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PEOPLE'S PARLIAMENT, ALWAYS IN SESSION



**KTR SOUNDS ALARM
ON T'GANA'S
IT EXPORTS**

P4



**KAMALA HARRIS
SELECTS TIM WALZ
AS RUNNING MATE**

P9



**IF NOT GRANTED, THEN
SOLE OPTION IS TO GRAB
POWER: JARANGE-PATIL**

P5



**SL AIM TO END
27-YEAR DROUGHT
AGAINST INDIA**

P14

SENSEX 78,593.07 ▼ 166.33

NIFTY 23,992.55 ▼ 63.05

₹ vs \$ 83.93

GOLD 63,900 ▲ 870

SILVER 82,500 ▼ 8,500

BRENT CRUDE (IN \$) 76.04 ▼ 0.42

WEATHER

Generally cloudy sky. Light to moderate rain / thundershower very likely to occur. Maximum and Minimum Temperature most likely to be around 32°C and 27°C respectively.

RAINFALL: 6.5mm

RELATIVE HUMIDITY Max. 94% Min. 82%

TEMPERATURE Max: 32.0°C (0.0) Min: 27.9°C (+1.4)

SUN RISES 05:26 hrs 18:15

MOON RISES 19:36 hrs 19:36hrs

FULL MOON ON 19 AUGUST

THUMBNAILS



Defending Olympic champion Neeraj Chopra celebrates on qualifying for the men's javelin throw Final event in the Olympic Games Paris 2024, in Paris on Tuesday.

Wayanad landslides: Death toll rises to 406

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
KALPETTA, 6 AUGUST

The death toll in the devastating landslides that hit Churalmala and Mundakkai areas in Wayanad in the early morning on 30 July has risen to 406 as more bodies and body parts were recovered on Tuesday. However, the official death toll stands at 222. The toll may go up further as around 180 persons are still missing.

Meanwhile, rescue operations to trace the missing persons continued on Tuesday, eight days after the disaster. A combined team of military personnel, disaster response forces, police, canine units, forest officials, and naval experts were engaged in the search operations across six zones in the landslide-affected areas.

SC to hear plea against Bombay HC order upholding college's ban on burqa, hijab

PARMOD KUMAR
NEW DELHI, 6 AUGUST

The Supreme Court on Tuesday assured that it will post for hearing an appeal against the Bombay High Court order upholding the ban on students wearing burqa, hijab, niqab, stole or cap on the campus by a Mumbai-based Chembur college.

Chief Justice D.Y. Chandrachud heading a bench also comprising Justice J.B. Pardiwala and Justice Manoj Misra, said that the date for the hearing will be given after the matter was mentioned for an early hearing.



"Yes, we will give a date in this case and hear it," said Chief Justice Chandrachud.

In June, Bombay High Court had dismissed a plea by a group of girl students challenging the ban imposed by a college on wearing hijab, niqab, burqa, stole, caps or any kind of badges in the classroom.

The High Court had said that it was not inclined to

interfere with the decision of the college administration.

The girl students belonged to NG Acharya and DK Marathe College run by the Chembur Trombay Education Society. The second- and third-years students belonging to B.Sc. and B.Sc. (Computer Science) programmes contended before the High Court that the new dress code violated their fundamental rights to privacy, dignity, and religious freedom.

However, the college management told the High Court that the ban applies to all religious symbols and is not

targeted at Muslims.

The High Court in its order said: "We are satisfied that the instructions issued by the College under which a dress code has been prescribed for its students does not suffer from any infirmity so as to violate provisions of Article 19(1)(a) and Article 25 of the Constitution of India. The object behind issuing the same is that the dress of a student should not reveal his/her religion which is a step towards ensuring that the students focus on gaining knowledge and education which is in their larger interest."

Murmu receives Fiji's highest civilian award

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 6 AUGUST

President Droupadi Murmu received the Companion of the Order of Fiji, its highest civilian award, during her ongoing visit to the country.

Fijian President Ratu Wiliame Maivalili Katonivere conferred the award on her, acknowledging the strong relationship between India and Fiji. During her visit, President Murmu addressed the Fijian Parliament, reaffirming India's willingness to collaborate with Fiji on projects that benefit both nations. She highlighted shared values such as democracy and human rights.

President Droupadi Murmu reached Suva in Fiji this morning from Nadi where she landed yesterday on the first leg of her State Visit to Fiji, New Zealand and Timor-



Leste. She was received by Fijian Prime Minister Sitiveni Rabuka at the airport and accorded a ceremonial welcome.

A traditional welcome ceremony was organised for President Murmu in the presence of the Prime Minister of Fiji. Subsequently, the President visited the State House where she was warmly received by President Ratu

Wiliame Maivalili Katonivere of Fiji.

The two leaders discussed ways to further deepen the India-Fiji relationship. The President said that India remains committed to strengthening its relations and development partnership with the Pacific Island Countries (PICs), among which Fiji is an important partner. President Murmu also

witnessed the progress of the 'Solarisation of Heads of State Residences' project, an Indian initiative which was inaugurated in February last year. In the next engagement, the President addressed the Parliament of Fiji. She said that despite the vast difference in the size of the two countries, both India and Fiji have much in common, including vibrant democracies.

She assured the Fijian parliamentarians that as a close friend and partner with rich experience of fostering democracy at the grassroots level, India stands ready to partner Fiji at all times.

President Murmu added that today, Fiji is recognized around the world for its growing contribution to common efforts, focused on two major global challenges - climate change and addressing human conflicts.

India suffer 2-3 loss to Germany in hockey semis

AGENCIES
PARIS, 6 AUGUST

The Indian men's hockey team played its heart out but went down 2-3 to World Champion Germany in the second semifinal at the Paris Olympic Games here on Tuesday. India's shunt for their first gold medal in 44 years came to a heartbreaking end as Shamsher Singh shot over the crossbar with what was the last hit of the day, missing the equaliser by inches.

The Tokyo Olympic Games bronze medallists still have the chance to redeem themselves in the bronze medal match against Spain on Thursday.

India's prolific skipper Harmanpreet Singh opened the scoring through a penalty corner in the seventh minute.

The Germans unleashed a flurry of attacks in response and they levelled through defender Gonzalo Peillat's penalty corner in the 13th minute. A German attempt from a penalty corner hit defender Jarnanpreet Singh's leg which resulted in a penalty stroke for the World Champions. Christopher Ruehr made no mistake to take a 2-1 lead into half-time.

In the second half, a penalty corner in the 37th minute saw Harmanpreet Singh strike it hard and low. Sukhjeet Singh deflected it into the goal to level the score.

Germany's repeated attempts at goal finally saw them breach the Indian defence in the 54th minute as Marco Miltkau scored the first field goal of the night to regain the lead.

Centre: B'desh situation evolving, border on alert

Got request from Sheikh Hasina to come to India at very short notice: Jaishankar

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 6 AUGUST

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Tuesday told Parliament the situation in strife-torn Bangladesh is still evolving, and the government is in touch with the Indian community there and monitoring the status of minorities.

In a suo moto statement in the Lok Sabha, after the arrival of the ousted Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina here on Monday afternoon, he said at a very short notice, she had requested approval to come for the moment to India. India simultaneously received a request for flight clearance from Bangladesh authorities, he said.

Earlier in the day, the External Affairs Minister while briefing an all-party meeting on the Bangladesh situation told political party leaders that Sheikh Hasina had moved to India and that India has assured all possible help to the Bangladeshi leader.

On 5 August, demonstrators converged in Dhaka despite the curfew, Mr Jaishankar told Parliament. "Our understanding is that after a meeting with leaders of the security establishment, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina apparently made the decision to resign," he said.

Mr Jaishankar said: "The situation in Bangladesh is still evolving. The Army Chief, General Waker-uz-Zaman,



"We are in close and continuous touch with the Indian community in Bangladesh through our diplomatic missions. There are an estimated 19,000 Indian nationals there, of which about 9,000 are students. The bulk of the students have already returned to India in the month of July on the advice of the High Commission

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER S JAISHANKAR

addressed the nation on 5th August. He spoke about assuming responsibility and constituting an interim government."

"We are in close and continuous touch with the Indian community in Bangladesh through our diplomatic missions. There are an estimated 19,000 Indian nationals there, of which about 9,000 are students."

"The bulk of the students have already returned to India in the month of July on the advice of the High Commission," the Minister said.

Mr Jaishankar said in terms of diplomatic presence, in addition to the High Commission in Dhaka, India has Assistant High Commissions in Chittagong, Rajshahi, Khulna and Sylhet.

we have also been in regular touch with the authorities in Dhaka. This is the situation as of now," he said.

He said tensions had begun after the election in January 2024. There were deep divides and growing polarization in Bangladesh politics. This underlying foundation aggravated a student agitation that started in June this year.

"Throughout this period, we repeatedly counselled restraint and urged that the situation be defused through dialogue. Similar urgings were made to various political forces with whom we were in touch," Mr Jaishankar said.

There was growing violence, including attacks on public buildings and infrastructure, as well as traffic and rail obstructions. The violence continued through the month of July, he said.

"What was particularly worrying was that minorities, their businesses and temples also came under attack at multiple locations. The full extent of this is still not clear," the statement said.

Despite a Supreme Court judgement on 21 July, there was no let-up in the public agitation. Various decisions and actions taken thereafter only exacerbated the situation.

The agitation at this stage coalesced around a one-point agenda, that is, that the Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina should step down, the Minister said.

Bangladesh's President dissolves parliament, clearing way for polls



AGENCIES
DHAKA, 6 AUGUST

Bangladesh's president dissolved parliament on Tuesday, clearing the way for new elections to replace the longtime prime minister who resigned and fled the country following weeks of demonstrations against her rule that descended into violent unrest.

President Mohammed Shahabuddin also ordered the release of opposition leader Khaleda Zia from house arrest. Zia, a longtime rival of ousted Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, was convicted of corruption charges by Hasina's government in 2018.

On Tuesday, some senior positions in the military were reshuffled. The student protesters said they would not allow any military-backed government. The streets of Dhaka appeared calmer Tuesday, with no reports of new violence as jubilant protesters thronged the ousted leader's residence. Some posed for selfies with soldiers guarding the building where a day earlier angry protesters had looted furniture, paintings, flower pots and chickens.

Amid security concerns, the main airport in Dhaka, the capital, resumed oper-



ations after eight hours of suspension.

The Bangladesh Police Association said Tuesday it was enforcing a strike across the country because of a lack of security and safety after numerous police stations were attacked on Monday killing many officers, though it didn't give any number of the dead.

In a statement, it also said that officers would not return to work unless their security was ensured. The association also issued an apology for the violent attacks on student protesters. As the country waited for a new government to emerge, a key student leader said protesters wanted Nobel Peace Prize laureate Muhammad Yunus to head an interim government.

Yunus called Hasina's resignation the country's "second liberation day." He could not immediately be reached for comment, but a key organizer of protests, Nahid Islam said Yunus had agreed. Islam said protesters would propose more names for the cabinet, and suggested that it would be difficult for those in power to ignore their wishes. Hasina fled to India by helicopter on Monday as protesters defied military curfew orders to march

on the capital, with thousands of demonstrators eventually storming her official residence and other buildings associated with her party and family. Protests against a quota system for government jobs, that critics said favored people with connections to her party, grew into a broader challenge to her 15-year rule that was marked by human rights abuses, corruption, and allegations of rigged elections amid a brutal crackdown on her opponents.

A bloody crackdown on the demonstrations led to clashes that left scores dead, further fueling the movement. Military chief Gen. Waker-uz-Zaman said he was taking temporary control of the country after Hasina resigned, and he and the country's figurehead president promised an interim government would be formed soon to preside over new elections.

Sheikh Hasina, meanwhile, is still in India, reportedly in a safe house provided by the Indian government. Sheikh Hasina is expected to fly to London and seek political asylum. Some reports suggested that she was in touch with the authorities in the United Kingdom regarding asylum.

Inspired by
Mamata Banerjee
Hon'ble Chief Minister of
West Bengal

Backward Classes Welfare Department and Tribal Development Department extend scholarships to SC, ST and OBC students from Class V

Shikshashree: Students belonging to Scheduled Caste & Scheduled Tribe and studying in class V to VIII receive Rs. 800 annually.

Medhashree: Students belonging to Other Backward Classes and studying in class V to VIII receive Rs. 800 annually.

Pre-matric Scholarship: Students belonging to Scheduled Caste and studying in class IX to X receive scholarships Annually ranging from Rs. 2250 to Rs. 8000.

Post-matric Scholarship: Students belonging to Scheduled Caste and studying in class XI, XII and in higher studies receive scholarships Annually ranging from Rs. 2300 to Rs. 20,000.

School authorities will help students apply online for Shikshashree & Medhashree scholarships. For other scholarships, students may apply through www.anagrasarkalyan.gov.in. The scholarship amount will be paid directly to the bank account of the student.

Backward Classes Welfare Department and Tribal Development Department, Government of West Bengal
ICA- D 1346(18)/2024

Man-made floods: Hydrology experts to table remedial report by September

The Damodar Valley Corporation had proposed building a new dam at Balpahari to prevent perennial flooding in the downstream, but it has been hanging fire

KANCHAN SIDDIQUI
MAITHON, 6 AUGUST

The 'man-made' flood devastation that has caused the Lower Damodar Basin to suffer every year over the years, possibly has an answer planned 30 years ago in the river about 216 kms upstream from the Durgapur Barrage, and hydrology experts from Guwahati have now been assigned to dust off the solution originally suggested by the river management planners.

Over the last 30 years, however, the problem of land acquisition has only worsened in Dumka district of the neighbouring Jharkhand, causing a bottleneck for the proposed solution of building a new dam on the Barakar river - a key tributary of the Damodar river.

At Balpahari in Dumka, the Damodar Valley Corpo-

ration - the statutory body operating dams and reservoirs upstream of the barrage - apprehending worsening flood situations in the downstream had geared up to build a new dam at Balpahari aiming to check the unrelenting inflow from the Maithon dam.

"The Jharkhand government has not been able to navigate the land acquisition issue as the indigenous community has been very reluctant to vacate," said a senior DVC official.

The DVC in 1953 had acquired 41,000 acres of land in districts like Dhanbad, Jamtara of Jharkhand and Purulia and West Burdwan districts of West Bengal and the first dam was constructed at Tilaiya.

Currently, DVC operates four dams - at Tilaiya, Maithon, Panchet and Konar in the upstream.

The DVC had originally

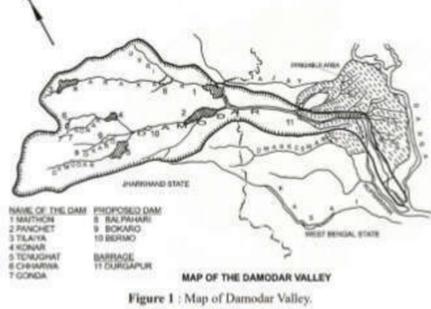


Figure 1: Map of Damodar Valley.

proposed for three more large reservoirs at Balpahari, Bokaro and Tenughat.

The Jharkhand government, in 1978 constructed the Tenughat dam but due to inability to acquire the needed land, its flood cushion could not take shape till now.

The dam is designed to accommodate a 20 feet high flood cushion (from 862 ft -

882 ft). "But for this, a huge area of upstream land was required, which has still not been made available and encroachment in the basin added to the problem, too," a DVC official said.

Panchet and Maithon dams accommodate 20 feet and 15 feet flood cushions currently but large quantities of sand deposition due to

extensive industrialisation and urbanisation have reduced the life span of the dams.

During the initial project planning, the life of the dams was planned to be 75 years, incidentally.

"The optimum required land for Maithon and Panchet could not be made available too, resulting in reduction of flood cushions by 5 feet and 10 feet there respectively," a DVC Water Management System review report stated in 2020.

The combined peak and outflow record of DVC dams since October, 1959 till September, 1995 clearly showed the need of dams.

In the devastating 1978

flood, though the combined inflow of the dams reached its peak at 7.74 lakh cusecs, the combined outflow was restricted to 1.63 lakh cusecs. "Had the flow been allowed

to pass freely without any moderation by DVA dams, it would have generated 11.80 lakh cusecs of inflow at Durgapur Barrage," a DVC review report claimed.

The failure to acquire land at Tenughat meanwhile, has nearly put paid to the proposed Balpahari dam.

"The Central Water Commission's Guwahati wing has been assigned to prepare a fresh DPR (detailed project report) in six months describing the project outlay, socio environmental impact alongside the simulation water reserve capacity," said Anjani Kumar Dubey, DVC's Executive Director (Civil) and project head at Maithon.

Last February, at a high level meeting, the CWC, Guwahati was assigned the task. "They have given six months time frame to prepare the report and we can expect by

September it'll be tabled."

The Bengal government meanwhile has warned the DVC that the proposed Balpahari dam should not cause any blockade to the state's irrigation water.

Jharkhand has maintained that the DVC should first set up a barrage there to reduce the land acquisition requirement, but this has not been considered.

Shashi Rakesh, Member Secretary, Damodar Valley River Regulation Committee of the CWC said: "The Guwahati experts are sincerely examining feasibility and prospective yield of the project now."

As explained by Satyabrata Banerjee, DVC's former Chief Engineer in his water management review report prepared in 2020: "In the original plan it's envisaged that the Damodar Valley catchment has ability to generate

maximum peak flood of 28317 Cubic Metres (10 Lakh Cusecs). To moderate this flood peak to a safe (level) channel capacity for Lower Damodar area was considered at 7079 Cumecs (2.5 Lakh Cusecs) and for that a total flood storage of 3596 Million Cubic Metres in 7 storage dams was required to be developed."

Mr Banerjee commented: "In fact, only 36 per cent of flood storage in respect to original plan was made available to DVC system for moderation of flood flow, which was grossly inadequate considering the generation capacity of the Damodar catchment areas."

Now, with the changing climate patterns, experts apprehend further devastating flood in the future years and at least one more dam in the upstream has now become highly essential.

Heavy rain: Burdwan, Durgapur inundated



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
BURDWAN, 6 AUGUST

Burdwan town and its adjacent villages, and Durgapur town received sudden incessant precipitation of torrential rain last night causing inundation in some municipal wards.

The swollen Khori river on the other hand submerged Nadanghat market, Dogachia Panchayat areas in Purbasthali, even as heavy rains followed.



Hundreds were stranded in malls and theatres for long hours. They, according to the Disaster Management team, were shifted to schools and local clubs.

Twelve farm labourers were struck by lightning at Kolepara in Memari yesterday evening while returning back from their work fields.

At City Centre, Benachitty, Sagarbhanga and Steel Township areas in Durgapur town several roads were submerged due to unrelenting rains for four hours.

SECURITY CHECK



Security checking for the 15th August programme at Red Road. ■ MOUL MONDAL

New Alipore College celebrated 60 years

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, 6 AUGUST

Bratya Basu, state Education minister inaugurated a function to celebrate the 60th anniversary of New Alipore College at a function on 4 August.

In his speech Mr basu highlighted how the college had played an important role in academic and intellectual developments in south Kolkata in the crucial post partition era. He congratulated the faculty members, students and staff members of the college for making it happen in the past 60 years.

Mr Aroop Biswas, state minister for Power, Housing Youth Services and Sports who is the president of the Governing Body of the college talked about the student-teacher relationship as the most important factor in the



college and highlighted the glorious journey of the college in the past six decades.

Professor Jaydeep Sarangi, principal of the college highlighted the motto of the college: 'Include, Ignite and Innovate'. He talked about the importance of inclusivity in order to promote social consciousness and practice of learning amongst the students of the college.

Mr Debashis Kumar, MLA from Rashbehari and member, mayor-in-council in charge of Parks and Squares

and several other dignitaries attended the function.

After the publication of the new assessment system of NAAC, the college acquired A grade as the first college in the city.

A new laboratory for Journalism and Mass Communication and LT department was inaugurated to mark the occasion. A photography gallery was opened and several books were released on the occasion. It was followed by a musical programme by the Bengali band Dohar.

BJP ridicules Saugata Roy's call for nationwide adoption of Bengal's 'Maoist Control Model'

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, 6 AUGUST

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) today mocked Trinamul Congress (TMC) MP Saugata Roy for suggesting that the West Bengal government's "Maoist Control model" be implemented nationwide.

BJP's West Bengal co-observer and national IT cell in-charge Amit Malviya described Mr Roy's suggestion as laughable.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah also sharply rebuffed Mr Roy's proposal on the floor of the Lok Sabha, criticising the notion.

Mr Malviya highlighted the contradictions in the TMC's stance, pointing out that West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee had previously allied with Maoists to gain power, even integrating some into her party.



Mr Malviya noted that on 18 May, 2024, Miss Banerjee publicly acknowledged that notorious Maoist Chhatradhar Mahato, accused of multiple murders, had held positions in TMC since 2008.

"She credited him with establishing TMC's presence in the Junglemahal region. Upon assuming power, Miss Banerjee reportedly labeled a farmer as a Maoist for questioning the rising price of manure, resulting in his immediate arrest. Similarly, she accused a student of being a Maoist for chal-



lenging her on TMC leaders' character assassination of rape victims. Ironically, the interviewer at the time is now a TMC MP," Mr Malviya tweeted.

Recently, Professor Saugata Roy himself faced threats when TMC goon Jayanta Sinha was arrested for whipping people, with his followers demanding his immediate release.

"It is not just audacious but laughable for the TMC to tout their efforts as a 'model' to emulate," Mr Malviya concluded.

VHP voices concerns over Bangladesh's socio-political situation

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
SILIGURI, 6 AUGUST

The Vishva Hindu Parishad (VHP) North Bengal Chapter has raised alarm regarding the deteriorating socio-political climate in neighbouring Bangladesh, particularly following a sudden escalation in tensions prevailed yesterday.

Narayan Mandal, President of VHP North Bengal, called for the protection of non-sectarian Muslim civil society in Bangladesh, highlighting the potential risks they face due to the rising influence of fundamentalist groups such as Jamaat.

"Their lives may also be at risk due to the growing Jamaat/fundamentalist influence in Bangladesh. Persecution of minorities has been a recurring issue over the

past decades. To prevent further atrocities, international human rights organizations, including the United Nations, must actively monitor the situation," Mr Mandal stated. Mr Mandal also expressed concerns about the presence of extremist forces like Jamaat and ISIS in Bangladesh, some of which have been reported to operate within India.

He urged that India's security status, particularly in border areas, should remain stable amidst these developments.

Lakshman Bansal, another VHP leader, emphasised the need for preparedness in case a significant number of minority communities from Bangladesh seek refuge in India.

"From a humanitarian perspective, appropriate shelter camps for these refugees should be established in advance. We must also ensure that militants do not infiltrate under the guise of refugees," Mr Bansal asserted.

The ongoing turmoil has left many Indian students, businessmen, and tourists stranded in Bangladesh. Bansal stressed the urgent need for protective measures and safe return arrangements for these individuals.

In light of recent incidents, VHP leaders appealed to both society and local admin-

istration to maintain peace in Bangladesh and its bordering regions, especially West Bengal.

They reported multiple instances of vandalism targeting temples and Hindu homes amid ongoing student movements.

Mr Mandal urged the new Bangladeshi administration to ensure the protection and reconstruction of damaged Hindu temples, while also calling on the Government of India to take an active role in safeguarding minority communities.

Mr Bansal echoed this sentiment, demanding protection for all minority groups in Bangladesh, including Hindus, Buddhists, Jains, Sikhs, and Christians.

Sources said over 60,000 villages were attacked since yesterday.

Swamiji's book to be included in Class XI syllabus

The small book contains excerpts from the speeches delivered by Swami Vivekananda after he came back from the West in 1897. The speeches he had delivered are available as Lectures of Swami Vivekananda from Colombo to Almora.

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, 6 AUGUST

The West Bengal Higher Secondary Council will include the book *Vivekananda: His Call to the Nation* in the syllabus of class XI.

The small book contains excerpts from the speeches delivered by Swami Vivekananda after he came back from the West in 1897. The speeches he had delivered are available as Lectures of Swami Vivekananda from Colombo to Almora.

Swamiji's stenographer GG Goodwin died at a premature age. As a result no speech delivered by Swamiji in the United States during his second visit 1899-1900 could be traced.

Even two speeches delivered by Swamiji at the Paris Science Congress in 1900 could not be traced.

The book that has been included in the syllabus of class XI will be a rapid reader.

After coming to power in Bengal in 1977, the Left Front had dropped *Prachyo O Paschatyo* which was a rapid reader and dropped an essay titled *Bangla Bhasa* from the Bengali language book which was taught in Class XI and XII.

State minister and district administration take initiative to reach flood relief to the affected

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
HOOGHLY, 6 AUGUST

The incessant rain and the release of large volume of water from the DVC have inundated large parts of Arambagh, Khanakul, Pursura, Goghat and Tarkeswar.

The loss of paddy crops is massive, many kuccha and semi-pucca houses have been destroyed.

The flood water is flowing over the roads and many road bridges have been damaged, cutting off road communication to many panchayat areas of Arambagh Sub-Division.

From last few days the state minister Mr Becharam Manna, District Magistrate

Mukta Arya, SDOs, BDOs and MLAs are conducting series of administrative meetings to take stock of the day-to-day flood situation and to take appropriate steps to get relief to the affected.

Mr Manna said, at the directive of the state chief minister Mamata Banerjee they are continuously working to provide relief to the affected people.

The minister added that the entire district administration is fully engaged. "The district magistrate, concerned SDOs, BDOs MLAs, zila sabhadipati, panchayat pradhans, medical team, NDRF, we are reaching the most-affected low-lying areas of Arambagh, Pursura, Goghat, Khanakul



and Tarkeswar where many have been rendered homeless and are in distress. The homeless and those who had taken

shelter in the dam area were shifted to flood centres, boats and speed boats have been deployed."



At present there are 21 flood relief centres where clothing, drinking water and

medical assistance are being provided. Special attention is given to the sick, aged and

the children.

Our entire team is visiting all the flood centres to provide every possible assistance, the minister said.

The incessant rain and release of huge volume of water have inundated most of the low lying areas of Arambagh Sub-Division, the Dardeswar and Mundeswari rivers are in spate. Unless the rain holds off for at least couple of days and the release of water from the DVC is reduced then improvement of the situation will take place.

"We have assured all the affected not to panic or feel helpless since we are by their side round the clock," said Mr Manna.

THUMBNAILS



Press meet on Chess Tournament in aid of Thalassemia patients to be held at Lake Club on 11th August at Calcutta Sports Journalists' Club, Moul Mondal

New MD of KMRCL: Mr Anuj Mittal has taken over the charge of managing director of Kolkata Metro Rail Corporation Limited (KMRCL). Mr Mittal belongs to the Indian Railway Service For Engineers (IRSE) of 1990 batch and completed his B. Tech from IIT Roorkee and M. Tech from IIT Delhi. He worked at Danapur Division of East Central Railway (ECR) and his other postings were in Mughalsarai, Eastern Railway, Metro Railway, South Eastern Railway and RVNL. According to the KMRCL, Mr Mittal is presently the principal chief engineer at Kolkata Metro Railway and has been given the additional charge of the MD of KMRCL.

Senior Deputy General Manager of South Eastern Railway: Senior Deputy General Manager of South Eastern Railway: Mr Surinder Pal took over the charge of Senior Deputy General Manager, South Eastern Railway, Garden Reach, yesterday. Prior to his new posting, he was the chief project manager, Rail Land Development Authority, Chandigarh. Mr Pal, belongs to the Indian Railway Service of Engineers of 1990 batch and joined Indian Railways in March 1992. He has graduated in Civil Engineering from NIT, Kurukshetra and done post graduation in Structural Engineering from Punjab Engineering College, Chandigarh. He has served in various posts such as divisional engineer, Allahabad (Prayagraj), deputy chief engineer/Bridges, New Delhi, deputy chief engineer (Construction), Delhi, senior divisional engineer, Northern Railway, Ambala, Director/Vigilance, Railway Board and so on.

Handloom Day: Handloom House is going to organise NATIONAL HANDLOOM DAY, today. Customers will get 10% special discount on every purchase upto 16th August 2024. Offers are available in both units, i.e., Lindsay Street & Dakshinapan Market showrooms.

Bihar police arrest man in city over threat to blow up Nitish Kumar's CMO
The arrest pertains to a case of an alleged threat call made through an e-mail to blow up the Bihar Chief minister Nitish Kumar's office by triggering a blast, made on 16 July.

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE KOLKATA, 6 AUGUST

A team of Bihar police arrested one person from BB Ganguly street on Monday night allegedly in connection with a bomb threat call to blow up the Bihar Chief minister's Office (CMO).

A team of Bihar police reached the city last night and arrested one person identified as Md Zahed (51) who city police sources say is a resident of Begusarai and used to ply his trade as betel leaf dealer at BB Ganguly Street. The arrest pertains to a case of an alleged threat call made through an e-mail to blow up the Bihar Chief minister Nitish Kumar's office by triggering a blast, made on 16 July. The alleged threat call, was made in the name of Al Qaida terror outfit. The cell phone through which the alleged mail was sent was seized by Bihar police.

Many Awami League supporters come to India to take refuge

State of high alert has been declared along India-Bangladesh border to address any potential security threat

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE SILIGURI, 6 AUGUST

Several Awami League supporters, both Muslim and Hindu, have fled Bangladesh to save their lives and come to India officially with visas.

Many other supporters of the Awami League are unable to cross the Indo-Bangladesh border to seek refuge in India. Sources report that these individuals are allegedly being confined by both the police and army in Bangladesh.

Several families have attempted to cross the border to save their lives but have failed.

Supporters of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and the fundamentalist group Jamaat-e-Islami have been attacking these individuals.

Rabiul Islam, from Dinajpur Corporation area, fled his home to save his life and crossed the Indo-Bangladesh border at Fulbari in Jalpaiguri today.



Speaking to reporters at Fulbari Immigration Check Post, Rabiul Islam, an Awami League supporter, said: "The situation in Bangladesh is alarming. BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami people, in the name of students, have looted houses and business establishments and set them on fire. Several people were beaten to death. I just fled home to save my life since I have a valid passport and visa. My family members couldn't leave because they don't have visas. They are at my in-law's house. As I was coming to the border, several

houses in Tentulia were burning. A big power is working behind the students who are attacking the general people and looting government and private properties. Bangladesh is finished. There is no democracy and no rule of law at present."

Several people have come to India officially through Changrabandha, Fulbari, Hilli, and Mahadipur ICPs to seek refuge.

Meanwhile, some people have been returning to Bangladesh. One of them, at Fulbari ICP, said: "A new

Bangladesh has emerged. The Awami League was in power for many years without a proper election system. As a result, the majority of people went against the present government."

As many Bangladeshis desperately try to cross the Indo-Bangladesh border to save their lives and seek refuge, despite alleged resistance from both Bangladesh police and army, the BSF jawans are on high alert, enhancing vigilance and intelligence along Assam and Bengal.

In light of recent developments in Bangladesh, the BSF has reviewed the security situation along the Indo-Bangladesh international border, anticipating various contingencies.

A state of high alert has been declared to address any potential security threat. Commanders at all levels have been directed to maintain utmost vigilance and readiness to handle any unforeseen circumstances.

The North Bengal Frontier

BSF has appealed to the district administrations to impose Section 144 of the CrPC along the border at night to check crimes and infiltration.

They are to keep a strict watch on the border, with augmented manpower and the formation of quick reaction teams (QRT), according to a senior BSF official.

Manpower at border outposts (BOPs) has been increased, and all surveillance equipment is being utilized to its full capacity to ensure effective monitoring. Sub-units have been instructed to maintain high vigilance and be prepared to address any adverse situation promptly.

Intelligence operations have been enhanced to provide real-time information, ensuring any emerging threats are swiftly identified and neutralized. Given the sensitivity of the border and potential challenges, BSF troops are strategically deployed to safeguard the nation's borders, the BSF said.

Suwendu Adhikari called by Amit Shah to Delhi amid Bangladesh crisis

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE KOLKATA, 6 AUGUST

The Leader of Opposition in Bengal Assembly Suwendu Adhikari on Tuesday hurriedly flew to New Delhi after a summons from the Union home minister Amit Shah.

The developments comes amid turmoil in the neighbouring country of Bangladesh. Mr Suwendu did not disclose the reason for his trip to Delhi to the Press before leaving.

However, according to sources, Mr Adhikari is going to meet Union Home Minister Amit Shah in the context of the situation in Bangladesh.

The Indian administration is concerned about the recent developments in Bangladesh over the past few days. In this connection, Mr Adhikari, speaking to the media outside the state legislative Assembly



on Monday, said: "One crore refugees will come to West Bengal. Be prepared. I am prepared. I will ask the Chief Minister and the Governor to talk to the Centre."

Following Sheikh Hasina's resignation and departure from her country, a high alert has been issued at the India-Bangladesh border. Strict surveillance is underway at every border in Bengal.

Currently, the situation in Bangladesh is fiery. Police stations, hotels have been burned, rampant attacks, and incidents of beating to death are occurring.

According to sources, from morning to night on Monday, at least 109 people have died.

In this situation, the minorities in Bangladesh are extremely terrified. Mr Adhikari's sudden flight to Delhi has created a stir in the political sphere as well.

Meanwhile along with the Coast Guard, patrolling is being conducted by water in all coastal police station areas of Sundarbans.

From the morning, the Fraserganj Coastal Police Station has been seen patrolling the rivers and sea in the coastal area with "Flying Inflatable Boat" (FIB) vessels.

Security scaled up at Bangladesh Deputy High Commission in Kolkata

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE KOLKATA, 6 AUGUST

Security has been beefed up near the Deputy High Commission of Bangladesh at Beck Bagan, South Kolkata, in the wake of turbulent situation in neighbouring country. Sources at city police headquarters at Lalbazar said that security has been heightened a few notches unlike other days with additional force has been deployed with a senior officer in the rank of Additional commissioner maintaining vigil.

The entire area has been cordoned off with girl rails. People are being thoroughly checked before being allowed in. Bangladesh has been on the boil over anti-quota uprising and Sheikh Hasina had to resign as the Prime Minister of the country and



took refuge in Delhi after fleeing the country.

Though the Army took over the reins of the country and vowed to install an interim government to restore normalcy, scenes of anarchy continued to dominate the country with looting, arson and vandalism ruling the roost.

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Awami League leader takes shelter at Duttabad in North 24-Pgns after crossing border

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE KOLKATA, 6 AUGUST

An Awami Leader of trouble-hit Bangladesh fled the country and took shelter at his relative's residence at Duttabad in North 24-Parganas on Tuesday after crossing the Indo-Bangladesh border in Petrapole in the district.

Biswajit Saha, a local leader of the Awami League and resident of Kachua, Bagerhat in Bangladesh, alleged that the BNP leaders prepare a list of leaders belonging to the Awami League that used to rule the country till Monday afternoon when its longest serving Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina Wazed resigned and fled after weeks of students' unrest leading to bloodbaths.

"The BNP has prepared a hit list of Awami League leaders to kill the latter. I fled Bangladesh crossing the border otherwise I would have also been killed. The BNP supporters have already torched several shops and damaged houses and other establishments but the army is inactive and looks like a silent spectator," Mr Saha alleged.

The BNP along with Jamat, which was banned by the Sheikh Hasina government, feels that it's already in power



with the fall of the Awami League government, he said adding, "I am not a big leader. Now I am not in politics. Many other leaders of the Awami League are also fleeing Bangladesh."

"Last night, I was in a hideout in a bush near my residence at Kachua and somehow managed to flee today to save my life. My relative owns a house at Duttapukur where I have taken shelter," Mr Saha added.

On the other hand, BSF has intensified its vigilance along the border through night vision cameras since Monday.

Jawans of the security forces are keeping strong watches along Ghojadanga, Petrapole, Mehadiapur, Phulbari, Chayangrabandha etc in south and north Bengal region to prevent Bangladeshi infiltrations to India.

104 truckers stranded in Bangladesh return home

NISHAT NIZAMI KOLKATA, 6 AUGUST

Amid the turmoil in the neighbouring country, around 104 truck drivers who were stranded at various places beyond the borders of Bangladesh returned to their homeland today.

As the unrest in Bangladesh continues, about 183 truck drivers who had crossed the borders ferrying essential, perishable or even non-perishable articles in the last few days, were awaiting a communication from the state and the central governments for their return.

According to the truck operators, trucks carrying onions, medicines, garments and other similar items are stranded at three border points of the neighbouring country.

According to a local clearing agent, around 724 trucks carrying items worth Rs 1

thousand crore were stranded at the other side of the border.

This is keeping the truck operators apprehensive as the chaos in Bangladesh continued.

As informed by sources in the Federation of West Bengal Truck Operators Association and the local clearing agents, the Petrapole border trade remained suspended even today.

Loading and unloading was also halted at the borders of the neighbouring country till a greater part of the day. Amid the political instability, around 190 truck drivers stranded at various border crossings were brought to this side of the border yesterday.

"However, around 104 truck drivers who were still stranded on the other side of the border in Bangladesh returned today. At this moment, we are not con-

cerned about the trucks or even the articles being ferried in them.

Our priority is to bring back the truck drivers safely to our country," informed a clearing agent of Petrapole border.

During the later parts of the day, around 104 drivers are said to have returned with empty vehicles.

The remaining around 79 in number were still in Bangladesh but at safe places. According to the local clearing agents, 19 trucks after off loading returned to India this afternoon.

The process of bringing the trucks and the stranded drivers will continue and the remaining are also expected to be here soon," informed an agent.

However, as per the last conversation with the truck operators' federation this noon, the Indo-Bangla border was still closed for trade.

HIROSHIMA DIVAS



Paschimbanga Vigyan Mancha members organise a rally to mark Hiroshima Day in Kolkata. ■ BISWAJIT GHOSHAL

Curfew along Indo-B'desh border to be strictly monitored: BSF

AGENCIES KOLKATA, 6 AUGUST

Border Security Force (BSF) on Tuesday said that the curfew along the India-Bangladesh border will be strictly monitored in the wake of the illegal infiltrations following the political turmoil in Bangladesh.

BSF DIG and Spokesperson, South Bengal Frontier, A K Arya, said that meetings were held with villagers at the Uttarpara and Mustafapur Border Outpost to discuss the prevailing situation in Bangladesh after the change of power.

"Villagers were advised



not to move around without any purpose on the border road or the nearby areas after dark. Announcements are also to be made from mosques to keep villagers away from the border. It has also been decided that shops in villages will close by 9 pm. Farmers have also been asked to use the fence gates only for essential work," the BSF Spokesperson said.

He said that there is a need to maintain vigil and prevent infiltration and other criminal activities such as smuggling in the border areas.

DIG Arya said that another coordination meeting was held at the Bornberia Border Outpost. Key issues discussed in the meeting included management of tall crops in border areas, the problem

of jute dumping by civilians near the border, civilian movement on border roads after curfew and land acquisition for fencing in unfenced areas," he said.

He said that the meeting emphasised the importance of addressing these issues to maintain border security and community safety.

He said that during all the meetings, the BSF stressed the importance of good relations between the force and the local civilian population.

"It was emphasised that better coordination would result in fewer hassles for the BSF and villagers alike," DIG Arya said.

Kolkata-Dhaka flight services gradually returning to normal

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE KOLKATA, 6 AUGUST

Kolkata-Bangladesh flight services are gradually returning to normal, a NSCB airport sources said today.

Late last night, a flight from Bangladesh landed in Kolkata, although it had only a few passengers.

The flight returned to Bangladesh at the scheduled time.

Today, Tuesday, at 8:22 a.m., a Biman Bangladesh Airlines flight arrived in Kolkata.

Today, Tuesday, at 8:22 a.m, a Biman Bangladesh Airlines flight arrived in Kolkata.

This flight will depart for Bangladesh shortly, but the number of passengers remains low.

Following days of bloody struggle, police-civilian clashes, and the deaths of over a hundred people, normalcy is gradually returning to public life in Bangladesh. After five consecutive days

of violence across the capital Dhaka and other parts of the country, the situation is stabilising.

Air India has cancelled all flights to Bangladesh, informing passengers that they will not be charged a cancellation fee for their tickets.

Vistara also announced on their official X handle that flights to Bangladesh are temporarily suspended.

Similarly, IndiGo Airlines also announced that their flights to Bangladesh will not operate for the time being.

THUMBNAILS

TN health minister transfers CMO of govt hospital for negligence: Tamil Nadu Health Minister, Ma Subramanian on Tuesday directed the state health department to issue transfer orders to the Chief Medical Officer (CMO) of Paramakudi Government Hospital in Ramanathapuram District for negligence of duty. The minister while conducting a surprise inspection on Tuesday morning at the Paramakudi Government Hospital found that it was not well-maintained. Ma Subramanian told media persons that the CT scan room was not clean and could lead to infections. The minister said that this was affecting the Public Health System and added that the CMO was responsible for the same and immediately ordered his transfer. Speaking to media persons the minister said that he has asked the Director of Health Services to seek an explanation from the Deputy Director of Health Services of Ramanathapuram District regarding the CMO's negligence. It may be noted that after becoming health minister of Tamil Nadu, Ma Subramanian has conducted several surprise visits to hospitals and Primary Health Centres and has taken immediate action against erring health department officials.

Wayanad landslides: Experts raise questions on their causes

Famous environmental scientist Madhav Gadgil has termed the disaster in Wayanad a man-made tragedy

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
KALPETTA, 6 AUGUST

A massive landslide wreaked havoc in Wayanad district of Kerala leaving hundreds dead and property destroyed, experts claim the tragedy was avoidable.

Famous environmental scientist Madhav Gadgil, who was the chairman of the Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel (WGEEP), has termed the disaster in Wayanad a man-made tragedy, attributing it to the Kerala government's failure to implement crucial ecological recommendations.

Speaking to a Malayalam news channel on the other day on the backdrops of the landslides in Wayanad, Madhav Gadgil said it is man-made disaster and the government cannot get out of its responsibility.

"The government cannot shirk its responsibility. The government itself is abetting the exploitation of the environment," Gadgil said.

The noted environmental scientist said that the possibility of landslides in Meppadi region in Wayanad, where

the devastating landslides killed hundreds of people last week, had already been pointed out. But the government didn't care it, he said.

The facts pointed out by Madhav Gadgil in his study report in 2011 are being discussed on social media after the massive landslides in Kerala. The noted environmental scientist has in 2013 stated that if Western Ghats have not been protected, huge disasters await Kerala.

If action is not taken yet, a huge disaster awaits Kerala. It doesn't take ages as you might think, just four or five years. Then you and I will be alive. You yourself will understand who is lying and who is intimidating," - these are the words shared by Madhav Gadgil in 2013.

Meppadi and Churalmala areas in Wayanad are in the list of environmentally sensitive areas mentioned by Madhav Gadgil in his study report in 2011. The committee, headed by Madhav Gadgil, in its report had recommended the classification of eco-sensitive areas and zones across the Western Ghats.



But till date this has not been implemented.

The Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel led by Madhav Gadgil had specifically warned against anti-environmental activities in Meppadi, where the massive landslide wreaked havoc leaving more than 300 people dead and destructing the entire area.

Meppadi, which is in Vythiri taluk was one of the 18 Ecologically Sensitive Localities (ESL) in Kerala identified by the panel. The panel has submitted its report to the Union government in 2011.

This report that had cau-

tioned against indiscriminate construction and quarrying in Ecologically Sensitive Areas (ESA). In fact, Meppadi in Vythiri taluk — within 2-3 km of which lie Mundakkai and Chooralmala, where landslide occurred on July 30 — was one of the 18 ecologically sensitive zones in Kerala identified by the panel. Brahmagiri - Tirunelli, Wayanad, Banasura Sagar - Kuttijadi and Nilambur - Meppadi are among the 18.

In its report, the Gadgil panel had proposed to categorise ecologically sensitive areas across the Western Ghats, delineating clear restrictions and regulations on construction activities in ESZ-I and ESZ-II regions. The Gadgil panel had recommended restrictions on mining and quarrying activities along the eco-sensitive areas. Going by the Gadgil report, Vythiri, Mananthavadi and Sultan Bathery come under ESZ-I, while Perinthalmanna and Tirur taluks in Malappuram will come under ESZ-II.

Madhav Gadgil, who had earlier visited Puthumala region of Meppadi following the 2019 landslide that claimed 17 lives, had specifically pointed out that construction of roads and buildings on the hilly terrain were contributing factors for the landslides.

the government reduced the distance to a mere 50 metres, pointed out Vijayan.

"We had given clear warnings. The panel identified 18 places as ESAs. Construction activities should have been avoided in these areas. However, due to some reasons, the governments rejected our recommendations," says Vijayan. In its report submitted before the Union government in August 2011, the panel had warned against activities that will lead to environmental degradation.

However, both the state and Centre were not keen on implementing the same and went ahead with measures aimed at diluting the proposals.

Following opposition from state governments, the Centre government rejected Gadgil panel recommendations and appointed another committee — High Level Working Group — led by Kasturirangan to come up with a fresh report. The Gadgil panel had recommended that about 75 % of Western Ghats be notified as ESAs. The Kasturirangan committee, however, reduced the extent of ESAs.

The then state government led by Oommen Chandy had opposed the Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel (WGEEP) report and entrusted another panel led by Oommen V Oommen to come up with an independent report. Congress leader PT Thomas was one of the very few politicians who had favoured the Gadgil report.

Geoscientist and professor at the National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bengaluru, C P Rajendran says human interventions including deforestation, unplanned construction activities and climate vagaries caused the devastating landslides in Wayanad.

According to the Kerala Disaster Management Authority's landslide hazard profile map, over forty per cent of Wayanad district is susceptible to landslides, with the Meppadi region, including Chooralmala, Mundakai, and Puthumala, being especially critical. Kavalappara in the Malappuram district, which experienced a massive landslide four years ago, is on the opposite side of the Meppadi hills.

LS discusses Finance Bill, Opposition attacks tax on insurance, agricultural equipment

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 6 AUGUST

The Opposition in the Lok Sabha on Tuesday attacked the government's taxation policy, stating that it had put heavy burdens on the middle and salaried classes, removed indexation benefit on property, placed heavy taxes on life and health insurance policies, while not sparing even equipment used by India's vast community of farmers.

The House discussed the Finance (No.2) Bill, 2024, moved by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, along with the Union Budget, 2024-25.

Participating in the discussion, Mr Amar Singh (Congress) said the Finance Bill spared the higher income categories, while the relief should have gone to low salaried people. In the new tax regime, the standard deduction was raised from Rs 50,000 to Rs 75,000, but

all concessions under the old regime were discontinued.

He said the Budget had increased short and long term capital gains taxes. Salaries up to Rs 5 lakh should have been exempted under the Finance Bill, he said. The member said unemployment was rising and government should consider how many jobs corporates create when they get tax concessions.

The Punjab MP said more than 50 per cent population depended on agriculture but their income was just 18.4 per cent of the gross domestic product (GDP). The agriculture sector's growth rate was just 1.4 per cent, and the farmers are seeking a law on MSP.

Ms Mahua Moitra (Trinamul Congress) said the Budget is a "kursi bachao budget" (saving the government budget). The changes made are regressive. People wanted a course correction but it was not done. The

middle classes make up 31 per cent of India and the poor are 65 per cent of the country; both have suffered in the Budget. She said 65 per cent of the government's tax collections come from indirect taxes which are imposed on the rich and the poor equally, while just 35 per cent tax collections are made from direct taxes.

For the first time, she said, 55 per cent of the direct tax collections come from the salaried class while just 45 per cent from the corporates. Eighteen per cent taxation on insurance policies would deter people from investing in them.

If inflation was adjusted, there was 25 per cent reduction in the allocation for the social sector, she said. The government's five top social sector schemes' allocation was reduced to one-third since 2009-10. The number of people under coverage for ration had not increased for years.

KTR sounds alarm on Telangana's IT exports

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD, 6 AUGUST

Even as Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy is currently on a trip to the US and South Korea to bring in more investment, former IT minister and BRS working president KT Rama Rao today sounded the alarm over declining IT exports as well as new IT jobs in the state.

Taking to social media platform X, Rao expressed his apprehension in a lengthy post. He said, "The alarming decline in Telangana's IT exports is a matter of serious concern. Even more concerning is the fact that new IT jobs have fallen to one-third of the 2022-23 numbers."

Citing statistics, he said while growth in IT exports was Rs 57,706 in 2022-23 it has dropped to Rs 26,948 crore in 2023-24. In case of IT employment growth there were 1,27,594 new jobs in



2022-23 which dropped to 40,285 in 2023-24.

Rao then went on to remind that "The IT sector is a crucial engine that fuels the growth of Hyderabad city and Telangana state. During

the tenure of BRS, this sector witnessed unprecedented growth thanks to several path breaking policies and the TSIPASS single-window initiative. I urge the Congress government to prioritize the

IT and ITES sector and ensure policy continuity. Existing investors need to be supported and new investments must be attracted. Young entrepreneurs and startups must be supported by all means."

Criticising the current government for not focussing on maintaining law and order and infrastructure upgradation, Rao said, "Incessant infrastructure upgradation and the strict maintenance of law and order play an important role in sustaining the growth of the IT sector in the state. The Congress government needs to focus on these areas, which seem to have taken a back seat since they assumed office."

However, an 'X' user pointed out there has been a hiring freeze by top IT majors, which has led to the decline in IT exports.

Moreover, Hyderabad was still recording a 11.5 per cent growth even when nationally the figure is abysmal at merely 3.3 per cent.

In 2023-24, it was the BRS government which was at the helm of the state before losing the Assembly elections and making way for the Congress.

2008 Malegaon blast: SC declines Sameer Kulkarni's plea challenging validity of sanction to prosecute

PARMOD KUMAR
NEW DELHI, 6 AUGUST

The Supreme Court on Tuesday declined the plea by Sameer Kulkarni, one of the accused in the 2008 Malegaon bomb blast case, challenging the June 28, 2023, Bombay High Court order dismissing his plea that the sanction by the authorities to prosecute him under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act was not proper.

A bench comprising Justice MM Sundresh and Justice Aravind Kumar said that it was not inclined to interfere with the Bombay High Court order which had dismissed



his plea.

"We find no reason to interfere with the impugned

judgement", the bench said.

Earlier the top court on

April 30 had stayed proceedings against Kulkarni before the special NIA court.

The High Court by its June 28, 2023 order had upheld the April 24, 2023 order of the NIA court rejecting Kulkarni's plea questioning the competence of the trial court to hold the trial without valid sanction.

Kulkarni had approached the top court challenging the sanction to prosecute him granted under Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act stating that the sanction was not proper.

The plea challenged the competence of the trial court to conduct the trial and that too without a valid sanction under Section 45(2) of the UAPA.

CBN proposes YouTube academy in AP



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD, 6 AUGUST

Andhra Pradesh chief minister N Chandrababu Naidu has proposed setting up of a YouTube academy in the state while discussing investments in the state with top officials of the company. The chief minister today held an online meeting with YouTube's global CEO Neal Mohan and Google APAC head Sanjay Gupta.

Furthermore, we explored avenues for providing technical support for the Media city initiative in our capital, Amaravati," wrote Naidu on 'X'. Union aviation minister K Ram Mohan Naidu was present in person with YouTube CEO Neal Mohan and Google APAC head Sanjay Gupta when they held the zoom meeting with Naidu. An academy will upgrade the skills of YouTubers in content development and offer certification at the end of the course and likely to be a game changer. Naidu who claims to be the founder of the IT hub in Cyberabad and had brought Bill Gates to Hyderabad hopes to replicate his success in rebuilding AP by harnessing futuristic technology.

Kamal Hassan takes break from hosting Big Boss Tamil Season 8

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
CHENNAI, 6 AUGUST

Versatile actor and 'Makkal Needhi Maiam' (MNM) party president Kamal Hassan has announced a temporary break from hosting the hugely popular reality show *Big Boss Tamil* this current season. Citing prior cinematic commitments, the veteran film star took to X (previously twitter) make his decision public on exiting the season 8 of the show. Addressing viewers of the show he said: "With a heavy heart, I wish to inform you that I will be taking a small break from our journey that began 7 years ago. Due to prior cinematic commit-

ments, I'm unable to host the upcoming season of *Big Boss Tamil*."

Hassan's presence as the host itself was a huge attraction for the programme and he had used it to provide space to popularise authors and literary works by introducing them at the close of every show. His conduct of the show was, however, not without criticism, especially in the last season which provoked an online debate.

He has been associated with the programme since its inception and he continued to host it even after taking the political plunge by launching his political party MNM in February 2018 and contesting



the 2019 Lok Sabha and 2021 Assembly elections. In the 2024 LS poll, the MNM joined the DMK-led INDIA combine and he was its star campaigner while refraining from entering the fray in return for a future Rajya Sabha membership. Expressing confidence that the upcoming season 8 will

be a grand success, he acknowledged the love and affection he had received as a host. "I have been privileged to reach your homes. You have showered me with your love and affection, for which you have my everlasting gratitude. Your spirited and passionate support for the contestants is at the core of what makes *Big Boss Tamil* one of the best television reality shows in India," the film star said.

Though the Kamal-Shankar combo's 'Indian 2' has failed to be a box office hit, Kamal has teamed up with ace film maker Mani Ratnam after 37 years for 'Thug Life', is also part of 'Kalki 2' of film maker Nag Ashwin.

CANCELLATION OF BANDHAN EXPRESS
As per message received from Bangladesh Railways, 13129 Kolkata-Khulna Bandhan Express (JCO 08.08.2024) and 13130 Khulna-Kolkata Bandhan Express (JCO 08.08.2024) will remain CANCELLED. Inconvenience is regretted.
Chief Passenger Transportation Manager
Eastern Railway
Follow us at : @EasternRailway f@easternrailwayheadquarter

RESTORATION OF ONE PAIR EMU TRAIN SERVICES BETWEEN HOWRAH & BARDHAMAN
In reference to the earlier notification regarding cancellation of trains due to Traffic and Power Block for 03 nights in a week between Jaugram & Gurap stations from the intervening night of 05/06.08.2024 to the intervening night of 22/23.08.2024 intermittently, it is to be stated that, the track maintenance work have been cancelled on the intervening night of 07/08.08.2024 due to bad weather. Consequently, following EMU train services will be restored on 08.08.2024 :
• From Howrah - 36811, • From Bardhaman - 36812. Passengers are requested to follow the public Address System of Stations.
Divisional Railway Manager, Howrah
Eastern Railway
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Name of Work: "STANDARD ENGINEERING, PROCUREMENT AND CONSTRUCTION(EPC) AGREEMENT FOR PROVISION OF KAVACH (TRAIN COLLISION AVOIDANCE SYSTEM), ALONG WITH TOWERS AND 4X48 FIBRE OFC AS A BACKBONE ON BHUTESHWAR (INCL)-DHOLPUR(INCL) SECTION ON NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY"
Approx Cost: Rs 70.77 Crore Completion period: 500 Days
Earnest Money amount: Rs. 3538900/- (Rs. Thirty Five Lakh Thirty Eight Thousand Nine Hundred only)
Availability of Tender document on Railway website: Tender documents will be available on ireps website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in from 31.07.2024 upto 11:00 Hrs (Morning) as per IST.
Physical submission of all document: Dated: 24.09.2024 upto 11:00 Hrs (Morning) as per IST.
Date & time of opening of tender: 27.09.2024 at 11:00 Hrs. (Morning) as per IST. 1370/24(A)
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THUMBNAILS

SKM delegation meets Rahul Gandhi: A delegation of the Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM) met the Leader of Opposition (LoP) in Lok Sabha here on Tuesday.

The delegation, comprising Darshan Pal, Balbir Singh, and nine other members, met Gandhi in his office at the Parliament House. During their meeting, they discussed various issues pertaining to the Farmers. Congress general secretary in-charge of the organisation KC Venugopal and party's communication in-charge Jairam Ramesh were also present. Notably, a delegation of 12 farmer leaders, under the aegis of Kisan Mazdoor Morcha and SKM, met Gandhi inside the Parliament premises on 24th July, a day after the Union Budget was presented by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman. The farmers discussed the issue of Minimum Support Price (MSP) and urged the LoP in the Lower House to raise the matter in the House. "Legal guarantee of MSP is the right of the farmers. INDIA alliance will ensure they get this right," Gandhi told reporters after the meeting. It may be mentioned that the INDIA bloc parties have been critical of the government and accused it of neglecting the issues of farmers. Meanwhile, a delegation of the Sarva Seva Sangh also met the LoP in his office.

'If not granted, then sole option is to grab power'

Jarange-Patil ups the ante against Mahayuti govt on issue of Maratha quota



AGENCIES DHARASHIV, 6 AUGUST

Upping the ante against the ruling Mahayuti government, Shivba Sanghatana leader Manoj Jarange-Patil warned on Tuesday that if the Maratha quotas are not given, "then the only option left would be to grab power". Interacting with media

persons, Jarange-Patil made it clear that the Maratha groups do not want to enter politics or contest the elections unless they are compelled to do so. "However, if the state government fails to give us the reservations as assured, then the only option open to us would be to contest the polls and come to power... Then we shall fulfil all our promises to the community," declared Jarange-Patil.

The Shivba Sanghatana chief, who has been targeting Bharatiya Janata Party's Deputy CM Devendra Fadnavis, took another potshot at him for allegedly blocking the community's aspirations. "I call upon the legislators of all political parties to meet and convince him (Fadnavis) on our issue and work out a solution," urged Jarange-Patil, who has threatened to not only contest the assembly

elections here but also defeat the candidates of all other parties in the ruling MahaYuti and opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi alliances. Incidentally, on Monday evening, Fadnavis reiterated that "the Mahayuti government is fully committed to giving the Maratha quotas" within the legal framework. Jarange-Patil, without naming any party or leader, said, "some leaders are deliberately gunning for me to save their parties and political credibility," which the Marathas are aware of and will not tolerate.

Presently touring several districts like Dharashiv, Solapur, Beed, Pune and more, Jarange-Patil and Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) President Raj Thackeray -- who is in Dharashiv on his independent tour -- are likely to have a meeting, though both sides have refused to confirm it. On Monday, Raj Thackeray kicked up a huge political row saying that there is no need for quotas in Maharashtra if 100 per cent jobs are given to locals, and certain Maratha groups staged a sit-in protest outside his hotel on Monday night and even Jarange-Patil slammed him.

Anupriya Patel lists steps taken by govt to combat AMR



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, 6 AUGUST

Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare Anupriya Patel said here on Tuesday that the government has taken several steps to combat Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) including formulating a policy on the containment of the medical condition.

In a written reply in Rajya Sabha on steps taken to combat AMR, the Minister said, "The government of India has taken many initiatives to combat Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR). The initiatives include constitution of the National Task Force on AMR Containment in 2010 leading to development of the National Policy on AMR Containment in 2011."

She said the government launched the national programme on AMR containment in 2013.

The minister informed that the national surveillance networks including laboratories from across the country have been established and are generating National AMR Surveillance reports annually and also submitting data to the Global AMR Surveillance System (GLASS).

She said awareness material on judicious use of antimicrobials and hand hygiene and infection prevention has been developed and shared with various stakeholders.

Patel said to promote judicious use of antimicrobials, surveillance of antimicrobial use has been initiated at tertiary care hospitals. She also said the Ministry

launched the National Action Plan on AMR (NAP-AMR) in 2017 which was developed in alignment with the Global Action Plan on AMR. The Action Plan is being implemented by various stakeholder Ministries.

Patel also said national expert consultations were held towards development of NAP-AMR 2.0 in 2022. "Objectives of these consultations included undertaking SWOT (Strength, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) analyses across various sectors in context of the existing NAP-AMR and beyond as well as proposing the structure and contents of the proposed NAP 2.0 and to recommend essential elements of AMR research policy and research agenda of the country under NAP 2.0," she said.

Pointing out that Integrated Disease Surveillance Program (IDSP) is an important program under National Health Mission (NHM) for disease surveillance in the country, she said it is implemented in all 36 states/UTs.

She further said that the government, through the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), has collaborated with various International Organizations/Countries to address AMR and enhance disease surveillance.

SC to hear NCPCR's plea on Muslim girl's marriage soon after attaining puberty

PARMODO KUMAR NEW DELHI, 6 AUGUST

The Supreme Court on Tuesday agreed for an early hearing of a plea by the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) whether Muslim personal law allows marriage of a girl after attaining puberty while she is still a minor, would it prevail over the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act 2006.

As the matter could not be taken up today for the hearing, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta requested that the matter be heard and resolved at the earliest, as the different High Courts were giving contrary judgments. The Solicitor General had contended that Muslim

girls who are 14, 15, 16 years old are getting married.

Heading a bench also comprising Justice J.B. Pardiwala and Justice Manoj Misra, Chief Justice D.Y. Chandrachud said, "We have to settle the matter at once" and the matter will be listed soon.

The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights has approached the top court challenging an order of the Punjab and Haryana High Court which said a Muslim girl after attaining puberty is competent to enter into a contract of marriage with a person of her choice under the Muslim Personal Law.

Issuing notice on NCPCR plea, the top court has directed that the order of the Punjab



and Haryana High Court, which held that a Muslim girl aged 15 years can enter into legal and valid marriage as per personal law, should not be relied on as precedent in any other case.

Earlier, the National Commission for Women (NCW) had approached the top court to make the minimum age of marriage for Muslims girls the same as that of persons belonging to other religions.

The minimum age for marriage in India is currently

18 for women and 21 for men. However, the minimum marriage age for Muslim women is when they attain puberty and 15 years is presumed to be that age.

The NCW had said that allowing Muslims to marry at the age of puberty (around 15) is arbitrary, irrational, discriminatory, and violative of penal laws.

The plea had said even the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (POCSO) does not provide for those under 18 to consent for sex. It had said the PIL was filed for enforcement of the fundamental rights of minor Muslim women to bring Muslim personal law in consonance with the penal laws applicable for other reli-

gions.

The High Court in June 2023 in its order had cited the provisions of the Muslim Personal Law on marriage to rule that a 15-year-old Muslim girl was competent to enter into a contract of marriage with a person of her choice. The NCPCR had sought to ensure proper implementation of statutory laws that are specifically in place to protect children below the age of 18 years.

The Commission highlighted the provisions of the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act (PCMA) 2006 and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (POCSO) to put forth its reasons for challenging the High Court ruling.

Another shocker from MP: In yet another case of caste-based violence in Madhya Pradesh that's bound to raise hackles in society, a Dalit man was allegedly forced to drink urine by two miscreants in a village in the Narsinghpur district of the state. The assailants are said to have thrashed the poor man while hurling caste-based slurs at him. The incident occurred a few days ago in village Barha but the police came to know about it only today. Taking cognizance of the matter, police officials arrested both the accused and ordered a probe into the incident. Narsinghpur SP Amit Kumar confirmed on Tuesday that the police arrested Sillu Budhliya and Suraj Kachera in connection with the incident. The victim, Mohan Ahirwar, in his complaint to the police, said that the two men beat him up before confining him in a room and forcibly making him drink urine. Ahirwar also alleged that the accused threatened to kill his family and used caste-based abuses against him.

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL PWD TENDER NOTICE e-NT No. 23/City(E) of 2024-25 of The E.E.-1, City Dvn. P.W.D. for a work under the Maidan Sub-Div. is invited from bonafide outsiders having credential for similar urgent nature of work. Bid submission closing date (online) will be on 17/08/2024 at 16:00 hrs. Tender ID: 2024_WBPWD_727504_1. Other details may be seen from the website: http://wbtdenders.gov.in and http://wbpwd.in Sd/- Executive Engineer-I, City Division, P.W.D. ICA-113446(2)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL PWD TENDER NOTICE e-Tender is invited by the Assistant Engineer, Jhargram Sub-Division, PHE Dte. on behalf of Government of West Bengal vide Ref. No. e/NIG No. 09 of 2024-25 of 2024-25 and ID: 2024_PHE.D.725915_1 for works in Jhargram District. Details will be available in the website: wbtdenders.gov.in The last date of submission of tender is 22.08.2024 upto 12:00 Noon. Sd/- Assistant Engineer, Jhargram Sub-Division, PHE Dte. ICA-113441(2)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL PWD TENDER NOTICE e-Tender is invited by the Assistant Engineer, Hasnabad Sub-Division, PHE Dte. On behalf of Government of West Bengal vide Ref. No. e/NIG No. 09 of 2024-25 of 2024-25 and ID: 2024_PHE.D.727007_1, 2024_PHE.D.727007_2, 2024_PHE.D.727007_3, 2024_PHE.D.727007_4, 2024_PHE.D.727007_5, 2024_PHE.D.727007_6, 2024_PHE.D.727007_7, 2024_PHE.D.727007_8, 2024_PHE.D.727007_9, 2024_PHE.D.727007_10, 2024_PHE.D.727007_11, 2024_PHE.D.727007_12, 2024_PHE.D.727007_13, for urgent overhauling & repairing work for different PWSS in different block of North 24 Parganas District. Details will be available in the website: wbtdenders.gov.in Last date of submission of tender is 14.08.2024 upto 2:00 p.m. Hours. Corrigendum if any will be published at the above website only. Sd/- Assistant Engineer, Hasnabad Sub-Division, PHE Dte. ICA-113446(2)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL PWD TENDER NOTICE e-Tender is invited by the Assistant Engineer, Uttara Dinajpur Division, PWD invites online e-tender for 2 (two) nos. Civil work e-NIT No. 03 (SI.01 to 02) of 2024-25. Tender ID: 2024_WBPWD_726996_1 to 2. Bid submission start date (online) 07/08/2024 from 11:00 a.m. to 08/08/2024 at 11:30 a.m. Corrigendum if any will be published in website only. Details of NIT & tender documents may be downloaded from: http://wbtdenders.gov.in Sd/- Executive Engineer, Uttara Dinajpur Division, PWD. ICA-113446(2)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL PWD TENDER NOTICE EE, JCD, PWD, Jalpaiguri, invites e-tender for the work of 'Emergent Repair works' at Pavillion Building of Jalpaiguri Govt. Engineering College under the year 2024-25. WBPWD/EE/JCD/PWD/EE/NIT No. 12 of 2024-25. Estimated Amount upto Tender Rs. 5,57,129.00. Tender ID: 2024_WBPWD_727581_1. Bid submission start date (online) 06.08.24, from 11.00 A.M. Bid submission closing date (online) 14/08/2024 at 11:30 a.m. Corrigendum if any will be published in website only. Details of NIT & tender documents may be downloaded from: http://wbtdenders.gov.in Sd/- EE, JCD, PWD, Jalpaiguri, Govt. of W.B. ICA-113446(2)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL W.B.S.M.I.C.L. (A Govt. of West Bengal Undertaking) NOTICE FOR OFFICE SHIFTING This is to inform all concerns that Office of the Managing Director, West Bengal State Minor Irrigation Corporation (W.B.S.M.I.C.L.) Head Office will be shifted to a new place w.e.f. 01.08.2024 vide notification No. 775 of 01.08.2024. New Place: Khayya Bhawan, Block-4, 3rd Floor, 11A, Mirza Ghulab Street, Kolkata-87. Henceforth all correspondences and communication are to be made with the new address. Sd/- Managing Director WBSMIL ICA-113446(2)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL PWD TENDER NOTICE e-Tender is invited by the Assistant Engineer, Nadia Division, P.W.D. invites online e-tender for the work of SI. 01: Karimpur Shikarpur Road - Chainage from 1.00 kmp to 1.10 kmp - Flank dressing and chisalling work (in stretches) under Plassey Sub-Division, P.W.D. in the District of Nadia during the year 2024-25 (Rs. 2,18,754.00) Tender ID: 2024_WBPWD_727528_1. SI. 02: Karimpur-Shikarpur Road - Chainage from 7.00 kmp to 12.00 kmp - Flank dressing and chisalling work (in stretches) under Plassey Sub-Division, P.W.D. in the District of Nadia during the year 2024-25 (Rs. 2,18,099.00) Tender ID: 2024_WBPWD_727528_2. SI. 03: Close bamboo walling at Karimpur - Shikarpur Road - Chainage from 9.00 kmp to 11.00 kmp under Plassey Sub-Division, P.W.D. during the year 2024-25 (Rs. 2,85,416.00) Tender ID: 2024_WBPWD_727528_3. SI. 04: Close bamboo walling at Karimpur - Shikarpur Road - Chainage from 11.15 kmp to 12.00 kmp under Plassey Sub-Division, P.W.D. during the year 2024-25 (Rs. 3,16,008.00) Tender ID: 2024_WBPWD_727528_4. SI. 05: Close bamboo walling at Funkatala More to Natna More (Pattabukhuda More connector) Road - Chainage from 19.00 kmp to 20.50 kmp under Plassey Sub-Division, P.W.D. during the year 2024-25 (Rs. 2,87,736.00) Tender ID: 2024_WBPWD_727528_5. Bid submission start date (online) 02/08/2024 from 06:55 PM. Bid submission end date (online) 14/08/2024 upto 03:00 PM. Corrigendum if any will be published in website only. Details of NIT & Tender document may be downloaded from: http://wbtdenders.gov.in ICA-113446(2)/2024

The West Bengal Power Development Corporation Limited (A Govt. of West Bengal Enterprise) Corporate Identity No. U40104WB1985SG0039154 Santaldih Thermal Power Station P.O. Mecheda, Dist. Purba Medinipur, Pin - 721137 Notice Inviting E-Tender Ref. No.: WBPDCI/Tend-Adv/24-25/KTSP/CC-2169 Date: 01.08.2024 NIT No.: WBPDCI/KTSP/NIT/E3057/24-25 E-Tenders in prescribed format are invited at https://wbtdenders.gov.in by the General Manager, KTSP, WBPDCI from eligible Agencies/Companies in 2 part bid system for "Civil Construction Work of 600 KLD STP at B-Type of KTSP Township". Tender Document Download Start Date: 07.08.2024 at 11:00 AM. Bid Submission End Date: 06.09.2024 at 15:30 PM. Contact Person: Mr. Subhasis Das. Telephone No.: 8336904051. E-mail: cc_ktsp@wbpdco.in For details please visit: https://wbtdenders.gov.in ICA-113446(2)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL NOTICE INVITING TENDER Online tender is invited by the undersigned for the work: "EI Works including installation of A.C. machines at chamber of proposed remodeled chamber of D.S. (Administration), A.S. (Establishment) and D.S. (Admin)'s Unit at 3rd Floor of Vidyasagar Bhawan - Electrical installation of the said portion of 3rd Floor." Tender No: WBPWD/AE/NIESD/e-NIT-05/24-25 & e-Tender. Id No. 2024_WBPWD_727589_1. Document Downloaded Closing Date: 16.08.2024 upto 15.00Hrs. Details may be downloaded from wtenders.gov.in Sd/- Assistant Engineer, PWD North East Electrical Sub-Division. ICA-113446(2)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL PWD TENDER NOTICE EE/KNHED/PW Dte. invite online e-tender for the work "Emergent Electrical work i.c.w. uninterrupted power to newly installed Fire Detection System at Central Medical Store, Barabazar, Kolkata." e-NIT No. WBPWD/EE/KNHED/NIG-39/2024-25 Tender ID: 2024_WBPWD_727551_1. Bid Submission Start Date (online) 10/08/2024, 1.05 PM Bid Submission Closing Date (online) 20/08/2024 upto 1.00 PM. Corrigendum if any will be published in website only. Details of NIT and Tender Documents may be downloaded from: http://wbtdenders.gov.in Sd/- Executive Engineer, Uttara Dinajpur Division, P.W.D. ICA-113446(2)/2024

The West Bengal Power Development Corporation Limited (A Govt. of West Bengal Enterprise) Corporate Identity No. U40104WB1985SG0039154 Santaldih Thermal Power Station P.O. Mecheda, Dist. Purba Medinipur, Pin - 721137 Notice Inviting E-Tender Ref. No.: WBPDCI/Tend-Adv/24-25/KTSP/CC-2162 Date: 01.08.2024 NIT No.: WBPDCI/KTSP/NIT/E3056/24-25 E-Tenders in prescribed format are invited at https://wbtdenders.gov.in by the General Manager, KTSP, WBPDCI from eligible Agencies/Companies in 2 part bid system for "Design, Supply, Installation and Commissioning of STP (Capacity 600 KLD) based of MBRR Technology at B Type of KTSP Township". Tender Document Download Start Date: 07.08.2024 at 11:00 AM. Bid Submission End Date: 06.09.2024 at 15:30 PM. Contact Person: Mr. Subhasis Das. Telephone No.: 8336904051. E-mail: cc_ktsp@wbpdco.in For details please visit: https://wbtdenders.gov.in ICA-113446(2)/2024

The West Bengal Power Development Corporation Limited (A Govt. of West Bengal Enterprise) Corporate Identity No. U40104WB1985SG0039154 Santaldih Thermal Power Station P.O. Santaldih Thermal Plant, Dist. - Purulia, Pin - 723146 Notice Inviting E-Tender Ref. No.: WBPDCI/Tend-Adv/24-25/STPS/NIT/E3641/24-25 Date: 01.08.2024 NIT No.: WBPDCI/STPS/NIT/E3641/24-25 E-Tenders in prescribed format are invited at https://wbtdenders.gov.in by the General Manager, STPS, WBPDCI from eligible Agencies/Companies in 2 Part bid system for "Supply, Installation & Commissioning of Furnace Flaming Camera for Unit-5 & 6 under C&I Dept. STPS through CAPEX: 2024-25". Tender Document Download Start Date: 07.08.2024 at 11:00 hrs. Bid Submission End Date: 31.08.2024 at 15:00 hrs. Contact Person: Mr. D. Biswas, Dy. General Manager (Purchase), STPS. E-mail: cbwas@wbpdco.in For details please visit: https://wbtdenders.gov.in ICA-113446(2)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL PWD TENDER NOTICE EE/KNHED/PW Dte. invite online e-tender for the work "Emergent Electrical work i.c.w. uninterrupted power to newly installed Fire Detection System at Central Medical Store, Barabazar, Kolkata." e-NIT No. WBPWD/EE/KNHED/NIG-39/2024-25 Tender ID: 2024_WBPWD_727551_1. Bid Submission Start Date (online) 10/08/2024, 1.05 PM Bid Submission Closing Date (online) 20/08/2024 upto 1.00 PM. Corrigendum if any will be published in website only. Details of NIT and Tender Documents may be downloaded from: http://wbtdenders.gov.in Sd/- Executive Engineer, Uttara Dinajpur Division, P.W.D. ICA-113446(2)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL TENDER NOTICE Executive Engineer, Uttara Dinajpur Highway Division, P.W. (Roads) Directorate invites Electronic Tender Notice No.- 01 of 2024-25 of Executive Engineer, Uttara Dinajpur Highway Division, Name of Work: Makdampur-Bhatol Road from 0.00 km to 13.85km Repairing potholes work & surfacing work in stretches, in the District of Uttara Dinajpur under Uttara Dinajpur Highway Division, P.W. (Roads) Directorate. Tender ID: 2024_SH_727479_2. Estimated Amount : 20,94,341.00 Name of Work : Ramspur-Chakulia Road from 0.00kmp to 3.00kmp & 5.00kmp to 7.00kmp, patch repairing of bituminous surface works in stretches. protective works by boulder sausage & repairing of culvert at 3rd km under Uttara Dinajpur Highway Division, in the District of Uttara Dinajpur. Tender ID : 2024_SH_727479_3. Estimated Amount : 18,17,119.00 Bid Submission start date (online) 08.08.2024 from 10.00am. Closing date of Bid Submission on 21.08.2024 upto 5.00p.m. Corrigendum, if any will be published in website only. Details may be seen from the following website: http://tenders.wb.nic.in Sd/- Executive Engineer, Uttara Dinajpur Highway Division, P.W. (Roads) Directorate. ICA-113446(2)/2024

The West Bengal Power Development Corporation Limited (A Govt. of West Bengal Enterprise) Corporate Identity No. U40104WB1985SG0039154 Santaldih Thermal Power Station P.O. Santaldih Thermal Plant, Dist. - Purulia, Pin - 723146 Notice Inviting E-Tender Ref. No.: WBPDCI/Tend-Adv/24-25/STPS/CC-2163 Date: 01.08.2024 NIT No.: WBPDCI/STPS/NIT/E3626/24-25 E-Tenders in prescribed format are invited at https://wbtdenders.gov.in by the General Manager, STPS, WBPDCI from eligible Agencies/Companies in 2 Part bid system for "Construction of Additional Toilet Block different areas at CHP Area, BKTPS (Phase 1)". Tender Document Download Start Date: 05.08.2024 at 10:00 AM. Bid Submission End Date: 28.08.2024 at 04:00 PM. Contact Person: Mr. Indrani Chakraborty, Sr. Manager, CC, BKTPP, WBPDCI. Mobile: 8373055604. E-mail: cc_bktps@wbpdco.in/cc_bktps@gmail.com For details please visit: https://wbtdenders.gov.in ICA-113446(2)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL THE DURGAPUR PROJECTS LIMITED (A Govt. of West Bengal Enterprise) CIN No. U40102WB1961SG002520 NOTICE INVITING TENDER NIT No. (1) WBDPL-13.01.1/2024-GM-PGW(DPL)-DPL/WW/E-122 dated-02.08.2024, Tender ID: 2024_DPL_726896_1 for Annual cutting removal of wild growths in the Water Works and related areas for 2024-25 & 2025-26. Bid submission end date: 12.08.2024 and Bid Opening date: 16.08.2024. (2) WBDPL/PP/7/12011/99/3/2024/AHPM/E/123 dated-02.08.2024, Tender ID: 2024_DPL_727302_1 for Overhauling of 3TR Monorail Hoists(02Nos.) at ESP of URB, DPPS. Bid submission end date: 16.08.2024, Bid Opening date: 20.08.2024. (3) WBDPL/PP/7/GM/PP-12029/12/34/2024/TMOPH/E/116 dated-01.08.2024, Tender ID: 2024_DPL_726678_1 for job for relaying a portion of underground service water pipe line of URB. (4) WBDPL/PP/7/GM/PP-12021/12/33/2024/EMPH/E/115 dated- 01.08.2024, Tender ID: 2024_DPL_726652_1 for Retrofitting of 4 nos. new springless double break type isolator (245KV,200A) in place of Chinese origin isolators at UR7 220 KV switchyard. SI. Nos. 3&4, Bid submission end date: 17.08.2024 and Bid Opening date: 21.08.2024 respectively. (5) WBDPL/PP/7/12020/18/11/2024/EMPH/E/121 dated- 02.08.2024, Tender ID: 2024_DPL_726940_1 for Miscellaneous repairing job under EMIPH, DPPS. (6) WBDPL/PP/7/GM/PP-12020/18/12/2024/EMIPH/119 dated- 02.08.2024 for Dismantling, Erection, Testing and Commissioning of aviation light Chimney of UR7 & UR8, SI. Nos. 5&6, Bid submission end date: 20.08.2024, Bid Opening date: 23.08.2024 respectively. Visit: https://wbtdenders.gov.in/www.dpl.net.in ICA-113446(2)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL TENDER NOTICE Tender for Security and Sweeping personnel of SMM Home, 8 Stark Road, Liluah, Howrah, PIN-711204 will be available in West Bengal e-Tender portal from 02-08-2024 vide Reference No. 2024_CDWDS_727640_1 and Tender Notice No. 724/SH, Dt.: 02-08-2024.

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL PWD TENDER NOTICE e-Tenders are invited for the following works: Abridged e-NIT No. 1: WBW/EE/TC/D-I/e-NIT-03/2024-25. Name of works: 1. Urgent Repairing and Maintenance and Preparing top Surface of Inspection Path at Ch-20,575 km to 21.270 km Over right bank of MMC under Teesta Canal Sub-Division No-11, Haptiagachhi in P.S. & Block-Chopra, Dist-Uttara Dinajpur. 2. Amount put to tender Rs. 679567/- Bid submission end date 13.08.2024 & Time upto 11.00 Hrs. For further details of NIT, please visit e-tendering direct website: http://wbtdenders.gov.in and departmental website www.wbwd.gov.in and also in the Office of the Executive Engineer, Teesta Canal Division No-1, Teesta Pally, Islampur, Uttara Dinajpur, Sd/- Executive Engineer, Teesta Canal Division No-1, Islampur. ICA-113394(2)/2024

The West Bengal Power Development Corporation Limited (A Govt. of West Bengal Enterprise) Corporate Identity No. U40104WB1985SG0039154 Santaldih Thermal Power Station P.O. Santaldih Thermal Plant, Dist. - Purulia, Pin - 723146 Notice Inviting E-Tender Ref. No.: WBPDCI/Tend-Adv/24-25/STPS/CC-2163 Date: 01.08.2024 NIT No.: WBPDCI/STPS/NIT/E3626/24-25 E-Tenders in prescribed format are invited at https://wbtdenders.gov.in by the General Manager, STPS, WBPDCI from eligible Agencies/Companies in 2 Part bid system for "Construction of one number TATA Motors make Winger 2000 High Roof AC Ambulance with BS-VI Emission Standard for STPS Plant for five (05) years under CHP (D) Department". Tender Document Download Start Date: 06.08.2024 from 10:00 hrs. Bid Submission End Date: 29.08.2024 within 16:00 hrs. Contact Person: Mrs. D. Paul Gupta, Sr. Manager (CC) Woblers Govt. E-mail: draugupta@wbpdco.in For details please visit: https://wbtdenders.gov.in ICA-113446(2)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL THE DURGAPUR PROJECTS LIMITED (A Govt. of West Bengal Enterprise) CIN No. U40102WB1961SG002520 NOTICE INVITING TENDER NIT No. (1) WBDPL-13.01.1/2024-GM-PGW(DPL)-DPL/WW/E-122 dated-02.08.2024, Tender ID: 2024_DPL_726896_1 for Annual cutting removal of wild growths in the Water Works and related areas for 2024-25 & 2025-26. Bid submission end date: 12.08.2024 and Bid Opening date: 16.08.2024. (2) WBDPL/PP/7/12011/99/3/2024/AHPM/E/123 dated-02.08.2024, Tender ID: 2024_DPL_727302_1 for Overhauling of 3TR Monorail Hoists(02Nos.) at ESP of URB, DPPS. Bid submission end date: 16.08.2024, Bid Opening date: 20.08.2024. (3) WBDPL/PP/7/GM/PP-12029/12/34/2024/TMOPH/E/116 dated-01.08.2024, Tender ID: 2024_DPL_726678_1 for job for relaying a portion of underground service water pipe line of URB. (4) WBDPL/PP/7/GM/PP-12021/12/33/2024/EMPH/E/115 dated- 01.08.2024, Tender ID: 2024_DPL_726652_1 for Retrofitting of 4 nos. new springless double break type isolator (245KV,200A) in place of Chinese origin isolators at UR7 220 KV switchyard. SI. Nos. 3&4, Bid submission end date: 17.08.2024 and Bid Opening date: 21.08.2024 respectively. (5) WBDPL/PP/7/12020/18/11/2024/EMPH/E/121 dated- 02.08.2024, Tender ID: 2024_DPL_726940_1 for Miscellaneous repairing job under EMIPH, DPPS. (6) WBDPL/PP/7/GM/PP-12020/18/12/2024/EMIPH/119 dated- 02.08.2024 for Dismantling, Erection, Testing and Commissioning of aviation light Chimney of UR7 & UR8, SI. Nos. 5&6, Bid submission end date: 20.08.2024, Bid Opening date: 23.08.2024 respectively. Visit: https://wbtdenders.gov.in/www.dpl.net.in ICA-113446(2)/2024

The Statesman

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Bangladesh's Crisis

The resignation of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her unseemly departure from Dhaka amid violent protests marks a pivotal moment in Bangladesh's history. This upheaval is not merely a reaction to job quotas but a reflection of deeper, systemic issues within the country. The initial spark for the protests was the reimplementation of a job quota system that many young Bangladeshis viewed as inherently unfair. These quotas, which reserved a significant portion of government jobs for descendants of war veterans, were seen as an obstacle to equal opportunity in an already tight job market. The students' frustration quickly morphed into a broader movement against an administration perceived as increasingly autocratic and unresponsive. Economic stagnation has played a significant role in fuelling these protests. Bangladesh, like many other nations, has been hit hard by global economic downturns, exacerbated by conflicts such as the Russia-Ukraine war. High inflation and rising unemployment have made stable government jobs highly coveted, intensifying competition and resentment around the job quota system. Young people, facing bleak job prospects, saw the quotas as yet another hurdle in their pursuit of a better future. The government's response to the protests only deepened the crisis. The imposition of curfews and the deployment of the military were seen as draconian measures that underscored the administration's unwillingness to engage in meaningful dialogue. Reports of excessive force, including the use of rubber bullets and tear gas, have drawn widespread condemnation and highlighted the growing divide between the government and its citizens. Beyond economic woes, there is a palpable sense of disenchantment with the political status quo. Sheikh Hasina's long tenure has been marred by allegations of human rights abuses, including mass arrests, forced disappearances, and extrajudicial killings. These actions have eroded public trust and fuelled a desire for greater political freedom and accountability. The protests have brought these issues to the forefront, with demonstrators demanding not just economic reforms but also justice and political change. The resignation of Sheikh Hasina, while a significant development, is only the beginning of what is likely to be a challenging transition period. The formation of an interim government, as promised by the Army chief, offers a glimmer of hope, but the road ahead is fraught with challenges. For Bangladesh to move forward, the interim government must prioritise addressing the root causes of discontent. Economic reforms are crucial. The government needs to create more job opportunities and tackle inflation. Additionally, there must be a concerted effort to restore public trust in governance. This includes ensuring justice for those who suffered during the protests, releasing detained activists, and upholding the rule of law. Moreover, political reforms are essential to prevent future unrest. The interim government should engage in open dialogue with all political factions, including opposition parties and civil society groups, to create an inclusive political system. Transparency, accountability, and respect for human rights must be at the core of this new governance framework. From India's perspective, the events in Bangladesh will pose challenges. The new dispensation is unlikely to be as friendly towards New Delhi as the previous one, and this will add to the uncertainties in a neighbourhood that already poses challenges.

Turning Point

The capture of a major military base in Lashio by the Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army (MNDAA) marks a turning point in Myanmar's struggle against military rule. This significant defeat for the junta not only underscores the rising power and coordination of rebel forces but also signals potential shifts in the region's geopolitical landscape. For over three years, Myanmar has been engulfed in conflict following the military coup that ousted the civilian government. The coup, which ignited widespread protests, has evolved into full-blown armed resistance. The junta's violent crackdown on peaceful demonstrations galvanised thousands of young protesters, who have since joined forces with established ethnic rebel groups to wage a relentless campaign against military oppression. The fall of Lashio represents a potent symbol of this unified resistance, illustrating the weakening grip of the junta on the country. The capture of Lashio is unprecedented, marking the first time one of Myanmar's 14 regional military commands has fallen to rebel forces. This defeat is not merely a tactical loss but a strategic blow to the junta, exposing its vulnerabilities and eroding its authority. The loss of senior officers, whose fate remains uncertain, further compounds the junta's predicament, potentially crippling its command structure in the region. The MNDAA's victory in Lashio demonstrates the increasing effectiveness and resolve of the resistance movement. This success has been lauded by other ethnic armies, such as the Kachin, Karen, and Chin groups, who have pledged to continue their fight until the military regime is toppled. Such solidarity among diverse ethnic groups highlights a growing consensus against the junta, suggesting a more formidable and unified front moving forward. The implications of this development extend beyond Myanmar's borders. China, which has significant interests in Myanmar, has called for dialogue and an end to hostilities. The collapse of the previously brokered ceasefire by Beijing and the resurgence of fighting in northern Shan state underscore the fragile nature of peace efforts in the region. As Myanmar's military faces increasing pressure, India and other neighbouring countries must navigate the complexities of supporting stability while addressing the aspirations of Myanmar's ethnic groups. The rapid fall of the North-eastern Command has exposed the junta's weaknesses to both the resistance and the international community. It raises critical questions about the sustainability of military rule in Myanmar and the potential for a broader shift towards democratic governance. For junta chief Min Aung Hlaing, the loss of Lashio could represent an existential threat, potentially heralding the beginning of the end for his regime. As the conflict continues to unfold, the international community must remain vigilant and supportive of efforts to achieve a peaceful resolution. The fall of Lashio may well be a watershed moment, paving the way for a new chapter in Myanmar's history, where the aspirations of its people for peace, justice, and democracy are finally realised.

Missed Opportunity

According to FRBM, Central Government Debt should not exceed 40 per cent of GDP by 2024-25, but according to Budget Estimates, Central Government Debt is slated to touch 82.4 per cent of GDP by 31 March 2025. The ills of uncontrolled State borrowing are many; it is a debt we incur but which is repaid by future generations



Coming after a wait of almost six months, the Union Budget had kindled hopes in many breasts - only to be dashed rudely by the Budget document. People who had set their sights on increasing their take home income were left wondering whether they were better off earlier. This is a familiar happening; every year the Union Budget raises expectations to stratospheric levels, which are belied because for the Government, taxation is merely a source of revenue, not an instrument to distribute largesse.

The Indian tax system was developed under the guidance of celebrated Hungarian-British economist Nicholas Kaldor, who advised no less than eight countries on tax policy. Over the years, the holistic tax system envisioned by Kaldor has changed beyond recognition. Wealth-Tax Act, Gift-Tax Act and Estate Duty have been repealed, while the Income Tax Act has been amended beyond recognition.

Consequently, the Income Tax Act has become exceedingly complex and iniquitous. Over the years, despite roaring inflation, minimum income liable to tax has remained almost the same, putting a great burden on the bottom tier of taxpayers. We have two taxation systems, the old regime and new regime, which unnecessarily confuse small taxpayers, who cannot file their return without professional help - imposing a considerable compliance cost on them.

As far as businesses are concerned, manufacturing companies pay tax @ 15 per cent, most other companies @ 22.5 per cent but firms, who run small businesses are taxed at a flat 30 per cent. This anomaly is reflected in tax collections - for the first quarter of the current year personal income-tax collection was 65 per cent higher than corporate tax collection.

Another anomaly is that collection of indirect taxes, that are regressive in nature, affecting the poor and rich equally, is almost equal to that of the progressive direct taxes. Currently, GST collections are galloping so fast that the Government has discontinued publishing monthly collection figures for GST. Moreover, the structure of GST is complicated, with five rates of GST with some articles, like jewellery, being taxed at special rates. Most countries in the world have one rate for GST, some have two but only four-five countries have five GST slabs.

Then we have VAT on

petroleum products and alcohol. This has made indirect taxation needlessly complicated, leading to multiple frauds that we read about every day. An overhaul of the GST structure with a view to lessen incidence of GST on the poor is desperately needed. According to the latest Oxfam report "Survival of the Richest: The India Story," a little less than two-thirds (64.3 per cent) of the total GST is paid by the bottom 50 per cent of the population, one-third of the GST is collected from the middle 40 per cent, and only 3-4 per cent from the richest 10 per cent of the country.

It would appear that the present Government believes in a top-down approach - money in the hands of large corporations, in the form of tax cuts and subsidies like PLL, would fuel GDP and job growth. However, the downside of this approach is now becoming visible; manufacturing-led growth has not happened - the share of manufacturing in national GDP has remained almost static, and with most factories being fully automated, jobs are shifting away from the manufacturing sector.

Another distinctive initiative of the Government is spending on infrastructure, which has outpaced spending on other sectors; resultantly, we now have world-class airports, roads and railway stations. But this has come at a huge cost. Central Government expenditure, in real terms as share of GDP, has shrunk since 2017 (barring the two Covid years), with proposed expenditure (again in real terms) for the current financial year being less than the Revised Estimates for FY 2023-24. Given that tax ratio is estimated to increase, the proposed budget is actually contractionary in real terms. Then, expenditure on infrastructure building has crowded out expenditure on vital sectors like healthcare, education and even defence, resulting in Agniveers and sub-standard hospitals and schools.

Since almost all infrastructure projects are debt-funded, Government borrowings have ballooned, making debt servicing the biggest component of the Budget. Also, most of the material for the Government's grandiose infrastructure projects are sourced from China;



many of the contractors are foreign, read Chinese, so, downstream benefits do not flow to local firms. With the Government being perpetually in headline grabbing mode, mundane things like regular maintenance of infrastructure are put on the back-burner, leading to falling bridges and crashing trains. Moreover, every project or scheme is denominated in lakhs of crores of rupees, with the rider that 'it is over 5 years,' leading to lax monitoring. In this scenario, one may very well ask: What was wrong with the late lamented five-year plans, which prescribed targets and kept an eye on achievements?

The vexed question about the budget deficit and Government borrowings has been left unanswered. According to the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act 2003, fiscal deficit was to go down to 3 per cent of GDP by 31 March 2008, and reduce annually by 0.3 per cent thereafter, yet the fiscal deficit on 31 March 2024 was 5.8 per cent of GDP, budgeted to come down to 4.9 per cent in FY 2024-25 - still far in excess of what was originally envisaged by the FRBM Act.

Also, according to FRBM, Central Government Debt should not exceed 40 per cent of GDP by 2024-25, but according to Budget Estimates, Central Government Debt is slated to touch 82.4 per cent of GDP by 31 March 2025. The ills of uncontrolled State borrowing are many; it is a debt we incur but which is repaid by future generations. Almost two and a half centuries ago US President Thomas Jefferson had observed: "The principle of spending money to be paid by posterity, under the name of funding, is but swindling futurity on a large scale."

Thus, there are many good reasons for reducing Government expenditure. Unfortunately, all such reasons pale into insignificance in the face of compulsive populism.

The FRBM Review Committee Report made a host of recommendations for ensuring fiscal prudence, including the setting up of an autonomous Fiscal Committee to manage fiscal strategy. None of the Committee's recommendations have been implemented. Also, the Fif-

teenth Finance Commission had recommended a review of Central Schemes, with axing of unviable ones. However, Revised Estimates for Financial Year 2023-24, show an expenditure of Rs.19.06 lakh crore on Central Schemes, which is budgeted to grow to Rs.20.21 lakh crore in Financial Year 2024-25, with no review of Central Schemes in sight. Obviously, an efficient tax system along with a brake on profligacy can help the Government balance its books. Reform of the tax structure, which squeezes small people and small businesses, was not attempted by the Budget. The least that could have been done was to adjust the minimum income liable to tax for inflation.

Consumption, which fuels growth, can be boosted quickly by leaving more money with poor and middle-income people, who tend to spend the extra income earned by them. Contrarily, the rich, who are already spending at a substantial level, rarely spend the extra income earned by them. Rationalisation of GST, with a view to lower its incidence on the poor, would also help in this exercise.

But sadly, the Budget spared no thought to the review of the overall taxation structure. Even in the third decade of the twenty-first century, Direct and Indirect taxes operate in different silos in India. The most the Finance Minister could suggest was a comprehensive review of the Income-tax Act, never mind that since 1985, many similar attempts had been made by her predecessors.

It is significant to note that most advanced countries, including the UK and USA, have integrated direct and indirect taxes long ago. The first report of the Tax Administration Reforms Commission (headed by Dr Parthasarthy Shome), submitted on 30 May 2014, suggested integration of the two Revenue Boards, but even this suggestion got lost in the turf wars of the finance ministry.

Government economists sitting in the rarefied environs of North Block, who double budget size every three years, could well heed the words of US economist Martin Feldstein: "Increased government spending can provide a temporary stimulus to demand and output but in the longer run higher levels of government spending crowd out private investment or require higher taxes that weaken growth by reducing incentives to save, invest, innovate, and work."



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Another Afghanistan?

SIR, Is Bangladesh on the cusp of becoming a Talibani state? Till yesterday, 15 August is etched in the memory of Bangladeshis as a Black Day and the month of August as a mourning month. It's the day in 1975 when Bangabandhu Mujibur Rahman was assassinated along with his family members at his Dhanmondi residence.

Today, his elder daughter and PM could avoid the same fate by the skin of her teeth. It is a matter of relief that she has reached India along with her younger sister, an event that had been played out in 1975, in the aftermath of the death of her father.

The streets of Dacca in 1971 reverberated with the war cry

"Pindi or Dacca: Dacca Dacca" (pindi na dacca, dacca dacca). The Bangla people were so against Pakistan in those days. This time it is "Delhi or Dhaka: Dhaka, Dhaka". Days have changed, so has the attitude. The fact remains that starting from the sugar in their tea to the salt in their fish curry, all are imported from the country they have loved to hate.

The movement started with the call for abolition of reservation in government jobs particularly in favour of the liberation heroes and their children or grandchildren. But it snowballed into destruction of public properties. Since last night, several Hindu temples and houses have been bearing the brunt of the ire of

Islamist mobs. Hindus are equated with Indian agents. However, the old collaborators or Razakars in 1971 were all Muslims. Today Razakars, the anti-Indian group, have been emboldened. Only time will tell if Bangladesh becomes another Afghanistan.

Yours, etc., Sandipan Khan, Hooghly, 6 August.

DARK FORCES

SIR, It is clear that the Bangladeshi protesters hammering at Mujib's concrete skull in Dhaka on Monday, as well as the attacks against Hindu families across the country, is being orchestrated by dark forces. The pro-Pakistani Jamaat-e-Islami is the likely contender. They are back. The past never really goes away in Bangladesh. It is equally true that there is no one - except Hasina - who has the raw courage to take on the



Jamaat as well as its political face, the BNP. But now, Hasina has fled. It was the right thing for the Modi government to let her come. That is what friends are for - even when they are in the wrong.

Yours, etc., Shovanlal Chakraborty, Kolkata, 6 August.

SCANDALOUS

SIR, Whether Sheikh Hasina was an autocrat or the grievances of the student protesters were justified are debatable issues that get relegated to the background

A MEMBER OF THE ANN ASIA NEWS NETWORK

ASIAN VOICES

Free Wi-Fi a matter of prioritization

Just days after President Marcos lauded the government's free internet program, the Department of Communication and Information Technology (DICT) announced that some 2,600 free Wi-Fi sites across the country went offline due to the government's inability to pay the telecommunication contractors. The reason, which is rather disheartening, is that the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) failed to release on time the money needed to continue the project.

Information and Communications Secretary Ivan John Uy noted that the number of offline sites represented 20 percent of the more than 13,000 free Wi-Fi sites across the archipelago and included those in remote areas where internet access is already lacking. Uy lamented that they have been asking for the funds to be released as early as December last year and the DICT has been following this up since. He warned that these sites may stay offline for at least 60 days if the DBM continues to delay the release of the money. "If the fund disbursement is late, we won't be able to renew the contracts immediately. When the contract expires, we need to undergo rebidding," Uy pointed out, referring to the legal requirements in the government procurement law.

This is saddening considering that the free Wi-Fi program has been making headway since it was launched by



the DICT in 2017 as part of an ambitious government program to provide free internet to all citizens in all public places in the country. It aims to bring free connectivity in public places across the country, including public parks, plazas, libraries, barangay centers, national and local government offices, public schools and hospitals, state universities and colleges, rural health units, and airports, seaports, and public transport terminals.

In its latest report, the DICT said the program has benefited 9.8 million users across 1,401 cities and municipalities, including 3,040 geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas. In a bid to accelerate the program's rollout, the DICT even partnered with the United Nations Development Program in 2018 for an additional 6,000 so-called last-mile sites or those located in the remotest, unserved, and disadvantaged communities.

During his third State of the Nation Address (Sona) on July 22, Mr. Marcos vowed to expand the government's free Wi-Fi program further and to use policy reforms and streamlined common tower processes to provide better internet connectivity to the farthest reaches of the country and ensure that more Filipinos benefit from having free internet coverage. But this can never happen if a simple funding issue such as what the DICT chief is complaining about will continue to hound the program. Malacañang needs to direct the DBM to immediately release the money needed to restart the 2,600 offline sites and renew in a timely manner their existing contracts. It simply boils down to fund prioritization, not a lack of funds. Remember that the Department of Finance only recently issued a memorandum directing all state-owned agencies and firms to remit to the Treasury all their unused subsidies for use in contingent expenses.

Mr. Marcos must also prod Congress to give more funding to the DICT for the free Wi-Fi program. Uy said that the agency would need an additional P5 billion to fund the program's expansion to the remaining areas without free internet coverage. Again, this will simply be a matter of funding prioritization for lawmakers, who are now deliberating on the proposed P6.3-trillion national budget for 2025.

when the statue of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman gets vandalised and vulnerable minority communities come under assault!

In this scandalous context, what morality do the "brave" students talk of? Where would have they existed as a nation without the unparalleled struggle of Bangabandhu? The question must also be asked if the secular ethos of Hasina was one of the prime reasons for her downfall.

Yours, etc., Kajal Chatterjee, Sodepur, 6 August.

A major diplomatic challenge for India

SANTOSH MATHEW

The political upheavals in Bangladesh have significant implications for India, both diplomatically and strategically. The sudden change in government has introduced uncertainties that could affect the long-standing friendly relations between the two nations.



With Sheikh Hasina, a steadfast ally of India, ousted from power, New Delhi faces a complex challenge in navigating the evolving political landscape of its neighbour.

Sheikh Hasina, the daughter of Bangladesh's founding leader, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, has been a dominant figure in Bangladeshi politics. Her tenure as Prime Minister, spanning multiple terms since 1996, has been marked by strong bilateral relations with India.

Under Hasina's leadership, Bangladesh saw significant economic growth and development. Her policies focused on improving infrastructure, healthcare and energy sectors, which created numerous opportunities for cooperation with India.

The sudden ouster of Sheikh Hasina has sent shockwaves through diplomatic corridors of New Delhi.

made in recent years. India's Ministry of External Affairs has so far maintained a cautious stance, labelling the developments in Bangladesh as an internal matter.

However, the potential rise of religious extremism in Bangladesh could have far-reaching consequences for India. The stability of the region is at stake, with implications for counter-terrorism efforts, border security, and economic cooperation.

The United States Ambassador to Bangladesh, Peter Hans, publicly questioned the transparency of the recent elections, adding international pressure on the Hasina administration.

India's role in the formation of Bangladesh is a testament to the deep-rooted ties between the two nations. During the 1971 Liberation War, India provided crucial military and humanitarian support that led to the creation of Bangladesh.

India offered asylum to Hasina and her family, who were in Germany at the time of the coup. She lived in Delhi's Pandara Road until 1981, during which time she continued her political activities and maintained her ties with Indian leaders.

The current political uncertainty in Bangladesh threatens to disrupt the economic cooperation that has flourished in recent years. Projects in energy, infrastructure, and healthcare, which were initiated under Hasina's government, may face delays or cancellations.

Security is another major concern. The influence of religious fundamentalists in the new government could hinder the on-going counter-terrorism efforts. Bangladesh has been a key partner in tackling extremist groups that pose a threat to regional stability.

Sheikh Hasina's legacy is marked by her resilience and commitment to development and secularism. Despite facing multiple assassination attempts, political imprisonment, and criticism for her authoritarian tendencies, she remained a strong leader.

However, her tenure was not without controversy. Accusations of electoral fraud, suppression of political opponents, and authoritarian practices drew criticism from various

quarters. The opposition leader, Khaleda Zia of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), was placed under house arrest, and there are over 400,000 cases filed against opposition party members.

As Bangladesh transitions to a new government, India must carefully navigate its diplomatic relationship with its neighbour. Engaging with the new administration will require a delicate balance of asserting India's strategic interests while respecting Bangladesh's sovereignty.

Additionally, India must be vigilant in addressing security concerns, ensuring that counter-terrorism efforts remain effective despite the political changes in Dhaka. The political upheaval in Bangladesh presents a significant diplomatic challenge for India.

(The writer is Associate Professor, Centre for South Asian Studies, School of International Studies & Social Sciences, Pondicherry Central University, India.)

OCCASIONAL NOTE

Lady Lytton's one rupee fund in aid of the League of Women Workers' scheme for providing a residential club and employment bureau for hospital nurses in Calcutta has been designed in order to enable all who sympathize to contribute. A rupee ticket is within the means of most, and once the urgent need for such an institution is realized, the response from the British community should be generous.

NEWS ITEMS

DIOCESE OF LONDON

CONFERENCE TO CONSIDER DIVISION

WRITING in his Diocesan Magazine the Bishop of London says that he has asked every rural dean to summon a rural dean conference in the autumn to consider the question of the division of the diocese.

Do you wish the diocese to be divided at all? Are you in favour of asking for a Church assembly to establish a new Province of London, consisting of the London diocese and its neighbours?

Do you see any way short of a province by which the unity of the church in London may be preserved? London used to have an archbishop: the last is believed to have reigned in 597.

EARTHQUAKE DAMAGE

TRAIN BLOCKED & STATION COVERED WITH MUD

FURTHER details about the earthquake of Sunday morning near Shengkottah to hand show that it was a volcanic earthquake and lasted an hour on the mountain slopes between Bagavathipuram and Arcokavu railway line to a distance of some miles, and seven telegraph posts and some coolies completely disappeared.

One ballast train, has been blocked on both sides with stones and mud and is covered with mud up to the axles. Aryankovu railway station is covered with mud. Telegraphic communication has since been restored. It will take another two months for the restoration of the railway lines.

MONSOON ACTIVITY

EIGHT INCHES OF RAIN IN AKYAB

THE monsoon has been active everywhere except south Madras. Rain-fall has been nearly general in Lower Burma, Bengal, Bihar, east United Provinces, Rajputana, Gujarat, Central India, Central Provinces, Konkan and Malabar; and local in Upper Burma, Assam, Orissa, Chota Nagpur, North-West Frontier Provinces, Lower Sind, Bombay Deccan and Hyderabad.

The chief amounts were: Mergui and Diamond Island, three; Tavoy and Toungou, one and a half; Akyab, eight; Dibrugarh, three; Sibsaigar, one and a half; Darjeeling, two; Cox's Bazar, three; Noakhali and Hazaribagh, two; Daltonganj, one and a half; Purnea and Patna, two; Gaya, Nava Dumka, Allahabad, Cawnpore and Jhansi, one; Mussooree, three; Khushab, three-quarters; Murree, two; Dera Ismail Khan, one and a half; Ajmere, Kotah, Bhuj, Dwarka and Ahmedabad, one; Rajkot, one and a half; Surat, three; Deesa, Neemuch and Nowgong, two; Sutna and Nagpur, one; Ratnagiri, one and a half; Calicut, Cocanada and Mercara, one.

Movement hijacked by fundamentalists

ERINA HAQUE BITHY

The quota reform movement started on the first day of July 2024. At first, it was termed a quota reform movement, but gradually it became an anti-quota as well as an anti-government movement fuelled by some opportunistic political powers.

The quota reform protests, which have been ongoing for several years, represent a broader discontent within Bangladesh's youth regarding employment opportunities and fairness in public sector recruitment.

Moreover, this movement can be regarded as successful in light of the Supreme Court's decision to reform the quota system in government,

semi-government, and autonomous bodies. The Supreme Court ordered a reduction in the freedom fighters' quota from 30 to 5 per cent, with 93 per cent of jobs to be awarded on merit.

While students in general cautiously welcomed this decision, it was not enough to quell the unrest. Several vested groups snatched the movement from students and started demanding more and more. Students Against Discrimination, the leading group behind the protests, asked people to stop paying taxes and utility bills to pile pressure on the government.

The anti-government movement resulted in widespread violence and instability across Bangladesh, killing hundreds of people and injuring thousands more. Furthermore, the attempts to destroy the country's mass infrastructures and other violent episodes that occurred during the protests highlighted the depth of the danger.

and arson. The terrorists attacked the structures which showcased the government's successes.

These perpetrators' activities prompted the government to deploy the armed forces to support the civil administration in restoring law and order nationwide and to impose a nationwide curfew. The Army's deployment was calculated to strengthen the civil administration's ability to handle a complex and unstable situation.

It is worth mentioning that Jamaat-Shibir terrorists initially maintained a low profile, infiltrating the quota reform movement. Later, they came to the forefront. Their motive was never quota reform but to topple the government.

On 4 August, these terrorists targeted and attacked Bangladesh Awami League offices, law enforcement agents, journalists, and civilians. To secure the unconstitutionality of a government, the militants attacked, burnt, vandalized, and looted houses of AI leaders, offices of police and the administration, and some hospitals across the country.



shows the ultimate picture of human rights violations by fundamentalist groups, which shocked the whole country.

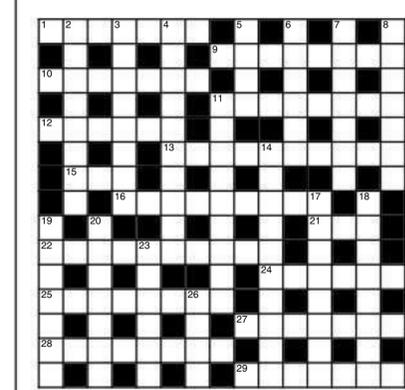
Their brutality reached its peak when at least 13 policemen were killed in Sirajganj's Enayetpur police station. At around 11 am, some 3,000-4,000 protesters and BNP-Jamaat activists started vandalizing areas surrounding the police station.

They are not exhaustive lists; more information is still coming in about killings and destructions. This is not politics. The criminals are not students. They are terrorists, and they must be stopped.

(The writer is a Dhaka-based human rights activist and writer.)

CROSSWORD

NO-292866



YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

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

ACROSS

- 1 Let's not have bird shivering - it's uncivilised (7)
- 9 Brilliant band showing class in Sinatra number (5,3)
- 10 Mr Bean remake involves good film director (7)
- 11 Antiseptics pioneer takes in northeast one hears (8)
- 12 Anglican thinker covering viewers' angles (6)
- 13 Barrel-maker had succeeded in works without confrontation (10)
- 15/11D Port stores uranium in ramshackle holding area (5,9)

DOWN

- 16 Cantor was behind this fixed idea (3,6)
- 21 Principles not constant in lyric poem (3)
- 22 Gives gears thrashing - like some white van drivers? (10)
- 24 Mental activity is pre-empted by votes against (6)
- 25 Bird and horse knackered by rodent (8)
- 27 Couple crossing river that is in grassland (7)
- 28 Not awfully keen about news boss being sharp (2,3,3)
- 29 Shows rock debris navvies cleared out (7)

DOWN

- 2 Beauty spot - at city limits? (3,5)
- 3 Discussion of great intellectuals becomes more stringent (8)
- 4 Kills time: then prescribes first time must be forgotten (10)
- 5 In Herculeaneum I'm inside sewer, doomed (4)
- 6 Curry was one using fish and rice for starter (6)
- 7/19 Fragranced candle supplier upset wag worth plenty (7,7)
- 8 Sort of gas enshrouding Belgian battlefield tree (7)

DOWN

- 11 See 15 Across
- 14 Self-interested Pickles accepting money after game? (10)
- 17 Balboa's greeting to Abraham in Californian park? (8)
- 18 Peak in clear - one near borders (8)
- 19 See 7
- 20 It takes a crowd gathered outside to cause trouble (7)
- 23 Where driver starts, about to steer over missile (6)
- 26 Northerner will need second home in country (4)

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

Sea route vigil stepped up in Odisha amid turmoil in Bangladesh

All the security agencies are coordinating with each other to maintain vigil along the coast, stated the officer

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE BHUBANESWAR, 6 AUGUST

The Odisha police have stepped up sea-route vigil along the coastal districts to check possible influx of illegal immigrants from turmoil-torn Bangladesh in the wake of continuing violence, bloodshed in the neighbouring country with its Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina fleeing the country.

The alert has been sounded across all coastal districts and patrolling has been intensified with the resources that we have, said a senior police officer. He pointed out that there are three layers of such sea vigil – the Navy, Coast Guard and the state marine



police. All of them are coordinating with each other to maintain vigil along the coast, stated the officer. All the coastal districts mainly Kendrapara and Jagats-

The alert has been sounded across all coastal districts and patrolling has been intensified with the resources that we have, said a senior police officer

inghpur are prone to infiltration. Majority of illegal Bangla immigrants are staying in these areas. In view of the complete breakdown of law and order, the infiltration from across the troubled border looms large. Therefore, marine police wings in coastal districts have been put on high alert, the officer.

It's pertinent to note here that 3,987 infiltrators, all of

them from Bangladesh, continue to stay in Odisha unlawfully. The highest number of 1,649 Bangladeshi infiltrators has been staying in coastal Kendrapara district followed by 1,112 in Paradip and Jagatsinghpur. Of the 3,987 infiltrators, 1551 foreign nationals living in Kendrapara district had been served Quit India deportation notice in 2005. However the deportation move has been kept on hold.

The union government's record-books say Odisha is home to 3,987 Bangladeshi infiltrators. However several lakhs of Bengali-speaking migrants are firmly ensconced in several parts of the State. Many of them have trade and banking links in Bangladesh.

Tripura enhances border surveillance amid Bangladesh turmoil, says CM Manik Saha

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE AGARTALA, 6 AUGUST

Tripura Chief Minister Dr Manik Saha said on Tuesday that the state government has intensified surveillance along the Indo-Bangladesh border following orders from the central government.

This action aims to prevent any infiltration attempts from the troubled neighboring country.

Addressing a press conference, Dr Saha emphasised the need for heightened vigilance given the current unrest in Bangladesh. "The present situation in Bangladesh necessitates increased surveillance along our international border to prevent any unauthorised entry into the state," said Dr Saha, who also serves as Tripura's Home Minister.

Dr Saha highlighted his ongoing assessment of the situation in Bangladesh and stressed the importance of coordinated efforts with central authorities.

"I am in regular contact with the central government and have held discussions with the Chief Secretary, Tripura Police, Assam Rifles, Border Security Force, and other security agencies. We are implementing measures in line with directives from the Centre to ensure the border is secure," he stated.

He also revealed that all security agencies have been instructed to work closely together to maintain border security. "We are not permitting anyone to cross into Tripura at this time," he added.

In addition to addressing



This action aims to prevent any infiltration attempts from the neighbouring country, Dr Saha said.

border security, Dr Saha condemned recent attacks on the Hindu minority in Bangladesh, calling these actions unacceptable.

He commended the efforts of some members of the Bangladeshi Muslim community who are stepping up to protect minorities and religious sites. "It is encouraging to see that many, including students, are stepping forward to provide protection to Hindu minorities and temples in Bangladesh. We are closely monitoring these developments," he noted.

Dr Saha confirmed that the central government has requested updates on the situation and reported that, so far, Tripura has not faced any issues related to the unrest in Bangladesh.

Tripura shares 84 per cent of its 856-kilometre border with Bangladesh.

Amid Bangladesh unrest, Assam Congress seeks enhanced security for the border state

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE GUWAHATI, 6 AUGUST

Assam Pradesh Congress Committee President Bhupen Borah has called on both Central and state governments to strengthen security measures in the light of escalating violence in neighboring Bangladesh.

Pointing out the proximity of Assam to Bangladesh with which the state shares a border, Borah emphasised the potential impact of the ongoing crisis in the neighbouring country on Assam and warned against further identity verification issues for its residents. In a post on the microblog-



ging site X, he stated: "Given the current situation in Bangladesh, I urge the governments of India and Assam to tighten security in the state. The Congress party doesn't want the people of Assam to endure more identity verification cases, so I'm warning the BJP in advance." The unrest in Bangladesh

Pointing out the proximity of Assam to Bangladesh, Borah emphasised the potential impact of the ongoing crisis in the neighbouring country on Assam

has intensified following the departure of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina from the country with violence spreading and religious minorities facing increased threats.

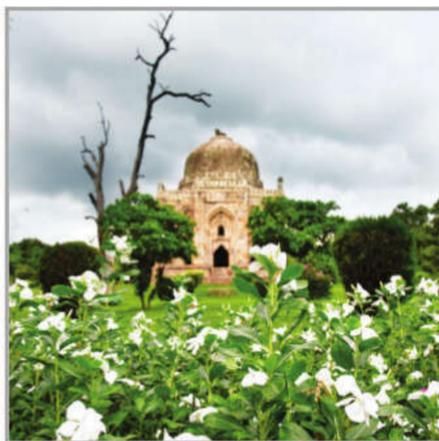
Reports indicate that Hindu homes and temples, including ISKCON and Kali temples, have been targeted,

forcing devotees to seek shelter.

Additionally, the Indra Gandhi Cultural Centre in Dhaka's Dhanmondi, which promotes cultural exchange between India and Bangladesh, was vandalized by an unruly mob. Protestors also attacked Gangabandhu Bhaban, the residence of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, former President of Bangladesh and father of Sheikh Hasina, setting it on fire.

Amidst the chaos, protesters stormed Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's residence, Ganabhaban in Dhaka, looting furniture, kitchenware, clothing, and food.

DARK SKIES



Dark monsoon clouds hover over the skies of Lodhi Garden, in New Delhi on Tuesday. ■ ANI

UPCM orders streamlining of the process of managing joint family property

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE LUCKNOW, 6 AUGUST

In a significant move after introducing the facility to transfer immovable property to blood relatives with a stamp duty of only Rs 5,000, Uttar Pradesh is set to simplify family property division and management.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has directed fixing of the stamp duty on the division of immovable property among family members as well as on transfer of property by a living person to their family members at Rs 5,000.

In an important meeting held here on Tuesday, the chief minister said, "High expenses often lead to disputes and court cases during family property divisions. By implementing a minimal stamp duty, settlements among family members will become



much easier."

Emphasising that the state government, under the guidance of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has undertaken numerous initiatives to improve the ease of living for the common man, Yogi Adityanath stated, "Simplifying the property division and management process will provide greater convenience to the people."

Heightened influx concerns in North-East India amid Bangladesh political turmoil

ABHIJIT DEB GUWAHATI, 6 AUGUST

The political instability in Bangladesh and the abrupt departure of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina from Dhaka have sparked significant concern in New Delhi, raising the specter of increased cross-border influx into the north-eastern states of India.

The potential rise in infiltration from Bangladesh, already a critical issue in the region, is now at the forefront of discussions.

Student organizations, such as the All Assam Students Union and the Khasi Students Union, have sounded the alarm about the possible increase in illegal crossings through the porous border.

Bangladesh shares a 4,096-kilometer border with India, touching West Bengal and



several northeastern states. Fears of an influx from a politically unstable Bangladesh gripped the Northeast. Tripura Motha, a

constituent of the BJP-led government in Tripura, appealed to Union Home Minister Amit Shah to take measures to prevent infil-

tration.

In Assam, the Opposition Congress and the Assam Jatiya Parishad expressed concerns about potential

border breaches due to the "unsealed border."

Assam Pradesh Congress Committee president Bhupen Kumar Borah emphasised the need for heightened vigilance along the Bangladesh border to prevent illegal entries, including those of fundamentalist and extremist elements.

"We must be extra cautious. Both the state government and the Centre need to ensure that the unrest in Bangladesh does not adversely affect Assam, the Northeast, and India," Borah stated.

The Indo-Bangla border spans 4,096 kilometers, with 2,217 kilometers along West Bengal and 318 kilometers along Mizoram.

While Meghalaya has imposed a night curfew along the Indo-border, Assam issued a high alert along the border areas.

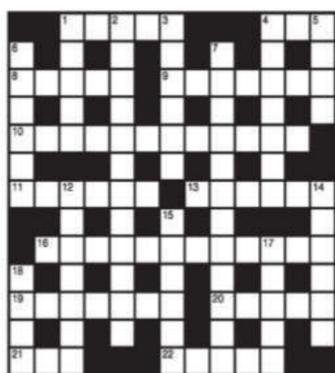
The fall of the Hasina regime could exacerbate another issue for India: many northeastern insurgent groups have historically used Bangladesh as a safe haven for anti-India activities.

Since coming to power in 1996, Hasina has cracked down on these groups. However, with fundamentalist factions potentially gaining power in Bangladesh, supported by China and Pakistan, India could face significant challenges. Additionally, the instability in Bangladesh poses a threat to India's Act East Policy, where Bangladesh plays a crucial role as a major trade route.

The evolving political landscape in Bangladesh could disrupt this strategic initiative, complicating India's efforts to enhance economic and diplomatic ties with Southeast Asia.

LEISURE

10 MINUTE CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- Tribunal (5)
 - West Country river (3)
 - Swelling (5)
 - Soft Italian cheese (7)
 - Disable (12)
 - As a body (2,4)
 - Indented area (6)
 - Wild clematis (3,4,5)
 - Aerial (7)
 - Stage whisper (5)
 - Unhappy (3)
 - Armoured vehicles (5)
- DOWN**
- Spasmodic abdominal pain (5)
 - Lack of paid work (12)
 - Three times (6)
 - Quality (7)
 - Style and vigour (4)
 - Constrain (6)
 - Absent-minded person (12)
 - Overdue (7)
 - Soaking wet (6)
 - Undamaged (6)
 - Operatic songs (5)
 - Asian country (4)

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- Taxi
- Lend
- (Tail-end)
- Vodka
- Emperor
- Relapse
- Prose
- None
- Opera
- Abandon
- Seaside
- Snore
- Pews
- See
- Reel
- Operate
- Liaise
- Gods
- Annoy
- Allan
- Dross

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

BEEBLE BAILEY/Mort Walker



RED EYE/Bill Yates & Mel Casson



DADDY DAZE/John Kovalcski



NEED TO KNOW

- Ambulance**
FD Block Association (Amb) 9830452536, 9830181286
Happy Calculators 24400160
City Point Nurses Centre 2567-4113, 9831142623
People's Relief Committee 2280-4943/9444
- 24 hrs Medical Oxygen Delivery**
BOC India Ltd. 9831277777
- Blood Banks**
Ashok Laboratory 24720333
Central Blood Bank 23510619
- Life Care** 2284-6940
Peoples Blood Bank 2455-5164/5557
RK Mission Seva Pratishthan 2475-3636/39
- Police/Fire**
Lalbazari (Police Control Room) 22143230
S.P. (North 24-Pgns) 25423005
S.P. (South 24-Pgns) 2479-3333/1311
Bhawani Bhaswan 24791701/3, 24791933
Fire Service Station Salt Lake: 2357-5293;
- Howrah** 2666-8111; Behala 2497-6285
- Civic Services**
Kolkata Municipal Corporation: 2286-1000
Water: 2543-1602
- Calcutta Telephones**
Changed Number Announcement 1951, 1952, 1953
- Taxi Refusal**
SMS 575756: Complaint and registration
- Police Toll Free No.** 1073
Transport Deptt. No. 6451-6718
- CESC Fault Reporting**
1912 and 4403-1912
- Trains**
Howrah Station Old Complex 1331/1332 (Auto Telephone Numbers), 1310, 2638-7412/3542/2381 (manual).
Sealdah: 2350-3535/3537
Shalimar Station: 2668-1121, Eastern Railway and South-Eastern Railway: 139.

SCRABBLE® GAMES

PAR SCORE 160-170 by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

W L R I E R
E L E M E N T
T R U S T I N E
E R M I N I N E

Instructions: Make a 2 to 7 letter word from the letters in each rack. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. *Blank tiles do not count. All letters' words are in the Official Scrabble Players Dictionary (Merriam-Webster) and Official Scrabble Words (Chamberlain). *Auto's solution temporary. 10/26/12

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★

Answer to previous puzzle

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

THUMBNAILS

Doctor killed in crocodile attack in Australia: An Australian doctor has been identified as the man killed by a crocodile after he slipped from the banks of a river in the country's north-eastern state of Queensland, local media reported on Tuesday. David Hogbin, a 40-year-old doctor from the neighboring state of New South Wales, was with family members when he fell into the Annan River near Cooktown in Far North Queensland, and failed to resurface on Saturday. Police said on Tuesday that human remains were located in a crocodile that was shot dead at Cooktown on Monday.

Two killed, one injured in lightning in Mongolia: Two people were killed and one injured due to a lightning strike in Mongolia, the country's National Emergency Agency (NEMA) reported on Tuesday. On Monday, the NEMA received a report that two 17-year-old boys lost their lives and a 25-year-old man was injured in a lightning strike while herding livestock in Myangad soum (administrative subdivision) of Khovd province, Xinhua news agency reported.

Fear grips Dhaka as harrowing incidents of violence come to light

Tension gripped ministry offices where portraits, photographs of Hasina were taken down

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE
DHAKA, 6 AUGUST

Attendance at various government offices in Dhaka remained quite low amid growing fear and anxiety, Bangladesh media reported on Tuesday, a day after Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina resigned and left the country.

With the central office of the Awami League on Bangabandhu Avenue in the capital set on fire Monday night, tension gripped the ministry offices where portraits and photographs of Hasina were taken down on Monday morning.

"The smell of the fire from the Awami League office in the morning could be sensed from the Secretariat, increasing the fear among the officers and employees. Many people were leaving the Secretariat out of fear," reported Dhaka Tribune.

The leading national daily quoted an official as saying that people were currently working "under the directives of the Secretary" and will



keenly watch how the situation unfolds.

"Some officers and employees believed that leaving the Secretariat in this situation could be exploited by miscreants, potentially damaging important state documents. Therefore, they preferred to stay at the office," the report mentioned.

Meanwhile, violence and chaos continues in the coun-

try after Hasina left Dhaka for New Delhi on Monday.

The Daily Star reported that at least 24 people were killed after a mob set fire to Zabeer International Hotel owned by Shahin Chakladar, the general secretary of Jashore District Awami League in the Khulna Division.

"The bodies were lying on different floors," said Mamun Mahmud, Deputy



Director of Khulna Fire Service who said that the blaze was finally doused around 5:45 am, local time on Tuesday.

The local media also reported a surge in sale of bail bonds in Dhaka courts following the decision that hearings will be held immediately whenever a bail application is made in a political case.

"After receiving the news,

lawyers began applying for bail for the accused arrested in political cases starting from Tuesday morning.

"Since morning, long queues of lawyers have formed at every booth in the court to buy bail bonds. The decision to hear bail applications was taken during a meeting with lawyers earlier in the morning in the district judge's court meeting room," reported Dhaka Tribune.

The protests in Bangladesh began as an agitation against a quota system that reserved 30% of government jobs for the families of Muktiyoddhas, who fought in the 1971 war of independence. Protesters demanded a merit-based system instead. The unrest was further fueled by a controversial remark made by Hasina about the quota benefits. A high court order that declared the cancellation of the 2018 quota circular illegal added to the tensions. Even the Supreme Court's subsequent order to allocate 93% of government jobs based on merit failed to calm the protests.

Ismail Haniyeh's deputy likely to become interim head of Hamas

ASSOCIATED PRESS
TEL AVIV, 6 AUGUST

The Hamas will select a new leader on an interim basis to replace Ismail Haniyeh, its political head who was assassinated in Tehran on July 31, as per media reports.

Arabic media outlets have reported that Khalil al-Hayya, who is the deputy to Haniyeh in the Hamas hierarchy, is likely to become the interim head of the group and internal deliberations are on within Hamas for this.

However, the names of Haniyeh's predecessor Khaled Mashal and Mousa Abu Marzook who is a senior leader of the outfit, are also being deliberated upon as probable replacements for Haniyeh who was the face of Hamas in international discussions.

Meanwhile, the indirect hostage talks between Israel and Hamas have fallen apart after the assassination of Haniyeh.

According to reports in Hebrew media, the talks are suspended for the time being and both Qatar and Egypt, who were part of the mediatory talks, are not pursuing the discussions.

However an Israeli negotiating team is still in Cairo and according to sources, the Israel team is in the Egyptian capital for talks regarding the presence of Israel Defense Forces (IDF)

in the Philadelphi corridor and Rafah crossing, as per reports.

Sources said that this team does not have anything to do with the hostage mediatory talks.

Meanwhile, Israel's security establishment has prepared itself for any eventuality of a possible attack from Iran.

Sources in Israel's defence ministry told IANS that the country was fully prepared for any attack from Iran.

The sources also said that there are deliberations within the security apparatus of Israel to go for an offensive against Iran before Tehran strikes Israel.

INFORMATION WANTED



This is the photograph of Ruma Mondal, Spouse's Name: Lt. Gour Mondal of Chak Chaita Bishalbhigira Panchnantala, PS-Kaitala Ashut, PO-Ashut, 700141, who has been missing since 09.07.2024 from Residence, Kallitaa Asuti PS, Diamond Harbour Police District, W.B. Description of this missing person is : Age-55 years, Complexion-Dark, Height-153 cms., Wearing-Black Saree, Language-Bengali. Please inform whereabouts of the missing person, to the Spl. Supdt. of Police, C.I.D. (W.B.), Bhabani Bhaban, Kolkata-700027, Ph. No.-033-2450-6120.

ICA-D1342(3)/2024

Harris selects Minnesota Governor Tim Walz as running mate

ASSOCIATED PRESS
WASHINGTON, 6 AUGUST

Vice President Kamala Harris picked Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz to be her running mate on Tuesday, according to three people familiar with the decision.

In choosing Walz, she is turning to a Midwestern governor, military veteran and union supporter who helped enact an ambitious Democratic agenda for his state, including sweeping protections for abortion rights and generous aid to families.

Harris hopes to shore up her campaign's standing across the upper Midwest, a critical region in presidential



politics that often serves as a buffer for Democrats seeking the White House. The party remains haunted by Republican Donald Trump's wins in Michigan and Wisconsin in 2016. Trump lost those states in 2020 but has zeroed



in on them as he aims to return to the presidency this year and is expanding his focus to Minnesota.

Walz, 60, is joining Harris during one of the most turbulent periods in modern American politics, promising

an unpredictable campaign ahead. Republicans have rallied around Trump after his attempted assassination in July. Just weeks later, President Joe Biden ended his reelection campaign, forcing Harris to unify Democrats and consider potential running mates during an exceedingly compressed time frame.

The three people familiar with the decision spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because it had not been made public. Harris, the first Black woman and person of South Asian descent to lead a major party ticket, initially considered nearly a dozen candidates before zeroing in on a handful

of serious contenders, all of whom were white men.

In landing on Walz, she sided with a low-key partner who has proven himself as a champion for Democratic causes.

Walz has been a strong public advocate for Harris in her campaign against Trump and Vance, labeling the Republicans "just weird" in an interview last month. Democrats have seized on the message and amplified it since then. During a fundraiser for Harris on Monday in Minneapolis, Walz said: "It wasn't a slur to call these guys weird. It was an observation."

Walz, who grew up in the

small town of West Point, Nebraska, was a social studies teacher, football coach and union member at Mankato West High School in Minnesota before he got into politics.

He won the first of six terms in Congress in 2006 from a mostly rural southern Minnesota district, and used the office to champion veterans issues.

Walz served 24 years in the Army National Guard, rising to command sergeant major, one of the highest enlisted ranks in the military. He ran for governor in 2018 on the theme of "One Minnesota" and won by more than 11 points.

TENDER

E-tenders are invited for:

- Supply, installation & commissioning of Power Backup (Inverter & battery), UV water purifier & room heater at AYUSH Branch, CMOH Office, Kalimpong (Tender ID: 2024_HFW_729391_1) Last Date: 16-08-2024 within 2-00 p.m.

For details visit: www.wbtenders.gov.in The CMOH Office, Kalimpong, Email: cmohkalimpong1@gmail.com Sd/- CMOH & Member Secretary, DH & FW Samity, Kalimpong

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय
वैशाली पथ प्रमंडल, हाजीपुर
Email Id-eercdhajipur@gmail.com
निविदा रद्द संबंधित सूचना
NIT No.- RCD/Hajipur/10/ 2023-24

इस कार्यालय को पत्रांक 248 (अगु) दिनांक 30.01.2024 द्वारा आमंत्रित निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना - NIT No.- RCD/Hajipur/10/ 2023-24, (1) Widening and Strengthening of Kachi Dargah (Rustampur) to Virpur Via Bahrampur, Purustampur, Mohanpur, Malikpur and Paharpur, Road for the year 2023-24 (Total Length 16.58 km) (2) Widening and Strengthening to Two Lane with Paved Shoulder of Hajipur - Lalganj - Vaishali Road (S.H-74) (Chainage from km 0.00 to km 37.20) Road under Vaishali Road Division, Hajipur for the year 2023-24, जिसकी निविदा में संशोधन के संबंध में सूचना विभिन्न समाचार पत्रों में PR. No.-002112(RCD) 2024-25 द्वारा प्रकाशित है. की निविदा को अपरिहार्य कारणवश रद्द किया जाता है।

PR. No. 005414 (RCD) 2024-25
कार्यपालक अभियंता
नशे की मार, बर्बाद करे सुखी परिवार। वैशाली पथ प्रमंडल, हाजीपुर

अखिल भारतीय आयुर्विज्ञान संस्थान भोपाल
ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES BHOPAL
(An Autonomous Institute under Ministry of Health & Family Welfare Government of India)
सारेके नगर, भोपाल (म.प्र.)-462020, www.aiimsbhopal.edu.in

Admin-2(2)/AIIMS/Bhopal/Recr. Cell/Deputation/2024/16309 Date: 06.08.2024

RECRUITMENT NOTIFICATION
Opening of Window for submission of Applications for Group-A Non-Faculty Position of Senior Accounts Officer on Deputation Basis at AIIMS Bhopal

In continuation to the Rolling Recruitment Notification No. ADM-2(2)/AIIMS/Bhopal/Recr. Cell/Deputation/2024/17118 dated 14/03/2024 for inviting applications for Group-A Non-Faculty post of Senior Accounts Officer on Deputation Basis at AIIMS Bhopal, it is to notify that the window for submission of application in the prescribed format for Group-A Deputation Post is being re-opened for 45 days from the date of publication of this notification in the Employment News.

- Age, experience and all other prescribed qualifications will be counted as on the extended last date for receipt of applications.
- Further the application received after last date of submission of application form as mentioned in the above-mentioned advertisement dated 14/03/2024 for the post of Senior Accounts Officer on Deputation Basis shall be considered in this Rolling cycle.
- Further, the applicants declared as Not Eligible candidates for the post of Senior Accounts Officer on Deputation Basis may also re-apply for the said post, with relevant documents in support of their eligibility.
- Further, the terms and condition mentioned in the above-mentioned advertisement dated 14/03/2024 for the post of Senior Accounts Officer on Deputation Basis will remain unchanged.
- This is issued with the approval of the Executive Director & CEO, AIIMS, Bhopal. (Ref. EO File No. 13438 date 04/08/2024)

Sd/-
Deputy Director (Admin.), AIIMS, Bhopal

अखिल भारतीय आयुर्विज्ञान संस्थान भोपाल
ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES BHOPAL
(An Autonomous Institute under Ministry of Health & Family Welfare Government of India)
सारेके नगर, भोपाल (म.प्र.)-462020, www.aiimsbhopal.edu.in

No. Admin-2(2)/AIIMS/Bhopal/Recr. Cell/Deputation/2024/16309 Date: 06.08.2024

RECRUITMENT NOTIFICATION
Opening of Window for submission of Applications for Group-A Non-Faculty Position of Finance & Chief Accounts Officer on Deputation Basis at AIIMS Bhopal

In continuation to the Rolling Recruitment Notification No. ADM-2(2)/AIIMS/Bhopal/Recr. Cell/Deputation/2024/171226 dated 27/02/2024 for inviting applications for Group-A Non-Faculty post of Finance & Chief Accounts Officer on Deputation Basis at AIIMS Bhopal, it is to notify that the window for submission of application in the prescribed format for Group-A Deputation Post is being re-opened for 45 days from the date of publication of this notification in the Employment News.

- Age, experience and all other prescribed qualifications will be counted as on the extended last date for receipt of applications.
- Further the application received after last date of submission of application form as mentioned in the above-mentioned advertisement dated 27/02/2024 for the post of Finance & Chief Accounts Officer on Deputation Basis shall be considered in this Rolling cycle.
- Further, the applicants declared as Not Eligible for the post of Finance & Chief Accounts Officer on Deputation Basis notified vide notification no. Admin-2(2)/AIIMS/Bhopal/Recr. Cell/Deputation/2024/15461 dated 29/06/2024 may also re-apply for the said posts, with relevant documents in support of their eligibility.
- Further, the terms and condition mentioned in the above-mentioned advertisement dated 27/02/2024 for the post of Finance & Chief Accounts Officer on Deputation Basis will remain unchanged.
- This is issued with the approval of the Executive Director & CEO, AIIMS, Bhopal. (Ref. EO File No. 13438 date 04/08/2024)

Sd/-
Deputy Director (Admin.), AIIMS, Bhopal

EASTERN RAILWAY
E-Tender Notice No. NIT/02/24/41, dated 05.08.2024. Principal Chief Materials Manager, Eastern Railway, 2nd floor, 17, Netaji Subhas Road, Fairlie Place, Kolkata-700001 invites e-tenders for supply of the following items. SI No., Tender No., Description of Stores, EMD are as follows :-

Tender Opening Date : 09.08.2024, Time : 13.30 Hrs. :- (1) 22241039, Meropenem 1 gm Injection, ₹ 1,88,090/-, Tender Opening Date : 20.08.2024, Time : 13.30 Hrs. :- (2) 14241036, Relay, plug in type, style "AC-LED" all aspects, AC lamp proving relay unit with in-built current transformer type, slow to release neutral line Relay, 4F/48, Contacts, Front and Back contacts, ₹ 78,040/-, (3) 20241897A, Extreme top & bottom Manganese steel plate for nose suspension arrangement of BHEL traction motor type 2538X/BW & 4601 AZ for EMUs, ₹ 0/-, Tender Opening Date : 21.08.2024, Time : 13.30 Hrs. :- (4) 08241475, Procurement of contactor 3 pole, 50 Amp capacity suitable for 115 V etc., ₹ 55,760/-, (5) 20241244, Procurement of 6" single air pressure gauge (flush mounted) marked "Brake Pipe" Resolution : (i.e. small scale reading) as 0.1 kg/cm sq for use in EMUs to RDSO Drg. No. SKDP.3516-AI-3, ₹ 0/-, (6) 21241019, Shackle lock and lock pin etc., ₹ 1,50,430/-, (7) 21241300, Body side arrangement complete etc., ₹ 1,44,430/-, (8) 21241525, Body side arrangement complete for BOXN/WL wagon etc., ₹ 1,60,480/-, Tender Opening Date : 22.08.2024, Time : 13.30 Hrs. (9) 08241529, Procurement of set of main & earth connection cables etc., ₹ 0/-, (10) 10241100, Filter panel assly, ₹ 89,670/-, (11) 21241533, Procurement of control arm assembly etc., ₹ 59,390/-, Tender Opening Date : 23.08.2024, Time : 13.30 Hrs. (12) 10245020, Twin beam LED head light etc., ₹ 4,81,440/-, (13) 14241041, Relay ACI plug in type, style "QNA1" DC neutral line, 24V 8F/8B contacts, front and back contacts metal to carbon complete with plug board, ₹ 84,220/-, (14) 21241507A, Shank wear plate etc., ₹ 1,10,140/-, Tender Opening Date : 26.08.2024, Time : 13.30 Hrs. (15) 06231032, Procurement of luminous vest etc., ₹ 1,66,300/-, (16) 08241013, Cable single core with elastomeric insulation and sheath 1525/0.5 mm (300 sq mm) etc., ₹ 4,98,660/-, (17) 10242377, Traction Braking Switch Drum etc., ₹ 1,54,450/-, (18) 10245008, Blower for oil cooling unit with casing including etc., ₹ 83,070/-, (19) 14235217A, Procurement of electrical point machine, IRS Type 220 mm throw etc., ₹ 1,78,900/-, (20) 14241025A, Underground, armoured, unscreamed, Railway signalling cable (heavy duty) with high conductivity copper conductor of size 2 core x 2.5 sq mm etc., ₹ 1,56,200/-, (21) 14241105, Underground, armoured, unscreamed, Railway signalling cable (heavy duty) with high conductivity copper conductor of size 30 core x 1.5 sq mm as per specification no. IRS S-63/2014 (Rev. 4.0) with amendment if any upto the date of opening, ₹ 0/-, (22) 20241068, Procurement of set of modified top contact shield left and right hand etc., ₹ 1,72,860/-, (23) 21231464A, Flip door complete arrangement etc., ₹ 53,810/-, (24) 22241125, Sacubitril 24 mg + Valsartan 20 mg Tab/Cap, ₹ 1,17,710/-, Tender Opening Date : 27.08.2024, Time : 13.30 Hrs. (25) 10245013, Compact Silicon rectifier block, ₹ 3,03,970/-, (26) 16245057, Procurement of Transformer, ₹ 16,90,490/-, Tender Opening Date : 28.08.2024, Time : 13.30 Hrs. (27) 08241089, Procurement of Railway carriage fan 140 volts AC, 50 Hz, fixed type, 450 mm sweep etc., ₹ 2,80,150/-, (28) 11231095A, Earthing cable complete, ₹ 70,250/-, (29) 11241074, Procurement of kit for brake gear bushes for BMBG coaches etc., ₹ 2,76,840/-, Tender Opening Date : 29.08.2024, Time : 13.30 Hrs. (30) 05241279, Procurement of non inflammable polymeric aqueous adhesive etc., ₹ 0/-, (31) 08241492, Procurement of Hermetically sealed scroll Compressor model no. ZR-61-KC-TFD-522 etc., ₹ 2,95,600/-, Tender Opening Date : 30.08.2024, Time : 13.30 Hrs. (32) 05241041, Procurement of Oil Servo System-57 or Talpa-30 etc., ₹ 3,10,670/-, (33) 10245014, Complete BA-1, BA-2 BA-3 Panel, ₹ 3,96,480/-, (34) 11241531, Procurement of Control arm assembly left consisting of 2 items, ₹ 0/-, (35) 11241540, Secondary spring, ₹ 2,69,260/-, (36) 11241808, Procurement of Lower spring seat of Axle box guide arrangement etc., ₹ 87,830/-, Tender Opening Date : 02.09.2024, Time : 13.30 Hrs. (37) 05241029, Gear lubricant, multipurpose (extreme pressure gear oil), ₹ 0/-, (38) 08241371, Procurement of set of fan guard close mesh type etc., ₹ 83,270/-, (39) 11241816, Procurement of brake beam complete (BMBG) to ICF's Drg. No. T-3-2-624, Cal-IV (except item no. 6) Alt. no. P17 (capital P), ₹ 2,87,160/-, (40) 20241106, Pair of Ferrozal Bushes with upper & lower for Schaku coupler of EMU coaches, ₹ 1,00,380/-, (41) 20241109, Grab handle for ICF-EMU trailer coaches, ₹ 1,37,670/-, (42) 21241386A, Toggle etc., ₹ 81,270/-, (43) 21241445, Pipe 32 NB for BOXNHL etc., ₹ 0/-, Tender Opening Date : 04.09.2024, Time : 13.30 Hrs. (44) 05241189, Procurement of set of roller bearing NU-2238 etc., ₹ 6,62,690/-, (45) 20241079, Rubber spring plate for Schaku coupler of EMU coaches, ₹ 2,61,940/-, Tender Opening Date : 05.09.2024, Time : 13.30 Hrs. (46) 01241435, Procurement of vinyl coated upholstery fabric artificial leather etc., ₹ 8,19,480/-, (47) 01241463, Procurement of decorative thermosetting synthetic resin bonded etc., ₹ 61,440/-, (48) 11241801, ICF head stock complete etc., ₹ 2,39,170/-, (49) 21241285, Equalising lever with bushes etc., ₹ 0/-, Tender Opening Date : 10.09.2024, Time : 13.30 Hrs. (50) 08241054, Procurement of Battery charging terminal and fuse box etc., ₹ 51,280/-, Tender Opening Date : 12.09.2024, Time : 13.30 Hrs. (51) 21241024A, Side frame friction liner for Casnub bogie etc., ₹ 2,02,110/-, (52) 21241029, Constant contact Polyurethane side bearer Pad design-B for NLB Bogies etc., ₹ 7,89,470/-, Tender Opening Date : 16.09.2024, Time : 13.30 Hrs. (53) 14241091, Procurement of lead acid cell, 2 volt in hard rubber container conforming to IRS : S-88-2004 (with amdt. upto date if any) etc., ₹ 1,12,190/-, (54) 20241104, Valve magnet G-21, 110 V for application and holding magnet valves of Escorts brake equipment for EMUs, ₹ 2,48,730/-, Tender Opening Date : 17.09.2024, Time : 13.30 Hrs. (55) 08241677, Procurement of brushless sensorless 110 V DC Railway carriage fan etc., ₹ 3,23,180/-, Tender Opening Date : 20.09.2024, Time : 13.30 Hrs. (56) 21241076A, Bogie brake push rod etc., ₹ 0/-, Tender Opening Date : 23.09.2024, Time : 13.30 Hrs. (57) 20242196, Axle bearing (plain sleeve bearing - top & bottom halves) 3.5 mm under size for BHEL traction motor type 253 BX/BW and 4601 AZ, ₹ 6,48,520/-, Tender Opening Date : 25.09.2024, Time : 13.30 Hrs. (58) 05241046, Procurement of oil hydraulic grade VG-46 etc., ₹ 63,000/-, Tender Opening Date : 26.09.2024, Time : 13.30 Hrs. (59) 11241097, Procurement of sealed window glass unit etc., ₹ 0/-, Tender Opening Date : 01.10.2024, Time : 13.30 Hrs. (60) 21241036, Brake gear shaft long for BOXN wagon etc., ₹ 78,810/-, (61) 21241063, Yoke support plate etc., ₹ 0/-, (62) 21241077, Modified brake gear pin etc., ₹ 62,070/-, (63) 21241115, Air cylinder etc., ₹ 4,50,600/-, (64) 21241361, Slack adjuster complete type IRSA-750 etc., ₹ 0/-, Tender Opening Date : 03.10.2024, Time : 13.30 Hrs. (65) 21241081B, Slack adjuster complete type IRSA-600 etc., ₹ 0/-, Tender Opening Date : 07.10.2024, Time : 13.30 Hrs. (66) 21241284A, L type composition brake block for BLC wagon etc., ₹ 58,930/-, (67) 21241490, Body side Station etc., ₹ 87,100/-, Tender Opening Date : 14.10.2024, Time : 13.30 Hrs. (68) 21241162A, Cross bar etc., ₹ 68,400/-, Tender Cost: Rs. 0/- for all. Note : All above mentioned tenders are e-tenders and all tenders are requested to submit their bids on-line through the IREPS website at <https://www.ireps.gov.in> For more details regarding the above mentioned tenders and other supply tenders please visit IREPS website. (Stores-29/2024-25)

Tender Notices are also available at Website www.e.indianrailways.gov.in or www.ireps.gov.in

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INFORMATION WANTED

This is the photograph of Ahi Ojha, Daughter of Bhaktaram Ojha, Spouse's Name-Bhaktaram Ojha of Futaila Satehasi Para., PO-Futaila, PS-Habra, 743263, who has been missing since 29.02.2024 from Residence, Habra, Barasat Police District, W.B. Description of this missing person is : Age-2 years, Complexion-Fair, Height- 77 cms., Wearing-Not known, Language-Bengali. Please inform whereabouts of the missing person, to the Spl. Supdt. of Police, C.I.D. (W.B.), Bhabani Bhaban, Kolkata-700027, Ph. No.-033-2450-6120.

ICA-D1339(3)/2024

INFORMATION WANTED

This is the photograph of an Unknown Deadbody, PO-Belur, 711202, found on 29.06.2024 at KM Post No 07-27 to 07-24 between Belur RS and Bally RS under Belur PS. Description of this Deadbody is: Age-40 Years, Height-163 cms., Sex: Male, Wearing-Sky Half T-Shirt, Black Cotton Jeans with White Belt. Please inform whereabouts of the Unknown Deadbody/ person or contact (to) the Spl. Supdt. of Police, C.I.D. (W.B.), Bhabani Bhaban, Kolkata-700027, Ph. No.-033-2450-6120.

ICA-D1340(3)/2024

INFORMATION WANTED

This is the photograph of Snehashish Khan @ Kelo, Son of Lt. Biswacharan Khan, Spouse's Name-Suchitra Khan of Vill+PO-Kantaberia, PS-Rajapur, 711316, who has been missing since 13.07.2024 from Residence, Rajapur, Howrah Rural, W.B., Description of this missing person is : Age-40 years, Complexion-Sallow, Height-163 cms., Wearing-Yellow T-Shirt, Black Pajama, Language-Bengali, Identification Mark-A Cut Mark on Right Leg. Please inform whereabouts of the missing person, to the Spl. Supdt. of Police, C.I.D. (W.B.), Bhabani Bhaban, Kolkata-700027, Ph. No.-033-2450-6120.

ICA-D1336(3)/2024

INFORMATION WANTED

This is the photograph of Mousumi Das, Daughter of Subir Das, of Vill+PO-Manoharpur New Ramkrishna Pally PS-Dankuni, who has been missing since 10.07.2024 from Residence, Dankuni, Chandannagar Police Commissionerate, W.B. Description of this missing person is : Age-13 years, Complexion-Fair, Height-122 cms., Wearing-Sky Blue T-Shirt and Pink Pants, Language-Bengali. Please inform whereabouts of the missing person, to the Spl. Supdt. of Police, C.I.D. (W.B.), Bhabani Bhaban, Kolkata-700027, Ph. No.-033-2450-6120.

ICA-D1337(3)/2024

THUMBNAILS

NHAI prepays Rs 15,700 crore bank loan to save Rs 1,000 crore interest: The NHAI achieved a significant financial milestone with the successful prepayment of a bank loan amounting to Rs 15,700 crore which has enabled it to save as much as Rs 1,000 crore in interest, the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways said on Tuesday. With the retiring of this debt ahead of schedule, the outstanding debt liability of NHAI has come down to around Rs 3,20,000 crore, according to an official statement. The sum of Rs. 15,700 crore was generated in FY 2023-24 through InViT. Government rules stipulate that InViT proceeds have to be used exclusively for NHAI debt repayment. During the financial year 2024-25, NHAI intends to monetise projects worth Rs 15,000-20,000 crore through InViT. With this, the overall debt liability of NHAI is expected to further reduce to around Rs 3,00,000 crore at the end of fiscal 2025. As a part of the robust debt payment plan and using InViT monetisation proceeds, NHAI has been actively engaging with the lender banks to reduce interest rates. As a result, banks have reduced their interest rate from 8-8.10 per cent to 7.58-7.59 per cent. In this process, bank loans where interest rates could not be reduced, have been repaid Rs. 15,700 crore and this will result in significant interest savings of around Rs 1,000 crore, the statement said. Robust asset monetisation proceeds, along with effective financial planning, indicate a strong financial performance of the NHAI. The savings realised from this debt reduction will play a pivotal role in advancing ongoing and future National Highway projects, the statement added.

Market fails to hold on to morning gains led by mixed sectoral performance

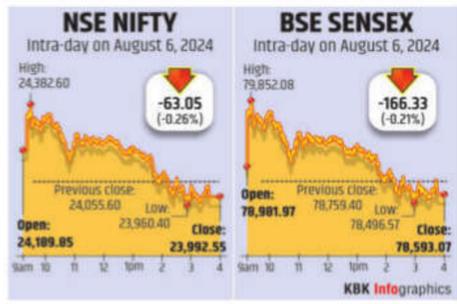
Sensex opened at 78,981.97 against its previous close of 78,759.40 and jumped over a per cent to the level of 79,852.08 during the session

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 6AUGUST:

The benchmark indices failed to hold on to the morning gains on Tuesday and ended lower for the third straight session amid volatility led by mixed sectoral performance. Sensex opened at 78,981.97 against its previous close of 78,759.40 and jumped over a per cent to the level of 79,852.08 during the session. Nifty 50 opened at 24,189.85 against its previous

close of 24,055.60 and climbed over a per cent to reclaim the level of 24,382.60. Sensex ended the day at a loss of 166 points, or 0.21 per cent, at 78,593.07 while the Nifty50 closed at 23,992.55, down 63 points, or 0.26 per cent. On Nifty50, the top gainers were Britannia (2.81 per cent), JSW Steel (2.35 per cent) and Tech Mahindra (1.74 per cent). While on the flip side, shares of HDFC Life (4.28 per cent), SBI Life (2.43 per cent) and BPCL (1.84 per

cent) ended as the top losers. The midcap and smallcap indices underperformed the benchmarks as the BSE Midcap index fell 0.71 per cent, while the Smallcap index ended 0.57 per cent lower. The overall market capitalisation of the firms listed on the BSE slipped to nearly 440 lakh crore from nearly 442 lakh crore in the previous session. Among the sectors, auto, bank and oil & gas were down 0.5 per cent each, while IT, metal, realty up 0.3-0.8 per



Nifty Auto was one of the worst-hit sectors for a second session in a row. M&M and

Maruti Suzuki dented the sentiment the most. Nifty Realty, although paring most gains, ended the session in the green rising 1 per cent. Other sectors that prevented a steeper drop were Nifty IT and Nifty Metal. Shares of Schneider Electric Infrastructure rose over 5 per cent after the company posted a 23 per cent YoY rise in its revenue. Hindustan Construction Company shares fell over 6 per cent after the company reported a net loss of Rs 2.5

crore in Q1 FY25. Shares of Graphite India rose nearly 3 per cent after the company reported a net profit of Rs 237 crore in Q1 FY25. The focus is now on the RBI monetary policy decision. The meeting of MPC is underway, and its outcome is due on August 8. Experts believe the central bank will maintain a status quo on repo rates. However, a few believe that there could be a shift in the policy stance of the RBI.

CIL, GAIL sign JV for setting up Coal to SNG Plant

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 6AUGUST

The Ministry of Coal in collaboration with the Ministry of Power & Natural Gas facilitated a landmark joint venture agreement between two leading Maharatna CPSEs, Coal India Limited (CIL) and GAIL (India) Limited (GAIL). It marks a major step towards setting up a Coal to Synthetic Natural Gas (SNG) plant using surface coal gasification (SCG) technology. Debashish Nanda, Director (Business Development) CIL and Shri. R.K. Singhal, Director (Business Development) GAIL inked the JVA on behalf of CIL and GAIL respectively. The plant to come up in Raniganj area of Eastern Coalfields Limited, West Bengal is planned to produce 80,000 Nm³ per hour of Synthetic Natural Gas (SNG), the Ministry of Coal said in a statement. The annual production is slated at 633.6 Million Nm³ per hour which will require 1.9 million tonnes



(mts) of coal. The coal will be supplied by CIL.

The synergy and partnership of the two corporate giants is a big step towards National Coal Gasification Mission which facilitates utilization of chemical properties of coal. Synthetic Natural Gas (SNG) is a fuel gas predominantly consisting of methane, CH₄ which is a feedstock for production of various chemicals and fertilizers. The upcoming plant would help in securing the raw material and reduce import dependency of Natural gas and promoting Atmanir-

harmission. M. Nagaraju, Additional Secretary, Coal, while addressing in the signing ceremony mentioned that the commitment of CIL and GAIL with this project will be a role model. "Gasification is the highest priority area for the Ministry of Coal. India has been blessed with huge reserves of coal and these reserves should be utilized gainful and in environment friendly manner." The Additional Secretary stressed the need of more coal gasification project to be planned to minimize the carbon emission. He also said that all the possible support from government is in place including financial support for viable gap funding. Request for Proposals (RFPs) for inviting eligible bidders (public and private) for financial incentives of Rs. 8500 crores under three categories for Coal/lignite gasification project have been floated on 15.05.2024 for which last date of submission is 11.11.2024.

8.69 crore crop insurance applications received, amount spikes over 2.71 lakh crore

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 6AUGUST

There were many difficulties in the crop insurance schemes during previous government with insufficient claims, insured amount was less, delay in settlement of claims, said Union Minister for Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare and Rural Development Shivraj Singh Chouhan. While answering questions related to Crop Insurance Scheme in the Lok Sabha, the minister said farmers and farmer organizations had many objections in the previous schemes. "I am proud to say that Prime Minister Narendra Modi brought the new Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana," he added. Earlier, 3 crore 51 lakh applications were received for crop insurance and now 8 crore 69 lakh applications have been received, while the gross insured amount has increased to more than



2.71 lakh crore rupees. Farmers have paid a premium of Rs 32 thousand 404 crore and in return they have been given a claim of Rs 1.64 lakh crore. He said that if the crop is damaged due to natural reasons, then that too is fully covered and the farmer gets its benefit. According to the old crop insurance, the loanee farmers' was compulsorily insured and the bank itself deducted the insurance premium amount. The government has removed this anomaly and made the scheme voluntary. So far, 5 lakh 1 thousand

hectares of area has been covered in it, which has increased to 5 lakh 98 thousand hectares in 2023, 3 crore 57 lakh farmers have been covered. The government has taken several measures to simplify the scheme, so that the farmer does not face any problem in taking advantage of the schemes, he added. Further on the schemes for the states, he said there are 3 different models of Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana, and state government chooses the model it wants. "Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana is for every district of the country. Earlier

there were discrepancies in the unit of the scheme that the block itself was made the unit. Now the Gram Panchayat has been made the unit, so that if a farmer in the Gram Panchayat incurs loss, his loss can be compensated properly." The minister said it has been made mandatory to conduct at least 4 crop cutting experiments in every Gram Panchayat. It has been made mandatory to assess the crop loss of at least 30 per cent through remote sensing. He said that this is the reason why there is a delay in the payment of claims. "When we looked at the reasons for the delay in insurance payments, 98.5 per cent of the reasons were the delay in the release of premium amount by the state governments," he added. The minister requested to the state governments not to delay the release of premium amount from their side.

Classified

CHANGE OF NAME
I, Army No. 10213524F HAV Sanjiban Mondal P/O 113 Inf BN (TA) Rajput, Dimapur, Nagaland C/o 99 APO have changed my mother's name from Rekheha Mondal to Rekha Mondal and my mother's actual DOB is 15-2-1968. It was wrongly recorded in my service book as 20-5-1966. Now it is rectified vide an affidavit before the 1st Class Judicial Magistrate at Barasat on 30-7-2024. Deponent

I, ASHMA Thander, W/o. Lt. Md Anamuddin Thandar, residing at Banitala, Uluberia, Howrah-711316, W.B., have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Asma Begum Thandar as declared before the Notary Public / First Class Judicial Magistrate - Uluberia Court, Howrah - W.B., vide Affidavit No.-1760 Date: 31-7-2024 Ashma Thander and Asma Begum Thandar and Thandar Asma Begum and Asma Begam both are same and identical person.

I, MARINA Majumdar, husband Bhaskar Majumdar, Address- Saptagram, North Dum Dum (M), Dist.: 24 Pgs. (N), Kolkata-700051, W.B., First Class Judicial Magistrate Seal dah Court, Dist.: 24 Pgs.(S), Affidavit with Merina Majumdar Affidavit No. 7470 Dated 1-8-2024. Marina Majumdar and Merina Majumdar both are same person.

I, PROBIR Mitra, S/o. Late Keshab Chandra Mitra, residing at present 31A, Banamali Naskar Road, Police Station: Parnasree, Kolkata-700060, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Probir Kumar Mitra as declared before the Notary Public at Alipore Judges Court, District: Kolkata, State: West Bengal vide

Affidavit No. 11, Dated 01-08-2024, Probir Mitra and Probir Kumar Mitra both are same and identical person.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, Bandita daughter of late Alok Kumar Ganguly residing of B-2/398, Kalyani, P.O & P.S - Kalyani, Dist. - Nadia, Pin-741235 have change my name from Bandita to Bandita Ganguly vide affidavit dated 05.08.2024 before Kalyani Court, Nadia.

CHANGE OF NAME
I Dhurjati Prasad Roy, S/O Late - Kalipada Roy, vili+ P.O.+ P.S.- Polba, Dist- Hooghly, Pin-712148, My actual name is Dhurjati Prasad Roy but my wife's Passport has been wrongly recorded my name Dhurjati Prasad Bandyopadhyay, vide Affidavit (No-1834) before notary Public court at Chinsurah, Hooghly, Dated- 30/7/24, Dhurjati Prasad Roy and Dhurjati Prasad Bandyopadhyay is same and one identical Person.

I, MANORAMA Paul Dutta, W/o. Pradyut Kumar Dutta at 2/38A/1, Sree Colony, Regent Estate, Kolkata-700092 have changed my name from Manorama Dutta to Manorama Paul Dutta vide Affidavit No. 17842 Judicial Magistrate 1st Class Alipore dt. 02-08-2024, Manorama Dutta and Manorama Paul Dutta is same person and my actual Date of Birth is 15-03-1953.

I, SMT. UTTARA Chakraborty, W/o. Mr. Subratish Chakraborty, residing at 101/1/5, Tollygunge Road, do hereby declare that on the basis of Affidavit No. 49318, dated 05-08-2024 by Judicial Magistrate, Alipore Police Court, will be recognised as Uttara Chakraborty and Uttara Chakraborty and Uttara Chakraborty as the same and identical person.

I, HARPRIT R Manku, wife of Rajinder Singh Manku (RS Manku) whose

name appears as Harprit Bhogal, Harprit Manku, Harprit Rajendra Singh Manku, Harprit Kaur, Harprit R Singh, Harprit Rajinder Manku and Harprit K Manku and Harprit Kaur Rajinder Singh Manku or any other similar in different all documents is a same and identical person and will be known as Harprit R Manku.

PROPERTY
FOR SALE lucrative office space available at 22, Camac Street, for sale, Kolkata-700016. Contact: 98305 58903.

TENDERS
e-TENDER
The Chairman, Board of Councilors, Katwa Municipality has invited e-Tender against N.I.E.T. No: WBMD 20 (DEV/MDF/KM) 2024-2025 Tender Id No.- 2024_MAD_728443_1. N.I.E.T. No.: WBMD 21 (DEV/MDF/KM) 2024-2025 Tender Id No.- 2024_MAD_728465_1, 2024_MAD_728465_2, 2024_MAD_728465_3. Intending bidders are requested to visit the website: https://wbtdenders.gov.in & www.katwamunicipality.info
Chairman
Katwa Municipality

SITUATION VACANT

URGENT REQUIRE
RAJA RAM MOHAN COLLEGE OF PHARMACY Pandua, Dist.: Hooghly (W.B.) Applications are invited for the post of Principal and Asst. Professors for Pharmacy College. Qualification: As per PCI Norms. Please apply to: pcipandua@gmail.com Contact: 9434126420/9434203043.

PUBLIC NOTICES
In the Court of the Ld. District Delegate, Alipore Act 39 Case No. 72 of 2024 (Succession) In the matter of: PIYARI KEOT, wife of Late Daya Sankar Keot, permanent resident of Village Damodarpur, Budhana, Sultanpur, P.S.- Kadhipur, Uttar Pradesh 228145 and also residing at 42/1A, Graham Road, P.O. Regent Park, formerly P.S.- Jadavpur at present, P.S.- Golf Green, Kolkata - 700040.Applicant Notice is hereby given to the public at large that, the applicant has applied for Succession Certificate in respect of the debts and securities left by the deceased DAYASANKAR KEOT amounting to Rs. 5,65,473/- (Rupees Five Lakhs Sixty Five Thousand Four Hundred Seventy Three) only in the above Court. Any person having objection, is requested to submit a written objection before this Court within 30 days from the date of this publication, in absence of which, the case will be heard exparte according to law.
BY ORDER
Susanta Saha
Shrestidar
District Judge Court
Alipore, South 24 Pgs. 01.07.2024

COURT NOTICE
IN THE COURT OF LD. 5th ADDITIONAL DISTRICT JUDGE AT HOWRAH REF - MATRIMONIAL SUIT No. 539 OF 2020 SRI SAIKAT BAG, Son of Late Sallen Bag, Of Village- Ramchandrapur, Post Office & Police Station-Sankrail, District- Howrah, Pin Code No. 711313.Petitioner
-Vs- SMT. MOUMITA BAG, Wife of Sri Kamal Mondal, Presently residing at Village- Krishnapur Mahisgot, Post Office- Krishnapur, Police Station- New Town, District- North 24 Parganas, Pin Code No. 700102.Respondent
NOTICE
It is notified that the above named Petitioner has instituted the above suit against the Respondent for Divorce Under Section 13 of Hindu Marriage Act. Several times the above mentioned Ld. Court issued summons through this Ld. Court and Regd. Post with A/D to you and you did not appear and accordingly as per order of the Ld. Court the Respondent Smt. Moumita Bag, Wife of Sri Kamal Mondal, Presently residing at Village- Krishnapur Mahisgot, Post Office- Krishnapur, Police Station- New Town, District- North 24 Parganas, Pin Code No. 700102 this notice is given. If said Smt. Moumita Bag has any objection you appear and file written objection before this Ld. Court within 30 (Thirty) days from the date of publication of this notice, otherwise the case will be heard exparte.
By order of the Court
Saampa Roy
Shrestidar of Howrah District Judge, Howrah

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RBI may not change repo rate owing to food inflation



AGENCIES
CHENNAI, 6AUGUST
The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) will continue to remain cautious on the inflationary trends and may not change the repo rate, experts said on Tuesday. Repo rate is the rate at which the RBI lends money to the banks. However, there is a variance in their views with regard to the RBI's stance. Credit rating agency CARE Ratings said the MPC is expected to maintain the status quo on the policy repo rate on Thursday. "The stance is anticipated to remain at 'withdrawal of accommodation', with the policy repo rate held at 6.5 per cent," CARE Ratings said in a report. This decision is primarily driven by risks to the inflationary outlook. Although the overall growth rate is expected to remain healthy, the MPC is likely to stay cautious and monitor any emerging risks to inflation. According to CARE Ratings, despite an above-normal monsoon so far (6.4 per cent above the Long Period Average as of August 4), the overall risk of food inflation remains high due to highly uneven rainfall in the first half of the monsoon season. Even though the Southern states have received good rainfall, key agrarian regions, particularly in North and East India, such as Punjab, Haryana, and the East-

Bangladesh turmoil unlikely to have impact on India's overall trade position: S&P



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 6AUGUST
Amid the ongoing political turmoil in Bangladesh, S&P Global Ratings said India is a well diversified exporter and a blip in its exports to Bangladesh is unlikely to have any meaningful impact on India's overall trade position for the full year. Bangladesh is facing its worst political crisis since independence in 1971, with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina resigning amid massive anti-government protests. Notably, Bangladesh is India's biggest trade partner in South Asia, while India is the second biggest trade partner of the neighbouring country in Asia. India's exports to Bangladesh dipped to \$11 billion in 2023-24 from \$12.21 billion in 2022-23. Imports too declined to \$1.84 billion in the last fiscal, from \$2 billion in 2022-23. Notably, Bangladesh is facing its worst political crisis since independence in 1971, with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina resigning amid massive anti-government protests. Bangladesh Army Chief General Waqar-uz-Zaman on Monday announced that

an interim government would be taking over the responsibilities. S&P Global Ratings, Director, Sovereign and International Public Finance Ratings (Asia-Pacific), Andrew Wood said that S&P expects domestic demand conditions in Bangladesh in this period of time to be weak and probably going to entail less support for exports from other countries, including India, into Bangladesh. "India is a well diversified exporter to the entire world and its trade profile is significantly larger than bilateral trade relationships with economies like Bangladesh." "Whatever the impact is going to be on directly is really quite unlikely to have a meaningful impact on its overall trade position for the fiscal year... its external position is quite strong in the country and is a net creditor to the world by our calculation," Wood said. India's main exports include vegetables, coffee, tea, spices, sugar, confectionery, refined petroleum oil, chemicals, cotton, iron and steel, and vehicles. The main import items are fish, plastic, leather, and apparel, among others.

India, US working to 'shape the future', write Blinken, Austin

They described the Indo-Pacific as a challenge when Biden took office in 2021

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE
WASHINGTON, 6 AUGUST



US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin in a joint Op-ed have described the Biden administration's Indo-Pacific strategy as a latticework of bilateral and multilateral ties in which the US and India are "investing together across sectors that will shape the future" such as Artificial Intelligence and semiconductors in addition to cooperation as members of the Quad.

our existing one-to-one relationships in Asia but also to bring those partners together in new and innovative way".

The two top officials wrote in The Washington Post that President Joe Biden's transformation of the US Indo-Pacific strategy and the results it has borne remain the "most important and least-told stories of the foreign policy strategy advanced by President Biden and Vice President Harris".

Blinken and Austin cited the elevation of the Quad to the level of a summit of leaders, the launch of AUKUS, a security partnership between Australia, the UK and the US, a three-way summit hosted by the US with South Korea and Japan, another three-way arrangement with Japan and the Philippines as the changes wrought by the Biden administration.

They wrote in the Op-ed, which came close on the heels of the eighth ministerial meeting of the Quad that took place in Tokyo on July 29, that the Biden administration changed America's hub-and-spoke relations with Indo-Pacific countries to "not just to strengthen

investments, and advance the global clean energy transition," they wrote, adding the Indo-Pacific Economic Forum (IPEF), whose 13 members include India, to the list.

Along with creating and upgrading multilateral ties with Indo-Pacific countries, the administration doubled down on the bilateral ties, "India and the United States are investing together across the sectors that will shape the future -- from semiconductors to artificial intelligence, to clean energy," the officials wrote, referring to the US-India initiative on Critical and Emerging Technology (iCET). US National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan travelled to India in June for a meeting with his Indian counterpart Ajit Doval for a second round of talks on

the initiative.

The two officials described the Indo-Pacific as a challenge when President Biden took office in January 2021. "America's standing in this critical part of the world was at its lowest point in decades. The region was still reeling from the Covid-19 pandemic. Our allies and partners feared that the United States had become an unreliable friend. An increasingly aggressive China was taking advantage of America's turn inward to advance its alternative vision of the world -- a vision hostile to US interests."

Significantly, the two officials confined their concerns about China's aggression to its behaviour at the sea. "We're pushing back together against China's dangerous brinkmanship in the region's waterways," they wrote, referring to China's island and maritime disputes in the South China Sea.

At another point in the Op-ed, they wrote about "China's dangerous and provocative actions at sea". The reference was to the South China Sea. There was no reference to China's aggression in its land disputes, such as the one with India.

UK prime minister talks of 'standing army' of police to deal with rioting across Britain

ASSOCIATED PRESS
LONDON, 6 AUGUST



British Prime Minister Keir Starmer said Monday that a "standing army" of specialist police would be set up to deal with rioting and that the justice system would be ramped up to handle hundreds of arrests after violent disorder rocked cities across the nation over the past week.

Starmer convened an urgent meeting after lawlessness he blamed on "far-right thugs" that was driven in part by misinformation on social media that whipped up anger over stabbing rampage at a dance class that killed three girls and wounded 10 people. False rumors spread online that the suspect was a Muslim asylum-seeker led to attacks on immigrants and mosques.

"Whatever the apparent motivation, this is not protest. It is pure violence and we will not tolerate attacks on

mosques or our Muslim communities," Starmer said. "The full force of the law will be visited on all those who are identified as having taken part in these activities."

On Sunday, angry mobs attacked two hotels used to house asylum-seekers, breaking windows and lighting fires before police dispersed the crowds and residents were evacuated.

Dozens of police officers have been hospitalized for injuries in the past six days after being struck with bricks, bottles and large wooden posts. More than 375 people

have been arrested in the mayhem so far and more are expected, the National Police Chiefs' Council said.

Many made court appearances Monday and found themselves facing at least several weeks behind bars awaiting their next court hearing. Deputy District Judge Liam McStay in Belfast Magistrates' Court refused bail for two men who had participated in an march that trashed businesses and set a supermarket on fire in the capital of Northern Ireland. He said he couldn't allow that to be repeated and "visited on other people."

Shooting in Seattle injures multiple people: At least four people were injured following a shooting in Seattle, US state of Washington, police said. Probe underway.

EASTERN RAILWAY
Tender No. SDSTE-GSU-SL-KAN-24-25 dated 05.08.2024. Divisional Railway Manager, Eastern Railway, Howrah, DRM Building near Railway station, Howrah-711101 invites open E-Tender in two packet system against Tender No. SDSTE-GSU-SL-KAN-24-25 closing date 28.08.2024 at 15.00 hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original revised bids upto closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Name of Work: KAN - Shifting of ladder at HWH end crossover point no. 57A/B, 56, 53A/B, 52A/B for increasing CAL/CSR of Line no. 2 Main Line to accommodate full length goods train. Advertised value : Rs. 7,55,33,726.26. Earnest Money : Rs. 5,27,700/- . Tender document cost: 0/- . Date/Time of Uploading Tender: 05.08.2024 at 14.29 hrs. Validity of offer : 60 days. Bidding completion : 12 months. Bidding start date : 14.08.2024. Bidding style : Single rate for each schedule item. Contract type : Works. Contract Category : Expenditure. Ranking order for bids: Lowest to highest. Expenditure type: Capital (Works). IPAS Accounting unit : 0202-Eastern-Rly-HWH Eastern Railway. (HWH-208/2024-25) Tender Notices are also available at Website www.irps.gov.in or www.irps.gov.in Follow us at: @EasternRailway @easternrailwayheadquarter

EASTERN RAILWAY
Following e-tender is invited online by the CPM/Engg/GSU, Eastern Railway, Howrah, DRM Building near Railway station, Howrah-711101 from tenders having experience of similar nature of work and required financial capabilities including those registered with Irrigation/CPWD/SEB/MES or any public sector undertaking for the following work : E-tender No. : 02_2024-25, dtd. 05.08.2024. Description of work: Khana - Shifting of ladder at HWH end to increase CSR of Up Line No. 2 to accommodate full length Goods Train under GSU/HWH. Approx. Cost: Rs. 3,68,98,667.48. Earnest Money: Rs. 3,34,500/-. Cost of tender form : Nil. Completion period : 4 months from the date of issue of acceptance letter. Closing date & time of tender: 28.08.2024 at 12.00 hrs. In case the date of closing mentioned in the Notice Inviting Tender is declared a holiday/bandh/strike on any account, the date of closing tender online will not be changed as the application in the website of IREPS does not permit submission of any offer after closing date and time of the tender. However, opening of tenders online will be done next working day. The details of tender are available at website www.irps.gov.in Tenderers are requested to submit their offer online on the above website. Payment of earnest money deposit (EMD) & Tender document cost, in respect of E-tendering, should be accepted through net banking or payment gateway only through above website. No manual offer will be accepted. (HWH-211/2024-25) Tender Notices are also available at Website www.irps.gov.in or www.irps.gov.in Follow us at: @EasternRailway @easternrailwayheadquarter

EASTERN RAILWAY
Following e-tender is invited online by the CPM/Engg/GSU, Eastern Railway, Howrah, DRM Building near Railway station, Howrah-711101 from tenders having experience of similar nature of work and required financial capabilities including those registered with Irrigation/CPWD/SEB/MES or any public sector undertaking for the following work : E-tender No. : 02_2024-25, dtd. 05.08.2024. Description of work: Khana - Shifting of ladder at HWH end to increase CSR of Up Line No. 2 to accommodate full length Goods Train under GSU/HWH. Approx. Cost: Rs. 3,68,98,667.48. Earnest Money: Rs. 3,34,500/-. Cost of tender form : Nil. Completion period : 4 months from the date of issue of acceptance letter. Closing date & time of tender: 28.08.2024 at 12.00 hrs. In case the date of closing mentioned in the Notice Inviting Tender is declared a holiday/bandh/strike on any account, the date of closing tender online will not be changed as the application in the website of IREPS does not permit submission of any offer after closing date and time of the tender. However, opening of tenders online will be done next working day. The details of tender are available at website www.irps.gov.in Tenderers are requested to submit their offer online on the above website. Payment of earnest money deposit (EMD) & Tender document cost, in respect of E-tendering, should be accepted through net banking or payment gateway only. Note : Fixed Deposit Receipt (FDR) will not be accepted as EMD for tenders invited on IREPS (E-tender portal). No manual offer will be accepted. (HWH-211/2024-25) Tender Notices are also available at Website www.irps.gov.in or www.irps.gov.in Follow us at: @EasternRailway @easternrailwayheadquarter

Heat wave death toll rises to 14 in South Korea: Two women in their 70s have died due to extreme heat in South Korea, raising the death toll from this year's heat wave to 14, the interior ministry said on Tuesday.

MORE TENDER ADS ON PAGE 5, 9, 11, 13

EASTERN RAILWAY
Following e-tender is invited online by the Divisional Railway Manager, Eastern Railway, Howrah, DRM Building near Railway station, Howrah-711101 from tenders having experience of similar nature of work and required financial capabilities including those registered with Irrigation/CPWD/SEB/MES or any public sector undertaking for the following work : Sr. DEN/HWH. NIT No. : 118_2024-25, dtd. 05.08.2024. Description of work: Construction of safety fencing at cattle runover prone location in Howrah Division. Approx. Cost: Rs. 6,57,62,359.65. Earnest Money: Rs. 4,78,800/-. Completion period : 12 months. Cost of tender form : Nil. Closing date & time of tender: 26.08.2024 at 14.00 hrs. In case the date of closing mentioned in the Notice Inviting Tender is declared a holiday/bandh/strike on any account, the date of closing tender online will not be changed as the application in the website of IREPS does not permit submission of any offer after closing date and time of the tender. However, opening of tenders online will be done next working day. The details of tender are available at website www.irps.gov.in Tenderers are requested to submit their offer online on the above website. Payment of earnest money deposit (EMD) & Tender document cost, in respect of E-tendering, should be accepted through net banking or payment gateway only through above website. No manual offer will be accepted. (HWH-205/2024-25) Tender Notices are also available at Website www.irps.gov.in or www.irps.gov.in Follow us at: @EasternRailway @easternrailwayheadquarter

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY
E-Procurement Tender Notice No.:E.T.D./C.N.B./2024-25/19 Date: 02.08.2024
E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE
On behalf of the President of India, The Senior Materials Manager, E.T.D./ Kanpur invites the following e-procurement tender.

Sl. No.	Tender No.	Description	Qty.
1	57245186	Loop boxes sets for three phase Electric Locomotives as per attached CLW spec no CLW/ES/3CLW/ES/3/0538 Alt A (Material to be supplied as per enclosed Annexure A. Set consists of 12 items)	01 Set.
2	57241144	NYLON CABLE TIES ST-2 NR SELF LOCKING TYPE. MATERIAL NYLON- 66. SELF EXTINGUISHING SIZE 4.7X110 MM AS PER CLW SPECIFICATION NO. CLW/ES/C-54/B.	9000 Nos.
3	57245206	PORTABLE DIGITAL ULTRASONIC FLAW DETECTOR with A Scan Storage as per Specification no. M&C/NDT/125/2004 Rev-II JANUARY 2017 or latest.	01 Nos.
4	57245218	Supply, installation and Commissioning of BGA Station (Zhumao machine R7220A or similar)	01 Nos.
5	57245169	Gasket for sand box cover of WAP-7 locos as per SC Rly. Drg. C/ELSLGD/Ex.FTG/4/27 Alt 1 or latest if any. Material: Natural Rubber & IS: 638-1965 Type C	900 Nos.
6	57245170	PIPE-G FOR 3 PHASE LOCO TRANSFORMER OIL COOLING SYSTEM AS PER CLW SPECN. CLW/ ES/ 0253ALT-Q,OR LATEST.	08 Nos.
7	57245217	Supply installation of CRCA steel personal locker cabinet with 04 locker for section of ELS/CNBL size 380 x 450 x 1800 mm in perfectly upright and straight position. The overall size of the Cabinet 1800X450X380 mm including all. It should be supplied with 4 nos. of locker. Door shall be made of 0.8mm thick and all other components shall be made of 0.8mm thick high yield strength CRCA sheet of grade D conforming to IS: 513. Stiffeners. The steel hinged door shall be provided with locking mechanism which is assembled with bolt arrangement. The shelves shall have folded constructions which have intrinsic rigidity and high load carrying capacity. Uniformly distributed load capacity per each drawer shall be 20kg maximum. The complete steel structure shall be constructed by welding and provide finishing with epoxy polyester powder coated to be thickness 40-60. Make- Geeken / Godrej / Methadex/Neel kamal or equivalent.	10 Nos.
8	58245062	Multimedia Projector (MMP). Specification:-as per Attached in document at S.N.-01	12 Nos.

Tender Opening Date: 22.08.2024, EMD: NIL. Note: 1. The complete information of above E-Procurement Tender are available on IREPS website i.e. <http://www.irps.gov.in>. 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 class III digital signature certificate issued by CCA and IT act 2000. 3. Rules entered into financial rate page is duly signed digitally signature shall only be considered rates and any other financial entry in any other form / letter head if attached by vendor shall be original straight way ignore and shall not be considered. 1375/24 (ADM)

Tender Notices are also available at Website www.nctr.indianrailways.gov.in / www.irps.gov.in
Follow us at: @NorthCentralRailways @nctr.indianrailways.gov.in @nctrindianrailways @CPONCR @easternrailwayheadquarter

TENDER
EASTERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice No.: E-L-33-24, dtd. 05.08.2024. E-Tenders are invited by the Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (G), Eastern Railway, Asansol, Pin-713301 from reputed tenderers having valid Electrical contractor licence and capable to complete the following work financially : Name of the work with its location : Asansol Division : Provision of CCTV Surveillance System at Goods Sheds at DUMK, JSME, MDP, ASN, RNG, TOP, MHUR, VDS, MUW, BCQ, DGR, SURI, HZH over Asansol Division. Tender value: Rs. 6,38,563/-. Earnest Money: Rs. 12,800/-. Cost of tender documents : Nil. Date & time of closing & opening : 28.08.2024 at 11.00 hrs. Completion period for the work : 9 months. Complete details can be seen in the Railways website irps.gov.in (ASN-140/2024-25) Tender Notices are also available at Website www.irps.gov.in / www.irps.gov.in Follow us at: @EasternRailway @easternrailwayheadquarter

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY
TENDER NOTICE
No.RR/ECR/PNBE-GDCE-2024-ECA Dated: 06.08.2024
Chairman, Railway Recruitment Cell, Patna acting for and on behalf of President of India invites open E-Tender in Two Packet System for the following work:
Name of work: Engaging Exam Conducting Agency to conduct Computer Based Tests (CBTs) and all related activities including processing of results and Panels etc for Railway Recruitment Cell for various posts notified in GDCE notifications of 2024-2025 to 2026-2027. Approximate cost of the work : Rs. 3,74,00,000/-. Non refundable Cost of Tender form : Rs. 10,000/- . Address of the office publishing the E-Tender: Railway Recruitment Cell, 5th Floor, C-Block, Maurya Park Complex, Dak Bungalow Road, Patna-1. Earnest Money Deposit: Rs. 3,37,000/-. Completion period of the work: Three Years. Date of issue of tender: 06.08.2024. Date, time and venue of Pre-bid conference: 12.08.2024 at 14.00 Hrs. RRC/Patna. Last date and time for receipt of offers/bids through E-Tender Online: 14.00 Hrs on 28.08.2024. Time and date of opening of Technical bids received in response to the Tender: 14.00 Hrs on 29.08.2024. Time and Date of opening of Financial bids received in response to the Tender (Eligibility and evaluation criteria-OCBS Method as detailed in Tender Document): Will be informed to bidders who secure technical score of 70% and above. Website particular where the complete details of tender can be seen and offers submitted: www.irps.gov.in
Note:- 1) Tender other than E-Tender shall not be accepted. The prospective bidders are required to register on IREPS portal to participate in the bid. 2) The cost of Tender Document and EMD shall be deposited online through payment gateway facility available on IREPS portal.
Chairman/RRC/Patna PR/00844/RRC/EST/T/24-25/2

e - PROCUREMENT CELL
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, BUILDING DIVISION, DIST - PAKUR
BUILDING CONSTRUCTION DEPARTMENT, GOVT. OF JHARKHAND
Very Short e - PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE
Tender Reference No.- 16/2024-25/EE/BCD/PAKUR
Date:-05-08-2024

(i)	S.N.	NAME OF WORK	PANCHAYAT	BLOCK	ESTIMATED COST (RS.)	COST OF BOQ (RS.)	EARNEST MONEY (RS)	COMPLETION PERIOD	TENDER ID
1	1	CONSTRUCTION OF ONE ACR IN PRIMARY SCHOOL, BARGO	BANDU	LITIPARA	1069500.00	2500.00	21400.00	120 Days	2024_BCD_89_332_1
2	2	CONSTRUCTION OF TWO ACR IN UPGRADED PRIMARY SCHOOL, PARVABHITHA	BANDU	LITIPARA	1936500.00	5000.00	38750.00	120 Days	2024_BCD_89_332_2
3	3	CONSTRUCTION OF TWO ACR IN UPGRADED PRIMARY SCHOOL, BADALPUR	BANDU	LITIPARA	1936500.00	5000.00	38750.00	120 Days	2024_BCD_89_332_3
4	4	CONSTRUCTION OF TWO ACR IN UPGRADED MIDDLE SCHOOL, BANJIRLI	BANDU	LITIPARA	1936500.00	5000.00	38750.00	120 Days	2024_BCD_89_332_4
5	5	CONSTRUCTION OF TWO ACR IN PRIMARY SCHOOL, BUHAMARA	KAMALGHATI	LITIPARA	1936500.00	5000.00	38750.00	120 Days	2024_BCD_89_332_5
6	6	CONSTRUCTION OF TWO ACR IN PRIMARY SCHOOL, CHOTA POKHRIA	KADMATAND	LITIPARA	1936500.00	5000.00	38750.00	120 Days	2024_BCD_89_332_6
7	7	CONSTRUCTION OF TWO ACR IN PRIMARY SCHOOL, CHURIDHARI	KADMATAND	LITIPARA	1936500.00	5000.00	38750.00	120 Days	2024_BCD_89_332_7
8	8	CONSTRUCTION OF TWO ACR IN UPGRADED MIDDLE SCHOOL, SAKJA	KADMATAND	LITIPARA	1936500.00	5000.00	38750.00	120 Days	2024_BCD_89_332_8
9	9	CONSTRUCTION OF TWO ACR IN UPGRADED PRIMARY SCHOOL, JARMUNDI	KADMATAND	LITIPARA	1936500.00	5000.00	38750.00	120 Days	2024_BCD_89_332_9
10	10	CONSTRUCTION OF TWO ACR IN UPGRADED MIDDLE SCHOOL, PATHRIA	KADMATAND	LITIPARA	1936500.00	5000.00	38750.00	120 Days	2024_BCD_89_332_10
11	11	CONSTRUCTION OF TWO ACR IN UPGRADED PRIMARY SCHOOL, LABDGHATI	KADMATAND	LITIPARA	1936500.00	5000.00	38750.00	120 Days	2024_BCD_89_332_11
12	12	CONSTRUCTION OF TWO ACR IN UPGRADED PRIMARY SCHOOL, PODAM	KADMATAND	LITIPARA	1936500.00	5000.00	38750.00	120 Days	2024_BCD_89_332_12
13	13	CONSTRUCTION OF TWO ACR IN UPGRADED PRIMARY SCHOOL, AMARBHITHA	KADMATAND	LITIPARA	1936500.00	5000.00	38750.00	120 Days	2024_BCD_89_332_13
14	14	CONSTRUCTION OF TWO ACR IN UPGRADED PRIMARY SCHOOL, BADA MALGODA	KADMATAND	LITIPARA	1936500.00	5000.00	38750.00	120 Days	2024_BCD_89_332_14
15	15	CONSTRUCTION OF TWO ACR IN PRIMARY SCHOOL, BADA TELOPADA	KADMATAND	LITIPARA	1936500.00	5000.00	38750.00	120 Days	2024_BCD_89_332_15
16	16	CONSTRUCTION OF TWO ACR IN PRIMARY SCHOOL, MURGABANI	KADMATAND	LITIPARA	1936500.00	5000.00	38750.00	120 Days	2024_BCD_89_332_16
17	17	CONSTRUCTION OF TWO ACR IN UPGRADED PRIMARY SCHOOL, TONGIPAHAD	KUNJIBONA	LITIPARA	1936500.00	5000.00	38750.00	120 Days	2024_BCD_89_332_17
18	18	CONSTRUCTION OF TWO ACR IN UPGRADED PRIMARY SCHOOL, CHALBHITHA	KUNJIBONA	LITIPARA	1936500.00	5000.00	38750.00	120 Days	2024_BCD_89_332_18
19	19	CONSTRUCTION OF TWO ACR IN UPGRADED PRIMARY SCHOOL, BADA KAMOGODA	KUNJIBONA	LITIPARA	1936500.00	5000.00	38750.00	120 Days	2024_BCD_89_332_19
20	20	CONSTRUCTION OF ONE ACR IN UPGRADED MIDDLE SCHOOL, ROADGO	LITIPARA	LITIPARA	1069500.00	2500.00	21400.00	120 Days	2024_BCD_89_332_20
21	21	CONSTRUCTION OF TWO ACR IN UPGRADED MIDDLE SCHOOL, KATHALPADA	LITIPARA	LITIPARA	1936500.00	5000.00	38750.00	120 Days	2024_BCD_89_332_21
22	22	CONSTRUCTION OF TWO ACR IN UPGRADED MIDDLE SCHOOL, MADHUBAN	LITIPARA	LITIPARA	1936500.00	5000.00	38750.00	120 Days	2024_BCD_89_332_22
23	23	CONSTRUCTION OF TWO ACR IN UPGRADED PRIMARY SCHOOL, NIPNIYA	LITIPARA	LITIPARA	1936500.00	5000.00	38750.00	120 Days	2024_BCD_89_332_23
24	24	CONSTRUCTION OF ONE ACR IN PRIMARY SCHOOL, MUKRI	SONADHUNI	LITIPARA	1069500.00	2500.00	21400.00	120 Days	2024_BCD_89_332_24
25	25	CONSTRUCTION OF TWO ACR IN UPGRADED PRIMARY SCHOOL, NARGHI PAHAD	SONADHUNI	LITIPARA	1936500.00	5000.00	38750.00	120 Days	2024_BCD_89_332_25
26	26	CONSTRUCTION OF TWO ACR IN PRIMARY SCHOOL, MANKBHITHA	SONADHUNI	LITIPARA	1936500.00	5000.00	38750.00	120 Days	2024_BCD_89_332_26
27	27	CONSTRUCTION OF TWO ACR IN UPGRADED MIDDLE SCHOOL, SONADHUNI	SONADHUNI	LITIPARA	1936500.00	5000.00	38750.00	120 Days	2024_BCD_89_332_27
28	28	CONSTRUCTION OF TWO ACR IN UPGRADED PRIMARY SCHOOL, DOHRI SANTHALI	TALUHARI	LITIPARA	1936500.00	5000.00	38750.00	120 Days	2024_BCD_89_332_28
29	29	CONSTRUCTION OF TWO ACR IN UPGRADED PRIMARY SCHOOL, DHANIORIPODIAIYA	TALUHARI	LITIPARA	1936500.00	5000.00	38750.00	120 Days	2024_BCD_89_332_29
30	30	CONSTRUCTION OF ONE ACR IN UPGRADED PRIMARY SCHOOL, CHODGO	JAMJORI	LITIPARA	1069500.00	2500.00	21400.00	120 Days	2024_BCD_89_332_30
31	31	CONSTRUCTION OF ONE ACR IN UPGRADED PRIMARY SCHOOL, BAHABANDELA	JAMJORI	LITIPARA	1069500.00	2500.00	21400.00	120 Days	2024_BCD_89_332_31
32	32	CONSTRUCTION OF ONE ACR IN UPGRADED PRIMARY SCHOOL, JAGATPUR	JAMJORI	LITIPARA	1069500.00	2500.00	21400.00	120 Days	2024_BCD_89_332_32
33	33	CONSTRUCTION OF TWO ACR IN UPGRADED PRIMARY SCHOOL, KAMCHI	JAMJORI	LITIPARA	1936500.00	5000.00	38750.00	120 Days	2024_BCD_89_332_33
34	34	CONSTRUCTION OF TWO ACR IN UPGRADED PRIMARY SCHOOL, DUMARBHITHA	JAMJORI	LITIPARA	1936500.00	5000.00	38750.00	120 Days	2024_BCD_89_332_34
35	35	CONSTRUCTION OF TWO ACR IN PRIMARY SCHOOL, DANGAKUDIA	JAMJORI	LITIPARA	1936500.00	5000.00	38750.00	120 Days	2024_BCD_89_332_35
36	36	CONSTRUCTION OF TWO ACR IN UPGRADED PRIMARY SCHOOL, SIMLONG PAHAD	JORDIHA	LITIPARA	1936500.00	5000.00	38750.00	120 Days	2024_BCD_89_332_36
37	37	CONSTRUCTION OF TWO ACR IN UPGRADED PRIMARY SCHOOL, CHOTA MUJODDA	JORDIHA	LITIPARA	1936500.00	5000.00	38750.00	120 Days	2024_BCD_89_332_37
38	38	CONSTRUCTION OF TWO ACR IN UPGRADED PRIMARY SCHOOL, BANSHBHITHA	JORDIHA	LITIPARA	1936500.00	5000.00	38750.00	120 Days	2024_BCD_89_332_38
39	39	CONSTRUCTION OF TWO ACR IN PRIMARY SCHOOL, CHOTA CHATKAM	JORDIHA	LITIPARA	1936500.00	5000.00	38750.00	120 Days	2024_BCD_89_332_39
40	40	CONSTRUCTION OF TWO ACR IN UPGRADED MIDDLE SCHOOL, BADA CHATKAM	JORDIHA	LITIPARA	1936500.00	5000.00	38750.00	120 Days	2024_BCD_89_332_40
41	41	CONSTRUCTION OF TWO ACR IN PRIMARY SCHOOL, NAWADH	JORDIHA	LITIPARA	1936500.00	5000.00	38750.00	120 Days	2024_BCD_89_332_41

Wayanad floods: Insights from a climate change perspective

Kerala is once again in the news for an extreme weather event, as its Wayanad district reels from destruction wreaked by one of the most devastating landslides triggered by incessant monsoon rains. During the wee hours of July 30, multiple landlines swept away several villages in the district. The tragedy has claimed hundreds of lives and injured several.

Kerala receives the second-highest monsoon rainfall in India after its north-eastern states. It records an average annual rainfall of about 3,107 mm of which 75 per cent is received during the monsoon months of June-September.

Geographically, Kerala is bounded by the Arabian Sea to its west and the Western Ghats to its east. This makes it highly susceptible to heavy rains during the season. Orography has a strong effect on rainfall distribution in the mountainous region of Kerala. The rainfall potential of the region increases from the coastal belt towards the Western Ghats, reaching a maximum on the windward side of the Ghats and rapidly decreasing on the leeward side.

The rainfall characteristics over Kerala are unique because of the influence of isolated steep-sloped structures separated by the wide Palghat gap.

Contrary to this climatology, the state has experienced severe floods in recent times due to intense precipitation during the SW monsoon. However, experts suggest that factors beyond the meteorological factors, such as climate change and unplanned development, are to blame for the catastrophic landslides.

"Whilst rainfall in Kannur district has been 21 per cent above the average between 1 June and 30 July, it is 14 per cent below the

average in the neighbouring district of Wayanad, and up to 25 per cent below average in Idukki and Ernakulam districts. The co-occurrence of two extreme scenarios (landslides and rainfall deficit) in the same state reflects a strong spatial variability in this year's monsoon rainfall. The expectation is that such a pattern would become more intense in the future if global warming continues," said Akshay Deoras, a research scientist at the National Centre for Atmospheric Science and the Department of Meteorology, University of Reading, UK.

There has been a steady rise in extreme events in the state over the last decade. For example, Cyclone Ockhi wreaked havoc in 2017, followed by devastating floods in 2018, which were among the worst in the state's history. In August 2019, the state experienced another spell of extremely heavy rainfall.

Role of climate change and the science behind it

Numerous studies have established that the rise in global average temperatures due to human-induced climate change has led to an increase in the number of extreme rainfall events associated with monsoons, thunderstorms and short-spurred local cloudbursts.

These events, ranging from a few hours to a few days, have become more frequent in recent decades over the subcontinent.

The effects of climate change have led to changes in monsoon trends due to the weakening of synoptic activity within the Indian monsoon and the moistening of the tropical troposphere.

"Climate change is drastically changing rainfall patterns in Wayanad. What was once a cool, humid environment with year-round drizzles and mon-

soon rains, is turning into one marked by drier, hotter summers and intense downpours during the monsoons. This change has increased the risk of landslides. Dry soils absorb less water and heavy rainfalls cause run-offs that can lead to landslides," said Mariam Zachariah, research associate, at Imperial College London.

Over 90 per cent of global warming is observed by oceans, which has led to a significant rise in ocean heating. As per new research by Nature, oceans have warmed by more than 1.5 degrees Celsius since the beginning of the industrial era, challenging previous estimates. The Indian Ocean is a hotspot for climate change and has seen the fastest surface warming since the 1950s. This rapid warming of the Indian Ocean has led to an increase in marine heat waves, which impact the monsoon by reducing the rainfall over the central Indian subcontinent while enhancing it over the southern peninsula.

Trends indicate that extreme rainfall events are likely to continue increasing in the coming decades. The number of heavy rainfall events is increasing, while the number of rainy days during the monsoon is decreasing. Contributing factors include the variability of low-level monsoon westerlies over the Arabian Sea, which drive surges of moisture supply, the trailing strength of monsoon circulation and the variation of vertical wind shear from the break phase to the active phase of an Indian Summer Monsoon (ISM) cycle.

A few studies have also suggested that changing climate, increased monsoon flow strength in the last two decades, and human-modified land cover changes have contributed to the increased frequency of

Heavy Rainfall Events (HRE).

Role of Unplanned Development

Deforestation, rapid urbanisation, unplanned development and poor planning are significant factors exacerbating the climate crisis in India. It is evident that development plans and human interference are not complementing the ecological balance of the mountainous terrain.

"Construction of roads should be done with all scientific techniques. At present, we just see roads being made or widened without taking proper measures such as no slope stability, lack of good quality retaining walls and rock bolting. All these measures can restrict the damage done by landslides up to some extent," said Prof. Y P Sundriyal, head of the depart-

ment of Geology, at HNB Garhwal University.

The Western Ghats have been classified as an ecologically fragile region. According to recent research by the Indian Institute of Science, the 1.6 lakh sq km of hats in six states have been divided into four ecologically sensitive regions (ESR): very high ecological fragility (63,148 sq km), high ecological fragility (27,646 sq km), moderate ecological fragility (48,490 sq km) and low ecological fragility (20,716 sq km).

Roxy Mathew Koll, climate scientist, Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune called for early warning systems to curtail the damage from natural disasters.

"Roughly half of Kerala are hills and mountainous regions where the slope is more than 20 degrees and hence these places are

prone to landslides when heavy rains occur. Landslide-prone areas are mapped and available for Kerala. Panchayats with hazardous areas should be identified and sensitised. We need to monitor rainfall data in these hotspots and prepare early warning systems targeted at hazard-prone areas. This is possible with the current technology and know-how and could in fact save lives and livelihoods. Other than climate change, we also need to evaluate the land use changes and development activities happening in landslide-prone areas. Often landslides and flash floods occur over regions where the impact of both climate change and direct human intervention in terms of land use changes are evident." The Western Ghats are one of 36 global biodiversity hotspots, with forests in this region sequestering atmos-

pheric carbon, thereby aiding in moderating the global climate and sustaining water and food security in peninsular India. An assessment of land-use land-cover (LULC) dynamics using temporal remote sensing data shows a 5 per cent decline in evergreen forests accompanied by an increase in agriculture, plantations and built-up areas. Intact forests have declined by 10 per cent, and are now largely confined to protected areas. Simulations of future changes indicate that the region will have only 10 per cent evergreen cover, 17 per cent agriculture, 40 per cent plantations and 5 per cent built-up areas.

"The devastating landslides in Wayanad, a direct consequence of excessive monsoon rains, highlight the urgent need to address climate change. Kerala has been increasingly hit by such events, which are closely linked with global

warming and consequent climate change as a significant factor behind the irregular, heavy rainfall patterns. Several measures can be taken to mitigate the impact of landslides and excessive rains linked to climate change. Strengthening infrastructure by investing in climate-resilient bridges and roads will help withstand extreme weather events and facilitate quicker rescue operations. Promoting sustainable land management is also crucial; practices such as reforestation, controlled deforestation, and sustainable agriculture can maintain hillside stability and reduce soil erosion, thereby lessening the effects of heavy rains," said Prof. Anjal Prakash, clinical associate professor (research) and research director, Bharti Institute of Public Policy, Indian School of Business and IPCC author.



Integrated systems of plant protection: Preventing the harmful action of pesticides

TAPAN KUMAR MAITRA

An important role in eliminating the harmful action of chemical means of plant protection on the environment is assigned to the rational application of pesticides in integrated plant-protecting systems. The latter is based on the greatest possible utilisation of environmental factors causing harmful organisms to perish or limiting their vital activity. The main task of such systems is keeping the number of harmful insects at a level where they do not cause perceptible harm by using a collection of measures instead of a single one.

A system of antismut measures was developed and implemented in our country. Its result was a reduction in the losses of the grain crop due to smut from 10-30 per cent to 0.01-0.02 per cent. The use of an integrated system made it possible to suppress the mass reproduction of locusts. Systems of measure to control grapevine mildew, cotton wilt, tobacco blue mould, beet weevils, and spider mites on cotton markedly lowered the losses of the crop.

The fundamental principle of rational chemical pest control consists of taking complete account of the ecological situation on agricultural lands, having an exact knowledge of the criteria of the strength of the harmful species, and also of the number of beneficial organisms suppressing the development of the pests.

There are four main ways of improving the safety of chemical methods in protecting plants.

1. Improving the assortment of pesticides with the aim of diminishing their toxicity to humans and ben-

eficial animals, lowering their persistence, and increasing their selectivity.

2. Using optimal ways of pesticide application such as pre-planting treatment of seeds (which eliminates early spring and late autumn treatments in orchards), band or strip treatments, and the use of granulated formulations.

3. Optimising the use of pesticides with a view to the economic expediency and necessity of employing pesticides for suppressing populations (with account taken of the economic threshold of harm for each species of pest in a zonal aspect).

4. The strictest regulation of the use of pesticides in agriculture and other branches is based on a comprehensive study of their sanitary and hygienic characteristics and the conditions for ensuring safety when working with them.

At present, compounds that are highly toxic and persistent in nature are being replaced with ones that have a lower toxicity and persistence.

To preserve beneficial insects, highly selective pesticides must be used for a chemical treatment that is poisonous only to definite targets and is not a hazard to the natural enemies of the pests. Among them are tetrachlorvinphos, phosalone, and DAEP. Fungicides are virtually harmless to beneficial insects. An important way of improving the selectivity of pesticides having a broad spectrum of action is the rationalisation of the ways of applying them with a view to the economical threshold of harmfulness for each pest species. This makes it possible to reduce the area or number of chemical treat-

ments with no harm to the culture being protected. It is sufficient to carry out selective treatments using pesticides having a definite selectivity with respect to bollworms and mites (dicofol, dinobuton, phosalone).

Chemical measures for controlling beet leaf miners on beet plantations are justified if 8-10 eggs are detected on an average on one plant in the stage of four leaves, 12-14 eggs in the stage of six leaves, and 22-25 eggs in the stage of eight leaves.

When using insecticides, it is safest to employ systemic substances, especially in the treatment of seeds, or the incorporation of granulated formulations into the soil when or after planting. An important advantage of using systemic insecticides when planting is the prolonged protection of the plants in the most vulnerable stage of their development when the seeds and seedlings may be destroyed very easily or greatly damaged by pests.

Systemic and some contact (heptachlor) granu-

lated insecticides effectively protect the seeds and seedlings of various cultures from pests dwelling in the soil (click beetles, larvae of dor bugs, etc.), from insects inside the plants (the larvae or maggots of cabbage, onion, carrot rust-flies, Hessian, winter, and fruit flies) and on their surface from sucking pests (aphids, mites). The incorporation into the soil of fertilisers with pesticides when planting not only combines two operations but also facilitates an increase in the crop. For example, the twofold sowing and postemergence application of granulated superphosphate with dimethoate to control cutworms increased the yield of cotton by 500 kilograms per hectare. Low-volume spraying and ultra-low-volume spraying are the most productive and make it possible to complete treatments in a very short time before the pests manage to cause significant harm.

In a number of parameters, evening and especially night spraying is very promising first of all for orchards

and blossoming alfalfa. Nights are usually windless, which noticeably diminishes the danger of drift, and improves the settling and uniform covering of the plants with the pesticide. At night, some pests are more active (cutworms, mosquitoes, etc.), which ensures greater contact with the pesticide. It is most promising to control mites and insects that have developed resistance to certain pesticides by alternating pesticides with different classes with a different mechanism of action.

To prevent contamination of the soil with pesticide residues, the incorporation of persistent pesticides into the soil must be limited as much as possible, while where necessary, rapidly decomposing substances should be placed into the drill rows, holes, and hollows (locally), which reduces the consumption of the pesticide. Persistent substances must be used in the conditions of multiple crop rotation, where the rotation of the crops is attended by alternation of various pesticides, thus preventing their

accumulation in the soil. Organophosphorus compounds may be used to treat plants on the same field every year. Heptachlor, technical HCH, and carbaryl should be used every other year. Toxaphene should be used once in four or five years, i.e. to treat not over two fields in a 9-10-field crop rotation. During a single season, it is good practice to use different pesticides, even if they are similar in their spectrum of action so that they will be able to decompose as much as possible during the vegetative season.

The employment of toxicant rotation with the observation of two or three-year intervals between repetitions of the same pesticides or the alternation of different ones during one season is an essential condition for the organisation of the chemical protection of plants in perennial plantings, and also in specialised farms with a high degree of rotation of the same crop.

The author is an associate professor (ret.) & former head of the department of botany at Ananda Mohan College.



Can AI be as intelligent as humans?

Science fiction like *Star Wars* has shown us humanoid robots like C-3PO and R2-D2, where several AIs are linked together and put in the body of a robot, to match or even exceed human intelligence.

Tony Prescott, professor of Cognitive Robotics, has been studying neuroscience and artificial intelligence. His new book, *The Psychology of Artificial Intelligence*, published by Routledge, argues that combining multiple AIs to form a larger intelligence system, similar to the structure of the human brain, and embodying it in a robot is likely how AI could ultimately outsmart humans.

This book narrates how AIs have an architecture that is similar to the human brain. Several AIs, all specialising in different abilities are all linked as part of one larger intelligence system, therefore embodying artificial intelligence in robots to gain an understanding of the world, learn as humans do and become self-aware of their present environment to act accordingly.

"Scientists have argued for decades over whether AI will ever match or exceed human intelligence, but now that AI is advancing at an unprecedented rate, this question has become ever more important," said Professor Prescott.

Yet AIs are mainly trained to be good at one thing at a time, for example, the generative AIs produce text, images or video.

Large language models (LLMs), such as ChatGPT, don't understand the meaning, con-

sequently producing text based on maths and processing. They understand the relationship between words, but they don't understand how words relate to the world.

The Sheffield professor says that for LLMs to get this understanding they could be connected to other AIs, such as vision AIs that produce art.

For AIs to match or exceed human intelligence, they also need to understand the world around them and acquire self-awareness. Professor Prescott believes the best way to achieve this is through multiple connected AIs, all specialising in different tasks, being embodied in a robot, as this will enable them to interact with their surroundings, learn and experience the world as humans do.

"There have been some major breakthroughs recently, particularly in deep learning and generative AIs such as ChatGPT, but this isn't real intelligence like we have as humans. Aspects of human intelligence, such as scientific discovery, aspects of creativity and imagination will remain beyond AI until we build it with a cognitive architecture that is similar to the human brain. For AI to match or exceed human intelligence it also needs a body to help it gain a genuine understanding of the world around it, something which it can only get through robotics," added the professor.



CRICKET AUSTRALIA CEO NICK HOCKLEY TO STEP DOWN

Cricket Australia CEO Nick Hockley has announced that he will step down after the upcoming season, following nearly 13 years working in Australian cricket, including five as chief executive. Hockley is expected to step down towards the end of March 2025, or potentially later depending on the process to appoint his successor. "This was a difficult decision, however, following what promises to be a blockbuster summer and with our five-year strategic plan well progressed, this is the right time to pursue another challenge, while giving the Board plenty of time to find its next CEO to build on the strong foundations now in place."

For more updates www.thestatesman.com

Spirited Sri Lanka aim to end 27-year drought against India in final ODI

It's certainly not the start Gautam Gambhir, a stickler for victories, would want in his first ODI assignment as the team's head coach

TRIDIB BAPARNASH
NEW DELHI, 6 AUGUST

Having endured a 3-0 whitewash in the T20I series, Sri Lanka scripted a remarkable turnaround in the ODI series, giving a full-strength Indian side a run for their money, and are on the brink of ending their 27-year drought for a bilateral series win against the Men in Blue in ODIs when they lock horns in the third and final ODI in Colombo on Wednesday.

The conditions at the R Premadasa International

Cricket Stadium have worked in favour of the spinners and the home side has exploited them well to put a powerful Indian batting line-up on the backfoot, not once but twice in the series so far.

It's certainly not the start Gautam Gambhir, a stickler for victories, would want in his first ODI assignment as the team's head coach. But the Indian team has themselves to blame for letting themselves be dominated by the spinners.

It was the second consecutive occasion when the Indian batters failed to counter the spinners on Sunday, with

comeback man Jeffrey Vandesay returning with career best figures of 6/33 to torment the visitors and skittle them out for 208 in their chase of 240.

One has to go way back to 1997 to find the last time Sri Lanka defeated India in a bilateral men's ODI series and Vandesay has the opportunity to once again rise to the occasion and help his side match what the likes of Sanath Jayasuriya, Aravinda de Silva, Arjuna Ranatunga and Muthiah Muralidaran achieved 27 years ago by avoiding defeat in the series finale in Colombo on Wednesday.



day.

Having said that, the Indian team is a well-oiled unit, and won't succumb to the pres-

sure, although so far, it has been only Rohit Sharma and Axar Patel, who have looked comfortable against spin.

The skipper used the sweep shots effectively, and the others could take a cue from the 37-year-old.

Another area that the Indian team will look to work on is to close out the innings. In both the previous games, the Sri Lankan lower order managed to put up valuable runs, despite having the top and middle order back in the pavilion below 150. Despite that Sri Lanka have managed to put up scores of 230/8 and 240/9.

While it looks highly unlikely that the Indian team will ring in changes with the series on the line, but if they chose to bring in Riyan Parag, he could be an asset back in his part-time spinners apart from being a big-hitting batter.

Similarly, Harshit Rana could also be given a game to access if he's up for the challenge.

After all, post this series, India will have only one three-match series against England to prepare the team for the ICC Champions Trophy.

On the other hand, the Sri Lankan side will look to bank on the confidence received from the first two games to exert pressure on the Indians. However, they will also have their own shortcomings to address, especially in the top-order batting department, that has more or often than not let them down.

Indian men's TT team knocked out of Paris Olympics



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 6 AUGUST

The Indian men's table tennis team, comprising Sharath Kamal, Harmeet Desai and Manav Thakkar, was knocked out of the Paris 2024 Olympics after losing to top-seeds China in the round of 16 on Tuesday.

India, seeded 14th, went down 0-3 to the defending

champions in a best-of-five encounter.

In the men's doubles encounter first up, Harmeet Desai and Manav Thakkar lost to five-time Olympic gold medalist Ma Long and world No. 1 singles paddler Wang Chuqin 3-0 (11-2, 11-3, 11-7).

Commonwealth Games champion Sharath Kamal, India's top-ranked singles

player at world No. 41, played the second match of the tie against world No. 2 singles player Fan Zhendong.

Sharath won the first game but eventually lost the contest 3-1 (11-9, 7-11, 7-11, 5-11). Zhendong won the men's singles gold medal at Paris 2024.

Manav Thakkar, world No. 59, gave a good account of himself against Wang Chuqin in the do-or-die contest but the quality of the Chinese player proved to be class apart and Thakkar went down 3-0 (11-9, 11-6, 11-9).

Earlier at Paris 2024, Harmeet Desai and Sharath Kamal were eliminated in the first round of the men's singles tournament. Manav Thakkar only completed in the team event.

Meanwhile, the Indian women's table tennis team of Manika Batra, Sreeja Akula and Archana Kamath, seeded 11th, stunned fourth-seeded Romania 3-2 in their round of 16 tie on Monday. The Indian trio will take on the winner of the match between the USA and Germany in the quarter-finals on Wednesday.

Vinesh Phogat gets her redemption, one bout at a time

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, 6 AUGUST

As she along with Bajrang Punia and Sakshi Malik led the protests against Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, the ousted president of the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI), Vinesh Phogat has become one of the most hated sportspersons in the country, facing online abuse daily from a section of the netizens.

She was vilified when she raised her voice against some of the moves by the WFI, and she was abused when she came down from 53 kg weight class to 50 kg and participated in two weight categories in the trials seeking guarantees from WFI officials. With the tacit support of the administrators, Vinesh was painted as a villain who was trying to gain favours and a backdoor entry into the team.

Even her own cousins had turned against Vinesh as a section of the media



and netizens went after the two-time Olympian, depicting her as a spent force who is always depending on her past achievements.

On Tuesday, the 29-year-old grappler from Haryana silenced her critics and abusers with two brilliant performances that took her into the semifinals of the women's 50kg weight class at the Paris Olympic Games.

Vinesh first upset World No. 1 Yui Susaki of Japan in the pre-quarterfinal and got the better of Ukraine's Oksana Vasylyvna Livach 7-5 in the last-eight stage to storm into the semifinals.

'Saving the best for the final', says Neeraj Chopra after topping qualification round

AGENCIES
PARIS, 6 AUGUST

Defending Olympic champion Neeraj Chopra said, he has saved his best for the final after topping the men's javelin throw qualification with a throw of 89.34m in the Paris Olympics here at the Stade de France on Tuesday.

Neeraj achieved the best throw of the qualification across both groups in his first attempt to start his title defence in style. He won the gold medal in the Tokyo 2020 Olympics with a throw of 87.58m. He became the first Indian to win an individual Olympic gold medal in the track and field event.

"This is just the qualification round, the mindset and the situation in the final are different. I should focus on the preparations for the final after getting a good start," Neeraj told reporters after the end of the qualification round. The 26-year-old said all the throwers who have qualified with the automatic qualification mark of 84m will be tough competition in the final. However, he emphasised that he had saved his best for the medal event.



"I'm saving the best for the final and focussing on it. I'm ready for the final. I was not doing good here in the practice but when the qualification started, I had set the aim of qualifying in the first throw. My fitness is better now and I warmed up well before taking the first attempt," Neeraj said.

Other than Neeraj, eight athletes qualified for the final with the automatic qualification mark including Grenada's Anderson Peters (88.63m), Julian Weber (87.76m) of Germany, Arshad Nadeem (86.59m) of Pakistan and Julius Yego of Kenya (85.97m), who completed the top five.

Talking about his mindset, Neeraj said he tries to give his best in the first throw. "I try to do well from the first throw itself but it doesn't

happen every time. If I fail to get the best out of first throw then I try to do my best in every throw," he said.

When asked about the adductor injury that he sustained earlier in the year, Neeraj said, "I'm (feeling) better and taking all the precautions with a proper warm-up before the throw." India's Kishore Kumar Jena, who was in Group A, failed to reach the final after notching the best effort of 80.73m which came in his first attempt. The second throw was a foul before he threw 80.21m in the third attempt. Neeraj, the reigning world and Asian champion, will aim to become the first Indian athlete to clinch two individual gold medals in the Olympics on Thursday (August 8).

Paris Olympics: Padukone's comments leave Indian badminton fraternity divided



TRIDIB BAPARNASH
NEW DELHI, 6 AUGUST

A day after Lakshya Sen squandered a brilliant start to lose the men's singles bronze medal match 21-13, 16-21, 11-21 to Malaysia's Lee Zii Jia, thereby bringing down the curtains on a medal-less performance for the Indian badminton contingent, the first instance in the last 12 years, it fuelled a debate among India's badminton fraternity after coach Prakash Padukone asked players to take more responsibility.

Visibly disappointed after the poor outing, legendary coach Prakash Padukone did not hold back in his analysis, asking players to 'introspect' and question themselves

whether they had 'done enough' to win an Olympic medal.

"At least for results in this Olympics and the previous one, you cannot hold the federations and government responsible for the results. They have all done whatever they can. Ultimately the responsibility is on players to go and deliver when it matters the most. The players need to introspect, and not just keep asking for more from the federations. They need to ask themselves whether they are working hard enough, because all of these players have their own physios and all the facilities. I don't think any other country, including the US, has so many facilities. Maybe, you



know, the players are not working hard enough. Maybe, it is not enough to get a medal at the Olympics. So you (players) need to work also," Padukone said right after Lakshya squandered an early advantage to lose his bronze-medal playoff.

Lakshya's fourth place finish is the fifth similar heartbreak featuring seven Indians across disciplines, ranging from archery to shooting to badminton. It began with shooter Arjun Babuta in the men's 10m air rifle event, before the mixed archery team of Dhiraj Bommadevara and Ankita Bhakat experienced that fumbling feeling.

Pistol shooter Manu Bhaker, a two-time Paris medallist aiming for her third, also

found herself in a similar position in the 25m final before the mixed skeet team, involving Anantjeet Singh Naruka and Maheshwari Chauhan experienced the heartbreak with a close 43-44 finish.

Among all those, the 22-year-old Lakshya seemingly swallowed the hardest pill as he came tantalisingly close to scripting history by becoming the first Indian male shuttler to win an Olympic medal, not once but twice!

It was the second time in 24 hours that Lakshya lost after being in a comfortable position. In the semifinal against eventual gold medallist Viktor Axelsen on Sunday, Lakshya got himself to a handy seven-point lead in



the second game after a closely fought 20-22 first game. However, Axelsen saved his best for the last and came back hard to beat the Indian. However, Padukone's comments did not go down too well with doubles star and veteran Ashwini Ponnappa, who earlier had announced that the Paris Games were her career's last Olympics.

"Disappointing to see this. If a player wins, everyone jumps on the bandwagon to take credit, and if they lose, it's just the player's fault!" Ashwini shared on social media.

"Why aren't coaches held responsible for lack of preparation and getting the player ready? They are the first ones

to take credit for wins; why not take responsibility for their players' losses as well? At the end of the day, winning takes team effort and losing is also the team's responsibility. You can't suddenly push the player under the bus and blame it all on the player."

Ashwini, partnering Tanisha Crasto, had competed in the women's doubles competition at Paris 2024. The duo's campaign ended in the group stages.

Jwala backs Padukone's call

Ashwini's one-time doubles partner Jwala Gutta jumped to Padukone's defence while criticising her 2010 Commonwealth Games



gold medal winning partner for trying to deflect responsibility away from players.

"Yes, players can also take responsibilities... why not? Players, when they win, get all the riches... do they share it with their coach or staff? If a coach is saying that the players also need to take responsibility after reaching a certain stage in a tournament, the player should be held responsible as well," Jwala said.

"Also want to know from Ashwini about coaches taking all credit... is she referring to the chief coach? And does she share her income with coaches when she wins???" she further wrote.

Saina-Parupalli also join

the debate
The star badminton couple, Saina Nehwal and cc also reacted to Padukone's comments saying that while criticism is important, one can't question the commitment of the athletes.

"There will be a lot of tough questions asked of our Indian Olympic contingent, and rightfully so, once the games are over in a few days' time," Saina and Parupalli shared.

"And while it's our right to ask and criticise, one thing we cannot and should not do is question the commitment of all 117 athletes representing our country. All of them have shed blood, sweat, tears to get to the Olympics," the couple added.