishment', 'Indian soul' added: Shah on new criminal laws

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, 1 JULY

Union Home Minister Amit Shah said the justice system is becoming indigenous almost 77 years after independence with the implementation of the three new criminal laws from Monday.

With these coming into effect across all police stations in the country, "punishment" will be replaced by "justice" and instead of delay, now there will be a speedy trial and justice delivery, he said while addressing the media.

Earlier, the rights of police were safeguarded, but now there will be more emphasis on the rights of the victims and complainants.

The new laws have come into effect since midnight with a new vision, and the Indian Penal Code which existed since 1860, has been replaced by the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), Criminal Procedure Code which was known as CrPC and was since 1898 will be no more and



'Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita' BNSS has taken its place and the Indian Evidence Act which was in place since 1872, will also be a thing of past, with Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam (BSA) taking its place.

The HM further said that going in line with the spirit of our Constitution, the priority of the sections and the chapters have been set in the new laws, and top priority has been given to crimes against women and children.

Hestressed that there is provision of 20 years imprisonment or life imprisonment in case of gang rape and death penalty in case of gang rape with a minor. A separate crime has been

defined for sexual exploitation by hiding one's identity or making false promises, Shah said, adding that a provision has been made to record statements of the victim at her home in the presence of women officers and family members.

Besides this, the facility of online FIR has been provided to as a lot of women can be saved from embarrassment this way, he added.

As a first, longstanding demand for the provisions against mob lynching is going to be come into effect for the first time with these laws, the HM said.

In the new criminal laws, the section related to sedition was removed and replaced with section of treason, the home minister said, adding that a new section on organized crime was also added in the Indian Judicial Code.

With more emphasis now on the victim as well as the complainant's rights, they will be better protected now, as earlier focus was more on safeguarding police's rights.

More accountability on part of the law enforcement agency will be ensured with the new laws, he said. Those provisions which were problematic for Indians and existed since the British rule have been reformed.

Shah asserted full confidence that with the implementation of the new laws across the country, they will prove to be the most advanced laws.

Throwing more light, Shah said 99.9 per cent of the police stations have been computerized, the Zero FIRs and e-FIR etc will be digital and the victim will be given the case progress within 90 days.

He added that 6 lakh police personnel have been imparted with training regarding the new legislations to ensure a smooth transition.

The HM also clarified over the news regarding the first case registered under new laws, stating it has been registered in Gwalior, MP, and the case at Kamla Market PS Delhi was one of the first cases registered in Delhi.

## National Doctor's Day: CM Mamata congratulates medical staff

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
KOLKATA, 1 JULY

Chief minister Mamata Banerjee congratulated the doctors, nursing staff and health workers of Bengal and the country on the occasion of National Doctors' Day.

She also mentioned how free treatment in state-run health care establishments and the Swasthya Sathi scheme has helped the people of the state.

On the birth and death anniversary of legendary physician and former chief minister of Bengal Dr BC Roy, which is observed as Doctor's Day, she wrote on her X-handle: "My tribute to Dr Bidhan Chandra Roy, former chief minister of West Bengal and a legendary physician, on his birth and death anniversary."

She further wrote: "My regards and best wishes to all the doctors, nurses and health workers of Bengal and the country on this very special



occasion of National Doctors' Day for their selfless and dedicated services. It is with continued support of my colleagues in the health sector that our government has been able to revolutionize the sector in Bengal in the last 13 years. Free treatment in government hospitals, cashless and virtually free treatment in private hospitals also under our Swasthya Sathi, many new medical colleges, and health centres and medical services, all these are our tributes to the cause of health. Health for all. Happy National Doctors' Day."

After coming to power in 2011, Miss Banerjee, who is also the state health minister took several steps to improve the health sector which had been badly hit by 34 years of Left Front regime. The government hospitals, even in Kolkata, were in shambles.

The state government made medical treatment free in the state-run hospitals. The infrastructure of all the state-run hospitals across the state got improved. Forty-two super specialty hospitals have come up in the state and the number of state-run medical colleges has gone up to 33. The institutional delivery now covers almost 100 per cent.

The Swasthya Sathi card has helped people enormously in the state. The card is issued in the name of the senior most woman member of the family. In the private health care establishments, the Swasthya Sathi cardholders are getting relief. Difficult surgeries are regularly held in state-run hospitals.

## You bowed to PM Modi: Rahul tells Speaker

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, 1 JULY

Participating in a discussion on the President's address in the Lok Sabha, Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi on Monday told Speaker Om Birla that after his election as the Speaker last week, he had bowed down before Prime Minister Narendra Modi while shaking hands with him.

On the other hand, Mr Gandhi said, Mr Birla stood straight while shaking hands with him on the same occasion.

Home Minister Amit Shah said Mr Gandhi had made a charge against the Speaker. The Speaker said the Prime Minister is the leader of the House and he is elder to him. He said his culture had taught him that one should bow before elders, and this he followed in personal and public life, while conducting himself as an equal with equals.

Mr Gandhi said after becoming the Leader of the Opposition, he realized he was now two people. He was leader of his party and held the Constitutional position of the Leader of the Opposition, representing all Opposition parties. "I represent all Opposition parties equally," he said. When Mr Hemant Soren or Mr Arvind Kejriwal is in jail, it hurts him.

He said "There are now two structures; one is he (Rahul Gandhi) as an individual and one is the Leader of the Opposition. As individual, I might have likes and dislikes but I as Leader of Opposition have to suppress them, reduce them and say the voice of opposition. That is the idea of the democratic system. The people have given me responsibility and that responsibility should overcome my personal likes, dislikes and aspirations."

Mr Gandhi said that whatever the Speaker says fundamentally defines Indian Democracy. "You are the final arbiter of the Lok Sabha. You are the final word here. What you say fundamentally defines Indian Democracy," he said.

## 5 members of family found hanging in MP, stark resemblance to Burari deaths in Delhi

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
BHOPAL, 1 JULY

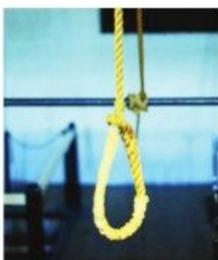
All five members of a family were found dead, hanging inside their house in a village in Alirajpur district of Madhya Pradesh Monday morning.

It was not yet certain whether the family members committed mass suicide or one member killed the others and then committed suicide or if they were all murdered, and the police were probing the incident from angles.

According to the police, they received information from some relatives of the family, who visited the house and saw the bodies.

The incident occurred in village Raudi under the jurisdiction of Sondwa police station.

The deceased were identified as Rakesh Dodwa (27),



his wife Lalita Dodwa (25), and their three minor children, including daughter Laxmi (9) and two sons, Prakash (7) and Akshay (5).

Rakesh's uncle visited the house in the morning and saw the five hanging. He told the villagers and subsequently the police were informed. Villagers told the police that they were not aware of any stress or financial problems being faced by Rakesh.

The deceased were identified as Rakesh Dodwa (27), his wife Lalita Dodwa (25), and their three minor children, including daughter Laxmi (9) and two sons, Prakash (7) and Akshay (5).

According to Alirajpur SP Rajesh Vyas, the police sent the bodies for postmortem and further investigations were on in the matter.

The incident bore stark resemblance to the alleged mass suicide of 10 members of a family and murder of the 11th member of the Chundawat family at Burari in Delhi. That incident had occurred six years ago in 2018 and came to light on 1 July, the same date as Monday's incident in Madhya Pradesh.

## India, Pakistan exchange lists of civilian prisoners, fishermen

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, 1 JULY

India and Pakistan on Monday exchanged, through diplomatic channels simultaneously at New Delhi and Islamabad, the lists of civilian prisoners and fishermen in each other's custody.

Under the provisions of the bilateral Agreement on Consular Access 2008, such lists are exchanged every year on 1st January and on 1st July.

India has shared names of 366 civilian prisoners and 86 fishermen in its custody, who are Pakistani or are believed-to-be-Pakistani. Similarly, Pakistan has shared names of 43 civilian prisoners and 211 fishermen in its custody, who are Indian or are believed-to-be-Indian.

India has called for early



release and repatriation of civilian prisoners and fishermen along with their boats, and missing Indian defence personnel from Pakistan's custody. Pakistan has been asked to expedite the release and repatriation of 185 Indian fishermen and civilian prisoners, who have completed their sentence.

In addition, Pakistan has been asked to provide immediate

release and repatriation to the 47 civilian prisoners and fishermen in Pakistan's custody, who are believed-to-be-Indian and have not been provided consular access so far.

Pakistan has also been requested to ensure the safety, security and welfare of all Indian and believed-to-be-Indian civilian prisoners and fishermen, pending their release and repatriation to

India. "India remains committed to addressing, on priority, all humanitarian matters, including those pertaining to prisoners and fishermen in each other's custody. In this context, India has urged Pakistan to expedite the nationality verification process of 75 believed-to-be-Pakistani civilian prisoners and fishermen in India's custody, whose repatriation is pending for want of nationality confirmation from Pakistan," the Ministry of External Affairs said. As a result of sustained efforts by the government, 2,639 Indian fishermen and 71 Indian civilian prisoners have been repatriated from Pakistan since 2014. This includes 478 Indian fishermen and 13 Indian civilian prisoners who have been repatriated from Pakistan since 2023 till date.



C M Y K

# Gadkari orders transfer of NH-10 responsibility

Raju Bista, MP from Darjeeling, held a meeting with Nitin Gadkari, the minister for road, transport and highways

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE SILIGURI, 1 JULY

The present situation resembles that of yesterday, as there have been no new occurrences of erosion or landslides. However, national highway 10 remains closed and traffic being redirected through Lava Kalimpong to connect Siliguri and Gangtok. Specifically, the section of NH-10 between Likuveer and the 29th mile is currently inaccessible due to heavy rain in the last two days, causing substantial harm to the road.

Additionally, a collapse has occurred on the right side of the Teesta river between Kalijhora and Hanuman Jhora, a popular tourist destination along NH-10.

Today, Raju Bista, the Member of Parliament from Darjeeling, held a meeting with Nitin Gadkari, the minister for road, transport and highways.

The purpose of the meeting was to inform him about the dire state of national highway 10, as this route plays a crucial role in connecting Darjeeling, Kalimpong, Doars, and Sikkim to other parts of India. "Although it has been nine



months since the disaster, the NH division of the West Bengal public works department has not yet completed repairs, putting daily commuters and the local economy at risk. The delay in fixing NH-10 not only causes great difficulties for residents, but also hinders tourism, trade, commerce, and business in the area. As a result, I have appealed to Nitin Gadkari to transfer responsibility for the entire stretch of NH-10 to either NHAI or NHIDCL," Mr Bista said in a Press statement. "Nitin Gadkari quickly instructed his ministry staff to speed up the transfer of NH-10 from WB PWD to NHIDCL," MP Mr Bista claimed today. "I promise the public that the full responsibility of NH-10 will be handed over to NHIDCL, resulting in improved maintenance. This will greatly benefit the local residents residing along river Teesta, along with other affected areas," he added. According to Darjeeling MP, in October 2023, a severe

flood on the Teesta River caused significant damage to an important highway. Despite the passage of time, many sections of NH-10 that were destroyed by the flood have not been repaired, resulting in frequent closures. The recent heavy rain in the area has only made matters worse, as the rising Teesta river has eroded the highway's foundation.

NH-10 is a vital link for the border region of Kalimpong, Darjeeling and Sikkim. The continued delay in fixing this road is causing inconvenience to residents and harming industries such as tourism, trade and commerce.

# Armed gang hijack bus, escape with bags

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE SILIGURI, 1 JULY

A group of more than five criminals hijacked a private bus by threatening the driver with a firearm. They then got off at a predetermined spot and took at least three bags from the driver's cabin.

The incident occurred during the day near Ghoksadanga in Cooch Behar today as the bus was travelling from Ranaghat in Nadia to Cooch Behar.

The group quickly escaped the vicinity in a different car. The armed criminals disguised themselves as passengers by wearing masks, according to passengers.

Asit Pal, the substitute driver, was assaulted by a group of criminals while he was taking a break in the rear seat. He suffered serious injuries and had to be admitted to Cooch Behar Medical College and Hospital. Mr Pal recounted that he was attacked by two or three individuals and even hit with an axe.

The bus was carrying over 25 passengers when a group of criminals hijacked it, causing fear among everyone on board. Several female passengers claimed to have hidden their gold jewellery and other valuable items. However, the criminals only took three parcels from the driver's cabin and did not harm any of the passengers.

The gang boarded the bus close to Ghoksadanga. The driver of the bus halted at Ghoksadanga for a break and to have some tea, sources said. The superintendent of police in Cooch Behar, Dyutiman Bhattacharya, along with additional SP Sandip Garai and other police officials quickly made their way to the location.

Partha Pratim Roy, the chairman of North Bengal State Transport Corporation (NBSTC), also arrived at the scene to gather accurate information about the situation. "There was no report of any gunshots being fired on the bus. The team was tailing the bus and, upon receiving a tip-off, seized three bags from the driver's compartment. We are conducting an investigation to determine the contents of the bags. We are also looking into allegations made by the secondary driver that the group used firearms. Fortunately, none of the passengers were harmed," said superintendent of police in Cooch Behar.

NBSTC chairman Partha Pratim Roy said, "Several days after the occurrence in Cooch Behar, we remain concerned as it happened during the day. As the NBSTC chairman, we have resolved to convene a meeting with the police to address highway crime. Since many of our long-distance buses operate at night, we plan to install CCTV cameras and GRS systems inside them. This will enable the police to monitor their respective areas from their stations while our buses are in transit at night."

# Chopra assault case: Bengal court sends accused to 5-day police custody

AGENCIES KOLKATA, 1 JULY

A district court in West Bengal, on Monday, sent Tejemul a.k.a. JCB, a local Trinamul Congress leader and the prime accused in the public beating up of a woman at Chopra in North Dinajpur district, to five days of police custody.

JCB, who was arrested on Sunday evening, was presented at the district court and the public prosecutor asked for his 10-day police custody. However, after a detailed hearing in the matter, the court remanded him to five days of police custody.

The district police have booked the accused under five sections of the earlier Indian Penal Code (IPC), which include two non-bailable sections and three bailable sections.

The sections have been invoked in the suo motu case registered by the district police on Sunday after a video went

viral. District police sources said that since the cases were registered on Sunday and the accused was also arrested on the same day, sections of the IPC had to be invoked since the three new criminal laws had not come into force then.

It is learnt that the two non-bailable sections under which the accused have been booked are Section 354 (punishment for assaults or use of criminal force to any woman, intending to outrage or knowing it to be likely that he will thereby outrage her modesty) and Section 307 (punishment for attempt to murder) of the IPC.

The three non-bailable sections under which he has been booked are Section 323 (punishment for voluntarily causing hurt) Section 325 (punishment for voluntarily causing grievous hurt) and Section 34 (punishment for criminal acts done by several persons with a common intention) of the IPC.

## PROTEST BID



Various NGOs protest implementation of new laws which comes into force from Monday in Kolkata. ■ BISWAJIT GHOSHAL

# Garment fair expects biz to tune of ₹ 850 to Rs 900 crore

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE KOLKATA, 1 JULY

Chandrima Bhattacharya, state finance minister inaugurated a three-day 56th Garment Fair and B2B Expo this morning.

The fair, which will continue till 3 July, is being held at the Milan Mela Ground. Mr Sujit Basu, state minister for fire and emergency services was present at the inaugural ceremony.

Addressing the gathering, Mrs Bhattacharya assured every cooperation by the state government and urged businessmen to invest in Bengal because of improved infrastructure.

Bengal is the gateway to north Bengal and the north eastern states. It has a huge hinterland and those doing business in Bengal feel at home because of the warmth

of the people here, she said. The event has been organized by the West Bengal Garment Manufacturer and Dealers Association.

Around 900 national and international brands are expected to join the event. Business worth Rs 850 to Rs 900 crore are expected to be fetched at the event.

Mr Devendra Baid, secretary of the West Bengal Garment Manufacturers and Dealers Association said the buyers and sellers have achieved continuous success. Mr Hari Kishan Rathi, president of the Association said this year many retailers have taken part in the expo along with the wholesale dealers.

The Association was founded in 1962 and has more than 560 members. It is one of the largest organizations in eastern India.

# Police reconstruct murder scene at Bowbazar hostel

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE KOLKATA, 1 JULY

Muchipara Police today conducted reconstruction of the crime scene with the 14 accused persons of lynching of a TV mechanic at Udayan hostel in Bowbazar.

Meanwhile, a team of forensic experts also visited the murder site at the hostel today to collect samples.

Police, who were earlier prevented by the accused to gain entry into the hostel compound, said that they had evidence that the accused had worked in tandem to delete the footage of a CCTV camera installed at a nearby sweetmeat shop only to tamper with evidence to derail the probe, thus lent credence to the fact that they had a criminal mindset.

The police also said that they had committed the alleged act of deletion of footage by leaving the victim in a precarious condition without taking care to attend to him.

# NEET, NET exams: Doctors protest, examinees recall paper leak

ASHOK CHATTERJEE KOLKATA, 1 JULY

After corruption in NEET-UG came to light after the results for 2024 were announced and the CBI arrested individuals linked with the scam, students and doctors have been protesting on the streets. They are demanding the arrest of culprits and disbanding the NTA (National Testing Agency), which conducts the exam. Another exam, conducted by NTA, NET (National Eligibility Test) also is now under the lens for charges of corruption.

Dr Biplob Chanda, state committee secretary of Medical Service Centre, along with other members of the NGO recently submitted a deputation to the Governor CV Ananda Bose on the corruption in NEET-UG and PG exams.

The members said that the West Bengal Joint Entrance exam was last held in 2016, which showed that there was rampant corruption, which led to centrally controlled NEET. "We are noticing that financially weaker students are no longer getting through the exam or able to appear for the exam. Also, this year we have come across cases where just a day before the exam was held, paper was leaked. We believe justice delayed is justice denied. We want an investigation by a sitting judge and not by the CBI. It is wise if a select body of people with medical profession and judges with a clean record, conduct the exam," said a member of the Medical Service Centre.

"We do not think it is wise to cancel the exam. There are many students who are genuine. It becomes very difficult for a student to appear for the same exam twice. We are saying that with the help of technology, we can identify the students who used unfair means," said Dr Chanda.

Kanu Mondal, who completed his MA from Rabindra Bharati University had appeared for the NET exam in June, suffered as the exam was cancelled later by the NTA. He, along with four other examinees had also been to the Governor House to submit a deputation as part of Students and Scholars Against NET Scam, after collecting 500 signatures online.

The NET examinees said that they are living in total confusion as there has been no clarification from the agency if the students will have to reappear for the exam and if they will need to fill forms anew.

"Filling forms again would mean spending Rs 1,200 for the form again. If the NTA will club us with the students, who will appear for the exam in December. We are staring at the darkness. This also causes mental agony and further leads to depression," said Kanu Mondal.

Around 9 lakh students sat



for the NET exam in June. Dr Soumyadip Roy, AIDS state committee member, who also is protesting against the corruption in NEET says during the WBJEE days, the syllabus was such that a student could prepare for the medical exam while preparing for state board but now unless one goes to a coaching centre, it is difficult to crack the NEET. He says it has become impossible for an economically weaker student to prepare for NEET.

The leak and the subsequent developments this year has shown that the racket is active for many years and it is deep-rooted.

One of the NEET examinees this year, Arunagshu (name changed) said just a day before the exam, 4 June, he got a message on his Telegram account with a PDF file of the question attached to it. The message said that the PDF file is password protected and if he paid a certain amount, the file will be unlocked. He said two of his other friends too got similar messages.

Arunagshu said, "I did not know if the message was a scam or genuine as I did not pay the money and switched off my phone. The link and the channel both were not there when I checked again, a day after the exam."

FILE PHOTO

# Cleanliness drive at Indo-China border

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE SILIGURI, 1 JULY

A large-scale effort to promote cleanliness was executed at Nathu La, the border between India and China, on Monday.

The initiative was taken by the tourism and civil aviation department of Sikkim government in partnership with Swadesh Darshan 2.0, a ministry of tourism project, and various tourism stakeholders.

This is not the first time that the department has carried out such an initiative and they have committed to doing



it on a quarterly basis in order to raise awareness about the importance of keeping popular tourist destinations clean and involving the community in environmental conservation efforts, a senior official said today. Approximately 200 individuals, including officials



and staff from the tourism and civil aviation department, army personnel stationed at Nathu La, Sikkim Police officers from the nearby check-point, representatives from the forest department, and members of other organizations participated in this cleanliness drive.

## TENDER

**e-Tender Notice**  
Doulatpur Gram Panchayat invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for NIT No: 01(e)/DGP/2024-25 Ref Memo No-06/DGP/2024 dt. 01.07.2024. Period of downloading bidding documents from the e-procurement portal. From: 02.07.2024 (From 09.00 Hrs) to 10.07.2024 (Up to 9.00 Hrs) Deadline for receiving of Bids online: 10.07.2024 (Up to 9.00 Hrs) Time and Date and place for opening of Technical Bids online: 12.07.2024 (At 9.30 Hrs) Time and Date and place for opening of Financial Bid online: 12.07.2024 (At 13.00 Hrs) more Details Doulatpur Gram Panchayat Office.  
Sd/-  
Pradhan  
Doulatpur Gram Panchayat  
H.C.Pur-II P.S, Makla

## REGULATION OF TRAINS FOR TRAFFIC BLOCK OVER HOWRAH DIVISION

For track maintenance work during day time, 04 hours Traffic Block will be required on both Up & Dn Main Lines between Katwa & Tenya stations over Howrah Division for 08 days from 02.07.2024 (Tuesday) to 10.07.2024 (Wednesday) [except 05.07.2024]. Consequently, the following trains will be regulated as under :-  
● CANCELLATION : On 02/07, 03/07, 04/07 & 06.07.2024 : From Azimganj - 03090, 03076. From Katwa - 03089, 03075. Cancellation from 07.07.2024 to 10.07.2024 : From Katwa - 03061, 03095, 03099. From Azimganj - 03062, 03096. From Ahmadpur - 03100.  
● RESCHEDULING : From 07.07.2024 to 10.07.2024 - 03083 Katwa-Azimganj Express Special will be rescheduled at 17.20 hrs. instead of 15.50 hrs.  
Note : 1. Block will commence after arrival of 03059 Katwa-Nimita Passenger Special at Gangatikuri (13.20 hrs.) & 13178 Jangipur Road-Sealdah Express at Katwa (16.30 hrs.) on the day of its run & rest other day as usual. 2. After cancellation of block, first train will be 03083 Katwa-Azimganj Express Special on Up Line & 13422 Malda Town-Nabadwip Dham Express on Dn Line on the days of block. Passengers are requested to follow the Public Address System of stations. Inconvenience is regretted.  
Divisional Railway Manager, Howrah

## Eastern Railway

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## Diversion of Trains for Power & Traffic Block over Howrah Division

For erection of portal boom in Connection with 2x25kV feeder wire work, 120 minutes (from 01.30 hrs. to 03.30 hrs.) per day Power & Traffic block will be necessary on all lines between Dankuni & Janai Road stations in Howrah-Bardhaman Chord section over Howrah Division for 08 days from 03.07.2024 (Wednesday) to 13.07.2024 (Saturday) intermittently except Monday & Thursday. Consequently, following trains will be diverted via Bardhaman-Bandel-Howrah: (1) 15236 Dn Darbhanga-Howrah Express (Bardhaman arrival 01.09 hrs. on 06.07.2024 & 13.07.2024), (2) 15272 Dn Muzaffarpur-Howrah Jansadharan Express (Bardhaman arrival 01.09 hrs. on 03.07.2024 & 10.07.2024), (3) 12370 Dn Dehradun-Howrah Kumbha Express (Bardhaman arrival 01.25 hrs. on 03.07.2024, 06.07.2024, 07.07.2024, 09.07.2024, 10.07.2024 & 13.07.2024) & (4) 12328 Dn Dehradun-Howrah Upasana Express (Bardhaman arrival 01.25 hrs. on 05.07.2024 & 12.07.2024). Note: (1) Block will commence after arrival of 22504 Vivek Express at Dankuni (01.26 hrs.) on the day of its run & rest other day as usual. (2) After cancellation of block first train will be 13148 Uttarbanga Express on DN Howrah-Bardhaman Chord on the day of Block. Passengers are requested to follow the public address system of stations. Inconvenience is regretted.  
Divisional Railway Manager, Howrah

## EASTERN RAILWAY

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THUMBNAILS



Eastern Railway Women's Welfare Organization (ERWVO) organised an exhibition of handcrafted items by the 'Sui Dhaga' team of the Eastern Railway Women's Welfare Organisation of Sealdah on Saturday. The event was attended by Gunjan Nigam, President of ERWVO of Sealdah. **SNS**

**Commemorating T20I win:** Honours India's The West Bengal circle, department of posts announced the release of a special cover on 1 July, commemorating India's remarkable triumph in the ICC Men's T20 World Cup. The special cover has been released by Niraj Kumar, chief postmaster general, West Bengal circle, in a colourful ceremony at Yogayog Bhawan, celebrating the spirit of Indian cricket. India's victory in the ICC Men's T20 World Cup marks a historic achievement in the annals of cricketing history. As a tribute to this momentous occasion, the special cover captures the essence of this triumph, honouring the players, coaches, and supporters who contributed to India's success. **SNS**

**Railway board extends the validity of trains At A Glance till 31 Dec:** Railway Board has decided to extend the validity of Trains At A Glance up to 31 December 2024. Hence, the Trains At A Glance 2024 shall come into effect from 1st January 2025. According to the ER, usually, the Trains At A Glance comes into effect from 1st July every year. **SNS**

**Sadhu kills boy:** A 45-year-old priest Milon Naiyaa was arrested from an ashram on Sunday night. Naiyaa was heavily thrashed by the local villagers and the family members of the victim boy, too. Jit Dana, the victim from Mollosarul village, used to visit the ashram. On Sunday morning, his body bearing marks of sharp cutting wounds was recovered from farmland in the village. Naiyaa also visited the victim's house and told the bereaved family that god actually loved Jit and he sacrificed him. Immediately after this, the locals erupted in rage and thrashed Naiyaa. Naiyaa confessed to police that Jit was reluctant to continue homosexual relations with him. **SNS**

**Additional track length near 52 km commissioned in ER:** In a significant development, the Eastern Railway's Construction Department completed 51.31 kilometers of new line laying, doubling, multiple line, and gauge conversion projects in the last fiscal. According to the ER, one of the key accomplishments of the period includes the commissioning of the Azimganj-Jaganj new line. The new connection bridges the Sealdah and Howrah divisional networks, facilitating smoother connectivity across Murshidabad and enhancing operational efficiency between South Bengal and North Bengal. **SNS**

**Counselling of motormen's family members in Metro:** In order to create awareness about the working conditions in Metro the Kolkata Metro Railway's Electrical Engineering Department organised a session for the family members of its motormen at the Training Institute of Noapara on Saturday. During the session wives of metro motormen were taken to the Simulation Room to let them know how their husbands, with great responsibilities and alertness drive the Metro rakes packed with passengers through the underground tunnels and over the viaduct daily. **SNS**

# After markets, KMC drive on encroachments at canal sides

A meeting was held in presence of Firhad Hakim, officials of KMC, state irrigation and waterways dept

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
KOLKATA, 1 JULY

After encroachment by hawkers in city's markets the state government is now gearing up for a similar crackdown on both sides of canals. The civic body has decided to evict business units from both sides of canals in and around the city including Beliaghata Canal.

A high-level meeting, chaired by mayor and state urban development and municipal affairs minister Firhad Hakim and officials of KMC and the state irrigation and waterways department was held at the civic body's headquarters today. According to the mayor, the municipal corporation has completed the desilting works in larger parts of the city. However, there are some places where transportation of the silt is posing a challenge. As informed by Mr Hakim,



the civic body is faced with problems in desilting the canals due to encroachments. "Following the encroachment on all sides, the desilting process is becoming difficult. Issues are being faced as to from where the desilting of those canals would be done. Houses have sprung up on the land of the state irrigation department. Transporting the silt on boats by crossing four to five kilometres and disposing of it would cause some expenses. This has become a



big problem at canals around the city," claimed the mayor. To address the problem, the municipal corporation would construct pucca roads, wherever some vacant spaces are identified. "At places, where the problems continue to exist, efforts will be made to talk and vacate the encroached lands," added Mr Hakim. As learnt from Mr Hakim, a consensus has been reached over a space of the state irrigation department that the

conducted surveys of the two shopping hotspots of the city (in photo).

Deputy mayor Atin Ghosh and member mayor-in-council Debasish Kumar started the survey at New Market and Hatibagan today. While the deputy mayor visited Hatibagan for the survey, MMIC Debasish Kumar took charge of Bertram Street in New Market.

According to Mr Kumar, the remaining stretches of New Market would be surveyed in phases in the next few days. As reiterated by Mr Kumar, Bertram Street, which was one of the biggest problematic spots has been streamlined. As claimed by the MMIC, New Market is now much better than before. "Earlier, people could not enter the market. Now they can use the road freely. We do not want to remove hawkers but want to curb the malpractices in the name of hawking," added Mr Kumar.

# Bulldozers used to clear encroachers from footpath



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
BURDWAN, 1 JULY

Hawkers and vendors trading on encroached land had expected relaxation at least for a time to vacate, but the Burdwan Municipality started removing mass intrusions on road and kicked off bulldozer operations in certain areas of the town today that triggered extreme resentment among the evicted persons. Chief minister Mamata Banerjee during her coordination meeting with the civic bodies had expressed her utmost annoyance on desperate encroachment on government land. She asked the authorities to ensure recovery of footpaths grabbed by the hawkers. Few days later,

she suggested a survey before the eviction drive. The Burdwan Municipality chairman Paresch Chandra Sarkar, accompanied by the police and the SDM (North), Tirthankar Biswas began extensive eviction between Jaikhana Morh and Chowdhury Bazar and bulldozers were pressed into operation. The SDM said, "The encroachers were cautioned and adequate miking in different locations were done and the encroachers were asked to shift their articles. Still, many didn't pay heed to this." Most of the hawkers claimed that the civic body didn't follow the chief minister's instructions, where she'd asked for survey first and then to go for demolition.

# TMC prepares for Martyrs' Day

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
KOLKATA, 1 JULY

Trinamul Congress is gearing up to make the Martyrs' Day rally on 21 July a grand success.

The day has been observed by the Trinamul Congress since its inception in 1998. Mamata Banerjee, who as Youth Congress president had organized a march to Writers' Buildings, the then state administrative headquarters demanding voter identity cards be made mandatory in elections. The Left Front government opened fire to quell the mob killing 13 people. On this day, meetings are held in every district. Party workers and supporters from far-off districts like Alipurduar and Cooch Behar come to the city to attend the meeting. The party workers from the districts are put up in different places like Central Park



in Salt Lake, Rajdanga stadium and Netaji Indoor stadium. 21 July being Sunday, people will not be inconvenienced. It was learnt that Abhishek Banerjee, national general secretary of the party will be the key person in bringing party workers to the city. Party leaders in their X handle wrote today: With faith in our hearts and determination in our eyes, with the vision in our minds to conquer the skies.

Shri@abhishekaitc's words have proven true as Jonogoner Gorjon, the thunderous roar of the people of Bengal sent shockwaves through the seat of power in Delhi.

Party leaders said the workers have been greatly enthused after the party got more seats and improved its performance in the recently-concluded general election. There will be a municipal election in 2025. In Kolkata, the BJP is ahead of Trinamul Congress in 59 out of 144 civic wards. The party leaders and workers will wait anxiously for the instruction to be given by party head Mamata Banerjee. She has already instructed the party leaders to pull up socks and ensure better civic facilities to the people. Asked whether Miss Banerjee will invite leaders of INDIA bloc, the leaders refused to divulge anything on the matter.

# ON PROTEST



Newly-elected Trinamul Congress MLAs Sayantika Banerjee and Reyat Hossain Sarkar staged a dharna in front of B R Ambedkar statue in Kolkata on Monday. **BISWAJIT GHOSHAL**



BJP MLA Agnimitra Paul with other party MLAs stage a protest against post-poll violence in the state, at the entrance gate of West Bengal Assembly in Kolkata on Monday. **SNS**

# Foster son accused of murdering mother

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
KOLKATA, 1 JULY

A foster son has been accused of murdering his mother. The incident took place on Sunday in the Hijalpurur area under Habra police station. The family claimed that the accused son brutally slit his mother's throat and escaped unnoticed from the back of their two-story house. The family wanted Ayan to return to a normal life, so they admitted him to a rehabilitation centre. It has been reported that on Sunday morning, Ayan had an argument with his mother. Afterwards, he locked the door and slit his mother's throat with a sharp weapon before fleeing. The family has provided a detailed account of the incident in their written complaint to Habra police station. Based on the complaint, the police have launched an investigation into the incident and are searching for the fugitive.

The family claimed that the accused son brutally slit his mother's throat and escaped unnoticed from the back of their two-story house.

# LS poll debacle: CPM seeks grassroots level review

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
KOLKATA, 1 JULY

CPM central committee stressed that a genuine review should emerge from the grassroots, without obstruction from mid-level leadership. After the disastrous results in the Lok Sabha election, the CPM's central committee meeting began on Friday and concluded on Sunday. Sources indicated that the CPM leadership believes that merely reviewing the 'pathetic' defeat within the party's confines is insufficient. They need to step out of their comfort zone and listen attentively to critics. In his concluding speech, party general secretary Sitaram Yechury reportedly mentioned that accurate reports from the grassroots are not reaching the party. There is a significant disparity between the actual situation and the reports received on organization and election matters.

To bridge this gap, the party decided to expand its review circle. Typically, a press release summarizing the discussions is issued by the AK Gopalan Bhavan after the CPM's central committee meeting. A politburo member indicated that this statement would be released on Monday. The CPM has also announced that its Party Congress will be held as scheduled in April next year, although the date and location have not been finalized in this central committee meeting. The central committee emphasized that criticizing the party often leads to individuals being labelled as opponents. This tendency must be abandoned to ensure accurate diagnosis of issues. The West Bengal CPM has already decided to widen its review scope, and the central committee has adopted this model, instructing central leaders to participate in reviews at state and district levels. The CPM expressed deep concern over the electoral debacle in Kerala, where the ruling party's vote share has dropped by 10 per cent within three years of winning the 2021 Assembly elections. Kerala leaders attributed the vote decline to the party's proximity to the Congress at the national level, a view not entirely accepted by central committee members from other states. A central committee leader remarked, "The four seats the party won in the recent Lok Sabha election include two from Tamil Nadu and one from Rajasthan, which would not have been possible without an understanding with parties like Congress and DMK in those states." Overall, the central committee stressed that a genuine review should emerge from the grassroots, without obstruction from mid-level leadership.

# Chandernagore College gets A+ NAAC ranking

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
KOLKATA, 1 JULY

The National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) has given A+ grade to Chandernagore College, the highest grade achieved so far by any state-run college in the state. The college has scored 3.46 in the NAAC evaluation. The college had received B++ in NAAC evaluation in 2007 and 2016. Of the 50,000 colleges registered under AISHE, less than 1 per cent colleges have got A+ grade so far. The college was set up in 1901 as College Duplex, when Chandannagore was a French colony. From 1908 to 1931, the college had remained closed due to the alleged involvement of the students with revolutionary activities. The college came under the higher education department of the state govern-

ment from 2 October, 1954. Now, the college offers 19 undergraduate honours courses and three postgraduate courses. This is the only college in the country that has a museum on Indian revolutionary movement and the history of Chandannagore. The college does rain water harvesting and uses solar power and the administration runs in a paperless manner. The students are engaged in mangrove plantation along a stretch on the Hooghly, which is situated opposite the college. College students offer teaching to the students of primary schools, run by the Chandannagore Municipal Corporation. Recently, a book on the evolution of the college from College Duplex to the present day has come out. The book is published by the heritage publishing house Dasgupta and Company.

# Rise in land surface temp in city, urban towns: Study

BISWABRATA GOSWAMI  
KOLKATA, 1 JULY

A recent study has cast a spotlight on the escalating Urban Heat Island (UHI) phenomenon in Kolkata Metropolitan Corporation (KMC), its surrounding areas and other urban towns in West Bengal, revealing a significant rise in land surface temperature (LST) that is intensifying the UHI effect and causing considerable discomfort for the residents living in Kolkata and urban towns. The study attributes this alarming trend to rapid urbanization marked by an increase in high-rise buildings and population density, coupled with a concerning decline in greenery. This decline has led to lower normalized difference vegetation index (NDVI) values, underscoring

the critical role of urban green spaces in regulating the city's climate. Over the past three decades, Kolkata has witnessed a drastic transformation in its green spaces, losing 23.38 square kilometres of greenery. The per-capita urban green space has plummeted from 15.92 square metres per person in 1991 to a mere 7.15 square metres per person in 2021. Projections indicate a further decline to approximately 2.92 square metres per person by 2031. This stark reduction falls well below the World Health Organization's recommended minimum standard of 9 square metres per person, highlighting a growing urban crisis. The study points to immense pressure on KMC, which serves as a floating pop-

ulation of 6 million and a residential population of 4.5 million. The relentless demand for residential facilities, administrative services, business and commercial establishments, and medical services has driven the conversion of green spaces into built-up areas. This trend is not unique to Kolkata; similar patterns have been observed in other cities such as Siliguri, Durgapur, Asansol, Burdwan, and Midnapore. The distribution of land surface temperature over time showcases notable changes across these cities. For instance, the mean LST in Siliguri city was observed to be 29.06°C, while the forest area maintained a lower temperature of 26.83°C in May. In Asansol, despite the



city being predominantly green, the per capita green space is a negligible 0.27 square metres per city dweller. Durgapur follows a similar pattern with 0.28 square metres per capita. In contrast, Burdwan and Midnapore cities have more per capita green space, with 15.25 and 13.48 square metres, respectively. The study underscores a negative relationship between NDVI and LST, indicating that disappearing green spaces

are a significant factor in rising temperatures. This trend poses a threat to the sustainability of both the natural and social spheres of the city. The adverse impacts of this rapid decline in green space are evident in increased air and noise pollution, the creation of microclimates within the urban heat island, and a loss of biodiversity. Dr Pravat Kumar Shit, an environmentalist, emphasized the critical role of urban green spaces (UGS). He noted that these spaces are gradually being transformed into built-up land in every city. Dr Shit highlighted the importance of landscaping vegetation in urban areas, which beautifies the city's environment and transforms the urban microclimate into

a healthier and more favorable setting for city dwellers. Green spaces significantly contribute to regulating the city's climate by mitigating the urban heat island effect. This is achieved by increasing humidity in the air, decreasing land surface temperature, and improving overall air quality in the city and its surrounding areas. The reduction of green spaces across many Indian cities due to urbanization is a growing concern. Cities like Delhi, Kolkata, and Bangalore have lost significant portions of their open spaces and urban wetlands, affecting their drainage networks and groundwater levels. The per capita availability of green spaces in urban areas has drastically reduced. In response, the Kolkata Municipality has decided to

plant deep-rooted trees such as neem, cedar, jamun, and jackfruit to mitigate cyclone damage and improve afforestation efforts. This re-evaluation of urban living is crucial for ensuring a sustainable and healthier future for India's burgeoning urban populace. Integrating comprehensive green space strategies into future urban planning is imperative to mitigate the adverse effects of urbanization and climate change. The findings from this study serve as a wake-up call, urging policymakers, urban planners, and residents alike to prioritize green spaces in urban development plans. The need for immediate and sustained action is critical to preserve the quality of life in Kolkata and other rapidly urbanizing cities.



Hoarding policy for MMR will be released soon

UDAY SAMANT INDUSTRIES MINISTER

Revanth meets Guv amidst buzz over Cabinet expansion

ANINDITA CHOWDHURY HYDERABAD, 1 JULY

Telangana Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu met Governor C P Radhakrishnan at Raj Bhavan, sparking speculation about an imminent cabinet expansion.

With the Assembly all set to sit for the Budget session, the chief minister also discussed the Bills which will be introduced in this session.

Unlike the tenure of BRS chief K Chandrababu Naidu as chief minister particularly when Dr Kamalamma was the governor, Revanth Reddy's tenure has been smoother so far when it comes to Raj Bhavan.

The chief minister has recently visited Delhi and met the central leadership, paving the way for the inclusion of a few more ministers in his Cabinet. As Telangana has 117 MLAs it can have 18 ministers in the Cabinet. Currently apart from the chief minister there are 11 ministers in the Cabinet, leaving room for a possible cabinet expansion.

Reddy had met chairperson of Congress Parliamentary Party (CPP) Sonia Gandhi, Leader of the Opposition (LoP) Rahul Gandhi apart from the key ministers in the NDA government to ensure provision for funds for Telangana in the Central Budget. The chief minister has also been taking up pending issues of the AP Reorganisation Act under which the assets of the unified state are yet to be divided between Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.

EASTERN RAILWAY

Tender No. SDSTE-LHS-AZ-PRDG-24-25, Dated: 28.06.2024. Open E-Tenders against Tender No. SDSTE-LHS-AZ-PRDG-24-25 is invited by Sr. Divisional Engineer/Sealdah, Eastern Railway, Sealdah, Howrah-711011 for the following work. Name of Work: Construction of LHS in lieu of L.C. Gate No. 208/B/T at km 178/2.4 between AZ-PRDG in KWAE-AZ Section of WHH Division. Advertisment Value: ₹88,47,770.39; Earnest Money: ₹1,77,000.00; Tender Doc. Cost: ₹0.00; Bidding System: Single Packet; Bidding Start Date: 11.07.2024; Validity of Offer (Days): 60; Period of Completion: 12 Months; Date & Time of Uploading Tender: 28.06.2024, 17:46 Hrs.; Tender Closing Date and Time: 25.07.2024, 15:00 Hrs. Complete details can be seen in the Railways website www.reps.gov.in

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GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, SUNDARGARH

Cap No.-076 AT / P.O: SANKARA, SUNDARGARH-770020 E-mail address: serv\_sun\_dargarh@yahoo.com No. Tender Online - RWCCSNG-02 OF 2024-25 Letter No. 1411 Dtd. 27-06-2024

e-PROCUREMENT NOTICE

- 1. Type of the work : Work Adjacent to HL Bridge. 2. Class of contractor : As specified in the Column-6 of the Annexure. 3. Time of completion : As specified in the Column-5 of the Annexure. 4. Detail Projects : As per Annexure attached. 5. Estimated Cost : As specified in the Column-4 of the Annexure. 6. Other details :

Table with columns: Procurement Officer, Bid Identification No., Availability of tender online for bidding, Last date and time of seeking tender, Date & time of opening of tender, Technical Bid, Financial Bid.

Further details can be seen from the website: www.tendersodisha.gov.in Chief Engineer (Design & Quality Control) Chief Construction Engineer (IC) Rural Works Circle, Sundargarh

OIPR-25133/11/0004/2425

WATCO

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, WATCO. Ground Floor, Unnati Bhawan H.B. Colony, Satyanagar, Bhubaneswar-751007, Odisha, India

Invitation For Bid (IFB) Bid Identification No. WATCO (W) - 01 2024-25 Dtd. 28-06-2024

- 1. Name of the work : Procurement of ISI marked DI K 7, socket & spigot pressure pipes of different diameters for WATCO Division-I, Bhubaneswar. 2. Types of Bid : Double Cover (Technical & Financial) 3. Estimated Cost : Rs. 348.94 lakh 4. Period of completion : 2 (Two) calendar months. 5. Class of Contractor : Manufacturer 6. Date & time of availability of bid document in the portal : From 11:00 AM of 03.07.2024 to 5:00 PM of 18.07.2024 7. Last date / time of receipt of bids in the portal : 5:00 PM of 18.07.2024 8. Date & time of opening of Technical Bids : 11:00 AM of 19.07.2024 9. Name and address of the : CEO, WATCO Officer Inviting Bid Telefax: 0674-2391444 E-mail: mail@watcoodisha.in md@watcoodisha.in 10. The bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website: www.tendersodisha.gov.in

OIPR-13194/11/0002/2425 CEO, WATCO

Property of Kerala police chief's wife attached over sale agreement violation: The Thiruvananthapuram sub-court ordered the attachment of 10.8 cents of land owned by the state's police chief Darvesh Sahib's wife over violations of the sale agreement based on a petition filed by Thiruvananthapuram resident Umar Sheriff. The court attached the land at Nettayam in Thiruvananthapuram and issued an order prohibiting the purchase and sale of land in the name of the state police chief's wife Farida Fathima. The court order read, "The petitioner has a prima facie case in his favour and that the 1st respondent is about to dispose of the petition schedule property so as to defeat the decree that may be passed against the respondents. Hence, the respondents are directed to show cause as to why they shall not be ordered to furnish security for the plaintiff claim. In the meanwhile, the petition schedule property is conditionally attached." Umar Sheriff stated that he attempted to purchase the land in the name of Sheikh Darvesh Sahib's wife paying Rs 30 lakh in three installments. According to the agreement, the sale of 10.8 cents of land owned by Saheb's wife in the city was to be bought by Sheriff for Rs 74 lakh. Sheriff said he first paid Rs 15 lakh and later Rs 10 lakh and then handed over Rs 5 lakh at the State Police Chief's office which Saheb acknowledged in receipt. Later, it was revealed that the property was already mortgaged to a bank for a liability of Rs 26 lakh. Sheriff said this information was not disclosed to him. Following this, he informed the police chief that he was no longer interested in the land and asked to return the advance paid by him. "The police chief did not return the advance amount despite several requests. He said he can return the money only after he sold it to some other person," said Sheriff. (SNS)

TENDER

EASTERN RAILWAY NOTICE INVITING E-AUCTION No. COM/DEV/E-Auction/PUHWH/2022, Date: 27.06.2024. E-Auction is invited by Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Eastern Railway, Howrah, 4th floor, Yatri Niwas, near Howrah Station, Howrah-711011 for awarding fresh contract for Operation and Maintenance of Normal Pay & Use Toilet at Azimganj City (Near Booking office), Tarapith Road Station (Circulating Area), and Konnagar Station (Near Main booking office) for 3 (Three) years over Howrah Division. The subject E-Auction is governed as per Railway Board's Freight Marketing Circular No. 11 of 2022 and Commercial Circular No. 14 of 2022. For more details and participation in E-Auction kindly visit the website www.reps.gov.in through E-Auction Leasing Module. AUCTION CATALOGUE No. PNU-HWH-R-24-03. (1) Lot No./Category: PNU-HWH-ACLE-Tol-43-23-1; Station: Azimganj City (ACLE); (2) Lot No./Category: PNU-HWH-TPF-Tol-47-24-1; Station: Tarapith Road (TPF); (3) Lot No./Category: PNU-HWH-KOG-Tol-22-23-2; Station: Konnagar (KOG); Auction Date & Time: 12.07.2024 at 12.00 Hrs. HWH-142/2024-25 Tender Notice is also available at websites: www.e.indianrailways.gov.in / www.reps.gov.in Follow us at: @EasternRailway @easternrailwayheadquarter

कार्यपालक अभियन्ता का कार्यालय लघु सिंचाई प्रमण्डल, मेदिनीनगर e-mail I.D. - eemidmed-cemr-jhr@nic.in 06562-240100 (का) पत्रांक-344/मेदिनीनगर दिनांक- 28/06/2024 शुद्धि पत्र इस कार्यालय के द्वारा आमंत्रित ई-निविदा सूचना सं- WRD/MID/MEDININAGAR/F-11/2024-25 जिसका PR. NO.-327325 (Minor Irrigation) (2024-25) है, अपरिहार्य कारणों से निम्न संशोधन किया जाता है-

Table with columns: क्रमांक, विवरण, पूर्व में निर्धारित तिथि एवं समय, संशोधित तिथि एवं समय.

कार्यपालक अभियन्ता, लघु सिंचाई प्रमण्डल, मेदिनीनगर PR 328253 Minor Irrigation(24-25)#D

MORE TENDER ADS ON PAGE 9

KOLKATA MUNICIPAL CORPORATION e-TENDER

ABRIDGED NIT The Director General (Civil), KMC invites tender online percentage rate two bid system for the following work: NIT No. : KMC/DG(C)/IX/080/048/2023-2024 Name of work : "Development of drainage system and ancillary works at 56, C.G.R. Road, sick line in Ward No.-80". Estimated Amount (Incl. GST & CESS): Rs. 7,98,953.73. Earnest Money: Rs. 16,000.00. Period of Completion: 60 Days. Last date and time of submission of bid: 12.07.2024 at 12 noon. Tender will be opened on: 15.07.2024 at 12 noon. The bid forms and other details are available on and from: 03.07.2024 at 5 p.m from the website : https://etender.wb.nic.in.

The Director General (Parks & Squares), KMC invites quotation online percentage rate two bid system for the following work: NIT No. : KMC/DG(PS)/DUMPER\_CR/24-25 (1st call) Name of work : Deployment of hydraulic dumper for picking up garden spoils, logs and tree branches from various parks in Br-I to Br-XVI to be stationed at Control Room and engaged on round the clock basis (6 am to 6 am). Estimated Cost: Rs. 9,42,000.00. Earnest Money: Rs. 20,000.00. Period of Completion: 365 Days. Last date and time of submission of bid: 11.07.2024 at 1 p.m. The bid forms and other details shall be available on and from: 03.07.2024 at 10 a.m. from the website : https://etender.wb.nic.in

CORRIGENDUM NIT No. : KMC/SWM-II/HQ/003/2024-25, Tender ID : 2024\_KMC\_690968\_1 published in this Newspaper on 12.06.2024 (Key No. 35/24-25) of SWM-II Department. The last date and time submission of bid will be read as: 08.07.2024 at 1 p.m. instead of 29.06.2024 at 1 p.m. Other terms and condition remain unchanged. 155/24-25

कार्यपालक अभियन्ता का कार्यालय, पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमण्डल संख्या-1, घनबाद

शुद्धि पत्र पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमण्डल सं.1, घनबाद ई-निविदा सूचना संख्या- DHANBAD-1/OandM/03/2024-25 जिसका सूचना एवं जनसम्पर्क विभाग के PR No.- 326496 (Drinking Water and Sanitation) 24-25 है, में निम्नलिखित संशोधन संशुचित किया जाता है।

Table with columns: क्र., विवरण, पूर्व में निर्धारित तिथि एवं समय, संशोधित तिथि एवं समय.

कार्यपालक अभियन्ता, पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमण्डल संख्या-1, घनबाद PR 328281 (Drinking Water and Sanitation) 24-25 (D)

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER Drinking Water & Sanitation Mechanical Division, Gumla

Very Short E-Quotation No. 01/2024-25

Rate through e-quotation are invited for supplying, Installation and Commissioning of motor pump sets, stabilizers with all accessories and all allied works for the Rural Water Supply Pumping Plant BASIA for the year 2024-25 under D.W. & S. Mech. Division, Gumla. under D.W.& S. Mech. Division, Gumla. work to drinking Water supply from reputed Manufacturers/experience /Authorized Dealers/ Registered departmental contractor having valid G.S.T.I.N for respective items conforming to the specifications for inclusion in the Estimates under D.W.& S. Mech. Division, Gumla, Government of Jharkhand, to be used in different Pumping Plant replacement operation maintenance works shall be submitted online in the website http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in. Details and list of materials are available on the above e-tender Portal. The Quotation may be downloaded the documents from the website and quote their firm item rate excluding taxes for the Materials online from 04.07.2024 at 3.30 hrs. to 10.07.2024 at 2.00 hrs. The quotation will be opened on 11.07.2024 at 3.30pm Hours

The quotation is invited to ascertain and assess the Rate of Materials at par with lowest market rate for framing of Estimates under D. W. & S. Mech. Division, Gumla. Executive Engineer, D.W. & S. Mechanical Division, Gumla PR 328340 Water Resource(24-25)#D

EASTERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice No. EL-23-24 Dated: 28.06.2024. E-tenders are invited by Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer(G), Eastern Railway, Asansol Division, Station Road, Asansol, Pin-713301 for the following work: From reputed tenderers having valid Electric contractor Licence and capable to complete the following work financially- Name of the Work with its location: (A) Asansol Division -Improvement of station building, circulating area with other ancillary works at DUMKA under AEN/JSME; (B) Asansol Division -MDP - Construction of Parcel office, Cloak Room, TTE Rest Room at PF-2; (C) Asansol Division -Improvement of platform surface, provision of new PF shed, provision of new toilet complex with other ancillary works at JSME under AEN/JSME. Tender Value: ₹56,72,291.24/-; Cost of Tender Documents: Nil; Earnest Money: ₹1,13,500.00; Date & Time of Closing & Opening: 23.07.2024 at 11:00 hrs.; Completion Period for the Work: 09 Months; Complete details can be seen in the Railways website: reps.gov.in

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EASTERN RAILWAY

No. O-AC-102 to 105-24-25 (Open) Asansol, Dated: 28.06.2024. E-Tenders (Open) are invited by Divisional Railway Manager, Eastern Railway, Asansol Division, Station Road, Asansol, Pin-713301 for the following works: SI.No.1. Case No. O-AC-102-24-25; Name of the Work: Open tender for Provision of pathway at different locations of Durgapalli Asansol Section to maximize the Capacity Utilization under the jurisdiction of Sr.DEN/ASansol; Value of Tender: ₹1,86,40,875.05; Earnest Money: ₹2,43,200.00/-; Completion Period for the Work : 08 Months; SI.No.2. Case No. O-AC-103-24-25; Name of the Work: Open tender for Provision of safety fencing on Andai- Saanthea section Total-17 Km (Both side of track) under AEN/2/JDL in the jurisdiction of Sr. DEN/4/Asansol; Value of Tender: ₹6,79,75,116.25; Earnest Money: ₹4,89,900.00/-; Completion Period for the Work : 12 Months; SI.No.3. Case No. O-AC-104-24-25; Name of the Work: Open tender for infrastructure development of Road surface, Gate lodge, Height gauge & mandatory sign board at all level crossing of Asansol division in the jurisdiction of Sr.DEN/4/Asansol; Value of Tender: ₹93,97,967.55; Earnest Money : ₹1,88,000.00/-; Completion Period for the Work : 12 Months; SI.No.4. Case No. O-AC-105-24-25; Name of the Work: Open tender for Provision of pathway at different locations of Andai, Sainthea Section to maximize Line Capacity Utilization under the jurisdiction of Sr.DEN/4/Asansol; Value of Tender: ₹1,86,40,875.05; Earnest Money : ₹2,43,200.00/-; Completion Period for the Work : 08 Months; Date & Time of closing 24.07.2024 at 12.00 hrs. Complete details can be seen in the Railways website reps.gov.in

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EASTERN RAILWAY

Tender No. ELEG-OT-1110-2024-25, ELEG-OT-1112-2024-25 Dated: 28.06.2024. The Following E-tenders are invited by Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineering (General), Eastern Railway, Sealdah, 2nd floor, Remote Control Building, Kolkata- 700014 in connection with the following works:- SI. No. 1. Tender No. ELEG-OT-1110-2024-25; Particulars of the work : Electrical works at Electric Loco Shed/Beliaghata in 1st Phase in connection with original estimate "Conversion of Diesel Loco Shed to Electric Loco shed at Beliaghata-SDAH"; Cost of Tender Document: ₹0.00; Tender Value : ₹ 74,47,919.00/-; Earnest Money: ₹1,49,000.00/-; Completion Period : 12 Months; SI. No. 2. Tender No. ELEG-OT-1112-2024-25; Particulars of the work : Upgradation and electrical rewiring of 2nd and 3rd (Partial) Floor and nearby premises in Control Building Sealdah; Cost of Tender Document: ₹0.00; Tender Value : ₹22,29,626.00/-; Earnest Money: ₹44,600.00/-; Completion Period : 06 Months; Tender Value: ₹25,72,291.24/-; Cost of Tender Documents: Nil; Earnest Money: ₹1,13,500.00; Date & Time of Closing & Opening: 23.07.2024 at 11:00 hrs.; Completion Period for the Work: 09 Months; Complete details can be seen in the Railways website: reps.gov.in

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EASTERN RAILWAY

No. O-AC-102 to 105-24-25 (Open) Asansol, Dated: 28.06.2024. E-Tenders (Open) are invited by Divisional Railway Manager, Eastern Railway, Asansol Division, Station Road, Asansol, Pin-713301 for the following works: SI.No.1. Case No. O-AC-102-24-25; Name of the Work: Open tender for Provision of pathway at different locations of Durgapalli Asansol Section to maximize the Capacity Utilization under the jurisdiction of Sr.DEN/ASansol; Value of Tender: ₹1,86,40,875.05; Earnest Money: ₹2,43,200.00/-; Completion Period for the Work : 08 Months; SI.No.2. Case No. O-AC-103-24-25; Name of the Work: Open tender for Provision of safety fencing on Andai- Saanthea section Total-17 Km (Both side of track) under AEN/2/JDL in the jurisdiction of Sr. DEN/4/Asansol; Value of Tender: ₹6,79,75,116.25; Earnest Money: ₹4,89,900.00/-; Completion Period for the Work : 12 Months; SI.No.3. Case No. O-AC-104-24-25; Name of the Work: Open tender for infrastructure development of Road surface, Gate lodge, Height gauge & mandatory sign board at all level crossing of Asansol division in the jurisdiction of Sr.DEN/4/Asansol; Value of Tender: ₹93,97,967.55; Earnest Money : ₹1,88,000.00/-; Completion Period for the Work : 12 Months; SI.No.4. Case No. O-AC-105-24-25; Name of the Work: Open tender for Provision of pathway at different locations of Andai, Sainthea Section to maximize Line Capacity Utilization under the jurisdiction of Sr.DEN/4/Asansol; Value of Tender: ₹1,86,40,875.05; Earnest Money : ₹2,43,200.00/-; Completion Period for the Work : 08 Months; Date & Time of closing 24.07.2024 at 12.00 hrs. Complete details can be seen in the Railways website reps.gov.in

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EASTERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice No. 222-S/1/W-I Date: 28.06.2024. Following e-Tenders are invited online by Sr. Divisional Engineer/Sealdah, Eastern Railway, 2nd Floor, DRM Building, Kaizer Street, Sealdah, Kolkata-700014 for the following work: Tender No. TN-98-24-25. Name of the Work: Supply and display with the maintenance of Live indoor and Outdoor fully grown potted ornamental plants, seasonal flowers of different varieties on monthly lying basis within the Railway premises/campus of Sealdah Station, B.R. Singh Hospital, DRM Building Circulating area, General Manager Bungalow, Belvedere Park Officers' Colony premises, 1/A, Rail Minar, Judges Court premises, New Airport Officers' Colony, Alipore Premises (Bum Standard), ERSC (Behala), BL NO.210 & B.C. Roy Institute at Sealdah under the jurisdiction of AEN/W/SDAH and AEN/W/SDAH and within the Railway premises/campus of Kolkata Station Area and under DEN/HO/SDAH (For 01 Year); Tender Value : ₹2,37,61,099.75; EMD : ₹2,69,500.00; Date & Time of Closing of Tender: 28.07.2024 at 15.00 hrs. Completion Period for the Work: 12 (Twelve) Months. The Tender Documents and other details are at www.reps.gov.in The bidding for the tender is to be submitted through the e-tendering on above website. Manual offers will be summarily rejected. Date and Time of Opening of Tender is 26.07.2024 at 15.30 hrs. SDAH-108/2024-25 Tender Notice is also available at websites: www.e.indianrailways.gov.in / www.reps.gov.in

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EASTERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice No. SG.Tender/SDTE/SDAH/485, Dated: 28.06.2024. E-Tender is invited by Sr. Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer, Eastern Railway, RMS Building, Kaizer Street, Sealdah, Kolkata-700014 for the following work: 'e-Tender No. : SDSTE/Sig/71/24-25/RRSK. Name of Work with its Location: Provision of MSDAC at waterlogged track circuted area at 12 Nos. Station in Sealdah Division; Eastern Railway, Sealdah; 2nd Floor, DRM Building, Kaizer Street, Sealdah, Kolkata-700014 for the following work: SI. No. (1) : Tender No. TN-97-24-25; Name of the Work: Provision of gang hut cum rest room [02] with tool box for track maintenance at different Permanent Way units under Senior Divisional Engineer/Sealdah; Tender Value: ₹22,73,467.00; EMD: ₹45,500; Completion Period for the Work: (09) Nine Months; SI. No. (2) : Tender No. TN-99-24-25; Name of the Work: Provision for new construction of standard gang hut under the jurisdiction of Senior Divisional Engineer/Sealdah; Tender Value: ₹70,56,058.00; EMD: ₹1,41,100; Completion Period for the Work: (12) Twelve Months; SI. No. (3) : Tender No. TN-101-24-25; Name of the Work: BCM Machine and deep screening and other ancillary work under the jurisdiction of Senior Divisional Engineer/Sealdah; Tender Value: ₹3,84,24,891.00; EMD: ₹3,42,100; Completion Period for the Work: (18) Eighteen Months; SI. No. (4) : Tender No. TN-102-24-25; Name of the Work: BCM Machine and deep screening and other ancillary work under the jurisdiction of Assistant Engineer/Baruipur/Sealdah; Tender Value: ₹6,09,72,834.00; EMD: ₹4,54,900; Completion Period for the Work: (18) Eighteen Months; SI. No. (5) : Tender No. TN-103-24-25; Name of the Work: Improvement of road surface by providing mastic asphalt surfacing at L.C. Gate No.7/26, T/27, T/28 at Barasat-Bangaon section, L.C. Gate No.7/23 in Bongaon-Ranaghat Section, L.C. Gate No.E/11 in Barasat-Dum Dum Cantt. Section and L.C. Gate No.E/1, E/6, T/52 in Barasat-Hansabad section under Assistant Engineer/Barasat in the jurisdiction of Sr. Divisional Engineer /IJ/Sealdah [Total=8 nos.]; Tender Value: ₹1,56,73,351.00; EMD: ₹2,28,400; Completion Period for the Work: (9) Nine Months; SI. No. (6) : Tender No. TN-104-24-25; Name of the Work: Improvement of drainage system in Baruipur PQRS base line yard line area during the heavy rainfall including other ancillary work in the jurisdiction of Senior Section Engineer/Works/ Sonarpur; Tender Value: ₹42,99,448.00; EMD: ₹86,000; Completion Period for the Work: (05) Five Months; Cost of Tender document (non refundable): Nil for SI. No. 1 to 6 each; Date & Time of Closing of Tender: 26.07.2024 at 15.00 hrs. for SI. No. 1 to 6 each; Date and Time of Opening of Tender is 26.07.2024 at 15.30 hrs. Tender Documents and other details are at www.reps.gov.in The bidding is to be submitted through the e-tendering on above website. Manual offers will be summarily rejected. SDAH-105/2024-25 Tender Notice is also available at websites: www.e.indianrailways.gov.in / www.reps.gov.in

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EASTERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice No. SDSTE-LHS-AZ-PRDG-24-25, Dated: 28.06.2024. Open E-Tenders against Tender No. SDSTE-LHS-AZ-PRDG-24-25 is invited by Sr. Divisional Engineer/Sealdah, Eastern Railway, Sealdah, Howrah-711011 for the following work. Name of Work: Construction of LHS in lieu of L.C. Gate No. 208/B/T at km 178/2.4 between AZ-PRDG in KWAE-AZ Section of WHH Division. Advertisment Value: ₹88,47,770.39; Earnest Money: ₹1,77,000.00; Tender Doc. Cost: ₹0.00; Bidding System: Single Packet; Bidding Start Date: 11.07.2024; Validity of Offer (Days): 60; Period of Completion: 12 Months; Date & Time of Uploading Tender: 28.06.2024, 17:46 Hrs.; Tender Closing Date and Time: 25.07.2024, 15:00 Hrs. Complete details can be seen in the Railways website www.reps.gov.in

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EASTERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice No. SDSTE-LHS-AZ-PRDG-24-25, Dated: 28.06.2024. Open E-Tenders against Tender No. SDSTE-LHS-AZ-PRDG-24-25 is invited by Sr. Divisional Engineer/Sealdah, Eastern Railway, Sealdah, Howrah-711011 for the following work. Name of Work: Construction of LHS in lieu of L.C. Gate No. 208/B/T at km 178/2.4 between AZ-PRDG in KWAE-AZ Section of WHH Division. Advertisment Value: ₹88,47,770.39; Earnest Money: ₹1,77,000.00; Tender Doc. Cost: ₹0.00; Bidding System: Single Packet; Bidding Start Date: 11.07.2024; Validity of Offer (Days): 60; Period of Completion: 12 Months; Date & Time of Uploading Tender: 28.06.2024, 17:46 Hrs.; Tender Closing Date and Time: 25.07.2024, 15:00 Hrs. Complete details can be seen in the Railways website www.reps.gov.in

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Bihar Skill Development Mission (BSDM) Department of Labour Resources, Government of Bihar

A-Wing, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Niyojan Bhawan, Bailey Road, Patna-800001 Phone: 0612-2528455 Fax: 0612-2535004 Email: biharskilldevelopmentmission@gmail.com Website: www.skillmissionbihar.org

Notice Inviting Request for Proposal

RFP No: BSDM/RFP-57/2020-Part I-1

Principal Secretary, Dept. of Labour Resources, Govt. of Bihar- cum- CEO, BSDM, invites proposals (Two Bid System) from reputed and experienced Chartered Accountant Firms for selection of Statutory Auditor, to conduct the Statutory Audit of Bihar Skill Development Mission (BSDM) for the Financial Years 2023-24 to 2025-26.

Eligibility Criteria for participating Chartered Accountant Firms (CA Firms):

- a. The CA Firm must be currently empaneled with the C&AG. (Empanement Proof must be valid as on last date of submission of bid) b. The CA Firm must be currently registered with ICAI (Latest Certificate of ICAI issued on or after 01.01.2024) c. The CA Firm must be constituted on or before 01.04.2019 (Proof of constitution) d. The CA Firm should have its Head Office or Functional Branch Office in Bihar (Proof of Office) e. The CA Firm must have an Annual Turnover of Rs. 50 Lakh or more in any one of the last three FYs ending on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023. The Turnover figure of FY 23-24 will not be considered. (Audited Financial Statements comprising Balance sheet, Profit & Loss Account of the respective financial year) f. At-least three different assignments of Statutory/Internal Audit of Central or State Government Departments or their undertakings or corporations/PSUs entities (except Bank Branch Audit/Concurrent Audit). The workorders or the assignments must be related to audit period after 01.04.2020. g. Minimum Five, Full Time Partners should be associated with the CA Firm of which at least one partner being a Fellow CA (Latest Certificate of ICAI issued on or after 01.01.2024) h. CA Firm who was FMASC of BSDM in any of last five FY (i.e. from FY 2018-19 to 2023-24) will not be eligible to participate.

Document Fee and Tender Processing Fee: All Applicants have to pay a non-refundable Document Fee of Rs. 10,000/- (Ten Thousand only) and Tender Processing Fee of Rs. 590.00 or as applicable (Five Hundred Ninety only) through e-payment mode (i.e. NEFT/RTGS/Credit Card/Debit Card) on E-Proc Portal.

Earnest Money Deposit (EMD): An EMD of Rs. 25,000/- (TwentyFive Thousand) through e-payment mode only (i.e. NEFT/RTGS/Credit Card/Debit Card) on E-Proc Portal, well before the last date/time for submission/ uploading of offer/Bid, failing which the bid will be rejected. This EMD will be non-interest bearing and refundable. If the selected bidder fails to submit the requisite performance guarantee or to execute the agreement, this EMD will be forfeited.

The Proposal has to be submitted through online mode on https://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in and can be searched by clicking the Tab "Tender" on home page of above website and then going to Latest Tender by searching Department Name as "Labour Resources Department".

The application procedure, eligibility criteria, evaluation methodology, terms and conditions and the scope of work are detailed in this RFP which can be seen or downloaded from the "e-Procurement Portal https://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in and departmental website: http://www.skillmissionbihar.org. The RFP will be available to download from the above websites from 01.07.2024. The Pre-bid meeting will be held physically on 02:30 PM of 11.07.2024 at BSDM office. The last date for uploading of proposal/bid will be 31.07.2024 up to 15.00 Hrs. Technical Bid will be opened on or after 31.07.2024 post 16:00 Hrs. The Evaluation of Bids will be under Least Cost System. Please refer RFP document for complete details.

The undersigned reserves the right to issue addendum/corrigendum/modification or to amend any or all conditions of this RFP Document or to accept or reject any or all proposal(s) or to cancel the whole of this RFP at any stage without assigning any reason thereof and no bidder shall have any cause of action or claim against the undersigned for the same. For further details please visit website state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar

PR- 002916 (LRD) 2024-25 Mission Director, Bihar Skill Development Mission, Department of Labour Resources, Govt. of Bihar नरो की मार, बर्बाद करे सुखी परिवार।



The new laws have come into force in the entire state from Monday. The interests of the common people are linked to these new laws and the victim will get justice soon with the new laws

BHAJAN LAL SHARMA RAJASTHAN CHIEF MINISTER

Kharge hits out at PM in RS, says BJP's arrogance broken after 2024 LS polls

Launching a scathing attack on PM & the ruling BJP over the ongoing row over NEET

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, 1 JULY

Launching a scathing attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the ruling BJP over the ongoing row over NEET and arrests of Opposition leaders, Congress president and Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge on Monday said the arrogance of the saffron party was broken after the results of 2024 Lok Sabha election.

Participating in the debate on the Motion of Thanks to the President's address in the Rajya Sabha, the leader of opposition (LoP) in the Upper House hit out at the Prime Minister and the BJP saying that "They used to call the Gandhiji alliance, they used to say if there is Modi, anything is possible. But the arrogance of BJP



was broken after the 2024 Lok Sabha elections."

Attacking the NDA government over the NEET issue, Kharge said thousands of NEET aspirants were affected by the paper



The leader of opposition (LoP) in the upper house said the government initially denied any paper leak then later they clarified and accepted that irregularities

happened. The LoP also urged scrapping the Agni-path scheme. "President has said we will work together. But the words have been confined to just speech and not in action," Kharge said.

The Congress president also criticised the government over arrests of opposition leaders and alleged misuse of central agencies, including the Directorate of Enforcement and the Central Bureau of Investigation in an attempt to "silence the opposition."

"This election witnessed that a major issue was protecting the Constitution. The BJP said it will amend the Constitution. But the election proved that issues keep coming and going, but the Constitution will thrive, democracy will survive, elections will keep happening and we will also

here," Kharge said. "The common people supported the opposition in this fight. They took a major step towards protecting the Constitution," he added.

Kharge also questioned the relocation of statues of national leaders in the Parliament House complex. "There was no meeting or prior consultation. It was done as though in authoritarian rule," he said.

Kharge urged for discussion with the committee that includes the LoP, members, and the House Chairman. However, Vice President and Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar said it has been done properly and methodically and there should not be criticism for the sake of criticism. He also urged members to visit the new location.

Army ready to deal with future challenges: Gen Upendra Dwivedi

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, 1 JULY

New chief of Army Staff, Gen Upendra Dwivedi on Monday asserted that his force is ready and capable to deal with all current and future security challenges facing the country.

Gen Dwivedi, who assumed charge of the Army on Sunday, inspected a guard of honour at the South Block Morning mooting. His family members and the top brass of the Indian Army were present.

In a brief interaction with the media later, Gen Dwivedi said the Army is facing "unique operational challenges" and it is the force's duty to remain prepared for such threats. Therefore, it is crucial to continue equipping the soldiers with the latest weapons.

"I am fully conscious of the responsibility assigned to me and I assure the country and fellow citizens that the Indian Army is fully capable and ready to face all current and future challenges," he said.

He also stated that working towards synergy among the Army, Air Force and the Navy would be one of his priorities.

The Army chief said he will encourage induct of indigenous-built military hardware into the force to boost self-reliance in defence. "The Indian Army faces



unique operational challenges and to remain prepared for such threats and distinctive requirements, it is crucial that we continuously equip our soldiers with state-of-the-art weapons and technology and continue to evolve our war-fighting strategies," he added.

Gen Dwivedi said the Indian Army is on the "path to transformation" and it aspires to be 'Atmanirbhar' (self-reliant) in defence. "To achieve this, we will encourage indigenous initiatives and induct maximum war systems and equipment that are manufactured in our country," he said.

Gen Dwivedi said he would focus on ensuring that the Army is ready to operate in the "full spectrum of conflict."

"It will be my endeavour to ensure that the Indian Army is always ready to operate in the full spectrum of conflict, maintaining complete synergy with the Indian Navy, Indian Air Force and other stakeholders," he said.

Maha Minister urges extreme caution during rain tourism:

A day after five persons including a woman and four kinds were washed away in a waterfall at the Lonavala hill station, Maharashtra Minister for Relief & Rehabilitation Anil Patil called upon the people to be extremely cautious while going out on monsoon picnics to major tourism spots. The Minister's warning came even though rescue agencies were engaged in a major operation to trace the bodies of two minor boys - among the five victims who were suddenly washed away while frolicking in a waterfall upstream of the Bhushi Dam - a popular tourist attraction during monsoon. AGENCIES

POWER OF ATTORNEY NOTIFICATION

It is being informed that I, Mr. Gopal Panja, son of Animesh Panja, has been appointed Attorney by Rantu Patra, Biswajit Patra, Ranajit Patra, all sons of Late Bharat Patra @ Bharat Chandra Patra, Shankari Manna, wife of Ranajit Manna, Gauri Mondal, wife of Samir Kumar Mondal, Jamuna Das, wife of Sushil Das and Padda Bala Patra, wife of Late Bharat Patra @ Bharat Chandra Patra, owners of R.S. & L.R. Dag No. 33 & 34 under L.R. Khatian No. 1597. Total Area 80 decimals in Barunda Mouza vide Registered Power of Attorney being Number 050606295 dated 28/12/2022 registered at the office of A.D.S.R. Bagnan, Howrah. Later I have sold the said property to Vulcan Global Holdings LLP vide Deed No. 050603304 dated 18/07/23 at the office of the A.D.S.R. Bagnan, Howrah which is under mutation in the BL & LRO, Bagnan II, Howrah and the case No. is MN/2024/0509/2051 before the office of the BL & LRO, Bagnan II, Howrah. If anyone has any kind of objection, kindly contact BL & LRO, Bagnan II, Howrah. Thanking You - GOPAL PANJA

Maha Dy CM stays Deekshabhoomi renovation project after protests

AGENCIES MUMBAI, 1 JULY

Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis on Monday announced a stay on the Rs 200 crore Deekshabhoomi renovation project in Nagpur in the wake of ongoing agitation there.

Fadnis said in the state Assembly that the makeover project was undertaken after due consultation with the Deekshabhoomi Committee. However, he added that a fresh discussion will be held involving the committee, the representatives of various organisations who staged agitation and the concerned contractors. He assured that the work would commence only after taking into account changes, if any, by those who were involved in the agitation.

The stay came after several opposition and ruling members raised the issue following the agitation launched at Deek-

shabhoomi against the work of an underground park there. They claimed that the work may endanger the original foundation of Deekshabhoomi as well as the Stupa.

Congress legislator Nitin Raut took strong objection against the ongoing work at the site and claimed that it posed a threat to the original structure and thus should be stopped immediately.

BJP legislator Narayan Kuche also sought the government's intervention in seeking to stay the work. Leader of Opposition Vijay Wadetiwar through his post on X claimed that due to the work at the Deekshabhoomi, the people's sentiments have been hurt. "Therefore, it is our view that this work should be stopped immediately by respecting the sentiments of the people. This has created a law and order problem and the government should immediately intervene and discuss with the protesters," he said.

Didi's West Bengal is unsafe for women: Nadda hits out at TMC govt

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, 1 JULY

In a sharp attack on the Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee-led government in West Bengal over a "horrific" video of a man assaulting a woman in Chopra town of Uttar Dinajpur district, BJP president JP Nadda on Monday said "Didi's West Bengal is unsafe for women."

In a post on X, Nadda said, "A horrific video has come to light from West Bengal, reminding of the brutalities that exist only in theocracies. To make matters worse, the TMC cadre and MLAs are justifying the act. Be it Sandeshkhali, Uttar Dinajpur or many other places, Didi's West Bengal is UNSAFE for women."

The West Bengal police on Sunday filed a suo motu case and arrested one person in connection with the video in which a person is seen beating a woman at Chopra



quarters to spread misinformation about an incident in Chopra PS under Islampur PD. The facts, police have promptly identified and arrested one person who had publicly assaulted a lady."

"Suo moto case started by the police. Victim has been provided police security. Investigation proceeds," the tweet said.

In the purported video, a man is seen beating a woman and another man with bamboo sticks and the incident that took place is being witnessed by a crowd of onlookers.

in the Islampur area of Uttar Dinajpur district. "Police have arrested one person who had publicly assaulted a woman. Suo motu case filed. Victim has been provided police security. Investigation proceeds," a tweet from Islampur police district said.

According to the police, the arrested accused, identified as Tajmul Haque alias JCB, will be produced before the ACJM court in Islampur today. Islampur Police District further said on X that "Efforts are being made from certain

Lt Gen Manjinder Singh assumes charge of South-Western Command



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE JAIPUR, 1 JULY

Lieutenant General Manjinder Singh on Tuesday took over the reins of Jaipur-based Saptashakti Command at a solemn ceremony at the Prena Sthal, Military Station, where he paid his tributes to the brave heroes.

Lt General Singh is an alumnus of the National Defence Academy, Khadakwada and the Indian Military Academy, Dehradun. He was commissioned into 19 MADRAS in December 1986.

In his distinguished and illustrious military career spanning 37 years, the Lt General has the distinction of effecting important and challenging command and staff appointments in Jammu & Kashmir and on the Western Front.

The general officer commanded and his battalion ensured an intense counter-insurgency environment in Jammu & Kashmir. An Infantry Brigade at the Line of Control, the Infantry Division, was part of the Desert Strike Corps and a corps deployed along the Line of Control for Counter Insurgency Operations in the border state, a Defence PRO Colonel Amitabh Sharma said here.

Lt Gen Raja Subramani assumes charge as Vice Chief of Army

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, 1 JULY

Lt Gen N S Raja Subramani assumed charge as the Vice Chief of Army Staff on Monday.

The General Officer was the appointment of General Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Central Command based at Lucknow.

The General Officer was commissioned into The Garhwal Rifles in Dec 1985. He has graduated from the prestigious National Defence Academy and Indian Military Academy. He is an alumnus of Joint Services Command Staff College, Bracknell (UK), and National Defence College, New Delhi. He holds a Master of Arts Degree from King's College London and an M Phil in Defence Studies from Madras University.

He has in his illustrious career spanning over 37 years served across a wide spectrum of conflict and terrain



profiles and has tenanted a host of Command, Staff and Instructional appointments. The General Officer has insightful knowledge and a deep understanding of operational dynamics on both the Western and Northern Borders.

For his distinguished service to the Nation, the General Officer has been awarded the Param Vishisht Seva Medal, Ati Vishisht Seva Medal, Sena Medal and Vishisht Seva Medal.

Five of a family swept away at Pune waterfall on camera

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE PUNE, 1 JULY

In a tragic incident, five members of a family, including two children, were swept away by strong currents at a waterfall near the Bhushi Dam in Pune's Lonavala area while two others managed to swim to the shore.

Rescue teams recovered the bodies of three family members while the search for the two missing children is currently underway.

A video of the heart-wrenching incident has gone viral on social media. It shows a man and a woman standing in the gushing waters desperately holding on to their children to prevent them from being swept with the current while people on the bank are heard urging them to stay firm while others trying to uproot a vine to use it as a rope to



rescue them.

Tragically, the water level suddenly surged, causing the family to lose their footing and sweep away with the current even as the tourists on the banks tried to help them but the gushing water made it impossible for anyone to jump in for their rescue.

The heartbreaking inci-

dent occurred on Sunday afternoon. Police and rescuers promptly arrived at the scene after receiving the information and began a search for the survivors. The incident triggered outrage on social media with many netizens questioning the security arrangements near the dam and the waterfall.

Be alert & proactive to deal with compromise on morality; Prez Murmu to IAS officers

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, 1 JULY

President Droupadi Murmu on Monday advised IAS officers to be alert and proactive from the very beginning in their careers to deal with any compromise on morality.

She was talking to a group of IAS officers of the 2022 batch, currently posted as Assistant Secretaries in various Union Ministries and Departments, which called on her at the Rashtrapati Bhavan Cultural Centre.

Addressing them, the President said that the IAS is considered a dream career in the country. She said that lakhs of ambitious youth dream to

become IAS officers. Many of them work very hard for selection in this service. She stressed that from among all such youth, they are the ones who have got the opportunity to work for the welfare of the citizens through this service. She advised them to leave behind an imprint with their sensitivity, honesty, and efficiency, wherever they work.

President Murmu said that in this high technology era when people are getting information about the country and the world in real-time, the challenges of officers have increased further. By the time they achieve the social or economic goals of any scheme, people's needs,



awareness, and aspirations would have increased further. Therefore, they should start

creating such systems which enable them to remain future-ready.

She said that to achieve big goals, for inclusive and sustainable development and socio-economic empowerment of every section, the work culture of administration should be based on public participation.

The President said that in today's context, officers have to play the role of not only administrators but also facilitators and managers. Their success will depend on how they are able to provide accountable, transparent, and effective administration taking everyone together.

The President said that the most important thing for an administrator is to win the trust of the people and maintain it. She advised them to

make use of technology for accessibility, transparency, and trust building. She, however, cautioned them against using technology, especially social media, for self-publicity.

She expressed confidence that along with implementing the policies and programs of the government, all of them will also promote integrity, righteousness, and sustainability in their personal conduct.

The President said that a developed mindset is essential for building a developed India. She expressed confidence that the officers will take forward the development of the country with new thinking and new solutions.

Notice

Details of FPPAS for the accounting month of June 2024 (vide Notification No. FPPAS/2024-25/CESC/01 dated 30 June 2024) are available in the website of CESC Limited at www.cesc.co.in.

Registered Office: CESC House, Chowringhee Square, Kolkata - 700 001, CIN: L31901WB1978PLC031411, Tel: +91 33 2225 6046 Fax: +91 33 2225 3495 e-mail: cesclimited@rpsg.in, web: www.cesc.co.in

APPENDIX-IV [See Rule-8(1)] POSSESSION NOTICE (for Immovable property)

Whereas The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Bank of India under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice dated 05-02-2024 calling upon the borrower MRS. M.P. International, Prop. Chandan Bhakat (Account No.: 501630110000074) to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs. 25,68,416.52 (Rupees twenty-five lakh sixty-eight thousand four hundred sixteen and fifty-two Paise) and a separate notice dated 05-02-2024 calling upon the borrower Mr. Chandan Bhakat (501675110000075) to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs. 34,37,849 (Rupees thirty-four lakh thirty-seven thousand eight hundred forty-nine) within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Sub-Section (4) of Section 13 of Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on this the 29th day of June of the year 2024.

The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealing with the property will be subject to the charge of the Bank of India, Khagra Branch for an amount Rs. 60,06,265.52 and interest thereon.

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

Description of the Immovable Property: All that part and parcel of the property in the name of Chandan Bhakat and Mrs. Ganga Bhakat, situated at 232, Netaji Road P.O.: Khagra, P.S.: Berhampore, Dist.: Murshidabad on R.S. Plot No.: 159, L.R. Plot No.: 263 R.S. Khatian No.: 1380, L.R. Khatian No.: 916, Mouza: Berhampore Kansari Bazar within Berhampore Municipality Area 2.20 decimal, Original Deed No. 1-10282 / 18, dated: 24-07-2018 / 03-08-2018.

Bounded By: On the North by: Property of Chitra Das & Others. On the South by: Property of Laxmirani Das On the East by: 10 R Wide Road On the West by: Property of Chandan Bhakat Place: KHAGRA Authorized Officer (Bank of India) Date: 29-06-2024

# The Statesman

Incorporating and directly descended from THE FRIEND OF INDIA - Founded 1818

## Democratic Disconnect

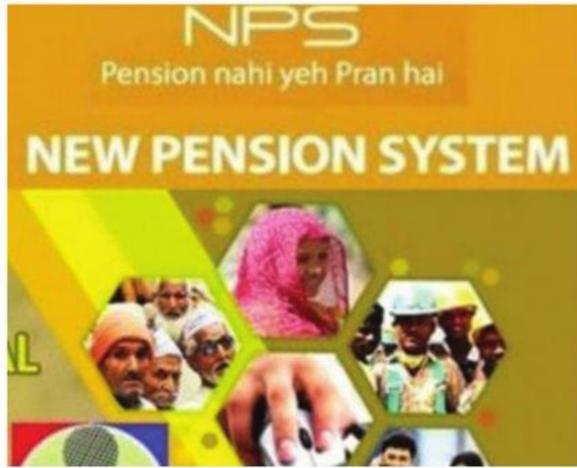
The turmoil within the Democratic Party over President Joe Biden's debate performance against challenger and former President Donald Trump on June 27 has sparked a critical conversation about the future of the party's leadership. This debate performance, marked by stumbles and an overall lack of vigour on Mr Biden's part, has amplified existing concerns about the President's ability to lead the party into the next election. The reactions from top Democrats, particularly during a private call with Democratic National Committee (DNC) members, reveal a troubling disconnect between the party leadership and its broader base. Top Democratic officials, including DNC chairman Jaime Harrison and Biden campaign manager Julie Chavez Rodriguez, appear to be dismissing the legitimate concerns raised by party members. Instead of addressing the debate's shortcomings and the subsequent wave of criticism, they opted for a positive spin, projecting confidence in Mr Biden's path forward. This approach has left many within the party feeling gas-lighted, as they are being asked to overlook clear signs of trouble. This attitude of dismissing internal dissent is problematic. For a party that prides itself on inclusivity and responsiveness to its base, ignoring such a significant issue is counterproductive. The Democratic Party must recognise that concerns about Mr Biden's performance and stamina are not just media-fuelled hysteria but genuine worries from its core supporters. Failing to address such issues head-on risks alienating the very people who are crucial to a successful campaign. Moreover, the insistence on maintaining an optimistic outlook, despite clear evidence of struggle, does little to inspire confidence among the electorate. Voters need to see a party that is realistic about its challenges and proactive in addressing them. This means acknowledging Mr Biden's weaknesses and openly discussing potential strategies to overcome them, rather than brushing them under the rug. The call for Mr Biden to step aside in favour of a younger candidate is not an attack on his achievements but a strategic consideration for the party's future. Figures like Vice President Kamala Harris, California Governor Gavin Newsom, and Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer represent a new generation of leadership that could energise the base and appeal to a broader demographic. Their continued support for Mr Biden is commendable, but the party must be willing to have difficult conversations about succession and leadership dynamics. Furthermore, the Democratic Party should not underestimate the political landscape's volatility. While Mr Biden's favorability ratings might not have dramatically shifted post-debate, the perception of leadership weakness can have long-term consequences. The party's strategists and donors are right to be anxious, and their voices should be part of the broader strategic discourse. In the face of these challenges, the Democratic Party has an opportunity to demonstrate resilience and adaptability. This requires more than just cheerleading; it demands substantive engagement with the concerns of its members and a willingness to explore all options for ensuring electoral success. Mr Biden's performance should serve as a wake-up call to him, his family and supporters.

## China's Challenge

China's economic data paints a concerning picture for both its manufacturing and services sectors. The manufacturing PMI has remained at 49.5 for the second month in a row, indicating a persistent contraction. Alongside manufacturing, the services sector too has slowed to its lowest point in five months. This dual-sector slump underscores the pressing need for China's policymakers to adopt a more robust and nuanced approach to stimulate the economy. The manufacturing sector, traditionally a pillar of China's economic might, is struggling despite strong export performance. The National Bureau of Statistics' data reveals that while production managed to stay above the contraction threshold, critical indicators such as new orders, raw material stocks, and employment remain in the negative territory. This imbalance suggests that the current export momentum is not sufficient to drive a comprehensive recovery. The manufacturing sector's woes are compounded by weak external and domestic demand, which prevents a rebound in producer prices. In the services sector, the picture is equally bleak. The non-manufacturing PMI, which includes both services and construction, dropped to 50.5, the lowest since December. The services PMI, in particular, has slipped to 50.2, indicating a significant slowdown. This decline reflects a cautious consumer base and a temporary boost from the Labour Day holiday, which failed to generate sustained growth. Given these challenges, it is evident that China's current policy measures are insufficient. While the central bank has announced a relending programme for affordable housing to address the property market crisis, broader fiscal measures are needed. The reliance on property as a growth engine is increasingly untenable, and new strategies must be developed to invigorate other sectors of the economy. Fiscal policy should take the lead in this recovery effort. With limited room for monetary easing due to currency pressures, the government must consider issuing more debt to fund stimulus measures. However, this approach is not without risks. High local government debt and deflationary pressures pose significant threats to long-term economic stability. Policymakers must strike a delicate balance between stimulating growth and maintaining fiscal health. One potential avenue for sustainable growth lies in fostering new industries. Premier Li Qiang recently highlighted the importance of developing new growth engines to reduce the economy's reliance on traditional sectors like property. This strategy is essential for creating a more resilient economic structure that can better withstand future shocks. As China approaches the Third Plenum in mid-July, where top Communist Party officials will gather to discuss the nation's economic direction, there is hope that more decisive and forward-thinking policies will emerge. The meeting presents an opportunity for China to reassess its economic priorities and implement measures that can drive long-term growth. As the world watches, China's policymakers must demonstrate bold leadership to navigate these turbulent times and set the stage for a more stable and prosperous future.

# Pension conundrum

In the old system, government employees knew that their pension would be 50 per cent of their last salary if they served at least 25 years or proportionate to the service. The benefit in NPS is unknown. Neither the return on accumulated capital nor the return on investment is guaranteed. In addition, there is no family pension. According to the original proposals, employee contributions would be invested in the market of their choosing. Employees' financial literacy issues were ignored



Ever since, the employed class in Central government and state governments started feeling the pinch of the new pension scheme, which neither guarantees the principle amount nor the interest thereon at a fixed rate, nor offers a family pension to the deceased pensioner, the political parties that were not in power or craving to be in power promised that they would bring back the old pension scheme that guarantees a maximum fifty per cent of the last salary drawn to employees if they worked for a full term, and a family pension to their spouses after the death of pensioners. The current pensions system which is also called New Pension Scheme (NPS) is contribution-based, which is invested in the market and returns on which are subject to market risks. That is not in fine print but boldly explained when the NPS was introduced in 2004.

State governments in Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Punjab, and Himachal Pradesh have informed the Central Government/Pension Fund Regulatory Development Authority (PFRDA) about their decision to revert to the Old Pension Scheme (OPS) for their government employees. Rahul Gandhi too sounded a shift to OPS if he was elected to power. The Andhra Pradesh government is the one that promised to get back to OPS during the 2018 elections but went back on its stand, and now Mr. Chandra Babu Naidu, who is an ally of Prime Minister Modi, is doubtful if he could revert to the old system.

Historically, with the assurance to offer workers in the informal sector a comprehensive contributory social security vehicle, a new pension scheme was designed with the engagement of private financial companies in January 2004. Instead, it was directly thrust on employees in the Central and State Government, and Public Sector organisations. Two decades after it was introduced, the participants in the scheme are now realising that the NPS is neither social nor secure. Neither the government, nor the trade unions, nor even the beneficiaries - the employees of state and central governments - heeded economists' hints and analytical advice at that time. There was a reason why they were silent.

The first point was that today's agitators or participants had not raised their voices because the scheme was announced before they joined government service. Then it was specifically

stated that the NPS would be applicable only to employees hired on or after 1 January 2004; thus, there was no case for the already employed to agitate for the stoppage of the NPS. There was a reason why the previous employees did not raise their voices. They were promised that their retirement benefits would not be affected by the changes.

The entrants had no voice; they obviously looked only at the government job on offer and not at the retirement benefits. They were neither unionised nor were they in one geographical place to unite and fight, nor were they members of already existing unions. Thus, they became voiceless. The second point was that the central government was under pressure to park its funds in the private money market under the threat that pension payments on a later date would exceed the other commitments of the government because the pensioners were not dying early and the ageing population was a ticking time bomb.

The New Pension Scheme was more about politics and confusion than mathematics and actuarial valuations, as it appears to us. The history of the NPS is not appealing to anyone concerned with the old age income and survivor benefits of retired government employees. The evening years of their lives were gradually and quietly dimmed. How wise the Government of India is incomprehensible even today when it is paying contributions to the new entrants, and pensions to the old cohorts, maintaining individual accounts, investing the funds in the market, observing the market fluctuations, paying commissions to the private fund managers and so on.

The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India, launched Project OASIS (Old Age Social and Income Security) in August 1998, claiming its stake as a provider of old-age security to the population as a measure of social justice. The original mandate and focus of the Project OASIS expert committee was on the ninety per cent of workers who were not covered by any pension scheme in India; however, it made a departure from its mandate and made a 'paradigm shift'

in advising reforms to civil service pensions in India on the premise that the government's finances were under pressure due to an ageing civil service. The project work was assigned to a privately managed economic foundation in Mumbai, with interests in financial and capital market education in India, as well as encouraging private investments and private fund managers.

The foundation believed that the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment recognised that poverty alleviation programmes aimed at the elderly alone cannot solve their income and social security problems; the problem must be addressed through thrift and self-help, in which the people save for old age during their working lives. The government's role in this endeavour could be to build the necessary institutional infrastructure in collaboration with the private sector to

enable and encourage each citizen to take on this task. Based on the foregoing, the expert committee under Project OASIS proposed an individual contribution-based, non-benefit guaranteed, non-return guaranteed, non-accumulation guaranteed pension scheme for the unorganised sector, to be managed by private fund managers, in which contributions of Rs 5 to Rs 10 per day per worker flowing into the system was expected to generate wealth for their old age.

If it were to be accepted and implemented, a major advocacy campaign would be required to rally support from informal workers, collect their shares, invest in the markets, earn profits, and ask them to wait until they reached the age of sixty.

Instead, the private foundation targeted government employees across the country, where money could flow into their investment businesses instantly with a single government order; and they were successful in convincing the government to replace the old defined benefit social security pension with contribution-based NPS for civil servants hired on or after 1 January 2004.

The General Provident Fund was abolished and replaced with a voluntary Tier II benefit under the new pension sys-

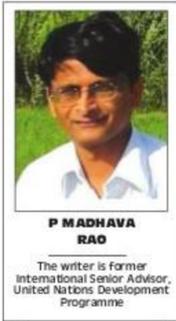
tem. The New Pension Scheme would operate on a defined contribution basis and have two tiers. Tier I is required for all government employees who begin their careers on or after 1 January 2004. In Tier I, government employees must contribute 10 per cent of their basic pay, Dearness Pay, and Dearness Allowance, which will be deducted from their monthly salary. The government will make a matching contribution. At exit, he must invest 40 per cent of his pension wealth in an annuity (from an IRDA-regulated Life Insurance Company), which will provide pension for the employee and his dependent parents for the rest of his life. If a government employee leaves the scheme before reaching the age of 60, the mandatory annuity would be 80 per cent of the pension wealth. The quantum of benefit is not defined.

This is a departure from a defined benefit pension scheme. In the old system, government employees knew that their pension would be 50 per cent of their last salary if they served at least 25 years or proportionate to the service. The benefit in NPS is unknown. Neither the return on accumulated capital nor the return on investment is guaranteed. In addition, there is no family pension. According to the original proposals, employee contributions would be invested in the market of their choosing. Employees' financial literacy issues were ignored.

The funniest part is that under the old system the government paid pensions to employees only after they retired. The burden of all employees was not immediate, and the Government did not feel the burden. It was treated as deferred wages. In the new system the government pays a monthly contribution to private fund managers under NPS, in addition to regular pension to the old cohorts.

The burden on the exchequer has increased rather than decreased. Only the NPS designers know how wise the decision was to carry two burdens at a time under the guise of reducing the burden on the state exchequer.

Now as all the old cohorts whose mouths were shut by not including them in the NPS by the then BJP Government are retiring and obtaining the benefits of OPS, and the new entrants under NPS nearing retirements start demanding equity, a time bomb is ticking which will have to be addressed by the current government. Can it do so?



P MADHAVA RAO  
The writer is former International Senior Advisor, United Nations Development Programme

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

editor@thestatesman.com

## Unpardonable

SIR, Delay in fresh census enumeration, which is overdue after the last one held in 2011, needs to be explained by the central government. In this fast-changing socio-economic demography which is impacted by policies coined due to global political pressures, surely we need to know where we stand in welfareism 13 years after the last census.

Census proforma must be redesigned by a select committee of experts looking at goals of equitable and just development.

The enumeration operations can be handled by a large force of unemployed educated youth who can be trained for this pur-

pose by giving them suitable remuneration. Earlier teachers were deployed, which badly affected studies of children in schools. This should be avoided. Further, with India's strengths in digital technology, we can design census programmes at minimum cost to the exchequer.

All individuals paying income tax and those filing returns can be mandatorily asked to complete census proforma and file it digitally. Those with lower or nil brackets of income can be paid a small allowance to completing the same.

Yours, etc., Brij Bhushan Goyal, Ludhiana, 28 June.

## CONSTRUCTIVE

SIR, Just like respect, cooperation or credibility can be earned and not demanded. The opposition political parties can gain credibility, make their presence felt, get their voice heard and contribute to the country's development through their positive gestures.

Rather than opposing the ruling party's endeavours for the sake of opposing, as if that is their birthright or solemn duty, they can perform their role effectively, constructively and responsibly if they become solution oriented.

As a formidable grouping, they can raise their voice for solutions to the problems that they have been hammering in their manifestoes.

Such policy suggestions, if they get implemented, can go much to their credit in the next election. In no case should they allow the ruling party to earn public sympathy by blaming the opposition for non-cooperation or boycott.

Apart from raising their voice over conventional issues that are non-risky as well as vote-catching like unemployment and corruption, opposition parties, to serve their long-term interest, can take-up non-conventional but conscientious issues like eroding value education, pressure of rising population, rationale of reservation policy, dominance of caste factor, rising stress amongst youth, farmer's suicide, discrimination, etc.

Yours, etc., T K Mishra, Delhi, 28 June.

A MEMBER OF THE ANN ASIA NEWS NETWORK

## ASIAN VOICES

### One social security law to address multiple challenges

The recent discussions in parliament have highlighted a concerning trend in national policymaking. While the National Council debated compensation policies for human-wildlife conflicts and crop damage, the National Assembly engaged in heated deliberations over a proposed Education Act. These focused debates, though important, reveal a potential blind spot in addressing broader socioeconomic challenges facing the nation.

Critical issues such as youth unemployment, substance abuse, financial and digital inclusiveness, urban poverty, and inadequate elder care have been notably absent from these discussions as each issue is discussed in isolation.

Rather than creating or amending multiple laws for specific sectors, it may be more effective to enact one comprehensive social security law. This approach could address a wider range of pressing issues and provide a more holistic framework to address multiple challenges.

UNDP's Social Protection Offer 2.0 emphasises the critical role of social protection in promoting economic and social inclusion, particularly considering the gaps exposed by the Covid-19 pandemic.

It states, "Social protection is an effective tool to promote economic and social inclusion and it is a key lever to reduce inequality and poverty, address vulnerabilities and enable investment in human development."

## KUENSEL

The UNDP's Social Protection Offer 2.0 presents an integrated approach with three key objectives: (1) "Protect and prevent" by reducing vulnerabilities and ensuring access to essential services; (2) "Empower and promote" by enhancing capacities of vulnerable households through improved access to healthcare, education, and employment; and (3) "Transform society" by addressing root causes of poverty, inequality, and vulnerability. This comprehensive approach aims to create a more resilient and equitable society through multifaceted social protection measures.

Social security laws are designed to provide comprehensive protection for all members of society, with a particular focus on creating a safety net for vulnerable and marginalised groups.

The law should promote universal access to necessities and a decent standard of living, address crucial social issues such as healthcare, education, employment schemes, and natural calamities and wildlife-related issues. In the modern context, they also extend to inclusive financial services and digital rights as these are becoming necessities.

Such social security law must adopt a holistic approach, addressing interconnected issues. Therefore, parliament must take into holistic approach in deliberation instead of pushing each issue in isolation.

The studies also provided that "social security programmes help to create a sense of community and social solidarity by providing a safety net for those who are most in need.

This is particularly important in societies where there are significant income and wealth disparities, as social security programmes help to reduce these disparities and promote a sense of shared responsibility."

For example, the National Health Service (NHS) in the United Kingdom provides free healthcare services to all citizens, regardless of their income or social status, which helps to promote social cohesion and reduce health inequalities.

## IN MEMORIAM

ROY GOURI — Left us for Heavenly Abode on July 2, 2000. May her soul Rest in Peace. Remembering your presence always. — Bulai, Mumi, Kalu, Buju.

OCCASIONAL NOTE

IN Lieutenant-Colonel Norton's latest Everest despatch, tribute is paid to Mr. Odell's mechanical knowledge, which has proved most useful on occasions when obstacles had to be surmounted with only makeshift materials available. It is, perhaps, not generally known that Mr. Odell is by way of being a mining engineer, and is thus well qualified to be the handy man of the expedition. He spent some years at the Royal School of Mines in London, and it was due to the claims of his studies, we believe, that he was unable to participate in the earlier Everest expeditions. Young and of strong physique, he is a born climber, and has had previous experience of the Himalayas in the Hindu Kush. Mr. Odell was also a member of the Oxford Spitzbergen expedition, and with his extensive experience in travel and in mountain climbing will almost certainly be heard of again in expeditions where scientific skill must be added to exceptional physical qualifications.

NEWS ITEMS

PAPER INDUSTRY

PROTECTION CLAIM INQUIRY

THE evidence of the representatives of the Upper India Couper Paper Mills Company, of Lucknow, before the Tariff Board, concluded to-day after a further cross-examination for more than two hours. Mr. Ginnala and Professor Kale questioned the witnesses at great length, mainly on the cost of production and prospects of the company reducing its expenditure in the near future.

Mr. Ginnala elicited from Syed Nabi Ullah and other witnesses the statement that the case for the protection of the paper industry was weakened by reason of the fact that the supply of the principal raw materials like grass and hemp was getting smaller and smaller and that they had to go farther and farther for them.

**Mr. Ginnala:** Now I want you to answer me clearly. You say that since 1914 you have been paying the shareholders 6 per cent, dividend plus bonus. They are now accustomed to receiving such dividends. Your machinery is now worn out and must be renewed, which means that it will take away all your reserves of Rs. 21 lakhs. Then the bonus must reuse, you may or may not earn any dividends at all. In addition to that, either you have to borrow Rs. 20 lakhs or raise Rs. 20 lakhs worth of new share capital. That would wipe off your working capital also, so you must borrow ten or fifteen lakhs working capital. That means that you want Rs. 35 lakhs altogether. Do you think your shareholders will allow you to raise this amount?

**Syed Nabi Ullah:** Personally speaking I think that the shareholders will never agree to that course. They are afraid that prices are going down and that they will lose.

**Mr. Ginnala:** Do you fully understand the implications of your answer? Syad Nabi Ullah: I fully realise it.

**Mr. Ginnala:** Wherewith did you pay the bonus?

**Witness:** The last two bonuses were paid partly from the reverses of the company. Previous to that it was from the profits of the company.

JUDICIAL DELAYS

FILING OF PROCESS FEES

AT the resumed sitting of the Civil Justice Committee to-day Mr. Bhubaneswar Prasad Pande, Assistant Registrar, Patna High Court, giving evidence stated that in his opinion it was quite practical to enforce that process fees should be filed at once. He suggested that a Munsif should be appointed a Commissioner to examine witnesses on commission whenever expedient and also proposed addition to the cadre for the purpose. He suggested service of the process with the help of village organization and to do away with the system of identifiers. He thought it should be possible to reduce the number of remands by more frequent exercise of powers under Section 103 and Orders 24 and 25 of the Code of Civil Procedure. He proposed that files should be arranged in such a way that a party might know the time when the suit would come up for hearing. He suggested the amalgamation of all offices at head quarters station under a District Registrar who should be a Judicial Officer. Improvement in pay and revision in the scale of work of the Ministerial Establishment was also needed. The District Registrar should be in charge of the office and should perform quasi-judicial work of the court at head quarters. In his opinion, in the execution of decrees, only one notice should be served at the beginning and suggested the abolition of attachment in rent suits and of mention of valuation in the sale proclamation.

# Now, Indian cricket is a strategic asset

HARSHA KAKAR

The recently concluded cricket World Cup, which India won, had so-called experts commenting on the indirect favouritism the ICC (International Cricket Council) had shown to India throughout the tournament. There were claims that scheduling was done to suit the Indian viewer, thereby enhancing revenue for the ICC.

Former England international Mark Butcher, mentioned that India was aware of its venue for the semi-final, irrespective of whether they finished first or second in the Super Eight group. He added, "It is because the TV audiences, as far as India are concerned, pay the bills."

Chris Gayle, commenting on the same accusations, mentioned, "No one can speak to India. India runs cricket. It's a fact. Who is going to talk to India? Who is going to challenge India? No one." Today, the ICC cannot survive without the Indian market. But it was never always so.

India's contribution towards the ICC's annual earning is approximately 80-85 per cent. Cricket is India's national game and attracts maximum audiences. Most advertisements at venues of the World Cup as also endorsements on dresses of teams, including South Africa, US and Afghanistan, were of Indian companies. It is for this reason that the BCCI takes back the largest share from ICC's earnings (38.5 per cent). The fact is that India controls the ICC purse and thus the organization, irrespective of who heads it.

India's bargaining power will be at display in the forthcoming Champions trophy scheduled in Pakistan in February-March next year. If India decides not to participate because of security concerns, which is likely, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) will be forced to change venues or conduct it in a hybrid mode. Non-participation of India would also reduce financial gains to the organizing country (Pakistan) which it cannot let happen.



All the crying and howling by the Pakistan government and the PCB, including assuring special security and empty stadiums for India games, will be meaningless. The Indian government's decision will be final. On the contrary, Pakistan withdrawing from the tournament or refusing to conduct it would have minuscule impact. There are other nations which would be willing to organize the games, including India.

The impact of Indian bargaining was visible in the Asia Cup conducted in August-September last year. India's unwillingness to play in Pakistan out of security concerns compelled them to conduct the tournament in a hybrid mode with Indian matches in Sri Lanka. All of Pakistan's objections came to naught. On the contrary, if they had refused to play the ODI world cup in India, it would have mattered little.

For a beleaguered PCB, a series with India generates revenue they desperately need. For years, every

head of their board has been requesting for an India-Pakistan series, which India turns down. The Indian government is aware of the financial hold that cricket has and exploits it. Such has been the global awareness of revenue inflows in an Indo-Pak series that even Cricket Australia offered to host it. India refusing a bilateral series with Pakistan is starving their cricket board of desperately needed funds.

While Pakistani commentators and their public complain of India blackmailing the ICC, it was former PCB chief, Ramiz Raja, who highlighted reality when he mentioned, "The ICC is a politicised body divided between Asian and Western blocs and 90 per cent of its revenues are generated from India. It is frightening." He added, "In a way, India's business houses are running Pakistan cricket and if tomorrow the Indian PM decides he will not allow any funding to Pakistan, this cricket board can collapse."

As per the Business Standard, BCCI's cricket league, the Indian Premier League (IPL), has risen to be the world's second richest sports league in terms of per match value, behind USA's National Football League. According to inputs, the first 50 matches of the IPL this year had a combined viewership of 510 million on Star Sports alone, Jio cinema being additional. The report added, "The average revenue for all teams was Rs 394.28 crore in FY19 which fell to Rs 307.5 crore in FY23." It also mentioned that simultaneously income from sponsorships increased for all teams.

The world's best players rush to participate in the IPL. Global cricket comes to a standstill during the IPL season. Pakistan has made its frustrations known on being excluded from it. Pakistan pace bowler, Hasan Ali, commented, "Every player wants to play IPL and it is my wish to play there. It is one of the biggest leagues in the world and I will definitely play there if there is an opportunity in the future."

Eleven Pakistan players had participated in the league's inaugural tournament in 2008. Post the Mumbai terror attacks in November that year, the decision was taken that they would no longer participate. To make matters worse, IPL league owners, who also own teams in similar leagues in other nations, including the UAE, are unwilling to permit Pakistani cricketers to join their teams. Their logic is that permitting them would go against Indian audiences, which could impact their Indian teams.

This control was not always so. In the 1980s India had to pay guarantee money of half a million dollars when inviting top teams like the West Indies and Australia to play on home grounds. The world had looked down at Indian cricket with global cricket bodies even objecting to India participating in the 1983 World Cup, which it ultimately won, claiming its performance was unsatisfactory. The then BCCI President, NKP Salve, wasn't even able to manage two extra tickets for the final.

Till 1989, the President of England's MCC, its premier cricketing club, was de-facto head of the ICC, which was then starved for funds. India's control of the institution commenced with Jagmohan Dalmia winning the ICC elections of 1997. His marketing of tournaments changed ICC's financial history as also India's control over it.

India's contribution is high on account of its development and population. As per available data, India has over 1.12 billion mobile users, which is approximately 79 per cent of its population, majority being smart phones, as also 230 million television households. Thus, viewership is high.

The nation, which was once compelled to pay guarantee money now commands the game and is in demand for bi-lateral series. Today, India's annual cricketing calendar is overflowing.

(The writer is a retired Major-General of the Indian Army.)

# Climate change has severe economic costs

AJAZ AHMED

What happens to an economy when it is hot outside? Globally, record-breaking temperatures have been witnessed in the past few years. There is evidence that heat-waves dampen economic output, causing GDP losses and exacerbating global inequality. For instance, projections for the US economy show that rising temperatures could reduce economic growth by up to one-third over the next century.

Moreover, the assumption that economic damage from global warming is confined to the agriculture sector is no longer true, as climate change and environmental degradation pose significant risks to the macro economy and financial systems. For example, climate change will affect individual and household income, sectors of the economy, energy markets, inflation variability, financial markets, innovation, and rising public debt, among other things.

While rising global temperatures have a profound impact on economies all over the world, the phenomenon is still poorly understood due to the complexity of climate-related risks and their interactions with the real economy. Scientific



studies are being conducted to estimate the impact of global warming on different sectors of the economy. However, there is consensus that macro-prudential measures are critical to mitigating climate-related risks, as without mitigation measures, physical risks from climate change-driven natural hazards — heat-waves, windstorms, floods, and droughts — are likely to increase significantly.

While the marginal effects of temperature rise are different in different regions, persistent increases in global temperature have serious implications for economic growth, productivity, and efficiency. However,

the sensitivity of different economies to the impact of global warming depends on their reliance on different sectors of the economy, which can be susceptible to changing temperatures. Thus, climate change will be a critical factor in shaping responses to macroeconomic conditions in the near future.

Decarbonisation is no longer a matter of choice, as reducing carbon intensity in production processes and energy use is unavoidable to lower carbon emissions per unit of output produced and make production cleaner. Yet, the decarbonisation of economies for net-zero targets will

affect both output and inflation, exerting changes in monetary policy and macroeconomic conditions in most countries. So, the key question for economy pundits, especially those from the developing world, is how to reduce carbon-intensive economic activity, without it having consequences for productivity, efficiency, and economic growth.

Climate change can potentially increase inflation and the debt-to-GDP ratio, resulting in economic uncertainty and tighter fiscal and monetary policies, which may lead to lower demand via lower spending and reduced economic activity. The transition to net zero would require the deployment of tools such as tax, subsidy, and regulation, resulting in increasing abatement costs. This can potentially generate relative price shocks, pushing up aggregate inflation, which is likely to necessitate changes in monetary policy, not to mention net-zero transition having an effect on inflation. Furthermore, the structural transformations required for the transition to net zero are expected to alter monetary policy channels.

Since climate change increases the frequency and severity of shocks, it may become very difficult for central banks to regularly read such shocks. In other words, identifying regular shocks — of an unknown

nature — to the economy, will complicate the assessment of the monetary policy stance, which will often find itself confronting a trade-off between output and inflation stabilisation. Therefore, macroeconomic policy responses must take into account the impact of extreme weather events, the decarbonisation of economies, and net-zero transition.

As the impact of climate change is regional and global, it may invoke structural adjustment processes that transcend national borders, thus necessitating assessment of macroeconomic implications and formulation of models that provide insight with regional and sectoral differentiation.

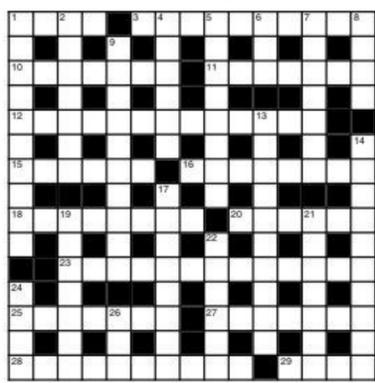
Existing analytical frameworks and macroeconomic modelling tools are inadequate and unsuitable for grappling with the dynamic nature of climate uncertainty and design-informed policy responses. Therefore, policymakers need to review and, where required, improve and align their toolkit to adapt to the new challenges.

Nevertheless, reducing uncertainty and creating an enabling environment to pacify reactions will be highly critical in the future as climate change will remain a major global risk for some time.

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ACROSS

- 1 Exploit middle class (4)
- 3 Random tests in place leading to arrests (4-6)
- 10 Relatively easy to smile coyly about learner driver (7)
- 11 Unionist politician's anger with southern judges (7)
- 12 Unusual Elgar concert inspires international modern music producer (8,5)
- 15 Talk presented in short order (6)
- 16 Spies reported pancake mixture being used to make bread (8)

DOWN

- 18 Inform a pretty accommodating Conservative (8)
- 20 Confused, walked like a duck with ducks (6)
- 23 Not intend shag? That's that ruined! (3-5,5)
- 25 After passing on power to replace American leader, becomes thorough (2-5)
- 27 Prevent individual associated with Tory leader getting title (7)
- 28 "Mum!" I announced loudly at first — after one minute, it's irrelevant (10)
- 29 That is finishing early one day a month (4)

DOWN

- 1 Spooner's male first aider reveals overall strategy (6,4)
- 2 Brilliant escape by criminal (7)
- 4 Pass instruction on how to make hair curl (6)
- 5 Regularly tied up, shot in the arm of German (8)
- 6 Fruit with it? (3)
- 7 My single bit of trivia: the knob on a deer's antler is a crown (7)
- 8 Help us love moderate (2,2)
- 9 Very fashionable and completely same to collect silver (3,3,4)

- 13 Try to offer Harry trees, but there aren't many here? (4,6)
- 14 Announced toffee-covered fruit possibilities (10)
- 17 Scramble as the man blocks pincer movement (8)
- 19 Former Queen Mother running inside (7)
- 21 Academic lecturer made money (7)
- 22 Fear of imitation ale, some might say (6)
- 24 National symbol of kingdom in West Indies, originally (4)
- 26 Dropping argument, starting late (3)

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

THUMBNAILS

**BOB Cuttack region organized official language seminar:** Bank of Baroda, Cuttack Region, under the joint aegis of Ravenshaw University, Cuttack, organized an official language seminar in the University Campus on the occasion of Birth anniversary of the famous Hindi poet and writer "Nagarjuna". The theme of the seminar was "Public awakening in the works of Nagarjuna". The program was presided over by the Head of the Hindi Department of Ravenshaw University, Cuttack, Prof. Dr. Anjanam Ara.

**New TVC: Bisk Farm has launched a new TVC campaign with Hrithik Roshan for its Googly range of biscuits.** Keeping up with the Brand slogan 'Googly- Taste with a Twist', the TVC revolves around a fun banter between the husband and wife. With a sharp focus to create awareness of the product amongst mass audience base, the TVC is being launched in 7 different languages, Hindi, Bengali, Marathi, Telugu, Odia, Kannada, and Assamese.

**Bangladesh passes 68 billion USD budget for next fiscal year:** The Bangladesh parliament on Sunday passed a record 7.97-trillion-Taka (68 billion US dollars) national budget for the 2024-25 fiscal year (July 2024-June 2025). Finance Minister Abul Hassan Mahmood Ali placed before the parliament the annual budget of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's government. Unanimously by voice vote, the parliament passed the budget on the last working day of the current 2023-24 financial year with some adjustments, reports agency.

# 97.87pc of ₹ 2000 banknotes returned to banking system: RBI

The 19 RBI offices depositing/exchanging the banknotes are in Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Belapur, Bhopal, Bhubaneswar, Chandigarh, Chennai, Guwahati, Hyderabad, Jaipur, Jammu, Kanpur, Kolkata, Lucknow, Mumbai, Nagpur, New Delhi, Patna and Thiruvananthapuram

**STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, 1 JULY**  
The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Monday said 97.87 per cent of the Rs 2000 denomination banknotes have returned to the banking system. Only Rs 7,581 crore worth

of the withdrawn notes are still with the public, it said. The total value of Rs 2000 banknotes in circulation, which was Rs 3.56 lakh crore at the close of business on May 19, 2023, has declined to Rs 7,581 crore at the close of business on June 28, 2024. "Thus, 97.87 per cent of the Rs 2000 banknotes in circu-



lation as on May 19, 2023, has since been returned," the central bank said in a statement.

On May 19, 2023, the RBI announced the withdrawal of Rs 2000 denomination banknotes from circulation. The facility for exchange of the Rs 2000 denomination banknotes is available at the 19 Issue Offices of the Reserve Bank (RBI Issue Offices) since May 19, 2023. Since October 9, 2023,

RBI Issue Offices are also accepting Rs 2000 banknotes from individuals/entities for deposit into their bank accounts. Further, members of the public are sending Rs 2000 banknotes through India Post from any post office within the country, to any of the RBI Issue Offices for cred-

it to their bank accounts. The 19 RBI offices depositing/exchanging the banknotes are in Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Belapur, Bhopal, Bhubaneswar, Chandigarh, Chennai, Guwahati, Hyderabad, Jaipur, Jammu, Kanpur, Kolkata, Lucknow, Mumbai, Nagpur, New Delhi, Patna and Thiruvananthapuram.

## UPI transactions in June witness marginal dip of 1pc in volume, 2pc in value

**STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, 1 JULY**

In the month of June, the Unified Payment Interface (UPI) transactions saw a marginal dip of 1 per cent in volume and 2 per cent in value. According to the data shared by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) on Monday, in June 2024, UPI volume was seen at 13.89 billion and valued at Rs 20.07 trillion. In May, it had smashed all the previous records by processing 14.04 billion transactions worth Rs 20.45 trillion. As per the NPCI data, the Immediate Payment Service (IMPS) transaction volume was down by 7 per cent in June at 51.7 million as compared to 55.8 million in May. In value terms, IMPS transactions were down 5 per cent to Rs 5.78 trillion in June, as against Rs 6.06 trillion in May. This was seen at 550 mil-



lion in volume and Rs 5.92 trillion in value in April. The June numbers were 10 per cent up in volume and 15 per cent in value compared to the same month last year. It further said that the FASTag transactions saw a dip of 4 per cent during the month to 334 million, compared to 347 million in May. In value terms, this was seen down 2 per cent in June to Rs 5,780 crore versus Rs 5,908 crore in May. Notably, in April, FASTag

## Benchmark indices shy of their new record highs; rally in IT, FMCG

**STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, 1 JULY**

Nifty and Sensex ended just shy of their new record highs on Monday after the IT and FMCG index saw a sharp rally. At close, the Sensex was up 0.56% at 79,476 and the Nifty was up 0.55% at 24,142. After a flat start, the market gained strength, with Nifty crossing 24,150 and inched closer to record levels of 24,174 led by buying across the sectors barring power, PSU Bank and realty. Sensex opened at a record high of 77,543.22, created a fresh all-time high of 77,851.63. But the 30-stock index also touched a low of 76,954.87, as traders booked profit at record high levels. Nifty 50 opened at a record high of 23,629.85, touched another record high at 23,664.00, before falling into the red as investors booked profit. On Sensex, HDFC Bank,



ICICI Bank, Infosys, TCS and Bajaj Finance emerged as the top contributors to the gain. BSE Midcap and Smallcap indices hit fresh record highs of 46,711.27 and 52,981.03, respectively, during the session. BSE Midcap index ended 1.11% higher at 46,670.66, and the Smallcap index settled with a gain of 1.58% at 52,951.73. The overall market capitalisation of the firms listed on the BSE rose to nearly Rs 443.1 lakh crore from nearly Rs 439.2 lakh crore in the previous session. On Nifty 50, the top gainers were Tech Mahindra (2.98%), Wipro (2.40%) and Bajaj Finance (2.06%). On the losing side were NTPC (2.06%), Eicher Motors (0.92%) and Apollo Hospital (0.82%). For Nifty IT index, June emerged as the standout month, significantly boosting the index into positive territory. In the first half of the

## Electric vehicles sales in India witness sharp decline of 14pc in June



The electric vehicle (EV) sales in India witnessed a sharp decline of 14% in June against May. This is likely due to the changes in government policies and people's increasing interest towards hybrid vehicles. According to Vahan data from the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, EV sales in June 2024 fell by more than 14% to 1,06,081 units, compared to 1,23,704 units sold in May. It was the lowest sales figure in this calendar year. However, in June, the sales were over 20% higher compared to the same month last year, when the sales had dropped due to government tweaks in subsidies. So far this year, around 8,39,545 electric vehicles have been sold, accounting for approximately 6.69% of total vehicle sales. For the EVs, June has been the worst-performing month for this year as well as the last year. However, on a year-on-year basis, June 2024 saw a big improvement, with 1,23,704 units registered, marking a 20.52% increase compared to the 1,02,645 units registered in June 2023. Last year, EV sales declined due to the Centre's decision to reduce the maximum subsidy for electric two-wheelers (e2Ws) from approximately Rs 60,000 to around Rs 22,500. This move led to an increase of more than 20 per cent in the average price of an e2W, which typically ranges from Rs 80,000 to Rs 1,50,000. Two-wheelers EVs account for 57% of the 8,39,545 electric vehicles sold overall in 2024. Changes in e2W sales significantly impact the overall sales of the EV category. The government further reduced the subsidy by half in April with the introduction of the Rs 500 crore Electric Mobility Promotion Scheme 2024 (EMPS 2024). Under EMPS 2024, the subsidy cap for electric two-wheelers (e2Ws) is now Rs 10,000 per vehicle, down from Rs 22,500, while for electric three-wheelers (e3Ws), it has been reduced to Rs 50,000 from Rs 1,11,505. Both categories will receive incentives of Rs 5,000 per kilowatt-hour (kWh).

## Credit demands from MSMEs surge as they set out on biz expansion

**RITWIK MUKHERJEE KOLKATA, 1 JULY**

There is no denying the fact that the MSME sector in the country serves much of the domestic consumer demand and plays a significant role in moving India forward as it heads towards becoming the world's third-largest consumer market by 2026. And now business confidence has emerged strongly among MSMEs across all three sectors of manufacturing, trading, and service. This confidence, in turn, is translating into growing demand for credit specifically for business expansion. In fact, more than 89 per cent of the MSMEs have indicated investing in growth initiatives as the rea-



son for seeking business loans. Trading MSMEs at 88 per cent demonstrate the most optimism regarding their plan for business expansion compared to Manufacturing MSMEs at 83 per cent, and Services MSMEs at 78 per cent, going by a recent data analysis on MSME Insights, done by Kinara Capital, a fast-growing fin-

tech driving financial inclusion of the micro-small-medium enterprise (MSME) sector. Interestingly, immediate plans for business expansion is the primary reason for MSMEs to seek access to formal credit. Top most reasons of Trading MSMEs for seeking business loans are to improve unit economics and to offer a wider product variety. More than 84 per cent of Trading MSMEs claimed boosting their inventory levels was the top most reason for them to seek business loans. Purchasing inventory in bulk leads to quick improvement in their unit economics and they can provide their customers with wider variety of products. They also gain a competitive edge with their ability to fulfill customer orders quickly with available stock. Boosting inventory was followed by Product/Market Expansion and Business Premises Renovation as the main reasons for Trading MSMEs to seek loans for business expansion. Quite significantly, demand for credit continues to be on an upward trajectory. In FY24, the credit demand grew by nearly 35 per cent compared to the previous year. While all three MSME sectors of manufacturing, trading and services exhibited demand, the trading sector is leading with a 45 per cent increase in credit demand, followed by the services sector at 31 per cent and manufacturing sector at 18 per cent.

## Patanjali Foods to acquire Patanjali Ayurved's Home and Personal Care biz for ₹ 1100 cr

**STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, 1 JULY**

The board of Patanjali Foods Limited (PFL) on Monday approved the proposal of Patanjali Ayurved Limited to acquire its Home and Personal Care (HPC) Business, accelerating the Company's transition into a leading FMCG company. The transfer of the HPC business has been mutually negotiated between the Company and PAL for a lump sum consideration of INR 1100,00,00,000/- (Rupees Eleven Hundred Crores only) which shall be subject to customary closing date adjustments and on such other terms as set out in the business transfer agreement to be executed between the Company and PAL, Patanjali Foods said. Separately, a 20-year licensing arrangement for a 3% turnover based fee along with other conditions has been agreed between the Company and PAL. The Home and Personal

Care business of Patanjali Ayurved presently caters to four key segments being dental care, skin care, home care, and hair care. This strategic initiative for acquisition of HPC business shall strengthen the company's existing FMCG product portfolio with an array of marquee brands and also contribute to the growth in terms of revenue and EBITDA, Patanjali Foods said in a statement. PFL prepares to acquire the entire HPC Business of PAL on a going concern basis, and includes all the assets and liabilities attributable to the business, relevant employees, distribution network, contracts, licenses, permits, consents, and approvals integral to this operation. The company also acknowledges the value of the intellectual properties of the HPC Business' product portfolio and its market importance. Accordingly, the company and PAL have also agreed to enter into a licensing agreement permitting the company to use the trademarks

and associated intellectual property rights, owned by PAL, that relate to the product portfolio of the HPC Business. The acquisition will lead to a consolidation of 'Patanjali' brand FMCG products portfolio. The acquisition will bring along with it multiple key synergies in terms of brand equity and enhancements, product innovations, cost optimisation, infrastructure & operational efficiencies and positive impact on market share. With this acquisition, the company also informed that it has reaffirmed its position to be a strong FMCG company in its journey towards becoming a major player in the FMCG space as committed to its shareholders at the time of its maiden IPO. Pursuant to the approval of the Board of PFL, the Company shall now take necessary steps to execute the definitive agreements in connection with the acquisition as well as apply for necessary approvals integral to the transaction.

presence in eastern India and is a significant addition to our bouquet of offerings in West Bengal. Each of our distinctive brands and hotels, be it ITC Sonar, ITC Royal Bengal or brand Fortune, offer a diverse selection of experiences for our guests. Storii Kolkata too shall tell its own unique story. The launch of this property embodies our commitment to enhancing the state's tourism landscape," said Anil Chadha, Chief Executive, ITC Hotels. The resort features a mix of spacious rooms, suites and villas. Every room presents a stunning vista of the lush green surroundings. Furnished with contemporary comforts and modern furnishings, these graceful spaces are a healing haven. Giving details about the resort, top officials said that the goodness of "K by Kayakalp" - ITC Hotels' inhouse wellness brand, is well integrated with the spa resort at Storii Kolkata. Be it ancient Indian treatments, peaceful nature walks amidst lush surroundings, calming therapies or modern techniques, each spa journey has been carefully designed to enhance wellbeing. K by Kaya Kalp is a serene oasis, complete with soothing water elements, tailored well-

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**PUBLIC NOTICES**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
Notice is hereby given to the public that one Registered Deed of Conveyance made between Late Sudha Rani Mitra and Late Santu Lata Mitra (being the purchaser), measuring about 4 cottahs of land recorded in Volume No 68, Book No. 1, page 146-158, being no 3910 of 1960, registered in the office of the Sub-Registrar, Alipore, assesse no. 110881600948 in respect of premises no. 9E, Sahanagar Road, Kolkata 700026, has been lost/misplaced from the above stated residence of Late Santu Lata Mitra i.e. 9E, Sahanagar Road, Kolkata 700026 since first week of April 2024. That my client namely Mr. Pabitra Mitra, Bireswar Mitra, Bandana Dutta and Soma Gon Chaudhuri (being the legal heirs of Late Santu Lata Mitra) have lodged a General Diary at Tollygunge police Station vide GDE No. 1785 dated 27.06.2024. If anybody has any information or claim of interest or objection or any query in respect of the said lost Deed of Conveyance and stated property, please do raise objection in writing along with documentary proof at the following address within 15 days hereof and after the stipulated period any kind of objection shall not be entertained. Legal heirs and successors as follows: (i) Pabitra Mitra, (ii) Shyama Padi Mitra (deceased), survived by his only son Bireswar Mitra as his legal heir and successor, (iii) Bandana Dutta (deceased), survived by her only daughter Soma Gon Chaudhuri as her legal heir and successor. Dipanwita Tapaswini Advocate 70/2, Sisir Bagan Road, Behala Manton Kolkata - 700034 Ph No. 8777469943

**CHANGE OF NAME**

**NAME CHANGE**  
I, Joydeb Karmakar, S/o Late Gopal Karmakar at Kharda Mohanpur, P.O. - Mohanpur, P.S. - Haringhata, Dist. Nadia do hereby solemnly affirm that by mistake in my passport my mother's name have been wrongly recorded as Dutta Bala Karmakar in place of Padma Karmakar and my spouse name have been wrongly recorded as Bina Karmakar in place of Mina Karmakar. Hence my mother Padma Karmakar & Dutta Bala Karmakar and my spouse Bina Karmakar & Mina Karmakar are the same and one identical person vide affidavit sworn before the ACJM Court, Kalyani on 21.06.24

**CHANGE OF NAME**

**NAME CHANGE**  
I, Mina Karmakar w/o Joydeb Karmakar at Kharda Mohanpur, P. O. - Mohanpur, P. S. - Haringhata, Dist. Nadia do hereby solemnly affirm that I, Mina Karmakar and Bina Karmakar am the same and one identical person vide affidavit sworn before the ACJM Court, Kalyani on 21.06.2024

**CHANGE OF NAME**

I, CHABI Rani Jana, spouse of S.No. 14220851N, Ex-HAV Mahendra Nath Jana, resident of 108, Sandalpur, Monirampur, P.O. and P.S: Barrackpore, Dist.: 24 Pgs(N), have changed my name from Chabi Rani Jana to Chhabi Rani Jana vide affidavit, dated: 27-06-2024 before 1st Class (J.M.) Court at Barrackpore, W.B.

**IN MEMORIAM**

**Prof. Hemendra Kumar Mandal**  
S/o. Prof. Himangshu Bhushan Mandal, H/o. Dr. Archana Mandal, R/o. College Street, Shyambazar and Baguiati, Separated by ocean of time, you still live in our hearts. We remember you every moment. Affectionately remembered on his birthday -  
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**STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE: KOLKATA, 1 JULY**

Storii by ITC Hotels has now forayed into West Bengal with Storii Devasom Resort & Spa, Kolkata. Spread across 3 acres, this resort promises to be a perfect getaway for a relaxing staycation or a spa holiday. Be it solo travels or celebration with friends and family, Storii Kolkata, ITC Hotels authorities claim, would provide you a multitude of options to make it a memorable stay. "Brand Storii has arrived in the City of Joy! The launch of Storii Devasom Spa & Resort in Kolkata strengthens our

presence in eastern India and is a significant addition to our bouquet of offerings in West Bengal. Each of our distinctive brands and hotels, be it ITC Sonar, ITC Royal Bengal or brand Fortune, offer a diverse selection of experiences for our guests. Storii Kolkata too shall tell its own unique story. The launch of this property embodies our commitment to enhancing the state's tourism landscape," said Anil Chadha, Chief Executive, ITC Hotels. The resort features a mix of spacious rooms, suites and villas. Every room presents a stunning vista of the lush green surroundings. Furnished with

contemporary comforts and modern furnishings, these graceful spaces are a healing haven. Giving details about the resort, top officials said that the goodness of "K by Kayakalp" - ITC Hotels' inhouse wellness brand, is well integrated with the spa resort at Storii Kolkata. Be it ancient Indian treatments, peaceful nature walks amidst lush surroundings, calming therapies or modern techniques, each spa journey has been carefully designed to enhance wellbeing. K by Kaya Kalp is a serene oasis, complete with soothing water elements, tailored well-

ness plans, and personalised care, offering an all-encompassing experience of renewal. Embracing the elemental gifts of nature, such as sunlight and water, the spa cultivates an air of positivity. Twelve expansive therapy rooms, specialized 'yogasha-ka', dedicated meditation spaces, swimming pool, fitness centre and additional facilities for leisure, all meticulously curated to invite a state of deep relaxation and revitalization. Ravi Tod, Director, South City Group, on his parts, said, "One can experience the luxurious Spa Resort, beautifully designed with inspirations from nature."



You all should prioritise mutual understanding and look ahead to ensure and protect Mongolia's independence, security and national unity.

MONGOLIAN PRESIDENT UKHNAA KHURELSUKH URGING POLITICAL PARTIES TO UNITE FOR NATIONAL INTERESTS

WEATHER

Table with weather forecasts for Singapore, Hong Kong, Tokyo, London, Dubai, San Francisco, New York, and Moscow.

THUMBNAILED

Singapore police seize 1.28 mn fund for scam: Singapore police blocked 40 suspicious bank accounts and seized over 1.28 million Singapore dollars (945,000 U.S. dollars) during an operation between June 20 and June 27, according to the latest statement from the police.

Aus teen arrested after man critically injured: Australian police said on Monday that a teenager has been arrested after a daylight stabbing severely injured one man in New South Wales (NSW). The incident unfolded at approximately 3.30 p.m. local time on Sunday when emergency services were called to Seymour Street in Bathurst following reports of a stabbing. The teenager was refused bail and is expected to appear before a children's court on Monday.

Israel releases 55 Palestinians it had detained from Gaza

It also released Mohammed Abu Selmia, the director of Gaza's main medical center, Shifa Hospital

ASSOCIATED PRESS GAZA, 1 JULY Palestinian health official says Israel released 55 Palestinians on Monday whom it had detained from Gaza, including the director of the territory's main hospital.



ities near the border early Monday. There were no immediate reports of casualties or damage. Israel launched the war after Hamas' Oct. 7 attack, in which militants stormed into southern Israel, killed some 1,200 people — mostly civilians — and abducted about 250. Since then, Israeli ground offensives and bombardments have killed more than 37,700 people in Gaza, according to the territory's Health Ministry, which does not distinguish between combatants and civilians in its count. The war has largely cut off the flow of food, medicine and basic goods to Gaza, and people there are now totally dependent on aid.

The Palestinian Health Ministry says over 550 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli fire in the West Bank since then. Most have been killed during Israeli raids or violent protests. Israel captured the West Bank, along with Gaza and east Jerusalem, in the 1967 Mideast war. The Palestinians want all three territories for their future state. Israel has built scores of settlements across the West Bank that are now home to over 500,000 Jewish settlers. The settlers have Israeli citizenship, while the 3 million Palestinians in the West Bank live under seemingly open-ended Israeli military rule. A Palestinian health official says Israel has released 55 Palestinians it detained from Gaza, including the director of the territory's main hospital. Mohammed Abu Selmia was detained in November when Israeli forces raided Shifa Hospital. The army said Hamas was using the facility for military purposes and uncovered a tunnel within the medical complex. Abu Selmia and other staff denied the allegations. Nahedh Abu Jaema, director of the Nasser Hospital in

southern Gaza, which has also been raided by Israeli forces, says Abu Selmia was among 55 Palestinian detainees from Gaza released Monday. He says all but five were taken to Nasser Hospital for medical checks while the others were taken to the Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital in Deir al-Balah. Israel accuses Hamas and other militant groups of sheltering in hospitals and using them for military purposes. Palestinian health officials say Israeli raids have forced several hospitals to shut down or dramatically reduce services, recklessly endangering civilians. Hospitals can lose their protection under international law if they are used for military purposes. In video comments aired by Palestinian media following his release, Abu Selmia accused Israeli authorities of mistreating Palestinian detainees, saying they "are subjected to daily physical and psychological humiliation." The Israeli military says around 20 projectiles were fired from Gaza at communities near the border. There were no immediate reports of casualties or damage from the barrage early Monday.

Nearly 2,000 households evacuated amid potential floods in Myanmar: Nearly 2,000 households in northern Myanmar's Kachin State have been evacuated as the Ayeyarwady River overflowed above the danger mark due to heavy rains. There have been no reported fatalities and ongoing rescue operations, a member from the Kachin state government.

Information wanted notices for missing persons: Amit Laha, Son of Late Binoy Krishna Laha, and Sikha Karmakar, wife of Lt. Kalachand Karmakar.

Information wanted notices for missing persons: Md. Sehabul Islam, Son of Md. Saifuddin Islam, and Amar Pal Chowdhury, Son of Late Banabihari Pal Chowdhury.

Ukraine is releasing thousands of prisoners to join the fight against Russia

ASSOCIATED PRESS DNI PROPETROVSK, 1 JULY Although Ukraine does not announce any details of troop deployment numbers or casualties, frontline commanders openly acknowledge that they are facing serious manpower problems as Russian continues to build up forces in eastern Ukraine and make incremental gains westward. More than 3,000 prisoners already have been released on parole and assigned to military units after their recruitment was approved by parliament in a controversial mobilization bill last month, Ukrainian Deputy Justice Minister Olena Vysotska told The Associated Press. About 27,000 inmates could potentially be eligible for the new program, according to Justice Ministry estimates. "A lot of the motivation comes from (inmates) wanting to return home after, and not to return home from prison," Vysotska said.

France's first-round voting ends

ASSOCIATED PRESS PARIS, 1 JULY France held the first round of an early parliamentary election on Sunday that could bring the country's first far-right government since Nazi occupation during World War II. The second round will come on July 7. The outcome of the vote is highly uncertain. Turnout is unusually high. Three major political blocs are: The far-right National Rally, President Emmanuel Macron's centrist alliance and the New Popular Front coalition that includes center-left, greens and hard-left forces. The French system is complex and not proportionate to nationwide support for a party. After the far right's crushing victory in the European Parliament election earlier this month, Macron called an early vote in France because he otherwise feared the results would lead to paralysis in the legislature. If the National Rally wins a parliamentary majority, Macron would be expected to name 28-year-old National Rally President Jordan Bardella as prime minister in an awkward power-sharing system known as "cohabitation." Bardella said he would oppose sending French troops to Ukraine — a possibility Macron hasn't ruled out — and refuse French deliveries of long-range missiles and other weaponry capable of striking targets within Russia.

Mauritanian Prez Ghazouani wins reelection

ASSOCIATED PRESS NOUAKCHOTT, 1 JULY Mauritanian President Mohamed Ould Cheikh El Ghazouani won reelection in the country's June 29 presidential poll, capturing 56.12 percent of the votes, according to provisional results announced by the Independent National Electoral Commission (CENI). Biram Dah Abeid, the main opposition candidate, came in second with 22.10 percent of the votes, and Hamadi Mohamed Abdi, from the Tavassoul party, was third with 12.76 percent. The CENI said 55.39 per cent of the more than 1.9 million registered voters cast their ballots last Saturday.

POWER OF ATTORNEY NOTIFICATION notices for Saumya Basu and Anjali Construction.

TENDER e-TENDER NOTICE Sealed E-Tender are invited by the undersigned NIT- BDK-II/NIT-01/24-25, BDK-II/NIT-02/24-25 dated: 01.07.2024 of Badkulla-II G.P. Badkulla, Nadia. Last date of submission: 05.07.2024 upto 3.00 pm. For details go to website https://wbttenders.gov.in

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY E-Tender No.: JHS-ENGG-N-2024-129 E-TENDER NOTICE Divisional Railway Manager (Works) N.C. Railway, Jhansi for and behalf of President of India invites sealed "Open Tender" through on Line (E-Tendering) for the following work.

कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता जन स्वास्थ्य अभियांत्रिकी विभाग, वृत्त राजसमंद ई-निविदा सूचना संख्या 01/2024-25 (NIB No PHE2425A0963)

UNIVERSITY OF CALCUTTA University of Calcutta invites the e-tender vide Ref. No. (E-tender / Eng / CT-65 / 24-25 & Tender ID: 2024\_CU\_702644\_1), Dt.: 28-06-2024 & (E-Tender No.: E-tender / Eng / CT-67 / 24-25 & Tender ID: 2024\_CU\_703777\_1), Dt.: 01-07-2024. For details please visit: wbtenders.gov.in

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY Tender Notice No.: 11/2024/RS/JHS Dated: 28.06.2024 TENDER NOTICE For and on behalf of President of India, the Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (Rolling Stock) North Central Railway, Jhansi invites open tenders through online (E-Tendering) for the following work.

e-Auction Notice for Contract e-Auction Notice No.: Comm1-1/MSS-TWnOPS/06/24 Date: 28.06.2024 For and on behalf of the President of India, Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager (Co.) South Eastern Railway, Adra invites e-Auction for the following work: Category: MSS. Auction Catalogue No.: MSSTWnOPS1. Lot No./Category: MSS-ADRA-BKSC-TWnOPS-14-24-1 (Misc-Static-Services—Two wheeler and other parcel packing services).

EASTERN RAILWAY Tender Notice No. EL-24-24 Dated: 28.06.2024. E-tenders are invited by Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (G), Eastern Railway, Asansol Division, Station Road, Asansol, Pin-713301 for the following work from reputed tenderers having valid Electric contractor Licence and capable to complete the following work financially: Name of the Work with its location: Asansol Division - Upgradation/Development of maintenance infrastructure and maintenance facilities for Vande Bharat Train at New Coaching Depot, Asansol.

e-Auction Notice for Leasing of SLR/LVPH e-Auction Notice No.: LEASE-KGP-2024-08 & LEASE-KGP-2024-09 Dated: 01.07.2024 For & on behalf of the President of India, the Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Kharagpur Division, South Eastern Railway invites e-Auction for leasing of SLR/LVPHs for a period of 02 (two) years for transportation of parcels in the trains which are notified in the https://www.ireps.gov.in/website.

SILIGURI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION Baghajatin Road, P.O.: Siliguri, Dist.: Darjeeling, PIN-734001 Phone: (0353) 2432804, 2435444, 2433277, 2433744, 2526780, 2435282, 2536311 Website: www.silgurimc.in E-mail: smcwb2@hotmail.com / smcwb2@gmail.com Memo No. 173 / Estt. / SMC Date: 01-07-24 Notice Applications are invited from the eligible candidates for engagement of the following post purely temporary on contractual basis under Siliguri Municipal Corporation.

SEBI भारतीय प्रतिभूति और विनियम बोर्ड Securities and Exchange Board of India NOTICE Shri G. Ramar, the Adjudicating Officer, Securities and Exchange Board of India ("SEBI") passed Adjudication Orders ("AO") to the following Notices as per the details provided herein below: Orders

# UP: BJP appoints ministers for constituencies facing by-polls

UP minister Anil Kumar has been given charge of the Meerapur assembly seat in Muzaffarnagar

AGENCIES LUCKNOW, 1 JULY

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), in Uttar Pradesh, has started gearing up for assembly by-elections on 10 seats. The BJP has appointed senior ministers to oversee the by-elections in eight of the 10 assembly segments where polls are due.

It is noteworthy that of the 10 Assembly seats bound for the upcoming by-polls, five were won by the SP in the 2022 elections, three by the BJP and one each by its NDA allies NISHAD party and RLD (an SP partner in 2022).

According to the BJP spokesman, the party has appointed two ministers Swatantra Dev Singh and



Ashish Patel (Apna Dal-S) for the Katheri assembly by-elections. The Katheri assembly seat in Ambedkar Nagar district was declared vacant after its sitting SP MLA Lalji Verma got elected to the Lok Sabha from Ambedkar Nagar.

This seat has been either with the BSP or the SP since the nineties. While the BSP has a strong presence in this area,

its candidate was pushed to third place in the Lok Sabha elections.

This has given an edge to the SP in the by-election now. The SP is again hoping to attract the votes of a significant section of the Scheduled Castes with support from the Congress, which was seen in the Lok Sabha polls too.

For the Karhal assembly

seat, the BJP has appointed Minister Jaiveer Singh. Jaiveer Singh was defeated in the recent Lok Sabha elections from Mainpuri, of which Karhal is an assembly segment.

The Karhal seat in Mainpuri district was won by Akhilesh Yadav in the 2022 polls. Karhal has been a stronghold of the SP, which has been winning it since the early 1990s.

In the Milkipur assembly seat -- a part of the Faizabad Lok Sabha seat -- UP Minister Surya Pratap Shahi has been appointed to ensure the victory of the BJP after its defeat here in the Lok Sabha elections. The Milkipur Assembly seat in Ayodhya district has fallen vacant as its SP MLA Awadhesh Prasad, has been elected as the Faizabad (Ayodhya) MP in the Lok Sabha elec-

tions. The Milkipur by-poll is thus set to be a prestige fight between the BJP and the SP, which has been going all-out now to promote Awadhesh Prasad, who belongs to the Pasi (Dalit) community.

The BJP has already started working on its plan to wrest the seat in a bid to re-establish its dominance in the crucial belt.

UP minister Anil Kumar has been given charge of the Meerapur assembly seat in Muzaffarnagar district which comes under the Bijnor Lok Sabha constituency. In 2022, RLD's Chandan Chauhan won the seat in a close fight with the BJP's Prashant Chaudhary. In the 2017 and 2012 assembly elections, the seat was won by the BJP and the BSP candidates respectively.

# Assam CM lauds implementation of new criminal laws, emphasises citizen safety

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE GUWAHATI, 1 JULY

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said on Monday that the three new criminal laws, which came into effect on July 1, 2024, signify a transformative shift towards citizen-centric services, prioritising the safety of women, children, and the underprivileged.

"Today marks a watershed moment in Bharat's criminal justice system. The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam have come into force, replacing 164-year-old colonial legislations," Sarma stated in a post on X. Sarma highlighted the extensive preparations undertaken by Team Assam over many months to ensure the effective implementation of these progressive laws. He urged stakeholders,



Sarma highlighted the extensive preparations undertaken by Team Assam over many months to ensure the effective implementation of these progressive laws.

including police, civil servants, citizens, lawyers, civil society, and the judiciary, to collaborate closely for the laws' successful enforcement. "It is my sincere appeal to all stakeholders to join hands with us in realizing the foundational purpose of these laws," Sarma urged. The new legislation aims to

streamline legal processes, enhance safety measures, and integrate technological advancements to facilitate the efficient delivery of justice.

With these reforms, the state anticipates significant improvements in addressing societal challenges and safeguarding the rights of its citizens, the CM said.

# Nine members of Gauhati University staff arrested in mark sheet fraud case

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE GUWAHATI, 1 JULY

Close on the heels of the NEET-UG paper leak episode that rocked the nation, a similar case has come to light in Assam with the arrest of nine persons by the Assam Police.

The nine accused, including an alleged mastermind, were arrested in connection with a case of mark sheet fraud in Gauhati University that was detected when Azizul Haque, an undergraduate at Ganesh Lal Choudhury College in Barpeta, was found with a counterfeit mark sheet.

According to a police spokesperson, the arrests were made by the police in



Guwahati, Barpeta, Kalgachia, and Dhubri.

Those detained in the case include Krishan Krishnamurti, a Gauhati University employee; Shivtosh Mahato, an employee of Dhubri Law College; and Aminul Islam, a librarian at a college in Dhubri.

Last week, the Postgraduate Students' Union of

Gauhati University accused the university administration of altering final mark sheets in lieu of a bribe during the re-evaluation process. The union complained that the university staff members increased the marks of the candidates in exchange of money. They alleged that the staff charged Rs 16,000 per subject.

Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma assured of a thorough investigation into the matter. "The individuals managing the computerised mark sheet system are accepting bribes to inflate marks. Even a system operator can modify grades within Gauhati University's digital system," he stated.

# UP govt to install over 2,500 solar mast lighting systems

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE LUCKNOW, 1 JULY

In a bid to promote solar and clean energy and raise public awareness about it, the Uttar Pradesh government has initiated the installation of solar-powered mast lighting systems across various districts.

In sync with the vision of Chief Minister Yogi, a detailed action plan was developed to boost solar energy in the state. The Uttar Pradesh New and Renewable Energy Development Agency (UPNEDA) has begun the process of selecting an agency through an e-tender to carry out installation of 2,500 solar mast lighting systems in different districts. Upon selection, the chosen agency will be tasked

with supplying, installing, testing, and commissioning these lights at a cost of Rs 29.78 crore within a four-month timeframe.

Additionally, UPNEDA is actively developing an IVR and dashboard monitoring system to support the land bank management portal and other initiatives.

According to the plan, Solar PV White LED high-mast Light Systems will be installed at selected sites across various districts of the state. These solar-powered mast lights offer unique features. They will utilize a lithium ferro phosphate battery system operating at 12.8 volts, and despite emitting white light, they will not produce ultraviolet rays.

# UP govt provides world-class health facilities at Ayushman Arogya Mandir

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE LUCKNOW, 1 JULY

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Monday said his government's efforts have resulted in 256 health units in the state being awarded the National Quality Assurance Standard (NQAS) certificate for providing high-quality treatment and exceeding health standards.

Additionally, the Yogi government has set goals to bring all health units in the state under NQAS certification by 2026 with an interim target of certifying 50 percent of the health units by December 2025.

The UP government has also launched the Ayushman Arogya Mandir initiative, which

seeks to offer world-class healthcare facilities to people in their neighbourhood. This allows residents to spend their hard-earned money on their families' well-being rather than on treatments at private hospitals or clinics run by untrained doctors.

BNHM General Manager Dr. Nishant Kumar Jaiswal said, "The Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare awards the NQAS certificate to health units that meet every patient treatment and care standard. Every effort is being made to bring more health units under the NQAS certification within the next three months."

He added, "Certified by the International Society for Quality in Health Care (ISQua),

NQAS-certified health units meet international standards. This is evidenced by 256 NQAS-certified health units providing quality health services to people close to their homes, thereby increasing public trust in the healthcare system."

The quality of clinical services in Primary Health Centers (PHCs) is assessed based on key clinical services outlined by the National Quality Assurance Standards (NQAS).

This includes standards for consultation, admission, assessment, continuity of care, nursing care, drug safety, adherence to standard treatment guidelines, emergency services, laboratory services, medical records, and discharge processes.

# Public safety top priority during floods; all districts must remain on high alert: UPCM

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE LUCKNOW, 1 JULY

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Monday said there has been an unprecedented reduction in the number of districts highly sensitive to flooding.

"Following expert advice, we have successfully minimized flood risks by using the latest technology. Besides, effective inter-departmental coordination has played a crucial role in protecting lives from floods. This year as well, the safety of people should be ensured through better coordination, swift action, and improved management in the event of floods," he instructed.

CM made these statements while reviewing the



ongoing flood management preparations and safety measures with senior officials here on Monday.

CM admitted that in the past seven years, well-planned efforts to find a permanent solution to the longstanding problem of floods, which

have caused widespread loss of life and property in the state, have produced positive results.

A total of 24 districts in the state are categorized as highly sensitive to flooding. These include Maharajganj, Kushinagar, Lakhimpur Kheri,

Gorakhpur, Basti, Bahraich, Bijnor, Siddharthnagar, Ghazipur, Gonda, Ballia, Deoria, Sitapur, Balrampur, Ayodhya, Mau, Farrukhabad, Shravasti, Budaun, Ambedkar Nagar, Azamgarh, Sant Kabir Nagar, Pilibhit, and Barabanki.

While Saharanpur, Shamli, Aligarh, Bareilly, Hamirpur, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Ramapur, Prayagraj, Bulandshahr, Moradabad, Hardoi, Varanasi, Unnao, Lucknow, Shahjahanpur, and Kasganj are considered sensitive.

CM instructed the concerned officials that a sufficient reserve stock should be collected for flood emergencies in highly sensitive and sensitive areas.

Adequate lighting and necessary equipment should

also be arranged at these sites. The state Jal Shakti Minister and both State Ministers should visit the highly sensitive and sensitive areas, as well as inspect the projects related to flood protection.

He said as per the forecast of the Meteorological Department, there will be sufficient rainfall this year. Maintain vigilance in the districts bordering Nepal and Uttarakhand. Flood bulletins and weather forecasts should be issued regularly for the convenience of the general public and for better management of relief and rescue operations.

During the meeting, the Chief Minister was briefed that ensuring the safety of people and property remains a top priority, and timely prepa-

rations have been made for flood protection in 2024.

Maintenance work on 37 embankments across 17 highly sensitive districts has been successfully completed.

Officers-in-charge and Assistant Engineers have been nominated for all highly sensitive embankments, with continuous inspection and monitoring conducted by regional officers and staff.

The CM was also informed that flood prevention works have been completed through flood projects by identifying the highly sensitive/sensitive places affected by floods in the year 2023.

Steering group meetings chaired by District Magistrates have been convened in all 75 districts to address flood-related challenges.

# Over 50,000 affected by heavy rains in Arunachal Pradesh, infrastructure severely hit

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE ITANAGAR, 1 JULY

Heavy rains have affected over 50,000 people in Arunachal Pradesh, causing extensive damage to road infrastructure and disrupting connectivity and communication across various districts.

The continuous downpours have led to the collapse of the crucial Kurung bridge in Kurung Kumey district, severing the link between the district headquarters and key areas such as Sangram, Palin, Yachuli, Yazali, and Itanagar.

This collapse has isolat-

ed several communities and hindered access to the international border areas of Sari and Huri.

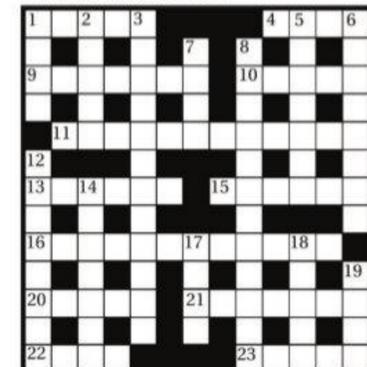
The Aalo-Mechuka road, vital for Army personnel in Shi-Yomi district, has also been damaged.

The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) is actively working to clear the road. Additionally, the Pasighat-Pangin-Aalo road near Tarak village in Siang district has suffered damage, leaving many vehicles stranded.

In Itanagar, authorities have conducted an eviction drive to remove illegal structures along National Highway 415.

## LEISURE

### 10 MINUTE CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- Prize (5)
  - Lend (4)
  - Jumbled (7)
  - Wounded (5)
  - Part of the Bible (3,9)
  - Sweet (6)
  - Platforms (6)
  - Rendered less significant (12)
  - Civilian dress (5)
  - Rider's foot support (7)
  - Perennial plant (4)
  - Taking of property (5)
- DOWN**
- Company emblem (4)
  - Brink, margin (5)
  - Connection, liaison (12)
  - Luxurious (7)
  - Bedtime drink (8)
  - Betting chances (4)
  - Houdini, for example (12)
  - Not typical (8)
  - Necessary (7)
  - Church recess (4)
  - Weird (5)
  - Petty squabble (4)

**SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD**

**ACROSS**

- Too, 3 Pay (Toupee)
- Sadness, mend
- Bingo, Evident
- Ebb, Lie
- Penetration, Thrush
- Sadness, mend
- Bingo, Evident
- Ebb, Lie
- Ring a bell, Turgid
- On the mend, 16 Sable
- 3 Per, 4 Yeast, 17 Eyot, 20 Nib
- Talc, 12 Ring a bell, 14 Turgid, 15 Statute, 16 Sable, 17 Eyot, 20 Nib, 6 Gatecrasher, 20 Nib

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

### BEEBLE BAILEY/Mort Walker



### RED EYE/Bill Yates & Mel Casson



### DADDY DAZE/John Kovalski



### NEED TO KNOW

- Ambulance**  
FD Block Association (Amb) 9830452536, 9830181286  
Happy Calltans 24400160  
City Point Nurses Centre 2567-4113, 9831142623  
People's Relief Committee 2280-4943/9444
- 24 hrs Medical Oxygen Delivery**  
BOC India Ltd. 9831277777
- Blood Banks**  
Ashok Laboratory 24720333  
Central Blood Bank 23510619
- Life Care** 2284-6940  
**Peoples Blood Bank** 2455-5164/5557  
**RK Mission Seva Pratishthan** 2475-3636/39
- Police/Fire**  
Lalbazar (Police Control Room) 22143230  
S. P. (North 24-Pgns) 25423005  
S. P. (South 24-Pgns) 2479-3333/1311  
Bhawani Bhawan 24791761/9, 24791933  
Fire Service Station Salt Lake: 2357-5293;
- Howrah** 2666-8111; Behala 2497-6285
- Civic Services**  
Kolkata Municipal Corporation: 2286-1000  
Water: 2543-1602
- Calcutta Telephones**  
Changed Number Announcement: 1951,1952,1953
- Taxi Refusal**  
SMS 575756: Complaint and registration
- Police Toll Free No.** 1073  
Transport Deptt. No. 6451-6718
- CESC Fault Reporting**  
1912 and 4403-1912
- Trains**  
Howrah Station Old Complex 1331/1332 (Auto Telephone Numbers), 1310, 2636, 7412/3542/2581 (manual), Sealdah: 2350-3535, 3537  
Shalimar Station: 2668-1121, Eastern Railway and South-Eastern Railway: 139.

**SCRABBLE** (G, R, A, M, S) BRAND

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YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION BY JUDU

FOUR RACK TOTAL

TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2-3 letter word from the letters in each row. All parts of each word, using scoring directions at right? Letter words get 10-point bonus. "Blank" does not have any point value. All Judd's words are in The Official Scrabble Players Dictionary (MSRWNW) and ODPW Official Scrabble Words (Chamberlain). JUDU'S SOLUTIONS TO SCRABBLE

10-05-12

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10-05-12

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**SUDOKU** Concepts Sudoku By Dave Green

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

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

Answer to previous puzzle

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

## Globalised management education: Opportunities and challenges for universities

KONERU LAKSHMAN HAVISH

In the ever-changing field of management education, globalisation has created a wave of opportunities and challenges for universities. This global exchange of concepts, resources, and strategies has improved education worldwide and encouraged the incorporation of knowledge and cultural awareness. To complement this pattern, government initiatives such as NEP 2020 have strengthened educational frameworks, emphasising innovation and international collaboration. Among the advantages are challenges such as adjusting to a new culture, guaranteeing quality, and upholding academic integrity. However, for universities, embracing globalisation represents an evolution towards a more inclusive and integrated educational paradigm rather than merely a journey.

Within the myriad domains influenced by globalisation, management education emerges as a focal point of transformation, offering students dynamic exposure to diverse perspectives, practices, and cultures. Globalisation makes it easier to exchange concepts and knowledge across national boundaries and eliminates geographical barriers, which makes management education more dynamic and diversified. Furthermore, students are exposed to a globalised business world in which they can work on international case studies, collaborate with peers from various cultural backgrounds, and gain knowledge from educators with diverse skills. This dynamic exposure provides students with the cross-cultural skills and global views required for success in today's interconnected society.

### Opportunities and challenges

Students pursuing education, particularly management education, faced numerous challenges prior to the globalisation of education. Their limited resources restricted their access to a wide range of management programs, often requiring them to stick to traditional, regionally-focused curricula. With few opportunities for exposure to global partnerships, cross-cultural management strategies, or global corporate practices, management education had a limited reach. As a result, prospective managers were unable to deal with the globalised economy, lacking the interdisciplinary abilities and global perspectives required by modern enterprises. Furthermore, the restricted



scope of management education stifled innovation and hindered students' ability to compete in an increasingly interconnected world. Thus, to mitigate the challenges, the globalisation of management education presents a vast array of opportunities. Here's a look at the opportunities that have ushered in a new era for universities-

### Technological advancements

Despite the globalisation of management education, technology advancements serve as a source of innovation. With their ability to provide dynamic learning experiences, e-learning platforms, digital materials, and smart classrooms have completely transformed the face of education. These resources promote accessibility across many geographic borders in addition to engaging learners. The increased diversity and collaboration brought about by the globalisation of education enriches universities with a global reservoir of talent, knowledge, and viewpoints.

### Enhanced access to information

The development of digital technology and the internet has been a major factor in how

globalisation has affected management education. The use of e-learning platforms, educational websites, and online resources has expanded educational opportunities, especially for those living in remote areas. Students can add a plethora of knowledge to their learning experiences thanks to this accessibility. Thus, in order to provide equal access for all students, universities have already embraced the challenge of improving digital infrastructure, proving their dedication to promoting inclusivity and improving the educational experience.

### International collaboration and exchange programs

Collaboration between Indian institutions and those overseas has been sparked by globalisation in management education. Cultural exchange and a diversity of academic practices are made possible by the increasing prevalence of exchange programs, student mobility, and joint research initiatives. These experiences help both learners and educators alike develop a global perspective. In an effort to foster seamless global ties and guarantee the highest standards of academic brilliance, universities

have taken proactive steps to accelerate logistics and preserve academic integrity in cross-border collaborations.

### Exposure to global perspectives

For Indian students, exposure to a range of viewpoints is beneficial in the context of globalisation in management education. The worldwide challenges they encounter are widened by international curricula, multicultural settings, and interactions with classmates from different countries. This stimulating event promotes a more holistic world view in students. Universities around the world are facing new opportunities and challenges as a result of the globalisation of management education. As borders blur and collaboration thrives, students acquire essential exposure to a variety of ideas and strategies. While technology innovations and multinational collaborations improve the educational landscape, universities must stay diligent in resolving obstacles to ensure fair access and academic integrity.

The writer is vice president at KL deemed to be university.

## Students' Space

### Vivacious Vocabulary

#### INEFFABLE

Adjective  
Pronunciation: In-eff-able  
Meaning: Too great or extreme to be expressed in words  
Example: The ineffable mysteries of the soul  
Synonyms: Inexpressible, indescribable, unmentionable

#### JUBILANT

Adjective  
Pronunciation: Joo-bi-luhnt  
Meaning: Feeling or expressing great happiness and triumph  
Example: A large number of jubilant fans ran on to the pitch  
Synonyms: Overjoyed, joyful

#### KITH

Noun  
Pronunciation: Kee-th  
Meaning: Your friends and acquaintances  
Example: They invited all their kith to their new home  
Synonyms: Friends

#### LAMBENT

Adjective  
Pronunciation: Laam-bent  
Meaning: (Of light or fire) glowing, gleaming, or flickering with a soft radiance  
Example: The magical, lambent light of the North  
Synonyms: Numinous, shining, glowing, dazzling

Compiled by GRACE ANDREW

If you are a school or college student who has a poem, essay or other fiction or nonfiction pieces which you would like to share with The Statesman's readers please write in with your submission to [readers@thestatesmangroup.com](mailto:readers@thestatesmangroup.com). Don't forget to mention your name, the name of your school, your class and your phone number. Please write "C&C" in the subject field. Publication is at the discretion of the editors.

## The world I dream

Welcome to the world I dream,  
A world where there is nothing like fake.  
A world where there is just no hate.  
A world of wisdom,  
A world of faith.  
A world where no one dies because of caste or hate.  
A world where no one has to be fake.  
A world where love rises high and joy touches the sky.  
A world where all religions are the same,  
A world where there is no war or greed,  
This is the world I dream.  
Let's put a bit of love in our lives,  
Let's make our Earth a better place to survive,  
No matter our colour or weight,  
A world where one can write about her own fate.  
This is the world I dream to make.

Aradhya Pandey, Class 8

## Escrow services - Bolstering trust in secured educational transactions

VAIBHAV TAMBE

Learning and development now exceed the traditional classrooms. In the current digital times, access to education and knowledge has become democratised. As the Indian economy strengthens, a growing middle class shows prowess in seeking quality services and access to knowledge. There has been a rapid influx of people seeking education overseas and also taking big-ticket courses domestically. Given the cash inflow and outflow of scale to be taken care of for a seamless experience by the learners and their families, escrow services have come to the forefront for seamless, secure and trustworthy exchange of cash, hence, understanding the role of escrow services in transforming educational transactions.

Escrow services providers are third parties that secure the funds in an encrypted account while ensuring that the funds remain there till the agreed conditions are met by both parties. In simpler words, escrow services secure the funds from the student and don't release them to the institute until they confirm their enrollment and other necessary access that will impact the student's candidature at the institute.

### How do students benefit from these services?

**Security against fraud:** In the virtual environment, open-ended systems have often led to people questioning the trustworthiness towards taking the digital path. Escrow services drive out this fear as they do not transfer the funds to the institutes that do not meet the pre-determined commitments.

**Mental security:** The funds pooled for education often hold a very high sentiment value, and one must be mentally engaged

in it before investing. Knowing that the money is secure and not being mishandled or leading to uncertainty, escrow accounts create a win-win situation for the students.

**Resolving disputes:** Escrow services help by providing real-time dispute resolution for any escalations and disagreements that may arise between the learners and the institutes.

### Ease of bite-sized payments:

Escrow allows students to pay in instalments with the escrow provider, who releases funds through their course's progress.

### How do educational institutes benefit?

**Heightened trust factor:** Using escrow services invokes best practices followed by the institute, which, in turn, potentially helps boost confidence among the students.

**Lower risk of finances:** Educational institutes can feel assured that the prospective students are financially sound to complete their courses.

**Hassle-free payments:** Easing cumbersome administrative tasks, escrow services providers aid quick and faster payment processes.

**Global reach:** As aforementioned, escrow works best with cross-border fund transfers, increasing opportunities to help institutes tap into international students seeking overseas education.

### How do escrow service providers facilitate educational transactions?

As part of the initial phase, a detailed agreement is inked between the student and the institute regarding the course, with a detailed overview of tuition fee tenure and other aspects revolving around it. The student then deposits the payment to the escrow account. Following this, the institute confirms their necessary deliveries regarding the student's candidature and enrolment in the course as per the agreement. Once the conditions are fulfilled, the escrow service provider releases the funds to the institute. As a crucial consideration, students and institutes must look into factors like the fees and reputation of the escrow service.

**Escrow services' future in educational transactions**  
Given that online learning and development keep growing further in the digital sphere, there will be immense opportunities where-in escrow services will play an active role through educational transactions. Relying on blockchain technology, escrow services are the future in fool-proofing transactions by providing seamless security and transparency to all stakeholders. To conclude, escrow services will keep playing a vital role in transforming educational transactions by making them trustworthy and increasingly transparent and helping transactional communications become seamless between the students and the institutes.



The writer is founder and CEO, TransBnk

## University of Strathclyde offering international scholarships for undergraduate engineering programs

The University of Strathclyde, Glasgow, is offering a number of scholarships for its applicants joining undergraduate courses in the faculty of engineering in September 2024.

All self-funded, international (non-EU) fee-paying offer holders with strong academic qualifications are encouraged to apply. Please note - applicants must hold an offer to a full-time undergraduate degree course starting in September 2024 in the Faculty of Engineering before their scholarship application is considered.

If applicants are applying for an undergraduate degree course, they'll receive a scholarship award equivalent to a 10 per cent reduction of their fees for each year of study. Their first year's scholarship will typically be £2,670.\*

### Key facts

**Number of scholarships:** Varies  
**Value:** Typically £2,670  
**Deadline:** 16 September 2024  
**Helps with:** Tuition fees  
**Duration:** Varies  
**Eligibility:** Candidates with strong

**Subject eligibility** - Architecture, biomedical engineering, chemical engineering, civil and environmental engineering, design manufacture and engineering management, electronic and electrical engineering, mechanical and aerospace engineering, naval architecture, ocean and marine engineering, aeronautical engineering, civil engineering, environmental engineering, mechanical engineering, naval architecture, ocean engineering, product design, prosthetics and orthotics, renewable energy, sports engineering,

engineering, marine engineering.

### How to apply

You should write no more than 250 words on why you should receive a faculty of engineering international scholarship.

### The application process

**Step 1** - Apply for the engineering course of your choice  
**Step 2** - Receive an offer letter for your degree course  
**Step 3** - Submit the scholarship application form  
**Step 4** - If you're successful, you'll receive your scholarship offer letter via email.  
\*The amount varies for selected courses with a different fee, including courses within architecture and biomedical engineering.





**'HIS COACHING IS VERY SILENT AND CORRECT'**

Former India head coach Lalchand Rajput expressed his feelings on former skipper Rahul Dravid's coaching tenure after Men in Blue clinched their second ICC T20 World Cup title on Saturday. A fine exhibition of death bowling by trio of Arshdeep Singh, Jasprit Bumrah and Hardik Pandya and stupendous knocks by Virat Kohli and Axar Patel helped India end their ICC trophy drought, securing their second ICC T20 World Cup title by beating South Africa by seven runs in a thrilling final at Barbados on Saturday.

For more updates [www.thestatesman.com](http://www.thestatesman.com)

# Shah confirms seniors will continue as India target 2025 Champions Trophy

Jay Shah revealed that T20 World Cup-winning head coach Rahul Dravid wanted to quit the position due to family commitments

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, 1 JULY

The retirement of three greats — Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli and Ravindra Jadeja — from the shortest format has already started the transition phase in Indian cricket, feels BCCI secretary Jay Shah, who confirmed that the seniors will continue to form the core in the ODI and Test formats as India target next year's ICC Champions Trophy in Pakistan and the third World Test Championship final.

The Champions Trophy, as a competition, was discontinued in 2017 due to the declining relevance of the tournament in the Future Tours Programme (FTP) and the emergence of the T20 World Cup as a second marquee tournament after the ODI World Cup. But it will be restored early 2025 as Pakistan readies to host the big-ticket event, despite concerns over India's participation due to frosty relations between the two neighbours.

A couple of days after Rohit Sharma & Co helped India end a 11-year ICC title drought, Shah was effusive in his praise for the entire bunch, especially the wealth of experience brought in by the senior players that helped India lift the T20 World Cup in Barbados. While Rohit led



the batting charts for India besides leading the squad, Kohli emerged as the Player of the Match in the final with his 59-ball 76.

"We won all games (ODI World Cup) except the final in 2023 as Australia played better. This time we worked even harder and played better to win the title. If you look at other teams, experience counts. From Rohit to Virat, all excelled. Experience makes a lot of difference, in World Cups you can't experiment much also," Shah said.

"A good player knows when to say goodbye to the

game, we saw that yesterday. You look at Rohit's strike rate, it is better than a lot of young players," he added.

Shah also assured the presence of the trio as India targets the ICC Champions Trophy, which it lost to arch-rivals Pakistan when the tournament was last held in 2017. This means that the senior players, fitness permitting, are likely to be available for the nine ODI matches that India will play before the Champions Trophy scheduled for February-March 2025 in Pakistan.

India's ODI assignments

before that include three games each against Sri Lanka (away), New Zealand (home) and England (home).

"The way this team is progressing, our target is to win the World Test Championship final and Champions Trophy. There will be a similar squad playing there. The seniors will be there," he said while conceding that the transition period in Indian cricket has already begun after Rohit, Virat and Jadeja's announcements.

With only a handful of players from the T20 World Cup squad set to fly out to



Zimbabwe for the brief T20 series, Shah said the country possesses the biggest bench strength and can field three different teams if the need arises.

India, who had lost big finals in the past decade, finally ended their title drought after losing two ICC finals - World Test Championship and ODI World Cup final - over the last 12 months and Shah hoped the winning run would continue.

"I would want India to win all the titles. We have the biggest bench strength, only three players from this team

are going to Zimbabwe. We can field three teams if the need arises," he said.

On Hardik's all-round performance in the T20 World Cup and chances of him taking over the captaincy from Rohit, Shah said, "Captaincy will be decided by the selectors and we will announce it after discussing with them. You asked about Hardik, there were a lot of questions over his form but the selectors showed faith in him and he proved himself."

BCCI to announce head coach before Sri Lanka tour. Jay Shah revealed that

T20 World Cup-winning head coach Rahul Dravid wanted to quit the position due to family commitments, and confirmed that the Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC) has already interviewed two candidates for the coveted post and that the new coach will begin his stint from the Sri Lanka series.

"He (Dravid) told me that due to family commitments he wants to quit and we respect his decision. I didn't force him to extend," Shah said while hailing Dravid's contribution to Indian cricket first as a cricketer, then as

administrator and coach. "Rahul bhai has served Indian cricket for the past five and half years. He was director of the National Cricket Academy for three years and then for the past two and half years, he served as head coach of Team India," said Shah.

Explaining the reason behind extending Dravid's continuation at the post after the final loss in 2023 ODI World Cup, Shah said, "Dravid's role is as important as Rohit Sharma in this T20 World Cup title triumph. He is a man, who took the team to the 2023 ODI World Cup final and didn't want to leave because he wanted to finish the job."

Shah further said that he will announce the new coach shortly among the two interviewed candidates once he returns to Mumbai. "CAC has interviewed and short-listed two names and after reaching Mumbai whatever they have decided we will go by that. VVS Laxman is going to Zimbabwe but a new coach will join from the Sri Lanka series," he informed. Former India opener Gautam Gambhir has been tipped as a front-runner to take over from Dravid even though chances of former women's team head coach WV Raman couldn't be entirely ruled out.

## Hurricane warning delays homecoming of newly-crowned T20 World Champions

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, 1 JULY

A hurricane warning has delayed the return of the T20 World Cup-winning Indian cricket team, and left the entire Indian contingent, including the players, BCCI office-bearers and media persons stranded in Barbados.

Hurricane Beryl (Category 4) is expected to pass by Barbados on Sunday night local time with the centre of the storm approximately 80 miles off the south coast. India are currently staying at the Hilton Hotel. Beryl was initially classified as a category 3 storm on Sunday, with it expected to have severe consequences once it makes landfall in Barbados.

According to a report in the Washington Post, Beryl is anticipated to hit the Windward Islands with winds exceeding 130 mph. Hurricane Warn-



ings are in effect for Barbados, St. Lucia, St. Vincent & The Grenadines, Grenada, and Tobago island. The storm is projected to maintain its strength while traveling across the southeastern and central Caribbean Sea from late Monday through Wednesday, according to the Hurricane Center.

The World Cup winning Indian team was initially planning a charter straight home but the airport has been closed since Sunday evening. South Africa had left earlier on Sunday.

"Like you we are also stuck here. After the travel plans are clear, we will think about the felicitation," BCCI secretary Jay Shah told reporters in Barbados.

India completed a dominant run in the T20 World Cup winning all their games before emerging victorious in the nail-biting title dash against South Africa by seven runs on Saturday.

With the team being stranded in Barbados, it could also jeopardise India's next assignment in Zimbabwe as a few members of the World Cup-winning squad are expected to directly fly out to Harare for the brief T20 series, starting July 6.

Among the stranded ones, Yashvi Jaiswal, Sanju Samson and Shivam Dube were part of the World Cup squad while Rinku Singh and Khaleel Ahmed were among the reserves for the mega event.

## Euro 2024: Spain ease past Georgia to book quarterfinal berth

AGENCIES  
BERLIN, 1 JULY

Spain recovered from one goal down to overpower stubborn Georgia 4-1 in Euro 2024 round of 16 at Cologne's sold-out Rhein-Energie Stadium late on Sunday.

Spain started on the front foot and created several chances in the opening stage, but Georgia goalkeeper Giorgi Mamardashvili was equal to the efforts from Daniel Carvajal and Pedro, while Nico Williams pulled wide from the edge of the box.

The opener was scored at the end of the pitch though and with great assistance of Spain defender Robin Le Normand, who deared Otar Kakabadze's cross into the wrong goal giving Georgia the 1-0 lead in the 18th minute.

Spain responded with furious attacks and had to wait as Fabian Ruiz, Pedro and Marc Cucurella couldn't beat Mamardashvili, who had his hands full of work.

Luis de la Fuente's men got eventually rewarded for their power play just before the half time as Williams teed up for Rodri, whose left-footed shot into the bottom right corner left Mamardashvili chanceless in the 39th minute.

Georgia remained dangerous after the break as Khvicha Kvaratskhelia tried to catch Spain custodian Unai Simon flat-footed with a shot from the distance, reports Xinhua.

Spain went in search of the lead and made it 2-1 with 51 minutes gone as Lamine Yamal's pinpoint cross found Ruiz, who nodded home from close range.

Georgia went all in and got caught off-guard following a counterattack as Fabian's long ball allowed Williams to finish the job with a solo run and hammer into the roof of the net in the 75th minute.

The relentless Spaniards weren't done with the scoring and made it four in the closing stage after Dani Olmo's low strike beat Mamardashvili into the bottom left corner.

## Dinesh Karthik named RCB batting coach and mentor

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, 1 JULY

Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) have named Dinesh Karthik as the batting coach and batting mentor of their men's Indian Premier League (IPL) team.

The 39-year-old Karthik retired from all forms of representative cricket at the end of the 2024 IPL season. The wicketkeeper-batter was a part of the RCB franchise since the IPL 2022 mega auction and stayed with them for three seasons. He also had a stint with them in 2015 for one season.

Karthik finished his IPL career on a high with 326 runs from 13 innings in the 2024 season at a strike rate of 187.35. Overall, Karthik played 60 games for RCB in the tournament and scored 937 runs at an average of 24.65 and a strike rate of 162.95. His run tally is currently the second-highest for an Indian player for RCB in the IPL, behind Virat Kohli. Karthik also took 36 catches and affected nine stumpings during his RCB career.



"Coaching at a professional level is incredibly exciting for me and is something I'm truly passionate about as a new chapter in my life. Hopefully, the breadth of my experiences as a player can contribute to the development of the group and add value," Karthik said.

"I believe that crickets success hinges not only on technical proficiency but also on match intelligence and composure. I am eager to coach and mentor our batting group, helping them to not only refine their method but also to develop the keen match awareness needed to excel under pressure. It's also great that I can continue my association with RCB as the franchise continues to move from strength to strength," he added.

At RCB, Karthik will work alongside head coach Andy Flower, bowling coach Adam Griffith and director of cricket Mo Bobat.

"DK is an excellent addition to our coaching group," Bobat said. "He was thrilling to watch on the field, and I'm sure he will be just as impactful as a coach. His longevity and track record as a player speaks volumes about his skill and dedication. I know he will bring that same quality and commitment to this new professional chapter." Karthik has very little coaching experience, and the only one was when he was roped in by the England Cricket Board to mentor the England Lions when they toured India in January earlier this year.

## THE STATESMAN AWARDS FOR RURAL REPORTING

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

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

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

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

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## THE CUSHROW IRANI PRIZE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTING

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

THE AWARDS COMMITTEE

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KOLKATA 700 001.

IMPORTANT

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

For any query please write to [prasantob57@gmail.com](mailto:prasantob57@gmail.com)