



# The Statesman



www.thestatesman.com

X.com/thestatesmanindia  
Fb/thestatesman1875

INDIA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1818

PEOPLE'S PARLIAMENT, ALWAYS IN SESSION

FRIDAY  
12 JULY 2024

Pages 12 | ₹ 5.00/LC

KOLKATA | NEW DELHI | SILIGURI | BHUBANESWAR



**SOME STRAY THOUGHTS ON INDIA'S SPORTING JOURNEY**

P7



**BALANCED DIPLOMACY**

P6



**RAHUL REITERATES DEMAND FOR PM'S VISIT TO MANIPUR**

P10

**GAMBHIR WANTS TEN DOESCHATE IN COACHING STAFF**



P12

SENSEX 79,897.34 ▼ 27.43

NIFTY 24,315.95 ▼ 8.50

₹ vs \$ 83.56

GOLD 73,420 ▲ 220

SILVER 95,500 ▲ 1000

BRENT CRUDE (IN \$) 83.00 ▲ 0.27

## WEATHER

Generally cloudy sky. Possibility of rain/thunder shower towards night. Maximum and minimum temperatures likely to be around 34 °C and 28 °C respectively.

RAINFALL: NIL

RELATIVE HUMIDITY

Max. 87 % Min. 60 %

TEMPERATURE

Max: 35.3 °C (+2.5) Min: 29.2 °C (+2.3)

SUN RISES 04:60 hrs SUN SETS 18:25 hrs

MOON RISES 09:32 hrs MOON SETS 22:6 hrs

Full Moon on 21 July

## THUMBNAILS



The Dharmaveer Swarajya Rakshak Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj Mumbai Coastal Road (South) project has been temporarily opened for traffic. In Mumbai on Thursday. ■ ANI

**Brij Bhushan Sharan trial:** A Delhi court on Thursday directed to begin the trial and recording of statements of prosecution witnesses in an alleged sexual harassment case against former MP and former WFI chief Brij Bhushan Sharan and aide Vinod Tomar from 26 July. Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate Priyanka Rajpoot on Thursday issued summons to two prosecution witnesses for 26 July. The court on 21 May framed the charges against Singh and Tomar.

## 'No indication of mass malpractice in NEET'

Counselling to start from third week of July: Central govt to Supreme Court



A group of students met Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan at his residence in connection with the NEET-UG examination, in New Delhi on Thursday. ■ ANI

**PARMOD KUMAR**  
NEW DELHI, 11 JULY

Denying any mass malpractice in the conduct of the NEET-UG 2024 exam, the Central government has told the Supreme Court that data analytics done by the Indian Institute of Technology Madras, shows that there is neither any indication of mass malpractice nor a localised set of candidates being benefitted leading to abnormal scores.

Apparently, this is in reference to 67 candidates scoring perfect 720 marks. In 2020 one candidate scored perfect 720 marks, three in 2021, one in 2022

and two in 2023. The Central government, in its affidavit, filed on Thursday, also said that the counselling will be conducted in four rounds starting from the third week of July.

Assuring that wrongdoers would not be permitted to go scot-free, the central government has said, "For any candidate, if it is found that he/she has been the beneficiary of any malpractice, the candidature of such person would be cancelled at any stage during the counselling process or even afterwards."

Terming as fake the video showing a photo of the NEET-UG paper leaked on Telegram on 4 May, the National Testing Agency

## CBI arrests key accused in NEET paper leak case

**STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, 11 JULY

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has arrested key accused Rakesh Ranjan alias Rocky from Bihar's Nalanda in connection with the NEET paper leak case.

Ranjan's arrest brings a significant advancement in the investigation, the agency said on Thursday. Rakesh Ranjan, who is believed to be a one of key player in the NEET paper leak network, was taken into custody following a planned operation by the CBI. "Before his arrest,

in its affidavit has said: "The timestamp was manipulated to create a false impression of an early leak." Stating that it has carried out an analysis of distribution of marks of candidates in NEET-UG 2024 at National, State and City level, the NTA has said: "This analysis indicates that the distribution of marks is quite normal and

the CBI set a trap and conducted raids at four locations in the vicinity of Patna and in Kolkata," a senior CBI official told ANI news agency.

Ranjan's arrest is seen as a crucial step towards uncovering the full extent of the malpractice that has cast a shadow over the integrity of one of India's most important entrance examinations, the agency said. The CBI's investigation has so far resulted in the arrest of over dozen of suspects, each allegedly playing a role in the leak and distribution of the NEET exam papers.

there seems to be no extraneous factor, which would influence the distribution of marks".

The SC on Thursday adjourned for 18 July the hearing on a batch of petitions seeking the cancellations of the NEET-UG 2024 exam on the grounds of paper leak and other irregularities in the conduct of the examination on 5 May 2024.

## Mob assault video: BJP, section of media deliberately maligning the state, says CM

**STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE**  
KOLKATA, 11 JULY

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Thursday accused the BJP and a section of the media of maligning the state after an old video of a mob assault in Ariadaha in North 24-Parganas began circulating just before the by-elections for four Assembly constituencies held yesterday.

Speaking to mediapersons at Kolkata airport, Miss Banerjee also held former BJP MP from Barrackpore Arjun Singh responsible for the rise of Jayanta Singh, the alleged mastermind behind the Ariadaha incident.

Jayanta Singh has been arrested by police after the video showing his gang members assaulting people, including a woman, in his den, went viral.

Miss Banerjee said the two-year-old incident happened when Arjun Singh was BJP MP of Barrackpore Lok Sabha constituency.

There was a BJP MP in Barrackpore when Jayanta amassed wealth and rose to fame. He also tried to foil the 2021 Assembly election, Miss Banerjee said.

She accused a section of the TV channels of show-



**Miss Banerjee, who was leaving for Mumbai, said that she will separately meet Shiv Sena-UBT chief Uddhav Thackeray, NCP-SP chief Sharad Pawar and the Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav during her two-day trip.**

ing the old incident repeatedly at the behest of the BJP ahead of Wednesday's by-elections. "This was done deliberately to create false propaganda before the polls. Even an event of 2021 was highlighted. I might adopt legal steps against such things," the chief minister said.

Miss Banerjee, who was leaving for Mumbai, said that she will separately meet Shiv Sena-UBT chief Uddhav Thackeray, NCP-SP chief Sharad Pawar and the Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav during her two-day trip to attend the

marriage function of industrialist Mukesh Ambani's son Anant Ambani.

"I will meet Uddhav Thackeray, whom I have not met for quite some time, there tomorrow. I will have political discussions with him. I will also go to the residence of Sharad Pawar and meet him. I heard that Akhilesh Yadav will be there. I will also meet him. I will be coming back to Kolkata on Saturday," she said.

The Shiv Sena, TMC, NCP, and SP are part of the opposition alliance INDIA at the national level along with the Congress.

## EAM calls for deeper cooperation among Bay of Bengal nations

**STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, 11 JULY

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Thursday called upon the BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation) countries to infuse new energies, new resources and a new commitment into cooperation among the members of the grouping.

"For India, BIMSTEC represents the intersection of its 'Neighbourhood First' outlook, the 'Act East Policy' and the 'SAGAR' vision," he said, addressing the BIMSTEC Foreign Ministers' Retreat. The meeting is being attended by the foreign ministers or senior representatives of the governments of India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Myanmar.

Recalling that the BIMSTEC countries had last met in a similar format in Bangkok in July last year, Mr Jaishankar



said much has happened since then and this should spur their endeavours to deepen and broaden the activities of BIMSTEC.

The BIMSTEC Charter, for a start, has come into effect from 20 May this year. "Global and regional developments also make it imperative that we find more solutions amongst ourselves," he said.

He said there are long-standing goals such as capacity-building and economic cooperation that have acquired a new urgency. "And not least, a grouping that is so complementary and so congenial in

its membership should surely harbour higher aspirations. Our hope is that these would be expressed as shared and ambitious BIMSTEC Vision."

Mr Jaishankar meeting Myanmar's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister U Than Swe on the sidelines of the retreat, pressed for the early release of unlawfully detained Indians by cyber scam gangs in Myanmar.

"Met with DPM and FM U Than Swe of Myanmar on the sidelines of BIMSTEC Foreign Ministers' Retreat. Shared our concerns regarding border stability and flow of displaced persons. Also spoke about issues of illegal narcotics and arms trade and activities of insurgent groups," said Mr Jaishankar in a post on microblogging site X. "Pressed strongly for the early return of Indians unlawfully detained," he asserted, stressing India's firm stance on securing the release of its citizens from unlawful captivity.

## Minors gang-rape, murder 8-yr-old in Andhra shocker

**STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE**  
HYDERABAD, 11 JULY

In a horrific incident, three minor boys allegedly gang-raped and killed an eight-year-old girl in Nandyal district of Andhra Pradesh.

Police had brought in sniffer dogs after the girl remained missing for four days. Although one of the boys confessed to the rape and killing, the body of the victim is yet to be traced.

According to police the girl, who was studying in class III went missing on 7 July and her father had registered a police complaint saying she did not come back after going off to play in a nearby playground. After failing to trace the girl the police had brought in a sniffer dog which led to the three boys studying in classes VI and VII of the same school as the victim.

One of the boys confessed that they had called her to play with them and later raped her

at a desolate spot near the irrigation pump house. Apprehensive they would be caught if the girl complained to her parents the trio murdered her by pushing her into the canal.

Following the confession police are searching the backwaters of river Krishna near the Muchumarri Lift irrigation pump house.

Since the water in the canal is quite deep during the monsoon season authorities say there is a possibility that the body has been washed away. The SDRF was also pressed into service with boats to search for the body of the victim. The incident has sent shockwaves throughout the state.

## Budget 2024: PM convenes meeting with economists, sectoral experts

**STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, 11 JULY

Ahead of the presentation of the Union Budget, Prime Minister Narendra Modi met with economists and sectoral experts on Thursday.

The meeting also saw the participation of Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman. Notable figures including Niti Aayog Vice Chairman Suman Bery and other members of the planning body attended the meeting.

At the gathering, in-depth discussions took place aimed at shaping the economic direction of the country for the coming fiscal year. One of the main subjects of discussion was job generation.

Among the experts and economists who attended were Surjit Bhalla, A K Bhat-tacharya, Prof Ashok Gulati, Gaurabh Ballabh, Amita Batra, Mahendra Dev, and K V Kamath.



**Prime Minister Narendra Modi addresses a meeting with economists ahead of the Union Budget which will be presented on 25 July, in New Delhi on Thursday. Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is also present.** ■ ANI

The Pre-Budget consultations for Union Budget 2024-25 started from 19 June 2024 onward in the Ministry of Finance chaired by Finance Minister and concluded on 5 July. In the course of the in-person consultations, over 120 invitees across 10 stakeholder groups, including experts and representatives from farmer associations and agriculture economists; trade unions; education and health

sector; employment and skilling; MSME; trade and services; industry; economists; financial sector and capital markets; as well as, infrastructure, energy and urban sector, participated.

In her address to the joint sitting of Parliament last month, President Droupadi Murmu indicated that the government would come out with historic steps to accelerate the pace of reforms.

## India's population will peak in 2nd half of the century, says UN report

**STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE**  
UNITED NATIONS, 11 JULY

The population of India is expected to increase through 2054 and potentially peak in the second half of the century or later, according to a report released by the United Nations on World Population Day, celebrated annually on 11 July. It is expected that the world's population will peak in the mid-2080s, growing over the next 60 years from 8.2 billion people in 2024 to around 10.3 billion in the mid-2080s, and then will return to around 10.2 billion by the end of the century, stated the report titled 'World Population Prospects 2024'.

The size of the world's population in 2100 is now expected to be six per cent lower - or 700 million fewer - than anticipated a decade ago. As



A nurse places newborn babies on a bed on the occasion of World Population Day, at the Government Kasturba Gandhi Hospital for Women and Children in Chennai on 11 July 2023. ■ ANI

of 2024, population size has peaked in 63 countries and areas, including China, Germany, Japan, and the Russian Federation, and the total population of this group is projected to decline by 14 per cent over the next 30 years.

For another 48 countries and areas, including Brazil, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Turkey, and Vietnam, the population is projected to peak between

2025 and 2054.

"In the remaining 126 countries, including India, Indonesia, Nigeria, Pakistan, and the United States of America, the population is expected to increase through 2054 and potentially peak in the second half of the century or later," the report pointed out. In nine countries of this group, including Angola, the Central African Republic, the Democratic

Republic of Congo, Niger, and Somalia, very rapid growth is projected, with their total population doubling between 2024 and 2054. The demographic landscape has evolved greatly in recent years, said Li Junhua, UN Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs.

"In some countries, the birth rate is now even lower than previously anticipated, and we are also seeing slightly faster declines in some high-fertility regions. The earlier and lower peak is a hopeful sign. This could mean reduced environmental pressures from human impacts due to lower aggregate consumption. However, slower population growth will not eliminate the need to reduce the average impact attributable to the activities of each individual person," he said.

## Centre sets up panel to verify candidature claims, other details of IAS probationer Puja Khedkar

**AGENCIES**  
NEW DELHI, 11 JULY

The Central government on Thursday constituted a single-member committee to verify the candidature claims and other details of Puja Manorma Dilip Khedkar (photo), probationary IAS officer posted in Pune, who was transferred to Washim in central Maharashtra on Tuesday after she was found at the centre of a controversy over her alleged misuse of power as a civil servant.

The Ministry of Personnel made the announcement in a statement. It said that the committee is chaired by a senior officer of the rank of Additional Secretary under Central government and it will submit its report in two weeks.

"The Central Government has constituted a single-member Committee, chaired



**Ms Khedkar, a 2023-batch IAS officer of the Maharashtra cadre, who secured an AIR of 841 in the UPSC exam, sparked a controversy recently when she used her private Audi car with a red-blue beacon light and VIP number plate**

by a senior officer of the rank of Additional Secretary to Government of India to ver-

ify the candidature claims and other details of IAS Puja Manorma Dilip Khedkar, a candidate of Civil Services Examination-2022 and earlier CSEs. The Committee will submit its report in 2 weeks," reads the Ministry of Personnel statement.

Ms Khedkar is a 2023-batch IAS officer of the Maharashtra cadre, who secured an All India Rank (AIR) of 841 in the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) exam. She sparked a controversy recently when she used her private Audi car with a red-blue beacon light and VIP number plate.

She also demanded facilities that are not available to probationary officers in the IAS.

According to a report submitted by Pune collector Suhas Diwse to the General Administration Department,

Ms Khedkar repeatedly demanded that she be provided with a separate cabin, car, residential quarters, and a peon even before joining the duty as a trainee on 3 June. However, she was denied the facilities.

The IAS trainee was also accused of removing the nameplate of a senior official at the Pune collector's office when he allowed her to use his ante-chamber as her office.

Ms Khedkar allegedly submitted fake disability and Other Backward Class (OBC) certificates to clear the civil services exam. Reports claimed that she had also submitted a mental illness certificate. In April 2022, she was asked to report at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Delhi, for verification of her disability certificate, but she did not do so, citing Covid infection.

C M Y K

epaper.thestatesman.com

# Ministers take up issue on Maoist cadre's PhD degree

The BU, on last Tuesday, in a bizarre notification suddenly halted the entire counselling process for PhD in history



**STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE**  
BURDWAN, 11 JULY

State's higher education minister and the minister for the correctional homes had discussions on how to pave the way for a jailed Maoist cadre to pursue his ambitious PhD programme at the Burdwan University.

Kunal Ghosh, the Trinamul

Congress leader also has taken the side of the cadre Arnab Dam and stressed: "Arnab Dam deserves to be given a chance to get his PhD degree. He's proved his eligibility." Ghosh, on his X-handle wrote: "State's Ministers of Higher Education and Correctional Homes have discussed the matter and are trying to find ways how to get him shifted from Hooghly to Burdwan

Correctional Home." Dam was shifted from Midnapore to Hooghly early this year. The leader however has ridiculed the Governor appointed vice-chancellor of BU saying: "The history department of BU though has shown a cordial gesture, its VC however has tried to create undesired complexities in the matter." The executive council meeting of the BU was dis-



solved today on the plea that the interim VC had no right to convene an EC meeting. The Trinamul Congress Chhatra Parishad, Webcupa members staged a strong protest on the issue in front of the portico of the administrative office. The Burdwan University officials, faculties and governing body members have divided opinion in the matter linked to restraining Dam from securing his PhD. Dam has topped the list of incumbents, incidentally. The BU, on last Tuesday,

in a bizarre notification suddenly halted the entire counselling process for PhD in history. The secretary, faculty council (arts), issued the notification that stated that it has been postponed, 'due to some unavoidable circumstances,' which has shocked the ambitious candidates like Arnab Dam, a Maoist cadre jailed as a penal measure for his involvement in dreaded squad operations. On 26 June, Dam had appeared before the BU selectors for his viva-voce. Arnab with his squad members had unleashed a fierce attack on an EFR Camp at Shilda in West Midnapore on 15 February, 2010, in which 24 members of Eastern Frontier Rifles jawans were shot dead. Arnab, his lieutenant Sudip Chongdar along with 22 others were later arrested. Sudip though died later. On 29 February, 2023, Arnab was convicted.

# Mastermind of robbery at jewellery shop in Howrah nabbed

**STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE**  
KOLKATA, 11 JULY



The alleged mastermind of a robbery at a jewellery shop in Domjur, Howrah was a woman, who was arrested today by Howrah city police from Bihar and brought to the city on a transit remand. At least five persons had been arrested in connection with the robbery, police said. The mastermind of the robbery at Domjur, arrested today, has been identified as Asha Devi Mahato alias Chachi, a resident of Samastipur, Bihar following investigation and interrogation of the other accused in the case, Howrah city police sources said. An officer of Howrah police commissionerate, who was party to the investigation, said that an alleged aide, Rabindra Sahani, who was also arrested from Bihar recently by the Howrah police, was related to a henchman of Subodh Singh, Bikash Jha. Singh is now in CID custody in the city. Sahani, who was arrested from Bihar, allegedly revealed to the

investigators that it was Chachi leading the robbery gang, claimed an officer. Howrah city police sources said that Chachi came to the scene of robbery after one Manish Mahato alias Munia, who was earlier a member of the Subodh Singh gang, allegedly separated from Asha Devi and advised to form a gang of his own. It was this Munia gang, who had allegedly committed robbery at a jewellery shop at Domjur, Howrah. Praveen Tripathi, CP, Howrah city told news persons that Chachi, who had been living in a rented house at Asansol for a long time for the robbery. The two bikes that had been recovered during investigation had allegedly been bought by Chachi. She came to Ankurhati, in Howrah in May and from there she conducted recce of the alleged jewellery shop at Domjur. It was Asha Devi, who went to the shop masquerading as a customer. Mr Tripathi said, "The arrested five would be interrogated further and would try to elicit information regarding the whereabouts of the gold stolen from the shop."

# Bengal municipality job case: CBI tracks multiple accounts used to divert proceeds

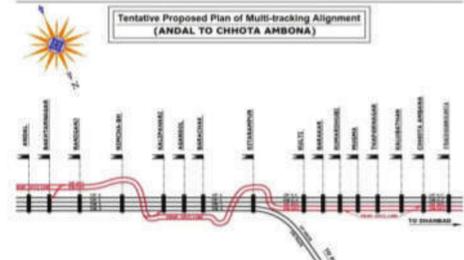
**AGENCIES**  
KOLKATA, 11 JULY

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) have tracked at least 25 bank accounts opened in the name of third parties, which were used for inward and outward remissions of the ill-gotten proceeds in the municipalities' recruitment case in West Bengal, said sources on Thursday. A close examination of these bank accounts revealed that multiple high-value inward remissions, each amounting to a few lakhs, were credited to these accounts and were also debited from those accounts within hours. On questioning the official account holders, the Central agency sleuths came to know that they were either the existing or past employees of the corporate entity owned by the arrested

private promoter Ayan Sil, also a co-accused in the multi-crore cash-for-school job case. The CBI officials interrogated some of these official account holders who confessed that they were forced by Sil to open the accounts. They were also forced to submit entire supporting documents like passbooks, cheques and even debit cards to Sil. The official account holders had no authority to operate those accounts, sources added. The second interesting factor in the scam, as revealed by the investigating officials, is how a section of the middlemen, all linked to Sil, used this process to earn hefty amounts from two avenues. The first income was a commission from the recipients or the ultimate beneficiaries or the recipients of the proceeds in the alleged scam.

# New tracks to be laid over Andal-Pradhankhunta section

**STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE**  
ASANSOL, 11 JULY



The Railway Board has sanctioned over Rs 12,000 crore for the multi-tracking project between Son Nagar and Andal. The project in total is stretching over 374.53 route km and 814.38 track km, amongst which, 70 km length between Pradhankhunta to Andal is under Asansol division of Eastern Railway. The project, with an expected completion period of five years, will serve the states of Jharkhand and West Bengal, significantly benefiting Dhanbad and West Burdwan districts. With the sanctioned cost encompassing extensive civil, electrical, and S and T works, the project's completion will alleviate congestion in the mainline which may help in running of extra Mail/Express Train and may also help in

achieving the target speed of 160 kmph for the routes between Pradhankhunta to Andal. This project will enhance safety, and improve rail operations across the region. The project's scope includes the construction of one important bridge, 13 major bridges, and 138 minor bridges, alongside several ROBs and RUBs, to ensure

smooth and uninterrupted rail traffic. The introduction of three new stations and the elimination of level crossings through the construction of flyovers will further streamline rail operations. In a significant move towards project commencement, almost all the required land has been acquired in the Andal-Pradhankhunta section.

# Bengal: ED arrests youth on charges of tender fraud in Health Dept

**AGENCIES**  
KOLKATA, 11 JULY

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has taken into custody a local youth in Kolkata for duping individuals and entities on the pretext of getting tenders from the West Bengal Health Department. The arrested individual has been identified as Budhaditya Chattopadhyay, a resident of Kasba area in South Kolkata. He used to pretend to be a Harvard University research scholar and dupe several people of crores of rupees promising them to get their tender applications with the state Health Department passed. The ED started the investigation based on a case filed in the matter in 2022. As the investigation proceeded, the investigating agency uncovered that the fraud had been taking place since 2019 and on Wednesday, they finally arrested the ringleader behind the scam. Besides duping individuals of amounts ranging from Rs 50,000 to Rs 1,00,000, the accused allegedly also duped a Bengaluru-based organisation of Rs 26 crore. As per the estimates of ED officials, he has duped over Rs 35 crore from different individuals and entities since 2019.

# Transport minister meets top S Bengal district officials on road safety

**STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE**  
DURGAPUR, 11 JULY



State transport minister Snehasish Chakraborty has stressed upon road safety, increase in tax collection and bringing in transparency in operations of all the check-posts at a high-level meeting with the transport department and other top officials of five south Bengal districts at City Centre in Durgapur, yesterday. Transport secretary Saumitra Mohan was also present at the meeting in which RTOs and other top officials of the district transport department were present. The officials of Birbura, Bankura, Purulia, West and East Burdwan were present at the meeting. Subhas Mondal, chairman of South Bengal State Transport Corporation (SBSTC), DM of West Burdwan, S Ponnambalam, SDM of Durgapur, Saurav Chatterjee, chairman of Asansol Durgapur Development Authority (ADDA) and Kabi Dutta were also present. It has been decided in the meeting that to increase the revenue of the state government, the RTA will not allow plying of overloaded trucks on the roads. In future the truck association will also be called in a meeting to convey the state government's decision, sources said. From fines imposed on overloaded vehicles, the state

government has increased its revenue collection from Rs 2,500 crore to Rs 4,000 crore. It has been directed to start surveillance on the roads to identify the vehicles operating with state registration, road tax and permit. The pool cars will also be inspected to enhance safety of the school students. Unauthorised totos will not be allowed to ply on the streets. "We are taking drives on the directives of our chief minister Mamata Banerjee and monitoring is on throughout the state. We are trying to find out the sources of the overloading vehicles plying on the roads and highways of the state," said transport minister Snehasish Chakraborty. The transport minister also said that for setting up an inter-state state-of-the-art bus terminal in Durgapur, he has urged the Asansol Durgapur Development Authority (ADDA) to send a detail project report (DPR). Assistance of enforcement wing of the state is also being taken to check overloading of sand-loaded trucks from Ajay and Damodar rivers in Birbura, West Burdwan and Bankura, the minister added. He said that in the coming days, more officials will be increased to stop the over-loading as the roads are getting affected. In the last financial year, the state earned Rs 274 crore profit from check-posts through the Suvidha portal.

# MLA requests Nitin Gadkari to reconsider flyover design in Siliguri

**STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE**  
SILIGURI, 11 JULY

A prominent group of citizens, led by local merchants, in Matigara of Siliguri has demanded that the Union ministry of road transport and highways modify its plans for the current construction of a flyover as part of the proposed elevated highway from Balason to Sevoke. The group recently had a meeting with the Member of Legislative Assembly representing Matigara-Naxalbari, where they presented a joint petition in support of constructing an elevated flyover. This would allow them to access the basement area of the flyover. This petition highlighted various issues faced by the local community, including



concerns from hundreds of students attending schools in the area. After receiving this petition, MLA Anandamay Barman wrote to Union minister of road transport and highways

Nitin Gadkari in support of the citizens' demands. Barman, who represents Naxalbari-Matigara for the BJP, has urged Gadkari to reconsider the decision to construct a flyover has no underpass and is

completely obstructed from both sides for the Balason-Sevoke Elevated Highway Corridor that is currently being built on Asian Highway-2 in Siliguri. Barman also noted that

Matigara hosts a popular weekly market where people from all over Darjeeling district and nearby areas come to trade. Additionally, there are several secondary and higher secondary schools as well as three reputable English-medium schools located in Matigara. Furthermore, as a rapidly developing rural town with a major shopping centre at its City Centre, Barman believes that the present design of the flyover would only worsen traffic congestion. In light of these issues, Barman has requested that Gadkari consider constructing an elevated flyover at least from Mayadevi Club to Matigara Hirasundari High School following requests made by local residents for their greater benefit.

# NH-717A suffered significant damage: Darjeeling MP



**STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE**  
SILIGURI, 11 JULY

National Highway 717A has suffered significant damage due to landslides caused by heavy rainfall. Darjeeling MP Raju Bista, accompanied by the general

manager of National Highways & Infrastructure Development Corporation and their technical team, visited various vulnerable areas along this route today. Mr Bista took note of the damages, which were also observed by the officials in his

presence. MP Raju Bista said, "In continuation of my visits to assess the impact of heavy rains and natural disasters, and to meet and interact with those affected, today I toured several affected areas in Kalimpong district of Darjeeling Lok Sabha

constituency." During his visit, Mr Bista spoke with residents from Mongpong forest area, Bagrakote, Meena More, Chui khim, Sanyasi Dara, Pelling Fatak, Barbote, Patleybaas under Nimbong GP, Kaffer, Loleygaon, Deurali Fatak, Gitdabing, Upper Gitkolbung, Gumbadara, 9th Mile Fatak and Lava. He listened to their concerns and saw the damages to their homes and agricultural fields firsthand. While steps will be taken to repair and restore the affected areas, Mr Bista expressed concern over the quality of infrastructure and suggested a re-evaluation of the entire project to address vulnerabilities. He also recognized the need for disaster preparedness in the mountain regions and emphasized the importance of equipping both mountain communities and governing authorities to handle future challenges.

# Bengal school job case: CBI seizes two servers from outsourced agency's office

**AGENCIES**  
KOLKATA, 11 JULY

The CBI officials investigating the cash-for-school job case in West Bengal have seized two servers from the office of S. Basu Roy & Company, the outsourced agency responsible for providing optical mark recognition (OMR) sheets for written examination for primary teachers' recruitment in state-run schools, sources said on Thursday. Since Thursday morning a team of Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) officials, accompanied by cyber and software experts, were conducting a fresh round of raid and search operation at that office. Earlier, a similar raid and search operation was conducted on Tuesday and Wednesday. The central agency offi-



cial are taking the help of the cyber and software experts following a directive from Calcutta High Court's single-judge bench of Justice Rajasekhara Mantha, who advised CBI to take the help of any specialised agency to recover the data regarding the OMR sheets. However, the CBI sleuths are tight-lipped on whether the latest raid and search operation have led to any significant recovery in the matter.

As per the directive of Justice Mantha, the entire cost for bearing the assistance of expert agencies is supposed to be borne by the West Bengal Board of Primary Education (WBBPE). Significantly, on July 9, the WBBPE counsel made an explosive revelation at Justice Mantha's bench claiming that the OMR sheets used in the written examination in 2017 for recruitment of primary teachers in state-

run schools of West Bengal were destroyed. This was done following the instructions of the Trinamool Congress legislator and former WBBPE chairman Manik Bhattacharya, said the counsel. The WBBPE counsel also informed the court that the decision to destroy the OMR sheets was taken independently by Bhattacharya without any resolution adopted by other members of the board in the matter.

THUMBNAILS

**SER arranges buses for passengers:** Following diversion or short termination of some of the trains due to developmental works at Howrah, the South Eastern Railway arranged three buses to ferry from Santragachi to Howrah on Wednesday night. The buses were provided to transport passengers of 12022 Barbil-Howrah Jan Shatabdi Express, 12840 MGR Chennai Central-Howrah Mail, 22898 Digha-Howrah Kandari Express and 12664 Tiruchirappalli-Howrah Express. According to the SER, around 700 passengers were carried under the supervision of six railway officials of the SER from Santragachi to Howrah on Wednesday night.

**Actor inaugurates store:** Dream House Galleria announced the grand opening of its first 3,000-square-foot flagship store in Topsy, which was inaugurated by CID Fame actor Dayanand Shetty.

**Salanpur-Jhajha Section Gets 130 km/h Maximum Speed Limit:** Aiming to enhance passenger services, Eastern Railway has increased the speed of 27 trains in specific sections, including the Salanpur-Jhajha section. The zonal railway has increased the speed of some of the mail express trains in this section to 143 Km. Some of the trains running with the increased speed in the section include 12273/12274 HOWRAH-NEW DELHI DURONTO Express, 12303/12304 HOWRAH-NEW DELHI POORVA Express, 12305/12306 HOWRAH-NEW DELHI RAJDHANI Express, 15235/15236 HOWRAH-DARBHANGA Express, 12327/12328 HOWRAH-DEHRADUN-UPASANA Express, 12331/12332 HOWRAH-JAMMU TAWI HIMGIRI Express, 12315/12316 KOLKATA-UDAIPUR CITY ANANYA Express and so on.

# MP Saugata Roy receives death threat call

Mr Roy, while lodging complaint, has requested to track the phone number of the caller

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
KOLKATA, 11 JULY

Veteran Trinamul Congress MP from Dum Dum Saugata Roy received a phone call in which the caller threatened to kill him if the arrested party leader Jayanta Singh was not released as soon as possible.

Mr Roy has lodged a complaint with police and at the same time he has requested the police commissioner of Barrackpore police commissionerate to track the phone number of the caller.

Jayant, a Trinamul Congress leader in the Ariadaha area, under the Dum Dum Lok Sabha (LS) constituency, was arrested by police last week on charge of his alleged involvement in a mob violence incident that happened on 30 June.



He was the prime suspect in the incident. He was arrested in connection with the assault of a college student and his mother on 30 June. A video clip showing a group of people beating up the two had become viral in the

social media.

The police also initiated a suo motu case against him following the circulation of an old video clip showing a girl being assaulted by a group of people in Ariadaha. On Wednesday night, Mr Roy claimed that he received a phone call in which the caller threatened to kill him demanding Jayant's immediate release. Ariadaha comes under the Dum Dum Lok Sabha constituency, which Roy represents as a four-term MP.

"I received a call from an unknown number. The person on the other end claimed that if I did not ensure the release of Jayant Singh, I would be killed. The caller also said that he would kill me if I went to Ariadaha," Mr Roy told the media. "The threat call came twice, and the caller also abused me," he added.

# Police advised to be vigilant: Alapan Banerjee

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
KOLKATA, 11 JULY

Chief minister Mamata Banerjee's chief adviser Alapan Banerjee today told newsmen that the police have been advised to be more agile and alert in view of the incidents like Ariadaha, North 24-Parganas, which happened in 2021.

The mastermind of the alleged incident, whose alleged brutality had created a considerable stir and consternation among the people, Jayanta Singh and his alleged aides, had already been arrested and are now in police custody, said Mr Banerjee.

"The accused was earlier arrested five times and the incident being shown in the media was from 2021. The person, who was allegedly being shown in the video bearing the brunt of the alleged brutality at a club, was a male and not a female. The fact that the incident happened three years ago and the circulation of the alleged video just three days before the bypolls was an attempt to spread canards and disinformation cam-



campaign against the state," the chief adviser said.

Manoj Verma, ADG, law and order said that people were taking laws into their own hands was an issue to be worried about.

"For this, we have already discussed with our field officers and given necessary advice to them to deal with such cases," Mr Verma told newsmen at Nabanna.

In this context, chief minister Mamata Banerjee, while leaving for Mumbai today to attend the wedding of son of business tycoon Mukesh Ambani told newsmen at the airport that the marathon coverage by a section of the news channels and circula-

tion of the video of the alleged incident just before the bypolls, was an attempt by the BJP ecosystem to mar the poll prospects of the ruling Trinamul Congress in the bypolls.

Meanwhile, after the Dum Dum MP Saugata Roy of the ruling party, who had allegedly received an anonymous call threatening him to be shot down, the Kamarhati MLA of the ruling party Madan Mitra, too received alleged threat calls of being shot by an unidentified caller on Wednesday night and in the morning today.

Police have already arrested at least seven persons allegedly in connection with the Ariadaha incident.

# Calcutta HC directs preservation of video-recording of autopsy

AGENCIES  
KOLKATA, 11 JULY

The Calcutta High Court on Thursday directed preservation of the video recording of the autopsy of Abu Siddik Halder, a youth from Dholahat who died in police custody on Monday night. On Wednesday, the family members of the deceased filed a petition at the single-judge Bench of Justice Amrita Sinha seeking a detailed and independent probe in the matter. On Thursday, as the matter came up for hearing, the counsel for the state government rubbished claims of custodial torture and said that Halder's death was caused by the rise in urea and creatinine levels in his body. When Justice Sinha asked for CCTV footage of the Dholahat Police Station, where the alleged custodial torture took place, the



counsel of the state government informed that the camera had not been working for quite some time. Thereafter, Justice Sinha ordered the preservation of the video recordings of the post mortem of the victim's body. Halder died on July 8, just four days after he was released on bail by a District Court in South 24 Parganas District on July 4. On Thursday, the victim's family members informed the court that they had to pay a bribe of Rs 1.75 lakh to cops to ensure his bail.

# After attacks, KMC engineers to boycott demolition drives

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
KOLKATA, 11 JULY

Facing the wrath of the occupants, residents or even outsiders allegedly, the engineers of Kolkata Municipal Corporation have decided to boycott the demolition drives assigned to them by the civic body.

The engineers have given a unanimous call for providing safety to them during the ongoing demolition drives undertaken by the municipal corporation.

The engineers under the umbrella of Kolkata Municipal Corporation Engineer's



and Allied Services are citing incidents of attack by the occupants or local residents of houses during demolition. According to the members of the engineers' body, of late, the engineers accompanied by fewer policemen are often

faced with the challenges of attacks by the local residents. The presence of inadequate police personnel or even no action from the ones on spot allegedly, puts the engineers' life at risk.

As informed by the mem-

bers of the organization, yesterday, the demolition team was faced with a similar situation in ward 89. The chaos took place at Prince Rahimuddin Lane near in Borough X when the team arrived to pull down the illegal construction but had to face intense resistance from the locals.

The chaos ended in three engineers of the civic body including a woman, getting injured allegedly while on duty in the presence of the police. As alleged by the secretary of the engineers' body, Manas Sinha, in a worse scenario that occurred at Entally recently, the resisting locals

allegedly even tried to burn and kill the engineers of the demolition team. As ruled by the secretary of the organization, the authorities are unable to provide protection to the engineers while carrying out the demolition duty. The engineers of the civic body are therefore protesting alleging threats to their safety and decided to boycott the demolition activities for now. Demanding protection during the ongoing demolition drive, members of the Kolkata Municipal Corporation Engineer's and Allied Services submitted a deputation to the mayor's office.

# Central admission portal gives multiple options to students: Educator

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
KOLKATA, 11 JULY

The centralised admission portal, under the State Council of Higher Education has meant an end to the trauma of getting admission to colleges.

Through this portal, students can admit themselves at 461 government and

Government-sponsored higher education institutes and 16 universities in more than 7,000 courses, across West Bengal, said Sandip Banerjee, an educator associated with the education system in Bengal.

Through this portal students across the country can apply for studying at any institute of higher education, enrolled in the central admission portal in West Bengal. There will be scope for applying in 25 courses across the state either in one college or multiple ones.

Cancellation of admission

can easily be done through the portal. The portal has an option for 'upgradation' and admission shall take place in higher preference. Through the portal, on requirement previous admission can be cancelled and one can move to the next higher preference. There is also provision for adjustment of fees; either the fees gets adjusted according to cancellation and further admission or if there is anything paid in excess, that extra amount gets refunded.

"The portal has made admissions a cake-walk for the students. It facilitates multiple-choice; it eases cancellation and saves both time and money. It is hassle-free transaction with enabling of payment through 'Payment Gateway'. There is also a toll-free number where concern of any sort can be communicated," said Mr Banerjee. The centralised admission portal is one of the

first of its kind in the entire country. It is a brilliant application to ensure time and space coordination. It sincerely looks towards the digitisation of the post-modern era.

The admission to colleges through the centralised portal has put an end to the highhandedness of the college unions during admission. There have been allegations of extortion by some union members. The age-old tradition of long queues of students in front of colleges seeking admission has become a matter of the past.

Chief minister Mamata Banerjee has said over and over again that college unions should be engaged in organizing cultural shows and the publication of college magazines and it has no business in college admissions. She took the initiative to set up a centralized portal to weed out corruption attached to college admissions.

# Minister interacts with troops at Fort William



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
KOLKATA, 11 JULY

Union Minister of state for defence Sanjay Seth, emphasized the critical role played by the Eastern Command in safeguarding the nation's borders and ensuring the safety of its citizens.

Mr Seth was visiting Fort William, the headquarters of the Eastern Command today.

During his visit the minister Seth laid a wreath at the Vijay Smarak, paying homage to the brave-hearts who made the ultimate sacrifice in service to the nation.

Earlier, Mr Seth was briefed on the operational and logistical aspects of the Eastern Command and engaged with the troops from Eastern Command. He expressed his gratitude and admiration for the dedication and service of Indian Army personnel. The Raksha Rajya Mantri lauded

all ranks for their unwavering commitment to national security and their relentless efforts in maintaining peace and stability in the region.

The minister said, "The dedication and professionalism exhibited by all ranks of the Eastern Command are exemplary. Your tireless efforts and sacrifices are a testament to the strength and resilience of our armed forces. The nation is indebted to you for your unwavering vigilance and unflinching courage in the face of adversity." During the visit, Shri Seth also acknowledged the challenges faced by the Eastern Command due to the difficult terrain and weather conditions. He assured the troops that the government is committed to providing the necessary support and resources to ensure their operational readiness and well-being.

"Your service in these demanding conditions is not only a duty but a profound act of patriotism. The nation stands behind you and is proud of your contributions to our collective security," he added.

The visit concluded with a renewed sense of motivation and encouragement among the ranks, reaffirming their resolve to continue serving the nation with utmost dedication. Earlier in the day, the minister of state for defence also visited West Bengal and Sikkim NCC directorate. He urged the cadets to stay committed towards nation building as they are the future leaders of the nation. He was also honoured with Joint Services Guard of Honour by the army, air and naval wing cadets. The minister had also visited the Gun and Shell Factory, Cossipore yesterday.

# Serampore SDO, task force survey Seoraphuli market to check prices

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
HOOGHLY, 11 JULY

After chief minister Mamata Banerjee had issued strict directives to check the abnormal hike in prices of vegetables, Serampore SDO Sahbhudeep Sarkar with a task force constituted for the purpose, visited the Seoraphuli wholesale market on Wednesday.

The SDO apprised himself about the prices of green vegetables and issued instructions to regulate the prices.

However, conflicting views of wholesalers, retailers and Seoraphuli Bazar committee secretary came into light during interrogation by the task force in the presence of Serampore SDO.

All sides agreed to the fact that less rain and long spells of heatwave have brought down the production of vegetables drastically. To keep the daily demands, vegetables were purchased from neighbouring states, hence the transportation and labour charges were added to the basic cost price of the vegetables, leading to the shooting prices in the retail market.

The secretary of Seoraphuli Babsayi Committee, Sukalyan Chattopadhyay, said, "I have no hesitation in confessing that the retailers, who are buying vegetables from the wholesalers at a fixed price are selling them at a premium to customers. If a vegetable is bought by them from the wholesalers at Rs 20 per kg,



they are selling the commodity at Rs 40-50 per kg to customers. The task force should take steps against such retailers, who are abnormally hiking the prices of green vegetables at their own whim.

The Serampore SDO said, "I have already issued strict instructions to regulate the prices of green vegetables, keeping a balance with the wholesale market prices and retail market prices. Henceforth, regular monitoring of prices will be carried on to stop the tendency of the retailers to jack up prices for quick financial gains.

The task force will visit all the markets of the sub-division to supervise, monitor and check the abnormal hike in the prices of vegetables.

The customers expressed their annoyance over the abnormal hike in the prices of vegetables since last one month. They expressed great relief at the presence of Serampore SDO and the task force in taking initiative towards regulating the prices.

# NMC threatens cut in MBBS seats in govt medical colleges

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
KOLKATA, 11 JULY

The National Medical Commission (NMC), the highest body monitoring medical education in the country, has threatened to reduce the number of MBBS seats in government medical colleges in West Bengal in 2025 for non-payment of fines in lakhs of rupees imposed by the commission on these teaching hospitals.

About two months ago, the NMC had fined most of the government medical colleges for not following the mandatory Aadhaar enabled biometric attendance system (AEBAS).

In order to monitor the attendance of teaching doctors attached with state-run medical colleges the NMC had directed the teaching hospi-



tals across the country to install AEBAS and CCTV cameras. The regulatory body also found that many teaching hospitals in the state are not regularly uploading the total number of daily surgeries performed by doctors in respective medical teaching institutes.

Aggrieved with non-implementation of the mandatory AEBAS and CCTVs, the commission took drastic action against these institutes. It fined NRS Medical College Hospital Rs 24 lakh,

Medical College Hospital Rs 20 lakh, SSKM Hospital Rs 18 lakh and Sagar Dutta State General Hospital and College of Medicine Rs 12 lakh.

But none of these colleges paid the fine and is sitting idle on the NMC's drastic measures, instead of making any appeal to it requesting to waive off the money.

Taking up the matter seriously, the commission, more than a year ago, had stated that despite various reminders and requests many medical colleges were yet to implement the AEBAS, health management information system (HMIS) and CCTV connections. The commission was prompted to take such drastic initiatives to keep strong vigilance on attendance records of medical teachers in teaching hospitals.

# WBNUS inaugurates Indian Constitution in Braille

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
KOLKATA, 11 JULY

The West Bengal National University of Juridical Sciences (WBNUS) today unveiled the Constitution of India in Braille version.

This event marked a historic step towards inclusivity and accessibility in the ecosystem of legal education and legal profession. Justice DY Chandrachud, Chief Justice of India attended the meeting virtually. He commended the initiative for its transformative impact on legal inclusivity and humanity.

Professor Nirmal Kanti Chakrabarti, vice-chancellor



of WBNUS said, "This is a momentous occasion for us at WBNUS. The Constitution of India in Braille will empower visually impaired individ-

uals by providing them with direct access to our nation's fundamental legal document. It is a significant step towards ensuring that everyone, regard-

less of their physical abilities, can understand the legislative, executive and judicial system of India." Professor Chakrabarti acknowledged the cooper-

ation and labour dedicated by the principal and staff of the Ramkrishna Mission Blind Boys Academy, Narendrapur.

The WBNUS had set up an accessibility lab for the visually-impaired students in 2020. The effort by WBNUS is expected to set a precedent for other institutions, encouraging them to adopt similar measures to ensure that legal education and resources are accessible to all members of the society.

It may be recalled that the additional advocate general of West Bengal Sadhan Gupta was visually impaired. This Braille system could have helped him to read the Indian Constitution, the legal experts said.

# We're on a mission to rebuild Andhra Pradesh: CM Naidu

'Media plays a crucial role in keeping citizens informed while holding the government accountable,' he said

**AGENCIES**  
AMARAVATI, 11 JULY

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister, Nara Chandrababu Naidu, on Thursday said that the government was on a mission to rebuild the state and that it is crucial to win back the confidence of investors.

A day after meeting top officials of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) and VinFast, the

Chief Minister took to X to share his thoughts.

"We are on a mission to rebuild Andhra Pradesh. Given where the previous government had left it, this will be a humongous challenge. I require everyone's support in this mission, and particularly the media which is the fourth pillar of our democracy. Media plays a crucial role in keeping citizens informed while holding the government accountable," said CM



Naidu. CM Naidu mentioned

that he had productive meetings with BPCL and VinFast that could result in large scale investment and job creation.

"This is a departure from what occurred over the last five years - when politics trumped progress, corruption replaced cooperation and destruction replaced development. Investors had lost confidence and left the state, impacting the economy and employment. Now, it is crucial that we win back the confidence of investors," he claimed.

"I thank our media colleagues for reporting on these meetings, spreading hope across the state. Your coverage has helped spread the word about the opportunities and potential that Andhra Pradesh has to offer,

reassuring investors that our state is a reliable and safe destination for investment. I hope that we will continue to work together to make Andhra Pradesh the No. 1 state in the country," added Naidu, who posted a picture of newspaper headlines about the meetings with top executives of BPCL and VinFast.

BPCL officials led by Chairman and Managing Director Krishna Kumar called on the CM on Wednesday.

"They discussed the proposed establishment of an oil refinery and petrochemical complex with an investment of Rs.60,000 to Rs.70,000 crore.

CM Naidu sought a detailed plan and feasibility report in 90 days and assured the company that the government would allocate about 5,000 acres of land required for this project.

VinFast CEO, Pham Sanh Chau also called on CM Naidu.

VinFast is a leading automobile conglomerate from Vietnam. CM Naidu invited them to set up their EV and battery manufacturing plant in Andhra Pradesh.

# H D Kumaraswamy rules out privatisation of RINL



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE HYDERABAD, 11 JULY

Union Minister for Heavy Industries and Steel H D Kumaraswamy on Thursday ruled out privatisation of Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL) or the Vizag Steel Plant and stated that his ministry was working out a revival plan for the plant and convinced the Prime Minister on the issue.

The minister arrived in Vizag yesterday and met the management of the VSP whose corporate entity is RINL. Today, he held a review meeting at the steel plant for over three hours and even spoke to the workers.

"There is no question of privatisation. Before I announce, the prime minister's permission is required. I have to convince him. What are all the issues pertaining to RINL that we had a discussion about? I

am preparing a note. I have to gain the confidence of the PM and how to revive the RINL. For that we are working out," said Kumaraswamy, who was accompanied by his minister of state Bhupathiraju Srinivasa Varma and TDP MP M Bharat along with other senior BJP leaders from AP.

Atul Bhat, the CMD of RINL was also present on the occasion along with joint secretary of the ministry Sanjay Roy as the Union minister reviewed the plant's performance.

Later, Kumaraswamy wrote in the visitor's book that their responsibility was to save the plant. He reassured the employees asking them not to worry about closure. With the prime minister's blessings and support the plant will continue to operate at 100% production capacity and all necessary resources will be mobilized, he stated. Following the meeting, BJP leaders said the Union min-

ister has sought two months to resolve the uncertainty over RINL's future. Leaders of the workers union, who have been protesting against the Centre's decision to disinvest RINL for almost 1000 days, are seeking the merger of the plant with SAIL to save it. Otherwise, the steel plant will require huge capital investment which the NDA government is unlikely to sanction. State AP BJP president Daggubati Purandeswari also wrote to Kumaraswamy proposing the merger with SAIL. "I am herewith enclosing a strategic proposal for the takeover of Visakhapatnam steel plant (RINL Vizag) and Nagamam Steel Plant, Chhattisgarh by the Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL) aiming to create a new powerhouse in the Indian Steel industry, positioning it as a 'jewel of India... Additionally, the merger will yield considerable cost savings in interest rates and raw materials, contributing to the faster profitability of the RINL Vizag plant," she wrote.

Yesterday, an adverse report in an English daily that the NDA Government has taken a U-turn in its plan for RINL prompted vandalism by TDP workers at the office of the newspaper. YSRCP claimed it had stopped RINL's disinvestment while lashing out at Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu over the news report.

## TENDER

**S. E. RAILWAY - TENDER**  
Open Tender Notice No. C-MECH-SHM-OBHS-07-24. Senior Coaching Depot Officer, Shalimar, South Eastern Railway, Kharagpur Division, acting through the President of India invites an open tender, through e-tendering in [www.irops.gov.in](http://www.irops.gov.in) website as per details mentioned below: Eligible tenders are requested to apply for the same through online only in [www.irops.gov.in](http://www.irops.gov.in) website as per details mentioned below. No offline tender will be accepted. Please read the tender document uploaded in the document section for details. Name of the work: On Board Housekeeping Service (OBHS) in 7 trains and line distribution service in 06 primary trains maintained at Padmapukur and Shalimar for a period of 02 years. Tender Value: ₹ 14,79,77,000.28. EMD: ₹ 8,89,990/- Closing date of tender: 05.08.2024 at 12:30 hrs. Cost of Tender Document: ₹ 10,000/- (non-refundable). (PR-371)

**EASTERN RAILWAY**  
**E-Auction Notice**  
Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Eastern Railway, Howrah, 4th floor, Yatri Niwas, near Howrah Station, Howrah-711011 invites e-Auction for leasing of parcel space of 14 Nos. of SLRs in 10 passenger carrying trains and 03 Nos. of RTVPs in 03 passenger carrying trains originating from Howrah Division for two years through e-Auction module of IREPS website. Non-transferable Auction catalogue containing detailed terms and conditions are available at [www.irops.gov.in](http://www.irops.gov.in). The bidding for the instant e-Auction is to be submitted through e-Auction module on [www.irops.gov.in](http://www.irops.gov.in). For participation in e-Auction process, one time Registration of merchants through e-Auction module in website [www.irops.gov.in](http://www.irops.gov.in) is mandatory. Merchants are also required to take digital signature of Class-III. Auction Catalogue No.: PCL-HWH-L-24-7D, Train: 14 Nos. of SLRs in 10 passenger carrying trains and 03 Nos. of RTVPs in 03 passenger carrying trains. Auction Start Date & Time: 23.07.2024 at 13:00 hrs. HWH-158/2024-25  
Tender Notices are also available at websites: [www.er.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.er.indianrailways.gov.in)/[www.irops.gov.in](http://www.irops.gov.in)  
Follow us at: [@EasternRailway](https://twitter.com/EasternRailway) [@easternrailwayheadquarter](https://facebook.com/easternrailwayheadquarter)

**EASTERN RAILWAY**  
**E-Auction Notice**  
Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Eastern Railway, Asansol Division, Station Road, Asansol, Pin-713301 invites open e-Auction through IREPS portal vide website [www.irops.gov.in](http://www.irops.gov.in) for awarding the contract. Details of which are as tabulated below: Auction Type: Parking. e-Auction Catalogue No.: ASN-PARK-8-2307. Name of station/ Location: Two (02), Three (03) & Four (04) wheelers parking at Chittaranjan Railway station. E-Auction start date: 23.07.2024 at 12.00 hrs. All prospective bidders are advised to visit the website [www.irops.gov.in](http://www.irops.gov.in) for full details and to participate against the above mentioned e-Auction as per schedule given. ASN-114/2024-25  
Tender Notices are also available at websites: [www.er.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.er.indianrailways.gov.in)/[www.irops.gov.in](http://www.irops.gov.in)  
Follow us at: [@EasternRailway](https://twitter.com/EasternRailway) [@easternrailwayheadquarter](https://facebook.com/easternrailwayheadquarter)

**ANNUAL MAINTENANCE CONTRACT AT MALIGAON**  
Tender No. Dy.CEE/PS-MLG-HQ-21-24-25R. E-Tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works: Name of work: Annual maintenance contract for maintenance of ten nos. DG Set of capacity 1x750KVA, 1x500 KVA, 4x380 KVA, 3x200 KVA, & 1x10 KVA with control panels in the jurisdiction of SSE/P/Maligaon & SSE/P/Goshala for a period of three years. Tender Value: ₹71,99,833.80. Earnest Money: ₹1,44,000/-. Date & Time of closing of tender: 15.00 hrs. of 31-07-2024. For details please visit [www.irops.gov.in](http://www.irops.gov.in)  
Dy.CEE/PS/Maligaon/HQ  
**NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY**  
Serving Customers With A Smile

Deburpur Gram Panchayat invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for e-NIT No.: 01(e), 02(e) & 03(e) / DGP / 24, Ref Memo No. 107, 108 & 109 / DGP / 2024, dt. 05-07-2024 and NIT No. 04 / DGP. Memo No. 110 / DGP / 24, Dt. 09-07-2024 out of Fund (15th CFC tied, untied & 5th SFC) Period of downloading bidding documents from the e-procurement portal for NIT 01, 02 & 03. Bid downloading: 08-07-2024 (10 a.m.) to 18-07-2024 (5-00 p.m.). Bid received 18-07-2024 (5-00 p.m.). Technical Bid opened: 22-07-2024 (2-00 p.m.). For NIT 04: Date of sale of tender form on any working day from 09-07-2024 to 18-07-2024 (from 11-00 a.m. to 5-00 p.m.). Last date of dropping of sealed tender form on or before 19-07-2024 (up to 1-00 p.m.). Date of opening of tender: 19-07-2024 (at 4-00 p.m.). Bona fide contractors are requested to visit: [www.bidders.gov.in](http://www.bidders.gov.in) or contact Office Notice Board.

**WESTERN RAILWAY**  
**VARIOUS WORK**  
Deputy Chief Engineer (Construction), Western Railway, Surat-395006 invites e-Tender Notice No.: DYCE-CST-KSB-UMPO-EPC-01. Name of work: EPC Tender Document for the tender of Gauge conversion of 36.900 kms track and associated work like earthwork, blanketing, complete track linking with supply of materials including small track machines but excluding new rails, minor bridges, major bridges, offsite/service buildings including water supply arrangement & sanitation, platforms and station associated amenities construction of retaining wall/ boundary wall/ side drains from drainage 9.200 kms to 30 RUB's from Kosamba and all works related to 30 RUB's from Kosamba in Umrapada at Kosamba-Umrapada section in Vadodra division of Western Railway. NIT Value: ₹ 288,22,00,720.00. EMD: ₹ 1,44,11,100/-. e-Bid closing date: till 28.09.2024, 11.00 hrs. e-Bid opening date: on 05.10.2024 at 11.00 hrs. For further details please visit our website [www.irops.gov.in](http://www.irops.gov.in). 0326  
Like us on: [facebook.com/WesternRly](https://facebook.com/WesternRly)

**EASTERN RAILWAY**  
Tender Notice No.: KPA/EG/OT-04/24-25. Dated: 08.07.2024. Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer (G), Eastern Railway Workshop, Kanchrapara, Carriage / Loco Complex, North 24 Parganas, P.O. Kanchrapara, Pin. 743145, West Bengal invites e-tender for the Reputed, Established and Experienced Govt. Licensed Electrical Contractors with sound financial capabilities for the following work: Name of work: Augmentation, Replacement of BLDC Fan, High mast solar LED Light & day lighting arrangement in Shop Floor for saving of energy. Tender assessed cost: Rs. 2,66,09,835.13. Earnest Money: Rs. 2,83,100/-. Cost of Tender Form (Rs.): Nil. Time of work completion: 12 months. Tender Closing date and time: 30.07.2024 at 14.00 hrs. The Complete details of the tender & document and other details can be seen and obtained from the website: [www.irops.gov.in](http://www.irops.gov.in). The bidding for the tendering on above website within 30.07.2024 at 14.00 hrs. Manual offer are not allowed against this tender and any manual offer if submitted shall not be accepted and will be summarily rejected. Tender Notices are also available at Website [www.er.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.er.indianrailways.gov.in)/[www.irops.gov.in](http://www.irops.gov.in)  
Follow us at: [@EasternRailway](https://twitter.com/EasternRailway) [@easternrailwayheadquarter](https://facebook.com/easternrailwayheadquarter)

**NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY**  
e-tender notice No.: 04HOWRKS2024 Dated 03/07/2024  
The Principal Chief Engineer, N.E.Railway, Gorakhpur on behalf of President of India invites "Open tender through e-tender on website [www.irops.gov.in](http://www.irops.gov.in) for the following works, which will be closed on 06.08.2024 at 15.00 hrs.: Name of work: Carrying out USFD testing of Flash Butt (FB) welds on all types of rails using contractor's RDSO approved PAUT weld tester as per provisions of IR's Manual for ultrasonic testing of rails & welds-2022. Specifications for Ultrasonic Testing of Rails and Welds-2020 (IRS T-53) and RDSO procedural order for testing of FB weld joints with latest correction slips & related instructions with varying angles from 36 to 76 degrees, complete scanning (head, web & foot) of FB weld joint by Recording of all the test data/parameters required along with A-Scan, B-Scan, C-Scan & S Scan for analysis, displayed in Electronic Unit/PC unit and classification of weld defect, including rail surface preparation for PAUT testing complete as per the latest guidelines issued by RDSO/LKO including submission of report in hard and soft copies, deploying trained operators, analysis of data's required, consumables, transportation, labour, inspection and test check by Railway officials, incidental & GST charges etc as per specifications and as directed by Engineer in charge. Quantity: As per Schedule. Approx. Value (₹): ₹ 1.72 Crore (Rs. One Crore and Seventy Two Lakhs only). Earnest Money (₹): ₹ 2,36,000.00 (Two Lakh Thirty Six thousand only). Cost of Tender Documents: Rs. 0.00. Completion Period: 36 (Thirty Six) Months. Note: 1. Date of uploading on website: 03.07.2024. 2. Date of Closing at 15.00 hrs on 06.08.2024. 3. Detailed tender notice, eligibility criteria and terms and conditions are available at Website [www.irops.gov.in](http://www.irops.gov.in). 4. In case of any difficulty helpdesk available on the website of IREPS may be approached. Executive Engineer/Track: 9794840233 or S.S.E./Computer Cell: 9794840282 (Executive Engineer/Track) CPQOW-149 Gorakhpur  
Tender Notices are also available at Website [www.er.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.er.indianrailways.gov.in)/[www.irops.gov.in](http://www.irops.gov.in)  
Follow us at: [@EasternRailway](https://twitter.com/EasternRailway) [@easternrailwayheadquarter](https://facebook.com/easternrailwayheadquarter)  
DO NOT TRAVEL WITH INFLAMMABLE ARTICLE IN TRAIN

**EASTERN RAILWAY**  
Detailed Tender No.: 08WTCAC/ER2024-25: Open E-Tender with Two Stage Reverse Auction System, Dated: 11.07.2024. Tender for Open e-tendering is invited by Chief Administrative Officer/Con/Eastern Railway, 4th Floor, 14, Strand Road, NKG, Kolkata-700001 for the following works: Name of work: Earthwork in cutting and filling, blanketing, construction of minor bridges, major bridges, Road Underbridge, Road Overbridge, retaining wall, level crossing, side drain, catch water drain, P. Way work and other ancillary works from IR Ch. 205.000 Km to 260.2 Km between Kalipahari (inc.) to Pradhankhunta (exc.) in connection with construction of multi tracking Railway BG line. Approx Value: Rs. 945,22,88,375.14. Earnest Money: Rs. 1,00,00,000/-. Cost of Tender Document: Rs. 0.00. Completion Period: 36 (Thirty Six) months. Date of closing: 06.08.2024 at 15.00 hrs. In this connection it is informed that the earlier Tender No. 08WTCAC/ER2024-25: Open E-Tender with Two Stage Reverse Auction System should be treated as cancelled. The tender documents and other details can be obtained from the website: [www.irops.gov.in](http://www.irops.gov.in). The bidding for the tender is to be submitted through the e-tendering on above website. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any manual offer if received, shall not be accepted and will be summarily rejected. CON-37/2024-25  
Tender Notices are also available at Website [www.er.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.er.indianrailways.gov.in)/[www.irops.gov.in](http://www.irops.gov.in)  
Follow us at: [@EasternRailway](https://twitter.com/EasternRailway) [@easternrailwayheadquarter](https://facebook.com/easternrailwayheadquarter)

झारखण्ड सरकार  
प्रमंडलीय उप निदेशक, कल्याण कार्यालय,  
संथाल परगना प्रमंडल दुमका।  
॥ शुद्धि-पत्र ॥  
उप निदेशक कल्याण प्रमंडल, दुमका के पत्रांक-93 दिनांक-02.07.2024 द्वारा आयुर्वेदिक चिकित्सा केन्द्रों में औषधि आपूर्ति हेतु निविदा आमंत्रित की गयी थी। जिसमें दिनांक-04.07.2024 को दैनिक मुख्य समाचार पत्रों में प्रकाशित विज्ञापन (PR No.- 328485 Welfare (2024-25) D) को संशोधित करते हुए द्वितीय निविदा के स्थान पर प्रथम निविदा पढ़ा जाय।  
शेष सभी शर्तें यथावत रहेंगी।  
उप निदेशक कल्याण संथाल परगना प्रमंडल दुमका।  
PR 329035 Welfare(24-25)D

**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER SOIL INVESTIGATION DIVISION, ADVANCE PLANNING, ROAD CONSTRUCTION DEPARTMENT, RANCHI**  
NiruphanBhawan, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Room No. 401, 56-Set, Doranda, Ranchi-834002

**e-Procurement (Very Short Tender Notice) Letter of Invitation (L.OI) No.-13/2024-25**  
2<sup>nd</sup> Call  
e-Tender Ref No.-RCD/SID/AP/RAN/13/2024-25 Date:-09.07.2024

1	Name Of Work	Consultancy Services for Preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) for Reconstruction/ Widening & Strengthening of Road from NH-144A Bandarkuti to Kurumdihi PWD Road via Bajioleida including Replacement of Culverts and Bridges, Proposal for Construction of new Culverts, Bridges, ROB's, RUB's, Complete Land Acquisition Proposal including Ownership details all complete as per latest guidelines. Resettlement and Rehabilitation Proposal, Forest Division Proposal and Proposal of Utility Shifting in details etc. as required by the Department (If any) under Road Division Gridirih in the State of Jharkhand. *Empanelled consultant with RCD under category-I vide Letter No. 3063(S) WE Dated 22.08.2022 are allowed to Bid.
2	Tentative Length	18.00 km
3	Period of Completion of Work	60 Days
4	Cost of Tender documents	Rs 5,000/- (Five Thousand) only. Non refundable Fee. Tender fee will be received through online mode only. The quotations have to deposit a fixed amount of Rs 25,000 as Earnest Money. As per the Departmental Letter no.-4652(S) dated 06.10.2023, cost of tender document and Earnest Perotien Deposit be received in online mode only through e-procurement ( <a href="http://jhrkhandtenders.gov.in">http://jhrkhandtenders.gov.in</a> ) by internet banking/NEFT/RTGS facility as per Standard Operating sistim Procedure (SOP) issued by Information Technology & e-Governance Department, Government of Jharkhand vide letter no- 120 dated 03.10.2023. e-tendering( <a href="http://jhrkhandtenders.gov.in">http://jhrkhandtenders.gov.in</a> )
5	Mode of Bid Submission	
6	Date/Time of Publication of Tender on Website	13.07.2024, 10:30 AM
7	Last Date/Time of Bid Submission	20.07.2024 12:00PM
8	Last Date/Time of Submission of Tender Fee & EMD	20.07.2024 12:00PM
9	Date and Time of Bid opening	22.07.2024 12:30 PM
10	Bid validity	120 days
11	Bid Submission Address	Chief Engineer(Communication), Road Construction Department, F <sup>th</sup> Floor, Engineer Hostel No.-2, Dhurwa, Ranchi-834004
12	Designation and Contact no. of Tender inviting Officer	Executive Engineer, Soil Investigation Division, Advance Planning RCD, Ranchi Mob-9905660677
13	PR No.-	327999 Road (2024-25)-D

Note:-Only e-Tender shall be accepted.  
Sd/- (Ravi Shankar Pravaakar) Executive Engineer, Soil Investigation Division, Advance Planning, Road Construction Department, Ranchi.  
PR.No.329299 Road(24-25)-D

# Oppn walkout in Kerala assembly over migration of students



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, 11 JULY

The Congress-led United Democratic Front (UDF) Opposition on Thursday staged a walkout in the Kerala Assembly to protest the government's negative attitude towards the worrisome outflow of students from the state to foreign countries and the huge social and economic impact it poses to the state.

The Opposition accused the government of adopting an ostrich-like policy towards pressing social, educational, economic, and political realities that constrained the youth to abandon their homeland and aging parents for low-grade jobs and substandard education in far-flung countries.

Congress legislator Mathew Kuzhalnadan, who gave notice to discuss the matter through an adjournment motion, said overseas stu-

dent migration from the state, which was around 1.29 lakh in 2018, has touched 2.5 lakh in 2023, as per the Kerala Migration Survey. He accused successive Left governments of sacrificing the State's economic interests on the altar of utopian ideological rigidity. The Congress legislator lamented about the poor quality of education in the state, stating that only a little over 1% of the admissions in IITs were from Kerala. The success rate of students from Kerala in the NEET-UG entrance exam for medical courses was also on the decline, he pointed out.

Leader of the Opposition VD Satheesan said funds to the tune of Rs 2,000 to 3,000 crore were being 'siphoned off' from the state every year on account of student migration. He said families are forced to cough up Rs 35-40 lakh each to facilitate overseas admissions for their children.

**'Live-in partner cannot be prosecuted for cruelty as husband'**: In a significant ruling, the Kerala High Court stated that a woman's partner, who is not legally married, cannot be prosecuted under Section 498A of the IPC for the offence of cruelty. The court on Thursday ruled this after quashing the proceedings against the petitioner who was the live-in partner of the complainant woman. "Thus, it appears that to attract an offence punishable under Section 498(A) of IPC, the most essential ingredient is, subjecting a woman to cruelty by her husband or relative/relatives of the husband." ruled the court.

# First container ship reaches Vizhinjam seaport in Kerala



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, 11 JULY

The first container ship 'San Fernando' with around 2,000 containers reached Vizhinjam international seaport, India's first deepwater container transshipment port, Thursday morning in a major feat.

The ship, which embarked on its voyage from Xiamen, China reached Vizhinjam after completing the journey in eight days. The vessel, which reached the outer area around 7 am on Thursday, was welcomed with a water salute led by the large tug Ocean Prestige and smaller tug boats. The local residents welcomed the ship with flagpoles and waving national flags.

The container ship will begin offloading the containers soon after berthing. The ship will depart for Colombo following the inaugural ceremony on Friday.

The inaugural ceremony at 10 am on Friday, will be attended by Kerala chief minister Pinarayi Vijayan, union shipping minister Sarbanand Sonowal, Central and State ministers, people's representatives and other dignitaries. Thousands of people are expected to witness the historic event.

With the opening of Vizhinjam International Port, a new chapter is opening in the development history of Kerala.

The port built with a total investment of Rs 8,867 crore, is one of the major flagship infrastructure projects promoted by the Kerala government with the Adani Group through a public-private partnership (PPP) mode.

The port will handle 400 containers, leveraging its state-of-the-art facilities to provide world-class services, marking a significant milestone in Vizhinjam Port's operations. Equipped with modern equipment and advanced automation and IT systems, Vizhinjam will become India's first semi-automated port, expected to be fully commissioned in October 2024.

Form No. 3  
[See Regulation-15(1)(a)(16)]  
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL KOLKATA (DRT) 9<sup>th</sup> Floor, Jeevan Sudha Building, 42-C, J.L. Nehru Road, Kolkata-700071  
Case No. OA/305/2017  
Summons under sub-section (4) of section 19 of the Act, read with sub-rule (2A) of rule 5 of the Debt Recovery Tribunal (Procedure) Rules, 1993. Exh. No.-3145

STATE BANK OF INDIA VS MR. FIROZ AHAMED  
To, MR. FIROZ AHAMED Pro. MR. FIROZ AHAMED M/s Hilal Enterprise, Vill & P.O.- Jagadishpur (N), P.S.- Uluberia, Dist.- Howrah, West Bengal-713115

SUMMONS WHEREAS, OA/305/2017 was listed before Hon'ble Presiding Officer/ Registrar on 04/08/2017. WHEREAS this Hon'ble Tribunal is pleased to issue summons/ notice on the said Application under section 19(4) of the Act, (OA) filed against you for recovery of debts of Rs. 11,28,025.59/- (application along with copies of documents etc. annexed). In accordance with sub-section (4) of section 19 of the Act, you, the defendants are directed as under:-

- (i) to show cause within thirty days of the service of summons as to why relief prayed for should not be granted;
- (ii) to disclose particulars of properties or assets other than properties and assets specified by the applicant under serial number 3A of the original application;
- (iii) you are restrained from dealing with or disposing of secured assets or such other assets and properties disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application, pending hearing and disposal of the application for attachment of properties;
- (iv) you shall not transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise, except in the ordinary course of his business any of the assets over which security interest is created and/ or other assets and properties specified or disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application;
- (v) you shall be liable to account for the sale proceeds realised by sale of secured assets or other assets and properties in the ordinary course of business and deposit such sale proceeds in the account maintained with the bank or financial institutions holding security interest over such assets.

You are also directed to file the written statement with a copy thereof furnished to the applicant and to appear before Registrar on 16/07/2024 at 10:30 A.M. failing which the application shall be heard and decided in your absence. Given under my hand and the seal of this Tribunal on this date: 23/06/2023. Signature of the Officer Authorised to issue summons. Registrar-In-Charge Kolkata Debts Recovery Tribunal-I

MALDA ZILLA PARISHAD 32 N.S.Road, Malda-732101  
ABRIDGED NOTICE INVITING  
NIT No: 04(e)/MZZP/2024-25  
On behalf of Malda Zilla Parishad, Tenders are hereby invited by the us/ for one No of work in tender. Last date for submission of Tender is 26.07.2024 (upto 16.30 P.M). For details of the tender pl. contact office notice board & log on to [www.malda.gov.in](http://www.malda.gov.in) or [www.wbtenders.gov.in](http://www.wbtenders.gov.in). [maldazillaparishad.in](mailto:maldazillaparishad.in)  
Sd/- (Jameel Fathima Zeba) ADM & AEO (ZP)  
Memo No.656/2/DICO/MLD Dt.11.07.24

# Worli case: Accused consumed alcohol on night of incident

Both accused in the Worli hit-and-run case reportedly confessed to their roles in the crime

AGENCIES  
MUMBAI, 11 JULY

The main accused in the Worli hit-and-run case, Mihir Shah had consumed an excessive amount of alcohol at two different places on the night of the incident, said Mumbai police sources on Thursday. According to the Mumbai police, "During the investigation, it was found that the arrested accused Mihir Shah consumed alcohol before the incidents. He consumed alcohol at two different places on the night of the incident." "The probe revealed that after drinking alcohol at Vice Global Tapas Bar located in the Juhu area, accused Mihir Shah drank alcohol at another place between Malad and Borivali," the police said. "The interrogation with Rajrishi Rajendra Singh Bidawat, accused driver, also revealed that these people had come to visit Marine Drive since the day of the incident fell on a Sunday," said police.



Police said that the accused driver Rajrishi Rajendra Singh had taken the car from Borivali to Marine Drive, but once they reached there, Mihir had forcefully taken the car keys from the driver to drive the car near Girgaon Chowpatty. Meanwhile, earlier in the day both accused in the Worli hit-and-run case reportedly confessed to their roles in the crime and are in the custody of the Mumbai police. According to Police sources, the main accused, Mihir Shah and his driver Rajrishi Bidawat, were both confronted by the police during interrogation. "Both accused confessed

their roles in the crime and the police did a scene recreation from the night of the accident. With a similar sequence to the actual accident night, the scene was recreated from CJ House Worli to Sea Link Worli," said police. Earlier on Wednesday, a Mumbai court sent Mihir Shah to police custody until July 16. Mihir Shah was arrested in Virar on Tuesday. He was brought to Sewri court in Mumbai on Wednesday. Shah had been absconding after the car he was allegedly driving hit a scooter on Dr Annie Besant Road in Worli on Sunday, July 7. Fourteen teams were formed by Mumbai police to nab him. Police arrested Rajrishi Singh Bidawat and Mihir's father, Rajesh Shah, for their alleged involvement in the case. Following the tragic incident, the deceased woman's husband, Pradeep Nakhwa, questioned the delay in the arrest of the accused and alleged that he dragged his wife from Ceejay House to Sea Link Road. "It was due to 'politics' and the accused would not be arrested until the Vidhan Sabha session ends," Nakhwa had claimed. He also alleged that the delay in the arrest was because the accused was the son of a political leader. According to Mumbai police, the 45-year-old victim was a resident of Worli Koliwada. Her husband was riding the scooter while she was riding the pillion. The husband also sustained injuries in the incident. "The couple was returning home after buying fish when

the scooter they were riding on was hit by the luxury car. Both of them sustained injuries, and the woman died during treatment," police added. Police also said that the luxury car belonged to a leader of a political party based in Maharashtra's Palghar. The incident in Worli follows less than two months after the Pune case in which a luxury car allegedly driven by a 17-year-old youth, who was allegedly under the influence of alcohol, rammed into a motorcycle, resulting in the deaths of two software engineers in Pune's Kalyani Nagar area in the early hours of May 19. Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde expressed his "alarm" at the "rise in hit-and-run incidents" in the state and said that he has directed the police to take strict action against such cases, adding that the "guilty will not be spared." The Shiv Sena also removed Rajesh Shah, the father of the accused, from the party following his arrest.

# Urban Naxalism: Maha govt tables public security Bill proposing jail term

AGENCIES  
MUMBAI, 11 JULY

The state government on Thursday tabled the Maharashtra Special Public Security Bill, 2024 in the Assembly to check 'urban Naxalism.' Tabled in the run up to the Assembly election, the Bill proposes more effective prevention of certain unlawful activities of individuals and organisations and banned 48 frontal organisations. The Bill is crafted on the lines of the Public Security Act passed by Chhattisgarh, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and Odisha for effective unlawful activities of Naxal front organisations or similar bodies. The Bill was tabled by state minister Uday Samant. The government has said the legislation was necessary to control the unlawful activities of frontal organisations by effective legal means as the existing laws are ineffective and inadequate to tackle the Naxalism menace. "The seized literature of Naxals shows safe houses and urban dens of the Maoist network in cities of Maharashtra."



"The activities of Naxal organisations or similar organisations through their united front are creating unrest among the common people to propagate their ideology of armed rebellion against the constitutional mandate and disrupting public order in the state," reads the Bill. According to the Bill, unlawful activity means any action which constitutes a danger or menace to public order, peace and tranquility or interferes or tends to interfere with maintenance of public order or interferes or tends to interfere with administration of law or its established institutions and personnel. "Further, unlawful organisation means any organisation which indulges in or in

pursuance of its objects abets or assists or gives aid or encourages directly or indirectly through any medium, devices or otherwise, any unlawful activity. "If a member of an unlawful organisation takes part in meetings or activities of any such organisation or contributes or receives or solicits any contribution, shall be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years and shall also be liable to fine up to Rs 3 lakh. "Those who manage or assist in the management of an unlawful organisation or promote or assist in promoting a meeting of any such organisation or any member who indulges in any unlawful activity shall be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years and liable to fine up to Rs 3 lakh," it adds. It further states that those who commit or abet or attempt to commit or plan to commit any unlawful activity of such unlawful organisation shall be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend to seven years and also be liable to fine up to Rs 5 lakh.

# Stop giving the impression of being at 'war' with people of J&K: Lone to Centre

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, 11 JULY

J&K Peoples' Conference President Sajad Lone on Thursday asked the Central government to "stop giving the impression that you are at war with your own people in J&K." Lone, who earlier was a minister in the PDP-BJP coalition government from the latter's quota, taking on the microblogging website X, urged the government of India "to stop acting as individuals and start acting as an institution." He emphasised the urgent need for the restoration of statehood and conducting timely assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir. "It is imperative that Assembly elections are held on time. I honestly believe that only an administration accountable to the people of J&K has



the right to rule and administer." Amidst cries of an unresponsive administration under Lt. Governor Manoj Sinha, Lone expressed his preference for a locally elected government, even if by his political rivals, asserting, "Let my worst electoral rival be elected. I would prefer that government a million times over an alien government that falsely claims to be a stakeholder with political and social sanctity. They don't and never will. A non-

resident government would be unacceptable here or in any part of India. Would those in charge accept non-resident governments in their own states?" "A humble appeal to the GOI: End this pain. First restore statehood, not out of charity but as a matter of right. Hold elections and transfer power to the new government. Good or bad, people will elect, and the elected will govern, just like in the rest of the country. No government is perfect, and none will ever be. Despite imperfections, like in other states, let the newly elected government take office," he added in a strongly-worded attack on the BJP-led Central government. Lone concluded with the appeal: "Stop giving the impression that you are at war with your own people in J&K."

# Top brass of BSF, J&K & Punjab Police hold interstate security review after recent terrorist attacks in Kathua

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, 11 JULY

Days after a string of attacks by Pakistani terrorists in the border district of Kathua and the ongoing Amarnath pilgrimage in Kashmir, top brass of J&K and Punjab Police, BSF, and intelligence agencies held an interstate security review meeting on Thursday at the police lines in Kathua, which is in the neighbourhood of Punjab. The meeting was attended by Jammu and Kashmir Director General of Police RR Swain, his Punjab counterpart Gaurav Yadav, and Special Director General of BSF, Western Command, YB Khurana, among others, to review the security grid along the International Border and plug any loopholes, officials said. Additional Director General of Police (Law and Order),

J&K, Vijay Kumar, ADG (Law and Order), Punjab, Arpit Shukla, ADGP (Jammu Zone) Anand Jain, and Inspector General-rank BSF officers of Punjab and Jammu were also present in the meeting, they said. Sources said that it was decided to increase vigil along the borders with Pakistan to foil infiltration of terrorists. The intelligence apparatus of the two states has also been geared up. The BSF and the border police forces of J&K and Punjab have been alerted and directed to remain vigilant against infiltration attempts and drone flights from Pakistan. There were reports that terrorists were also infiltrating through the riverine Gurdaspur border in Punjab, besides the traditional routes in the Kathua, Samba, and Jammu districts.



Heavily armed groups of terrorists, who were also carrying the sophisticated US-made M-4 rifles, are believed to have infiltrated through the International Border with Pakistan that criss-crosses through Jammu and Punjab.

Two terrorists were recently spotted in the Pathankot area after which an alert was sounded in Punjab. An Army patrol was earlier this week ambushed by terrorists in the Badnota village of Billawar subdivision. Five soldiers, including a JCO, were killed and as many injured in the attack. Two heavily armed Pakistani terrorists were last month gunned down on the infiltration route in Kathua. A CRPF jawan also lost his life in the encounter. Officials say the terrorists are believed to have infiltrated through the International Border and managed to reach the dense forests of Machedi that connect Basantar in Udhampur and Bharderwah in Doda district. The terrorists have also used the route in the past when terrorism was at its peak in

the area over two decades ago. The area was cleared of terrorist presence, but the revival of terror activities has led to serious security concerns. More than 50 people have so far been detained for questioning in the attack on the Army patrol truck as a massive manhunt for the terrorists entered the fourth day on Thursday. Meanwhile, the BSF and J&K Police's Special Operation Group (SOG) have launched a special drive in the border areas of Samba to track cross-border tunnels, if any, through which Pakistani agencies push in terrorists. The SOG and police scanned the border areas in Samba on Thursday. The BSF had in the past detected several such cross-border tunnels, particularly in the Samba and Jammu districts.

# Over 5 lakh tourists visited lighthouses in the last 3 months, says Union minister Sonowal

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, 11 JULY

Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal said here on Thursday that more than five lakh tourists visited lighthouses between April and June. Chairing a meeting of the stakeholders of the lighthouse tourism in Kerala's Vizhinjam, the minister said, "More than 500,000 tourists visited the lighthouses between April and June 2024, validating the vision of transforming these iconic maritime structures into vibrant tourist hotspots as envisioned by Prime Minister Narendra Modi."



culture, social ethos, and history. Lighthouses, besides acting as marine guidance tools, are also beacons of rich historical accounts with the potential to transform as centres of tourism. Under the

dynamic leadership of PM Narendra Modi, the Union government decided to celebrate the lighthouses as symbols of rich maritime heritage by developing and promoting them as tourist destinations," he said. The minister reiterated his Ministry's commitment to rejuvenate the lighthouses to utilise their potential for economic development and celebrate the cultural heritage of India's coastline. Sonowal further said the meeting of the stakeholders was a step towards the transformation of the Vizhinjam lighthouse as a major tourist destination with a unique light and sound show. In this direction, a new light-and-sound show as well as other facilities will be developed in Vizhinjam to attract tourists taking into consideration all the aspects of convenience of the visitors, especially the elderly and specially-abled people, he added. The stakeholders' meeting is aimed at showcasing the

unique tourism potential of lighthouses, emphasising their historical, cultural, and scenic value. It seeks to foster collaboration and partnership among government bodies, tourism agencies, local communities, and private sector stakeholders. The event also highlighted the potential economic benefits of the lighthouses for the local communities in the form of increased tourism, challenges, and barriers to the promotion of lighthouse tourism, and motivated stakeholders by underscoring the importance and impact of their contributions. It may be mentioned here that earlier this year, Prime Minister Modi dedicated 75 lighthouses with tourist facilities in 10 states and Union territories.

# B'desh delegation in India to explore transshipment potential at East Coast Ports

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, 11 JULY



A 13-member delegation from Bangladesh is on a six-day visit to India to assess the possibilities of transshipment of Exim cargo of Bangladesh through Indian ports located on the East Coast. The delegation, led by Joint Secretary in the Bangladesh Ministry of Shipping S M Mostafa Kamal, comprises representatives from other key ministries and ports of the neighbouring country.

The delegation's visit to ports in Chennai, Krishnapatnam, Visakhapatnam, Kolkata and Haldia - is in line with agreed minutes of India-Bangladesh Shipping Secretaries Level Talks (SSLT) held in Dhaka in December last year. The objective of the Bangladeshi delegation's visit is to gain first-hand knowledge of technical feasibility, commercial viability and infrastructure facilities at Indian ports to assess their potential for the transshipment of Bangladeshi cargo.

Officials from the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI), Ministry of Ports and Shipping & Waterways, Director General of Shipping and Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs accompanied the visiting delegation. The delegation had a fruitful discussion with Chairmen of various Indian Ports on the East Coast viz. Chennai Port Authority, Krishnapatnam Port, Visakhapatnam Port Authority, Kolkata Dock and under Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port and Haldia Dock Complex. The delegation discussed the possibility of starting river cruise services between Dhaka and Visakhapatnam. Director (Traffic) IWAI A K Bansal informed the delegates that cruise service already exists on the IBP route & it can further be extended on coastal routes from Bangladesh to Vishakhapatnam and other ports on the East Coast as the MoU and Protocol for the MOU for passengers and cruise on Protocol and IBP route already exist.

# Assistant Director in Madhya Pradesh government PR dept commits suicide

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
BHOPAL, 11 JULY

An Assistant Director in the Madhya Pradesh Public Relations Department assigned the duty of a cabinet minister allegedly committed suicide by hanging at her house in the Saket Nagar area of Bhopal. According to the police, Pooja Thapak (29) lived with her husband Nikhil Dubey, her one-year-old son, and her parents-in-law. Nikhil Dubey is a Nayab Tehsildar in the state government, who is currently on deputation in the State Technology Department as

assistant director. Initial police investigation revealed marital discord between Pooja and Nikhil. They have been fighting with each other regularly since their wedding in 2022. They came in contact with each other before marriage and studied together while preparing for the State Public Service Commission (PSC) examination in Indore. The police found out that the couple had a heated exchange last evening before the wife locked herself inside her room. As she did not open the door for long despite repeated calls, Nikhil broke open the door and found her hanging from the ceiling of the room. He told the police that he rushed Pooja to a hospital where she breathed her last at around 3 am while undergoing treatment. Govindpura police station Inspector Avdhesh Tomar said the police are investigating the case from all angles. As no suicide note was found at the spot, they are scanning Pooja's mobile details and laptop entries for leads. Sources said Pooja had lodged a complaint against Nikhil in the past and had left home to live with her parents in Gwalior for about six months.

Ten pvt schools ordered to refund ₹64.59 cr or extra fees in MP: The District Administration of Jabalpur district in Madhya Pradesh has penalised 10 schools in Jabalpur and ordered them to refund nearly Rs 64.59 cr to parents of more than 81,000 students, which the schools had collected from them after hiking fees without permission from any authority. According to officials, the district level committee set up under provisions of the MP Niji Vidyalaya Adhiniyam, had examined the accounts of the 10 schools & found them charging extra fees.

**AGRICULTURE UNIVERSITY, JODHPUR**  
No. F./AUJ/Est./2024/ Date: 10 July, 2024  
**NOTIFICATION**  
Applications on the prescribed forms are invited for direct recruitment of 04 posts of Senior Scientist & Head (in reference to University Advertisement No.AUJ/2023/05 Dated: 27.06.2023) and 16 posts of Subject Matter Specialist (in reference to University Advertisement No.AUJ/2023/06 Dated: 27.06.2023) in the Agriculture University, Jodhpur.  
The advertisements, Notifications (AUJ/SSS/H/2024/01, dated: 10.07.2024 & AUJ/SMS/2024/02, dated: 10.07.2024) and all details including application forms, score cards, general conditions and instructions etc. can be seen and downloaded from the website [www.ajodhpur.ac.in](http://www.ajodhpur.ac.in) of Agriculture University, Jodhpur. The application form and score card duly completed in all respect along with necessary documents and requisite fee (payable to the Comptroller, Agriculture University, Jodhpur) should reach the office of the Registrar, Agriculture University, Jodhpur- 342304, Rajasthan on or before 10<sup>th</sup> August, 2024 up to 5.00 PM.  
Reg.Sarawad/C/24/2108 REGISTRAR

Pre-qualification application towards selection of Contractors for Civil / Sanitary Plumbing / Interior Furnishing / Electrical Works for proposed Zonal Office at Kolkata.  
Offers are invited for the Pre-qualification towards selection of Contractors for Civil / Sanitary Plumbing / Interior Furnishing / Electrical Works for our proposed Zonal Office cum Main Branch at 6th Floor, Kanak Tower at Kolkata. The estimated project cost is Rs. 2 Crores. The last date for submission of the offers is 23rd July 2024. For details, please refer our website [www.sbmf.com](http://www.sbmf.com) under downloads in the tender section. The company reserves the right to reject all or any offer without assigning any reason whatsoever.  
**SBI Funds Management Limited**  
(A Joint Venture between SBI & AMUNDI)  
(CIN: U65990MH1992PLC065289)  
9<sup>th</sup> Floor, Crescenzo, C-38 & 39, G Block, Bandra-Kurla Complex, Bandra (E), Mumbai - 400 051.

## China, Bangladesh always cooperate toward a better future

At the invitation of Premier Li Qiang, Bangladeshi Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is paying an official visit to China from Monday to Wednesday. This is Sheikh Hasina's fifth visit to China and her first in five years.

This visit is of historic significance, as it will enable the two sides to build on the past achievements and forge bilateral relations in the future. During the visit, Sheikh Hasina will hold meetings with and call on Chinese leaders. The visit, therefore, will inject vibrant impetus into bilateral relations and cooperation in various fields, and help make new achievements in the China-Bangladesh strategic partnership of cooperation and elevate bilateral ties to new heights.

A modern town built by a Chinese company on a plot of barren land in Khulna, Bangladesh, aims to provide support for a large power plant. [Photo by Ma Rui/For chinadaily.com.cn]

The friendship between China and Bangladesh was founded and nurtured by the older generation of leaders of both countries. In the 49 years since the establishment of diplomatic ties, China and Bangladesh have always respected and treated each other as equals, pursued mutual benefit and win-win results, supported each other on issues concerning each other's core interests, and worked together on the path to realizing their respective development and revitalization, thus setting

CHINADAILY a shining example of friendly coexistence and win-win cooperation.

The amicable cooperation between China and Bangladesh exhibits strong vitality, dynamism, and growth potential, is not targeted at any third party, and is welcomed and supported by people of both countries, contributing to regional and international peace and stability, as well as fostering development and prosperity.

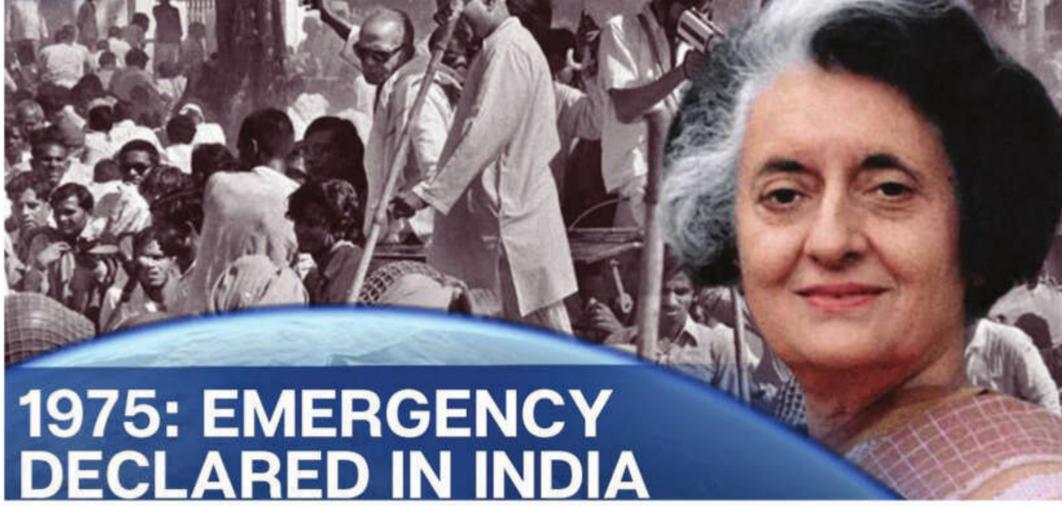
Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has reiterated that China is Bangladesh's most trustworthy development partner and most reliable friend. This is the most vivid portrayal of the relationship between the two countries.

Since the establishment of diplomatic relations 49 years ago, China and Bangladesh have made remarkable achievements in their respective national construction, economic development and modernization drive. China has become the world's second-largest economy, won the biggest poverty-alleviation battle in history, built a moderately prosperous society in all respects on schedule, and advanced the great cause of building China into a strong country and achieving national rejuvenation through Chinese modernization.

Bangladesh seeks to be self-reliant in feeding nearly 180 million Bangladeshi people, and to maintain long-term political stability and realize rapid economic development. The country's average annual GDP growth rate in the past decade has exceeded 6 percent, and its GDP is more than \$450 billion and per capita GDP nearly \$2,800. Its economic strength has risen to the second place in South Asia. Bangladesh has transformed from one of the poorest countries into one of the fastest growing economies in the world, leading South Asian countries in terms of life expectancy, literacy, and female labor force participation rate, performing what is popularly called the "Bay of Bengal Miracle" and becoming one of the leaders in the Global South.

# Unfinished business

If the government of the day that rejoices 25th June as a black day every year is truly committed to undo the damages of the Emergency and not repeat its grave errors, it must notify the amendments made in Article 22 (4) to (7) by 44th Constitutional Amendment Act which are intrinsically related to the personal liberty of a citizen



The traumatic episode of emergency must act as a reminder of the responsibility of democratic institutions in always safeguarding the freedoms and rights of citizens. On 25 June 1975, Prime Minister Indira Gandhi advised Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed, the then President of India to declare a state of National Emergency under Article 352 of the Indian Constitution. This marked the beginning of a 21-month period that remains one of the most controversial and dark chapters in the post-independence political history of India.

The suspension of civil liberties and free speech, the arbitrariness in government actions, and the indiscriminate arrests of opposition leaders and dissenters under draconian preventive detention laws, among other measures, continue to haunt us even today.

The 1975-77 Emergency also witnessed embattled amendments which dented the spirit of constitutionalism. Citizenry expected the apex court to intervene during this dark time but it instead capitulated to Indira Gandhi's autocratic tendencies.

The court in A.D.M. Jabalpur v. Shivakant Shukla (AIR 1976 SC 1207) a severely criticized case, held that certain fundamental rights, including the right to liberty, did not survive the executive's proclamation of emergency. That decision only served to erode further the apex court's esteem.

Taking lessons from this hostile experience, the newly constituted Parliament on 30 April 1979 in exercise of its power under Article 368 of the Constitution passed the 44th Amendment.

The amendment was a major constitutional overhaul, passed by the Janata Party government to undo the regressive constitutional changes made during the Emergency of 1975-77 through the 42nd Amendment and to bring in safeguards against similar abuses of power by future governments.

The amendment restored the original position by ensuring that rights under Article 21 could not be suspended even

during an Emergency.

Given the mass detentions of opposition leaders during the emergency, significant safeguards were added to Article 22 of the Constitution to tackle the evil of preventive detention (Section 3 of the Constitution 44th Amendment Act, 1978).

The vital features of the said section were: first, period of detention under any preventive detention act was reduced from three months to two months; second, the advisory board must give its opinion for extension of detention period beyond two months before the expiry of two months; and third, the composition of the advisory board was specified so as to ensure the rule of law for the detenu in actual practice, so that justice is not only done but seen to be done in case of preventive detention.

The Board consists of a service judge of the appropriate High Court as the Chairman and two retired or serving High Court judges as members.

However, Section 1(2) provided that the provisions of the Constitution 44th Amendment Act 1978 shall come into force on such date as the Central Government may by notification in the official gazette provide and different dates may be appointed for different provisions of this Act.

Parliament conferred on the Union Government the discretion as to when it would bring the amendment into force by notification.

All the constitutional changes brought through the 44th Amendment were enforced by the then Janata Party government except the one that deals with improving and humanizing the preventive detention framework under the Constitution (Sections 1(2) and 3 of the amendment).

Two years later, Indira Gandhi once again returned to power

and enacted a new preventive detention law i.e. the National Security Act (NSA), 1980 which remains in effect till present.

The NSA authorizes the central government and the state governments to utilize preventive detention in certain cases. The central and state governments, as well as district magistrates and police commissioners, are empowered to detain any individual "with a view to preventing him from acting in any manner prejudicial to" various state objectives including national security and public order (section 3(1) (a)).

Any detention made under NSA has to be referred to an Advisory Board within three weeks from the date of detention (section 10). The board has to submit its report within seven weeks from the date of detention.

The Advisory Board is constituted by Judges of the High Court or persons qualified to be appointed as the judge of the High Court. But the person detained does not have the right to be legally represented.

Sometimes when governments fail, people get hope from the judiciary, especially the Supreme Court which has been entrusted with the guardianship of civil liberties in India.

The post-Emergency period saw serious efforts by the Supreme Court to recapture its legitimacy which was eroded during the emergency.

In the Maneka Gandhi case (AIR 1978 SC 597) the Supreme Court sturdily echoed that Articles 14, 19 and 21 will offer a composite test for any legislation or executive action rather than examining it in silos.

It also enthusiastically supplanted "procedure established by law" in Article 21, with "due process" despite the extensive debates in the Constituent Assembly pointing to the contrary. Yet, the attitude of the Supreme

Court with respect to the preventive detention law did not change.

In this context, the SC got an opportunity to examine the constitutional validity of the National Security Act in A.K. Roy v. Union of India (AIR 1982 SC 710). The court not only entirely upheld the validity of the NSA but also declined to ask the government to implement the amendments made in Article 22 (4) to (7) by 44th Constitutional Amendment Act.

However, in their dissenting note, Justices A.C. Gupta and V.D. Tulzapurkar reasoned that Parliament only gave the executive limited discretion to notify the provision within a "reasonable" time frame.

They also observed that the executive clearly was in a position to implement the amendment as a preventive detention law with similar safeguards had been passed initially, but these safeguards were removed from subsequent iterations of the law.

Even the majority in A.K. Roy observed that "Parliament could not have intended that the central government may exercise a kind of veto over its constituent will by not ever bringing the Amendment or some of its provisions into force." Forty-six years later, one wonders whether successive central governments have indeed effectively vetoed Parliament.

Since all other amendments of the various Acts under the same Constitution Amendment Act, 1978 have already been notified by the Government of India, this is nothing but hostile discrimination as far as personal liberty of a person detained under any preventive detention law is concerned. It is a fraud on the constitution.

If the government of the day that rejoices 25th June as a black day every year is truly committed to undo the damages of the Emergency and not repeat its grave errors, it must notify the amendments made in Article 22 (4) to (7) by 44th Constitutional Amendment Act which are intrinsically related to the personal liberty of a citizen.



YOGESH PRATAP SINGH  
The writer is Professor of Law and Vice-Chancellor, National Law University, Tripura. The views expressed are personal

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

editor@thestatesman.com

## Dera culture

SIR, The tragic Hathras stampede during a religious congregation that claimed over a hundred lives and left several injured has once again caused serious nationwide concern about public safety as noted in your editorial, "Tragedy in Hathras", 4 July.

The mayhem has also brought the role of the political executive, the bureaucracy and the organisers who violated the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)'s guidelines on managing crowds at events and venues of mass gatherings under a scanner and raised questions that need solid answers.

Why did the local administration allow the gathering of devotees beyond the permissible limit on the basis of false information? Why wasn't spot inspection about the security arrangement carried out? Why was the police arrangement inadequate?

Why didn't the organisers seek police help in managing the streaming crowd? How dare the volunteers refuse to cooperate

with the police in traffic control and obstruct them from discharging duties? Why did Bhole Baba's personal security men frantically push and shove the attendees, triggering the stampede? Was there a conspiracy? Why was the self-styled godman not named in the FIR? Did he enjoy any political patronage?

The UP government should hold those responsible for criminal lapse accountable, including the spiritual guru, and ensure speedy justice and adequate ex-gratia to the victims and their distraught families.

It is imperative to check the menace of fake 'dera' culture flourishing in the country.

Yours, etc., D S Kang, Hoshiarpur, 8 July.

### FM'S CHALLENGE

SIR, After a stormy Lok Sabha session, the date for the budget session has been announced. Telecom companies like Jio and Bharati Airtel have already increased

their tariffs. The focus now is on Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman who could give some respite to the common man by reducing the price of essential commodities.

It seems strange that before she could address these genuine issues, coalition partners of the

BJP, Bihar chief minister Nitish Kumar and Andhra Pradesh chief minister Chandrababu Naidu have demanded special grants of Rs 50,000 crore each for their states.

Over the last ten years, the better days had never come for the people of this country, despite

the BJP having a majority. Can Mrs Sitharaman who is heading the finance ministry for the third time, bring in radical changes and reforms or will she surrender to the wishes of coalition partners?

Yours, etc., Janga Bahadur Sunuwar, Bagrakote, 9 July.

### ROCKY FUTURE

SIR, Please refer to today's report "Initiate action against wrong beneficiaries: SC". The way ahead for 24 lakh medical aspirants looks rocky. Deliberations on entrance test NEET's question paper leak are slipping into a maze. The Supreme Court said that a retest is an "extreme last resort" - only in play if leaks were "systemic" and compromised the entire test, and if it was not possible to identify how many, and who, benefited from the breach. Nodal test agency NTA says the breach isn't systemic, didn't compromise the test at the all-India level, and was limited to the centres of Godhra and Patna. Its claims are curious.

In today's always-online world, it's near-naive to imagine that question papers would be confined to geographical origins of the leak. The scary part is that weeks after revelations of the breach, the only "solution" on the table is a retest, which is a non-starter. Measures taken so far have been drops in the ocean of overhaul required.

Ninety-three candidates have been debarred, and an SC-directed re-test was conducted to correct NTA's very own grace-marks fiddle. In the uncertainty, counselling, the next step of allotting colleges, has been indefinitely delayed.

That means 13 lakh candidates who qualified have been left high and dry. The academic calendar indefinitely delayed, it's clear that NEET, introduced as a reform, has plunged medical education into chaos. What is unfolding this year with NEET-UG - there's no end in sight for students' anxiety - is making it more than evident that centralisation of tests can derail an entire academic year, and future of students. That conversation must also be renewed.

Yours, etc., Khokan Das, Kolkata, 10 July.

OCCASIONAL NOTE

A PROBLEM of common interest to both Britain and India is that of re-vivifying the social life of the villages. One interesting example of what may be done for this purpose is afforded by the work of a local society at Devanandapur which held its annual meeting the other day. Amongst the topics referred to in the secretary's report were those of a village library, educational work, and voluntary labour in the clearing of jungle, the of rural life by the exercise of self-help needs no argument; and progressive effort of this kind directed to practical objects of benefit to a village community is well worth noting.

NEWS ITEMS

ALIPORE COURTS

BALLYGUNGE KIDNAPPING SCARE

(BEFORE KHARI SAHEB ABDUL GUFFER, POLICE MAGISTRATE, ALIPORE.)

THE case in which Tafzal Hussain and 41 other Mahomedans and Moochees of Gorasthan Kuraya were charged under sections 302, 147 and 149 I. P. C. for having committed riot and thereby caused the deaths of six Punjabis was resumed yesterday.

Mr. N. N. Bannerjee, public prosecutor, examined nine witnesses including Mrs. Graham and Mr. Riquette of New Theatre Road who deposed to the occurrence but could not identify any of the accused. Out of the other witnesses there was a Punjabi boy of 15 years who identified 28 accused and two other witnesses could not identify any of the accused.

Mr. M. Ashroof Ali, counsel, with Moulvi Golam Ahamed, Mr. F. Dibilna, Hursonath Bannerjee, Charoo Chandra Basu, Samatul Krishna Sinha, Jaminipatti Ray, Tarak Das Basu and Bhabendra Chandra Pal appeared for the defence.

ARMS AND COCAINE SMUGGLER

SMART ARREST IN PRINCEP STREET

A SMART arrest of a cocaine and arms smuggler was made on Friday evening in Princep Street.

A few days ago, Brindaban Lalla, an up-country man residing at 53, Sikhdarpara Street, approached sub-inspector M. Maniruddin Ahmed of the Excise Department with a proposal that he would plant some quantity of cocaine and a revolver in the house of an adversary of his and that the sub-inspector should arrest him (the adversary).

The sub-inspector, pretending agreement to the proposal, asked the man to produce the articles for his personal examination and in the meantime made arrangements with the police for the detection of the case.

According to the appointment with the sub-inspector, the man turned up at the Excise Barracks in Princep Street on Friday evening in a gharry, and when he was showing the things to the subinspector, the police officers and Excise Inspector Chatterji pounced upon and arrest him.

A five-chambered revolver, 20 rounds of ammunition and 360 grains of cocaine were found in his possession.

SMALL CAUSES COURT

CLAIM AGAINST SECRETARY OF STATE

(BEFORE MR. J. C. UNPIN.)

THE suit of Messrs. Sadiram Khealiram against the Secretary of State for India (E. B. Ry.) came up for final disposal.

The plaintiffs Messrs. Sadiram Khealiram sought to recover from the defendants Rs. 1,557-11-0 being the value of a bale which they alleged was made over to the Railway Company for despatch to Darjeeling on November 3, 1920.

The plaintiffs sent to the Sealdah station seven bales of piece goods for despatch to Darjeeling to four different consignees. Six bales duly arrived at the destination and were delivered by the railway but they did not deliver one bale. In this suit the plaintiffs were seeking for the value of this bale including interest, profit etc.

The defendant company denied receipt of the bale and contended that even if it were proved that the bale was delivered to the Railway Administration and accepted by them for despatch the claim was barred by the Law of Limitation as the case had been instituted long after one year from the time when delivery ought to have been given.

It transpired in evidence that one Ram Karan a durwan generally took goods on plaintiffs' behalf to the railway shed for despatch. As he was dead the plaintiffs brought one of their gomashtas to speak from memory as to what happened in 1920.

# Some stray thoughts on India's sporting journey

BASAB DASGUPTA

THE world is getting ready for the 2024 Olympic Games in Paris which starts later this month. As a young boy growing up in post-independence India, I had a sincere wish to see my country gain prominence on the world stage and to see Indian athletes succeed in international sports.

The 1960 Rome Olympics was the first Olympics I followed closely. Milkha Singh, who was the favourite to win a medal in the 400 m race, and the Indian hockey team that had completely dominated in earlier Olympics, were my idols.

Unfortunately, Milkha came in fourth and the Indian hockey team was defeated by Pakistan in the finals. The exercise of rooting for India in the Olympics then became a source of utter frustration. India had won only one medal in each Olympic until 2008 except the years 1900 and 1952 when she won two. India won three medals in 2008, six in 2012, two in 2016 and seven in the 2021 games in Tokyo.

I also followed Indian players in tennis and soccer. Ramanathan Krishnan was a world-class tennis star who made it to the Wimbledon semi-final two years in a row, in 1960 and 1961, but no other player from India made it to the singles semi of a major tournament. India performed well in soccer in the Asian Games of 1962, winning the gold medal and qualified to play in the 1960 Olympics. The Olympic team won one match and tied another. That was the extent of their success. India never even qualified to play in the Olympics again and has once won a bronze medal in the Asian games.

My father took me with him to watch the third cricket Test between India and the West Indies during the 1958-59 series at the Eden Gardens. Unfortunately, the performance of Indian players in cricket was no different from that in other sports. What we watched could only be called a total annihilation of the Indian team. India lost by an innings and 336 runs.

I was nonetheless fascinated by the game. It was called a gentleman's game. It was played during winter with crisp weather and pleasantly warm sunshine. There was no physical struggle or sweating involved. No one was in a hurry. There were plenty of breaks including time for lunch, tea and drinks. The whole environment was peaceful.

I went to see Test matches whenever my father managed to get tickets. However, my career as a cricket fan was as frustrating as following India's performance in other sports. India never won any Test series while I was keeping score and never won a Test in a foreign country except New Zealand until that time.

There was a dramatic change in the evolution of Indian cricket though. In 1971 (ironically only a few months after I came to the USA) India won for the first time on English soil. That victory was a watershed moment. India became a different team afterwards. A new hero emerged during the preceding West Indian tour - Sunil Gavaskar. Scoring a test century was like a walk in the park for him!

I kept track of all the changes taking place in the game: use of helmets by batsmen, colourful outfits with logos of sponsoring companies, introduction of one-day cricket, increase in the number of Test matches and other tournaments, and emergence of new countries in the arena.

India gradually became a dominant force in the game with hundreds of millions of cheering fans. The success of Gavaskar was followed by that of Sachin Tendulkar who became an embodiment of the game itself. He broke almost all batting records including the number of Test centuries and number of runs in test cricket.

Many other players, including Kapil Dev, M S Dhoni and Virat Kohli have gained international fame. Popularity of cricket in India has a positive spiralling effect; it generates profit which in turn leads to investments in developing better players who enhance the performance of the team

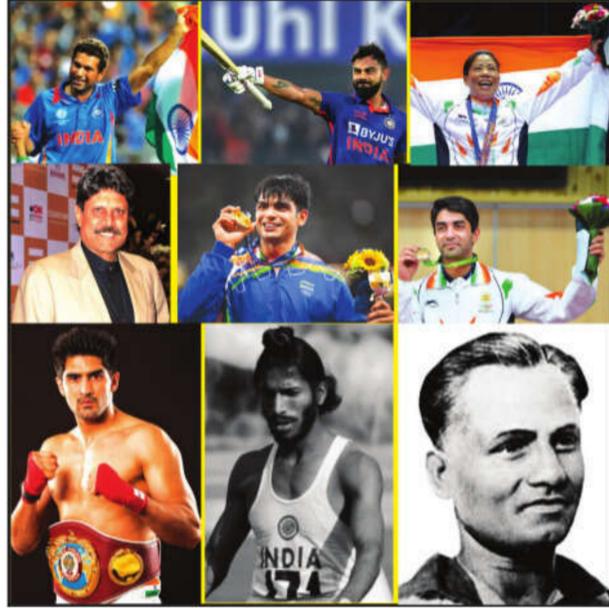
even more. The victory in the 2024 T20 World Cup is the latest testament to that success story.

The contrast between excellence of India in cricket and poor performance in other sports is striking. Unlike cricket, India's performance in other sports has not improved much over my lifetime.

What are the reasons? Is financial investment the answer? There is no question that the game of cricket has become a big business in India with plenty of opportunities for the team-owners to make profit; a portion of that profit is fed back to recruit and groom new players.

In Western countries, especially in the USA, the athletes in most sports are developed in college programmes. The cost of maintaining such programmes is huge and includes mega annual salaries of successful coaches, travel expenses and construction of infrastructure. India understandably does not have expensive college athletic programmes to train students in various sports. For the government it is not a high priority to develop world-class athletes when there are dozens of much more pressing needs in improving the economy, education, housing, infrastructure etc. The private sector probably does not see opportunities for return on investment in most sports. Can such investment improve performances of Indian players in sports like tennis, swimming and soccer if not track and field events?

I would like to argue that the answer is "no"! There might be a more subtle reason for our superiority in cricket. Indian athletes have probably performed poorly in the Olympics and other sports simply because of their fundamental inadequacies in physical strength and perseverance compared to athletes from other countries. The reason may be related to genetics, nutrition and climate and it is doubtful that a huge amount of financial investment would bring them on par with Western and some Asian athletes.



Cricket is different. It is not a game of physical strength. It is a game of art. For a batsman all the strokes - late cuts, glances, hooks, square drives and so on - are results of very delicate movements of the wrists and arms as opposed to brute force. The idea is to change the trajectory of the ball with minimum physical effort. Same is true for bowlers. The way a bowler delivers a ball by moving his arm over his head and holding the seam in various ways has a complex effect on the movement of the ball after it leaves his hand. Such artful skill and finesse combined with a leisurely environment are perfectly suited to the Indian temperament.

This may be what the Indians have mastered, and why they excel over other teams with stronger players. The 1950s and 60s were just the time needed to develop these skills to

the fullest. Indian players are performing very well in the game of badminton but not in tennis, again because tennis requires physical strength, but badminton involves more delicate movements.

It is the same tactful movement of wrists and arms that allowed India to be on top of the world in field hockey for many years, but then other countries caught up on this art. Same thing can happen in cricket too. However, the sports powerhouses in the world seem to have little interest in cricket and India's dominance in cricket is likely to continue.

In any event, I will forget the past disappointments and again root for Indian athletes in Paris and hope that India's medal count reaches double digits.

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

# Regional thrust needed to tackle climate

AISHA KHAN

CLIMATE change is now globally recognised as an existential threat to the planet and all life systems. Diplomacy has been used as a tool for centuries to address geopolitical issues and resolve contentious matters through negotiated agreements.

In today's world and the current global scenario, the overarching threat of climate change makes climate and diplomacy inseparable. The use of one to step up action in the other has played a critical role in moving the needle on climate change from its inception at the Earth Summit in Rio (1992) to the Paris Agreement (2015) that finally succeeded in getting 196 countries to agree on an 'Agenda of Solutions'.

As we move forward into uncharted territory, it is more important than ever before to forge mutually beneficial alliances to preserve nature and invest in sustainable development so that people and nature can thrive in tandem. To this end, the Conference of Parties is held annually to reach agreement on contentious issues within the Paris Agreement on the way forward. Diplomacy is in full swing at these meetings and country delegates from their respec-



tive foreign offices play an important role at these multilateral dialogues.

However, while recognising the necessity of multilateralism, it is equally important to acknowledge the need for strengthening bilateral cooperation that can promote dialogue and confidence, thereby contributing to regional stability. Cooperative and coordinated mechanisms are an investment in future peace and crisis management between and among countries that live in close proximity and are connected by land, air and water. The benefits of an integrated approach include reducing future risks, improving productivity of

resources and people, boosting innovation by seeking solutions to new challenges, increasing environmental benefits and improving ecosystems.

South Asia is a complex and dynamic ecosystem with climate hot spots, high mountains, large glaciated areas and a vast coastal belt. It is also the least integrated region in the world with a population of approximately two billion and a large youth cohort. The geography and topography of the region makes each country an upper or lower riparian that derives its waters from the same mountain source. The type of climate-induced disasters and the coping

capacity of people also have similarities that go beyond economic indicators to sharing social norms and traditional practices, especially with regard to gender, access and opportunity.

Air pollution is a trans-boundary issue and a common concern that is rapidly eroding the environmental integrity of urban centres and putting glaciated areas under threat causing damage to human health and accelerating the melting of glaciers. All of the above make a compelling case for collaboration.

Under a rapidly warming world with high humanitarian stakes, it is time for countries in South Asia to prioritise policies based on the urgency of the crisis and plan accordingly. Climate diplomacy is the best tool for re-evaluating and recalibrating relationship dynamics taking into account the scope of the climate threat, its impact on communities and the capacity of states to manage it on a stand-alone basis. Given the interconnectedness of the landmass, climate impacts will have a spill-over effect making the future risky at best and hazardous at worst.

The recent climate stocktake in Dubai and the post-election scenario in Pakistan, Bangladesh and India present the region with a new opportunity to explore the potential of

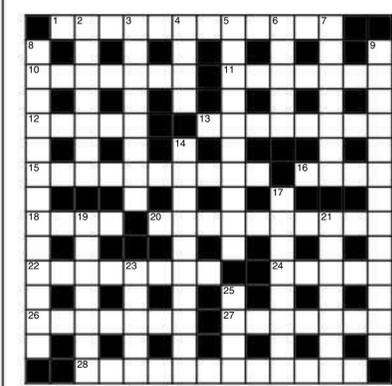
developing a regional climate vision strategy that offers practical cooperative solutions for safeguarding the natural resources of South Asia and protecting human life.

Given the truncated and traumatic history of the region, this may not be easy but using climate as an en-trypoint and diplomacy as a tool can open windows for constructive conversations.

The courts in Pakistan and India have recognised climate change as a human rights issue and justified this rights-based approach by linking the state's obligation to take precautionary measures to mitigate the adverse effects of climate change. This shift in constitutionalising climate change offers a unique opportunity to both countries to address the challenge jointly and use it to deliver on an agenda that is seen not only as an exogenous threat but as a core legal and ethical responsibility of the state towards its citizens. Cooperation and collaboration on approaches that support sustainable development, protect the rights of people and nature, ensure that decisions on climate change are equitable and develop better understanding of the problem and solutions to environmental issues can only be a win for all.

Dawn/ANN.

CROSSWORD



YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

WINTER PALACE  
A A M G A L H V  
YOUVEGOTMETHERE  
O G E S O I A N  
USHER PYRAMIDAL  
T T E E A E O Y  
EYEFUL LETOFF  
N I E O  
PIERCE CORONA  
F N E N L E H  
ITERATIVE PASTE  
N T L G R L T R  
ANIMALMAGNETISM  
L E R A Y A M I  
SESAME STREET

ACROSS

- Chemical compound by reactor had decayed (12)
- Heaney's work bedevilled initially by recurrent influenza misery (7)
- Mocking male teacher in charge nursing a temperature (7)
- Alfred the Unsure? (5)
- Singer Buddy regularly sampled by T-Rex star (3,5)
- Forgot Ed Balls appearance having priority (10)

DOWN

- 10 perhaps, a constant in The City (4)
- Catch sight of English agent (4)
- Called at Rome on the way back, having a sandwich of sausage (10)
- Small firm working to contain inflation measure - it could be deadly (8)
- Partially decrease Liberal support for the arts? (5)
- Frozen marijuana drink (4,3)
- Ms Zadora breaking end off musical Irish family's instrument (7)
- Gasbag Sepp runs off carrying that lady's winter sports gear (12)

DOWN

- American wily-sounding character short of oxygen acquiring large fan (7)
- Some nonsense about Brand taking a line in the capital (8)
- Leaders of House admit frankly Trump's a bit of a tool (4)
- Fraud as Rishi - according to some - admits trafficking stone (10)
- Played detective about to flip (5)
- Wyatt touring Florida in headwarmer (7)

DOWN

- Left Marie Celeste? (9,4)
- One climbing Snowdon circles in a weird manner (6,7)
- He recommends a tiny sample of the oompah remix (not loud) (10)
- Lidl steak unfortunately emitting sulphur gas (4,4)
- Saw dog biting lead (7)
- React angrily to the French call of aggression? (4,3)
- Bread? It's mine, thanks (5)
- Box Snoop's debut rap collection (4)

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



THUMBNAILS

**Rapid Testing Kit for unapproved pesticides:** Tea Industry has been facing the impact of climate change which has led to increased incidence of pest infestation in the tea plantations of Bengal and Assam. Plant protection measures in terms of pesticides spraying has led to different levels of non-compliance as per FSSAI standards. The demand from the tea industry was to have a rapid testing kit and machine which can detect green leaves at the factory point before the leaves are manufactured. The Tea Research Association is partnering with Arogyam Medisoft, a startup incubated in Bengal and CDAC and TRA member Luxmi Tea in validating an handheld equipment named ACLIVIA for instant test of green tea leaf to detect unapproved pesticides. ACLIVIA is being launched at an event in Kolkata on Friday.

**Launch of dairy products:** Heritage Foods Ltd announced the launch of its dairy products in Kolkata, making a significant expansion into the eastern market of the country. For the initial phase, the company is introducing laddus, ghee, and long shelf-life milk along with a variety of other drinks like milkshakes, lassi, flavoured milk, and cold coffee. It also has plans of opening at least 20,000 retail outlets in the East by the end of this year. Alongside Kolkata, the company also planned to expand across Bihar and Jharkhand.

**Sandeep Kumar appointed as Director (Finance) of Power Finance Corporation Limited (PFC):** The Govt. of India appointed Mr. Sandeep Kumar as Director (Finance) at Power Finance Corporation Limited (PFC), effective 11 July 2024. Before this appointment, he was Executive Director (Finance) at PFC since 01.01.2020 and is holding the position of Chief Financial Officer (CFO), PFC. Mr. Sandeep Kumar has a distinguished career spanning over 34 years in the power and financial sectors. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Commerce (Honours) and is a Fellow Member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India.

# Stock markets end marginally lower amid volatile session

Nifty 50 closed nearly 9 points, or 0.03 per cent, lower at 24,315.95, while the Sensex settled 27 points, or 0.03 per cent, down at 79,897.34

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, 11 JULY

Benchmark indices ended marginally lower on Thursday in the volatile session amid positive global cues ahead of US inflation data due later in the day.

Nifty 50 closed nearly 9 points, or 0.03 per cent, lower at 24,315.95, while the Sensex settled 27 points, or 0.03 per cent, down at 79,897.34.

The top Nifty movers were ITC, ONGC, Tata Motors, SBI and Coal India while on the flip side, shares of Mahindra and Mahindra, Bajaj Finance, Larsen and Toubro (L&T), HDFC Bank and ICICI Bank

ended as the top drags.

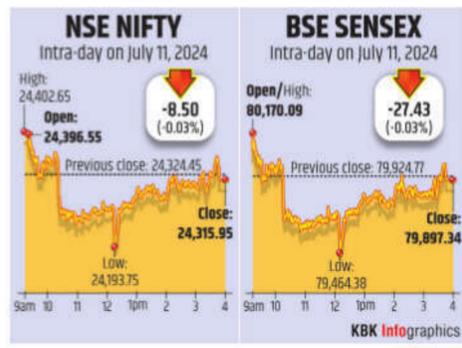
BSE Midcap and Smallcap indices outperformed the benchmarks, rising 0.34 per cent and 0.57 per cent, respectively. The overall market capitalisation of the firms listed on BSE rose to nearly Rs 451.3 lakh crore from nearly Rs 450.1 lakh crore in the previous session.

Among the sectors, Nifty Oil and Gas (1.10 per cent) and Media (1.03 per cent) clocked healthy gains while on the losing side were Nifty Realty (1.49 per cent) and Pharma (0.60 per cent). Nifty Bank rose 0.16 per cent while the PSU Bank and Private Bank indices moved up by 0.17 per cent and 0.16 per cent,

respectively.

Nifty FMCG index continued its upward momentum, marking a new milestone with a record high of 59,587 points, extending its winning streak for the fifth consecutive trading session. It gained 0.40 per cent during the session, accumulating a 4.3 per cent increase over the past five sessions, bringing it closer to the 60,000 level.

In a significant uptrend, a report by Motilal Oswal Financial Services said the total number of Demat accounts surged to 16.2 crore in June 2024. New additions spiked by 42 lakh in June, marking the highest account opening rate since February



This indicates a 4.24 per cent spike from the previous month and a substantial 34.66 per cent rise compared to last year.

In comparison, Demat account additions were 36 lakh a month ago and 23.6 lakh a year ago. So far FY25 has seen an average monthly growth rate of 34 lakh.

Shares of YES Bank spiked over 7 per cent after Moody's revised its outlook to 'positive' from 'stable' on hopes of improvement in the lender's depositor base and lending franchise.

So far this year, the stock of YES Bank has rallied over 24 per cent. Earlier, YES Bank had touched a 52-week high of Rs 32 apiece on February 9, 2024.

Indian Railway Catering and Tourism (IRCTC) shares rose by 2 per cent to Rs

1,041 per share following a collaboration between the Delhi Metro Corporation (DMRC) and the Centre for Railway Information Systems (CRIS) to promote the 'One India-One Ticket' initiative.

So far this year, shares of IRCTC jumped over 16 per cent. Earlier, IRCTC had hit a 52-week high of Rs 1,148 per share on May 22, 2024.

The focus was also on the US CPI which is due later on Thursday as it will shape expectations of rate cuts by the US Fed.

In his testimony to Congress, Fed Chair Jerome Powell said the central bank needs more data to start cutting rates.

## GRSE to enable MSMEs, start-ups to develop innovative tech solutions for ship building

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE KOLKATA, 11 JULY

Buoyant over the success of its maiden venture to promote development of technology in the field of shipbuilding, the State-run Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) Ltd, rolled out the second edition of GRSE Accelerated Innovation Nurturing Scheme (GAINS) in Kolkata on Wednesday. GAINS-2024 was flagged off by the Union Minister of state for Defence, Sanjay Seth.

GAINS is a unique national open challenge to encourage and enable MSMEs and Start-Ups to develop innovative solutions that GRSE may incorporate for further technological advancement. This initiative is in keeping with the 'Make in India' and 'Start-up India' policies of the Government of India. The aim is to leverage the vast ecosystem of MSMEs and Start-Ups to address present and emerging challenges in the ship design and construction industry, while achieving the objectives of Atmanirbharta.

"This special day not only marks the innovative efforts made by GRSE in the development and security of our nation's maritime strength but



also celebrates the launch of the second edition of GRSE Accelerated Innovation Nurturing Scheme. This initiative taken by GRSE under Make In India & Start-up India is truly commendable. As Indians, we are proud that India is establishing itself as a world-class defence industry and reaching new heights of self-reliance," said Seth.

CMDEPR Hari, IN (Retd), Chairman and Managing Director, GRSE, on his parts, said, "New Technology adoption is a key focus area of the shipyard and I am confident that GAINS 2024 shall be a major contributor towards this. I wish the brilliant Indian start-ups the very best in making the Nation building initiatives a huge success."

Interestingly, in 2023, the open challenge had attract-

ed participation from across the country. Of the proposals received after Stage-I, six were selected for detailed evaluation in Stage-II. The six innovators who made it to this stage were paid up to Rs 5 lakh to meet their expenses in preparing detailed project reports. These reports and presentations by the participants went through further evaluation and finally, two companies were declared winners.

While one of them, an MSME, is working on AI-based Material Code Generation and Management Systems, the second, a Start-Up, is developing robots for exterior painting of ships. They have been assured adequate funds by GRSE to create workable models. This success was the reason behind GRSE's decision to go in for GAINS-2024. The number of contestants is expected to go up this year. As in GAINS-2023, the participants of GAINS-2024 will have to concentrate on the themes - Artificial Intelligence (AI), Renewable/Green Energy & Energy Efficiency as well as Overall Efficiency Enhancement.

GAINS aims at the creation of fast-track innovative solutions to help GRSE turn into a future-ready shipyard.

## E&P sector offers investment opportunities worth \$100 bn by 2030: Puri, forms JWG

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, 11 JULY

The Exploration and Production (E&P) sector offers investment opportunities worth 100 billion USD by 2030, said Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas, Hardeep Singh Puri said on Thursday.

While speaking at the inaugural session of first edition of Urja Varta, he underscored the importance of the exploration and production sector in achieving energy self-sufficiency and sustaining economic growth.

The Minister also announced the formation of a Joint Working Group (JWG) comprising representatives from private E&P operators, the National Oil Companies, MoPNG, and DGH to address industry concerns and improve the ease of doing business in the sector.

Further, he directed the DGH to complete the process of integration of its various online portals by the end of the year.

He highlighted the vast potential of India's 26 sedimentary basins, containing substantial reserves of crude oil and natural gas yet to be fully tapped.

Despite our substantial progress, the Minister said, "Only 10% of our sedimentary basin area is under exploration today. After the award of blocks under the forthcoming Open Acreage Licensing Policy (OALP) Rounds, it will increase to 16% by end-2024."

Highlighting the need to streamline operational and regulatory processes, Puri stressed that the government



is doing its part to catalyse investments in E&P. The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG) has instituted sweeping reforms, empowering stakeholders to contribute to our nation's progress. He said that he intends to increase India's exploration acreage to 1 million sq. km. by 2030.

"No-Go" areas in India's EEZ have been reduced by almost 99%", Puri added further.

Talking about the accelerated pace of exploration activities through initiatives like the OALP and the Discovered Small Field (DSF) Policy, he said, "Through the first 8 OALP bid rounds, a total of 144 blocks covering approximately 244,007 sq. km. have been awarded and recently announced OALP IX round offers an area of approximately 136,596 sq. km. spread over 8 sedimentary basins, with the vision of expanding nation's footprint in offshore exploration." He said, the Discovered Small Field (DSF) Policy, since its inception in 2015, has garnered investments of approximately 2 billion USD and brought in 29 new players in the field.

## Govt finances must be leveraged by involving PSUs & Pvt Cos through PPP and VGF

RITWIK MUKHERJEE KOLKATA, 11 JULY

Indiscriminate privatisation through disinvestment or long-term lease, or eventual going away with public sector units (PSUs) is not a solution for the Indian economy. On the contrary, the Centre must think in terms of creating new, effective and efficient PSUs jointly with the state governments and private sector. At least that's what R P Gupta, the industrialist-turned-author and economic thinker, feels. Interestingly, the first edition of Gupta's much-talked-about book: "Turn Around India-Through Inclusive Governance & Team Spirit" was launched by Narendra Modi, when he was the Chief Minister of Gujarat.

In the latest edition of his book, Gupta, also the Chairman of Shivom Minerals and former Chairman of Shivom Cements, came up with the suggestion that by and large, government finances must be leveraged by involving PSUs and Private Corporate through PPP and VGF (Viability Gap Funding). The Centre may null the idea of swapping of Debt through Equity and thereby leverage promoter's (in this case, the government) value and subsequently used that funds for various development activities and projects.

Railways and other Corporation such as NTPC, NHPC etc, particularly Railways and energy related corporations, may be corporatized and listed like SAIL, CIL etc, he suggested, adding that this would be a game changer for the Indian economy.

Speaking to The Statesman, Gupta also came up with the suggestion that "Planning Commission" at the Centre and at the state level, must be restored and revived for judicious usage of scarce "Capital Resources" of Nation. And Planning Commission must rope in Engineers, MBAs and Subject-experts, over and above Economists, for Capex-planning. Total investment must be well planned for supporting: (a) Consistent GDP growth, (b) Human development such as, education, health & sanitation (c) Basic needs like water, electricity and commuting. "There should also be regular survey in each field for getting feedback and for Policy-correction. Also, the transparency of economic-data must be ensured



and used for Policy correction," said Gupta, adding that India's Growth-Model should be "investment-led" & "Export-led" and not "consumption-led". Economic-efficiency of India must be improved to promote exports. Cost of basic inputs such as, Capital, Energy, Logistics & Minerals must be reduced.

India has over 63 million MSMEs contributing about 30 per cent of GDP and 40-45 per cent of exports, employing nearly 113 million persons. Ironically however, barely 15-17 per cent of them have registered with UDYAM Platform due to tax-hazards and fear of regulatory compliance. Hence, they are unable to avail bank-credit despite decent policy of Credit Guarantee Cover. The real problem is complicated GST, Curbing of Cash-Transaction. Many of them are closed or on the verge of closure after 2016. That is not factored in GDP data. They are unable to compete with large-companies.

"The solution, therefore, lies in GST exemption/Incentives to Micro & Small units only, somewhat similar to Excise regime. Various models in this regard could be: Lower Income-tax rates for MSME by introducing income slab rate. For micro units, the government may also explore total exemption, if feasible, Regulatory Easements most crucial, particularly for Small & Medium scale, Pro-active Role of DIC and DC and enactment of such laws which binds their recommendation on all other departments," said Gupta.

On the forthcoming Union Budget, he said that "Tax/GDP ratio is already increased from 16.4 per cent to about 20.5 per cent in decade 2014-24 and hence, there is no scope for further increase. Rather, custom and excise duty on petroleum-products should roll-back particularly the cooking-gas and diesel. Export-duty on minerals, on the low-grade Iron-Ore having 52-58 per cent Fe-content, must be levied at 30 per cent for promoting beneficiation of Iron-ore as per NMP-2019 and Mining-ministry committee-resolution in 2020. That will increase supply of usable grade Iron-ore, cut imports. Eventually, it shall reduce steel price.

Also "Tax-on-Tax" on the auctioned-mines of Coal and Iron-ore, being basic-inputs, must be removed; that will reduce cost-push inflation and propel exports of value-added products, he suggested.

### Classified

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
It is hereby informed to all that my client **SOUMYAJIT DEY**, S/o. Late Chabi Dey, 183/1A, Muktarim Babu Street, P.S.: Girish Park, Kolkata-700007 is the absolute owner of One room measuring 150 Sq.Ft. (M/L). One tiled shed Kitchen measuring 50 Sq.Ft. (M/L) and one store room measuring 60 Sq.Ft. (M/L) on the Second Floor in Northern side and another One Room, measuring 110 Sq.Ft. (M/L) on the Ground Floor in South-Eastern corner side of the building situated at No. 2, Guruprasad Chowdhury Lane, P.S.: Amherst Street, Kolkata-700006.  
My client intend to sell the said abovementioned rooms, if anyone has any objection regarding sale proceeding, contact with me along with relevant documents in connection with objection within 15 (fifteen) days from the date of publication. Otherwise it will be traded as no objection.  
**Milan Kanti Mondal**  
Advocate  
Enrolment No. WB/1906/2003  
Mobile: 6290660618

#### SUBJECT-POWER OF ATTORNEY NOTIFICATION

It is being informed that One Gulshan Mallick son of Yousuf Mallick has been appointed Attorney by Sekh Ensan ali and Sekh Humayun Ali son of Sekh Yakub Ali, Baharen Nesa Bibi and Toslima Begum owner of the RS Plot No - 4948 corresponding to LR Plot No. - 4676 under LR khatian - 523.2149.2481.3901 Total Area - 33 Decimal in Subharam Mouza vide registered Power of Attorney Being Number 050300004 dated 25/01/2005 registered at office the ADRS Ranihati, Howrah. Later they have sold to it to Mahananda Dhara and Sadananda Dhara.  
If anyone has any kind of objection for this Power of Attorney kindly contact BL & LRO, Panchia.  
Thanking You  
**Mahesh Lal Sharma**  
Advocate

#### CHANGE OF NAME

**I, MD FARDIN Khan**, son of Md Sahid Khan, R/o. 432/1/5 GT Road, Shibpur, Howrah-711102, hereby declare that my father, Md Sahid Khan and Md Shahid Khan refer to the same person. Both these names belong to my father, vide affidavit before the Executive Magistrate on 09-07-2024 at Howrah Court.

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
My Client **Sri Amitabh Dutta**, son of Late Khokan Dutta, residing at 98/9, Bharath Chandra Roy Path, P.O.: Shyamnagar, P.S.: Jagaddal, Dist.: North 24 Parganas, Pin-743127, lost two original deeds (1) Deed being No. 01652 of 2008, Book No. 1, Volume No. 2, Pages from 1529 to 1539, and (2) Link Deed being No. 704 of 1958, Book No. 1, Volume No. 11, Pages from 114 to 116, from his office premises at 364, Basudebpur Road, K.D. Complex, P.S.: Jagaddal, District: North 24 Parganas, G.D.E. No. 826 dated 13-04-2024 if anyone found, kindly intimate within 15 days from the date of publication. Otherwise no claim will be entertained.  
**SUPRATIK PODDAR**  
Advocate  
High Court, Calcutta  
Mobile No. 8759441157

#### TENDERS

**SPL-202407-0025** - Invites sealed offer through e tender to ascertain the rate contract of transport charges per kg basis for long haul trucks above 3 MT and rate per trip basis for mini trucks below 3 MT for delivery of text books and other printed materials & rate per trip basis for cover van for delivery of confidential / security items from Kolkata to different district point in West Bengal. For details please visit website: www.wbtenders.gov.in & www.saraswatypress.org.in

#### WBTCCL-202407-0014

West Bengal Text Book Corporation Ltd. invites sealed offer through e tender to ascertain the rate for rate contract of transport charges per kg basis for long haul trucks above 3 MT and rate per trip basis for mini trucks below 3 MT for delivery of text books and other printed materials from Kolkata to different circle offices in West Bengal. For details please visit website: www.wbtenders.gov.in or www.wbttextbookcorporation.org.in

#### PUBLIC NOTICES

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
This is to bring to notice that company has misplaced NBFC Registration Certificate No. 05.00202 issued by RBI. It is brought to notice of general public that in case above Certificate is found, please return the same to company's registered office. All concerned are warned against misuse of above Certificate against which action will be taken.  
**Kanak Packaging Products Pvt. Ltd.**  
41, Chowringhee Road  
Kolkata 71

**The Statesman**  
CLASSIFIED  
TO BOOK AN ADVERTISEMENT PLEASE CALL  
98307 80924 (SHUBHRO DEV MITRA)  
98308 74087  
033 4801 8471

**Are you getting your favourite The Statesman at your house / locality every morning, If not then Please contact:**  
98308 74087  
8961019120  
98313 36404

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

#### Continuation of Running of two Special Trains

To clear extra rush of passenger, the following Special trains will continue to run for 9 (nine) more trips on the dates mentioned against each of them as per existing timings, stoppages and days of run :-  
**03230/03229 Patna Jn.-Puri-Patna Jn. Special**  
Extended dates of run : Train No. 03230 From Patna Jn. - On every Thursday from 01.08.2024 to 26.09.2024.  
Train No. 03229 From Puri - On every Friday from 02.08.2024 to 27.09.2024. Composition : AC 2-tier - 1, AC 3-tier - 3, Sleeper class - 11, 2nd class (GS) - 3, SLR - 2 = 20 coaches.  
**02024/02023 Patna Jn.-Howrah-Patna Jn. Special**  
Extended dates of run : Train Nos. 02024 From Patna Jn. & 02023 From Howrah - Both trains on every Sunday from 04.08.2024 to 29.09.2024. Composition : AC Chair Car - 3, 2nd Class seating - 17, Power Car - 1, LSLRD - 1 = 22 coaches.  
All other instructions will remain same.  
**Chief Passenger Transportation Manager**  
**EASTERN RAILWAY**  
Follow us at: @EasternRailway @easternrailwayheadquarter

#### प्रेस-विज्ञापित Govt. of Jharkhand, Department of Rural Works

1<sup>st</sup> Floor, FFP Building, Dhurwa, Ranchi-834004, E-mail: rwdjharkhand@gmail.com

#### Contractual Recruitment Notice

Applications are invited from eligible candidates for contractual appointment on the post of MIS Officer in Rural Works Department:-

Sl. No.	Name of Post	No. of Post	Qualification
1.	एमआइओएलएफ ऑफिसर (MIS Officer)	UR - 1	B.E./B.Tech or M.C.A from recognized institute Experience:- ➤ 5+ year working experience in Gov. sector ➤ Knowledge of .Net, MSSQL Server.
1.	Detail information regarding recruitment is available on department notice board and website www.jharkhand.gov.in/rwd		
2.	Candidates are advised to read detailed information carefully before applying. There will be no application fee.		
3.	Candidates must submit his/her application in prescribed format given in detailed information.		
4.	Application submitted in another form or send through e-mail will be rejected without any further action.		
5.	Last date of submission of application form submission is 20.07.2024 No application will be entertained after the closing date.		

Sd/-  
Joint Secretary  
Rural Works Department, Govt. of Jharkhand.  
PR 329279 Rural Work Department(24-25)#D

Biden's candidacy faces new peril, as first Senate Democrat says he should exit race



WASHINGTON, 11 JULY

President Joe Biden's imperiled reelection campaign hit new trouble Wednesday as House Speaker Emerita Nancy Pelosi said merely "it's up to the president to decide" if he should stay in the race, celebrity donor George Clooney said he should not run and Democratic senators and lawmakers expressed fresh fear about his ability to beat Republican Donald Trump.

Late in the evening, Vermont Sen. Peter Welch called on Biden to withdraw from the election, becoming the first Senate Democrat to do so. Welch said he is worried because "the stakes could not be higher."

The sudden flurry of grave pronouncements despite Biden's determined insistence he is not leaving the 2024 race put on public display just how unsettled the question remains among prominent Democrats. On Capitol Hill, an eighth House Democrat, Rep. Pat Ryan of New York, and later a ninth, Rep. Earl Blumenauer of Oregon, publicly asked Biden to step aside.

"I want him to do whatever he decides to do," Pelosi said Wednesday on MSNBC's "Morning Joe" rather than declaring Biden should stay in. While Biden has said repeatedly that he's made his decision, she said, "We're all encouraging him to make that decision, because time is running short." AGENCIES

# Israel presses on with offensive in Gaza City

### Residents trapped in houses, bodies lie uncollected on the streets



AGENCIES CAIRO/GAZA, 11 JULY

Residents of Gaza City were trapped in houses and bodies lay uncollected in the streets under an intense new Israeli assault Thursday, even as Washington pushed for a peace deal at talks in Egypt and Qatar.

Hamas militants say a heavy Israeli assault on Gaza City this week could wreck efforts to finally end the war just as negotiations have entered the home stretch.

Home to more than a quarter of Gaza's residents before the war, Gaza City was

destroyed during the first weeks of fighting last year, but hundreds of thousands of Palestinians have returned to homes in the ruins. They have now once again been ordered out by the Israeli military. The Gaza health ministry said it had reports of people trapped and others killed inside their houses in the Tel Al-Hawa and Sabra districts of Gaza City, and rescuers could not reach them.

The Civil Emergency Service said it estimated that at least 30 people had been killed in the Tel Al-Hawa and Rimal areas and it could not recover bodies from the streets there.

Despite army instructions on Wednesday to residents of Gaza City that they can use two "safe routes" to head south, many residents refused to heed the order. Some posted a hashtag on social media: "We are not leaving".

Just east of Gaza City in the Shejaia suburb, residents were returning on foot to a desolate moonscape of destroyed buildings after Israeli forces withdrew following a two-week offensive there.

The territory's main cemetery had been bulldozed by the army. People wheeled supplies on the back of bicycles across rubble-strewn tracks, passing the remains of burnt-out and blasted Israeli armoured vehicles.

"We have returned to Shejaia after 15 days. You can see the destruction. They spared nothing, even trees, there was a lot of greenery in this area. What is the guilt of stones and trees? And what is my guilt as a civilian?" resident Hatem Tayeh said among the ruins.

Israel launched its assault on the Gaza Strip last year after Hamas-led militants stormed into southern Israel, killing 1,200 people and capturing more

than 250 hostages according to Israeli allies.

Since then, Israel's assault has killed more than 38,000 according to medical authorities in Gaza.

At the southern edge of the enclave in Rafah near the border with Egypt, where tanks have been operating in most of the city since May, residents said the army continued to blow up houses in the western and central areas, amid fighting with Hamas, Islamic Jihad, and other smaller factions. Palestinian health officials said four people were killed, including a child, in an Israeli airstrike in Tel Al-Sultan in western Rafah. The Israeli military said earlier on Thursday around five rockets fired from the Rafah area were successfully intercepted.

The negotiations in Qatar and Egypt follow important concessions last week from Hamas, which agreed that a truce could begin and some hostages released without Israel first agreeing to end the war. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu says a deal must allow Israel to resume fighting until it meets all its objectives.

# Man suspected of killing 3 women in UK attack caught

LONDON, 11 JULY

A man suspected of killing two sisters and their mother in a crossbow attack was being treated in a major trauma centre at a London hospital on Thursday as police carried out further searches of properties.

Tributes poured in for the three women who were found with serious injuries at their home in the quiet residential neighbourhood of Bushey, northeast of the capital, on Tuesday evening. Police and ambulance crews tried to save Carol Hunt, 61, and her daughters Hannah, 28, and Louise, 25, but they were pronounced dead at the scene.

The women were the family of BBC radio's horse racing commentator John Hunt. The killings prompted a major manhunt that led to the capture of the suspect, Kyle Clifford, in a cemetery the following afternoon around 22 kilometres from the scene of the crimes.

The new Labour Party government, which took office last week, said it would "swiftly consider" findings of a recently launched review into whether controls on owning crossbows should be tightened. AGENCIES

11 injured, dozens stranded underground in Poland coal mine accident: A quake hitting a coal mine in southern Poland left at least 11 miners injured and dozens still underground waiting to be rescued, local authorities said on Thursday. So far, around 50 people have managed to get to the surface. Twenty of them were taken to hospital in stable condition, according to Lukasz Pach, Director of the Provincial Emergency Medical Service in Katowice. IANS

BEFORE THE NATIONAL COMPANY LAW TRIBUNAL KOLKATA BENCH... UTTAM GOODS & SERVICES PRIVATE LIMITED... LOHARUKA INFRASTRUCTURE PRIVATE LIMITED... NOTICE

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA AIRPORTS ECONOMIC REGULATORY AUTHORITY OF INDIA 3rd Floor, Udaan Bhawan, Safdarjung Airport New Delhi-110003

Invitation of applications for Engagement of Office Support Professional (Secretarial Personal Assistant) on contract basis in Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India

Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India proposes to hire one (01) Office Support Professional (Secretarial Personal Assistant) on contract basis. The number of vacancies may vary as per the requirement. Candidate with requisite qualification and experience as prescribed would be hired as Office Support Professional. The interested candidates must indicate the post for which they applied.

Deputy Chief Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India 3rd Floor, Udaan Bhawan Safdarjung Airport, New Delhi-110003

# China rejects label of 'enabler' of Russia's Ukraine war

AGENCIES BEIJING, 11 JULY

China accused NATO on Thursday of seeking security at the expense of others and told the alliance not to bring the same "chaos" to Asia, a reflection of its determination to oppose strengthening ties between NATO members and Asian nations such as Japan, South Korea and the Philippines.

The statement by a Foreign Ministry spokesperson



spokesperson Lin Jian said at a daily briefing. He maintained that China has a fair and objective stance on the Ukraine issue.

China has broken with the United States and its European allies over the war in Ukraine, refusing to condemn Russia's invasion or even to refer to it as an act of aggression in deference to Moscow. Its trade with Russia has grown since the invasion, at least partially offsetting the impact of Western

sanctions. NATO, in a statement issued at a summit in Washington, said China has become an enabler of the war through its "no-limits partnership" with Russia and its large-scale support for Russia's defense industrial base.

Lin said China's trade with Russia is legitimate and reasonable and based on World Trade Organization rules.

He said NATO's "so-called security" comes at the cost of the security of other coun-

tries. China has backed Russia's contention that NATO expansion posed a threat to Russia, whose attack on Ukraine has only strengthened the alliance, leading to Sweden and Finland becoming formal members.

China has expressed concern about NATO's budding relationships with countries in the Indo-Pacific region. Australia, New Zealand, Japan and South Korea sent their leaders or deputies to the NATO summit this week.

ties. China has backed Russia's contention that NATO expansion posed a threat to Russia, whose attack on Ukraine has only strengthened the alliance, leading to Sweden and Finland becoming formal members.

China has expressed concern about NATO's budding relationships with countries in the Indo-Pacific region. Australia, New Zealand, Japan and South Korea sent their leaders or deputies to the NATO summit this week.

## e-Tender Notice

e-TENDER invited by the Proddhan Hatisala-II Gram Panchayat, Under Chapra P.S., Nadia. NIT No: NIT-02 (5th SFC)2024-25. Memo No: 130 /Hati-II/2024. Bid submission closing date: 17/07/2024 at 1 PM. More detail please visit : https://wbttenders.gov.in

## S. E. RAILWAY - TENDER

E-Tender Notice No. e-Tender/2024/23. For and on behalf of President of India, the Divisional Railway Manager (Engg.), South Eastern Railway, Kharagpur-721301 invites e-tender for the following works before 15:00 hrs. on the date mentioned against items and will be opened at 15:30 hrs. Si. No., Tender No. & Description of work are as follows: 1. E-KGP-South-27-2024. Provision of Deep Tube Well water Tank staging with Pipe line work and construction of pump house at Buramara, Jugal Rajalukah, Juggura, Krishnachandrapur, Thakuntala platform in Rupsa-Bangripasi section under ADEN/BLS. (2nd Call) Tender Value : ₹ 1,87,31,681.87. Earnest Money : ₹ 2,43,700/-.

## EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

EXTENDER NOTICE DHN Divn., Dhanbad, dt. 10.07.2024 Divisional Railway Manager (Commercial), East central Dhanbad, on behalf of President of India invite bids from competent contractors through GeM vide website https://gem.gov.in for execution of the following work. Details are as under:-

Table with 3 columns: Sl. No., Tender ID, END DATE. Row 1: 1, 2024, 03-08-2024 at 17:00.

SI. No. 1, Name of the work, place and period of completion: TTEs rest room activities along with cooking of food, Care taker, washing of linen, Supply of News Paper and provision of Commercial cooking gas for D/N, G/MO & BR/KATIE Rest Room for the period of 730 days. 2. Estimated amount for the work :Rs. 56,21,949/-.

3. Earnest Money: Rs. 1,12,500/-, 4. Date & time of closing of e-Tender: Closing of e-tender at 18:00 hours on dt. 29.07.2024. 5. Date & time of opening of e-Tender: Opening of e-tender at 18:30 hours on dt. 29.07.2024. 6. Website particulars: https://gem.gov.in No manual tender will be accepted against e-tendering.

## DHUPGURI MUNICIPALITY

e-NIT (Abridged) e-NIT are invited by the Chairperson, Dhupguri Municipality from resourceful bona fide outsider for Supply of DI Pipe K7 under Dhupguri Municipality.

Table with 3 columns: Sl. No., Tender ID, END DATE. Row 1: 1, 2024, 03-08-2024 at 17:00.

SI. No. 1, Name of the work, place and period of completion: TTEs rest room activities along with cooking of food, Care taker, washing of linen, Supply of News Paper and provision of Commercial cooking gas for D/N, G/MO & BR/KATIE Rest Room for the period of 730 days. 2. Estimated amount for the work :Rs. 56,21,949/-.

3. Earnest Money: Rs. 1,12,500/-, 4. Date & time of closing of e-Tender: Closing of e-tender at 18:00 hours on dt. 29.07.2024. 5. Date & time of opening of e-Tender: Opening of e-tender at 18:30 hours on dt. 29.07.2024. 6. Website particulars: https://gem.gov.in No manual tender will be accepted against e-tendering.

## CANNING-II BDO & PANCHAYAT SAMITY

To whom it may concern Abridged Tender Notice (e-NIT No. 62 of 2023-24, dated 10.07.2024) Construction of AWC and ACR (e-NIT No. 63 of 2023-24, dated 10.07.2024) Installation of Submersible Pump, under Canning-II BDO & Panchayat Samity, Jibantala, South 24-Parganas (Detail information will be available www.etender.wb.nic.in and Office Notice Board or Engineering Section of this office).

Tender No.: TRD/DNR/OT/27/24-25. 1. Name of work with its location: Rehabilitation of Earth Mat for the improvement of Earthing System between section JAJ to KCA & PNBE-GAYA. 2. Approx cost of the work (NT value): Rs. 1,72,54,318.32/-.

3. Earnest money to be deposited: Rs. 2,36,300/- 4. Date & time for selling, submission and opening of tender: The tender have to be submitted online on www.irps.gov.in upto 12.00 hrs. on the date of opening i.e. 01.08.2024 and will be opened on the same day at 12.00 hrs. 5. Website particulars, notice board location where complete details of tender can be seen and address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased etc.: Detailed tender notice, eligibility criteria & tender documents can be seen from the CRIS website: http://www.irps.gov.in & full details of notice can be seen on notice board of Sr. DEE (TRD)/E.C. Railway / Danapur All conpendium will be uploaded on website if required.

For Divinl. Railway Manager E.C. Rly, Danapur. PR/00667/DNR/OT/27/24-25/40

## EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

NOTICE INVITING OPEN TENDER Danapur Division/Electrical (TRD) Branch Tender Notice No. 27/TRD/DNR/OT/24-25 The Divisional Railway Manager, E.C. Railway Danapur invites sealed open tender on behalf of the President of India for the following works:

Tender No.: TRD/DNR/OT/27/24-25. 1. Name of work with its location: Rehabilitation of Earth Mat for the improvement of Earthing System between section JAJ to KCA & PNBE-GAYA. 2. Approx cost of the work (NT value): Rs. 1,72,54,318.32/-.

3. Earnest money to be deposited: Rs. 2,36,300/- 4. Date & time for selling, submission and opening of tender: The tender have to be submitted online on www.irps.gov.in upto 12.00 hrs. on the date of opening i.e. 01.08.2024 and will be opened on the same day at 12.00 hrs. 5. Website particulars, notice board location where complete details of tender can be seen and address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased etc.: Detailed tender notice, eligibility criteria & tender documents can be seen from the CRIS website: http://www.irps.gov.in & full details of notice can be seen on notice board of Sr. DEE (TRD)/E.C. Railway / Danapur All conpendium will be uploaded on website if required.

For Divinl. Railway Manager E.C. Rly, Danapur. PR/00667/DNR/OT/27/24-25/40

## INFORMATION WANTED



This is the photograph of Anup Sarkar @ Debang, Son of Debatosh Sarkar, of Vill-Banagram, PS-Dhubulla, PO-Gateswar, 741154, who has been missing since 03.06.2024 from Residence, Dhubulla, Krishnanagar Police District, W.B., Description of this missing person is : Age-27 years, Complexion-Fair, Height-168 cms., Wearing- T-Shirt, Blue Trouser, Language-Bengali, Identification Mark- Cut Mark in Right Leg. Please inform whereabouts of the missing person, to the Spl. Supdt. of Police, C.I.D. (W.B.), Bhabani Bhaban, Kolkata-700027, Ph. No.-033-2450-6120.

ICA-D 1185 (3)/2024

## INFORMATION WANTED



This is the photograph of Jayati Mallick, Daughter of Umesh Mallick, of Dakshin Panchpota Purba Para, PO-Panchpota, PS-Narendrapur, 700152, who has been missing since 31.05.2024 from Residence, Narendrapur, Barpukur, W.B., Description of this missing person is : Age-23 years, Complexion-Sallow, Height-153 cms., Wearing- White Churidar, Chocolate Colour Pant, Language-Bengali. Please inform whereabouts of the missing person, to the Spl. Supdt. of Police, C.I.D. (W.B.), Bhabani Bhaban, Kolkata-700027, Ph. No.-033-2450-6120.

ICA-D 1184 (3)/2024

## INFORMATION WANTED



This is the photograph of Kamini Parvin, Daughter of Kajjar Molla, of Khanberia Kharapar, PS-Kalitalla Ashuti, PO-Ashuti, 700141, who has been missing since 29.06.2024 from Residence, Kalitalla Asuti PS, Diamond Harbour Police District, W.B., Description of this missing person is : Age-7 years, Complexion-Fair, Height-92 cms., Wearing- Black Frock, Language-Bengali. Please inform whereabouts of the missing person, to the Spl. Supdt. of Police, C.I.D. (W.B.), Bhabani Bhaban, Kolkata-700027, Ph. No.-033-2450-6120.

ICA-D 1183 (3)/2024

## INFORMATION WANTED



This is the photograph of an Unknown Deadbody, of PO-Sainthia, 731234, found on 07.06.2024 at KM Post 62 to 36 at Batapur RS PF No-2 under Sainthia GRPS. Description of this Deadbody is: Age-56 Years, Height-161 cms., Sex: Male, Wearing- Red and Black Check Lungi. Please inform whereabouts of the Unknown Deadbody/person or contact (to) the Spl. Supdt. of Police, C.I.D. (W.B.), Bhabani Bhaban, Kolkata-700027, Ph. No.-033-2450-6120.

ICA-D 1180 (3)/2024

## INFORMATION WANTED



This is the photograph of an Unknown Deadbody, of PO-Belur, 711202, found on 04.06.2024 at KM 07 to 13 to 07-15 under Belur GRPS. Description of this Deadbody is: Age-25 Years, Height-168 cms., Sex: Male, Wearing- Black Full Pant and Black Underwear. Please inform whereabouts of the Unknown Deadbody/person or contact (to) the Spl. Supdt. of Police, C.I.D. (W.B.), Bhabani Bhaban, Kolkata-700027, Ph. No.-033-2450-6120.

ICA-D 1179 (3)/2024

## INFORMATION WANTED



This is the photograph of Monowara Bibi, Spouse's Name- Kajjar Molla, of Khanberia Kharapar, PS-Kalitalla Ashuti, who has been missing since 29.06.2024 from Residence, Kalitalla Asuti PS, Diamond Harbour Police District, W.B., Description of this missing person is : Age-26 years, Complexion-Fair, Height-153 cms., Wearing- Black Borkha, Language-Bengali. Please inform whereabouts of the missing person, to the Spl. Supdt. of Police, C.I.D. (W.B.), Bhabani Bhaban, Kolkata-700027, Ph. No.-033-2450-6120.

ICA-D 1178 (3)/2024

## INFORMATION WANTED



This is the photograph of an Unknown Deadbody, of PO-Bandel, 712123, found on 06.06.2024 at KM Post 40 to 36-1A to 36-29A in between HGLY and CNS under Bandel GRPS. Description of this Deadbody is: Age-40 Years, Height-166 cms., Sex: Male, Wearing- Cream Colour Full Shirt and Black Jacket, Ash Colour Full Pant. Please inform whereabouts of the Unknown Deadbody/person or contact (to) the Spl. Supdt. of Police, C.I.D. (W.B.), Bhabani Bhaban, Kolkata-700027, Ph. No.-033-2450-6120.

ICA-D 1175 (3)/2024

## INFORMATION WANTED



This is the photograph of an Unidentified Deadbody, of PO-Bandel, 712123, found on 20.11.2023 Lying near Station Building Bandel Enquiry Office under Bandel GRPS. Description of this Deadbody is: Age-40 Years, Height-168 cms., Sex: Male, Wearing- Sky and Black Check with Blue Border Half Shirt, Black Half Pant. Please inform whereabouts of the Unidentified Deadbody/person or contact (to) the Spl. Supdt. of Police, C.I.D. (W.B.), Bhabani Bhaban, Kolkata-700027, Ph. No.-033-2450-6120.

ICA-D 1176 (3)/2024

## INFORMATION WANTED



This is the photograph of Kaif Molla, Son of Kaizar Molla, of Khanberia Kharapar, PS-Kalitalla Ashuti, PO-Ashuti, 700141, who has been missing since 29.06.2024 from Residence, Kalitalla Asuti PS, Diamond Harbour Police District, W.B., Description of this missing person is : Age-1 years, Complexion-Fair, Height-46 cms., Wearing- Red T-Shirt, Language-Bengali. Please inform whereabouts of the missing person, to the Spl. Supdt. of Police, C.I.D. (W.B.), Bhabani Bhaban, Kolkata-700027, Ph. No.-033-2450-6120.

ICA-D 1177 (3)/2024



The AAP gov't's much-hyped diversification plan is also in tatters due to the manner in which the Chief Minister reneged on this promise to procure these crops

SHIROMANI AKALI DAL (SAD) PRESIDENT SUKHBIR BADAL AS PUNJAB AGAIN FAILS TO PROCURE MAIZE CROP ON MSP

# Rahul reiterates demand for PM's visit to Manipur

This is the 3rd time I have come to Manipur since violence broke out, but there is no improvement: LoP

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, 11 JULY

Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Thursday reiterated that Prime Minister Narendra Modi should visit the strife-torn state of Manipur and listen to the problems of the people of the region.

Referring to his recent visit to the north-eastern state, the LoP in a social media post wrote, "This is the third time I have come to Manipur since the violence broke out, but there is no improvement in the situation."

Claiming that the state is still divided into two parts, Gandhi said, "Houses are burning, innocent lives are in danger and thousands of families are forced to live in relief camps."

"The Prime Minister should personally come to Manipur and listen to the problems of the people of the state and appeal for peace. The Congress party and INDIA bloc will



Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha and Congress leader Rahul Gandhi offers candies to children during a recent visit to the victims of Manipur violence, at a relief camp in Churachandpur.

pressure the government to end this tragedy by raising the need for peace in Manipur with full force in Parliament," the LoP said.

Mr Gandhi during his visit to Manipur on 8th July said, "I have come here as your brother, as somebody who wants to help you bring back peace in Manipur."

"The need of the hour is peace. Violence is hurting

everyone. Thousands of families have been harmed, and properties have been destroyed."

"I have never seen anywhere in India what is going on here. The state is completely split in two."

"The Congress party is ready to do whatever it can to bring back peace here. We had a conversation with the Governor, and we expressed

that we would like to help in whatever way we can."

"We also expressed our displeasure and said that we are not happy with the progress that has taken place here," he said at a press conference.

Categorically stating that his intention was not to politicise the issue, the LoP said, "Violence and hatred are not going to get any solution."

# UP: Yogi conducts aerial survey of Shravasti and Balrampur, distributes relief material



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE LUCKNOW, 11 JULY

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath conducted an aerial survey of flood-affected Shravasti and Balrampur on Thursday. He took information about the flood affected areas from the officials and instructed them to speed up the relief work.

After this, the CM conducted on-site inspection of the flood affected areas of both the districts. He met children and women affected by the disaster. Apart from this, relief material was distributed to the flood affected people.

CM Adityanath presented a cheque of Rs 4 lakh as assistance to the families of those who lost their loved ones in disasters. He honoured the PAC soldiers who took the flood affected people to safe places by giving them citations.

He also announced to give them cash prize along with special prize.

The Chief Minister conducted an aerial survey of all the villages of Ikauna tehsil affected by Shravasti flood at around 12 noon. Devi Patan Divisional Commissioner Shashi Bhushan Sushil and Shravasti District Magistrate Ajay Kumar Dwivedi informed the CM that flood situation has arisen in the district due to sudden release of water after torrential rains in Nepal. At present, the water level is gradually decreasing.

The CM also conducted on-site inspection of Laxmanpur Kothi Rapti Barrage. Here he met 11 victims rescued in the flood and enquired about their well-being. He honoured Rekha Devi, the village guide and five PAC soldiers who gave information about the people trapped in

# 250 villagers trapped in Kheri

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE LAKHIMPUR KHERI, 11 JULY



Flood havoc continues in Lakhimpur Kheri district where around 150 villages are in the grip of floods due to the swollen Sharda-Ghaghra rivers.

Around 250 villagers of Raini Samdaha village of Daurahra tehsil got trapped in the foothills of Sharda river. When the administration came to know about this, it started rescuing the villagers surrounded by flood waters.

The NDRF team has rescued 18 villagers till 11 am on Thursday, officials here claimed. Officials claimed that by this evening 50 per cent of the trapped villagers would be rescued.

During the flood about 2 decade ago, the erosion victims of Samdaha village had settled across the Sharda

river. These villagers got trapped in this flood again. SDM Rajesh Kumar, present on the spot and was monitoring the rescue of villagers. Food packets are being delivered to the affected families.

Meanwhile, a culvert under construction on the road connecting Sampooranagar police station area to Hazara of Pilibhit was washed away in flood waters. Due to this, transportation from Sampooranagar Sugar Mill to Ramnagar, Shantinagar, Gandhi Nagar, Kabirganj under Hazara police station have been paralysed.

the flood, with citations, and also announced to honour all 7 people with cash awards.

Apart from this, a cheque of Rs 4 lakh each was handed over to the four families who lost their loved ones in the disaster. Before this he distributed relief material kits.

Communicating with the flood victims, the CM said that immediate financial assistance was being given to the families of farmers and sharecroppers who lost their lives during human-wildlife conflict, snakebite, lightning and other disasters.

# Uikey advises NCC to train youths from internally displaced persons in relief camp

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE IMPHAL, 11 JULY

Manipur Governor Anusuiya Uikey has suggested the National Cadet Corps (NCC) to identify and train youths from internally displaced persons residing in relief camps across the state. Uikey advised Maj Gen Gagan Deep, Additional Director General (ADG) of the NCC North Eastern Region, during a meeting at Raj Bhavan in Imphal.



The Governor was also briefed on the challenges faced by the NCC in Manipur, including security issues, floods, and incessant rains. The NCC Group Imphal is

conducting training for 7,200 cadets across 16 districts. There was also discussion regarding the establishment of the NCC Training and Youth Academy at Imphal.

conducted training for 7,200 cadets across 16 districts. There was also discussion regarding the establishment of the NCC Training and Youth Academy at Imphal.

the importance of training candidates from the various relief camps to contribute to nation-building and develop a sense of patriotism among the displaced youths.

The ADG assured the Governor of the NCC's commitment to providing quality training and inculcating sound values among the cadets.

More than 60,000 people are currently residing in relief camps due to communal violence in Manipur.

# Jaya Prada acquitted in 2019 election code violation case

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE RAMPUR, 11 JULY

Bollywood actress and former MP Jaya Prada got relief from the court on Thursday in the election code of conduct violation case.

The court acquitted her as the charges could not be proved. Jaya Prada was also present in the court when the verdict was announced. MP-MLA Special Court (Magistrate Trial) Judge

Jaya Prada while talking to the media said that she is happy and emotional after the court's decision.

Shobhit Bansal pronounced the verdict on Thursday. The court acquitted Jaya Prada as the prosecution did not prove the charges. Jaya Prada while talking to the media said that she is happy and emotional

with the court's decision. Two cases of violation of election code of conduct were registered against Jaya Prada during the 2019 Lok Sabha elections. One of these cases is of Kemri police station, which was registered by Kuldeep Bhatnagar, in-charge of the video surveillance team.

It was said that on April 18, 2019, at a public meeting of BJP candidate Jaya Prada held in Pipliya Mishra village, she

had given a derogatory statement on BSP supreme Mayawati and Azam Khan. SP had an alliance with BSP in this election. The police had completed the investigation in the case registered against her and filed the charge sheet in the court. The hearing of this case took place in the MP-MLA Special Court (Magistrate Trial), in this case, the final arguments from both sides were completed on July 1.

# TENDER

**WEST BENGAL FOREST DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED**  
(A Government of West Bengal Undertaking)  
OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL MANAGER  
Medinipur Forest Corporation Division, Hill Co-operative, Kharagpur - 721306  
Tel.: 03222-277324 (O), mfd@wbfdco.com, CIN : 02005WB19745GC029535

**ABRIDGED TENDER NOTICE**  
The undersigned invites Nite-Q as follows:

Nite-Q No.	Name of Project	Bid Submission Start Date	Last Date of Bid Submission
01/MFCD/24-25	Disposal of Timber Produce from Integrated Court Complex of Bhadrang District.	12.07.2024	20.07.2024

Details of Nite-Q can be seen at [www.wbtenders.gov.in](http://www.wbtenders.gov.in) and [www.wbafd.com](http://www.wbafd.com)

**GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL**  
**NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER**  
Notice Inviting e-Tender from the bona fide and interested agencies / firms or others for Rental Hoarding / Outdoor Publicity related work / services are called by the Office of the District Information and Cultural Office, 28, Nityadhan Mukherjee Road, Howrah.

Description Notice	Tender ID	Bid Submission Starts on	Bid Submission Closes on
670 / Hoarding / DICO / Hwh Dt. 11-07-2024	2024_ICAD_712095_1	12-07-2024	23-07-2024

The detail tender documents may be obtained from <https://wbtenders.gov.in> interested bidders are to download the same and submit as per the instruction given

# No discrimination against outside labourers: Sangma

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE SHILLONG, 11 JULY

Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma clarified that there was no work permit system in Meghalaya and hence any Indian national is free to work in the state. The statement from Sangma came in response to reports of pressure groups acting like vigilantes by checking the work permits of external labourers in the state. Seeking to clear the air on the ongoing document checks by these groups in Shillong, he said the state does not enforce a work permit system.

Reports about some labourers being sent back to their home states surfaced



after incidents of violence and even deaths with the police intervention remaining minimal.

Despite the government's assurances of action after each incident, public concern persists. The Labour Department registers labourers for safety and record-keeping purposes. Sangma reiterated

that no individual or group is authorised to conduct these checks, deeming such actions illegal. He disclosed that four cases have been filed against various pressure groups involved in recent document checks. The Khasi Students' Union has defended their actions, citing the government's failure to implement the Inner Line Permit (ILP) and the Meghalaya Residents Safety and Security Act (MRSSA). Sangma explained that the ILP is not enforced by the state, and the MRSSA proposal, sent to the Ministry of Home Affairs, was returned with concerns currently under review by the state government.

# India to hold mega air exercise with Australia from Friday

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, 11 JULY

An Indian Air Force (IAF) contingent landed at the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) Base Darwin, Australia for participating in "Exercise Pitch Black 2024". The exercise is scheduled to be conducted from 12 July-02 August and is a biennial, multi-national exercise hosted by the RAAF. The name 'Pitch Black' was derived from the emphasis on night time flying over large unpopulated areas.

This edition is slated to be the largest in the 43 year long history of Ex Pitch Black, which includes participation

by 20 countries, with over 140 aircraft and 4400 military personnel of various air forces. The exercise will be focusing on Large Force Employment warfare aimed at strengthening international cooperation and shall facilitate experience enhancement with the IAF Su-30 MKI operating alongside the F-35, F-22, F-18, F-15, Gripen and Typhoon fighter aircraft.

The IAF contingent comprises over 150 highly skilled Air Warriors including pilots, engineers, technicians, controllers and other subject matter experts, who will be operating the formidable Su-30 MKI multirole fighters, with the C-17 Globemaster

and the IL-78 Air-to-Air Refuelling aircraft in combat enabling roles.

The exercise would provide IAF with an opportunity towards force integration with participating nations and mutual exchange of best practices.

The exercise provides an excellent opportunity for strengthening the ability of the participating nations to deploy over large distances, support integrated operations in the Indo-Pacific region and building strong aviation associations in a highly challenging environment. The IAF has previously participated in the 2018 and 2022 editions of this exercise.

# LEISURE

## 10 MINUTE CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- Trashy (6)
  - Sign up (5)
  - Jacket part (5)
  - Man-made fibre (7)
  - Cost (7)
  - Cook (5)
  - Plato, for example (11)
  - Soil (5)
  - Result (7)
  - Supply (7)
  - Dispersed (5)
  - Before time (5)
  - Alcoholic drink (6)
- DOWN**
- Murderer (6)
  - Replenish (3,2)
  - Officer (7)
  - Mistake (5)
  - Set free (7)
  - Find (6)
  - Set of thirteen (6,5)
  - Give shelter to (7)
  - Large jug (7)
  - Place of worship (6)
  - Lethal (6)
  - Hirsute (5)
  - Frequently (5)

**SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD**

**ACROSS**

- 1 Since,
- 4 Here (Sincere),
- 7 Apprehensive,
- 9 Amass,
- 10 Stipend,
- 11 Crouch,
- 13 Remarks,
- 16 Disdain,
- 18 Banns,
- 19 Antimacassar,
- 20 Idle,
- 21 Silly,
- 14 Annette's,
- 15 Annals,
- 17 Synod,
- 18 Brawl,

## BEETLE BAILEY/Mort Walker



## RED EYE/Bill Yates & Mel Casson



## DADDY DAZE/John Kovaleski



## NEED TO KNOW

- Ambulance**  
FD Block Association (Amb) 9830452536, 9830181285  
Happy Calcuttans 24400160  
City Point Nurses Centre 2567-4113, 9831142623  
People's Relief Committee 2280-4943/9444
- 24 hrs Medical Oxygen Delivery**  
BOC India Ltd. 9831277777
- Blood Banks**  
Ashok Laboratory 24720333  
Central Blood Bank 23510619
- Life Care** 2284-6940  
Pragati's Blood Bank 2455-5164/ 5557  
RK Mission Seva Pratishthan 2475-3636/39
- Police/Fire**  
Lalbazdar (Police Control Room) 22143230  
S. P. (North 24-Pgns) 25423005  
S.P. (South 24-Pgns) 2479-3333/1311  
Bhawani Bhawan 24791761/9, 24791933  
Fire Service Station Salt Lake: 2357-5293;
- Howrah** 2666-8111; Behala 2497-6285
- Civic Services**  
Kolkata Municipal Corporation: 2286-1000  
Water: 2543-1602
- Calcutta Telephones**  
Changed Number Announcement 1951,1952,1953
- Taxi Refusal**  
SMS 575756; Complaint and registration
- Police Toll Free No.** 1073  
Transport Deptt. No. 6451-6718
- CESC Fault Reporting**  
1912 and 4403-1912
- Trains**  
Howrah Station Old Complex 1331/1332 (Auto Telephone Numbers), 1310, 2638-7412/3542/2581 (manual).  
Sealdah: 2350-3535/3537  
Shalimar Station: 2668-1121, Eastern Railway and South-Eastern Railway: 139.

## SCRABBLE

**SCRABBLE** (BRAND) (C)(L)(R)(A)(M)(S)

K T I Y L E O  
D E E B W U R  
N E E C T E H  
C P S L I A A

1st Letter Double  
Double Word Score

PaR SCORE 150-160 by JUDD

**FOUR RACK TOTAL TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN**

**DIRECTIONS:** Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. Letter points are from the Official Scrabble Players Dictionary (Rearrange Letters) and CSW Official Scrabble Words (Cramers). JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW

10-25-12 © 2008 United Feature Syndicate, Inc.

## SCRABBLE

**SCRABBLE** (BRAND) (C)(L)(R)(A)(M)(S)

E L Y S I A N  
W A L L E T S  
C O U R A G E  
P L R A Y A S

1st Letter Double  
Double Word Score

PaR SCORE 135-145 JUDD'S TOTAL = 200

10-09-10 © 2009 United Feature Syndicate, Inc.

## SUDOKU

**Concepts Sudoku** By Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

Answer to previous puzzle

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

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.

## Remembering Zarina Hashmi and the idea of home

SHARMISTHA DASGUPTA

I often wonder what my life would have been like had I never left my house of four walls in India. I will never know the privilege of living out my days in the country in which I was born, speaking in my mother tongue. There is truth to the phrase, 'You can never go home again.' I do not feel at home anywhere, but the idea of home follows me wherever I go. These are the words of Zarina Hashmi, who is known professionally as Zarina. She was an artist whose works have primarily been based on the partition of India in 1947 and covered themes like displacement, dislocation and disorientation. According to her, the idea of home was an abstract concept rather than a physical or tangible one. The impact that the displacement from her home caused on her has been a recurring theme in all of her artwork.

Zarina Hashmi was born in India at Aligarh on 16 July 1937, when communal tensions in India were gradually escalating. She grew up in a secular Muslim household, which her family would eventually leave behind and migrate to Pakistan post-1947. Zarina's father was a professor of history at the esteemed Aligarh Muslim University. In 1947, her family had to move to a refugee camp in Delhi. They would eventually move to Lahore and later Karachi, but Zarina remained in India to pursue her studies at Aligarh. She did her graduation in mathematics. Her interest in the same and architecture is portrayed in her use of geometry and the accuracy of structures in all her works. And her poignant minimalism is what makes her career exemplary. While growing up, it was the magnificent yet subtle architecture of Fatehpur Sikri that inspired her to learn about minimalism. The architecture of mediaeval India served as the root for her passion and love for drawing straight lines.

In modern scholarship, Zarina's art has been interpreted in the light of transnationalism and cosmopolitanism to a greater extent. However, it can be argued that the core of her art has always been about the life-changing event of displacement for millions in India, which we so casually term the 'Partition'.

While studying at Aligarh Muslim University, Zarina met Indian diplomat Saad Hashmi, whom she eventually married. In her early years of marriage, she travelled widely and was introduced to woodblock printing in Bangkok. Most of her works are woodcuts or etchings printed on handmade paper. Since she was a mathematician-



turned-artist, the geometric precision in her artwork is clearly apparent. Besides architectural plans for houses, her work also involved cartography. She had a deep interest in geography as well as in how cities were built. Words, too, were a strong language that she implemented in her moving art.

Among all her many astounding works, her 'Dividing Line' (2001) stands out because of its minimal yet formidable nature, myriad interpretations and some specific connotations. At first glance, it appears as a mere black line inscribed on a piece of paper. However, by observing carefully, one will eventually notice that it is the tension-fraught border of India and Pakistan, or rather the 'Radcliffe Line', the introduction of which changed the trajectory of her life and millions of others entirely. Zarina's 'Home is a Foreign Place' (1999) reflects upon her faraway childhood home, as she has been quoted saying, "This piece is my narrative of the house I was born in and left in my early twenties, never to return." Each print includes an Urdu word synonymous with what 'home' means in English, written in calligraphy. It encourages the viewer to interpret it with their sense of the word 'home's' meaning, thus transcending the barriers of language.

Her 'Letters From Home' (2004) is a portfolio of eight monochromatic woodblock and metal-cut prints that were made by using original Urdu letters that her sister Rani had written to her. Zarina and her sister were inseparable, traversing life's adversities together and sharing an unbreakable bond. Zarina says, "Many people have asked why I titled this portfolio Letters From Home when I have never lived in Pakistan. For me, home is not a place. It is wherever the people you care about the most are waiting." Time and emotions seem frozen in the



woodblocks of this series.

Some of her works depict aerial views of cities. The series 'Cities I Called Home' (2010) contains woodcut aerial maps of the many cities that she lived in throughout her life. The series Delhi (2000) consists of three maps of the city, with the third one also outlining the River Yamuna, the water body that brings life to the landlocked city of Delhi.

Her passion for cartography is best evident in her series 'Atlas of My World' (2001). Being a refugee of the largest mass migration in human history, losing her home and living in several cities thereafter but yearning for the childhood abode that she lost, this series depicts the greater world that we are part of, highlighting regional and political boundaries. In the fourth picture of this series, there is an extension of the Radcliffe Line. Aparna Megan Kumar interprets it as an umbilical cord connecting the two nascent nations with the external world. Analysing this, we see how it was the external party that infused the seeds of communalism among the Indian people to channelise the birth of the two new countries, which gradually became three.

As mentioned before, Zarina pos-

sessed a love for language. And she often inculcated the love she had for words into her art. Her sculpture, named 'Flight Log' (1987), consists of a small stanza of four lines written by her. It goes as follows:

"I tried to fly  
Got caught in the thermal  
Could never go back  
Having lost the place to land"  
She has later said, "In those four lines, I wrote my autobiography."

Zarina's work has also echoed the suffering and agony of refugees across the world. It is often said that it is pain that brings people closer to one another.

And perhaps Zarina's own experience of displacement from her childhood home made her feel connected to refugees around the globe. Her work, 'Refugee Camp' (2015), was contemporary to the humanitarian crisis in Syria. Zarina has been regarded as one of the rare artists to reach out to points of crisis everywhere by Hoskote. Besides the Syrian crisis, the plight of the Rohingyas and the crises in Baghdad and Lebanon had moved her deeply.

The concept of home is a lingering factor that recurs throughout Zarina's career. In an interview at the Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery, Zarina said, "I carry the idea of home with me, but I have trouble calling any place my home." She continues, "I doubt anyone who is permanently dislocated ever feels truly at home."

Zarina's artworks are a testament to the fact that memory and longing influence the very core of our existence. Her art has also become an aid to scholars whose main field is partition historiography. Home and memory become synonymous while interpreting her artworks, eventually leading to a feeling of longing that we can relate to about something or someone we have lost forever.

## World Zoonosis Day



World Zoonosis Day was observed by the West Bengal Veterinary Council on 6 July this year to raise public awareness about zoonotic diseases.

Zoonotic diseases are infections that transmit from animals to humans and vice versa. Inaugurated by Dr Asutosh Biswas, president, West Bengal Veterinary Council, Prof. (Dr) N.K. Pal, retired professor at NSS Medical College, and Dr Swarup Bakshi, deputy director and PO, ARD department, government of W.B.,

were the eminent speakers. Prof. Subhasis Batabyal, former dean, faculty of veterinary and animal sciences, WBUAFS, was the chairman of the session. Felicitations were given to newly elected VCI member Dr Gurucharan Dutta. All the speakers advised increasing awareness among the general public about zoonotic diseases. Dr Sovonanda Mohanty, registrar, West Bengal Veterinary Council, gave a vote of thanks. More than 200 participants were present.

BY NISITH SINHA ROY

## An awareness campaign on menstrual hygiene



Turnstone Global, a non-profit organisation, joined hands with Indian Oil Corporation Ltd and undertook "Project Roshni" in the district of Hooghly in West Bengal. The project aimed to create awareness among village girls and women about menstrual hygiene and to reduce the risk of different diseases relating to unhygienic practices during menstruation, particularly cervical cancer.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr Kanchan Gaba, secretary, Turnstone Global, said, "Cervical cancer is the 3rd largest cause of death in India. Our aim was to improve the status of menstrual hygiene among adolescent girls and adult women in the community. We also wanted to provide a platform for rural women to generate income through the manufacturing of sanitary napkins."

The project has also been a perfect example of women's empowerment and economic self-reliance. Turnstone Global could install sanitary napkin manufacturing machines in the district, train over 260 women and form 13 SHG groups that manufacture sanitary napkins under the brand name Gunjan. They have been able to make each member of these SHG groups earn Rs 500 to Rs 2500 per month.

The idea behind the intervention is to mobilise the community and educate them on the gravity of the issues related to menstrual hygiene and how to tackle them. The SHGs are being empowered to start making low-cost sanitary napkins, which not only serve as a means to generate income but also make available the sanitary napkins for the rural community at a very low and affordable price.

Under Project Roshni, Turnstone Global also conducted a baseline survey among 1,020 village women and girls at Chanditala Block in Hooghly district in 2023. The study was conducted in 11 villages from five gram panchayats in Chanditala II block in the district of Hooghly. The survey distribution of each village in each gram panchayat is as follows:

Beledanga, Khanpur, Thero, Baman-danga, Kalachara, Gokulpur, Janai, Baksa, Madhabpur, Khoragori and Garalgacha.

The following were the findings of the survey among these women:

- 80 per cent of the respondents threw the used materials into ponds and buried them in the ground.
- 15 per cent of the respondents threw away their used sanitary napkins or cloths along with other household waste on open land around their houses or in nearby ditches. Some of them also burnt their used sanitary napkins or cloths.
- 82 per cent of the respondents were not aware of menstruation before their first menstruation, which is essential for girls.
- 19 per cent of the respondents had scientific knowledge about menstruation. The rest did not have any clear view about their menstrual cycle, of which about 3 per cent still believed that menstruating women are unclean. Many women used cloths without following proper cleaning procedures for reusable cloths. Some women did not wash the cloths properly, dry them in the sun, or store them in a hygienic place.

After completing the baseline survey, Turnstone Global, along with Indian Oil, conducted 54 school health camps and 26 community health camps. Trainers emphasised topics like:

Menstrual hygiene, infections related to unclean sanitary pads and materials, the importance of changing pads frequently, information and advice on SRH (sexual and reproductive health) issues, services for Tetanus immunisation, services for prophylaxis against nutritional anaemia, risk of unsafe disposal of used sanitary materials, risk of not washing hands after handling used sanitary materials, nutrition counselling, treatment for common RTIs (reproductive tract infections) and STIs (sexually transmitted infections), and treatment and counselling for menstrual disorders, sexual concerns among male and female adolescents.

## Healthcare during monsoons

After a severe bout of sweltering summer heat as the time comes for a splash in the rain, it also brings along microbes, which plague our eyes with infections. So along with the excitement that monsoon fills us with, we need to take proper care of our eyes.

Dr Aditya Pradhan from Disha Eye Hospitals, consultant in cornea, external diseases and cataract shares some measures to prevent eye problems due to the monsoon rains.

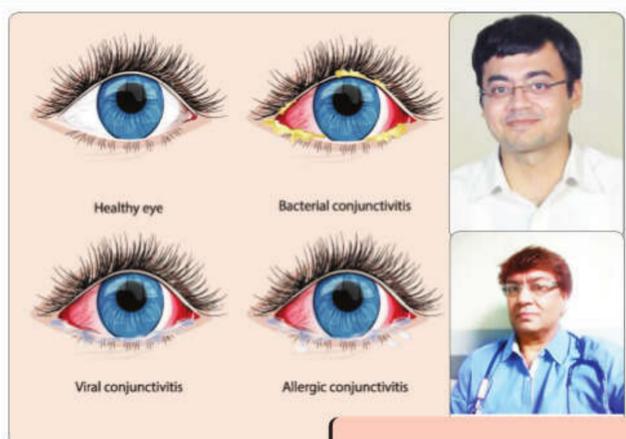
### CONJUNCTIVITIS

Conjunctivitis is the inflammation of the conjunctiva (the membrane that lines the eyelids and covers the exposed surface of the eyeball). This eye ailment is quite common during monsoons. Just like viral fever this infection is also contagious. This is characterised by an acute onset of a red, watery eye. It may be accompanied by pain and discharge and usually starts in one eye and spreads to the other as the secretions are contagious.

One may complain of a gritty feeling as if something has fallen in the eye. There may be blood clots visible around the cornea (central dark area) and in case it spreads to the cornea the patient may have symptoms such as intolerance to light (photophobia), glare, and pain and may see coloured halos around lights. It usually occurs due to a viral infection and may be preceded by fever. Though it typically lasts for a week, occasionally it may continue for up to 14 days. One should visit the ophthalmologist for examination as occasionally there can be sight-threatening complications. The secretions are contagious so the patient needs to be careful and use separate towels, bed sheets, etc.

Conjunctivitis is spread by transfer of the secretions from an infected person. One must maintain hygiene and avoid touching the eyes.

Although a self-limiting condition, it is better to visit an ophthalmologist for an accurate diagnosis and treatment. Supportive therapy in the form



of artificial tears and cold compress work wonders. Over-the-counter steroid/steroid-antibiotic eye drops should be strictly avoided as they can cause sight-threatening complications. Contact lens wearers must discontinue lens wear till the ophthalmologist allows them to. Sharing of eye drops between affected family members isn't recommended. Patients should avoid visiting public places, especially community swimming pools.

### CORNEAL ULCERS

Corneal ulcer is an infection of the cornea. There is an increased incidence of corneal ulcers in this season, especially among contact lens wearers and those with an interest in gardening/those engaged in farm work. This is characterised by a sudden onset of pain, redness, watering photophobia and decreased vision in the affected eye.

This can be serious if not treated immediately, so a visit to the ophthalmologist is mandatory for anyone with the above symptoms. An affected person should stop wearing contact lenses with immediate effect. Treatment is with antimicrobial agents and

The best ways to avoid gastrointestinal diseases during monsoon are -

- To drink boiled cooled water or filtered bottled water.
- To avoid raw vegetables - rather consume steamed or boiled vegetables.
- Avoid eating fruits from street vendors.
- Include probiotics in diet.
- Keep properly hydrated and maintain hand hygiene and eat home cooked food.
- Always keep covered even at home.
- Eat freshly cooked food.
- Vegetables should be thoroughly cleaned with boiled cooled water.
- Food prepared at home should always be covered.
- Children should be made to wash their hands and feet after coming from outdoors.
- Children should be advised not to touch railings and other exposed surfaces in washrooms etc as sometimes some people inadvertently become carriers of diseases and can spread it to others without their knowledge.
- Children should be advised not to swim in water that could be contaminated.
- Avoid touching animals and to wash the hands thoroughly if they have done so.
- Food handlers should be tested to find out if they are carriers of diseases.
- Probiotics like yoghurt and buttermilk should replace aerated fizzy and cola drinks

depends on the severity and aetiology of the condition.

### ALLERGY

Dust, pollens, cosmetics and weather change may trigger allergies. Contact lens wearers need to stop

wearing lenses during an episode of allergic conjunctivitis. Wearing sunglasses will protect eyes from dust and will prevent dust particles from entering the eyes. Over-the-counter steroid/steroid-antibiotic eye drops should be strictly avoided as they can cause sight-threatening complications. A prompt visit to the ophthalmologist is recommended for quick resolution of the condition.

Dr M S Purkait, medical superintendent, Techno India Dama Hospital also highlights some severe health complications which can rise due to the sudden dip in temperature and high rainfall across the city.

Monsoon brings in a variety of stomach problems the commonest being bacterial dysentery and viral

diarrhoea. The commonest reason being contaminated drinking water source and fruits and vegetables which have been washed in dirty water. Diseases like cholera, jaundice, typhoid, dysentery and viral gastroenteritis are some of the common ailments that occur.





## 'DIFFICULT TO ACCEPT THIS'

Netherlands captain Virgil van Dijk felt that the penalty call in the Euro 2024 semi-final that saw England level the game should have gone in their favour. The Netherlands fell on the wrong side of the result after Ollie Watkins scored a late winner to inflict a heartbreak. Despite England's win, there was a moment in the game that became the talking point among the fans and former players. Harry Kane and Denzel Dumfries appeared to have collided inside the Netherlands box in the 14th minute. Referee Felix Zwayer initially pointed for a goal kick but reversed his decision to a penalty after VAR reviewed the incident. "It is difficult to accept this. It has been a tough year. We had a big dream, and we felt we could have achieved it," he added.

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

### THUMBNAILS

**Durand Cup 2024:** The group stage draw for the upcoming 133rd edition of the Durand Cup 2024 football tournament was unveiled on Thursday, promising a slate of exciting matchups. Interestingly, defending champions Mohun Bagan and East Bengal, the two finalists from the previous edition, have been drawn together in the same group, as per a press release from ISL. Scheduled to commence on July 27, 2024, the tournament will feature 24 teams, including those from the ISL, I-League, and invitational teams from the Armed Forces. Notably, international teams will also feature with Nepal's Tribhuvan Army FC and Bangladesh Army Football Team, both returning from the previous edition. This year, Jamshedpur and Shillong join Kokrajhar and Kolkata as host cities, with each hosting group stage fixtures. Kolkata, the main venue, will host three groups, while Jamshedpur, Shillong, and Kokrajhar will each host one group. The tournament will follow a round-robin league format with knockout stages, culminating in the Finals at Kolkata's Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan. In total, 43 matches will be played and the top teams from each group, along with the two best second-placed teams, will advance to the knockout phase.

## Gambhir wants ten Doeschate to be part of nat'l coaching staff

Ten Doeschate has recently worked with Gambhir at the KKR, having served as the fielding coach



TRIDIB BAPARNASH  
NEW DELHI, 11 JULY

India's newly-appointed head coach Gautam Gambhir has reportedly pushed for the inclusion of former Netherlands international Ryan ten Doeschate to be included as part of his support staff. The Statesman understands that the decision lies

with the BCCI, which has recently preferred only Indian personnel in the back-room staff. But Gambhir, who has reportedly requested for a free hand in his new assignment with the Men-in-Blue, wants the 44-year-old Dutchman as one of the members of the coaching staff.

Ten Doeschate has recently worked with Gambhir at the Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR),

having served as the fielding coach in the team's 2024 IPL winning campaign. He also holds various positions with KKR's subsidiaries in the Caribbean Premier League, Major League Cricket and IIT20. Gambhir's preference of ten Doeschate in the Indian dressing room could also be attributed to his fondness for the Dutchman, whom he had praised lavishly in a viral

video recently in circulation on social media.

In the video, the former KKR mentor was seen stating that the Dutchman is the most selfless human being he has ever come across and that he would even be ready to take a bullet for him. "When I talk about selflessness, I have never said this in 42 years. And I wanted to say this. The greatest team man I ever played with,

the most selfless human being, someone I can take a bullet for, someone who I can trust for life."

"I can tell you this because in 2011, my first game as a KKR captain, we only had four overseas (players) available. And this man had a fabulous 50-over World Cup. And we went in that game with only three overseas players. He was carrying drinks in that game with no disappointment on his face. He taught me selflessness, Ryan ten Doeschate (sic)," Gambhir says in the video, shot at a KKR function last season.

While it has been widely speculated that the BCCI is keen on retaining the services of T Dilip, a member of Rahul Dravid's outgoing staff, as the fielding coach, and in the scenario, the Dutchman could be added as an assistant coach.

However, with former Mumbai all-rounder Abhishek Nayar almost certain to join Gambhir's crew in a similar role, rather than a specialised batting coach's role, which Gambhir is likely to keep it with himself, it will be interesting to watch what the BCCI eventually decides. According to BCCI sources, preliminary discussions with Nayar have already taken place and the outcome has been positive.

## CT: BCCI bats for hybrid model so India won't travel to Pakistan, say sources



AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, 11 JULY

Team India is unlikely to travel to Pakistan for the 2025 Champions Trophy as the BCCI will propose a hybrid model to International Cricket Council (ICC), the sources told IANS.

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has proposed that the ICC Champions Trophy will be scheduled from February 19 to March 9, 2025 with all the matches to take place across three major cities -- Karachi, Rawalpindi and Lahore -- refusing to opt for a hybrid model for India's matches. PCB has also proposed Lahore as base for Team India for the tournament including India vs Pakistan match to be played in the city due to the security reasons. Last year, Pakistan had

the hosting rights for the Asia Cup 2023 but the Indian government did not give approval to the team to travel and their matches were shifted to Sri Lanka.

The Indian cricket team has not played in Pakistan since the Asia Cup in 2008 and the two sides play each other only at ICC or ACC events.

In their last meeting in the T20 World Cup 2024 last month, India defeated Pakistan by six runs in the group stage and went on to lift their second title.

The ICC Champions Trophy 2025 will be the first major international cricket tournament hosted solely by Pakistan. Previously, Pakistan had co-hosted the 1996 Cricket World Cup with India and Sri Lanka and before that co-hosted the Reliance Cup with India in 1987.

## Ramiz Raja impressed with Arshdeep's willingness to learn

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, 11 JULY

Former Pakistan skipper Ramiz Raja was effusive in his praise for India's left-arm quick Arshdeep Singh, one of the prime architects of the T20 World Cup triumph.

In the T20 World Cup final against South Africa on June 29, Arshdeep Singh bowled the crucial penultimate over of the match, and gave away just four runs to finish an impressive spell of 2 for 20 leaving Hardik Pandya to defend 16 off the final six deliveries, which he did splendidly.

Arshdeep eventually ended the T20 World Cup 2024 as the joint highest wicket-taker with 17 wickets, the same as Afghanistan's Fazalhaq Farooqi, ahead of India's pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah (15 wickets), who bagged the 'Player of the Tournament' award.

Impressed by the Punjab left-arter's willingness to learn and hold his nerves under pressure, Raja, who also served as a former chief of the Pakistan Cricket Board, felt that Arshdeep is learning the trade from Bumrah without getting overawed by his stature as the world's best bowler.

"All the bowlers in India's



attack played their role (in the T20 World Cup victory), some got hit but most of them delivered good performances with their tight bowling and cleverness on flat tracks that test you bowling quality, credibility and credentials. On that note, the name that first comes up is that of Arshdeep Singh," Raja said.

"Bumrah ke hote hue, ye craft seekh bhi rahe hain, par unse dab nahi rahe hain (with Bumrah there, Arshdeep is learning from him and not feeling the pressure because of Bumrah's presence). It's very important for him to back himself and prove that he is at par with Bumrah, if not better than him," he continued.

"So to challenge himself that way is very important for Arshdeep's growth, because if he will compete with the world's best bowler, then his own bowling will touch the sky," the former Pakistan batsman, who was part of the 1992 ODI World Cup-winning team, said on his YouTube channel 'Ramiz Speaks'.

The 62-year-old Raja also hailed Arshdeep's willingness to learn and not let the pressure get to him. "He comes on to bowl in do-or-die situations (death overs), like if he doesn't deliver, the team will lose and he might be out of the squad. But he bowls cleverly and to his field, when to bowl length balls, slower balls, can bowl the slower bouncer as well. So he offers a lot of advantage to his team," Raja said.

Raja also spoke highly of the quality of the Indian pace-bowling unit that is gradually becoming a fearsome attack. "The important thing about Indian circuit is that we are witnessing improvement in skill level every six months, not that they fall apart or the performance dips. The skill level is going up and there is a willingness to learn. That's an important element you see in Arshdeep's bowling," he concluded.

## Ganguly buys Kolkata Royal Tigers team ahead of Indian Racing Festival

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, 11 JULY

Gearing up for its third season, the Indian Racing Festival received a major shot in the arm with former India cricket captain Sourav Ganguly becoming an owner of the Kolkata Royal Tigers Racing team ahead of the 2024 season. Conceptualised by Racing Promotions, the Indian Racing Festival is designed to captivate the growing motorsport fan base in India. The festival encompasses two main championships: the Indian Racing League (IRL) and the Formula 4 Indian Championship (F4IC).

With eight city-based teams—Kolkata, Hyderabad, Bangalore, Chennai, Delhi, Goa, Kochi, and Ahmedabad—set to compete from August to November this year, the Indian Racing Festival promises an exhilarating season of high-speed action. Kolkata is set to participate for the first time, adding an extra layer of excitement to the competition.

With Ganguly's Kolkata Royal Tigers entering the fray, the upcoming season promises to be another thrilling experience for fans. Expressing his enthusiasm for the association, Ganguly said,

"Motorsports has always been a passion of mine while this opportunity not only allows me to contribute to the growth of motorsport in Kolkata but also aligns with my belief in fostering a culture of excellence and sportsmanship. Together with the Kolkata Royal Tigers, we aim to build a strong legacy in the Indian Racing Festival and inspire a new generation of motorsport enthusiasts, making the Kolkata Royal Tigers a formidable force in the Festival."

Notably, Ganguly, who has an illustrious career representing India in over 113 Tests and 311 ODIs, is also involved keenly with Indian Super League side ATK Mohun Bagan.

Commenting on the association with Dada, as Ganguly is popularly known, Akhilesh Reddy, Chairman and Managing Director of RPPL, said, "Ganguly's influence is set to inspire a new generation of motorsport enthusiasts across India, igniting passion and driving young athletes towards greatness. Additionally, his association is expected to significantly enhance awareness of the Indian Racing Festival (IRF) among a broader audience, further solidifying its position as a premier motorsport event in India."

## Copa America: Lerma's header powers Colombia to 1-0 win over Uruguay



AGENCIES  
NORTH CAROLINA, 11 JULY

James Rodriguez's masterclass and a resolute performance from 10-men Colombia sealed their date with Argentina in the final following a 1-0 victory over Uruguay in the Copa America semi-final.

As the final whistle blew in North Carolina's Bank of America Stadium, Colombia players jumped in jubilation to celebrate their win that defied the odds to keep Uruguay's high-flying attack quiet.

Their determined performance extended their unbeaten run to a team-record 28 games. Their last defeat dates back to February 2022, served to them by

the opposition that awaits them in the final of the ongoing tournament on Sunday.

Uruguay had their chances to go in front throughout the 90 minutes but struggled to guide the ball into the back of the net.

Liverpool's ace Darwin Nunez attempted to side-foot the ball inside the back of the net, but his shot was a whisker away from his target in the 19th minute.

It was Rodriguez who carried the attacking threat and paved the way for Colombia to lift their first Copa America title since 2001.

In front of an avid atmosphere created by the ecstatic fans, he served the ball to Jefferson Lerma, who headed the ball into the net in the 39th minute of the game.

Despite going in front, Colombia's task to defend their slender one-goal advantage became an intricate affair. Defender Daniel Munoz swung his elbow at Uruguay's Manuel Ugarte, was shown a second yellow card and got sent off the field in the first-half stoppage time.

With time running out, Uruguay decided to introduce one of their most prolific strikers, Luis Suarez, into the thick of the action.

In the 71st minute, he had the opportunity to bring the game back on level terms but failed to deliver in the decisive moment.

Colombia struck the crossbar in the final minutes of the game, but one goal turned out to be sufficient to seal their date with Argentina in the final.

## Very important to be in the present, says Washington Sundar

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, 11 JULY

Washington Sundar made his India debut in white-ball cricket seven years ago, but till date has featured in mere 19 ODIs and 46 T20Is, and largely been a part of squads and tours in which the more established names are either rested or part of a bigger assignment. He has also featured in four Tests (all in 2021), despite an impressive debut against Australia in Brisbane during the famous 2021 Down Under tour.

Currently a part of the Shubman Gill-led side for the brief T20I series against Zimbabwe, the 24-year-old came up with a Player of the Match performance in the third T20I in Harare on Wednesday

but insisted that it will take continuous improvement and refinement in his all-around game to cement his spot in future India squads. Sundar claimed 3 for 15 with his off-breaks, taking the wickets of dangerman Sikanadar Raza (15) and Johnathan Campbell (1) in the same over, before returning later in the innings to remove Clive Madande (37) to eventually turn the tide in India's favour after.

Khaleel Ahmed (1 for 15 from four overs) joined Sundar in the latter stages to stifle the Zimbabweans, and the spinner credited his teammates for keeping their composure in the team's defence of 182.

"They (Zimbabwe) did put us under pressure. We had



to bowl to our best and make sure we restricted them and if possible pick up some

wickets as well, break that particular partnership (of Madande and Dion Myers)

as well. I think all of us really executed the plans that we spoke about very well," he

said. With almost a whole T20 World Cup-winning squad sitting the tour out, and the retirement of Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli and Ravindra Jadeja from the format, a number of players on India's fringes have made the African voyage, taking a 2-1 lead in the five-match series.

The tour proves to be important in the moulding of India's team for future T20 World Cup campaigns, most notably their title defence on home soil (sharing hosting rights with Sri Lanka), with at least three spots from the successful 2024 squad up for grabs.

Sundar, who played a key role in India's famous Test win over Australia in Brisbane to claim the Border-Gavaskar series, is yet to make an

appearance in a global event in white ball cricket, but reiterates his passions and efforts to continue in a bid to feature at a World Cup.

"It's a great opportunity for me to play for India. That's a great blessing for me. I need to be there every single day giving my 100 per cent. And that's something I have not compromised on. I've always been giving 100 per cent every season, every single practice session, and obviously in games as well," he felt.

"It keeps me just in the present and obviously it's very important to be in the present and just put up those good performances regularly," Sundar added.

India, meanwhile look to claim a series win in the

fourth T20I on Sunday, and Sundar believes the experience and lessons from earlier in the series bode well for his side in pursuit of victory.

"Coming here to Zimbabwe and playing cricket, I think we are trying to get a lot more information about the wickets over here, (and) the conditions. We didn't really have so much information (for the first game), as much as we have now," he said.

"Obviously there are a lot of learnings and today (in the third T20I) we played on a different wicket, so it played a lot better I would say for batting. It's a great opportunity for us to keep competing with any team that we play," he further said.