

evolve
FREEMASONRY:
MAKING GOOD MEN
BETTER
PAGE 15

8th DAY
KABIR SUMAN'S
TRIBUTE TO
PANNALAL GHOSH
PAGE 13

**ROHIT DISAPPOINTED
AT INDIA'S COLLAPSE
IN FIRST ODI
VS SRI LANKA**
PAGE 12

The Sunday Statesman

India's National Newspaper since 1818

PAGES 16 | ₹5.00 | L.C. • KOLKATA | NEW DELHI | SILIGURI | BHUBANESWAR PEOPLE'S PARLIAMENT. ALWAYS IN SESSION

WEATHER

Generally cloudy sky with light to moderate rain / thundershower very likely to occur. Maximum and Minimum Temperature most likely be around 29°C and 26°C respectively.

RAINFALL: 32.2 mm

RELATIVE HUMIDITY
Max. 97% Min. 80%

TEMPERATURE
Max: 30.1°C (- 2.4) Min: 25.8°C (- 0.8)

SUN RISES 05:09 hrs
SUN SETS 18:17 hrs

MOON RISES 03:45 hrs
MOON SETS 17:45 hrs

New Moon on 04 August

THUMBNAILED



A waterlogged street in Kolkata amid heavy rain. ■ IANS

DC SSB Daljit Singh Chawdhary to hold additional charge of BSF: The Director General of Sashastra Seema Bal, Daljit Singh Chawdhary has been assigned the additional charge as the DG of the Border Security Force till the appointment of a regular incumbent or until further orders. This development follows a day after the Union Home Ministry repatriated DC BSF Nitin Agrawal to his state cadre. According to an order of the Home Ministry on Saturday, Chawdhary, a 1990 batch Indian Police Services officer of the Uttar Pradesh cadre will also command the BSF, after premature repatriation of Agrawal.

Wayanad landslides: Death toll over 360

With search and rescue operations in their 5th day, 218 people are still missing



A view of the temporary Bailey bridge in the landslide-affected Chooralmala of Wayanad district, on Saturday. ■ ANI

ACHUTHANANDAN KUNYIL
KALPETTA, 3 AUGUST

The rescue operations in the landslide-hit areas in Wayanad continued for the fifth day on Saturday with at least 218 people still missing.

Rescue workers belonging to Army, NDRE, Fire Department and Navy personnel continued to extricate victims' bodies and body parts from the debris and slush, strewn with large boulders and tree stumps.

The death toll in the devastating landslides that hit at Chooralmala and Mundakkai in Wayanad on Tuesday morning touched 360 on Saturday.

At least 86 persons are undergoing treatment in various hospitals in Wayanad.

TMC MPs Saket Gokhale, Sushmita Dev in Wayanad

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, 3 AUGUST

All India Trinamul Congress (TMC) Rajya Sabha MP Saket Gokhale and TMC MP Sushmita Dev visited landslide-hit Wayanad on the direction of Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Saturday.

Mr Gokhale stated that the human tragedy in Wayanad has been devastating and heartbreaking. Taking to X, Mr Gokhale said: "My colleague Sushmita Dev AITC & I are in Wayanad, Kerala, this morning on directions of our Chairperson Mamata Banerjee. The human tragedy in Wayanad has been devastating & heartbreaking." "We're here to meet the affected families & let them know that we & Bengal are with them," he stated. (See Page 3)

As many as 9,328 persons are now in various relief camps in the district.

According to official figures, up to 215 people have been confirmed dead so far and 143 body parts have been recovered. The post-mortem examination of 212 bodies and 140 body parts have been completed. Special teams have been formed to collect and analyse DNA samples from body parts and from dead bodies to identify the victims and match them to their nearest relatives. The bodies retrieved those of include 85 women and 29 children.

Altogether 146 bodies were identified. The identified bodies have been handed over to the victims' families after autopsies. The district administration estimates that 218 people are still missing based on Aadhaar records, tourist arrival data, and inputs from ASHA workers and the injured.

Seventy-four unidentified bodies will be cremated in public cemeteries. Identification of the bodies is a tough task as most of them are disfigured.

The relief workers recovered around 133 body parts from the landslide-hit spots and the Chaliyar river. The health officials have collected genetic samples of the body parts to identify the deceased.

A police officer in Pothukallu in Malappuram said that they are registering a first information report (FIR) for every body part found, considering them as individual dead bodies, which seems to have resulted in the media reporting a higher death toll.

According to official sources, 215 autopsies have been completed so far and 146 bodies were identified. The identified bodies have been handed over to the victims' families after autopsies.

Identification of bodies based on genetic samples is a time-consuming process, but is considered essential to avoid bodies being wrongly claimed and ensuring monetary compensation. (See also Page 4)

Manu narrowly misses 3rd medal, finishes 4th in 25m pistol event

SS RAMASWAMY
PARIS, 3 AUGUST

Young Haryana pistol shooter Manu Bhaker narrowly failed in her endeavour to scoop up a third bronze from the Paris 2024 Olympic Games today when she finished fourth in the 25 metre women's pistol event.

Manu lost to her Hungarian rival Veronika Major 3-4 in the five-shot bronze shoot-off after both competitors were tied at 28 points each after the eighth series (five shots in each series) in the elimination stage of the competition held at the Chateaux range.

The 22-year-old Hajar-born pistol wielder missed the third and fourth shots in the five-shot ninth series shoot-off while her Hungarian opponent missed only the third shot.

Manu, thus, was credited with a total score of 28 in the final while Veronika took the bronze with a tally of 31. Yang Jiin of Korea clinched the gold by winning the title-deciding five-shot shoot-off against France's Camille Jedzejewski after both were tied at 37.

Manu's sequence of scores in the first three series of stage 1 were 2, 4 and 4. In the elimination stage, the Indian came up with scores of 3, 5, 4, 4 and 2 leading to the shoot-off with the Hungarian.



Indian shooter Manu Bhaker finishes fourth in the Women's 25m Pistol Shooting event at the Olympic Games 2024. ■ ANI

bronze medal through the shoot-off.

After showing steely nerves in the 10m distance, Manu felt the pressure while hunting for her third medal of the Games.

"The match was a roller coaster for me. The beginning was not so great but eventually I caught up with the others. (But) the nerves got the better of me. Things did not go my way," said Manu, who has won gold medals in the World Championships, Asian Games and Commonwealth Games.

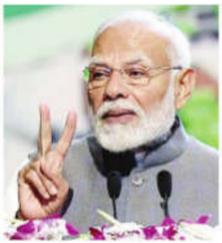
Although she did not get a medal, it was better than not making it to the finals, according to Manu.

"Unfortunately it was a fourth (spot) finish, which is better than not making the final. There's always going to be a next time. I have two medals. And lots of motivation to work on for the next time. I will work hard and try to give a better finish to India next time," she declared.

In another heartbreak for an Indian medal hope, archer Deepika Kumari suffered a defeat against Suhyeon Nam of South Korea in the quarterfinal match of the individual women's archery event on Saturday. Deepika lost 4-6 (2-0, 0-2, 2-0, 0-2, 0-2) against her South Korean opponent in the quarterfinal match at the Les Invalides.

Indian farm-diversity hope for achieving global food security: Modi inaugurates 32nd ICAE

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 3 AUGUST



Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday inaugurated the 32nd International Conference of Agricultural Economists (ICAE) and said the challenges of sustainable agri-food systems can be met through international cooperation in a holistic approach.

The triennial conference, organised by the International Association of Agricultural Economists at the National Agricultural Science Centre (NASC) Complex, has a theme of "Transformation Towards Sustainable Agri-Food Systems" in the face of global challenges such as climate change, natural resource degradation, rising production costs and conflicts.

Mr Modi said India is promoting chemical-free natural farming in a big way to strengthen sustainable farming. This has produced good results. During the current financial budget of the gov-

and Meghalaya is being appreciated for its medicinal values. India is ready to share its experiences with the world on this crop, the Prime Minister said. Welcoming agri-researchers, economists and scientists from 75 countries of the world, Mr Modi said he was delighted that the ICAE is taking place in India after 65 years. He said India has 120 million farmers, more than 30 million fishermen and 30 million animal keepers from India.

"You are in the land which is home to more than 500 million livestock. I welcome you to the agricultural and animal-loving country of India," the Prime Minister said.

He said the Indian Council of Agriculture Research has more than one hundred research institutes. There are 500 colleges in the country teaching agriculture and related skills.

India still follows the six seasons pattern in its agriculture,

Centre to move two battalions of Assam Rifles to J&K after increased terror attacks

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, 3 AUGUST

STRENGTHENING SECURITY

In a bid to strengthen the security grid in the Jammu region where Pakistani terrorists have heightened their attacks on security forces, the central government has decided to move two battalions of Assam Rifles here from the trouble-torn Manipur.

About 2,000 additional BSF personnel and 3,000 Army troops have already been inducted in the Jammu region for counter-terrorist operations.

The decision to airlift two battalions of Assam Rifles here was taken by the Home Ministry following the spurt in terror activities in the Kathua, Doda, Udhampur, Rajouri and Reasi districts of the Jammu region that were declared terrorism-free nearly 20 years ago.

There were reports that around 50 Pakistani terrorists trained in guerilla and jungle warfare have infiltrated and

- ▶ About 2,000 additional BSF personnel and 3,000 Army troops have already been inducted in the Jammu region for counter-terrorist operations.
- ▶ There were reports that around 50 Pakistani terrorists trained in guerilla and jungle warfare have infiltrated and were hiding in different parts of the region to further escalate terror activities.
- ▶ Serving or retired soldiers of the Pakistan Army may also have infiltrated alongside the terrorists, who are believed to be veterans of the Afghanistan conflict.

were hiding in different parts of the region to further escalate terror activities on the directions of their handlers sitting across the Line of Control (LoC). Ten soldiers and a CRPF jawan lost their lives last month in ambushes by terrorists.

Five soldiers were killed in an ambush in the hinterland of the Kathua district and four more soldiers, including a Captain, laid down their lives within the next few hours in the neighbouring area of the Doda district.

There were reports that serving and retired soldiers of the Pakistani Army trained in jungle warfare have also infiltrated alongside the terrorists who had returned after fighting the US Army in Afghanistan.

These war-hardened terrorists are carrying arms and ammunition, including the M-4 rifles, which the US Army left behind while leaving Afghanistan. Several M-4 rifles have been recovered from slain terrorists.

Taking advantage of a large

chunk of the Indian Army having been moved from the peaceful Jammu region to Ladakh after the Indo-Chinese skirmishes in 2020, Pakistani agencies have again started pushing terrorists through the LoC and international border (IB) into the Jammu areas. Most of the infiltration was through the LoC in Rajouri and Poonch districts and the IB touching the Jammu, Samba and Kathua districts.

Induction of additional troops and paramilitary forces was aimed at plugging the loopholes on the borders. Two battalions of CRPF will replace the Assam Rifles in Manipur, reports said.

The Home Ministry had a few days ago airlifted about 2,000 jawans of BSF here from Odisha to strengthen security along the IB with Pakistan.

Pakistani terrorists were also infiltrating through the IB in Punjab and then moving into J&K taking the traditional jungle routes.

People fed up of judicial processes, want to escape from it: CJI

PARMOD KUMAR
NEW DELHI, 3 AUGUST



The Chief Justice of India, Justice D.Y. Chandrachud on Saturday called for institutionalising Lok Adalats at the Supreme Court, stating that people are fed up of long delays in judicial processes and want to come out of it, agreeing for any settlement - even when they get less than what they are legally entitled to.

CJI Chandrachud also cautioned that institutions are resistant to change, often questioning attempts to incorporate new elements in their working. However, he said, once a change is implemented it becomes an integral part of the system and called for institutionalising the Lok Adalats at the Supreme Court for dispensing justice. It should not remain a one-off

Chief Justice of India (CJI) DY Chandrachud, Supreme Court Judge Justice PS Narasimha and Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Law & Justice Arjun Ram Meghwal, during the commemoration of the Special Lok Adalat Week organised to celebrate 75 years of the Supreme Court of India, in New Delhi on Saturday. ■ ANI

initiative, he said.

"I hope that we will now institutionalize this process of dispensing justice through Lok Adalat... whatever we do as a court must be institutionalized. It should not be that it is just a one-off initiative,

and concluded on 2 August, the Chief Justice Chandrachud urged the participants to remember the human face behind each case.

The five days long special Lok Adalat at the Supreme Court saw seven benches - each panels having two judges, with the exception of CJI Chandrachud having three judges on his panel, and two members of the bar - one each from Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) and the Supreme Court Advocate on Record Association (SCAORA) on each panel.

The matters were heard every day from Monday to Friday in the post-lunch session. However, the only distinction was that unlike the Lok Adalat at the district courts level, the litigants were not personally present for the settlement of their cases at the special Lok

Adalat at the Supreme Court.

Dwelling on different aspects, the Chief Justice Chandrachud pointed to the agonising and tiresome judicial process that tempts the litigant to accept settlements even when it is less their legal entitlements. He cited an instance where top court judge, Justice Vikram Nath rejected a settlement offer of Rs. 1 lakh, and instead awarded Rs. 6 lakhs in addition to what was settled in the Lok Adalat with consent of the litigant.

In an observation pointing to the frustration of the litigant with the long delays inherent in the judicial process, Chief Justice Chandrachud said: "Parties are ready to accept any sort of settlement because they want to get out of the system" as they get fed up with the system.

Chandigarh: Ex-Punjab Police officer shoots son-in-law at court complex

AGENCIES
CHANDIGARH, 3 AUGUST

In a broad daylight killing, a retired Punjab Police officer on Saturday allegedly shot his son-in-law, who was an officer with the Irrigation Department, in a fit of rage at a mediation centre in the Chandigarh District Court complex.

The victim, Harpreet Singh, was rushed to the PGI where the doctors declared him dead on arrival.

The accused has been identified as Malwinder Singh Sidhu, a retired AIG of the Punjab Police. Responding promptly to the shooting, lawyers and visitors present on the scene apprehended Sidhu and locked him in a

According to police, there was a matrimonial dispute between Harpreet (the victim) and his wife Amitoj Kaur. Their divorce proceedings were going on since 2023.

room until the police arrived.

Later, the police arrested Sidhu and seized his firearm. Senior officers, including UT SSP Kanwardeep Kaur, along with a forensic team have reached the crime scene to gather evidence.

According to police, there was a matrimonial dispute between Harpreet and his wife Amitoj Kaur.

Their divorce proceed-

ings were going on since 2023.

The couple had another litigation going on at Mohali, officials said.

The matter was referred to the mediation centre and proceedings were being carried out by the court-appointed mediators. It was their fourth meeting in the mediation proceedings.

The police said Harpreet along with his parents were present there when Malwinder Sidhu fired at him.

Four rounds were fired out of which two hit Harpreet on the stomach and thigh, the police said.

The victim was posted in the Irrigation Department under the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.

Asansol flood: Bodies retrieved, DVC releases water

Flight operations from Kazi Nazrul Islam Airport in Andal have been cancelled for the second consecutive day

DEBAJYOTI CHAKRABORTY
ASANSOL, 3 AUGUST

Jawans of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) on Saturday retrieved the bodies of three people from the Nunia and Garui rivulets, who drowned yesterday evening due to floods in Asansol after heavy rainfall in the past forty-eight hours in the region.

Though the rain has stopped since last night and flood waters are slowly receding, the condition of the Damodar and Ajay rivers has worsened due to water release from the upstream dam.

An ex-serviceman and present employee of central public sector BEML in Asansol, Chanchal Biswas (59), who has been washed away in the Nunia rivulet while driving his new car in the Kalyanpur Housing area of Asansol North last night was found dead by NDRF jawans inside the car. The car was stuck among stones.

He has left behind his wife,



who is a teacher and two children. He was a resident of Sugam Park.

Yesterday, ignoring the warnings of local residents, he had driven his car onto a narrow bridge across the rivulet but he and his car were swept away by a surge in the water current. The video footage captured by locals on cell phones went viral last night.

His body has been sent to Asansol District Hospital for post mortem.

Gouranga Roy (39), an employee of Eastern Coalfields

Limited (ECL), and a resident of Raha Lane in Asansol South Police Station limits drowned while riding his motorcycle on a bridge over the Garui river while going to his office at Kalipahari last night.

Rohit Roy (29) a resident of K.S. Road in Asansol North, also drowned while trying to cross a bridge over the Garui rivulet yesterday evening. His body was recovered in the wee hours today near Sukanta Pally in NH-19.

Wasimul Haque, deputy mayor of Asansol Municipal



Corporation (AMC), fractured his hand after falling down while supervising rescue operations in Asansol North Railpar areas.

The District Magistrate of West Burdwan, S. Ponnambalam, requisitioned the NDRF yesterday evening to rescue marooned people and the drowned victims on the request of Asansol-Durgapur Police Commissionerate. Police have erected barricades in dangerous areas and put up notices urging people not to move in the area.

A temporary bamboo bridge connecting the steel city of Burnpur with Biharinath Hills of Bankura district was

washed away as the water in the Damodar has been flowing very high after release of water from the DVC's Maithon and Panchet Dams today.

A family from Kolkata who were going by road for Shrivani Mela to Biharinath Hills could not go due to the collapse of the bridge on this route. The movement of Kanwariyas who offer holy water to Lord Biharinath in this month of Shrawana on every Monday, has also been disrupted. The pilgrims come from all over the country.

Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC) has released 36,000 cusecs of water from its upper Panchet Dam and 12,000



cusecs of water from Maithon Dam, according to Arvind Kumar Singh of the DVC.

From Tilpara barrage in Birbhum 5558 cusecs of water has been released and from Durgapur barrage about 70,000 cusecs of water has been released since morning today, which will further swell the rivers in the downstream and create a flood-like situation.

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee blames the DVC every year for man-made floods in the lower basin of Damodar River during peak

monsoon season.

TMC leader Kunal Ghosh posted on social media platform X today that DVC has released water for another flood in the state, though during summer West Bengal hardly gets any water for irrigation. The excess rainwater from Jharkhand spells doom for the state and CM Mamata Banerjee is keeping a close watch on the situation, he said.

Anindita Mukherjee, chairperson of BOA of Durgapur Municipal Corporation (DMC), said that large areas are still

inundated though water level is slowly receding. If there is no further rainfall then the situation will further improve in the Durgapur region from tomorrow.

In Laudoha, a brick-loaded tractor turned turtle after an ADDA road turned into a virtual pond due to massive waterlogging.

Meanwhile, flight operations from Kazi Nazrul Islam Airport in Andal have been cancelled for the second consecutive day today, though water level is receding in the Kazi Nazrul Islam Airport Terminal and runway.

Kailash Mondal, Director of Kazi Nazrul Islam Airport in Andal said that restoration work by airport staff has been taking place on a war footing. "Water level is receding fast and we hope that we will be able to resume flight operations as early as possible. The passengers have already been intimated in advance about flight cancellations today by the operating airlines," he added.

Raj Bhavan ex-staff appeals for return of her papers from office locker

KOLKATA, 3 AUGUST

A former temporary staffer of the Raj Bhavan in Kolkata, who filed a sexual harassment complaint against Governor CV Ananda Bose, on Saturday made an appeal to the authorities to allow her to collect her documents from the office locker allotted during service.

Raj Bhavan insiders said that the woman has submitted the application at the communication office of the Governor's house. They said she had already collected her personal belongings from the staff quarters at the Raj Bhavan allotted to her. AGENCIES

Bista slams Bengal govt's 12.5 per cent VAT on Air Turbine Fuel at Bagdogra

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
SILIGURI, 3 AUGUST

Darjeeling MP Raju Bista on Saturday criticised the West Bengal government's decision to impose a 12.5 per cent value-added tax (VAT) on air turbine fuel (ATF) at Bagdogra airport, warning it poses a significant threat to the aviation industry's recovery.

Mr Bista argued that instead of supporting the tourism sector with performance-linked incentives and additional subsidies, the government has chosen to increase flight costs through the VAT, potentially deterring both local travellers and tourists. He stated: "This decision will inevitably increase flight costs from Bagdogra, which could deter people from our region and tourists and undermine the ongoing recovery efforts in the tourism industry."

The MP urged the government to prioritise measures that foster growth and recovery in the tourism sector rather than imposing burdens that could stifle its potential and the economic

benefits for the Darjeeling Hills, Terai, Dooars, and North Bengal regions.

Bagdogra airport, the only operational civilian airport in North Bengal, serves over 8,000 passengers daily, with over one million passenger arrivals recorded in the past year.

Currently, around 40 flights operate from Bagdogra, and with a new terminal upcoming, flight numbers are expected to rise significantly.

"The present growth represents the potential of our region for attracting high-value tourists. The imposition of this VAT is a short-sighted move that disregards the crucial role of tourism in our economy. It is therefore essential for the West Bengal government to reconsider this anti-tourism policy and provide necessary support to ensure the sustainable growth of our tourism sector," Mr Bista added.

The tourism industry is the second-largest employment-generating sector in the region, following the tea industry.

Habra BDO allegedly assaulted

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, 3 AUGUST

Mr Das protested against the BDO bringing charges of irregularities in connection with tender selection process

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, 3 AUGUST

The Block Development Officer (BDO) of the Habra block number II in North 24 Parganas district was allegedly assaulted by the Trinamul Congress-run Habra panchayat samiti pradhan inside the former's office on Saturday. The pradhan Ratan Das allegedly got involved in a heated exchange of words with the BDO, Sitangshu Sekhar, during a meeting held today to discuss issues related to floating of tender for some projects.

Mr Das allegedly abused Mr Sekhar and threw a water bottle kept on the table targeting the latter but it hit another person who was present in the meeting.

Mr Das protested against the BDO bringing charges of irregularities in connection with tender selection process.

However, the panchayat pradhan has denied the allegations of throwing the water bottle and abusing the officer.

Severe threat of flooding: DVRRC beefing up flood cushions

KANCHAN SIDDIQUI
BURDWAN, 3 AUGUST

Huge downpour in Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand in the upper catchment of Tenughat dam now pose a severe threat of floods in the South Bengal districts, which however has been temporarily halted after the Bengal government intervention this afternoon.

The Damodar Reservoir Regulation Committee (DVRRC) had earlier elevated the flood alert from Orange to Yellow in just six hours.

The DVRRC, as a temporary measure, has beefed up flood cushions especially in Panchet to combat the upstream deluge, officials said.

A flood cushion is a temporary storage in a dam that absorbs high water flow to reduce downstream flood damage.

The Principal Secretary, Irrigation, asked the Chairman, Damodar Valley Corporation to check discharge of Panchet reservoir, which already was about to scale up discharge from 65,000 Cusecs to 85,000 Cusecs at 3:30 PM today.

"We've temporarily halted discharge till 8:00 p.m, but the discharge will cross 1 Lakh Cusecs after midnight hours," Shashi Rakesh, Member Secretary, DVRRC told The Statesman.

Mr Rakesh pleaded helplessness, explaining: "The Tenughat dam in the Damodar upstream has already started discharge beyond 1 Lakh Cusecs and the entire release added to additional surface runoff is hitting Panchet dam. We are told that Tenughat would further add 30,000 Cusecs more after 8:00 p.m. as that dam is already bearing

at 861 feet level where the maximum danger level is 854 feet." He added: "After midnight and by 6:00 a.m, we may have the cushion ready to accommodate the additional 30,000 cusecs, but the principal 1 lakh cusecs we cannot hold."

The Panchet dam having a catchment area of 10,961 square km has the highest storage capacity of 85,170.37 lakh cubic metres with 121.81 Sq Km maximum conservation pool. Its danger level is at 425 Feet. "Every 3 hours the level is increasing by 1 foot, which was at 418 at 5:00 p.m," an official said.

The Tenughat dam located in Petarwar block of Bokaro district came into operation in 1978 comes under the Jharkhand government and is not regulated by the DVC.

The dam with its live stor-

age capacity of 224 Million Cubic Metres was built for a single purpose of feeding water to Bokaro Steel Plant and is without a flood storage provision. "So, it's unable to hold excessive catchment delivery for long and just pass it to the downward recipients like Panchet," said a senior DVC official.

The Bengal government, on 17 October, 2022, at a meeting in New Delhi had demanded joint regulation of the Tenughat dam to avert flood like situations. The state had alleged that the Jharkhand government doesn't bother to pass any information about release of large volumes of water that hits Panchet, and subsequently the lower Damodar districts like East Burdwan, Hooghly, Howrah as Panchet is compelled to go for mammoth discharge.

Abridged e-Tender Notice

Tender has been floated for various development works under Mahishbathani Gram Panchayat in Old Makla Panchayat Samiti, Makla. e-Tender No. 01 /MGP/ 2024 to 05/MGP/2024 Dated: 02.08.2024 & circulated Memo No. 328/1(8)/MGP/24 to 332/1(8)/MGP/24 Dated: 02.08.2024. Intending contractors are requested to visit office of the undersigned and W.B.Govt. Portal wbtenders.gov.in and Malda District Official Website www.makla.nic.in Sd/- Pradhan Mahishbathani GP

Classified

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CHANGE OF NAME

Vide Affidavit No 33AA368836 dated 31.07.24 before Notary Public under Barrackpore Sub Division Court I, Deb Ranjan Tarafdar S/O Late Phani Bhushan Tarafdar at 16, F Road, Anandapuri, P.O. N.C.Pukur, Kolkata - 700122, hereby declare that I, DEB RANJAN TARAFDAR and DEB RANJAN TARAFDAR is same and one identical person. Henceforth I shall be known as DEB RANJAN TARAFDAR in all future purpose.

I, CHUMKI Roy, W/o. Atanu Roy, R/o. Vill.: Nutan Gopalpur, P.O.: Pritinagar, P.S.: Ranaghat, Dist.: Nadia, hereby declare that Chumki Roy and Chumki Biswas are the same and one identical person proved by an affidavit sworn before the Notary Public, Sl. No. 34, dt. 30-07-2024 at Ranaghat, Nadia.

I, MADAN Kumar Chandra, S/o. Late Bhupati Mohan Chandra, permanent resident of Vill.: Nabapally, P.S.: Barasat, Dist.: North 24

Parganas, Kol.-126, DOB: 21-07-1967, declare that in my all documents my name and my father's name written as Madan Kumar Chandra, S/o. Late Bhupati Mohan Chandra except in my passport my name and my father's and my DOB wrongly written as Madan Chandra, S/o. Bhupati Chandra, DOB: 15-09-1972, and also my address is mentioned as my parental residence. Currently I am resident of my permanent address. My and my father's actual name is also above mentioned. Vide affidavit 1st Class Executive Magistrate Barasat Court, Dated: 25-07-2024, Affidavit No.-5467.

I, Uptasi Sanpui (Old name) D/o. Durga Pada Sanpui, W/o. Jagadish Mandal, Residing at Vill & P.O. - Jogeshganj, P.S. - Hemnagar Coastal (Previous P.S. - Hinagalganj), Dist. 24 Pgs (N). Shall henceforth be known as Uptasi Mandal (New name) as declared before The Notary Public at Kolkata Court WB. Vide affidavit No 11482/24 dated 29/7/2024 Uptasi Sanpui (Old name) and Uptasi Mandal (New name) both are same and identical lady.

PUBLIC NOTICES

Notice is hereby given to all concerned that my client AVIJIT SEN, son of Late Manick Chandra Sen has lost the original Deed of Conveyances in respect of property being Premises No. 1/1/1B, Jadu Mitra Lane, P.S. Utladanga, Kolkata-700004, being Book No.1, Volume No. 60, Pages 84 to 88, Deed No. 1958 for the year 1977 and the said fact has been recorded by a GD Entry before the Utladanga Police Station being GD No. 42 dated 01.07.2024. If anybody finds the above referred original deed any where, he/she can submit the same to me at my address mentioned here under, otherwise the certified copy of the said deed shall be treated as Original thereafter. Milan Kanti Mondal, Advocate Enrolment No. WB/1906/2003 (M):6290660618

TENDERS

TENDER No. WBTBCL-202408-0015 - West Bengal Text Book Corporation Ltd. invites e tender for celebration of Independence Day Parade, 2024 for Govt. of West Bengal. For details / amendment please see website: www.wbttextbookcorporation.org.in & www.wbtenders.gov.in

Currently I am permanent resident of above mentioned address. Vide affidavit 1st Class Executive Magistrate at Barasat Court dated: 25-07-2024, Affidavit No. 5466.

CLASSIFIED AGENTS

Location	Name of the Agency	Ph. No.
Bally, Howrah	RINKU AD AGENCY	9831833485
Barasat, 24 Pgs	EXPART AD AGENCY	9674701788
Berhampore,	BHUMI	9434202655
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WET CITY



Kolkata after a heavy shower on Saturday. ■ MOUL MONDAL

RKM proposes decorating Jalpaiguri Town Station with Swami Vivekananda and Sister Nivedita depictions

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
SILIGURI, 3 AUGUST

The Ramakrishna Mission Ashrama (RKMA), a branch of the Ramakrishna Mission in Belur, located in Jalpaiguri, has proposed to the North-east Frontier Railway authorities to decorate the Jalpaiguri Town Station with depictions of Swami Vivekananda and Sister Nivedita as part of the station's renovation under the 'Amrit Bharat Station' scheme.

Initially, the Secretary of RKMA in Jalpaiguri requested the Railway authorities to display photographs and quotations of Swami Vivekananda at the New Jalpaiguri Railway Station when the Central Government allocated substantial funds for its development to international standards.

Similarly, RKMA proposed displaying photographs of Sister Nivedita at the Jal-



paiguri Town Station.

After receiving no positive response, RKMA has sent a fresh proposal to the Railway authorities suggesting the installation of a statue of Swami Vivekananda, along with his photographs and quotations, at the Jalpaiguri Town Station. This proposal is based on the historical significance of the station.

According to Swami Shivapremananda, Secretary of RKMA in Jalpaiguri, "Jal-

paiguri Town Station holds historical importance. Swami Vivekananda visited Darjeeling four times between 1897 and 1901, and his disciple Sister Nivedita visited Darjeeling seven times from 1903 to 1911. Both spent time at Jalpaiguri Town Station during their travels, as the station was a stoppage for tea breaks."

Swami Shivapremananda added: "A memorial plaque of Netaji Subhash Chandra

Bose, a great spiritual son of Swami Vivekananda, is displayed at this station to commemorate his visit to Jalpaiguri Town. The renovation and decoration of Jalpaiguri Town Station under the 'Amrit Bharat Station' scheme is a moment of great pride for all of us. Displaying vinyl, flex, or hoardings with inspiring and motivational quotes of Swami Vivekananda on patriotism, service, humanity, and character building will significantly impact children, youth, and all others who visit this station."

"We wish for Jalpaiguri Town Railway Station to be renovated, decorated, and made one of the model stations in the nation under the 'Amrit Bharat Station' scheme. If your office requires any cooperation from us, we are always willing to assist," Swami Shivapremananda wrote in a letter to the Railway authorities.

THUMBNAILS



Baluchari Kantha and Silk Mela was inaugurated by Minister for fisheries in the Government of West Bengal Chandranath Singh at the Iktan Premises of Purvanchal Sanskar Kendra in Bidhan Nagar on Saturday. ■ SNS



ER registers a growth in solar power generation: Registering a growth in solar energy production, the installation of new solar units amounting to 6,61,617 KWh, in the Eastern Railway is contributing to 7.19 percent of the total energy consumption for 2024-25. In the first quarter of 2023-24 (April-June), 61,45,079 KWh of solar energy was generated, up from 26,80,003 KWh in the same period last year, according to the ER. Of the total, the Howrah Division produced 17,34,349 KWh, Sealdah Division 6,12,795 KWh, Asansol Division 45,729 KWh, and Malda Division 1,98,435 KWh. The new solar unit installations have further bolstered energy capacity, according to the zonal railway office. While Howrah Division saw an addition of 65,928 KWh, Sealdah registered 80,629 KWh, and Malda 19,710 KWh. The Liluah Workshop generated 9,42,623 KWh, Kanchrapara Workshop 11,53,881 KWh, and Jamalpur Workshop 14,57,267 KWh. ■ SNS

Cancellation of Maitree express and Bandhan express: Following the unrest in Bangladesh, the 13107/13108 Dhaka - Kolkata Maitree Express scheduled to arrive Kolkata on Sunday and departure on 5 August have been cancelled by the Bangladesh Railways. Likewise, the services of 13129/13130 Kolkata - Khulna Bandhan Express have also been cancelled on Sunday. ■ SNS

Trains cancelled: Following developmental works in Adra Division, the South Eastern Railway has decided to cancel three trains tomorrow. The trains that have been cancelled include 18019/18020 Jhargram-Dhanbad-Jhargram MEMU Express, 13503/13504 Barddhaman-Hatia-Barddhaman MEMU Express and 08695/08696 Bokaro Steel City-Ranchi-Bokaro Steel City Passengers Special. Apart from this, the 12801 Puri-New Delhi Express and 12365 Patna-Ranchi Jan Shatabdi Express are to be diverted from various points tomorrow. ■ SNS

Airport operational despite parking bay waterlogged

In last 24 hours, the most rain occurred in Dum Dum ~ it rained 100 mm till 8:30 a.m.

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, 3 AUGUST

Waterlogging was reported from several parts of Kolkata, including at the Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose International Airport (NSCBI). However, there are no reports of disruptions in flight movements so far.

"The flight operations at NSCBI Airport, Kolkata are proceeding normally despite heavy rainfall. Both runways and all taxiways are fully operational. However, a few parking stands are affected by waterlogging for which additional pumps have been deployed to drain the water from the operational area. Everything is under control," a senior NSCBI Airport official said.

In the last 24 hours, the most rain has occurred in



Dum Dum. It rained 100 millimeters till 8:30 a.m. on Saturday morning.

After that is Salt Lake. It has rained 81.1 mm. In the last 24 hours, Alipore in Kolkata received 31.9 mm of rain. Last night in just 30 seconds, a whirlwind wreaked havoc in the border area of Swarnapurnima in North 24-Parganas. The storm devastated Tarunipur village, damaging

several houses and uprooting numerous trees.

Crops have also been damaged. Villagers claim that acres of crops have been destroyed, leaving farmers in distress. However, no casualties have been reported yet.

On Friday afternoon, a brief storm caused extensive damage to crops like pointed gourd, papaya, spine gourd, banana, jute, and paddy in the

village. Roofs of houses were blown away.

Mainuddin Gazi, a furniture shop owner, saw his shop overturned and all his goods destroyed by the storm. He has appealed to the authorities for help.

He said: "The government should compensate. I had set up this shop a year ago with borrowed money and after pawning my wife's jewellery. I haven't been able to repay the debts yet, and now this! How will I survive now, I can't imagine."

Nur Hossain Mondal, a farmer, has suffered crop losses. He said, "I used to cultivate bananas. Four acres of banana plantation are completely gone. I've lost over a lakh rupees." The administration has already started an assessment. The exact extent of the damage will be disclosed once the data is collected.

State govt pulls up DVC over release of water

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, 3 AUGUST

With incessant rains continuing to batter different districts raising the spectre of widespread flooding, a concerned state government today talked tough to the chairman of the Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC) over its alleged unilateral practice of releasing water from the upstream dams without informing the state government.

The chief secretary BP Gopalika at a meeting held at the state secretariat at Nabanna today, made it clear to the DVC chairman, who was summoned to the meeting, that the DVC in no way can release water without informing the state government.

It would have to keep in touch with the irrigation department while releasing water. It should not release water willy-nilly, Mr Gopalika is reported to have told the DVC chairman.



Chief adviser to the chief minister Mamata Banerjee Alapan Banerjee at a Press conference at Nabanna on Saturday. ■ SNS

"Nothing should be done of its own," the chief secretary is reported to have said.

Mr Gopalika's tough-talking came in the wake of a grim situation unfolding in different districts following incessant rains and the release of water by the DVC from a number of reservoirs this morning, as the spectre of floods loom large in districts like Birbhum, Hooghly, Midnapore and a number of other districts.

Alapan Banerjee, the chief adviser to the chief minister Mamata Banerjee, speaking at a Press conference at Nabanna today said that the DVC had in the past 48 hours released about 1 lakh cusecs of water from its different barages compounding the problem further.

Expressing concern, Mr Banerjee said release of water by the DVC apart, there is a high tide on 5 and 6 August raising possibility of fresh inundation in a number of districts like Howrah and Hooghly. He also said that no water is available during summer when it is needed most for irrigation purposes but should it rains in Jharkhand then the DVC releases water to inundate Bengal.

Earlier this morning DVC had released about 70,000 cusecs of water and on Friday it had released about 12,000 cusecs of water from Mython and Panchet barages, an official at Nabanna said.

MONSOON WOES



The Patipukur underpass after a heavy rainfall on Saturday morning. ■ SNS

Dengue cases in city witnesses rise in last week

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, 3 AUGUST

Amid incessant rain, the number of dengue cases in the city has seen a rise in the last week, informed officials of the Health Department of the Kolkata Municipal Corporation.

According to the data shared by the KMC, 260 dengue cases were recorded during the week ending on 28 July. During this week, according to the official, there was a rise in the number of dengue cases reported.

However, in terms of the overall scenario, the number till now is around 40 per cent less as compared to last year, informed the official of KMC.

Even as regards malaria, the number reported so far is about 53 per cent less than that of the corresponding period last year.

"Now since it is raining, the fresh water is washing away the stagnant water. The real challenge would begin when the rain stops and the water gets stagnant. However, we will

continue with our campaign and vector control measures," said mayor Firhad Hakim.

Considering the situation, the state Urban and Municipal Affairs Department has decided to ensure various civic bodies of the state gear up and stay prepared to combat the threat of dengue.

According to the mayor, who is also the minister for state Urban and Municipal Affairs Department, a meeting is to be held with the chairmen of various civic bodies on 8 August as a part of preparations to take measures to curb the dengue cases.

A workshop with the help of experts would also be held to apprise the civic body authorities on the dos and don'ts to prevent the spread of the vector-borne disease.

The mayor also reiterated that for Kolkata, it is not water logging but the issue of old dilapidated buildings that is a bigger headache for the civic body.

People are risking their life by living in dangerous build-

ings but not willing to vacate the structures to enable repairs, rued the mayor.

Responding to the incident of a student's death due to electrocution in Howrah, the mayor said: "Learnt that it was an accident and very unfortunate. Although it was not the fault of the Howrah Municipal Corporation, I have asked the Urban Development Department to stay alert. In ward number 114 which is a waterlogging-prone area as the KEIIP work is still going on there, I have instructed the municipal commissioner to fix the joint box and other similar utilities at an upper height."

Talking about the waterlogging issue in Howrah, Mr Hakim claimed that the problem has existed for a long time as it is an unplanned city. A master plan is being prepared for Howrah on the instructions of chief minister Mamata Banerjee. The problem of waterlogging is expected to be solved after the implementation of the master plan, he said.

Farmers of Haripal and Balagarh fear massive loss of paddy crops

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
HOOGHLY, 3 AUGUST

Incessant rainfall and release of water from the DVC have inundated paddy crops in thousands of acres of agricultural land area in Haripal and Balagarh.

The farmers of Haripal lamented that they have been completely ruined. "We raised the paddy crops with loan money. The entire paddy crops are now under water which will get rotten soon," a farmer said.

The farmers also pointed out that the Dakatiye irrigation canal was not reclaimed completely. It has lost its original depth as well as its excess water holding capacity. They said the canal soon overflowed after the release of massive volume of water from DVC, inundating paddy crops in thousands of acres of agricultural land in Kalubati, Kanakpur, Parvatipur, Kamrajapur in the Haripal block.

"We have lost the only means of our livelihood. We are ruined and now burdened with loan amount. We desperately need help and compensation from the state agricultural department to survive," said a farmer.

The Haripal panchayat samity vice president Bablu Gayen blamed the DVC for releasing large volume of water without prior information. Mr Gayen however agreed that the Dakatiya irrigation canal requires complete reclamation to increase its water holding capacity.

He said: "We will soon take appropriate steps to help out the distressed farmers in consultation with the district administration." TMC district general secretary Shyama Prasad Roy Banerjee said the incessant rain inundated thousands of acres of agricultural land with paddy crops. The farmers of Balagarh are also hit by massive losses. Different kinds of vegetables have also been lost, he said.

ED gets details of money received by ex-minister from arrested TMC leader

AGENCIES
KOLKATA, 3 AUGUST

The ED which is probing the ration distribution case has got details of payments received by former West Bengal Food & Supplies Minister Jyotipriya Mallick from arrested Trinamul Congress leader Anisur Rahaman and his brother Alif Nur as share of proceeds, sources said.

While Mallick is in judicial custody for the last 10 months in connection with the PDS case, Anisur Rahaman alias Bidesh and Alif Nur aka Mukul were taken into custody by the ED on Friday after a marathon interrogation of over 14 hours.

Sources said ED officials recovered some digital documents from the residence of Santanu Bhattacharya, the accountant of Mallick and from one of those documents the investigating officials got a picture of the amount received by the former minister on a monthly basis from the two brothers.

As per estimates drawn by the ED, on an average the former minister received Rs 10 lakh a month from the two brothers in the period 2016-2021.

On the basis of the deduc-



tions made, the ED sleuths are now trying to calculate the exact figure of the proceeds received by the two brothers from illegal sale of the PDS grain in the open market.

On Friday, the two brothers were remanded to 10 days' ED custody by a special court of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) in Kolkata.

The ED counsel informed the court that the two brothers received Rs 45 crore from the state government in phases to procure rice from farmers.

They subsequently showed procurements made from fake farmers, who were actually employees of a rice mill owned by them.

Bidesh and Mukul are cousins of Bakibur Rahaman, the businessman who was the first to be arrested in the ration distribution case.

The links of the two arrested brothers with Mallick were established through Bakibur Rahaman only.

Man found lying dead inside R G Kar Hospital

According to police sources, the man was found lying on the ground in front of the OPD clinics this morning.

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, 3 AUGUST

An unidentified man was found lying dead inside the state-run R G Kar Medical College Hospital complex on Saturday. The body was sent to the morgue for post-mortem.

According to police sources, the man was found lying on the ground in front of the out-patients department (OPD) clinics this morning. Police along with some doctors rushed to the spot after they were informed about the discovery. The man was taken to the emergency ward where doctors declared him dead.

Some group D employees of the hospital said that he was loitering inside the hospital premises for the past couple of days. He was too weak to walk and was likely looking for medical treatment. But no one took him to the doctors for treatment, they said, requesting anonymity.

He could have been saved if he has gotten medical treatment, they felt. Hospital authorities were not immediately available for comment.

GUEST PERFORMANCE



Performance by the US air force band at Indian Museum in Kolkata on Saturday. ■ SNS

TMC MPs Saket Gokhale, Sushmita Dev in Wayanad to meet affected families, express solidarity

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, 3 AUGUST

All India Trinamul Congress (TMC) Rajya Sabha MP Saket Gokhale and TMC MP Sushmita Dev visited landslide-hit Wayanad on the direction of West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Saturday. Gokhale stated that the human tragedy in Wayanad has been devastating and heartbreaking.

Taking to X MP Saket Gokhale said, "My colleague Sushmita Dev AITC & I are in Wayanad, Kerala, this morning on directions of our Chairperson Mamata Banerjee.

The human tragedy in Wayanad has been devastating & heartbreaking. We're here to meet the affected families & let them know that we & Bengal are with them."

Meanwhile, the Trinamul Congress in a post on X said that the state government was ensuring that migrant workers stranded in landslide-hit Wayanad in Kerala can receive all the support they need.

In a post the party stated: "Our Honourable CM Mamata Banerjee is leading efforts to bring them safely back to Bengal. In their hour of need, we stand united and strong!"

In the meantime, Con-

gress MP Shashi Tharoor called for an active policy framework on disaster response and mitigation and asserted that long-term responses from the government are needed to rehabilitate the people affected by the natural disaster.

Tharoor said: "Food and so on, is plentifully available in Wayanad but we were able to bring some mattresses, soft, spongy things that you can spread out on the floor and lie on to help people. But all of these are just urgent, immediate responses. We have to think in terms of the longer term as well. For exam-

ple, the relief camps are all in schools, but the schools have to reopen. Children have to go back to school and study. So we need to get them out into longer-term residential arrangements, such as rented homes or hostels. And the government has to take a role and then we're all helping. Then we have to build homes for them for the longer term."

The death toll in the massive landslides that occurred on July 30 in Chooralmala and Mundakkai of Wayanad stands at 308 as of Friday, Kerala Health Minister Veena George said.



Army team conducts a rescue operation after three locals get trapped under Soojipara waterfalls following a landslide triggered by heavy rainfall, in Wayanad on Saturday. ANI

Alipore zoo gets e-cycles

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, 3 AUGUST

Zookeepers at the Alipore Zoological Garden, Kolkata, received electric cycles yesterday to easily inspect the enclosures and their surroundings.

This initiative came in collaboration with Motovolt Mobility, an electric vehicle manufacturer. This significant step would foster sustainable green mobility and create a green commuting solution by providing e-cycles for zoo members, thereby embracing eco-friendly choices for a healthier future. Thanking Motovolt Mobility, Subhankar Sengupta, the chief conservator

of forests and director of the Alipore Zoological Garden, said, "This initiative will promote environmental sustainability within the zoo premise."

The program is also a part of Motovolt's World Tiger Day, an observance highlighting the company's commitment to conservation and environmental stewardship.

Anirban Chatterjee, head of business transformation at Motovolt Mobility, said, "We handed electric cycles to the zoo authority as part of our commitment to inclusive growth and community support. Our eco-friendly e-cycles produce no noise or pollution, unlike the traditional trans-

port mode, making them suitable for both animals and visitors. Our products allow for quiet and easy commuting throughout the zoo, ensuring a peaceful environment for everyone." Motovolt, to date, has deployed over 20,000 vehicles, collectively offsetting 1.42 lakh kgs of carbon emissions, while significantly enhancing the livelihoods of numerous delivery personnel.

Tushar Choudhary, the founder and CEO of Motovolt said, "This collaboration with the zoo authority is another step towards our commitment to advancing sustainable transportation and driving a positive environmental impact in India's evolving EV market."

'Govt to construct township to rehabilitate landslide victims'

Pinarayi Vijayan said that a new safer area would be identified for constructing a township

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, 3 AUGUST

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on Saturday said the state government would construct a township in a safe place for the rehabilitation of the disaster victims in Wayanad.

Speaking to media persons in Thiruvananthapuram, Pinarayi Vijayan said that a new safer area would be identified for constructing a township for the comprehensive rehabilitation of the victims of the devastating landslides that hit at Chooralmala and Mundakkai areas in Wayanad.

"The government plans to rehabilitate the victims in a comprehensive way. Good planning and labour are needed for completing that task in a speedy way. A large populated area completely disappeared there. Discussions have begun at the administrative level to build a safer new township at a new place," CM



Vijayan said.

He said that the government would complete this rehabilitation work in an exemplary way by using all its resources. The government would also prepare a very detailed rehabilitation plan soon, the CM added.

Pinarayi Vijayan urged the weather agencies to make the weather prediction more specific and accurate. He said that the weather prediction models should be made more contemporary, location-specific, and accu-

rate so that disaster mitigation measures can kick in early to save lives.

"Majority of these tragedies are happening due to high intense rains which the warning agencies are unable to warn in advance. Currently, the experts are relying on global databases and parameters to predict the quantity of the rainfall. But what's happening is that high intense rains occur", he said.

The CM said that donations to the Chief Minister's Distress Relief Fund (CMDRF) could

be made online. He further informed that the QR code system for UPI transactions to the CMDRF has been withdrawn to prevent fraudulent activities.

He added that the government has also decided to give special charge to the officials at the Finance department under the Finance Secretary to handle the CMDRF fund.

Meanwhile, Congress Working Committee member Ramesh Chennithala's decision to donate his one month's MLA salary to Chief Minister's Distress Relief Fund (CMDRF) has opened a fresh battle ground between KPCC chief K Sudhakaran and Leader of Opposition VD Satheesan. K Sudhakaran's remark that Chennithala should not have contributed his salary to the left government's relief fund, has come under flak from VD Satheesan.

Rejecting the KPCC president K Sudhakaran's statement against donating to CMDRF, Satheesan asked everyone to contribute to the CMDRF, stating that this is

not the time to play politics.

"There is nothing wrong in paying money to the CMDRF. Sudhakaran should not have blamed Chennithala for his decision to contribute his MLA salary to the CMDRF. It's not the time to play politics," Satheesan told media persons in Kozhikode.

After visiting the landslide-hit regions in Wayanad on Friday, Ramesh Chennithala announced his decision to donate his one month's MLA salary to the CMDRF. Responding to this, K Sudhakaran said that Chennithala should not have contributed his salary to the left government's relief fund. K Sudhakaran on Saturday said Chennithala should have donated the amount to the party's own relief mechanism.

"The Congress party has its own forum to procure funds. All the allied organisations of the party have kicked off fundraising. Chennithala should have donated his salary to that option. It was not right on his part to donate to the CMDRF," said Sudhakaran.

There is one land dispute in every mandal after YSRCP rule: Naidu



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE HYDERABAD, 2 AUGUST

Blaming the previous YSRCP regime Andhra Pradesh chief minister N Chandrababu Naidu today said that there was at least one dispute over land in every mandal in the state. Naidu's statement came after he received representations from the people at the TDP central headquarters at Mangalagiri. The chief minister spent almost three hours in interacting with people who approached him with their grievances.

He said the government was receiving numerous revenue related complaints and also cases of land grabbing by YSRCP leaders. He said there was at least one issue related to land all because of the misuse of the previous government. He alleged that a section of the officials had mis-

used their authority and altered land records leading to disputes. Moreover, the resurvey ordered by the YS Jagan Mohan Reddy led government had also created a lot of confusion on ground. Naidu warned that the government will take action against officials who were responsible for creating land disputes. Naidu mentioned the fire at Madanapalle sub collector's which was ruled as arson since revenue records were burned. Three officials including the revenue divisional officer were suspended for committing irregularities after the special chief secretary (revenue) submitted a report to the government over the fire.

Naidu assured that addressing problems related to revenue will be prioritized by his administration. He promised to take corrective measures and clean up the revenue depart-

ment within the next 100 days to weed out irregularities and other land grabbing means.

A large number of the complaints received by the chief minister were also about false cases lodged against TDP supporters by the previous regime. Villagers from two villages of Saravakota mandal in Srikakulam districts approached the chief minister with a complaint that around 47 acres of land were being occupied by YSRCP local leaders. Another villager from Chitvelu mandal complained that a local YSRCP leader had filed false police cases against him since he was not willing to sell his land at a low price offered to him.

After coming back to power the chief minister has been taking initiative to resolve public grievances and promoting interaction between the administration and the common public. He said his government will establish a mechanism through ministers and MLAs will collect representations from people of each district or constituency respectively so that people do not have to travel all the way to Amaravati to seek assistance.

78 Naval Personnel involved in relief ops in landslide-hit Wayanad district

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, 3 AUGUST

The Ministry of Defence on Saturday said 78 Naval personnel at present are involved in the ongoing rescue and relief operations at landslide-affected

areas of Kerala's Wayanad district, amidst inclement weather and difficult terrain.

Additional personnel, stores, resources and essential supplies were mobilised from INS Zamorin to augment the relief efforts and support the local

community impacted by the disaster. "The teams have been deployed into multiple locations of Chooralmala & Mundakkai area & are working hand in hand with the disaster relief forces," the Ministry said.

TN Education Minister Ponnudiyandurai turns teacher at university event

MC RAJAN CHENNAI, 3 AUGUST

For a change, Tamil Nadu Education Minister and senior DMK leader K Ponnudiyandurai took on the role of a teacher at an event held at Tamil Nadu Open University, turning it into a political science classroom for the students and faculty.

The minister wielded the whip at the faculty for their ignorance of the subjects they teach, proving to be a taskmaster, returning to his old profession on Friday.

"What is a 'unitary state'?" he asked the students at the concluding session of a seminar on "World Constitution Day". When no answer was

forthcoming, he fumed: "Haven't political science students learnt what a unitary state is? Which country is an example of a unitary state?"

A student rose and said, India, leaving Ponnudiyandurai, who holds a doctorate in political science, baffled. "Is India a country with unitary state?" he posed the query to Vice



Chancellor S Arumugam and professors seated on the dais. To the minister's utter shock, a faculty member teaching political science responded, "Puducherry". Losing his cool, a visibly angry Ponnudiyandurai said, "You are good for nothing. What kind of teacher are you, especially in political science?" Puducherry is a Union Territory, not a unitary state. Teachers need to be trained first, only then can students learn.

Then, explaining what a unitary state is, 73-year-old Ponnudiyandurai, a former government college teacher before taking the political plunge, said, "A unitary state is a form of government where there is only a central government without any state governments. An

example is the United Kingdom (Britain). In contrast, the United States of America (USA) is a federal state, where various states have come together to form a federal government."

The minister's speech at the event has gone viral on social media, evoking mixed responses. Reacting to this, academicians are of the view that this shows the quality of teaching and academic calibre of the faculty at many universities in Tamil Nadu, which boasts of a higher Gross Enrolment Ratio than the national average.

The Tamil Nadu BJP has taken exception to Ponnudiyandurai ridiculing students and teachers in public, saying that the minister's singling out of professors is condemnable. "It is habitual for Ponnudiyandurai to belittle others in public," TN BJP vice president Narayanan Thirupathy said in a post on X.

T E N D E R

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North central railways @CPRONCR www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in

ABRIDGE NOTICE
e-NIT- 16/EO/NAKASHIPARA/2024-2025.
E-TENDER invited by the Executive Officer Nakashipara Panchayat Samity, Bethuadahari, Nadia. Tender Id: 2024_ZPHD_727836_1 to 2. For different work at different site under Nakashipara Panchayat Samity. Bid submission closing date (online): 21/08/2024 upto 2 PM. For more details please visit: <https://wbtenetenders.com>.
Sd/- S. Dutta.
Executive Officer Nakashipara Panchayat Samity, Bethuadahari, Nadia.

MORE TENDER ADS ON PAGE 5

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE
Chief Workshop Manager, Coach MLR Workshop, Jhansi for and on behalf of the President of India invites open e-tender from reputed contractors for following work:-
Tender No. Description of Work Qty. Tender cost
T_22-23 CleanMLR Mechanized cleaning work as per scope of work at CMLR Workshop Jhansi One work Rs. 96,52,728.91/- (Rs Ninety-Six lakh Fifty-two thousand Seven hundred Twenty-eight and ninety-one paise only)
Completion period:- 24 months; Earnest money:- Rs 1,93,100/-; Tender doc. cost:- Rs. 0/-; 1. Tender will be closed at 15:00 Hrs on 23.08.2024 and is available on Indian Railway E- Tendering website www.ireps.gov.in. 2. For detailed information please visit Indian Railway E-Tendering website www.ireps.gov.in. 3. Tenderers should watch the website for the corrigendum/addendum to the NIT/e-tender document, if any as there will not be any separate communication for the same. 1373/24 (D)
North central railways @ www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in @CPRONCR

दक्षिण पूर्व मध्य रेलवे विनिर्देशन कार्य हेतु निविदा सूचना
निविदा संख्या: 732-जीबी-समेलन/01.
दिनांक: 29.07.2024.
कार्य: दक्षिण पूर्व मध्य रेलवे के प्रीन भवन में ऑडियो और वीडियो समाधान (ऑडियो कॉन्फिगिंजेशन उपकरण) की आपूर्ति एवं निष्पन्न और विलासपुर मंडल के विलासपुर एक्सप्रेस रेल प्लेटा और रबरकाय भवन में नेटवर्क और टेलीकॉम प्रणालय का कार्य करना है। निविदा नंबर: 4.03.78.370. (₹ लाख करोड़ तीन लाख अठ्ठसह हजार तीन सौ सत्तर एवं तीन पैसे मात्र)। अमानत राशि: ₹ 3,51,900/- (₹ तीन लाख एकसठ हजार नौ सौ मात्र)।
निविदा दल सूचने की तिथि: 19.08.2024 को 11:00 बजे तक।
उपरोक्त निविदा की विस्तृत जानकारी, फाइनल का मॉडल तथा अन्य विस्तृत विवरण हेतु मुक्त संकोच एवं दूरसंचार अभियंता, निगम, दक्षिण पूर्व मध्य रेलवे, विलासपुर के कार्यालय में संपर्क कर अथवा निविदा कागजात को हमारी वेबसाइट www.ireps.gov.in पर उपलब्ध है उससे डाउनलोड कर/देख सकते हैं।
युक्त संकोच एवं दूरसंचार/इंजी./सोफ्टवेयर/10/174(निगम)/1/विलासपुर
South East Central Railway @seccrail

WEST CENTRAL RAILWAY E-TENDRING (Single Tender) Electrical Branch
NIT date: 01.08.2024
The Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer (TRS), West Central Railway, New Katni Junction for and on behalf of President of India invites E-Tender for the following work:- NIT No.: NKJ-DLS-AMC-AAL-SIV-T-24 dated 01.08.2024, Name of work with location: Annual Maintenance Contract (AMC) of M/s AAL make Static Inverters (SIV) provided in electric Locomotives of DLS/NJK for two years-32 no.s. Approx. cost of the work (In Rs): Rs 1,72,18,411/-; Earnest Money/ Bid Security (In Rs): Rs 2,36,100/-; Completion period (In months): 24 Months, Last date & time for submission of tender (up to 12: 00): 27.08.2024. The Complete information of the above E-tender are available in website "http://ireps.gov.in". Tenders other than in the form of e-bid shall not be accepted against above tenders. Sr. DEE (TRS), WCR, New Katni Junction

WESTERN RAILWAY CONSTRUCTION WORK
Dy. Chief Engineer (Construction) II, Western Railway, Indore invites e-tender No. DYE/CE/II/IND/PMS/2024/02. Name of work: Request for Proposal (RFP) for appointment of Authority Engineer for providing project management services for EPC Contract of Upgradation of Indore Railway Station and construction of associated structures on Engineering Procurement & Construction. Approx. Cost of work: ₹ 8,86,98,522.00/- Bid Security: ₹ 5,93,500.00/- Date & Time of submission: till 03.09.2024, 15.00 hrs. Date & Time of opening: on 03.09.2024 at 15.30 hrs. For further details please visit our website www.ireps.gov.in 8412
Like us on: [facebook.com/WesternRly](https://www.facebook.com/WesternRly)

EAUCTION NOTICE FOR LEASING OF SURLPH CORRIGENDUM
In reference to the above Captioned Advertisement published in this News Paper on 02.08.2024, the signage should be read as "Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager/Kharagpur" instead of Sr. Divisional Manager/Adra. All other terms and conditions will remain unchanged. South Eastern Railway

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE
Divisional Railway Manager (Engineering)/North Central Railway/Prayagraj for and on behalf of the President of India invites the following E-Tenders on prescribed form for following works up to 13:30 hrs on 27.08.2024. The details of the tenders are as under:
SN Tender No. Approx Cost of Work (Rs.) Bid Security (Rs.)
1 151 37617103.95 338100.00
Name of Work: Combined Tender (A) Provision of overrun at Pata, Baital, Sarai Bhopat, Firozabad and Jalesar Road stations. (B) Deep screening of yard lines of various stations in the section of ADEN/ETW (C) Extension of track machine sidings under SR/DEN/II/PRYJ.
Completion Period Similar work for Eligibility Criteria
15 Months P. Way work
SN Tender No. Approx Cost of Work (Rs.) Bid Security (Rs.)
2 152 20916408.35 254600.00
Name of Work: Combined Tender (A) SKB-FBD: improvement of Level Crossings, road surface & other connected miscellaneous works under ADEN/FZD (B) Improvement of SSE/P Way office, Store and ADEN Office in the section of SR/DEN/II/PRYJ.
Completion Period Similar work for Eligibility Criteria
12 Months Any Civil Engineering work
Date of Opening of tender: 27.08.2024. Note: (1) The complete information along with tender document of above E-Tenders is available on website www.ireps.gov.in up to 13:30 hrs on the due date of tender opening i.e 27.08.2024. The tender shall be opened at or after 15:00 hrs on the due date of opening. (2) Bids other than in the form of E-Bids shall not be accepted against above tenders. For this purpose, vendors are required to get themselves registered with IREPS website along with Digital Signature Certificates issued by CCA under IT Act-2000. (3) Rates entered into Financial Rate page and duly signed digitally shall be considered Rates and any other financial entity in any other form/letter head if attached by vendors shall be straightaway ignored and shall not be considered. (4) Tender Nos. 151 to 152 are having advertised value more than 50 Lakhs, therefore, Annexure-V & V (A) (Document Verification Certificate) is required. The supplier/ contractor of goods and/or services would be subject to GST Act and Rules as applicable from time to time. (5) Document being attached should be signed by the tenderer on its body. (6) This tender notice has also been uploaded on www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in. (7) Bid Security can be deposited Online through Internet Banking or Payment Gateway or Bank Guarantee Bond as detailed in para 12 of tender document. (8) In case of any difficulty helpdesk available on the website of IREPS may be approached. (9) Tender online can be submitted up to 13:30 hrs on 27.08.2024. (10) Along with other instructions given to Tenderers. Tenderers are required to Pay special attention on Para 12.0 of Tender Document for Bid Security Deposit. (11) E-Tender Forms shall be issued free of cost to all tenderers. (12) For tender nos. 151 to 152: The tenderer has to submit necessary documents in compliance of clause 10 to 18 (Part-I) of IRGCC-2022 (Works matter) mandatorily, otherwise their offer will be considered as Incomplete Offer and accordingly shall not be considered. 1368/24 (AS)
North central railways @ www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in @CPRONCR

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY SUPPLY OF STORES ITEMS "THROUGH E-PROCUREMENT TENDERS"
TENDER NOTICE No. S/2024/67 Date: 01.08.2024
The Principal Chief Material Manager, North Western Railway, headquarter 3rd floor, Near Jawahar circle, Malviya Nagar, Jaipur-302017 for and on behalf of the President of India invites Open E-tenders on www.ireps.gov.in site as follows. All the E-tenders will be closed at 14.25 hrs.
Sr. Tender No. Brief Description Qty. Unit Due date
1 36243982 HYDROLIC MOTOR FOR VENT FAN 27 Nos. 09-08-24
2 37241899 Bogie centre pivot top for casub bogies 2098 Nos. 22-08-24
3 60245042 OES Lab Spectrometer for Metal. 01 Set 23-08-24
4 30242203B Set of 35 mm Non Asbestos based organic brake pads for LHB coaches. 37683 Set 26-08-24
5 30243077A Control arm assembly 426 Set 26-08-24
6 30243078A Control arm assembly right 436 Set 27-08-24
7 82241830A Human albumin 20% inj. 100ml. 900 Nos. 27-08-24
8 6324ENG04 Running Contract for manufacture and supply of metal liner 36000 Set 29-08-24
9 10244499 BATTERY STORAGE UNIT 64 Nos 29-08-24
10 30241408 Non Asbestos K-Type high friction composite Brake Block. 281774 Nos 05-09-24
11 50245070 Running contract for supply of 24 Core x 1.5 Sq mm signaling cable 1121 KM 10-09-24
12 50245005 Running Contract for Supply of 6 quad x 0.9 mm dia cable 1415 KM 30-09-24
CORRIGENDUM
Sr.No. Tender No. Tender Notice No. Existing Closing Date Revised Closing Date
1 6324ENG02 S/2024/65 Dated 12.07.24 eligibility Criteria Minor Change in eligibility Criteria
2 30242634A S/2024/66 Dated 22.07.24 24.08.2024 26.08.2024
Note:- (1) interested tenderers may visit the website ireps.gov.in for Full details/description/Specification/EMD & tender cost etc. All tenderers are requested to obtain digital signatures and get them registered on above site and quote electronically only. (2) For viewing and participating in other tenders such as open tender costing below Rs. 25 Lakh, limited tenders, special limited tenders and low value tenders, please visit www.ireps.gov.in. SMM/II
894-CR/24 Follow us on: www.facebook.com/NWRRailways www.instagram.com/NWRRailways www.youtube.com/NWRRailways

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY E-Tender Notice
E-Tender No. JHS-ENGG-E-2024-156
E-Tendering Tender Notice
Divisional Railway Manager (Works) N.C. Railway, Jhansi for and behalf of President of India invites sealed "Open Tender" through on Line (E-Tendering) for the following works.
Description of Work : Supply, installation and commissioning of electronic type track - based rail lubricator (carry down effect of 1 Km) in Jhansi-Manikpur, Khairair-Bhimnes, Lalitpur-Khajuraho, Mahoba-Khajuraho & Bansapahar-Ohan section under sub-division of ADEN/BNDA.
Approx. Cost : 49743939.00 / Earnest Money : 398700.00 / Date of Closing tender : 23/08/2024 at 15:00 hrs. / Date of completion/period from issue acceptance letter: 60 Months.
* Tender online can be submitted up to 15:00 hrs on 23.08.2024 * For full details and submission of bid please see the Indian Railways website www.ireps.gov.in. 1372/24 (C)
North central railways @ www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in @CPRONCR

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE
बुली ई-निविदा सूचना
सं. M-247-ACWP-JP-24-25 दिनांक: 01.08.2024
मंडल रेल प्रबंधक (फौजिले व वैगन) उच्चतर पश्चिम रेलवे जयपुर द्वारा भारत के राष्ट्रपति महोदय की ओर से नीचे दिये गये कार्य के लिए बी गई निविदा को 15:00 बजे तक ई-निविदा जमाकृत की जाती है। कोई भी निम्नवत टेंडर स्वीकार नहीं किया जायेगा और अगर कोई निम्नवत टेंडर प्राप्त होता है तो उस पर विचार नहीं किया जायेगा। 1. ई-निविदा संख्या: M-247-ACWP-JP-24-25 2. कार्य का नाम व स्थान: Design, manufacture, supply, foundation, installation, testing, commissioning, and proving out of Fully Automatic Coach Washing Plant along with Water softening plant, Reverse Osmosis (RO) plant, and Effluent Treatment Plant (ETP) cum Water Recycling Plant and DG set on turnkey Basis inclusive of civil work and Comprehensive Maintenance and Operation Contract for Two years in warranty period from the date of commissioning at coach car complex Jaipur 3. अनुमानित लागत: ₹ 2,30,25,717. 60 मात्र (₹ दो करोड़ तीस लाख पचास हजार सात सौ सत्तर और सात पैसे मात्र) 4. बिक्रि निविदा/रिडी राशि: ₹ 2,65,200 मात्र (₹ दो लाख सैठ हजार दो सौ रुपये मात्र) 5. ई-निविदा की अंतिम दिनांक और समय: 23.08.2024 समय 15:00 बजे 6. ई-निविदा खोलने की दिनांक और समय: 23.08.2024 समय 15:30 बजे तक ई-निविदा के समाप्त विस्तृत जानकारी रेलवे की वेबसाइट www.ireps.gov.in पर उपलब्ध है। 899-CR/24
Please job on: www.facebook.com/NWRRailways www.instagram.com/NWRRailways www.youtube.com/NWRRailways

'Har Ghar Tiranga campaign awakened unity in every Indian'

PM called upon all Indians to participate in the 'Har Ghar Tiranga Abhiyan' to celebrate Independence Day

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, 3 AUGUST

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday appealed to the countrymen to hoist the tricolour at their homes from 9 to 15 August under the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign and upload their selfies on the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' website.

In a post on X, Shah said, "PM Shri Narendra Modi Ji's 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign has evolved into a national movement over the last two years, awakening the basic unity in every Indian across the length and breadth of the nation."

"I appeal to all citizens to bolster this movement further and participate in it with the same enthusiasm again. Hoist our pride, our Tiranga, at your homes, take a selfie with the Tiranga, and upload it on the Har Ghar Tiranga website: https://harghartiranga.com," he further said in the post.

During the 112th episode of his monthly 'Mann Ki Baat'



broadcast over All India Radio on July 28, Prime Minister Narendra Modi called upon all Indians to participate in the 'Har Ghar Tiranga Abhiyan' to celebrate Independence Day. Modi highlighted the growing trend of taking selfies with the national flag and sharing them on social media.

Encouraging participation, the prime minister urged citizens to upload selfies with the Tricolour on 'harghartiranga.com'.

"You must have noticed that when the Tricolour flutters atop each house of the colony or society, within no time the Tricolour starts appearing on

other houses as well. That is, 'Har Ghar Tiranga Abhiyan' has become a unique festival in upholding the glory of the Tricolour. Now, various kinds of innovations related to that are also taking place. As the 15th of August approaches, various kinds of products are seen for displaying the Tri-

colour in homes, offices, cars. Some people even distribute the 'Tricolour' to their friends and neighbours. This joy, this enthusiasm with the Tricolour connects us with each other," Modi said.

"Friends, like earlier, this year too you must upload your selfie with the Tricolour on 'harghartiranga.com'," the prime minister said.

Modi also invited people to send their suggestions for the upcoming Independence Day address via the MyGov or NaMo App. The BJP has also lined up a series of events from August 11 to August 15 on the occasion of the 78th Independence Day.

As part of the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign, the BJP leaders and workers will take out marches across the country and observe 'Vibhajan Vivishika Diwas' on August 14 to remember the horrors of Partition.

Earlier in 2021, Modi had announced that August 14 would be observed as the 'Partition Horrors Remembrance Day'.

Congress takes jibe at govt over Indians renouncing citizenship



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, 3 AUGUST

The Congress on Saturday took a jibe at the BJP-led government at the Centre over Indians renouncing their citizenship and said it was due to "climate of fear and intimidation" under the ruling dispensation.

Congress general secretary in-charge of Communication Jairam Ramesh, in a post on X wrote,

"By the government's own data, revealed in the Rajya Sabha, 2.16 lakh Indians gave up their citizenship in 2023, almost double the 123,000 who did so in 2011."

He claimed many of these Indians who renounced their citizenship are highly skilled and educated, and their leaving the country at a time of a domestic skilled labour supply shortage will extract a "serious toll" on our economy.

Stating that many are also financially well-off, Ramesh said, "Earlier this year, a leading global investment migration advisory firm had revealed that over 17,000 millionaires (individuals with total assets greater than \$1 million) had left India in the last three years."

"This exodus of high-skilled and high net worth Indians

could very well have been the result of opaque tax policies and an arbitrary tax administration, quite apart from the overall climate of fear and intimidation surrounding corporate India in the past decade," he said.

The MP also claimed that increasingly business personalities are relocating to Singapore, UAE, UK and other places.

"If nothing else, this is a economic travesty that will seriously shrink our tax revenue base over the next few years," he said.

The parliamentarian along with his post also shared a written statement made by Union Minister of State for External Affairs Kirti Vardhan Singh on 1st August in Rajya Sabha in repose to questions on Indian citizens who denounced their citizenship in last five years.

According to data provided by the Minister, 2,16,219 Indians denounced their citizenship in 2023, while the number stood at 2,25,620 in 2022.

Singh said the reasons for renouncing/taking citizenship were personal.

Five JK policemen dismissed over narco-terror links

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE JAMMU, 3 AUGUST

In a crackdown on terror funding, the Jammu and Kashmir government on Saturday terminated six officials, including five policemen, on the charges of narco-terror links, officials said.

These cops and a teacher are accused of indulging in narco-terrorism and also assisting infiltrating terrorists.

The dismissed employees are; Farooq Ahmad Sheikh (Head Constable), Khalid Hussain Shah (Constable), Rahmat Shah (Constable), Irshad Ahmad Chalkoo (Constable), Saif Din (Constable) and Nazam Din (Teacher).

A government spokesman said that the administration led by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha invoked Article 311(2)(c) of the Constitution to sack these employees after a thorough investigation revealed their involvement in a narco-terror network run by Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) and terror outfits operating from Pakistan.

The government has dismissed eight employees within a month on the charges of narco-terror activities.

Most of the dismissed



employees were posted in areas along the Line of Control (LoC) in Kashmir.

Activities of these employees had come to the adverse notice of law enforcement and intelligence agencies, as they found them thickly involved in activities prejudicial to the interests of the State evidencing their involvement in terror related activities.

Saif Din, Selection Grade Constable, a resident of Doda district, is accused of being a "notorious drug peddler", a habitual offender and a mas-timind for generation and distribution of narco terror funding. He is also accused of functioning as an Over Ground

Worker (OGW) for the Hizbul Mujahidin terror outfit.

Farooq Ahmad Sheikh, Head Constable, along with two other employees namely Khalid Hussain Shah and Rahmat Shah (both working as Constables in J&K Police) received huge consignment of narcotics from drug smugglers across the LoC from Pakistan occupied J&K, the spokesman said.

He had contacts with the Pakistan based terrorists, who were involved in smuggling of narcotics, weapons and money across the LoC.

Khalid Hussain Shah, Selection Grade Constable, along with two other employees namely Farooq Ahmad Sheikh and Rahmat Shah (both working as Constables in J&K Police) received huge consignment of narcotics across the LoC from Pakistan occupied J&K.

Being a resident of Tangdar Karnah, Kupwara, he used his expertise of local terrain and topography to establish contacts with narcotic smugglers across the border in PoJK and was at the forefront of running a drug cartel in Kupwara-Karnah region, it is alleged.

Rahmat Shah, Constable, is also accused of being involved in narco-terror activities.

Being a resident of Haridal village in Karnah, Kupwara, leveraged his knowledge of the local terrain and topography to establish connections with the narcotic smugglers across the border in PoJK.

Irshad Ahmad Chalkoo, Selection grade Constable, had developed a close relationship with terrorist associates of the area and started working as an OGW with the proscribed terrorist organization, Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), the spokesman said.

Chalkoo was in close contact with various Kashmiri origin terrorists based in PoJK, through encrypted messaging applications and had received Arms and ammunition for further delivery to terrorists.

Being the resident of Uri, District Baramulla, he utilized his knowledge of the local terrain to establish contacts with terrorists based in PoJK.

He is also accused of providing logistics and transport of weapons of infiltrating terrorists.

Nazam Din, Teacher in the Education Department, a resident of Poonch, is said to be a highly motivated and committed drug peddler and an OGW of terrorists of Hizbul Mujahidin outfit.

Heavy rains lash Madhya Pradesh

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE BHOPAL, 3 AUGUST

More than 115 mm rainfall in the past 24 hours in Bhopal resulted in the city's upper lake reaching its full tank level of 1666.80 feet and consequently several sluice gates of three dams in the city had to be opened together on a single day for the first time.

A 15-year-old boy, Sagar Meena, fell into an over-

flowing nullah and went missing on Friday evening at Chopra Kalan village in Sukhi Sewaniya area of rural Bhopal.

A 58-year-old man, Padam Singh Ahirwar, drowned in water after falling off a culvert in the Gunga area of the state capital.

As the city experienced more than 4.5 inch rain and the upper lake filled up to the brim, the Bhopal Municipal Corporation (BMC) and dis-

trict administration authorities decided to open seven sluice gates of the Bhadhabha dam.

Similarly, four gates of the Kolar dam were also opened and simultaneously all the 13 gates of the Kaliyaset dam were opened.

Heavy rain lashed almost the entire Madhya Pradesh too resulting in many rivers overflowing and loss of lives in some areas.

According to the police, a youth Akhilesh Sen (17) of Chitraon village in Umaria district was swept away in the Son river.

Another man was swept away in the Richhan river while trying to cross an overflowing bridge in the Raisen district.

Flood-like situations have also been reported from many parts of several districts of the state.

TENDER

A grid of numerous small tender notices from the Government of West Bengal, detailing various projects, bids, and deadlines.

Targeted quotas

The Supreme Court's ruling granting states the authority to sub-classify Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) for reservations marks a pivotal development in the nation's affirmative action framework. This decision, delivered by a bench headed by Chief Justice D.Y. Chandrachud, represents a nuanced approach to addressing the persistent inequalities within the SC and ST categories. It acknowledges the heterogeneous nature of these communities and aims to ensure that the most marginalised groups receive the benefits intended by the reservation system. The judgment recognises that not all SCs and STs experience the same level of social and economic deprivation. Within these broad categories, there exist significant disparities in terms of educational attainment, employment opportunities, and social mobility. By allowing sub-classification, the court aims to target the reservation benefits more precisely, ensuring they reach those who are most in need. This approach aligns with the constitutional mandate of promoting equality and social justice. One of the key aspects of this ruling is the emphasis on empirical data. States must base their sub-classification decisions on quantifiable evidence of backwardness and inadequate representation. This requirement is crucial to prevent arbitrary or politically motivated decisions. The court's insistence on data-driven policies underscores the importance of transparency and accountability in implementing affirmative action measures. The ruling also overturns the 2004 E.V. Chinnaiah judgment, which had held that sub-classification within SCs and STs was unconstitutional. The reversal of this decision reflects a deeper understanding of the complex realities faced by these communities. By acknowledging the need for a more granular approach, the court has paved the way for more effective and equitable distribution of reservation benefits.

However, this ruling is not without its challenges. The requirement for empirical data poses a significant administrative burden on states. Collecting accurate and comprehensive data on the varying levels of backwardness within SCs and STs is a daunting task. It requires meticulous planning, extensive surveys, and robust data analysis mechanisms. States will need to invest in building their capacities to gather and interpret this data effectively. Moreover, the ruling emphasises that any state action in this regard will be subject to judicial review. This safeguard ensures that sub-classification policies are not misused for political expediency. It also provides a check against potential biases and ensures that the policies remain focused on achieving social justice. The court's decision also raises important questions about the broader goals of the reservation system. While reservations have played a crucial role in promoting social mobility and reducing inequalities, they are not a panacea. Addressing the root causes of social and economic deprivation requires a multifaceted approach, including educational reforms, economic development, and social empowerment initiatives. By emphasising the need for empirical data and ensuring judicial oversight, the court has set a high standard for the implementation of these measures. As states embark on this complex task, it is essential to remain focused on the ultimate goal of promoting social justice and equality for all marginalised communities.

Prisoner Swap

The recent prisoner exchange between the United States and Russia marks a significant, yet complex, moment in international diplomacy. While the release of US journalist Evan Gershkovich and ex-Marine Paul Whelan is undeniably a cause for celebration, the broader implications of such high-stakes negotiations deserve careful scrutiny. First, the emotional reunions witnessed on American soil underscore the human element at the heart of international diplomacy. The images of the two embracing their loved ones are poignant reminders of the personal toll of geopolitical strife. For the families, these reunions are nothing short of miraculous, a testament to the relentless efforts of diplomats and negotiators who worked tirelessly behind the scenes. President Joe Biden's gesture of giving his lapel pin to the freed Marine highlights the personal commitment and the gravity of such missions. It is a moment of triumph for those directly involved and showcases the potential for diplomacy to achieve humane outcomes even amid political turmoil. However, this exchange also raises profound ethical and strategic questions. Critics argue that trading convicted criminals for hostages sends a dangerous message, potentially incentivising future detentions. This concern is not without merit. By engaging in such exchanges, there is a risk of validating a perilous tactic, effectively encouraging hostile states to capture more foreign nationals as bargaining chips. This could lead to a vicious cycle where no one, especially journalists and other high-profile individuals, is truly safe from becoming a pawn in international power plays. Moreover, the inclusion of Vadim Krasikov, a convicted Russian murderer, in the exchange adds another layer of complexity. His return to Russia, and subsequent hero's welcome, reflects a troubling double standard. While the West sees him as a criminal, the Russian state treats him as a patriot. This dichotomy highlights the profound differences in how justice and loyalty are perceived and exploited by different regimes. It raises the question of whether such exchanges undermine the integrity of international law by equating political prisoners with convicted criminals. The geopolitical context cannot be ignored either. The swap occurs against the backdrop of on-going tensions between the West and Russia, exacerbated by the latter's invasion of Ukraine. This exchange, while a diplomatic success, does not signal a thaw in relations. Instead, it underscores the transactional nature of modern diplomacy, where strategic interests often overshadow long-term solutions. US Deputy National Security Adviser Jon Finer's admission that there was no trust involved in the negotiations highlights the fragile and pragmatic nature of such deals. The international community must tread carefully, balancing the immediate human benefits of such exchanges with the long-term implications for global stability and justice. As America celebrates the safe return of two hostages, it must also reflect on the broader consequences of this exchange and strive for a diplomatic approach that upholds human rights without compromising on principles of justice and security.

Japan reaches out ~ I

There is a different angle to Japan's Pacific engagement. This is the China factor. For China, the Pacific region forms part of the Second Island Chain, a defence line that China is seeking to establish to prevent the US Navy from approaching Taiwan in the event of an emergency. This strategic consideration is driving China to deepen ties with countries in the region. To increase its leverage, Chinese strategy has been to provide massive amounts of aid on liberal terms, thereby increasing the dependence of these small and poor island nations on it. Most of the terms of aid disbursement are heavily tilted in favour of China and they also lack transparency. The larger objective of China is to increase its military influence in the region and over these small island nations



In my articles published in these columns on 24 and 25 July, I had mentioned that the Pacific Islands have emerged as the theatre of great-power contestation where countries such as the US, China, India and Australia are spreading their influence and leaving their strategic footprints.

The submission dwelt on India's outreach to the Pacific Islands region. The main driver of such initiatives is China whose intentions are under suspicion while the response of other nations committed to protect peace and stability and pursue policies is in accordance with global norms and respects the sovereignty of all stakeholders. The response is just a counter strategy so that the existing equilibrium is not unduly disturbed.

Like India, Japan too has activated its diplomacy to engage with the Pacific Island nations. In its outreach, Japan hosted the 10th Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting (PALM10) in Tokyo from 16 to 18 July and invited 18 Pacific Island countries to discuss a host of issues. These leaders last met in person six years ago. The event takes place once every three years but the last meeting was held virtually due to Covid-19.

The main areas of Japan's focus are in defining maritime law and disaster relief, and to redouble its efforts to improve the capabilities of the Pacific island countries.

This is because the South Pacific region has been increasingly lashed by destructive tropical cyclones as the surface temperature of the oceans rises due to global warming.

Japan too has a history of typhoons and tsunamis as well as earthquakes and has therefore developed robust infrastructure to cope with such challenges. Japan is therefore in a

position to come to the help of the Pacific island nations in mitigating disaster situations as well as in boosting economic development.

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China considers Taiwan as a part of its territory and wants to integrate it with the mainland by peaceful means and if necessary by the use of force. That is not easy and in the present context an unrealisable dream.

However the series of intimidations by way of repeated violation of Taiwan's air space by overflying jets and issuance of constant threats always carry risks of miscalculation with unintended consequences. Other stakeholders take cognizance of such a possibility and prepare

their own preventive strategy accordingly.

China's other strategy has been to diplomatically isolate Taiwan by encouraging smaller and poor nations in the South Pacific and Africa to switch allegiance from Taiwan to Beijing by economic inducements which these poor nations find difficult to refuse. For example, in 2019 Solomon Islands and Kiribati severed ties with Taiwan and established diplomatic relations with China. Nauru followed suit in January 2024.

In April 2024, China signed a security agreement with the Solomon Islands which allows Beijing to station military forces in that country.

This was followed by an online meeting with the foreign ministers from the Pacific island countries where Chinese President Xi Jinping called the PICs to join China in building an "even closer China-PICS community with a shared future".

It is well known that China has been aggressively building man-made islands in the South China Sea and establishing military facilities on them.

China has been adopting the same strategy in the South Pacific islands by constructing information and communications facilities and militarising ports and other facilities. The security environment will see a dramatic change if Beijing is allowed to complete its projects in South Pacific islands.

Securing the sea lanes is of vital importance for sea-faring countries as tonnes of cargo tra-

nsit through international waters. Therefore maritime security is of utmost importance for all sea faring nations.

Since the South Pacific includes vital sea lanes that tie together Asia, the US, Australia and India, these maritime nations find relevance in the concept of a free and open Indo-Pacific (FOIP).

The larger objective for collaboration is to prevent China from further expanding its influence in the South Pacific.

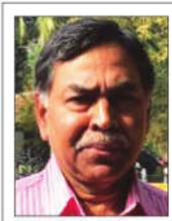
The US too has decided to take counter measures. In February 2023, it announced it would open an embassy in the Solomon Islands after a 30-year absence. This decision comes as Washington seeks to boost diplomatic relations in the Pacific as a counter to China.

The US hopes that its embassy in Honiara will serve as a key platform that would enable it to develop its Indo-Pacific strategy based on shared values of democracy, human rights, and the rule of law.

The US signed on 22 May 2023 a Defence Cooperation Agreement (DCA) with Papua New Guinea that allowed joint use of PNG's naval bases and ports, thus representing a natural progression in the decades of defence cooperation between the US and the PNG. The US also signed an Agreement Concerning Counter Illicit Transactional Maritime Activity Operations.

As a responsible stakeholder, Japan too has been supporting the Pacific island countries by dispatching its Self-Defence Force and Coast Guard personnel with a view to assist in improving their capabilities in areas such as maritime law and disaster relief. In fact there is a need to redouble such assistance by Japan.

(To Be Concluded)



RAJARAM PANDA
The writer is a former Senior Fellow at Pradhanmantri Memorial Museum and Library, Ministry of Culture, New Delhi

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

editor@thestatesman.com

Rail mishaps

SIR, With reference to the derailment of the Howrah Mumbai Mail in Jharkhand on July 30, it is to be noted that recurrent train accidents have become a matter of concern in recent times.

The Chandigarh-Dibrugarh train derailment on July 18, the collision of the Hazarduari Express with two private cars at Khardah Railway Station (North 24 Parganas) on July 14, the Kanchanjunga Express accident on June 17, the Sirhind goods train accident on June 2, derailment of the Sabarmati-Agra Superfast

Express on March 18, and the Anga Express accident on February 28 have together made 2024 a bad year for the railways.

Even after decoding the Balasore railway accident of 2023 which claimed over 290 lives, the authorities have failed to provide impregnable administrative and infrastructure facilities. Rigorous supervision, technical stringency and increasing awareness are the need of the hour.

Yours, etc.,
Dr. Bijurica Chakraborty,
Kolkata, 31 July.



GLAMOUR GAME

SIR, I refer to "More to celebrate than just cricket". One only needs to look at the present medals tally in the Paris Olympics. You will notice how far up the ladder cricket-playing nations are. The final tally may be even more revealing.

At least in India, cricket has smothered every other game. To the average kid cricket is the glamour game. So much are the game and its players valorized in the media that it is no surprise other games do not draw them.

Recently the soccer stadium in Bengaluru collapsed when an inter-league match was going on due to its dilapidated condition. Would that happen in cricket?

I remember in my school days, i.e. in the 1950s there were no cricket games or teams or inter-school competitions. It was all about track events, football and hockey.

Yours, etc., H N Ramakrishna,
Bengaluru, 2 August.

INSPIRING

SIR, This refers to "Kusale shoots Bronze to add to India's tally". The 50-m rifle three positions is considered the most challenging event in shooting, as it is a mixture of three events in one - standing, kneeling and prone.

It tests a shooter's breathing skills in prone position and balance in kneeling position, apart from the skill and focus he or she possesses. It is thus a huge achievement by Swapnil Kusale to win a bronze in his maiden Olympics.

Three medals won by our shooters seems to be the redemption moment from the hugely disappointing Tokyo Olympics. Youngsters like Swapnil, Manu Bhaker and Sarabjot Singh would inspire thousands of youngsters to take up shooting in future.

Yours, etc., Bal Govind,
Noida, 2 August.

A neighbourhood copes with loss

VIVEK SHUKLA

As the sun rises over Gurudwara Nanak Saar, perched on the hill overlooking Old Rajinder Nagar in central Delhi, the area is filled with the sweet sound of devotional hymns. The gurudwara fills with devotees. But in recent days, a sense of silence has descended upon Old Rajinder Nagar. A mix of sadness and anger is evident on every face. Three young lives were tragically lost - Tania Soni, Shweta Yadav, and Naveen Delvin - when they drowned in a flooded basement while studying at the Rau's Study Circle library. Have you ever heard of such a tragedy, where children studying in a library lose their lives?

Delhi is heartbroken by what happened in Old Rajinder Nagar. The city is grieving silently, similar to how it wept after the Uphaar fire tragedy. The incident at Uphaar on 13 June 1997, left Delhi and the nation in shock. Even today, Delhi shudders when looking at the dilapidated state of the Uphaar building.

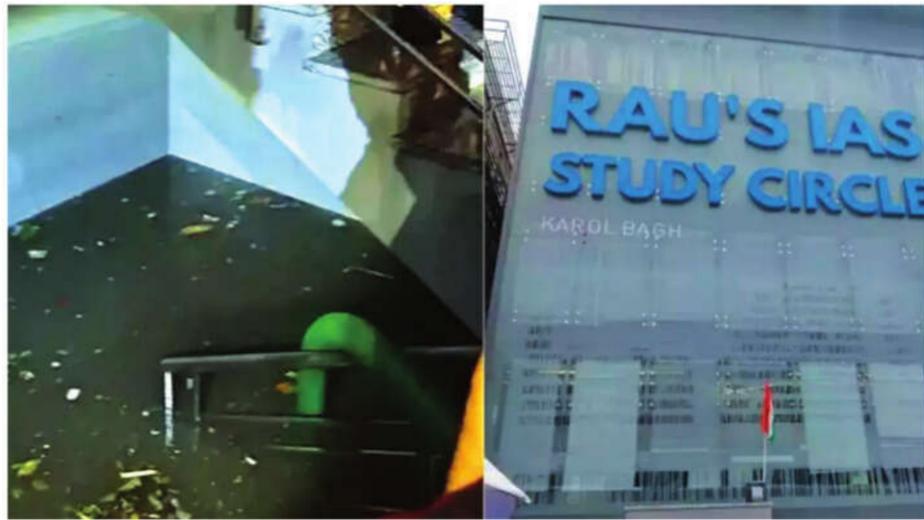
It's true that Delhi, a rapidly expanding city, doesn't usually stay bothered by incidents for long. Life goes on at its own pace. Sensitivity has waned. Terrible tragedies are forgotten after a few days. The recent deaths of several newborn babies in a terrible incident in East Delhi also vanished from media headlines within a few days. However, the untimely deaths of three young people brimming with potential have left the capital in mourning. There is a general feeling of sadness. It's a state of utter helplessness. We don't know who to complain to. No one listens.

Old Rajinder Nagar is far from an ordinary place. It is India's first refugee colony. After India's partition in 1947, lakhs of refugees arrived in Delhi, leaving everything behind. They slept on the streets. Then, in 1948, the government provided 100-square yard plots to refugee families in Old Rajinder Nagar for Rs 4,000 each. The government didn't demand the full price of the houses immediately. They were provided in easy instalments, enabling these families to rebuild their shattered lives in a new city.

About 30 years ago, H.D. Shourie, the Rehabilitation Commissioner responsible for resettling refugees in 1947, told this writer that Old Rajinder Nagar was named after India's first President, Dr. Rajinder Prasad. Before that, the area was part of Shadipur Kham pur and Todapur villages. New Rajinder Nagar was established three years later. Shourie was the father of Arun Shourie, a well-known journalist, writer, and editor. He was also the life and soul of the consumer movement in India.

Most of the families in Old Rajinder Nagar came from Peshawar, Dera Ismail Khan, Sindh, and Multan. Perhaps this is why you will find schools named Multan DAV and Dera Ismail Khan School here. Dera Ismail Khan is near Peshawar. Over the years, many families have moved to other places.

The houses had two rooms, a kitchen, and a bathroom. The roofs were covered with asbestos sheets. Some houses still stand as they were then. Looking at them, it seems as if their owners want to remain stuck in the past.



It goes without saying that if Shah Rukh Khan read about the death of three youngsters in Old Rajinder Nagar, he too would be saddened. After all, he was born in New Rajinder Nagar. Only a road divides Old and New Rajinder Nagar. He spent the first 15 years of his life there. His family lived there as tenants.

Balraj Madhok, a veteran leader of the Jan Sangh, also lived there for decades. Ved Marwah, a former Delhi Police officer who was once Governor of Jharkhand, spent his childhood in this area. Later, his family moved to Khan Market, where his father opened a bookstore called Fakir Chand & Sons.

The families living in Old Rajinder Nagar have many heart-wrenching stories to narrate from the partition. They didn't just leave their homes, cities, and villages. They lost many loved ones in the riots that broke out during partition. Every August, they go back to that era. But what happened in their neighborhood has made them weep. Talk to anyone, and they choke up over the untimely deaths of the three children.

New Rajinder Nagar has remained a residential colony since its inception, but Old Rajinder Nagar has changed rapidly. It has become a hub for coaching

institutes for competitive exams. The people running these institutes, along with corrupt government officials, have flouted regulations. They have built buildings and basements wherever they could. The greed for quick money has claimed the lives of three young children.

As you walk past the house of the late famous Sindh singer Lajja Bhatia in Old Rajinder Nagar, you'll find people of all ages discussing the deaths of the three children. Of course, the wounds of this heart-wrenching tragedy will stay open for a long time.

(The writer is a freelance contributor and author of Gandhi's India.)

NOW AND AGAIN

BREAKING BREAD

SUNIPA BASU

The best remembrance is through food - life-sustaining in the most physical sense and also in the nurturing of relationships, both personal and societal.

My parents were both fantastic cooks. Ma was in the arena of traditional cooking with subtle variations. Our favourite dishes were "Brinjal Mitch" (a tasty fry of brinjals in which the core was scooped out, fried and then reintroduced for light smoking on the fry pan).

Kashmiri mutton cooked in curd without the usual onion-garlic paste and meatballs made with keema and soaked in a curry. She even made a cooked aachar with raw jackfruit.

I may forget everything else but not these delectable dishes served whenever we came home. The get-together at the dining table, with all the catching-up to do were truly joyous occasions.

Baba was the "chef" who cooked roasted chicken, kathi kabab, prawn cutlet and other mouth-watering dishes. He was also an expert in experimental cooking, producing innovative dishes with leftover food that he could never repeat. The kitchen looked like a war zone that had just been evacuated. His greatest love was mangoes that he savoured and served well beyond the mango season. Ma would tease him by saying, "Your Baba will eat mangoes till they taste like pumpkin".

Now, 25 years after Ma and Baba have passed away, the fondest way of remembering them is through this medium. This year, on 27 June, Baba's birthday, we had a feast of sun-ripened, freshly plucked mangoes from our Kopai Garden. Deliciously sweet, we could feel Baba partaking of that feast with us.

On 10 July, Ma's birthday, we cooked keema balls, her signature dish following her recipe. It felt like Ma was serving us lunch - a feeling I could share with my friends and family.

There are sepia-tinted memories like these in almost every household. However, in this era of cloud kitchens, and ordering online fast food with even faster consumption, I wonder whether this mode of remembrance will survive.

100 YEARS AGO

SEPARATIST FAILURE

ATTACK ON MAYENCE ENDS IN DISPERSAL

SEPARATIST activity has again broken out says the Mayence correspondent of the Times, who reports that late last night members of the "Rhenish Workers' Party" raided several inns and ordered the guests to proceed home warning them that the Separatists were about to reoccupy the town.

Subsequently the Separatists attempted to attack in force but were scattered by the police who fired several volleys in the air. A number of arrests were made.

LALA HARIKISHEN LAL

LALA HARIKISHEN LAL arrived in Bombay by the P and O. mail steamer Caledonia this morning.

REPENTANT OFFICER

BEGS FOR PARDON AND ACQUITTAL

CAPTAIN Westruff, who is charged with Sergeant Mawley with theft, or in the alternative with receiving, retaining and attempting to dispose of stolen property, pleaded guilty on the first count but begged for mercy in consideration of his spotless life in the Army. Financial circumstances, he said, had driven him to commit theft, but later on he repented, with the result that he returned all the stolen goods to the complainant. He had suffered enough and therefore begged the court to pardon and acquit him.

The second accused denied all knowledge of the fact that the goods in question were stolen property.

PAGEANT OF EMPIRE

SPECTACLE POSTPONED UNTIL FRIDAY

THE Pageant of Empire which was due to open at Wembley to-morrow has been postponed until Friday when the Prince of Wales, the Duke of Connaught, Cabinet Ministers, and Members of Parliament, and Representatives of the Dominions and of India will attend. The postponement is due to the Council not obtaining possession of the Stadium in time to ensure the full rehearsal desired by Viscount Lascelles.

The enormous scale of the production may be realised from the fact that £100,000 has been spent on it. There are 15,000 performers, and it will take three nights to produce the Pageant in its entirety.

POLITICAL DIARY KALYANI SHANKAR

Rahul Gandhi comes of age as a leader

How well has Rahul Gandhi, the Congress leader, performed as Leader of the Opposition in Parliament? Nobel laureate Professor Amartya Sen recently talked about Rahul's progress since his time at Cambridge University. Sen said that Rahul has matured a lot over the years and pointed out that his actual test would be how he leads the Opposition in Parliament.

Riding on the recent success in the Lok Sabha polls, Rahul has been confident and forceful inside and outside the house, fitting for the Leader of the Opposition. His parents, Rajiv Gandhi and Sonia Gandhi, also held the same positions during their time and did well.

Rahul assumed his first constitutional role - as a LOP - 25 years after he entered politics in 2004. There has been no LoP in the Lok Sabha for the past ten years, as no party secured the required numbers to claim the post in the previous two Lok Sabhas.

During the recent budget session, the first after Rahul became the LOP, he took a vital leadership role within his party and the Opposition. Since becoming the Leader of the Opposition, he has taken on more responsibilities. He now leads and represents the Opposition's viewpoint on various subjects. This is a new role for him. He organised protests, delivered powerful speeches against the Modi government, and worked closely with allies to coordinate their efforts on the



floor. He also focused on critical issues for the people and made himself more accessible.

Rahul's backroom office has a dozen key members who handle all aspects of his leadership, helping him in his new role. The team, including General Secretary K.C. Venugopal, Sam Pitroda, Sunil Kanugolu, K. Bujji, B. Srivatsa, Manickam Tagore, Alankar Sawai and Kaushal Vidyarthi, plays a crucial role in managing Gandhi's political activities and election strategies, from logistics to social media.

Rahul's transformation into a

more confident leader is a testament to his growth and evolution in the political arena. This significant departure from his earlier image as a reluctant politician is a compelling aspect of his political journey.

It is easier for Rahul to take on an aggressive role because the opposition benches in the 18th Lok Sabha have a sizeable number. Additionally, the allies have realised they can succeed if united, as proven in the 2024 polls.

In his maiden speech as LoP, Rahul declared, "Of course, the gov-

ernment has political power, but the Opposition also represents the voice of India's people. This time, the Opposition represents significantly more of the voice of the Indian people than it did last time."

Rahul's continued criticisms of the Prime Minister have evoked strong and tense responses from the ruling party members. During Rahul's maiden speech, the PM intervened twice, for the first time in 10 years. Modi accused Rahul of labelling the entire Hindu society as 'violent'. The PM said, "Democracy and the Constitution have taught me to take the Leader of the Opposition seriously." Modi's responses to Gandhi's criticisms demonstrate an acknowledgement of this shifted paradigm and the resulting tension in the house.

Rahul Gandhi has been speaking out against the Modi government's decision to arrest AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal and JMM chief Hemant Soren. He is opposed to the BJP's attempts to silence opposing viewpoints. This has caused increased tensions in Parliament for the ruling party.

During his two Bharat Jodo yantras and the subsequent Lok Sabha election campaign, Rahul consistently sported a white T-shirt and dark cargo pants. He explained that this attire symbolises transparency, simplicity, and perseverance. His switch to a white kurta-pyjama on his first day in the Lok

Sabha as LoP further underscored the symbolism and significance of his sartorial choices. It effectively communicates his political messaging and personal branding.

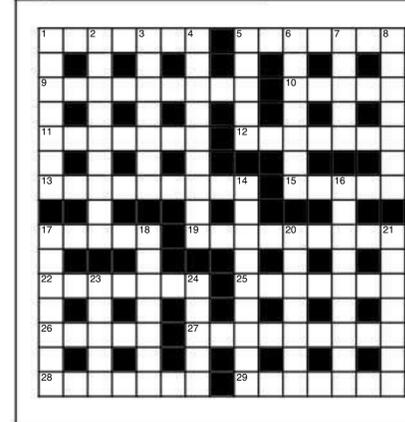
During his Lok Sabha campaign, Rahul strategically displayed a small red pocket edition of the Constitution at public meetings. This calculated move effectively highlighted what he called the perceived threat to the Constitution from the BJP. His use of the Constitution was instrumental in garnering support from beneficiaries of reservation.

Though Rahul has been an M.P. for the past two decades, he was not considered a good Parliamentarian. He asked only 99 questions, participated in 26 debates, and wasn't always present at critical times. Since 2014, he has been noticeably absent during budget sessions, only appearing suddenly and occasionally. He also disappeared, often going abroad, leaving the party in a crisis.

Rahul has started well as the Leader of the Opposition. His progress will depend on his political planning. While he missed some chances in the past, like becoming a minister in Manmohan Singh's cabinet or strengthening the party as Congress President, his current role shows potential. He needs to use this opportunity to face future political challenges confidently. Rahul's belief in the power of the LOP to raise a voice in Parliament instils hope and optimism in the audience.

CROSSWORD

NO-292864



YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

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

- ACROSS**
- Peculiar rogue promises to pay (7)
 - Fixes fight with El Salvador (7)
 - Flexible cushion turned over in a piece of furniture (9)
 - Benefit involving northern wind (5)
 - One of pack in charge holding ace of hearts (7)
 - Firm chaff initially swallowed by mountain bird (7)
 - Daughter with European cat weed (9)
 - Creature that a pirate holds (5)
 - Way fish harden (5)
 - Fancy green dens for bears (9)
 - Not so heavy smoker's accessory (7)
 - Springy hat worn by English non-smoker (7)
 - Pelt island creature (5)
 - Narrow escape when excavating without leader (4,5)
 - Cyrate drunkenly to Bee Gees tune (7)
 - Space group of journalists provides leader (7)
- DOWN**
- Risked placing new church in country (7)
 - Adjust back row (9)
 - Unpopular team away from home (7)
 - Reserves bed with bit of extra support (9)
 - Clean compass (5)
 - Break sculpture perhaps and begin again (7)
 - Penny and Scotsman love quietly (5)
 - Tell tales about revolting trainer (7)
 - Dream of dark horse (9)
 - Cost including epic rewritten for Cliff (9)
 - Very legitimate petition (7)
 - Reliant upon changing for convenience (7)
 - Constant undoing regularly upset kitties (7)
 - Makes offensive remarks about sliders (7)
 - Greengrocer using apostrophes: 'Vegetable's and topping's for fruit' (5)
 - Feeling frisky in outskirts of Rugby (5)

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

THUMBNAILS

Alphadroid introduces 'HeyAlpha', the conversational AI for hospitality: Alphadroid announced the launch of its latest product offering powered by conversational AI- HeyAlpha, at the India International Hospitality Expo (IHExpo) 2024 from 3 to 6 August in Greater Noida. HeyAlpha marks a significant leap forward in hospitality technology, blending advanced conversational AI with seamless automation to transform guest experiences and enhance hotel operations. HeyAlpha is designed to tackle common challenges in the hospitality industry, including the need for prompt service, guest engagement, and multilingual support. During staff shortages or peak hours, delays can significantly impact the guest experience and harm the brand's reputation.

Dhanuka Agritech Q1 net profit up by 48.5 per cent YOY to Rs 48.90 crore: Dhanuka Agritech, one of the leading agrochemicals companies in India, reported financial results for the first quarter of 2024-25 financial year. The Gurugram-headquartered firm clocked Rs. 48.90 crore profit during April-June quarter of FY'25, up 48.5 per cent from the same quarter of the previous fiscal year. Total income grew 33.27 per cent to Rs. 500.71 Crore in the first quarter of this fiscal from Rs. 375.72 Crore in the corresponding period of FY'24.

MoS Harsh Malhotra inaugurates new hospital in Karkardooma: Yashoda Super speciality Hospital, Kaushambi has announced the inauguration of its new Yashoda Fertility and IVF Centre in Karkardooma, marking a significant milestone in its journey to expand specialised care. The inauguration ceremony was witnessed by Chief Guest Harsh Malhotra, Minister of State for Corporate Affairs and Road Transport, and guest of honour Om Prakash Sharma, MLA from Vishwas Nagar, Delhi. A distinguished assembly of gynaecologists, medical professionals, and medical experts attended the event.

Plant-based dairy products: Plant-based milk alternatives are becoming an emerging segment in the food & beverage category, with an alternative to dairy products, many vegan and even non-vegan consumers prefer to choose plant-based dairy products due to various factors to avoid cow-milk based dairy products such as calorie concerns, being lactose intolerant and adulteration in cow-based milk products. Keeping these factors, 1.5 Degree, an innovative start-up, introduced a complete range of plant-based frozen dessert and beverage products at the 7th India International Hospitality Expo, at India Expo Centre, Greater Noida from 3 to 6 August.

'Need for a stringent perjury Law': Team Satyug, a volunteer-driven organisation dedicated to eliminating the backlog of court cases in India and promoting justice within the judicial system, hosted a press conference titled "Justice For All, Justice Within a Year" which themed around the need for Stringent Perjury Law. The event was addressed by renowned Supreme Court advocate Ashwini Upadhyay and Delhi Bar Council Co-Chairman Vishnu Sharma.

Heritage Xperiential Learning School: The Heritage Xperiential Group of Schools has announced an exciting new chapter for The Heritage School, Noida. The school will now be called The Heritage Xperiential Learning School, Noida (HXLN Noida), and will be led by the core Heritage Xperiential Leadership team.

5th AITIGA Joint Committee meeting held in Jakarta

The meeting was co-chaired by Rajesh Agrawal, Additional Secretary, Department of Commerce, India and Mastura Ahmad Mustafa, Dy Secy General (Trade), Ministry of Investment, Trade & Industry, Malaysia

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, 3 AUGUST

The Ministry of Commerce & Industry on Saturday said the 5th AITIGA Joint Committee and related meetings for review of ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITIGA) were held in ASEAN Secretariat, Jakarta, Indonesia from July 29 to August 1, marking a significant milestone in enhancing economic cooperation between ASEAN and India.

The meeting was co-chaired by Rajesh Agrawal, Additional Secretary, Department of Commerce, India and Mastura Ahmad Mustafa, Deputy Secretary General (Trade), Ministry of Investment, Trade & Industry, Malaysia.

Delegates from all 10 ASEAN Countries and India participated in the meeting.

AITIGA Joint Committee had initiated discussions for review of AITIGA in May 2023



and after finalising its Terms of Reference and Negotiating Structure, AITIGA JC and its Sub-Committees started negotiations in February 2024.

The first two rounds of negotiations were held in February 2024 in New Delhi and in May 2024 in Putrajaya, Malaysia.

The Ministry of Commerce & Industry further said dur-

ing the third round of negotiations in Jakarta, Indonesia, all 8 Sub-Committees dealing with 'National Treatment and Market Access', 'Rules of Origin', 'Standards, Technical Regulations and Conformity Assessment Procedures', 'Sanitary and Phytosanitary', 'Legal and Institutional Issues', 'Customs Procedures and Trade Facilitation', 'Trade Remedies'

Separate meetings were also held with ASEAN Secretary General Dr. Kao Kim Hourn as well as ASEAN Deputy Secretary General Satvinder Singh to discuss the possibilities in enhancing economic cooperation between India and ASEAN through review of AITIGA.

The Indian delegation interacted with Indian businesses in Jakarta on July 31 over a dinner arranged by Embassy of India in Jakarta and listened to the experiences of industry and their expectations from AITIGA review.

ASEAN is an important trade partner of India with about 11 per cent share in India's global trade.

The review of AITIGA, signed in 2009, will help create further opportunities for businesses on both sides to enhance the level of India-ASEAN trade.

The next meeting of the AITIGA Joint Committee will be held in India from November 19-22.

Foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) pumped in Rs 54,727 crore in equity and debt in July, against the backdrop of India's strong growth outlook for FY 2025.

An economic survey that was presented before the Union Budget this year projected India's growth rate to be at 6.5 to 7 per cent for 2024-25.

Market experts, citing the data from National Securities Depository Limited (NSDL), said that FPIs have invested Rs 32,364 crore in equity and Rs 22,363 crore in debt in July.

For the full year-to-date, FPI investment in equity stands at Rs 35,565 crore in the country.

Experts cite three key reasons behind massive inflow: strong economic outlook, rate cut and government fiscal discipline.

Experts said: "FII flows into India should increase due to several factors. Firstly, India's economy is performing better than many

FPIs pump in ₹54,727 crore in July, bullish on India's growth outlook

AGENCIES NEW DELHI, 3 AUGUST



global peers, making it an attractive destination for investors. Secondly, with the risk-free rate expected to come down in the USA, investors will likely seek better returns elsewhere, including India. Thirdly, the government's robust fiscal discipline could lead to a rating upgrade for India, enhancing its investment appeal." FPI activities are influenced by various factors like the performance of the global equity markets, the movement of dollar index, incremental geopolitical events, and opportunities in the Indian markets considering slightly elevated valuation levels. Another expert said: "This resurgence can be attributed to a stable political environment, ongoing economic reforms, and appealing market valuations within India."

NEWSFEED

Eastern Railway installs sliding boom barriers at crossing gates



In a major move to enhance safety and operational efficiency at level crossing gates, Eastern Railway has undertaken the installation of Sliding Boom type barriers.

The introduction of Sliding Boom barriers comes in response to challenges faced with manual operations when Lifting Barrier gate booms are damaged.

The new barriers also enhance safety by reducing the likelihood of delays and accidents at level crossings. Eastern Railway has made significant strides in deploying Sliding Boom barriers across its divisions.

In Asansol division, out of 100 interlocked level crossing gate, Sliding Booms have been provided to 99 level crossing

gates. In Howrah division out of 277 level crossing gates, Sliding Booms have been provided at 269 gates.

In Sealdah division out of 365 level crossing gates, Sliding Boom type barrier is available at 260 level crossing gates, all the 91 interlocked gates are equipped with Sliding Boom type gate barrier.

Work is actively underway to complete the installation of Sliding Boom barriers at the remaining level crossing gates, aiming to cover all interlocked gates across the network.

This initiative reflects Eastern Railway's commitment to modernizing infrastructure and improving operational efficiency.

GGSIPU to integrate Artificial Intelligence in dental education

A high level stakeholders meeting was held at GGSIPU to integrate Artificial Intelligence (AI) into Dental Education.

As per the WHO Global Oral Health Status Report, oral diseases affect 3.5 billion individuals globally.

To tackle this case load, the academic experts feel AI can play a vital role.

The technology enhances diagnostic accuracy, treatment planning, and patient care in dentistry.

The project is a collaborative approach of Queen Mary

University of London (QMUL), Maulana Azad Institute of Dental Science (MAIDS) and Guru Govind Singh Indraprastha University (GGSIPU), and is being funded by UKIERI and SPARC.

It aims at developing a training module for dental students and its implication.

The lead investigators from QMUL, London were Dr Manu Raj Mathur and Dr Anil Golkari; from GGSIPU Prof Dr Mahesh Verma; and from MAIDS Professor Dr Vikrant Mohanty.

ICG continues disaster relief operation in Wayanad

The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) District Headquarters (Kerala & Mahe) and ICG Station Bepore are actively engaged in ongoing disaster relief operations in Wayanad, in coordination with State administration, Indian Army, Indian Navy, National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), Fire and Rescue Services, Local Police, and various volunteer groups.

The ICG team, consisting of 35 personnel led by Deputy Commandant Vivek Kumar Dixit, has been conducting rescue operations in Chooralmala and nearby villages since 30 Jul 2024. The team has assist-



ed numerous civilians stranded in the disaster zones, facilitating their relocation to safe locations and relief camps.

To augment the ground efforts, an Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) has been deployed from Coast Guard Air Enclave, Calicut, and is kept standby for augmenting the air efforts in rescue as well as air-dropping of relief materials. Additionally, ICG Ship

Abhinav is being dispatched from Kochi to Bepore, carrying life-saving equipment, relief materials, medicines, and freshwater.

These supplies will be distributed to various disaster relief camps in Wayanad.

Despite challenging weather conditions and difficult terrain, the ICG is committed to supporting the local populace and the District Administration.

The coordinated efforts of the Coast Guard and other forces underscore their dedication in providing timely and effective assistance in this critical time.

SCOPE organises workshop for strengthening climate action

A workshop on "The Role of Climate Co-Benefit Methodologies for strengthening Climate Action by Indian Public Sector Enterprises (PSEs)", organised by Standing Conference of Public Enterprises (SCOPE) in association with GIZ was inaugurated by Sandeep Kumar Gupta, Chairman, SCOPE & CMD, GAIL (India) Ltd in presence of Taina Dyckhoff, Head of Division Climate & Environment,



German Embassy, Atul Sobti, Director General, SCOPE and Sujoy Choudhury, Chairman, SCOPE Sustainability Committee & Climate Change & Director, IOCL.

The knowledge partners of the workshop consisted of a consortium of Oxford Policy Management, CEEW and Perspectives Climate Group. The workshop was participated by

several executives from 22 PSEs across the country.

SCOPE has over the past few years worked incessantly towards creating awareness and capacitating PSEs in Green skills. Nation-wide workshops constitute a pertinent part of SCOPE's endeavour in sharpening green skills of PSEs, to create a workforce with technical knowledge and commitment to a sustainable tomorrow.

VIT, Vellore holds 39th annual convocation

Vellore Institute of Technology (VIT), Vellore, held its 39th annual convocation on August 2.

Professor Anil D. Sahasrabudhe, Chairman of the National Educational Technology Forum (NETF), National Board of Accreditation (NBA), Executive Committee-National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) was the chief guest. TR Parasuraman, Chairman, ASSOCHAM Karnataka State



Development Council and Senior Executive Advisor, Toyota Industries Engine India Pvt. Ltd., was the guest of honour; Dr G. Viswanathan, Founder & Chancellor, Vellore Institute

of Technology (VIT) presided over the convocation.

A total of 8,205 undergraduate and post-graduate students, and 357 Ph.D. graduates were awarded degrees and gold medals were given to 65 candidates.

In his convocation address, Professor Anil D Sahasrabudhe exhorted young graduates to be constant learners and strive to improve their employability.

5.41 lakh Android, 11,000 iOS users download 'Metro Ride Kolkata App'

More than 5.41 lakh Android and more than 11,000 iOS users have downloaded 'Metro Ride Kolkata App' so far.

This App developed by Centre for Railway Information Systems (CRIS) has been a hit among the users since its inception.

This App has enabled Metro commuters to recharge their Smart Cards or book QR Code Based tickets anytime from anywhere.

For the benefit of the commuters, 'Metro Ride Kolkata' App was launched on 05.03.2022 on Android platform and on 22.03.2024 on iOS platform. Till July 27, 2024, more than 5.41 lakh Android users have downloaded this

App from Google Play Store and more than 11000 iOS users have also downloaded this App from Apple Store.

These figures signify the acceptability and popularity of this App among the Metro users.

In order to make more commuters aware about it, special promotional films on how to download and use this App are being shown on platform televisions of North-South and East-West Metro stations.

Metro staff have also been helping passengers to download this App from Google Play Store and Apple Store and showing them the procedure to use it at different stations.

BIS, GBPUAT join hands for SADF

The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) and Govind Ballabh Pant University of Agriculture and Technology (GBPUAT) have signed a landmark Memorandum of Understanding to facilitate the development of the first of its kind 'Standardized Agriculture Demonstration Farm' (SADF) in India.

The MoU was signed on July 24, in the presence of Dr. M S Chauhan, Vice-Chancellor, GBPUAT, and senior officials from the University, including Dr Deepa Vinay, Registrar; Dr Ajeet Kumar Nain, Director of Research; and Deans of various colleges of GBPUAT, along with Dr. S. B. Singh, BIS chair at GBPUAT.

TEPC organises defence sector ICT conclave

Telecom Equipment and Services Export Promotion Council (TEPC) organised the Defence Sector ICT Conclave in collaboration with the Department of Telecommunications, Ministry of Communications, Govt. of India and Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on 29 July.

A total of 18 companies showcased their products in the Defence Sector ICT Conclave. While addressing the inaugural session of the Con-



clave, Ms. Madhu Arora, Member (Technology), Digital Communications Commission, Department of Telecom, Govt. of India said: "The role of ICT in modern warfare is pivotal, as it facilitates real-

time communication and coordination and enables advanced data analysis and decision-making.

ICT forms the backbone of defence operations, and India's vibrant ICT sector, marked by innovation and integrity, has established a significant presence over the past decades. The Indian ICT industry is providing solutions to the world, showcasing India's leadership in this domain."

BHEL secures order for demonstration of Methanol Firing in Gas turbine of Kayamkulam CCPP

BHEL secures order for demonstration of first of its kind Methanol Firing in Gas turbine of Kayamkulam CCPP

Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited has received the first ever order for the demon-

stration of methanol firing in a Gas Turbine at the 350 MW Kayamkulam Combined Cycle Power Plant (CCPP) of NTPC installed at Alappuzha district in Kerala.

This will be the first such demonstration project of

its kind in India. Significantly, this demonstration will pave the way for reviving unutilised gas turbine sets in the country which are inoperative due to unavailability of natural gas and naphtha.

RECPDCL hands over NERGS-I Power Transmission Ltd to M/s Techno Electric & Engineering Company Ltd

REC Power Development and Consultancy Limited (RECPDCL), a wholly owned subsidiary of REC Limited, the Maharatna CPSU under the aegis of Ministry of Power & a leading NBFC, handed over a project specific SPV (Special Purpose Vehicle) viz, NERGS-I Power Transmission Limited to M/s Techno Electric & Engineering Company Limited, formed for establishment of new 400 kV switching station at Bokajan in Assam and LILO



(loop?in and loop?out) of both circuits of Misa - New Mariani 400 kV D/c line at Bokajan in Assam. The SPV was handed over by T.S.C. Bosh, CEO, RECPDCL to Shri Dinesh Parikh, General Manager (Commercial),

Techno Electric & Engineering Company Limited in the presence of senior officials of RECPDCL, Central Transmission Utility (CTU) of India Limited and Techno Electric & Engineering Company Limited.

POWERGRID posts Profit After Tax of ₹3,724 crore

POWERGRID ensures seamless transmission of electricity, thereby fuelling economic growth and prosperity.

Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POWERGRID), a Maharatna Company under Ministry of Power, has announced financial results for Q1FY25.

For Q1FY25, on consolidated basis, company has reported PAT of ₹3,724 crore and Total Income of ₹11,280 crore registering a YoY growth of 3.52% and 0.20% respectively.

On standalone basis company has reported PAT of ₹3,412 crore and Total Income of ₹10,850 crore.

During Q1FY25, the Company incurred a Capital Expenditure of ₹4,615 crore and capitalized assets worth ₹ 2,320 crore (excluding FERV) on consolidated basis.

POWERGRID's Gross Fixed Assets on consolidated basis stood at ₹2,77,213 crore as on June 30, 2024.



Work to produce 500 megawatts of electricity is an essential step toward development, and the Islamic Emirate has been striving over the past three years to achieve it

MULLAH ABDUL LATIF MANSOOR
AFGHAN CARETAKER GOVERNMENT'S ACTING MINISTER FOR ENERGY AND WATER

Mourners bury Hamas chief Haniyeh in Qatar



AGENCIES
JERUSALEM, 3 AUGUST

Thousands of mourners converged around the flag-draped coffin of Hamas' slain political chief, Ismail Haniyeh, in the emirate of Qatar on Friday as the fallout surged from his death in an alleged Israeli attack.

The funeral ceremony in Doha, Qatar's capital, attended by members of Gaza's militant Hamas and Islamic Jihad groups as well as Qatari and Iranian officials, was subdued. But across the Muslim world — from Jordan and Morocco to Yemen and Somalia — angry crowds

waving Palestinian flags rushed out of mosques after midday Friday prayers, chanting for revenge. "Let Friday be a day of rage to denounce the assassination," said Izzat al-Risheq, a senior Hamas official. Haniyeh had lived in Qatar, along with other senior members of Hamas's political leadership. Following the back-to-back assassinations of Haniyeh in Tehran early Wednesday and top Hezbollah commander Fuad Shukur in Beirut the evening before, international diplomats have scrambled to head off a full-fledged regional war. Iran and its proxies vowed to retaliate. Major airlines canceled flights to Tel Aviv, Israel, and Beirut, Lebanon. Cyprus said Friday it was preparing for possible mass evacuations of foreign citizens via the island nation, in case of a wider war. France beefed up security for Jewish communities nationwide.

Dissidents freed in prisoner swap vow to keep up fight against Putin, recount details of release

AGENCIES
TALLINN, 03 AUGUST

When Kremlin critic Vladimir Kara-Murza was suddenly moved to a detention center in Moscow from a Siberian prison, he thought he was being taken there to be shot. Opposition activist Ilya Yashin said he was warned by a security operative that he would die in prison if he returned to Russia.

Neither was told they were being freed in a massive prisoner exchange with the West — the largest since the Cold War — when they were put on a bus to the airport Thursday, some still in prison garb.

"It is very difficult to shake (the feeling) of absolute surrealism of what is happening," Kara-Murza, a Pulitzer Prize-winning writer who had been serving 25 years in prison, told a news conference Friday in the German city of Bonn.

In their first public appearance since their release a day earlier, President Vladimir Putin's foes vowed to keep fighting for a free and democratic Russia they could one day return to.

They also talked about



how their newly found freedom left a bit bitter-sweet after taste as they were effectively expelled from their own country, where hundreds of other political prisoners continued to languish behind bars.

"I'm not viewing what happened to me ... as an exchange. I'm viewing it as an expulsion from Russia, an illegal expulsion from Russia against my will. And I'll say frankly, as it is: The thing I want the most right now is to go home," said Yashin, who had been sentenced to 8 1/2 years for criticism of the Ukraine war.

He and Kara-Murza both told reporters no one asked them if they consented to the swap, and emphasized they refused to request a pardon from Putin — a formality they said prison officials had insisted upon.

US to beef up West Asia presence to defend Israel

The Pentagon has options to provide additional land-based ballistic missile defense, such as the Patriot or the terminal high altitude area defense system

ASSOCIATED PRESS
WASHINGTON, 3 AUGUST

The U.S. will move a fighter jet squadron to the Middle East and maintain an aircraft carrier in the region, the Pentagon said Friday, beefing up the American military presence to help defend Israel from possible attacks by Iran and its proxies and safeguard U.S. troops.

Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin has also ordered addi-



tional ballistic missile defense-capable cruisers and destroyers to the European and Middle East regions and is taking steps to send more land-based ballistic missile defense

weapons there, the Pentagon said in a statement Friday evening.

The shifts make good on a promise President Joe Biden made to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. In a call Thursday afternoon, Biden discussed new U.S. military deployments to protect against possible attacks from ballistic missiles and drones, according to the White House. In April, U.S. forces intercepted dozens of missiles and drones fired by

Iran against Israel and helped down nearly all of them.

U.S. leaders worry about escalating violence in the Middle East in response to recent attacks by Israel on Hamas and Hezbollah leaders, which triggered threats of retaliation. Iran also has threatened to respond after Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh was assassinated in Tehran on Wednesday, a day after senior Hezbollah commander Fuad Shukur was killed in Beirut.

TENDER

झारखण्ड सरकार
ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग
कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय
कम्पाईण्ड बिल्डिंग, प्रथम तल्ला, एल०सी० रोड, धनबाद

ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना
ई-निविदा संख्या:- 09/RWD/DHANBAD/24-25 दिनांक :- 02-08-2024

कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, धनबाद द्वारा निम्न विवरण के अनुसार e-procurement पद्धति से निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है।

क्र० सं०	आईडी-टी फिकेशन संख्या / पैकेज संख्या	प्रखण्ड	कार्य का नाम	प्राकलित राशि (लाख में)	कार्य समाप्ति की अवधि	टेंडर कॉल संख्या
1	RWD/DHN/03/24-25	धनबाद	गरमूडीह से सरायवाहा आमडीह तक पथ (लम्बाई 1.00 कि०मी०)	99.526	निगानवे लाख बावन हजार छह सौ मात्र।	06 माह

- वेबसाइट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि - 06.08.2024
- ई-निविदा प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय - 27.08.2024 अपराह्न 5.00 बजे तक।
- निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय - 29.08.2024 अपराह्न 3.30 बजे।
- निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले पदाधिकारी का नाम एवं पता - कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमंडल, धनबाद, पिन - 826001
- ई-निविदा प्रकोष्ठ का दूरभाष सं० - 0326-3554757
- विस्तृत जानकारी के लिए वेबसाइट jharkhandtenders.gov.in में देखा जा सकता है।

कार्यपालक अभियंता
ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमंडल, धनबाद

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय
ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, राँची।

ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना
ई-निविदा सूचना संख्या - RDD/SD/RANCHI/03/2024-25 E-tender

1. कार्य की विस्तृत विवरणी:

क्र०सं०	कार्य का नाम	प्राकलित राशि (लाख में)	अग्रघन की राशि	परिमाण विपत्र का मूल्य	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि
1	राँची जिला के नामकुम प्रखंड के सिल्वे पंचायत के ग्राम गढ़ादोली में गुंठा नाला पर पुल निर्माण।	304.761	6,09,600	10,000	18 माह

- वेबसाइट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि - 16.08.2024
- ई-निविदा प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय - दिनांक 20.08.2024 से दिनांक 27.08.2024 को अपराह्न 5:00 बजे तक
- निविदा खोलने का स्थान - कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय, ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, राँची।
- ई-निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले पदाधिकारी का नाम एवं पता - कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, राँची।
- ई-निविदा प्रकोष्ठ का दूरभाष सं० - 9431349277
- परिमाण विपत्र की राशि घट-बढ़ सकती है तदनुसार अग्रघन की राशि देय होगी।
- निविदा शुल्क एवं अग्रघन की राशि केवल Online Mode द्वारा स्वीकार्य होगी।
- निविदा शुल्क एवं अग्रघन की राशि का ई-मुद्राणन पिस खाता से किया जायेगा, उसी खाते में अग्रघन की राशि वापस होगी। अगर खाता को बंद कर दिया जाता है तो उसकी सारी जवाबदेही आपकी होगी।
- निविदा शुल्क एवं अग्रघन की राशि का ई-मुद्राणन पिस खाता से किया जायेगा, उसी खाते में अग्रघन की राशि वापस होगी। अगर खाता को बंद कर दिया जाता है तो उसकी सारी जवाबदेही आपकी होगी।
- विस्तृत जानकारी के लिए वेबसाइट www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in एवं कार्यालय की सूचना पत्र पर देखा जा सकता है।

कार्यपालक अभियंता
ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, राँची।

PR 331797 (Rural Development) 24-25 (D)

झारखण्ड सरकार
कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय,
ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमंडल, सरायकेला-खरसावाँ

ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना :-
ई-निविदा संख्या :- 09/2024-25/EE/RWD/SRK दिनांक 02.08.2024

1. कार्य का नाम

क्र. सं.	ID No. / पैकेज संख्या	प्रखण्ड का नाम	कार्य का नाम	प्राकलित राशि	कार्य समाप्ति की अवधि
1.	RWD/EE/SRK/14/2024-25	राजनगर	पहाड़पुर चौक से बिदरी होते हुए सुदुर्गाकरण कार्य। (लम्बाई - 4.00 कि०मी०)	2,40,42,800.00	दो करोड़ चालीस लाख बयालीस हजार आठ सौ रु० मात्र।

- वेबसाइट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि - 10.08.2024
- ई-निविदा प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय - 25.08.2024 अपराह्न 5:00 बजे तक।
- निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय - 26.08.2024 को अपराह्न 03:30 बजे।
- निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले पदाधिकारी का नाम एवं पता - कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमंडल, सरायकेला-खरसावाँ।
- ई-निविदा प्रकोष्ठ का दूरभाष संख्या - 7209661815
- विस्तृत जानकारी के लिए वेबसाइट jharkhandtender.gov.in में देखा जा सकता है।

कार्यपालक अभियंता
ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमंडल, सरायकेला-खरसावाँ

PR 331765 Rural Work Department(24-25).D

झारखण्ड सरकार
कार्यपालक अभियंता, का कार्यालय,
ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, पाकुड़

अतिअल्पकालीन ई-पुनर्निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना
अतिअल्पकालीन ई-पुनर्निविदा सूचना संख्या - RDD/SD/PAKUR/19/RE1/2023-24

1. कार्य की विस्तृत विवरणी:

क्र० सं०	कार्य का नाम	प्राकलित राशि	अग्रघन की राशि	परिमाण विपत्र का मूल्य	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि
01	पाकुड़ जिला के पाकुड़ प्रखण्ड अन्तर्गत पंचायत नवादा से हरिहरा जानेवाली पथ पर झुंकर नाला पर पुल निर्माण।	1,07,32,600.00	2,14,700.00	10,000.00	15 (Fifteen Month)

- वेबसाइट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि - 08.08.2024
- ई-निविदा प्राप्ति की तिथि एवं समय - दिनांक 08.08.2024 से दिनांक 17.08.2024 को अपराह्न 5:00 बजे तक
- निविदा खोलने का स्थान - कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय, ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, पाकुड़
- ई-निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले पदाधिकारी का नाम एवं पता - कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, पाकुड़
- ई-निविदा प्रकोष्ठ का दूरभाष सं० - 7991153157 (संयोजित कार्यपालक अभियंता का दूरभाष नम्बर)
- परिमाण विपत्र की राशि घट-बढ़ सकती है तदनुसार अग्रघन की राशि देय होगी।
- निविदा शुल्क एवं अग्रघन की राशि केवल Online Mode द्वारा स्वीकार्य होगी।
- निविदा शुल्क एवं अग्रघन की राशि का ई-मुद्राणन पिस खाता से किया जायेगा, उसी खाते में अग्रघन की राशि वापस होगी। अगर खाता को बंद कर दिया जाता है तो उसकी सारी जवाबदेही आपकी होगी।
- विस्तृत जानकारी के लिए वेबसाइट www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in एवं कार्यालय की सूचना पत्र पर देखा जा सकता है।
- कार्यपालक अभियंता
ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, पाकुड़।

PR 331712 Rural Work Department(24-25)D

Harris has secured enough Democratic delegate votes to become her party's nominee, chair says: Vice President Kamala Harris has secured enough votes from delegates to become her party's nominee for president, Democratic National Committee Chair Jaime Harrison said Friday.

CANCELLATION OF MAITREE EXPRESS & BANDHAN EXPRESS
As per message received from Bangladesh Railways, 13107 Dhaka-Kolkata Maitree Express (JCO 04.08.2024) & 13108 Kolkata-Dhaka Maitree Express (JCO 05.08.2024) and 13129 Kolkata-Khulna Bandhan Express (JCO 04.08.2024) & 13130 Khulna-Kolkata Bandhan Express (JCO 04.08.2024) will remain cancelled. Inconvenience to be caused to the passengers is deeply regretted.
Chief Passenger Transportation Manager

EASTERN RAILWAY
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RESTORATION OF SERVICES OF SOME EMU TRAINS IN BANDEL - KATWA SECTION
In reference to the earlier notification regarding regulation of trains due to traffic and power block for 11 days from 15.07.2024 (Monday) to 07.08.2024 (Wednesday) intermittently between Patuli & Nabadwip Dham and Dainhat & Purbasthali stations for track maintenance work, it is to be stated that the track maintenance work has been completed and the services will be restored as under:
● Restoration of EMU trains on 05.08.2024 and 07.08.2024: from Bandel - 37751 and from Katwa - 37746. ● EMU trains will run on scheduled path on 05.08.2024 and 07.08.2024: (1) 37749 will not be short terminated at Nabadwip Dham i.e. 37749 will run as per schedule on 05.08.2024 and 07.08.2024. (2) 37748 will not be short originated from Nabadwip Dham i.e. 37748 will run as per schedule on 05.08.2024 and 07.08.2024. ● EMU train will not be controlled enroute. Passengers are requested to follow the public Address System of Stations.
Divisional Railway Manager, Howrah

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MORE
TENDER ADS
ON
PAGE 4 & 5

CENTRE FOR CULTURAL RESOURCES AND TRAINING
(Under the aegis of Ministry of Culture Govt. of India)
15-A, Sector-07, Dwarka, New Delhi-110075
Advt. No.: CCRT/11011/02/2024/03

Recruitment of Group 'A' posts in CCRT

Applications are invited for the following posts on Deputation basis in CCRT. The vacancy details are as under:

Sl. No.	Name of the Post	No. of Post	Pay Level	Mode of Recruitment
1.	Director	01	Pay Level-12 (Rs. 78,800-2,09,200) as per 7th CPC	On Deputation Basis
2.	Dy. Director (Finance)	01	Pay Level-11 (Rs.67,700-2,08,700) as per 7th CPC	

The detailed advertisement, prescribed Application Format and General instructions are available in the CCRT website: <https://ccrtindia.gov.in> The last date for receipt of the application is 28-08-2024 through proper channel.

Dy. Director (Administration)
CCRT, New Delhi
CBC 09127/12/0005/2425

ALL INDIA PENSION ADALAT - 2024

Eastern Railway Pensioners/ Family Pensioners having pension related grievances such as (1) Non-receipt of Pension/Family Pension, (2) Less payment of Pension/Family Pension, (3) Revision of Pension/Family Pension, (4) Non-receipt of Graded Relief & other Pensionary benefits and (5) Non-transfer of Pension by the Disbursing Agencies from one place to another etc., may submit their applications in the following format on or before 11.11.2024 to respective E-mail Id or Contact No. (Whatsapp) as mentioned against each unit for disposal of grievances in the Pension Adalats which are to be held from 12:00 hrs. onwards on 16.12.2024 (Monday) on physical mode.

FORMAT OF APPLICATION
(1) Name of the Applicant (Pensioner/Family Pensioner) (BLOCK LETTER):..... (2) Name of the Ex-Employee : (3) Designation/Department/Station (at the time of retirement/death): (4) P.P.O. No. (if available): (5) Date of retirement/death : (6) Last basic pay and scale of pay/Pay Band & GP/Level at the time of retirement/death : (7) Full Address with Mobile No. & Telephone No./E-mail ID: (8) Nature of Grievance (full details to be given):..... (9) Whether the grievance has been presented in any earlier Pension Adalat, if so, details to be furnished:

Signature of the Applicant

Name of Division/ Unit	To Whom application to be made with E-mail Address & Whatsapp Number	Venue
Headquarter Office	Sri Kartik Chandra Das, Dy. Chief Personnel Officer (NG), 17, N.S. Road, Kolkata-700001 Email Id: spongerkol@gmail.com Mob No.: 9002020651	Old Conference Room, Eastern Railway Headquarter, 17, N.S. Road, Kolkata - 700 001
Divisional Railway Manager, Howrah	Divisional Personnel Officer (II), Eastern Railway, Howrah Email Id: dpo2howrah@gmail.com Mob No.: 9002022623	PBRC Hall, Divisional Railway Manager's Building, Howrah
Divisional Railway Manager, Sealdah	Sri Ekalabya Chakraborty, Divisional Personnel Officer-II, Eastern Railway, Sealdah Email Id: ekalabyachakraborty@gmail.com Mob No.: 9002021195	Dr. B C Roy Auditorium, Divisional Railway Manager's Office, Eastern Railway, Sealdah
Divisional Railway Manager, Asansol	Sri Swapnil Bandhopadhyay, Assistant Personnel Officer-II, Eastern Railway, Asansol Email Id: settersas20@gmail.com Mob No.: 9002023623	New Meeting Room, Eastern Railway, Asansol
Divisional Railway Manager, Malda Town	Sri Dalpati Tudu, Assistant Personnel Officer-III, Eastern Railway, Malda Email Id: apoliimdt@gmail.com Mob No.: 9002024620	Railway Institute, Eastern Railway, Malda
Chief Works Manager, Liluah	Sri Purnendu Shekhar Sinha, Assistant Welfare Officer, C & W Workshop, Eastern Railway, Liluah Email Id: awolher@gmail.com Mob No.: 9002029602	New Meeting Room
Chief Works Manager, Kanchrapara	Sri Dinesh Chandra Tikader, Assistant Welfare Officer, Eastern Railway, Kanchrapara Email Id: awokpaer@gmail.com Mob No.: 9002027211	Chief Works Manager, Kanchrapara's Meeting Room
Chief Works Manager, Jamalpur	Sri Ashwini Kumar, Assistant Personnel Officer, Eastern Railway, Jamalpur Email Id: awo.erjmp@gmail.com Mob No.: 9771447630	Central Institute, Jamalpur

Issues like appointment on compassionate ground; issues related to Recovery of Penal/Damage Rent due to over retention of quarter etc.; Cases involving purely legal points e.g. Succession etc.; grievances involving policy matters; grievances in relation with sanction of secondary family pensions in favour of unmarried/divorced/widowed daughters, dependent disabled child/siblings, dependent parents etc. are not within the purview of Pension Adalats, hence shall not be entertained. Application format is also available in Personnel Department's Webpage (Homepage) under the website of Eastern Railway (www.er.indianrailways.gov.in)

Principal Chief Personnel Officer
EASTERN RAILWAY
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It is worrisome that the lives of politicians, advocates and common people in Tamil Nadu are under threat

TAMIL NADU BJP PRESIDENT K. ANNAMALAI CLAIMS THAT MURDERS HAVE BECOME COMMON IN THE STATE UNDER THE DMK'S RULE.

Fresh firing, arson in Manipur's Jiribam

It happened a day after Meitei & Hmar tribal groups held a peace meeting

AGENCIES IMPHAL, 3 AUGUST

A fresh incident of firing and arson took place in Manipur's Jiribam district, along southern Assam, a day after Meitei and Hmar tribal groups held a meeting for peace talks and resolved to make full efforts to bring normalcy and prevent incidents of arson and firing, officials said on Saturday.



A police official in Imphal said that a Meitei family's house was burnt and shots were fired at Lalpani village by the unidentified armed attackers on Friday night.

The official said that Lalpani village is an isolated settlement where Meitei community families were inhabited but most of the houses were abandoned after violence broke out in the district in the first week of June.

The unidentified armed cadres also fired several rounds of shells and gunshots, targeting the village but none was injured, he said.

Security forces comprising the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) and Manipur armed police were rushed to the area and launched a search operation to nab the attackers.

In a breakthrough in the almost 15-month-long ethnic conflict in Manipur, the Meitei and Hmar communities on Thursday have resolved to make full efforts to bring normalcy and prevent incidents of arson and firing.

Both sides agreed to give full cooperation to the administrations and all the security forces operating in Jiribam. Representatives of Meitei and Hmar Community of Jiribam District along with senior officials of Jiribam District Administration, CRPF, district Superintendent of Police,

and Assam Rifles Commandant were present in the meeting.

Jiribam witnessed a wave of violence after the killing of 59-year-old farmer Soibam Saratkumar Singh on 6 June, leading to 900 tribals belonging to the Kuki and Hmar communities taking shelter at the homes of relatives and friends in two villages in Cachar district of southern Assam, while around 1,000 people, mostly belonging to the Meitei community, are now sheltered in seven relief camps in Jiribam.

On 14 July, a CRPF jawan was killed and three other security personnel got injured when suspected militants ambushed a joint patrol party in Jiribam district.

The three injured include a CRPF jawan and two Manipur Police personnel.

Political slugfest in Ayodhya rape case: SP leaders demand DNA test of accused

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE LUCKNOW, 3 AUGUST

Political slugfest has erupted over the rape of a 12-year old girl in Ayodhya in which a Samajwadi Party leader has been accused.

Ruling BJP which was cornered by the opposition after the Lok Sabha poll results, took the opportunity to attack the SP as the accused reportedly was close to Ayodhya MP Awadhesh Prasad.

However chief Minister Yogi Adityanath ordered strict action and the bakery of the accused Moeed Khan was razed to ground on Saturday. The accused a SP office bearer in the district has been arrested along with another.

But now all political leaders are engaged in debate over the incident with SP leaders demanding that DNA tests should be done of the accused. A team of senior BJP leaders are likely to visit Ayodhya tomorrow to meet the victim's family.

Ruling BJP which was cornered by the Opposition after the LS poll results, took the opportunity to attack the SP as the accused reportedly was close to Ayodhya MP Awadhesh Prasad.

SP President Akhilesh Yadav commenting on the social site X, said, "In case of misdeeds, the way to justice should be found by conducting DNA test of those accused and not by doing politics just by making allegations."

He further said, "Whoever is guilty should be given full punishment as per law, but if the allegations are proved false after DNA test, then the government officials involved should also not be spared. This is the demand of justice."

This statement of Akhilesh Yadav has come several days after the speech given by Chief

Minister Yogi Adityanath in the Assembly in which he had described SP as the protector of criminals and reiterated that strict action will be taken against every criminal. But immediately after the statement of Akhilesh Yadav, BSP President Mayawati retorted and asked him how many DNA tests were conducted during the SP government regime.

Mayawati in a statement on social media X wrote that the strict action being taken by the UP government against the accused in the Ayodhya gang rape case is justified.

"But what should be understood by SP saying that DNA test of the accused should be done. Whereas SP should also tell how many DNA tests have been conducted against such accused in their government," she questioned.

Mayawati further said that amidst the increasing concerns regarding crime control and law and order in UP, especially regarding women's safe-

ty and harassment, the incidents of Ayodhya and Lucknow are very sad and worrying. It would be better if the government rises above caste, community and politics and takes strict steps to solve these problems. UP minister and NISHAD Party chief Dr. Sanjay Nishad also reached Ayodhya and met the family members of the victim on Saturday.

He said why Akhilesh Yadav is silent in this matter? Why has the accused not been expelled from the party?

Thanking CM Yogi Adityanath for action against the accused, Sanjay Nishad said that the CM has worked to provide justice to the Nishad community by taking strict and prompt action against the accused.

FESTIVE MOOD



Shahzada Nand College students and faculty members dressed in traditional attire perform 'Gidda' dance as they take part in the Teej festival celebrations, in Amritsar on Saturday.

Tata's semiconductor plant in Assam to be operational by 2025: Chandrasekaran

AGENCIES NEW DELHI, 3 AUGUST

The semiconductor industry is a foundation industry for the future and chips are going to be part of almost everything people do in their daily lives, Chairman of Tata Group N Chandrasekaran said on Saturday after the 'bhoomi puja' of the Tata's semiconductor unit in Morigaon in Assam, which will be set up with an investment of Rs 27,000 crore.

He expressed confidence that part of the facilities will be completed sometime in 2025 and operations will start quickly. Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma performed 'bhoomi puja' of the facility in Jagiroad with

Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma performed 'bhoomi puja' of the facility in Jagiroad with Chandrasekaran and the unit is expected to generate 15,000 direct and 11,000 to 13,000 indirect jobs.

Chandrasekaran and the unit is expected to generate 15,000 direct and 11,000 to 13,000 indirect jobs.

"The semiconductor industry is a foundation industry for the future. Chips are going to be part of everything we do in our daily lives, industrial life and consumer lives. Be it the electronics industry, automobiles, mobile technology, defence, healthcare, or other consumer products, everything

will have a chip going forward, multiple chips, and this technology is fast progressing. With the adoption of artificial intelligence, all this will accelerate," Chandrasekaran told mediapersons.

He said every country is trying to get into this space.

"Globally, there are very few nations which have the capability. So India, under the visionary leadership of Narendra Modi, took a very bold step and the Tata Group is extremely thankful and proud to be part of this initiative. We are building the entire electronics value chain. We have a big manufacturing facility as we call it EMS in South India, in Tamil Nadu near Bengaluru. Then we have the elec-

tronics assembly unit and packaging unit in Karnataka. Now we are creating this very advanced semiconductor assembly and test facility here in Assam. We are also putting a fab in Valera, Gujarat. Then we are also setting up a design house. With this, we will play in the entire value chain," he said.

In his speech, Chandrasekaran said the facility in Assam will create a semiconductor ecosystem.

The Assam Chief Minister said that as per the group's assessment, the unit will be completed within 18 months.

Union IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said the plant will be very big and manufacture about 4.83 crore chips per day.

UPCM reviews Kakori Train Action Centenary Festival event

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE LUCKNOW, 3 AUGUST

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, on Saturday, reviewed the preparations for the Kakori Train Action Centenary Festival and Har Ghar Tiranga program in a high-level meeting at his official residence and gave necessary guidelines to the officials.



festival of Kakori Train Action will start from 9 August.

On this occasion, programs would be organized on a large scale at the memorials/sites of martyrs and the banks of Amrit Sarovars in the state. The families of the martyrs, the families of freedom fighters, and ex-servicemen would be honored in the ceremony.

CM said the cooperation and participation of school chil-

dren, teenagers and youth should be ensured in these programs. Booklets should be prepared on Kakori Train Action and other events of the freedom struggle from 1857 to 1947, places as well as known and anonymous heroes of the freedom struggle.

Competitions like Prabhatheri, General Knowledge, Painting, Calligraphy-Essay, Debate, Speech etc. should be organized.

Winners of various competitions should be awarded at district and state levels. Winning children should also be taken on a tour of Kakori Memorial Site.

Make a 'logo' for the Kakori Train Action Centenary Festival. It should be used in various programs organized throughout the year.

Shaheed Mela should be

organized in Lucknow and Shahjahanpur.

Indigenous products should be encouraged in the exhibitions to be held as part of the Mela. Kavi Sammelans related to patriotism should be organized.

Besides, the CM said Har Ghar Tiranga Abhiyan should be organized in the entire state from August 9 to August 15. Uttar Pradesh has set a record of hoisting the maximum number of flags under the Har Ghar Tiranga Abhiyan in the recent years.

In view of the Har Ghar Tiranga Abhiyan, the supply of flags should be ensured by the concerned departments.

He said better arrangements should be made for people to buy flags and correct information about hoisting the flag should be provided using

various mediums. But plastic flags must not be used at all.

Meanwhile, the Chief Minister was informed that under the Kakori Train Action Centenary Festival, postal cover will be issued in coordination with the Postal Department. Kakori Shaurya Gatha Express mobile exhibition train will be operated through the Ministry of Railways.

The festival will feature various programs related to the Kakori Train Action, covering topics such as "Glorious saga of the Freedom Struggle," "National Reflection and Thought," "Salute to the Martyrs," "Environmental Protection as a Lifestyle," "Cultural Heritage and Glorious History," and "Dedication and Service to the Nation," among others.

Six more arrested in UP for making fake certificates

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE RAE BAREILY, 3 AUGUST

Anti-Terrorist Squad (ATS) of Uttar Pradesh police along with Rae Bareilly police have arrested six more people involved in making fake birth and other certificates in the state.

The arrested accused are from Sonbhadra, Sant Kabir Nagar, Gorakhpur, Kushinagar, Pratapgarh and Moradabad districts. Three tablets, 11 mobile phones, seven laptops, credit and debit cards have been recovered from them. The arrested accused were creating fake evidence from the login ID of a BDO.

According to Rae Bareilly

Superintendent of Police Abhishek Aggarwal here on Saturday, the arrested accused used to make fake certificates to avail and get benefits of government schemes. Their Rohingya and Bangladeshi connections are being investigated. Now UP ATS will also interrogate all the accused.

Earlier four people including one Zeeshan and BDO Vijay Singh were arrested for making 19,400 fake certificates in Nuruddinpur, Sirsira, Garhi Islamnagar and Gopalpur villages of Salon area of Rae Bareilly district.

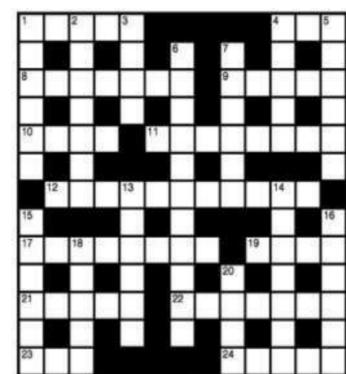
On Friday night, on the information of ATS, Rae Bareilly police Govind Keshari of Sonbhadra, Akash Kasoud-

han of Sant Kabir Nagar, Salman Ali of Gorakhpur, Sanjeev Kumar Singh of Kushinagar, Vaibhav Upadhaya of Pratapgarh and Shahnawaz of Moradabad.

SP Abhishek Aggarwal revealed that the arrested accused used to make fake certificates from the ID of jailed BDO Vijay Singh, whose ID was opened on many sites. These people had created a WhatsApp group, through which dealing in fake certificates was done. There are people associated with fraud in this group. The accused used to make amendments even in the Aadhaar card. Due to this, it is being investigated more thoroughly, SP said.

LEISURE

10 MINUTE CROSSWORD



ACROSS: 1 Hernia support (5), 4 Golf peg (3), 8 Distinguished musician (7), 9 Pick-me-up (5), 10 Skin eruption (4), 11 Abroad (8), 12 Rude (3-8), 17 Various (8), 19 Sharpen (4), 21 Accumulate (5), 22 Crash together (7), 23 Owing (3), 24 Small coin (5). DOWN: 1 Tone quality (6), 2 Implement (7), 3 Satisfy fully (4), 4 Taut (5), 5 Cut out (6), 6 Public lavatory (11), 7 Go without food (6), 13 Swampy tract of land (6), 14 Sentiment (7), 15 Potential danger (6), 16 Cure (6), 18 Additional (5), 20 Undergarment (4).

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD: ACROSS: 13 Ultra-marine, 14 Runway, 15 Plunge, 16 Move, 17 Index, 18 Natal, 19 Valid, 20 Lot, 21 Liason, 22 Texas, 23 Rue, 24 Artist. DOWN: 1 Gabe, 2 Entangled, 3 German measles, 4 Onset, 5 Eel, 6 Shine, 7 Bare, 12 Sanitiser, 14 Runway, 15 Plunge, 16 Move, 17 Index, 20 Lot.

BEEBLE BAILEY/Mort Walker



RED EYE/Bill Yates & Mel Casson



DADDY DAZE/John Kovaleski



NEED TO KNOW

Ambulance: FD Block Association (Amb) 9830452536, 9830181286. Happy Calcuttans 24400160. City Point Nurses Centre 2567-4113, 9831142623. People's Relief Committee 2280-4943/9444. 24 hrs Medical Oxygen Delivery: BOC India Ltd. 9831277777. Blood Banks: Ashok Laboratory 24720333, Central Blood Bank 23510619. Life Care 2284-6940, Peoples Blood Bank 2455-5164/5557, RK Mission Seva Pratisthan 2475-3636/39. Police/Fire: Lalbazar (Police Control Room) 22143230, S.P. (North 24-Pgns) 25423005, S.P. (South 24-Pgns) 2479-3333/1317, 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.

SCRABBLE BRAND G R A M S

Scrabble word search grid with words: HORGOT, INVADE, DALMON, BELINDA, HORGOT, INVADE, DALMON, BELINDA. Includes a list of words and their scores.

SUDOKU Concepts Sudoku

Sudoku puzzle grid with numbers 7, 5, 8, 2, 9, 7, 2, 1, 9, 3, 2, 4, 9, 5, 3, 2, 4, 2, 8, 5, 4, 3, 6, 7, 8, 2, 7, 4, 6. Includes difficulty level and author information.

There was never any doubt about Khelif & Lin being women: IOC Prez defends under-fire boxers

Khelif outpunched Angela Carini in the round of 16 of their welterweight bout on Thursday before the Italian stopped after 46 seconds

TRIDIB BAPARNASH
NEW DELHI, 3 AUGUST

A couple of days after two boxers - Algeria's Imane Khelif and Taiwan's double world champion Lin Yu-ting - found themselves in the middle of a raging gender dispute, International Olympic Committee (IOC) president Thomas Bach on Saturday defended the decision to allow the duo to take part in the ongoing Paris Olympics, and stated that "there was never any doubt about them being women."

Lin Yu-Ting and Image Khelif's qualification for the Paris Olympics 2024 by the IOC came under scrutiny despite being disqualified at the 2023 World Championships in New Delhi after failing the International Boxing Association (IBA) eligibility rules that prevent athletes with male XY chromosomes competing in women's events.

The IOC last year stripped the IBA of its status as boxing's governing body over govern-

ance issues, and took charge of the Paris 2024 boxing competition.

"We are talking about women's boxing. We have two boxers who were born as women, raised as women, who have passports as women and who have competed for many years as women and this is a clear definition of a woman," Bach said.

"There was never any doubt about them being women."

The IOC president said that the committee would not be associated with a "politically motivated cultural war". He also condemned the hate that was being spread across the internet against the boxers.

"We will not take part in a politically motivated, sometimes politically motivated cultural war. And allow me to say that what is going on in this context, in the social media with all this hate speech, with this aggression and abuse, and fuelled by this agenda, is totally unacceptable."

The participation of the



boxers has caused a furore in social media after people like J. K. Rowling and Elon Musk voicing their opposition to them competing in the Games.

Khelif outpunched Angela Carini in the round of 16 of their welterweight bout on Thursday before the Italian stopped after 46 seconds, with the Algerian's dominant performance further fanning the debate.

The IBA on Friday promised to pay the defeated athlete \$50,000 in prize money.

Boxing to continue in Olympics

Emphasising on the formation of a new global body to govern the sport, Bach said the IOC wanted to keep box-

ing in the Olympics given the social role it plays, especially for underprivileged parts of society.

"Very clearly yes," he said when asked if he wanted to see boxing in future Olympics.

"Boxing is one of the most global sports, a sport with very high social values. In any country many boxers tend to



come from underprivileged parts of society and boxing offers them many opportunities not only on the field of play but also off the field of play."

He said that was also true for women and Khelif was proof of that.

"This is why it is even more

deplorable with what is happening with Imane on social media. Because she has made it very clear that she is standing for the rights of women in her country and boxing gives the opportunity to express herself and gives her the confidence to do so," Bach said.

IBA's defamation campaign

The IOC president said that the International Boxing Association (IBA), led by Umar Kremlev, a Russian businessman, resorted to a defamation campaign against France, against the Games and the IOC after the former's recognition was withdrawn.

"What we have seen from the Russian side and in particular from international federation from which we had to withdraw the recognition, that they have undertaken way before these Games a defamation campaign against France, against the Games, against the IOC," Bach said.

"They have made a number of comments in this respect which I don't want to repeat."

"I would ask everybody to respect these women, to respect them as women and as human beings. When you speak about human rights then you have the human right of every woman to participate in a women's competition," Bach said.

New National Cricket Academy facility to open shortly in Bengaluru, says Jay Shah



AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, 3 AUGUST

Jay Shah, the Secretary of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), has said that a new facility of the National Cricket Academy (NCA)

will be opening shortly in Bengaluru.

"Very excited to announce that the BCCI's new National Cricket Academy (NCA) is almost complete and will be opening shortly in Bengaluru. The new NCA will feature

three world-class playing grounds, 45 practice pitches, indoor cricket pitches, an Olympic-size swimming pool and state-of-the-art training, recovery and sports science facilities," Jay Shah wrote in a social media post on Saturday.

"This initiative will help our nation's current and future cricketers develop their skills in the best possible environment," wrote Shah in his post on 'X' with the pictures of the new NCA facility being completed," he said in his post on X.

In February 2022, Shah and Sourav Ganguly, the BCCI President at that time, announced the construction of a new NCA facility on 45 acres of land in Devanahalli Taluk, near the Bengaluru International Airport. The BCCI had secured the land on a 99-year lease from the Kar-

nataka Industrial Areas Development Board (KIADB) for around INR 50 crore.

As of now, since the NCA was established in 2000, it has been running on the premises of the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru. The Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA) had rented out to the BCCI its Ground B for outdoor practice, besides an indoor practice facility, and separate space for a modern gymnasium in the Chinnaswamy Stadium premises. Currently, it is also used for the rehabilitation of injured players.

In the last few years, it has been felt that the infrastructure near the land packet near the Chinnaswamy Stadium was not sufficient for further expansion of the facility. Because of this, the BCCI decided to set up a new NCA complex.

Tajinderpal Singh Toor's run at Paris Olympics concludes, fails to breach qualification mark in men's shot put

AGENCIES
PARIS, 3 AUGUST

India's challenge in the men's shot put at the ongoing Paris Olympics ended after Tajinderpal Singh Toor crashed out of the qualification round.

A two-time Asian Games gold medallist who boasts his prowess in the shot put with a personal best of 21.77m looked off his game.

Often considered the pioneer in shot put, Toor slouched to 15th position in Group A, with 18.05m as his best throw in three attempts.

Toor needed to breach the top 12 to qualify for the final. However, after an 18.05m attempt, followed by two foul throws, Tajinder's run in the Paris Olympics came to a dreadful end.

After his first throw, Toor took 14th place and stood in contention for featuring in the final. In his second attempt, his throw looked well short,



and his throw was deemed invalid after the red flag was raised, indicating a foul attempt.

In his third and final attempt, he needed to go past Portugal's Tsanko Arnaudov's throw of 20.09m to breach the qualification mark. But his third throw was

deemed as a foul throw yet again, bringing an end to his run at the Paris Olympics.

Italy's shotputter Leonardo Fabbrì topped Group A with a throw of 21.76m. The second place was occupied by Czech Olympic athlete Tomas Stanek, who covered a distance of 21.61m.

Toor, who was born and raised in Punjab's Khosa Pando village, has numerous accolades to his name. In the 2017 Asian Athletics Championships, Toor bagged silver. In the 2018 Asian Games, he returned to India with a gold medal.

In the 2019 Asian Athletics Championships, 2023 Asian Indoor Athletics Championships and 2023 Asian Games, Toor stood at the top of the podium with a gold medal around his neck.

During his career, with a throw of 21.49m, he broke the 12-year-old Asian record of 21.13m. The record that he topped was set by Saudi Arabia's Sultan Abdulmajeed Al-Hebshi.

Toor held the record until June 2024. His attempt was eventually eclipsed by Saudi Arabia's shotputter Mohamed Daouda Tolo in an athletics meet in Madrid.

Indian archer Bhajan Kaur crashes out in Round of 16, loses in shoot-off

AGENCIES
PARIS, 3 AUGUST

India archer Bhajan Kaur crashed out of the individual women's archery event in the Round of 16 after going down to Indonesia's Diananda Choirunisa in the Paris Olympics on Saturday.

Kaur was tied at 5-5 (0-2, 2-0, 0-2, 1-1, 2-0) with the match going to shoot-off.

The Indian archer was chasing her Indonesian counterpart throughout the contest. In the decider fourth set, Bhajan arrowed a crucial 10 on her final shot to force a shoot-off.

The 18-year-old lost the game in the shoot-off narrowly as she managed to hit 8 in response to Choirunisa's 9.

Before this fixture, the



other archer Deepika Kumari was in action during her Round of 16 match against Germany's Michelle Kroppen.

Deepika won 6-4 (2-0, 1-1, 2-0, 0-2, 1-1) against her German opponent in the Round of 16 match at the Les Invalides.

The Indian archer started

with a dominating performance as she won the first 27-24. In the second set, Deepika got hits of 10, 8 and 9. While her German opponent displayed a consistent performance and hit three consecutive 9s.

Deepika made a come-

back and won the third set to take a 5-1 in the match. The Indian archer failed to showcase a consistent performance and lost the fourth set. However, Deepika tied the fifth set to make her place in the quarter-finals.

Earlier in the day, India

shooter Manu Bhaker finished fourth in the women's 25m pistol shooting event at the ongoing Paris Olympics on Saturday.

Manu came close to becoming the first Indian to win three medals at the Summer Games. However, the 22-year-old missed the chance after finishing in fourth place in the women's 25m pistol shooting event.

Manu's voyage came to an end when she was pitted in a shoot-off against the former world record holder Veronika Major of Hungary as they were tied at 28 points.

Jiin Yang of South Korea secured the top spot to clinch the gold medal. Camille Jedrejewski of France had to settle for second place. Veronika Major finished in third place.

SPORTSMANSHIP



The inauguration ceremony of the Reserve Bank of India-hosted All India Public Sector Football Tournament 2024-25. MOUL MONDAL

France beat Argentina to advance to men's soccer semis

AGENCIES
PARIS, 3 AUGUST

France reached the men's soccer semifinals of the Paris Olympics after beating Argentina 1-0 on Friday.

French striker Jean-Philippe Mateta muscled in a header following a corner kick from Michael Olise in the fifth minute, which turned out to be the sole goal of the game, reported Xinhua.

Argentina's best chance came in the 36th minute when a cross found Soungoutou Magassa unmarked before the goal, but the defender's close-range header flew over the bar.

In the semifinal, France will face Egypt, which labored to beat Paraguay on penalties.

Both sides fought to a 1-



1 draw in overtime, dragging the game into shoot-out.

Egypt prevailed by 5-4 in the penalty kicks after their

goalkeeper Alaa Hamza saved Marcelo Perez's effort from the spot.

Paraguay looked to stand a better chance after Diego Gomez's goal put them 1-0 up in the 71st minute.

Egypt held their nerve and equalized in the 88th minute through Adel Ibrahim who scored on an assist from Zizo.

In the other semifinal, Spain will take on Morocco. Spain thrashed Japan 3-0 thanks to a brace from Fermin Lopez and Abel Ruiz's goal. Japan hit the woodwork twice and had a goal disallowed during the game.

Morocco hammered the United States 4-0. The African team imposed a tight control on the game as they managed eight shots on goal against the American side's one throughout the match.

Termination of Anwar Ali's contract was 'without just cause', AIFC panel tells Mohun Bagan

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, 3 AUGUST

The All India Football Federation (AIFC) Players' Status Committee issued an interim order on Saturday addressing the contentious termination of a loan agreement by player Anwar Ali with his club, Mohun Bagan Super Giant.

The Committee, after hearing arguments from both parties during a meeting held on Friday, determined that Ali's termination of the contract was "without a just cause."

This decision has profound implications for the involved parties, setting the stage for a thorough examination of the consequences stemming from the player's



actions. The Committee has emphasised that the appropriate remedy for the respondent club, Mohun Bagan Super Giant, lies in seeking damages, compensation, and other associated outcomes as stipulated by relevant regulations.

Citing Article 6.3 of the AIFC Rules Governing the Procedures of the AIFC PSC June 2021 (Rules), the Committee has identified Delhi FC and East Bengal FC as affected parties. Consequently, these clubs have been invited to submit their written responses regard-

ing the matter.

Additionally, both Anwar Ali and Mohun Bagan Super Giant have been granted the opportunity to provide further replies, specifically addressing the issue of compensation and other potential consequences resulting from the contract termination. These submissions are to be made by August 8, 2024.

Upon receipt of all responses, the Committee will schedule a subsequent hearing to definitively resolve the issues of compensation and any other ramifications of the termination. This case underscores the intricate dynamics of player-club agreements and the regulatory framework governing such disputes in Indian football.





'INDIAN HOCKEY TEAM WILL WIN GOLD'

Former India hockey player Mir Ranjan Negi is hopeful that the men's team will turn the colour of Tokyo Olympics bronze into gold in Paris. In the Tokyo Olympics, India's men's hockey team made history by ending 41 years of wait for a medal in the event. The Indian hockey team came from behind, overturned a 3-1 deficit and clinched a historic 5-4 win over Germany. In the ongoing Paris Olympics, under head coach Craig Fulton, the Indian team have gone from strength to strength throughout their campaign. India scripted history on Thursday against Australia by registering their first win in 52 years. Even against the mighty Belgium, India gave them a handful of trouble throughout the game despite falling short with a 2-1 defeat.

For more updates www.thestatesman.com

Rohit disappointed at India's collapse in first ODI vs Sri Lanka

Both the teams will now face off in the second of the three-match series on Sunday, with the third game slated for Wednesday.



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 3 AUGUST

Disappointed after India failed to chase down 231 in the first ODI in Colombo, India skipper Rohit Sharma felt that the target was achievable but he was proud of the way the team fought till the last. In a game where the fortunes swung back and forth, India seemed to be heading towards a win after Shivam

Dube smashed Wanindu Hasaranga for a six in the 47th over followed by a four in the next over by Charith Asalanka. At that point, the visitors needed one run from 15 balls with two wickets left and had the set Dube on strike. But the game took a dramatic turn when Sri Lankan skipper Charith Asalanka trapped Dube in front with one that slid on with the angle. A successful review from Sri Lanka meant India were

suddenly down to their No.11 Arshdeep Singh needing to score a run to win the game. Asalanka sent down another slider on the stumps and Arshdeep's slog sweep hit thin air, the ball striking his back pad. The home side erupted in a huge roar as the umpire raised his fingers, Sri Lanka pulling the game back from the brink. Acknowledging the fact that the score was easily gettable with 14 balls in hand, Rohit said, "The score was get-



table, just that you had to bat well to get there. We batted well in patches. Disappointed to not get 1 run with 14 balls, but won't read [into it] too much. The bite was there at the start and then the ball became softer as the seam wore off." "It was not a game where you can play your shots, [you] had to apply yourself and dig in. Proud of how we fought, it was important to hold our nerve. But we should have got that one run," he added. Coming off a 0-3 loss in the T20I series, where the final game was tied too before India won the Super Over, Sri Lanka showed promising signs with bat and ball to keep themselves in the game. The home side had India at 132/5 and 197/7, but it needed a bit of magic from Asalanka's part-time off-spin for

Sri Lanka to tie the contest. Asalanka later revealed the decision to bowl himself was prompted by the presence of the left-handed Dube. "The left-hander came in, and thought I can bowl to them because it spun a lot. We felt 230 was enough, although we should have done better to restrict them further. It was not easy to bowl [in the second innings], in the afternoon it turned a bit more. When the lights came on, it came easier onto the bat," the captain said. This was the second tied men's ODI between India and Sri Lanka. The first came in Adelaide in 2012 in the Commonwealth Bank Series when both teams finished on 236. Both the teams will now face off in the second of the three-match series on Sunday, with the third game slated for Wednesday.

Satwik-Chirag's mentor Mathias Boe steps down after duo's Paris exit



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 3 AUGUST

India's doubles badminton coach Mathias Boe has announced that he will be stepping away from coaching 'for now at least'. The Dane's announcement follows the Indian pair of Chirag Shetty and Satwiksairaj Rankireddy's exit from the Paris 2024 Olympics men's doubles competition. Boe, a former world No. 1 and men's doubles silver medalist from London 2012, said his coaching days end here, and he won't be continuing in India or anywhere else, 'for now at least'. "I know the feeling all too well myself. Pushing yourself to the limit everyday, to be in the best shape of your life, and then things don't go as you would have hoped for.

I know you guys are gutted, I know how much you wanted to bring a medal back to India, but this time it wasn't meant to be," Boe captioned an image of himself with Chirag and Satwik on his social media handle. "For me, my coaching days end here, I'm not going to continue in India or anywhere else, for now at least. I have spent too much time in a badminton hall and it's also pretty stressful to be a coach, I'm a tired old man," added the 43-year-old. He also thanked everyone for their support and signed off with a Jai Hind. Boe had also coached Indian doubles teams, including Chirag and Satwik, at Tokyo 2020, before being released by the Badminton Association of India (BAI). However, he was reappointed in his role after BAI failed

to secure the services of Malaysia's Tan Kim Her as the new coach. Boe's second stint with the Indian team was immensely fruitful, particularly for Satwik-Chirag. The Indian duo won a bronze medal at the 2022 world championships and a gold at the 2022 Commonwealth Games in Birmingham. In 2023, SatCh became the Asian Games champions and won the Asian Championships gold before becoming the first Indian badminton doubles team to rise to the top of the world rankings. The Indian doubles aces also won several top-tier BWF World Tour tournaments, including the Super 1000 Indonesia Open in 2023, under Boe, who's married to Bollywood actor Taapsee Pannu.

India's bid for maiden archery medal ends with Deepika's 4-6 defeat in quarters



AGENCIES
PARIS, 3 AUGUST

India's final hope of a medal in archery, four-time Olympian Deepika Kumari lost 4-6 against South Korea's Nam Su-Hyeon in the women's individual quarterfinal match, ending India's campaign in the Paris Olympics archery competition without a medal. Despite starting strongly with a 28-26 win in the first set and a 29-28 victory in the third which saw Deepika oneset away from victory with a 4-2 lead to her name, the Indian lost the final two sets 29-27, 29-27 to go down in the quarterfinal match which would have taken her one win away from securing a medal. Deepika stormed into the quarterfinals of the Women's Individual 1/8 Elimination Round with a 6-4 win against Germany's Kroppen Michelle whereas Bhajan Kaur lost 5-6 to Indonesia's Choirunisa Diananda in the shoot-off round earlier on Saturday. This is the second time in two days that an Indian archer has come close to winning a medal in the Paris Olympics. On Friday, India's Dhiraj Bommadevara and Ankita Bhakat had lost 6-2 to USA's Brady Ellison and Casey Kaufhold in the bronze medal match in the Mixed Team event. The Indians were believed to be medal contenders in the Team events but both the men's and women's teams crashed out in the quarterfinals despite finishing in good positions in the selection round. All three male archers had lost in the preliminary rounds, failing to make it to the medal rounds.

Paris 2024: Narang hails performance of shooters; confident of more medals from other events

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 3 AUGUST

The Indian shooting contingent at the ongoing Paris Olympics has surpassed expectations, with three bronze medals in the kitty so far. Though Manu Bhaker narrowly missed out on adding a third medal to her kitty as she finished a heartbreaking fourth in the 25m pistol shooting on Saturday, she will return home as the only Indian to have ever won two medals at the same Olympic Games. She won a bronze medal in Women's 10m Air Pistol event, and then followed it up with another Bronze win along with Sarabjot Singh in the 10m Air Pistol Mixed-Team event. Swapnil Kusale's stunning bronze medal-winning performance in the 50m Rifle 3 Positions event also gave Indian sporting fans an opportunity to celebrate. "It has been an emotional first week in Paris, with shooting giving us a head start in the medal tally. I am overwhelmed with happiness to see Manu, Sarabjot and Swapnil win medals at the same time," India's Chef-de-Mission for Paris Olympics and former Olympic Bronze medallist said. "I remember competing alongside Swapnil in 2017 at the Commonwealth Championship in Gold Coast, where he claimed the Bronze medal after giving me a tough fight for the Silver medal. It is truly emotional to see him reaching this level and achieving his dream of winning an Olympic medal for India, and that too, on the same day when I had won mine in 2012 in London. It almost feels like destiny," he added. "I am so proud of Arjun Babuta as well, who finished fourth in the tough 10m Air Rifle event. This is perhaps the greatest show by Indian shooters in the history of the Games," Gagan further said. The Indian athletes also



noted several other remarkable achievements in Paris, with both Manika Batra and Sreeja Akula, creating history by reaching the Round of 16 in Table Tennis. Meanwhile, the Indian Men's Hockey Team defeated Australia in Group stage match, their first win at the Olympics against the former Champions since 1972 Olympics in Munich. They will take on Great Britain in the quarterfinal on Sunday. India's Dhiraj Bommadevara and Ankita Bhakat finished fourth in the mixed team event on Friday to secure India's best result in archery at the Summer Games. In the bronze medal match against the USA's Brady Ellison and Casey Kaufhold, Bommadevara and Bhakat lost 6-2, but missed on a historic podium finish. "I am delighted to see our athletes rising up to the occasion and delivering such outstanding performances. My heartiest congratulations to all the medal winners so far and all the major achievers in Paris so far. Their performances have shown how much India has grown as a sporting nation over the past decade. I am confident that we are going to win more medals in Paris," Narang said. But while the Indian sporting fans are celebrating the successful run, Narang stressed the need to not forget the athletes who managed to make the tough road to Paris in the first place. "As an athlete, it is everyone's dream to compete at

the Olympics, but only a few earn the opportunity after years of hard work. The margins in the Olympics are so less that there's no difference in preparation between the 1st place and 8th place. While winning medals is important, it is equally important to acknowledge our athletes' efforts for their years of hard work and sacrifice. As a nation, we must celebrate all our Olympians irrespective of the results," he said. India's top medal prospects in badminton - two-time Olympic medallist PV Sindhu and the dynamic pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty - bowed out of the tournament on Thursday after hard-fought battles. Promising boxer Preeti Sai Panwar was eliminated after losing in the women's 54 kg Round of 16 against Colombia's Yeni Marcela Arias Castaneda. The 20-year-old shooter Ramita also became only the second Indian female shooter after Suma Shirur to reach the Final in Rifle event, but missed out on a medal. Gagan praised all the athletes for their performances and said that they will be motivated to scale even higher after their results in Paris. "I have had my fair share of disappointments in major tournaments. But every time I was unable to achieve the result I desired, I was motivated to do even better and I worked hard for it. All the athletes who were unable to win a medal will have a fire burning brighter in them and they will learn from their opponents and will be inspired to perform even better," he said. "I am confident all our Indians athletes are capable of winning medals. They already have made the nation proud reaching so far in their careers, and have sparked a sporting revolution in the country, helping the upcoming generation of athletes to weave golden dreams of their own," he signed off.

THE STATESMAN AWARDS FOR RURAL REPORTING

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

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

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

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

THE CUSHROW IRANI PRIZE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTING

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

THE AWARDS COMMITTEE

THE STATESMAN LIMITED
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IMPORTANT
Journalists wishing to submit the same report(s) for both prizes are requested to send separate entries. Last Date for the 2023 awards is 10 August 2024

For any query please write to prasantob57@gmail.com

Floating sounds of a forgotten flute, captured in lyrics of a mother tongue

DOLA MITRA



The tribute to Acharya Pannalal Ghosh by Kabir Suman was much more than the honouring of a genius relegated to the throes of oblivion. It was a sepia-tinted, nostalgic wake-up call to Calcutta, which whispered, through the ascending and descending notes of ragas, "Look around you and listen...to the lurking sounds...before it is too late."

Lately, Kabir Suman, who in the late 1980s and early 1990s pioneered a trendsetting genre of modern music fusing live wire lyrics with timeless tunes that defied scrutiny by purists' perfectionism, has delved deeply into the lost world of "Bengali Khayal." Kabir weaves the Bengali language brilliantly into Khayal, the classical vocal musical tradition of the Indian subcontinent, which, by and large, has been rendered only in a few esoteric languages. He, however, says that it is important to highlight that he is not the "inventor" of Bengali Khayal and that there have been renditions of this form earlier too.

"I did not invent Bangla Khayal. It was practiced long ago, but no one pursued it for a long time. I am trying to revive the great genre," he tells me.

One of Kabir's favourite stories, which he narrates with a great deal of satisfaction and mirth, is how a revered Bengali musician of the 1950s and 1960s, Satyakinkar Bandyopadhyay, chose a live radio program to start singing a Bengali Khayal song, knowing full well that the producers wouldn't be able to stop him in the middle of it. "If it was a recording, they could have stopped him," Kabir chuckles. Aghast, when the producers demanded to know, after the program, why he sang in Bengali, Satyakinkar apparently asked them to show him rulebooks that barred renditions of Khayal in Bengali. They could not, of course. In fact, when a few weeks later the then-central minister for information and broadcasting arrived in Kolkata, journalists asked him his views on Bengali Khayal. The minister said he thought there was nothing wrong with it. Kabir marvels at the sheer determination of Satya Kinkar Bandyopadhyay, who not only thus fought for Bengali Khayal but managed to extract a contract from the same national

radio station for several renditions of Bengali Khayal. Kabir says he is unsure if all the scheduled programs could take place as planned, but Satya Kinkar died soon after.

Kabir himself has faced opposition from purists who decry what they claim to be iconoclasm, but their criticism has been drowned out mostly by overwhelming support for his venture.

They include connoisseurs of Hindustani classical music.

Says Krishnaraj Iyengar, a musicologist, music writer and subject expert on Hindustani classical music, "While the lyrical content of khayal per se is essentially a vehicle to convey the melodic content, Bangla-Khayal seems quite a fresh avenue." He points out that other forms of Hindustani classical music are much more lyric-centric. "Unlike Ghazal, where the lyrics are emphasised for their poetic value with the melody as the vehicle, several great Hindustani vocalists across generations have believed that the lyrical pronunciations during Khayal singing don't necessarily have to be crystal-clear, as one can realise on listening to the recordings of many great masters like Ustads Faiyaz Khan, Abdul Karim Khan, Vilayat Hussain Khan, to name a few. While Khayal has been rendered in several Indian languages like Brij Bhasha and Punjabi (like many of Ustad Bade Ghulam Ali Khan's compositions), Ustad Amir Khan even famously composed Khayals and Taranas in Persian. A classic example is his Ram Kalyan, to name a few. However, one might consider the compatibility and harmony of Bengali lyrics with Khayal Gayaki's musical flavour and essence. After all, all the above-mentioned languages have been part of a larger region. Ustad Amir Khan too sang in Persian, which he pronounced in a South Asian manner rather than with the original Farsi accent, and hence, it sounded compatible with the core South Asian essence of Khayal. Bengali too, being a South Asian language, might harmonise with Khayal bandishes, which most northern Indian languages would, unless one sings Khayal in English, French or Swedish! Ultimately, for a knowledgeable listener, the Khayal lyrics dissolve in the melody of the bandish. And on a personal note, while I would think, 'if Khayals have been sung even in Persian, why not Bengali?' If the idea were to succeed, time will surely tell, as has been the case with all new creative ideas."



Pannalal Ghosh (24 July 1911 - 20 April 1960)

Panna Babu was one of the most important figures in Hindustani classical music history. As the pioneer and patriarch of the Indian Bansuri, he not only transformed the flute into a classical concert instrument on par with the Sitar, Sarangi or Sarod but also elevated it to a spiritual level. The very tone of his instrument was simply ethereal, meditative and therapeutic. Each of his renditions was deeply spiritual in essence. It is not surprising for a musician who, along with his brother, Tabla colossus Padmabhusan Pandit Nikhil Ghosh, had, at some point in his life, decided to become a monk! Both maestros have famously been associated with the Ramakrishna Mission.

An evolved genius that he was, Pandit Pannalal Ghosh, a man of tremendous physical strength, was even adept at martial arts and stick fighting. Also a master of vocal music and the Harmonium, his musicality encompassed both the melodic as well as the rhythmic realms. Along with his involvement in the film industry of his time, he did equal justice to folk music as well. In fact, there is an interesting anecdote about how, during a train journey to Kolkata, he heard a gypsy child (probably asking for alms) rendering a nectar-sweet folk tune. It is said that he paid her two rupees and learnt the tune from her, which is still rendered by the torchbearers of his tradition!

Born on the banks of the Keertankhola River in Barisal, East Bengal, the Ghosh brothers travelled to Kolkata and then to Bombay, where they made their mark in the music world. Panna Babu's involvement with the Independence Struggle is noteworthy. The original tune of 'Vande Mataram' in Raga Miyan ki Malhar was composed by him. Within a lifespan of just 48 years, Panna Babu's contribution to Indian music and heritage remains truly unparalleled.

Krishnaraj Iyengar
The writer is a subject expert in
Hindustani classical music

One of Kabir's and Bangla Khayal's well-wishers has been West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee, who readily responded to Kabir's request for creating a space for and allowing Bangla Khayal to be taught as a part of the state's cultural curriculum.

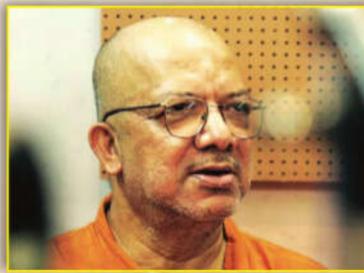
As part of his tribute to Acharya Pannalal Ghosh, Kabir composed a number of songs dedicated to the late legendary flautist in Bangla Khayal. One of them was "Jodi banshi taar baajey dure" (if the sounds of the beloved's flute float in from afar). He set it to "Raag Nupurdhwoni" one of Pannalal Ghosh's own creations.

Before singing the song, Kabir narrated the heartrending tale of how "Raag Nupurdhwoni" came about. Ghosh's two-year-old daughter Nupur had died, and the heartbroken flautist could only grieve through compositions of sounds. Raags created by Pannalal included Kumari, Deepabali, Chandraouli, Shuklapalashi.

Kabir points out that khayal bandishes have been written and sung in Maithili, Brajbuli,

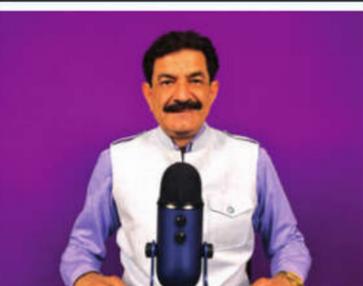
Thet, Urdu, Panjabi, Multani, Marathi, Sindhi, Pashtu, Dari. And he sang his tribute to Pannalal in Raag Nupurdhwoni in Bengali

"Jodi banshi taar baajey dure..." Kabir Suman sang. The sky had cleared up. But, even through drizzle-dotted afternoons, the mellifluous Khayal, even if in Bengali, surely reached very, very far. Onek onek durey.



A new learning paradigm

KISHORE AND SMITA IYENGAR



A new path-breaking incarnation of NLP (Neuro Linguistic Programming) offers renewed awareness and well-researched solutions to many troubled minds. Ram Verma, The NLP Man of India, is a subject expert and researcher who has leveraged a unique in-depth neuroscientific approach and practical hacks to problem-solving and dealing with core vital issues in health and wellbeing, personal, and professional life for over 33 years. With his infectious smile and robust energy, 'Ram Sir', as he is fondly called by millions of his YouTube and Instagram subscribers, leverages his 600+ dynamic podcasts, webinars and workshops to share various facets of his NLP 2.0 with insightful vision and conviction.

We spoke to him to understand his efforts to expand the integrated learning of this therapeutic revival.

Q. Ram Sir, you are recognised popularly as the 'NLP Man of India'. How did you get interested in this science?

In my earlier days, I suffered from migraines, peptic ulcers, alopecia and rheumatoid arthritis. I was staring at complete uncertainty and depressed. A discouraging orthopaedic surgeon prophesied that I would be incapacitated with this debilitating condition. I stumbled upon a life-changing book on neuro linguistic programming. Like a flash of lightning, it was a complete U-turn for me as I realised that it's



my mind playing tricks in creating the patterns of disease in my body. And it was the ultimate breakthrough. I soon erased these mental patterns, painful past memories and traumas. I healed my distorted self-image, transformed the deeply ingrained negative beliefs and implanted patterns of hope and a bright future in my mind. And here I am today, helping and instilling life-mending mantras for better living!

Q. What does NLP (neuro linguistic programming) exactly mean?

It simply means the way in which our language (verbal or non-verbal) programs our neurons or brain cells to create neural pathways. Let us understand it in detail.

Every day, we come across an infinite number of events. We receive these events through our five senses, namely visual sense, auditory sense, kinaesthetic or feeling sense, smell or olfactory sense, or taste, which is a gustatory sense. After the processes of deletion, distortion and generalisation, these events are stored in our subconscious mind. These subconscious patterns now write our life scripts. For example, for any disease in the body, be they any psychosomatic diseases or autoimmune disorders, or any obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD), or any anxiety, depression, or addiction, there are some subconscious patterns or perceptions in our mind. Once we know how to erase these unwanted patterns and implant empowering patterns, we create long-lasting change or transformation. This is how NLP practically works on us.

Q. There is a fresh renewal and interest in NLP currently. In our intensely stress-filled world today, how relevant and essential is NLP?

It is the only non-invasive and holistic approach that is really helping people in this stressed-filled twenty-first century. Today, the majority of people are suffering from issues like painful memories, broken relationships, anxiety, panic, depression, disturbing inner voices, phobias, obsessive-compulsive disorders (OCD), addiction, and loss of productivity. These issues are not just limited to their work or performance; rather, they cause all the psychosomatic diseases and autoimmune disorders. This is where NLP can heal these subconscious issues with minimum effort and maximum results.

Q. Does NLP have any scientific basis, and is it structured around any logical rationale?

Yes, NLP has a scientific basis to understand the subconscious mind properly and create the desired outcomes. It is like modern or evolved psychology. NLP has explored the idea that every memory or perception has some structure that has various qualities. For example, if you think about any object, like a chair or table, you just create a visual in your mind. But

when you think of a moving train, you see a moving image with some sounds. And when you think of your favourite food, you even ignite hunger with the visual image of the food. It simply means that our mind perceives every event in three major modalities, which are visual, auditory or kinesthetic. The moment you create any change in these modalities, you create a change in the response. This was the scientific breakthrough that I experienced while healing myself. I found that all my diseases had some visual, auditory and kinesthetic modalities. And once I made the inner change, I got the desired transformation, and I finally healed myself.

Q. How effective are the NLP techniques in healing mental and physical traumas and phobias that people face?

Very effective. Today we are facing the real mental and emotional issues in the lives of almost every person that are killing their health, relationships and productivity. Today, people feel the pangs of depression, confusion, phobias, loneliness, forgetfulness, addiction, hurt, jealousy and guilt. These damaging emotions cause confusion and mental claustrophobia in people's lives. All these impact their lives negatively and sometimes trigger thoughts of suicide.

Now, we don't just need pep talks or vague motivational speeches to resolve these issues; rather, we need systematic techniques that can bring about the required changes. And that too in the least possible time. NLP is the only technique that can bring about positive change, and that's happening across the globe. Once you learn the techniques, you can practise them in all areas of your life, be it mental, emotional or physical health, social standing, money or spirituality.

Q. In your webinars, boot camps and live shows, what are the common problems people come up with?

As people become more aware of the benefits of NLP, I have participants from all walks of life attending my workshops and boot camps. Students come to get rid of their exam phobias and gain confidence; youth come to explore their identity, belief systems and values; couples come to create rapport in their relationships; business people come to actualise their outcomes of growth; and others come to get rid of painful past memories, broken hearts, addiction, panic attacks, obsessive behaviours, psychosomatic and autoimmune diseases. I help them realise and release their triggers and understand the obvious outcomes of their ingrained negative behaviours. I help them to negotiate their emotional reactions and, most importantly, change their narrow and outdated perspectives for better personal realities and an expansive world view. It's not just people with problems who attend my sessions. There are those keen on fine-tuning public speaking and leadership skills and improving their confidence in communication, negotiation and sales competencies.

Q. Why do successful athletes, performers and entrepreneurs use NLP techniques?

NLP is practised across the globe because it delivers quick results, bolsters confidence, and facilitates strategic planning. The legendary footballer Cristiano Ronaldo has said in one of his interviews that he likes to visualise before a game as he is better prepared for the action. Sometimes his subconscious mind does it for him before the warm-up. NLP amps up the confidence levels of performers, entrepreneurs and decision-makers. The meditation they practise helps them concentrate better, sharpen their discerning power, relax and deal with situations with ease and efficiency. Successful people are willing to go the extra mile and learn new skills and trends and holistic methods of self-healing, which mediocre people would just dismiss. I have many successful clients who ask for private consultations as well. NLP is easy to understand and apply in every area of life. Once you learn NLP, you can significantly improve every aspect of your life, of course, with dedicated effort.

Q. Currently, subjects like manifestation and the law of attraction are trending widely on social media. How do you approach these subjects and offer guidelines using NLP techniques?

When we talk about the law of attraction or manifestation, NLP plays a very big role in it. So far as the law of attraction is concerned, we need a healthy mindset for it. You cannot manifest if you have painful past memories, unfinished agendas, a broken or distorted self-image, ego issues, harbouring negativity, narcissistic behaviour, limiting beliefs, unclear values and a shrunken identity. It's only after resolving the gnawing inner issues can you manifest your heart's desire. To manifest, you need to have a positive and optimistic mindset, enhanced self-identity, powerful intention, deep clarity of the outcomes, and an empowering belief system.

Q. What is your new version of NLP 2.0? Why did you come up with this new version?

As people are increasingly facing stressful issues and challenges, there is a need to improve the quality of our NLP techniques as well. NLP 2.0 is a decade ahead of current holistic approaches. I have a wide experience of 2500+ days conducting my live sessions before the pandemic, where I helped resolve people's issues on stage. Along with NLP, I employed other modern techniques like functional neuroplasticity, heart consciousness, vagus nerve activation, frontal lobe sensitisation, epigenetics, psychoneuroimmunology and quantum physics. This new version offers people six times faster results with amazing, long-lasting changes.

The writers are freelance contributors





Reflections

CHANDRANI MUKHERJEE

I saw You - sitting calmly
In an air-conditioned hall
Warmly smiling at all the devotees - dressed in finery You looked benign.

Trampled by multitudes,
I, too, joined the crowds
In hopes of seeking You.

Mesmerized I stood
In a dark corner
Of the painted hall
Where once your followers could embrace you.

Now, only an army stands,
Guarding You from the poor destitute
Who might seek Your wealth.

You stand alone
In the cold chamber
Aloof
As thousands pray daily.

You hear just their echoes
Because your guards
Are busy bridging gaps
Between the desires and salvation.

Only, the bridges are as fractured
As the stone statues sculpted centuries ago
Around your temple.
Now, mere fractured faith remains.

She stood in the sun and rain
Like a guard.

Open to speculation
And unwanted touch,
She looks on.
Unfaded, haloed, garlanded.
Graceful, some say.
Others ignore her.
Stone, they say.
Indeed!

The Woman looked at me with a gentle smile.
Her youth and beauty captivated my soul.

The garland, made of stones, heavily weighed upon her slender neck.
I noticed how tiny the bells on her anklets seemed.

Delicate – I thought - like the smile that barely touched her lips.

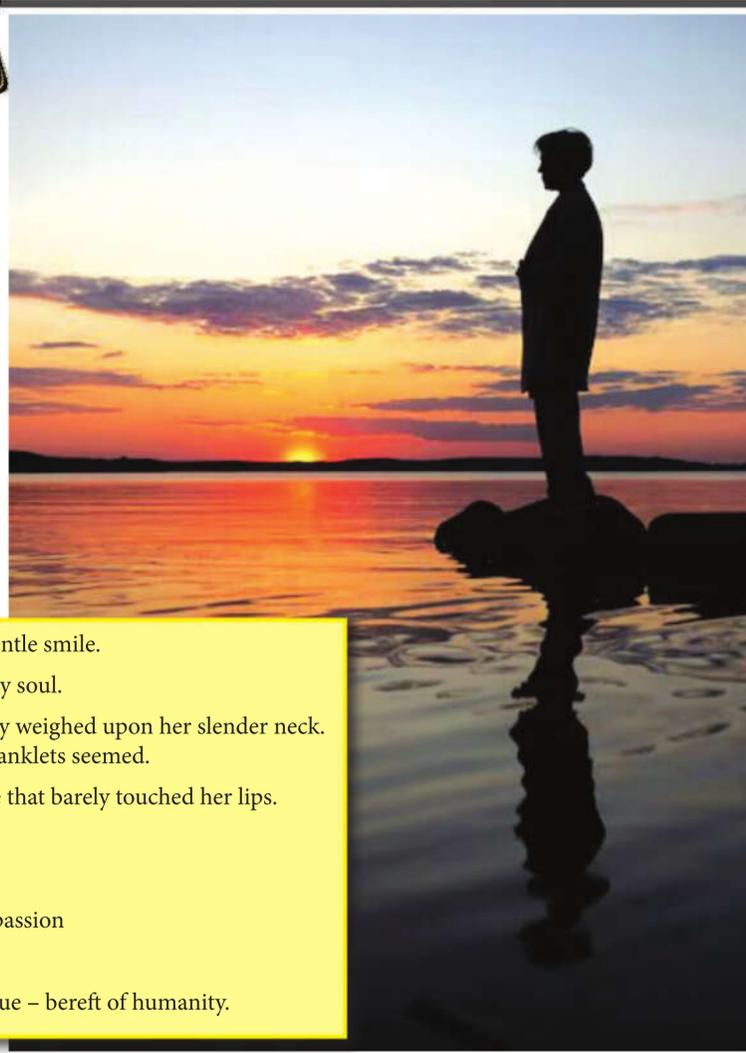
She stood in a graceful poise

Alluring yet aloof

As her eyes looked on – devoid of passion

That had once deified her.

She now stands alone - old as a statue – bereft of humanity.



In the shadow of love

ANURAG BANERJEE

I FEAR LOVE!

I know that boy
Who secretly keeps coming to my doorstep
To post anonymous love letters in the postbox...
He is genuinely kind at heart,
Really adores me a lot,
Stares at me all the time
Whenever we are around,
But he can't confess his feelings...
Probably fears rejection.

I too, fear...
I fear love,
I don't know whether
What I think about him
Is right or not;
But if it is so,
I have to say "no" to him...
As I don't have any other option,
I don't trust any of the emotions...
They all lie, all;
Just like humans do.

No, I am not being hopeless,
But it is the reality I have been facing
Since I was a child...
The span which a child remembers
As her best memories of life,
I have got only traumas to cherish!
They talked about gifts and joy,
I remember only
Haunting screams &
horrifying touches...

You asked me about love?

Yes, I too, have tasted its
Bittersweetness;
I used to like a guy, and eventually,
Loved him too;
And,
He did not love me back...
Though I moved on from that,
A young heart that is broken
Is too difficult to heal...

And even after all these things,
Again I find myself in love,
I fear losing him...
I fear that person, too,
Might not love me, and will leave.
And believe me;
I could never recover from that again.

I don't think I can ever love someone again,
I fear it,
I
Fear
Love.
But sometimes late in the night,
I really question myself:
Is it really the emotions,
Or the people,
Or myself?
Whom do I actually fear?

It's raining gently outside...
I can see that boy from my window
Walking towards my house.
He has an envelope in one hand,
And this time, a rose in another...

This rain, besides making my heart heavy,
Pauses me for a second
To wonder...

Could his love be stronger than my fear?
....



I read your poem last night,
It was beautiful, just like you.
The very first line was enough
To shake my earth,
That 'you know me'
Yes, you are right,
I fear rejection...
I fear losing someone
who was never mine.

To talk of your poem-
Trust me, your revelations
Didn't surprise me...
I always knew your eternal smile
Must hold some tragic chapters from the past...

But believe me, the book
Does not end there...
It has another part named 'Future'.
You can write the best story of your life
there,
We can write that together...

You know what,
I understand the pain of one-sided love
Probably better than anyone else.
I know what weight it bears,
I can guess how sharply
The pieces of your heart can pierce,
But that doesn't mean
They cannot be joined again...

It's raining heavily in the town now...
Streets vacant,
Puppies and kitties resting in safe shelters...
But I can see a boy waiting
under the shed for the rain to stop...
Or waiting for something else?
I know him,
He wrote a poem for his love,
And just posted it...

I know them...
The boy and the girl,
I have known them both, since long...
I have read all their letters and poems,
I know how they feel...
One hates love,
And the other believes it to be
The purest emotion that exists.
How ideal a couple they can be, right?

The girl is reading the poem.
Some raindrops are making a
Divine art on the glass window of her room,
And others are shedding from her eyes.

What are those?
I don't think those tears of sorrow...
Because the smile on her face after ages
Is visible from far away.

The boy is still standing alone,
probably waiting for the reply now...
I still remember the day they first met.
The boy was cycling in the rain in a hurry,
And was about to hit the girl,
But somehow managed...
That was a beautiful accident...
The rain was successful in meeting them,
Will it be able to unite them today?

The girl has read the whole poem,
and has come to her balcony...
She felt sad as she thought
the boy had gone back...
But then,
She saw his cycle under the shed...
And now she's running to meet him...
The one who hates love,
Is she, too falling...?

SHADOWS AND LIGHTS

I know it is difficult
To heal the wounds they cause...
But that doesn't mean it's impossible...

We all have so much hidden in ourselves
Which no one knows about...
Only the tears which
Come to comfort us late at night,
Know how good we are as actors,
I too, am one of those,
And you know what I do when
It feels so suffocating
Even to breathe?
I think about you,
Your smile,
So, to unlove you would be like
Living without breathing...

You are my first love,
And will always be the only one,
You changed my life unknowingly...
I now know how to smile,
Even when completely broken...
I now know how to hope,
Even when it seems all is over...
And so do I also know,
That even the darkest nights pass...
Thanks to you!

The rain has started now,

Probably, it too, is curious
To read the last part...
So, let me tell you:
I love you...
I don't know whether you do too,
Possibly not,
But I do...
Not only you,
or your eyes, or your smile,
But all your
Fears, traumas, insecurities-
Everything.

I
Love
You,
More than these words will ever speak,
More than this world will ever know,
More than you will ever realise...

The rain seems to have liked the poem
A lot...
As it has shifted from the clouds
And is falling from my eyes,
Making this paper wet...

Is this the same rain that went to you?



THE SILENT POSTBOX

The downpour is heavy now,
I've seen this many times.
I?
I am the silent postbox.
Witnessing stories like this
Years after year...
And so; I do know well...
This story will be one for the ages;
One with the perfect, filmy ending;
One which was able to
Redefine the hardest word
in the world:
LOVE!

The city saw the young lovers
Hug for the first time, under
the rain...
And the rain,
It beautifully hides their tears,
And washes away all their wounds.

The same rain, that once made
both cry.



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Freemasonry: Making good men better

The light of a Master Mason is darkness visible.

ANWESHA SANTRA

Imagine, if you will, a fraternity of secret handshakes, enigmatic symbols, profound philosophical inquiry and unfaltering moral integrity. A society of men deeply immersed in the pursuit of moral and spiritual virtues, guided by ancient rituals that draw upon the customs and tools of the stonemason's craft, all cloaked in rich allegory. And so is Freemasonry, my dear friend, where tradition intertwines with enlightenment in the lofty ideals of brotherly love, relief and truth.

A MASONIC MYSTERY WITH A TWIST OF TRUTH

The District Grand Lodge of Bengal recently staged an exhilarating murder mystery whodunnit with a Masonic twist, aptly titled *3 Knocks*, at Gyan Manch, Kolkata. Penned and helmed by Amit Dutt, a dedicated Freemason himself, this production featured an almost-all Masonic cast with a mission: to debunk the myths shrouding Freemasonry and assure the public that it is anything but a clandestine cabal.

The curtain rises with the shocking murder of Lord Robert Fraser, leaving his family—and the audience—reeling. Among the stunned are his composed wife, Lady Alice Fraser (portrayed by Dr Sarbani Ghosh), the stoic Major Ramsay (Avijit Sen) and the spirited maid Emily (Amrita Dutt). The scene is further animated by the portly Dr Mant (Kaushik Chowdhury), whose initial assessment reveals blunt force trauma as the cause of death.

Enter the law, with the astute detective superintendent Tom Roberts (Sunandan Sinha) and the zany constable Michael James (Arjun Nair) leading the investigation, unearthing a slew of suspects. The plot thickens, especially with Anirudh Chari's portrayal of the pompous butler Thomas Dean, whose comedic flair is truly eye-catching. Alas, suspicion falls upon a freemason, igniting the mystery's central theme.

In a narrative style reminiscent of Agatha Christie, super-sleuth Alfred Puttock's (Amit Dutt's) masterful unravelling of the mystery not only entertains but also educates, addressing the misconceptions surrounding Freemasonry. The monologues, though at times, meander longer than a detective's coffee break, the play is rich in information and bolstered by stellar performances making way for an engaging and enlightening theatrical experience.

TRACING THE ROOTS OF FREEMASONRY

Freemasonry is often said to have roots dating back to the time of King Solomon.

"During the mediaeval period, as the demand for builders diminished following the construction of numerous castles, churches

and palaces, the masons began to admit non-operative members—individuals who were not masons by profession. This strategic inclusion was essential to preserving the vitality of the organisation," Amit Dutt informs *The Statesman*.

Freemasonry in its present form originated in England, in 1717. On St John's Day, 24 June 1717, four established London lodges convened at the Goose and Gridiron Tavern in St Paul's Churchyard, declared themselves a Grand Lodge, and elected Anthony Sayer as their first Grand Master. This marked the inception of the world's first Grand Lodge and laid the foundation for what would become the Premier Grand Lodge and eventually the United Grand Lodge of England. By 1723, this newly formed Grand Lodge had published its inaugural rulebook, *The Constitutions of the Freemasons*, and was meeting quarterly while meticulously recording its proceedings. The Grand Lodge of Ireland followed in 1725, and the Grand Lodge of Scotland was established in 1736. However, by 1751, a rival Grand Lodge emerged in London, composed of Scottish and Irish Freemasons, who labelled the original Grand Lodge as 'Moderns' and themselves as 'Antients'. For nearly 63 years, these two factions coexisted, each rejecting the other's legitimacy. It wasn't until 27 December 1813, that the two Grand Lodges in England finally united to form the United Grand Lodge of England, ushering in a period of significant standardisation in ritual, procedures and regalia.

FREEMASONRY IN THE 21ST CENTURY

Talking to *The Statesman*, Pro Grand Master Jonathan Spence (in pic) (next-in-charge after HRH The Duke of Kent) of the United Grand Lodge of England, says, "A Freemason is someone who is relatively open-minded, believes in integrity, respect, friendship and service, not just about themselves, but about how can they make their community better. It's not a secret society; it is a fraternal organisation that is neither religious, nor political. We have members from all faiths."

Standing as one of the world's most ancient secular fraternal societies, Freemasonry unites a global network of men under the principles of the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man. "Freemasons contribute by donating their time, skills and money, but the real impact lies in using their expertise for community service. For example, during a UK lockdown storm, five builder Freemasons quickly repaired a damaged women's refuge in Wales, showcasing their dedication to applying their skills for the greater good," adds Spence.

Speaking about the inclusion of women in Freemasonry, the Pro Grand Master comments, "In England, there are women's orders

within Freemasonry that, together with the United Grand Lodge of England, have established a joint council to coordinate their efforts. This council, created just a few weeks ago with its inaugural meeting on 1 July, aims to affirm that Freemasonry, though historically male-dominated, embraces women's orders as well. The goal of this council is to support the growth of women's orders and demonstrate that Freemasonry is equally valuable and engaging for women. While a few mixed Lodges already recognise Freemasonry for both men and women, there is hope that this inclusive approach will extend to India as well."

Devendra Lal Thapar, the District Grand Master of the Bengal Lodge, remarks, "Anyone above the age of 18 (preferably above 21) with a generous heart and strong moral values is welcome to join Freemasonry. Freemasonry makes a good man better. In Calcutta, there are approximately 1,200 Freemasons. If women wish to join, we are fully supportive. Freemasonry is centred around charity and giving. We operate a Montessori school that helps prepare children for quality education, offering financial assistance or fee waivers to those in need. Additionally, we support old-age homes, organise free eye camps in villages, distribute food to the underprivileged, and conduct personal hygiene camps for women in rural areas. During the Amphaan cyclone, we provided aid to the Sunderbans and continue to offer relief during natural calamities."

FREEMASONRY IN BENGAL

On 27 December 1728, George Pomfret was authorised by the Most Worshipful Grand Master, Lord Kinston, to introduce Freemasonry to Bengal, specifically in Calcutta. In 1729, Captain Ralph Farwinter was appointed as the first Provincial Grand Master for East India in Bengal. The first Lodge in Bengal, known as Lodge East India Arms, was established in 1730 and initially met at the Old Court House in the northeast corner of Dalhousie Square. Subsequently, several Lodges, including military ones, were consecrated in Bengal. Initially, Freemasonry in Bengal was open exclusively to foreigners, but this changed over time, allowing Indians to join. The first Indian member was Brother P.C. Dutt, initiated in Calcutta at Lodge Anchor and Hope under the English Constitution. Many distinguished figures later became members, including Swami Vivekananda, His Majesty Habibullah Khan, Amir of Afghanistan, W.C. Bonnerjee, Motilal Nehru and C. Rajagopalachari, along with numerous rajas, maharajas, ICS officers, jurists, doctors and statesmen.

The Provincial Grand Lodge of Bengal continued until 1862, when Major-General A. H. E. Boileau, the then Provincial Grand Master, passed away. Brother Hugh David Sandeman succeeded him and, with a change in title, became the first District Grand Master of Bengal.

Currently, the District has 18 Lodges under it, four of which are based outside Kolkata.

BECOMING A FREEMASON AND THE DEGREES OF FREEMASONRY

Masonry seeks to bestow upon its initiates a form of spiritual and esoteric enlightenment. During initiation, a candidate is symbolically stripped of money and valuables to represent his poverty. The blindfold he wears signifies both spiritual and material darkness, while the cable-tow around his neck symbolises humility. Introduced to the Lodge with the phrase "a poor candidate in a state of darkness, hum-



bly soliciting to be admitted to the mysteries and privileges of Freemasonry," he undergoes a transformative moment. Once obligated, he is asked the predominant wish of his heart, to which he replies, "light". At this juncture, marked by a resonant hand-clap from the assembled brethren, his hoodwink is removed, and he first beholds the Lodge. The emblematic Masonic lights are then revealed to him: the Volume of the Sacred Law, the square, the compasses, the sun to rule the day, the moon to govern the night and the Worshipful Master to oversee the Lodge.

Becoming a member of a Masonic Lodge involves progressing through three ceremonial stages known as 'degrees'. These degrees—Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft and Master Mason—draw inspiration from the journeyman system used to train mediaeval craftsmen. Symbolically, they reflect the three phases of human development: youth, adulthood and age.

"Freemasonry is about polishing oneself under the guidance of a fraternity and code of brotherhood. It unites like minded patrons under one banner and belief," says Arjun Nair, a Freemason.

MISCONCEPTIONS REGARDING FREEMASONRY

The Poor Fellow-Soldiers of Christ and of the Temple of Solomon, commonly known as the Knights Templar, founded after the First Crusade in 1099, were originally established to protect Christian pilgrims travelling to the Holy Land of Jerusalem. Founded by Hugues de Payens and eight other knights, the Order gained prominence and wealth, acquiring extensive lands and becoming influential bankers for European royalty. With support from Baldwin II, they set up headquarters on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem and became the first 'warrior monks' through Bernard of Clairvaux's endorsement, officially recognised by the Catholic Church in 1129 and 1139, gaining privileges like tax exemption and being answerable solely to the Pope. The Templars became wealthy through donations and established early banking systems, setting up headquarters in Paris after losing Jerusalem to Saladin.

King Philip IV of France, who was frequently at war with England and deeply in debt to the Templars, saw an opportunity to eliminate his financial burden. On Friday, 13 October 1307, he ordered the arrest of many Templars on false charges including homosexuality, corruption, devil worship, fraud and spitting on the cross. This led to the dissolution of the Order by the Pope, who was appointed by Philip, and the execution of Grand Master Jacques de Molay in 1314.

"However, when Philip went to seize the Templars' treasures, they had vanished. It is believed that these treasures included relics such as the Holy Grail, the Ark of the Covenant, and parts of the cross from Christ's crucifixion. A theory suggests that the Templars fled to excommunicated Scotland, where they continued their practices and possibly evolved into the modern Freemasonic Lodge. This theory is supported by evidence of Masonic lodges existing before 1717. From the ranks of warrior monks and an order that was shut down and abolished, these individuals needed to find a new purpose. They became builders of palaces, cathedrals and churches across Europe. My belief is that during this period, they became Freemasons, as they were not indentured labourers but free men," reveals Kaushik Chowdhury, a Freemason.

"The concept of devil worship often attributed to Freemasonry stems from a misunderstanding of the symbolism used by the United Grand Lodge of England. The emblem features a winged creature with a flowing mane and cloven feet, which the Church has historically associated with the devil, described as having hooved feet. The emblem is a composite of symbols representing the 12 tribes of Israel. Each tribe had its own flag, divided into four parts, with symbols such as an eagle (wings), a lion (hairy chest), a man (intellect) and an ox (hard work). The combination of these symbols into one cherub does not signify devil worship but rather incorporates various symbolic elements. Misinterpreting the cloven feet as a sign of devil worship is incorrect," he remarks.

"It is often claimed that a prospective Mason swears to self-mutilation or gruesome execution if he reveals the 'secrets' of Masonry—secrets that are actually trivial and widely known. However, this is purely a misconception. Freemasons do not engage in or condone such practices against themselves or others," informs Kaushik Chowdhury.

"We are not a secret society, but a society with secrets," states Anirudh Chari, another Freemason. "However, we generally do not go around openly identifying ourselves as Freemasons. A Freemason can be recognised by another Freemason through specific signs, such as a handshake, rings and other similar pointers," he says.

Once a Mason, always a Mason. "If a Mason chooses to leave the brotherhood, he can always return. However, if he is convicted of a felony, he is not permitted to return and must leave the fraternity. Freemasonry requires its members to uphold high moral standards and be good-hearted," remarks Chari.



An English doctor in the streets of Kolkata

PURBASHA KARMAKAR

If you rewind time to 1979 in Kolkata, you would surely encounter this British doctor, dedicatedly treating patients himself on the pavement without considering a single penny, as if they were his own.

Straight from the remote cliffs of Wales to the bustling lanes and bylanes of Bengal, Dr Jack Preger (in pic), commonly known as the 'pavement doctor' of Kolkata, was honoured with a lifetime achievement award at this year's Bengal's Pride Awards on 17 July 2024, in the UK parliament. Furthermore, in 1993, he was awarded as a member of the British Empire (MBE) by Queen Elizabeth for 'continued perseverance and incredible selflessness'. In 2017, he was named Asian Philanthropist of the Year at the Asian Awards in London, England, making him the first living non-Asian to receive an Asian Award.

Born in Manchester, England, on 25 July 1930, Preger initially worked as a farmer in Pembrokeshire, Wales, where he suddenly felt the urge to become a doctor.

"Three years after my wife left the farm, I sold it. Initially, I thought of becoming a vet and working in a developing country. I knew that this extraordinary out-of-the-blue thirst was equally outrageous and illogical, yet that didn't stop me from seeking my dream," Preger told *The Statesman*.

At Oxford, he studied development economics. But the existing Oxford qualifications lacked subjects required for acceptance in a medical college. Consequently, he enrolled himself as a mature student at the Royal College of Surgeons in Dublin, Ireland,

and earned a medical degree in 1972. Seven years later, after completing an internship in a hospital as a qualified physician, he answered an appeal for doctors to help with the refugee crisis in the newly-formed Bangladesh and then subsequently moved his occupation to Kolkata.

In Bangladesh, he initially worked in the Bihar camps. During his tenure at an NGO in the Netherlands (Terre des Hommes) in 1975, a colleague brought to his attention an illicit scheme involving the overseas adoption of children from Bangladesh. This racket preyed upon impoverished parents, defrauding them of their children. In 1977, two mothers, after losing their child due to the fraud, came to him for help. That's when he knew he had to do something about it. After exposing the trafficking network, which had already trapped over 35 children, he was deported from Bangladesh to Kolkata in 1979. The Dhaka clinic that he set up for mothers and infants in 1975 was closed down. Yet, on a positive note, many of the children during their middle years have been reunited with their biological families using DNA testing. A further 100 are under investigation.

"Even during the medical relief work in Kolkata, I still tried my best to expose the Bangladesh trafficking. As a result, the government of Bangladesh asked Delhi to deport him from India. I was arrested, and the trial lasted eight and a half years," said Preger.

Yet, at last, he was finally able to get his work registered with a non-profit organisation named Calcutta Rescue. The development of Calcutta Rescue was founded on the work of two distinguished Governing Council

members, Loretto nun Sr Cyril Mooney, as the secretary of the organisation, and Wing Commander Shomir Choudhury.

"Here in Kolkata, I noticed that very rudimentary care was given for leprosy and tuberculosis patients in most of the government hospitals. At first, when I had no licence to practise medicine legally in India, I began treating the sick and injured where they lay—under bridges, on railway platforms, and in drainage pipes. Due to the constant need for movement, it became difficult to treat patients. Finally, I got a permanent place at the roadside outside of St Thomas' Presbytery, in Middleton Row, Park Street. Here, I was at least allowed to store his medical supplies. This was how my journey began from Kolkata to the rest of Bengal," he added.

On the pavements of Middleton Row, he proceeded to build a dismantlable but functional clinic. This was not, as one might imagine, a first-aid post treating minor injuries. It was a fully fledged streetside medical centre handling a full spectrum of illness and disease, including cancer, tuberculosis, malaria, cardiac conditions, HIV/AIDS and all else. Minor surgery is done on site; major surgery is outsourced to hospitals, together with x-rays, lab tests and physiotherapy, among others. He set up another two clinics in Tala Park and Cossipore. The Tala Park clinic in Belgachia is now the largest fixed clinic, while the one in Cossipore has been closed. Additionally, he established educational projects at Tala Park and Sonagachi. The one in Sonagachi is now situated at Iswar Mill Lane.

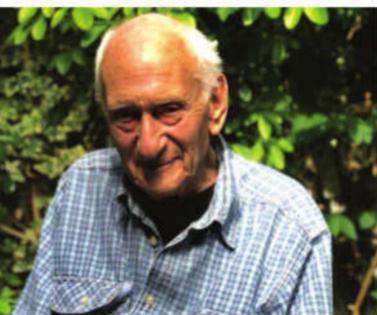
Dr Preger further shed light on the medical landscape of Kolkata over time. "There has

surely been an improvement in the state's provisions for treatments after the annihilation of the left-wing government. Treatments now go beyond the previously limited and basic options. Yet the government can expand medical care and increase the number of doctors available to serve impoverished people, including pavement dwellers."

"What is needed in the developing world is a medical service providing free treatment for the poor. Fulfilling this need should be the aim of the students of medicine," added Preger.

Currently, his organisation, Calcutta Rescue, operates four fixed clinics in Kolkata. Beyond Kolkata, the organisation extends its projects, facilitating people with medical care and awareness. Malda has a clean drinking water project due to arsenic pollution, where 12 arsenic water filters are already plugged to extract fresh water. In Dakshineswar, a project concerning housing, clean water, and street medicine facilities, along with a waste management compost, has been ongoing since 2022. The organisation also conducts MPI surveys every year to track down the necessary requirements in Bengal.

Preger's aura and his life's odyssey exerted a profound influence on numerous individuals. One such persona is Benoît Lange, filmmaker and Swiss photojournalist who supported the former's work by making a documentary titled *Docteur Jack*, chronicling the life of Dr Jack Preger. The film won the Special Jury Prize at the 2018 Indian World Film Festival in Hyderabad and had its release in 2016 in Switzerland.



Tolly Cine Samman

T-TALKIES VENTURES PVT. LTD.

PRESS RELEASE

Talentsh Presents Tolly Cine Samman 2024 at Vivanta in Association with Indian Oil Corporation, Production & PR Partner - T-Talkies Ventures Pvt. Ltd. Most Prestigious Red Carpet Award Show a Glamorous Night With Celebrities

Kolkata, July 28, 2024 - The Tolly Cine Samman 2024, Season 2, was held in grand style at the Vivanta, a 5-star luxurious hotel. The prestigious Red Carpet Award Show, organised by Talentsh in association with Indian Oil Corporation, was a resounding success, celebrating excellence in the film industry.

A constellation of celebrities and influential bloggers graced the event, adding glamour and prestige to the evening.

The event also saw Mr. Sudip Kumar Kundu, Founder & CEO of Talentsh, and Director Sama Dey presenting an award to a notable celebrity, highlighting the collaboration between Talentsh and the entertainment industry.

To craft a statement on behalf of Kingshuk Giri, the founder and CEO of T-Talkies Ventures Pvt. Ltd., regarding the collaboration with Tolly Cine Samman 2024,

"We at T-Talkies Ventures are thrilled to collaborate with Tolly Cine Samman 2024 as a producer partner. This prestigious event celebrates the rich heritage and outstanding talent of the Bengali film industry, and we are proud to contribute our expertise in production, management, and publicity. We believe this partnership will enhance the experience for all attendees and create lasting memories. We look forward to a successful and memorable event."

For the Tolly Cine Samman 2024, the list of honorable guests includes:
1. Shri Debashish Kumar (M.A & M.M.C, IIMC, Sports & Amusement)
2. Shri Lalit Kumar Chaudhari (Executive Director & State Head, Indian Oil Corporation, West Bengal)
3. Col Nevendrea Singh (Joint CP, Kolkata Police)
4. Shri Rahul Roy (American Entrepreneur, Chairman ARC Solutions)
5. Col Dipangshu Choudhury (Kingshuk War Hero and Social Activist)
6. Subhashish Saha (Director of Karakurt)
7. Rajiv Paul (Owner of Bhooter Raja Dillo Bar)

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T-TALKIES VENTURES PVT. LTD.

The Awardees are:

- MOVIE AWARD --**
 - 1. Best Actor in a Leading Role, Male: Prosenjit Chatterjee (Dawsham Awbotari)
 - 2. Best Actor for Offbeat Film: Rituparna Sengupta (Akalit)
 - 3. Best Golden Jubilee Jodi: Prosenjit Chatterjee & Rituparna Sengupta (Ajpyot)
 - 4. Best Director of Detective Thriller Movie: Arindam Sil (Jongole Mit in Must)
 - 5. Best Director: Srijit Mukherji (Dawsham Awbotari)
 - 6. Best Actor in Supporting Role, Critics, Male: Amodiah Bhattacharya (Jvhanglin)
 - 7. Best Actor in a Leading Role, Female: Churni Ganguly (Indhangin)
 - 8. Best Playback Singer, Female: Iman Chakraborty (Jrongin)
 - 9. Best Playback Singer, Male: Anupam Roy (Dawsham Awbotari)
 - 10. Best Debut Director: Maras Sinha (Eta Anader Golpo)
 - 11. Best Actor in Supporting Role, Critics, Female: Davlina Kumar (Raktabaa)
 - 12. Best Film: Dawsham Awbotari - SVI
 - 13. Best Critic Film: Khetangin - Sarindar Films
 - 14. Most Versatile Actor - Subhashish Mukhopadhyay
- OTT AWARD --**
 - 1. Best Director in Critics, Series: Sourav Chakraborty (Rajneek)
 - 2. Best Actor in a Leading Role, Series, (Male): Sourav Das' for (Antarmahal)
 - 3. Jury Special Choice, Best Actor in a Leading Role, Series (Male): Kaushik Ganguly (Rajneek)
 - 4. Best Actor in a Leading Role, Series (Female): Priyanka Sarkar (I ajjo)
 - 5. Best Actor in a Negative Role, Series (Male): Deobolina Dutt (Khyapa)
 - 6. Best Actor in a Negative Role, Series (Female): Jammy Banerjee (Khyapa)
 - 7. Best Comedy Actor, Series (Male): Anirban Chakraborty (Eken Babu)
- BLOGGER AWARD --**
 - 1. Famous Blogger, (Male) 2024: Sayak
 - 2. Famous Blogger, (Female) 2024: Prarna Bhattacharjee
 - 3. Famous Blogger Couple Award 2024: Rahul Karer & Pinki Karan

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MISCELLANEOUS AWARD --

- 1. Best Music Album 2024: Merami Ghosh (Alo Ume Barik)
- 2. Best Young Fashion Designer - Doajit Paul
- 3. Celebrity Fashion Designer (Male): Roy Abhishek
- 4. Celebrity Fashion Designer (Female): Jyotee Khaitan
- 5. Best Slimming Beauty and Laser Clinic: Shovagata A Mukherjee (Moi's Steak & Chic Studio)
- 6. Influential Model of the Year 2024: Sana Chakraborty
- 7. Best in Women Empowerment 2024: Piyak Mukherjee
- 8. Best in Fitness 2024: Indrajit Dey
- 9. Best Water Purifier Company in East: Agricom
- 10. Best Cuisine Award 2024: Bhooter Raja Dillo Bar
- 11. Best Photography Award: Aboor Gangopadhyay
- 12. Best Boujee Award: Isha Sarkar Collection

TV SERIAL AWARD --

- 1. Best Director: Anupam Hari (Anurager Chhawa)
- 2. Best Actor in a Leading Role (Male): Dibyjoyoti Dutta (Anurager Chhawa)
- 3. Best Actor in a Supporting Role (Male): Kaushal Chakraborty (Saathi)
- 4. Best Writer: Jyoti Haranatharajuri Pica-mata
- 5. Best Actor in a Leading Role (Female): Marali Dey (Kar Kachhe Koi Morer Katha)

The Tolly Cine Samman 2024 continues to be a significant platform recognizing and celebrating talent in the film industry, setting new benchmarks for excellence and glamour.

Founder Mr. Sudip Kumar Kundu, Talentsh Media and Entertainment Pvt Ltd extends a special thanks to Co- Organiser Choudhury and Abir Chatterjee (Advocate, High Court) for their unwavering inspiration to Tolly Cine Samman 2024, Season 2.

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Director of Talentsh heartfelt gratitude to all their partners for their invaluable support.

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Thanks,

Manisha M,
COO

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Snapshots from the event... Photos by BISWAJIT GHOSHAL

Comments Corner

readers@thestatesmangroup.com



A WONDERFUL DISCOVERY

I have read with interest the article "A super spoon for patients with dementia," dated July 28. What a wonderful discovery by University of Sheffield researchers for dementia-affected people who will now have their lost taste for food come back! Kudos to all who are associated with this unique work.

Once a loss of taste is regained, people suffering from dementia will help combat high levels of malnutrition, making their condition worse.

The report says that the rechargeable spoon has been so well designed that it will not require any assistance to use, and therefore, it is likely to be popular among dementia patients.

As more such devices are discovered, elder health care will be hassle-free.

Yours etc., Arun Gupta
Kolkata, 29 July

