

THE TIMES OF INDIA

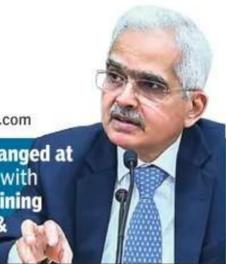


Sunita Williams and Butch Wilmore, who were to spend 8 days aboard the ISS but have now been in space for 63 days, may have to hitch a ride back to Earth on a SpaceX craft in 2025, says Nasa P 18

To expedite the launch of cutting-edge therapies in India, Centre has decided to waive local trials for drugs and vaccines that are more advanced than current standards and have been approved in US, UK, Japan, Australia, Canada and EU P 14

Supreme Court has directed the setting up of a high-powered committee to reconsider the approval given to 28 hydel projects in Uttarakhand P 12

RBI has kept policy rates unchanged at 6.5% for the 9th time in a row, with governor Shaktikanta Das retaining FY25 growth forecast at 7.2% & inflation forecast at 4.5% P 19



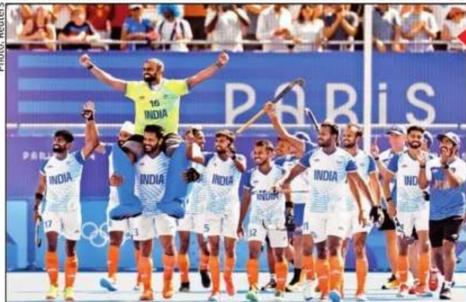
Hockey's golden boys bring home back-to-back bronze

Beat Spain 2-1 In Tense Playoff

TIMES AT THE GAMES
ALOK SINHA
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Paris: The hard yards had been done. The bruising but heroic win against Australia in the group stage had added to the belief. The win with 10 men against Great Britain in the quarters was beyond belief. They had stayed close to Germany in the semis, agonisingly close. That one slipped away, but it was not over yet. There was still a medal to fight for. It turned out to be a scintillating encounter on Thursday. Spain scored first. India hit back with two quick goals. The fourth quarter saw Spanish forwards put relentless pressure on Sreejesh and the defenders.

A WINNING FAREWELL FOR OLYMPIC HERO SREEJESH



DESH KA NAAM DUNIYA PE LEHRA DIYA!
TEAM INDIA | **Reliance Foundation**

Indian team celebrates by lifting up goalie Sreejesh, who retires from international hockey today

► The win against Spain gave India their **4th Olympic bronze** in hockey, the 2nd in last 2 Games. Overall, they have won 13 medals, including **8 gold and 1 silver**
► India have bagged hockey medals in **two consecutive Olympics** after 52 years
► Skipper **Harmanpreet Singh** scored **both goals** for India against Spain on Thursday. He finished as the competition's top-scorer with 10 goals
► Goalkeeper **P R Sreejesh**, in his last international appearance, has stood like a wall which opponents have found hard to breach through the tournament. On Thursday, he **saved 5 of 6 shots** at goal, including a couple of saves in the closing minutes

FULL COVERAGE: P 22-25
► **EDIT: Captain & Goalie; Citizen Vinesh, P 20**

Spain earned two penalty corners in the 59th minute and two in the last minute. Indians defended with all their might and ensured a 2-1 win. The bronze was India's. Once again. A team that struggled to stay relevant in world hockey not so long ago had won its second straight Olympic medal. The bronze victory shows how well India have travelled in the past few years, how good they are. Ten of this bunch were there on the podium in Tokyo. They knew what was needed of them. They knew how to keep emotions in check. They knew how to win it. This team is special.

► **Related report, P 24**

'Courage broken, no strength to go on': Vinesh bids goodbye to wrestling

Vinesh Phogat, disqualified for being overweight by 100 grams, announced retirement from wrestling on Thursday.



Thursday In a post translated from Hindi, Phogat said: "My courage is broken, I don't have any more strength now. Goodbye Wrestling, 2001-2024." Phogat also moved the Court of Arbitration for Sport against her disqualification. CAS is likely to rule on the plea in a day or two. Haryana CM Nayab Singh Saini announced that Phogat

would be provided the honour, rewards and facilities given to a player who wins a silver in Olympics.

Phogat spent a good part of Thursday at a polyclinic inside the Games Village owing to

► **Antim starved for 2 days before her bout, P 25**

severe dehydration caused by her desperate measures to lose weight and make the cut. Phogat had scripted history by becoming the first Indian woman wrestler to reach the gold medal bout in her category in the Olympics on Tuesday. She was assured of at least a silver before the disqualification. **P 25**

Sehrawat to fight for wrestling bronze today

India's lone male wrestler at the Games, Aman Sehrawat, eked out two brilliant wins in the men's 57kg freestyle wrestling before losing his semifinal bout to top-seeded Rie Higurashi of Japan.

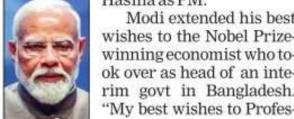


The 21-year-old will now fight Cruz Dari-an Toi of Puerto Rico for bronze on Friday. Earlier in the day, Aman beat 2022 world champion, Albania's Zelimkhan Abakarov, via technical superiority (12-0). Prior to that, he had defeated Vladimir Egorov of North Macedonia. **P 23**

As Yunus takes oath in Bangladesh, Modi presses for safety of Hindus

PM's First Remarks On Targeting Of Minorities Since Hasina's Ouster

New Delhi: PM Narendra Modi on Thursday asked the new regime in Bangladesh to ensure safety of beleaguered Hindus and other minority communities who have been under attack from violent mobs rampaging through the country since the ouster of Sheikh Hasina as PM.



► **DELHI REACHES OUT; UK FGN SECY DIALS JAISHANKAR, FLAP OPP**

Modi extended his best wishes to the Nobel Prize-winning economist who took over as head of an interim govt in Bangladesh. "My best wishes to Professor Muhammad Yunus on the assumption of his new responsibilities. We hope for an early return to normalcy, ensuring the safety and protection of Hindus and all other minority communities," the PM said on X, his first remarks since the chaotic resignation of Hasina on Monday. Modi also conveyed his desire to work

TWO STUDENT NETAS WHO LED STIR IN COUNCIL OF 17



Muhammad Yunus meets top military officers on returning to Dhaka on Thursday

► Members of council include **M Nahid Islam & Asif Mahmud Sajib Bhuiyan**, who played a key role in the student stir. Others are Dr Salehuddin Ahmed, **ex-gov of Bangladesh Bank**, Syeda Rizwana Hasan, an **SC lawyer**, Farida Akhtar, a rights activist, **tribal leader Supradip Chakma**, Bidhan Ranjan Roy, a **psychiatry prof**, & **ex-foreign secy M Touhid Hossain**

with the new regime in Bangladesh which under Hasina remained sensitive to India's security concerns. **TNN**

► **Related report, P 10**

Yunus slams attack on minorities as 'part of conspiracy'

Dhaka: An interim govt headed by Nobel Peace laureate Muhammad Yunus (84) assumed control in Bangladesh Thursday night, with a commitment to ending violence against minorities and guiding the nation towards a better future, reports **AKM Moimuddin**.

The 84-year-old Yunus, who heads a 17-member council composed of non-political figures, took oath of office in Dhaka. The swearing-in was attended by politicians, civil society leaders, generals and diplomats. "I will uphold, support, and protect the constitution," Yunus, an economist and banker, declared as he was sworn in as chief adviser, a role equivalent to that of PM. Yunus condemned the recent attacks on minority communities as "part of a conspiracy" and appealed to public to prevent further violence.

The Bangladesh army chief announced the formation of the interim govt but did not specify the duration of its tenure.

► **Related report, P 18**

With Jamaat men out of jail, hotels, 'sensitive' areas on Bengal cop radar

Dwaipayan Ghosh & Tamaghna Banerjee | TNN

Kolkata: Security agencies throughout Bengal have stepped up vigil after reports of several terror suspects being among the 709 prisoners who escaped from two back-to-back jailbreaks in Bangladesh in the last few days. Both state and central agencies have been gathering information from the neighbouring country, with cops in Kolkata keeping a close eye on the city and the suburbs.

On Tuesday, a mob armed with sticks stormed the Sher-

pur district jail, freeing more than 500 prisoners. The same day, in Gazipur, some 209 inmates fled from the Kashimpur high-security prison. In the latter incident, prison guards opened fire to stop the inmates from fleeing, killing six, including three militants.

► **Related report, P 2**

One of those who have escaped is Ikramul Haque alias Abu Talha. Haque was arrested in 2023 by Bangladesh's Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime Unit based on Indian intelligence, and later questioned by Bengal cops in

Dhaka. Authorities believe another of those who escaped is Niyamatullah, named by a module busted in Kolkata's Haridevpur as its leader. Sources said they were also probing whether Abdul Alim (operating commander of Jamaatul Muslimeen) and Zakaria Mondal, believed to have been in the same jail, also fled.

With these four terror operatives — from Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen and Ansarul Bangla Team — believed to be on the run, law enforcers have increased surveillance in hotels, guesthouses and "sensitive spots" around Bengal.

Ready to join politics, says Hasina's son

As attacks on Awami League leaders continued, **Sajeb Wazed Joy**, son of former Bangladeshi PM Sheikh Hasina, said he was ready to enter politics. Joy had earlier said he had

► **BNP: Will be tough to cooperate with India if it helps Hasina, P 10**

no such intention. "I will do whatever it takes to save the party and its workers," said Joy, talking to **TOI** from Washington DC, where he lives. "If there is a need for me to join politics, I will not refrain from that." **P 2**

Rains Cause Chaos for School & College Students as their Notes Get Soaked & Smudged

The annual monsoon season has once again made its dramatic entrance, causing widespread disruption throughout the city. While the rains bring much-needed relief from the summer heat, they also bring a host of problems, particularly for the city's students. This year, the torrential downpour has wreaked havoc on the notes and study materials of school and college students, leading to frustration and anxiety as they struggle to keep up with their academic commitments.

A Deluge of Problems

With the city's infrastructure struggling to cope with the incessant rains, waterlogged streets and flooded homes have become a common sight. For many students, the commute to and from school or college has become a treacherous journey. However, it is not just the travel that has been affected — the rains have also taken a toll on their

study materials. Many students have reported that their notes, textbooks, and assignments have been damaged or destroyed by water.

"I had kept my notes on the dining table, thinking they would be safe there," said Anjali Mehta, a college student from Andheri. "But the rainwater seeped in through the window and soaked everything. Months of hard work just got washed away in a matter of minutes."

Schools and Colleges Respond

In response to the widespread damage to study materials, schools and colleges across city are taking measures to support their students. Many institutions have extended deadlines for assignments and are providing digital copies of notes and textbooks wherever possible.

"We understand the challenges our students are facing due to the rains," said school Principal R. Sharma. "We are encouraging them to use online resources and are offering additional support to ensure their academic progress is not hindered."

Community Support

Parents, teachers, and community members are also stepping up to help students recover from the loss of their study materials. Social media platforms are flooded with posts offering help, with people sharing digital notes and textbooks, and organizing study groups to help those affected.

"We have formed a neighbourhood study group where we share notes and help each other with assignments," said Priya Deshpande, a high school student. "It's comforting to know that we are not alone in this and that we can rely on each other during these tough times."

Looking Ahead

While the rains are expected to continue for several more weeks, the spirit of resilience and people of the city remains strong. Students are finding ways to adapt and overcome the challenges posed by the monsoon, demonstrating that even in the face of adversity, the pursuit of education remains unwavering. As we navigate this monsoon season, the

experiences of the city's students highlight the importance of preparedness and community support in mitigating the impact of natural events on everyday life. For now, the city's students will continue to brave the rains, armed with umbrellas, plastic covers, and a determination to keep their academic dreams afloat.

No More Smudged Notes! Nataraj Gelix Gel Pen Revolutionizes Note-taking for Students

In the fast-paced world of academia, where every word counts and clarity is the key, Nataraj Gelix pens have emerged as the ultimate game-changer for students across the globe. With their innovative design and advanced ink technology, these pens are setting a new standard in note-taking

excellence, ensuring that smudged notes are now a thing of the past. Gelix pens, crafted by the renowned stationery brand Nataraj, boast a unique feature that distinguishes them from conventional writing instruments: waterproof ink.

This revolutionary ink formula dries almost instantly upon contact with paper, forming a protective barrier that prevents smudging, even when exposed to water or moisture. For students who frequently find themselves caught in unexpected rain showers or hastily jotting down notes during a coffee spill, Gelix pens offer peace of mind and unparalleled reliability. "I used to worry about my notes getting ruined during rainy days or when I accidentally spilled water on my desk," shares Priya Sharma, a third-year student at a local university. "Since switching to Nataraj Gelix pens, I haven't had to re-write a single page due to smudges. It's made my study sessions much more efficient." The ergonomic design of Gelix pens ensures a comfortable writing experience, making them ideal for marathon study sessions and last-minute exam preparations.

The pen glides effortlessly across the page, delivering crisp, clear lines that enhance readability and comprehension. Whether annotating textbooks, brainstorming ideas in a lecture, or preparing comprehensive study guides, students can rely on Gelix pens to deliver consistent performance and flawless results.

"Nataraj Gelix pens have become an essential part of our academic toolkit," remarks Professor Rahul Khanna, who teaches economics at a prestigious college. "They not only help students stay organized and focused but also reflect their commitment to excellence in their academic pursuits."

In conclusion, Nataraj Gelix pens have redefined note-taking standards with their waterproof ink and the smudge-free performance, making them an indispensable tool for students striving for the excellence in their academic journey.

Nataraj Gelix Gel Pen: A Must-Have for Exam Season

As exam season approaches, students across the country are gearing up for long hours of study and intense preparation. While textbooks, notes, and practice papers are essential, there's one tool that is becoming

an indispensable part of every student's arsenal — the Nataraj Gelix gel pen. With its sleek design, smooth writing experience, and most notably, its waterproof ink, the Nataraj Gelix gel pen is quickly becoming the go-to choice for students aiming for top marks.

Only thing that doesn't get washed away by rains.





WE WILL MISS OUR NEXT-DOOR NEIGHBOUR: PALM AVENUE LOCALS | 6

GRAND HOTEL SET FOR FACELIFT, TO BE SHUT FOR 18 MONTHS | 7



Hospitals keep wary eye on Bangla patients' movement to SE Asia

All Indian Visa Centres Shut Indefinitely

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Kolkata: The first signs of an exodus of Bangladeshi patients to hospitals in Southeast Asia — following travel disruptions between Dhaka and Kolkata — have become apparent. All Indian visa application centres in Bangladesh were shut down on Thursday and no new patient has arrived in Kolkata since at least last Saturday, two days before the Bangladesh govt fell on Monday. Bangladeshi patients currently admitted at several city hospitals had arrived before the last round of violence that severely disrupted transport links.

Kolkata hospitals said that while scores of appointments had been scheduled till mid-Aug, around 80% have been cancelled and patients are now keen to move to Singapore and Bangkok, which have always been preferred by some Bangladeshi patients.

"Eventually, a significant number of these patients will travel to South-

SOME SEEK E-CONSULTATION

▶ No new Bangladeshi patient has been admitted to Kolkata hospitals this week and many have cancelled appointments



patients plan to travel to Southeast Asian destinations, like Singapore and Bangkok



▶ With all Indian visa application centres in Bangladesh shut since Thursday, many Bangladeshi

▶ Those who haven't cancelled appointments are requesting online consultations instead

While Bangladesh is the only source of medical tourism in Kolkata, there are more flights from Bangladesh to Thailand and Malaysia, which attract a chunk of patients

Prashant Sharma | ICC NATIONAL HEALTHCARE CHAIRMAN

ast Asia since coming to Kolkata is now difficult. While many have medical visas, travelling by road is not safe now. Kolkata provides the cheapest treatment but those who can afford or can't defer treatment will move to other places," said Rupak Barua, president of Association of Hospitals of Eastern India (AHEI).

Monsur Alam from Barishal, who underwent a laser kidney stone surgery, was discharged on Wednesday from a south Kolkata hospital. Due to his financial difficulties, the management decided to waive some charges. "We were waiting for money to arrive through a relative who couldn't travel. We

will now continue his treatment either at Chennai or in Singapore," said a family member.

Abul Kalam Azad from Dhaka had an appointment with a gastroenterologist at BP Poddar Hospital on Wednesday. But with travel disruptions, he has requested it be converted to an online OPD consultation.

Peerless Hospital, which gets around 180 OPD patients from Bangladesh every day, got just 50 on Wednesday. "These are patients who had arrived in Kolkata over the last month. None has arrived since last weekend. We expect the number of patients to drop further, depending on the situation at the

border. Since most travel by road, the flow will not improve till bus and train services normalize. Those who can afford will move to south India or Bangkok," said Peerless Hospital CEO Sudipta Mitra.

Narayana Hospitals have seen a drop across its hospitals in Kolkata and south Indian cities. "Bangladeshi patients in India are not being able to access funds, adding to the problem," said Naraya COOR Venkatesh.

Southeast Asian countries, like Thailand, Malaysia and Singapore, attract a lot of medical tourists from rest of Asia, said Indian Chamber of Commerce national healthcare chairman Prashant Sharma. "While Bangladesh is the only source of medical tourism in Kolkata, there are more flights from Bangladesh to Thailand and Malaysia that attract a chunk of patients," said Sharma, also MD, Charnock Hospital.

The impact could be temporary, said Manipal Hospitals MD & CEO Dilip Jose. "Given the visa process and travel logistics, there is a lag between the intent and the actual travel. Now that visa issuance has been halted, the effect of that in terms of number of patients will be visible after a few weeks. Since the medical value travel is essentially for elective treatments, there is always a chance of the cases returning once the situation normalizes."

Robberies in upscale B'desh areas worry friends in Kol

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NIGHT-LONG VIGIL



Locals keep vigil at night in Uttara, Bangladesh

Misceants targeted several residences in Sector 4, 11 and 13 on Wednesday night. Some of these attempts were thwarted due to the vigilance of our community WhatsApp groups



Sabrina Tasneem | EMPLOYEE AT A CONSULTANCY FIRM

Some of the robbers were armed. Therefore, we carried sticks and bats for self-defence. We plan to keep watch for a few more nights

Shadman Faiyaz | PG SCHOLAR AT INDEPENDENT UNIVERSITY OF BANGLADESH



Kolkata: Citizens of Kolkata are worried that in the absence of cops, many of their friends and relatives in Dhaka, especially those living in upscale Uttara, have spent a sleepless night on Wednesday amid fears of robbery and looting. While many formed community WhatsApp groups to alert each other, a few employed drones to pursue and deter miscreants. Others took to the streets, armed with sticks and bats, maintaining a steadfast vigil throughout the night.

Kanishka Chakraborty, who has worked in Dhaka for 25 years as a communications professional, is now based in Kolkata. He has been keeping in touch with his friends there. "I have got first-hand accounts from friends about attempted robberies. What I learnt is that Dhaka now has a concept of citizen's watch. It is heartening to see the younger generation out on the streets, controlling traffic, cleaning trash and keeping watch at night."

On Wednesday night, film-maker Amitabh Reza Chowdhury took to social media to post about these robberies. "In the past couple of days, we have been witness to an outburst of anger against the previous govt's administration. All thanas have been looted and the chain of command has been destroyed. Some robbers and thieves tried to attack houses to take advantage of the situation. This is not communal violence but the work of petty thieves who have been let loose in various parts of Dhaka, including Uttara, Mohammadpur and Savar," Chowdhury said.

People of Uttara have cre-

ated a 900-member group to protect the locality. "The youth and the common people came out to the streets to protect their houses. There was a definite plan on how we were to go about preventing robbery attempts. We will be staying up on Thursday night too. The Army is helping us control the situation. We are all hoping the situation improves in the next couple of days," Reza added.

Shadman Faiyaz, a post-graduate scholar at the Independent University of Bangladesh, who was out all night patrolling the streets, told TOI, "We formed a WhatsApp group on Wednesday where we continuously added people from our neighbourhood in Uttara. That's how the initiative gained momentum. The objective was to disseminate and exchange information geographically and keep each other informed about the happenings in real-time. Some of the robbers were armed. Therefore, we carried sticks and bats for self-defence. We plan to keep watch for a few more nights."

Though women were not present on the streets, many played a pivotal role in overseeing the community groups. Sabrina Tasneem, an employee at a consultancy firm, said, "Miscreants targeted several residences in Sector 4, 11 and 13 on Wednesday night. Some of these attempts were thwarted due to the vigilance of our community WhatsApp groups. I saw students using drones to intercept and deter the criminals, and hand them over to the Army."

2nd blow since July: After pushback, absence of B'desh buyers hits hawkers

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Kolkata: For hawkers in and around New Market who are still grappling with disruption in trade due to the govt's anti-encroachment drive, the turmoil in Bangladesh has come as a second blow in as many months. The business of hawkers selling garments, cosmetics, plastic goods and accessories has taken a further beating with a sharp dip in the number of tourists from Bangladesh. According to several vendors TOI spoke to, business has dipped by over 60% in the past few days.

"In July, the administration forced us to vacate the place where we had been conducting business for decades. The size of our stalls were cut down by half. But at least our Bangladeshi customers were



Business at the hubs around New Market has dipped by over 60%

still coming to us. Now, there is hardly any business. Many tourists would buy lungis in bulk for themselves and relatives back home. Nowadays, I hardly sell three to four lungis a day," said Mohammad Ayub who sells lungis, kurtas and caps at a stall on Mirza Ghalib Street.

Several hawkers in other neighbourhoods would wrap

up their business and set up stalls in Marquis Street, Colvin Street and Mirza Ghalib Street after 9 pm — a vendor would get anything between Rs 1,000 and Rs 1,500 per day from the stalls in Mini Bangladesh. And shops and restaurants in the area stay open till midnight on weekdays and till 1 am on weekends.

"We have not been setting



Basabhatta Sarkar

up stalls because there are hardly any tourists. Those that are here are either staying for medical treatment or waiting to return home. Shopping is not on their mind," said Mohammad Aslam, a local vendors' association leader.

Over the years, several hotels, restaurants, currency exchangers, SIM card sellers, medical stores and other

shops have mushroomed in the area, catering to thousands of Bangladeshi tourists. Before the unrest, close to 600 Bangladeshi tourists would arrive daily on an average.

"During Ramzan, Durga Puja and Christmas, the number of tourists surges and business thrives," said a hotel owner in the area.

Petrapole-Benapole: Trade along border resumes after 2 days

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Kolkata: Trade resumed along the Petrapole-Benapole border from Thursday, after a gap of two days, but the gate at Benapole looks different now, as the photographs of Sheikh Hasina and that of her father Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, has been covered with white clothes since Wednesday night.

Bilateral trade resumed on Wednesday through the borders at Hilli, Changanabandha, Mahadipur, Fulbari



Truck movement at Petrapole border in Bongaon

and Ghoadanga. But Petrapole, which has the largest share of bilateral trade, resumed operations on Thursday. Mostly perishable goods, pa-

per garments, fabric, automobile parts and chemicals were exported on Thursday while the import was mainly of jute products and betel nuts. Till 6 pm 304 trucks carried exports to Bangladesh, while 165 trucks entered India carrying imports.

Officials said movement through Petrapole-Benapole border was limited since people are allowed to enter India only on medical grounds. A source said there is also rigorous screening at the Bangladesh border before people are allowed to enter India.

Hotels told to collect guests' details daily

Continued from P 1

Kolkata: Police has asked hotels to keep a detailed background of guests. Local cops have been asked to collect these details daily — even twice a day in central Kolkata and added areas — and report to Lalbazar and the Special Branch. Multiple localities where JMB personnel had hidden in Kolkata earlier are also under scanner.

Bidhannagar cop teams are doing rounds of spots near airport, Narayanpur, Baguiati, Rajarhat, New To-

wn and Bhangar. "We are also keeping a check on brokers who have earlier helped criminals from Bangladesh to get temporarily settled in Bengal," an officer said.

BSF DG Daljit Singh Chawdhary met district officials and representatives of trade bodies to alert them about the possibility of criminal influx from Bangladesh.

"We have been asked not to allow anyone without checking their IDs," said the representative of a traders' organization in Bongaon.

BSF bans night fishing along Indo-Bangla border

Tamaghna.Banerjee & Dwaipayan.Ghosh | TNN

Kolkata: Night fishing has been banned along the riverine border between India and Bangladesh for the time being as Border Security Force (BSF) issued prohibitory orders on Thursday in the wake of the political turmoil in Bangladesh. The ban was imposed to ensure that no Indians were harmed if the BSF had to retaliate to prevent infiltration from the other side of the border.

"We have also banned unnecessary civilian movement on the embankment to prevent any possible security breach," AK Arya, DIG and BSF South Bengal Frontier spokesperson, said. On Wednesday, commandant of 32 Battalion BSF at Gede Border Outpost, company commander of Border Outpost Ichhamati and personnel of 68 Bat-



Restriction was imposed on Thursday to check infiltration bids along the riverine borders

talion of BSF South Bengal Frontier conducted village coordination meetings in the border villages. The BSF asked panchayat pradhans, panchayat members and villagers to cooperate with them in maintaining security.

In Bindol village of Raiganj and Hemtabad blocks in North Dinajpur, residents of Koiladangi, Maldah Khand

(1), Maldah Khand (2), Bohr BOP, Koiladangi BOP, Malan, and Makrahat are worried as the farmers from these Indian border villages have not been able to go to the agricultural lands across the barbed wire from Wednesday. Access to Indian lands across the barbed wire had been prohibited by the BSF since Wednesday, they said.

Kolkata markets look at Myanmar and Gujarat to fill up Padma hilsa vacuum

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Kolkata: Kolkata's fish markets, traditionally dependent on the delectable Padma hilsa from Bangladesh, are now turning to alternatives from Myanmar and Gujarat to meet the demand ahead of Durga Puja. With uncertainty looming over the arrival of Bangladeshi hilsa amid disruption in exports due to the political turmoil in the neighbouring country, city's fish vendors are left in a bind. In West Bengal, Padma hilsa is seen as an irreplaceable part of festive celebrations.

The city received its last consignment of about 100 MT of frozen hilsa from Myanmar early July. Meanwhile, hilsa from Bharuch (Gujarat) is gradually making its way into the markets, with around 1,000 kg arriving daily.

Syed Anwar Maqsood, secretary of the Fish Import-

HILSA HIGHS: SOLD FOR ₹1,600-₹1,850/KG

What's so unique?

▶ Sourced from the Padma river in Bangladesh, Padma hilsa is known for distinct taste, rich flavour and tender texture

▶ Must on Puja platter: It is a symbol of culinary pride in Kolkata and an irreplaceable part of Durga Puja celebrations

▶ Past bonanza: 3,950 MT sanctioned for export to West Bengal on Sept 20 last year

▶ Present pocket pinch: It is being sold for ₹1,600-1,850/kg in retail markets in Kolkata

▶ Inferior alternatives: 100 MT frozen hilsa imported from Myanmar last July, 1,000 kg Bharuch variety floods Kolkata markets daily



Variants of the fish imported from Gujarat

ter's Association (FIA), said, "We usually start the export application process in the first week of August. But with the recent political unrest in Bangladesh and the formation of an interim government, communication is challenging. We are unsure whom to approach for importing hilsa."

The Padma hilsa holds a special place in Kolkata's cu-

linary tradition. "Known for its distinct taste, rich flavour, and tender texture, this variety has earned a near-legendary status among food lovers in the city. Its unique characteristics are attributed to Padma river's specific water conditions, which enhance the fat content and flavour of the fish, making it unparalleled in taste compared to variants from other regions," said

Anumita Bhowmik, a food blogger. Despite export restrictions, former Sheikh Hasina government in Bangladesh allowed the fish into West Bengal ahead of Durga Puja during the previous years as a goodwill gesture. But with the current political situation there, the possibility of a similar arrangement this year remains unclear.

"Its absence or uncertain-

ty creates a significant void for many," said Basundhara Ghosal, a literary agent and culinary specialist.

Last year, Bangladesh sanctioned the export of nearly 3,950 metric tons (MT) of hilsa on Sep 20, just in time for Durga Puja.

However, this year's early Puja, falling 12 days ahead of last year's date, has further complicated matters.

Locally, the hilsa catch has been disappointing with frequent weather alerts and turbulent sea preventing trawlers from venturing into deep waters. "Even after the 54-day fishing restriction was lifted, the price of local hilsa in markets like Namkhana, Diamond Harbour, and Raidighi remains high," said Satinath Patra, secretary of the Sunderban Sagardwip Mastayaji Shramik Union. Currently, quality hilsa is retailing between Rs 1,600-1,850 per kg.

Dad in Kol, daughter and grandkids in Dhaka, united by safety concerns

'Can't Relax Till I See Them In Person'

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Kolkata: Dinesh Bajaj, a Kolkata-based politician and president of International Marwari Federation, is worried about the safety of his daughter, Priyanka, who lives in Dhaka with her husband, Anjali Modi, a businessman there. "So far, they have been safe but I don't truly feel very reassured till a new govt is formed and the administration restores law and order there," said Bajaj. He said given the uncertainty in Bangladesh, he was worried about how they were doing, especially his grand-



Dinesh Bajaj hopes peace in Bangladesh is restored quickly

children—four-year-old granddaughter and three-and-a-half-month-old grandson. "I saw them on a video call, but till I see them in person, I won't have peace of mind," he said.

He pointed out his son-in-law Anjali's family had deep

Was scared initially. But any upheaval will be disruptive

Priyanka Bajaj

The situation is fast improving. People here are celebrating what they see as their second freedom.

Initially, the chaos on the street did scare me but soon, I've come to understand the power of the people. When they decide to overthrow an authoritarian govt, there's little anyone can do to stop them from achieving their goal.

Of course, any upheaval is disruptive, and this one was no exception.

I understand my father's concerns about our safety here. His background in politics

gives him a deeper understanding of the volatility in such situations. As a politician, he knows how unpredictable these situations can be.

There are valid reasons for his anxiety, especially since student movements are often driven by intense emotions. But the people here are good, patriotic, and always ready to help, regardless of their faith.

But things are settling down. I have reassured my father that the situation is stabilizing. I've urged him not to worry too much and that things are returning to normalcy.

(Dinesh Bajaj's daughter, Priyanka, lives in Dhaka with her family)

roots in Bangladesh. "His family has been living in Bangladesh for generations. They are very patriotic. They once lived in Narayanjanj but have

since moved to Dhaka. From what I've gathered, they view the current upheaval and the toppling of the Awami League govt as a 'second freedom'. As an outsider, all I can do is pray for their safety and hope peace is restored quickly, with the new govt prioritizing law and order."

Kin forced to shift to Awami stronghold

Golok Debnath

I am worried about my relative in Dhaka who is an active Awami League member.

Initially, we could not even contact him but subsequently, he got in touch and conveyed he was with a friend in Gopalganj, where Awami League has a strong base. But I don't know when I can meet him. Even the career of his children might be affected due to the violence there.

FIRST PERSON
The attack on Hindus must stop immediately.

We have several relatives, who are not involved in politics at all, but given the situation, they want to flee Bangladesh. I feel the Indian govt should do something to help the tortured people of Bangladesh and provide them asylum.

(Debnath is a social worker in Kolkata)

Stuck in Kol, Bangla visitors fret over expiring visa, fund shortage

Zeeshan.Jawed
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Kolkata: Ruksana Bano is in a dilemma. The Bangladeshi national can't decide whether to apply for an extension of her visa, which will expire on Aug 10, or try to return home, though the direct bus services are yet to resume. She is in Kolkata for her treatment at a Dhakuria hospital and is fast running out of money.

Sohrab Hossain (56) arrived in Kolkata from Dhaka on Saturday for treatment of his asthma. Until he visits his doctor, with whom he has an appointment on Friday, he can't finalise his return plan but he is not keen on staying back too long.

Some running out of money in hand—the value of Taka is dropping amid the unrest in Bangladesh—and visa expiring for some, several Bangladeshis, who are in Kol-

Our visa will expire on Aug 10 and we are running out of money. I am praying for the direct road link to resume fast so that we can return

—Al Ameen | A PATIENT FROM DHAKA



I am waiting for direct bus services to resume. Given the huge stock of saris I will carry, it won't be safe to change vehicles at the border and travel

—Mohammad Sharfuddin Sayem | BIZMAN



kata for trade or treatment, are trying to figure out how to return home at the earliest despite the trouble there. They have pinned their hopes on the resumption of direct road connectivity, which will make their travel much easier. Currently, the buses are dropping passengers at the Petrapole border, from where they have to arrange their own vehicles.

"I am unwell and my elder brother is ill, too. There is news of violence outside Dha-

ka. So we are unsure about getting any transport from the border," said a tense Ruksana. Her brother, Al Ameen, said they did not have much time before they must decide on whether to return or apply for an extension of visa. "Our visa will expire on Aug 10 and at the same time, we are running short of money. I am praying for the road connectivity to resume fast so that we can return," said Ameen.

Mohammad Sharfuddin

Sayem, a businessman from Chittagong, is one of those fretting about his return journey. "I came to Kolkata to buy saris but got stuck here. I am waiting for direct bus services to resume before I leave for Dhaka. Given the huge stock I will carry, it won't be safe to change vehicles at the border and travel," said Sayem.

According to hotel owners in the Marquis Street area, only a few hundred Bangladeshis are here, most of them visiting for medical purposes. "The few staying here are not travelling back due to age-related issues, medical conditions or safety concerns," said Mohammad Nazim of Hotel Golden Apple.

Sohrab Ali Hossain has a doctor's appointment on Friday before he can decide about returning. "I hope the situation doesn't deteriorate further," said Hossain, worried about facing money shortage.

'Families in Hindu village keeping night vigil'

Kamalendu.Bhadra
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Kolkata: Sudam Mazumdar (32) from Barasat is anxious about the safety of his aunt and cousins living in Ajugora in Bangladesh, a Hindu-majority village nearly 10 km from Khulna. His worry was doubled as he could not contact them initially. It was only on Monday that he managed to get in touch and then again, on Wednesday.

"My cousins are worried about the happenings in and around Khulna. They have not opened their shop the past four days. They said some of their Muslim neighbours were supporting them, assuring them of safety. But my cousins and aunt are not too sure about another group of neighbours, though they have known each other for years," said Sudam. "What can we do here other than pray for their safety?"

'SCHOOLS, MKTS STAY SHUT'

Sudam's cousin Sudip (40) lives with his two brothers and widowed mother. Though no harm has come so far, the families in the village have been living in fear. Schools and markets have been shut most of the times.

"My cousin said some members of Awami League visited them on Wednesday to enquire about their safety. The personnel at the nearby police outpost had already left," said Sudam.

The family in Barasat would usually call their relatives in Bangladesh twice a month. "After the Aug 5 turmoil, we kept trying their phones but could not get through to them," said Ranajit, another cousin here. "It was only on Wednesday that we could speak to them properly. They said news of violence has been trickling in from nearby places. So, they are keeping a vigil at night. My cousin there has stopped visiting the main market in Khulna to get supply for his shop."

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Youth tries to sneak in at Hili, caught



The Rangpur resident was caught at Hili border as he tried to sneak into India by hiding inside a truck

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Kolkata: A Bangladeshi youth was caught as he tried to sneak into the Indian territory in an Indian cargo truck through the Hili border in north Bengal on Thursday. Dabul Sheikh, a resident of Gaibandha in Rangpur division of Bangladesh, climbed into the hood of the truck and sat huddled under a tarpaulin cover, dodging the driver's eyes as the vehicle left Bangladesh for India.

A BSF Northern Frontier officer said they were work-

ing closely with BGB. "The BSF North Bengal Frontier effectively managed gatherings of Bangladeshi nationals near the Indo-Bangladesh border on Wednesday. With vigilance and coordination with the BGB, they ensured safety and prevented any border breaches. Contrary to rumours, there is no widespread movement of the minority population from Bangladesh. Gatherings were due to local unrest fears. BSF and BGB are actively reassuring and helping individuals return home," the BSF said.

BSF foils cattle-smuggling bid in Malda, fires in self-defence

Subhro Maitra | TNN

Malda: A woman constable of the BSF foiled an alleged cattle-smuggling attempt at Kedarijara Border Out Post under Habibpur police station.

A personnel of the Adhoc Battalion SB-2, the constable spotted the miscreants walking towards the border on Wednesday night. As she tried to stop them, they attacked her with sharp weapons. The constable fired at them in self-

fense. The miscreants fled, leaving behind the cattle. BSF personnel recovered six buffaloes from the spot.

6 BUFFALOES RECOVERED

In another incident, alleged cattle smugglers and illegal intruders attacked the BSF personnel at the border outposts of Sundar and Ranaghat under the Sector Headquarters of Krishnanagar in Nadia

district. The BSF personnel fired stun grenades and attacked the miscreants with other weapons in retaliation. They seized 150 bottles of banned phenesyl syrup and three cattle. The BSF has held meetings with its counterparts in Bangladesh, registering a strong protest against such attacks. AK Arya, DIG, South Bengal Frontier, said the BSF DG had reviewed the border security and more jawans were deployed.

New guidelines to scrap buses

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Kolkata: In a move to curb the continued operation of over-aged commercial vehicles, the state transport department has announced new guidelines to ensure that buses and other transport vehicles are properly phased out and scrapped at authorized units once they reach 15 years of age.

Transport secretary Saumitra Mohan issued a notification addressing the issues faced by registering authorities when vehicles are scrapped by their owners without informing the relevant authorities. This lack of communication has created challenges in updating the vehicle's status on the Vahan national automobile portal, leading to the continued illegal operation of these vehicles, particularly in areas with weak regulatory oversight.

The integration of the phasing-out process with Vahan aims to close these loopholes. The new guidelines mandate that no vehicle replacement will be allowed unless all relevant documents—such as the Certificate of Fitness (CF), tax, and insurance—are up-to-date.

The guidelines also extend to non-transport vehicles in-

KEY MEASURES

> **Vahan Integration:** Mandates all relevant documents to be up-to-date before scrapping

> **Tax and Penalties:** Payable until the vehicle reaches 15 years from registration.

> **Manual Endorsements:** Regional Transport Authority (RTA) must manually update Vahan software with CF, tax, and fines

> **Cancellation of Registration:** Can only proceed after all dues are cleared and the vehicle is scrapped at a licensed facility

> **Scrapping Protocol:** Vehicles must be scrapped at a Registered Vehicle Scrapping Facility (RVSF) within West Bengal

tended for scrapping. Owners of transport vehicles in KMA are advised to scrap their vehicles only at licensed facilities within the state.

These measures, effective immediately, are expected to significantly reduce the illegal operation of over-aged commercial vehicles, enhancing road safety and compliance with environmental standards.

Cancer patient falls to death

Kolkata: A 73-year-old man, who lived in a condo located at Diamond Park in Joka, died following a fall from an open window located on the fifth floor of one of the 11-storey towers.

The deceased, who has been identified as Surendra Kumar Sinha, was a cancer patient. The incident was reported at 6.40 am on Thursday. Police are ascertaining whether it was a death by suicide or an accident. TNN

SALUTE TO 1942 QUIT INDIA MOVEMENT

Mamata Banerjee
Chief Minister, West Bengal

Government of West Bengal

Jai Johar

Heartfelt greetings and best wishes to all on the occasion of Biswa Adivasi Divas

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Perestroika Man Who Didn't Get A Third Chance

Went To CM's Office At Writers' When His Own Party Called A Bandh

Saugata.Roy@timesofindia.com

Kolkata: He didn't own a house or a car and had a frugal Rs 5,000 in his bank account when he fought his last assembly election from Jadavpur in 2011. Good life for him meant black coffee, cricket, good films and Tagore. All these traits are not very usual for many of his party colleagues who rose from the ranks.

CPM state secretary Promode Dasgupta hand-picked this Presidency College alumnus and poet Sukanta Bhattacharya's nephew — Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee — to lead the party's youth front.

Bhattacharjee didn't hesitate to take on the Left trade unions over the "bandh culture". As a CM, he even attended office during a bandh called by Left trade unions, including the CITU. "Personally, if you ask me, I think it (strike) is not helping us, our country. But unfortunately, as I belong to one party and (when) they call a strike, I keep mum. But I have finally decided that next time I will open my mouth," Bhattacharjee had said in 2008.

All his life, Bhattacharjee tried marrying the Communist ideals of human emancipation with real life politics that moved like parallel lines with the gap widening in course of time. He preferred glasnost and perestroika to the iron curtains in former communist regimes. In the process, he ended up as a misunderstood Marxist even among his ilk.

Few would believe that this man had once given CPM a fresh lease of life in 2006, and took the party tally to 235 out of 294 in the 2006 polls. Bhattacharjee could make people believe that his govt would break barriers, charting out a development course quite different from the Jyoti Basu govt. He didn't mind inviting Tata Group chairman Ratan Tata to the oath taking ceremony in 2006 even though it didn't go well with the traditional communist convention.

The mission tripped in Singur and Nandigram. The bhadralkos who once stood by him while he was

MAN WHO MEANT BUSINESS

Investment proposals and investments during Bhattacharjee's tenure as CM

- ▶ Pepsico food processing plant in Bengal set up in 2004
- ▶ Wipro project in Sec V; Azim Premji & Bhattacharjee inaugurated the project
- ▶ Tata Motors plant for Nano in Singur. Proposed in 2006 but later withdrawn midway in late 2008
- ▶ Salim Group investment proposal for chemical hub in Nandigram, real estate and infrastructure projects. Only the realty project was implemented
- ▶ Reopening of Dunlop and Jessop factories



Bhattacharjee at a rally on Brigade Parade Ground

Shri Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee was a person I deeply respected. He had a unique way of motivating. Bengal has lost a great leader

Sanjiv Goenka | CHAIRMAN OF RPSG

It is a sad day today. Buddhadeb babu has passed away. He was a great patron of art, literature and cinema. His effort to industrialize the state was significant

Harsh Neotia | CHAIRMAN, AMBUJA NEOTIA GROUP

Today Universal Success Group's 50% assets are in India. I owe to Buddha babu in a great way our success in India. He invited me to the Writers' Building in July 2003. He wanted to have a rich Bengal and took pride in the success of Bengal and Bengal

Prasoon Mukherjee | CHAIRMAN, UNIVERSAL SUCCESS

As the deputy chairman & the then chairman of CII Eastern Region, I had the scope to work with Shri Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee. He was a leader, who was widely respected

Sanjay Budhia | MD, PATTON

chasing the dream started complaining about his lack of tact, his foolhardy approach in land acquisition. And to copybook communists, Bhattacharjee often crossed the Marxist 'lakshman rekha' despite all his good intentions.

Sabyasachi Sen, industry secretary during 2003 to early 2010, said: "I respect him very much and I am deeply shocked at his demise." It would be going against history

if one puts the entire blame for the CPM reversal on Bhattacharjee. In its long stint for 30 years, the CPM had gathered by then all the garbage that comes with power — arrogance, nepotism, corruption, using organisational muscle to establish hegemony at all walks of life.

Buddhababu was aware of these and was at times vocal against them.

All these could be a reason why he took legal land acquisition route to

keep local land sharks at bay. The process was smooth in parts of West Midnapore. But while taking the sarkari route, he antagonised those who ran his party machinery. The poor and marginal farmers, a major chunk being Muslims, also felt alienated in the so called industrialisation programme. It's a tragedy that Bhattacharjee lost sight of this fact in the pursuit of industry that finally devoured the once powerful CPM machinery.

Nandigram and Singur: Buddha's two Waterloos

Dwaipayan.Ghosh @timesofindia.com

Kolkata: Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee's efforts to spark an industrial renaissance in Bengal were thwarted by the violent anti-land acquisition protests in Singur and Nandigram, eventually heralding the end of the Left era in Bengal and the rise of Mamata Banerjee.

Singur and Nandigram remained a baggage for him that he could never shake off. After stepping down from office, Bhattacharjee presented a document within the CPM stating that his govt's policy of pursuing industrialization was correct. Acquiring land for industry was also a necessity of the time. He argued that the incidents in Singur and Nandigram were "exceptions" in this inevitable process. He acknowledged that there were some administrative and political mistakes in both cases and emphasized learning from these exceptions. Bhattacharjee firmly believed that industrialization should not be abandoned due to these exceptions.

Yet, even as he defended his policies, incident of villagers being shot dead in Nandigram deeply affected Buddhadeb. In a public meeting right after his loss, he pointed to himself and said that he was "responsible" for the incident. In a 2013 interview, Buddhadeb admitted the mistake of police firing in Nandigram and expressed regret.

As late as 2021, Bhattacharjee had claimed Singur and Nandigram were witnessing the "silence of a crematori-



Bhattacharjee at a rally in Nandigram

um". "The conspirators behind the 'devious conspiracy at Singur and Nandigram are now divided in two groups and throwing muck at each other," he had said. "It was an irreparable damage to the state. Sometimes I wonder where I made the mistake. Was it land acquisition itself or was the process of land acquisition that was wrong? Was I too soft on the opposition? We will take lessons from that experience," Bhattacharjee had stated.

Many in Singur and Nandigram acknowledge that he was quick to admit mistake but equally adamant in defending what he thought he had little role. "Bhattacharjee was very clear about Singur; I vividly remember his interaction with press in 2009. He had stated there was no question of apologizing for Singur and blamed TMC for the fiasco. But he was man enough to admit mistake on firing at Nandigram. This is because he could move

beyond rigid ideology and wanted genuine change," said Bikas Pakhira of JoyMalla.

"He will be remembered as a tragic hero with the right intentions but the wrong methods. Salute to him," former TMC Rajya Sabha MP Kunal Ghosh wrote in the X handle.

Abdur Rezzak Mollah, who was the minister for land and land reforms in the Left Front govt from 1977 to 2011 before he got expelled leading to him joining the Trinamool had claimed that "there was no socio-economic impact-assessment by CPM in Singur and Nandigram before the govt decided on land acquisition." He added that the top leadership of the CPM, including Bhattacharjee, were "cut off" from the ground reality. "The party had succumbed to a neo-liberal orientation foisted from the top," Mollah had assessed.

(With inputs from Falguni Banerjee in Singur and Suman Mondal in Nandigram)

The upright, honest man who breathed life into CPM after USSR's collapse

Saugata.Roy@timesofindia.com

Kolkata: Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee breathed life into the CPM when the Left ideology was on retreat after the Soviet debacle. Bhattacharjee detected the fault lines in the hegemonic party structure and took a liberal Left course with the party dynamics pegged on Bengal's development. His honesty was the CPM's selling point.

Unlike many in his party, Bhattacharjee had many ups and downs in CPM. He had walked out of Jyoti Basu cabinet in 1993 and made it to the CM's chair seven years later.

He resigned from the govt over an instance of his stand-off with a senior state bureaucrat. But he continued in the party.

Few months later, Bhattacharjee was re-inducted in the cabinet. After the 1996 assembly polls, he was handed over the home (police) department and in 1999, he was elevated to deputy CM. In 2000, Jyoti Basu retired and Bhattacharjee was sworn in as CM.

Bhattacharjee nursed a

POLITICAL JOURNEY



Bhattacharjee with Jyoti Basu in Kolkata

Decisions that landed him in controversy

- ▶ Land acquisition in Singur
- ▶ Nandigram and Netai killings
- ▶ Planning a chem hub at Nayachar

HIS RISE

- ▶ Became CPM party member in 1966
- ▶ Was the founding state secretary of DYFI in 1968
- ▶ Was elected to the CPM state committee in 1971
- ▶ Elected MLA from Kashipur assembly constituency in 1977
- ▶ Sworn in as the Bengal CM on Nov 6, 2000
- ▶ Elected to CPM politburo in 2001
- ▶ Lost assembly elections from Jadavpur assembly constituency in 2011

HIS WITHDRAWAL

- ▶ Took leave from CPM politburo in 2015
- ▶ Took leave from state secretariat in 2018
- ▶ Relinquished all party posts in 2022, continued as ordinary party member

dream to put Bengal back on the industry map and went a whole hog chasing it. It gave hope to people that can't be overlooked citing Singur and Nandigram. In fact, the LF govt could fetch substantial investments during his tenure. IT majors Wipro and Infosys came to Bengal during his

time and Sector V turned into a bustling place. Mega manufacturers also started setting shops in the Kharagpur before auto-maker Tata Motors came to Singur.

But all these called for a drastic change in party mindset that was a difficult task. Bhattacharjee made use of

glasnost within party circles. Old guards called him the Gorbachev of Bengal. But that didn't deter him from his resolve because his priority was to create jobs for the educated youth, set up new education centres with private investment. To do it, Bhattacharjee reintroduced English from

class I more than two decades after the Left had banished the language from primary level.

CPM always found him a difficult man to handle. The party couldn't dump him either. He was the crowd puller in CPM rallies.

Party bosses in Delhi couldn't hold him back when Bhattacharjee told the trade union leaders on one occasion that the Bharat Bandh call wouldn't apply to Bengal because people observe Bhasa Diwas on that day. Even when out of power, Bhattacharjee showed his defiance in run up to the 2016 assembly polls when Congress-CPM had fielded jote candidates in Bengal. The CPM leader didn't hesitate to share dais with Rahul Gandhi at Park Circus as part of a rally when Left leaders dithered to announce the Congress-CPM alliance.

Bhattacharjee perhaps got a little tired fighting too many battles within and outside. But he was a regular at Allmuddin Street till early 2019. His last public appearance was at the Brigade on Feb 4, 2019.

It was an irreparable damage: Buddha on Singur in his book

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Kolkata: Bhattacharjee tried to move his state away from the falling returns of subsistence agriculture and use surplus skilled manpower to build a robust growth path through industries. He also okayed contract farming and invited private investments in agricultural infrastructure (for processing and packaging farm produce and increasing production). Governments in the state and the Centre took all these cues much later.

Bhattacharjee also wanted his party to come out of its over-dependence on crippling bandhs and, instead, create a positive work culture. And, unlike many of his CPM colleagues, he genuinely tried to break his party's hegemony in educational institutions and public life. In all these, as much as in everything else, his efforts to steer the CPM in a different direction may have come too late.

It would, however, be a mistake to measure Bhattacharjee's popularity only by votes. Yes, he lost in his own



Bhattacharjee with Biman Bose

in him one more of its icons: a frail old man, wearing a pyjama, happy being away from public glare, leading a peaceful, retired life that would be the envy of many richer in wealth.

All this while, he wrote two books — *Phire Dekha* and *Phire Dekha II* — where he made observations on his tenure as CM, role of opposition and also role of the governor. Bhattacharjee, while reflecting on Singur-Nandigram days leading to the Tatas moving out of Bengal, wrote: "It was an irreparable damage to the state. Sometimes I wonder where I made the mistake. Was it land acquisition itself or was it the process of land acquisition? Was I too soft on the opposition? We will take lessons from that experience."

Bengalis may not have found him fit for CM's office but his pottering around a modest govt flat — in a not-too-wealthy-to-do Palm Avenue neighbourhood after retirement — reassured them: politics was not all knavery and a politician could also be a *bhadrakol*.

Ex-CM's body to be handed over to NRS

Sumati.Yengkhom @timesofindia.com

Kolkata: Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee's mortal remains will be handed over to NRS Medical College on Friday. The former CM had pledged his body with Ganadarpan, an NGO, in March 2006. His body will be donated to the state-run medical hospital for the purpose of medical research and education. His cornea has also been donated to the Regional Institute of Ophthalmology in Kolkata.

"Bhattacharjee had pledged his body with us March 8, 2006," said Manish Sarkar, secretary of Ganadarpan.

Sources in NRS said Bhattacharjee's body will be received at anatomy department. Many other Left leaders had pledged their bodies and organs. Among those who have passed away and their bodies donated to medical institutes include ex-CM Jyoti Basu, ex-LS speaker Somnath Chatterjee, Anil Biswas and Benoy Chowdhury.

Bengal has the highest number of body donations in the country with around 15 lakh having pledged with Ganadarpan. Of this, 4,000 donations have already happened.

From a rebel poet's nephew to dad of a child who came out

Tamaghna.Banerjee @timesofindia.com

Kolkata: Exceptionalism ran in Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee's family right from his distant uncle to the "coming out" of his biological daughter Suchetana to Suchetan.

Bhattacharjee was a distant nephew of poet Sukanta Bhattacharya, who was known as "Young Nazrul" and "Kishore Bidrohi Kobi", a reference to the great rebel poet Kazi Nazrul Islam

for Sukanta's similar rebellious stance against the tyranny of the British Raj and the oppression by the social elites through the work of his poetry.

Poet Sukanta Bhattacharya died from tuberculosis, three months before India achieved independence, at a tender age of 21. Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee was only three then.

The poet was the first cousin of the former chief minister's father Nepal Chandra Bhattacharya. Although



Bhattacharjee with Meera Bhattacharjee and Suchetan

belonging to a family of priests, both Sukanta and Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee were avowed atheists, in accordance with the principles of communism.

Bhattacharjee was also extremely supportive of his daughter's decision to come out as a trans man. "He had been quite frank and accep-

He had been quite frank and accepted my choice. It was my decision and my parents had no say in that

Suchetan Bhattacharjee

ted my choice. I noticed a subtle sense of denial in my mother," Suchetan had said in an interview to TOI last year.

Suchetan said he was conscious about his gender from his Montessori days. The kind of dress he wore, the haircut he flaunted made it evident that he felt like a boy.

"While pursuing my education, my classmates, irrespective of their gender, were very understanding. Both at Patha Bhavan and at Presidency University, I did not face any problem. At 41, I opted for sex reassignment surgery. It was my choice and my parents had no say in that," Suchetan had said.

Presi friends recall 'shy boy' who combined student politics & NCC

Dipawali Mitra, Poulami Roy & Dwaipayan Ghosh | TNN

Kolkata: Contemporaries and batchmates of Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee remembered the former chief minister as a "shy boy" during his college days at Presidency College. Bhattacharjee studied Bengali honours from 1961 to 1964 at Presidency.

He joined Sailendra Sircar Vidyalaya in class V in 1954 and passed HS in 1961. The former CM was actively involved in NCC from his school days.

Octogenarian Lily Banerjee, who was a classmate of Bhattacharjee, said he was a shy student and always wore 'dhuti' and 'punjabi'. "I remember that one of our professors, Bhudeb Chowdhury, praised his writing by saying that it has 'spark'. But the professor also said Buddha is 'fakibaa'," Banerjee said.

Bhattacharjee was actively involved in the Bangla study circle of the Presidency and was also its joint secretary.

Nirmal Brahmachari, who was a leader of the Students' Federation during the 60s, said, "Naxalite leader Mitra was instrumental in Budd-



A condolence meet was held at Sailendra Sircar Vidyalaya on Thursday; (L) the Presidency Bengali dept where Bhattacharjee studied from 1961 to 1964



hadeb's first initiation into active politics around 1962-1963. During our meetings, Saibal da and others would call him from his Hatibagan house." Publisher-editor and critic

campaigner during the elections."

Another batchmate Madhusree Ghosh, who studied Sanskrit at Presidency, remembered him as a lean youth, who was well-behaved, soft-spoken and extremely culturally conscious.

An NCC spokesperson said Bhattacharjee joined the NCC during his school days under the influence of a couple of his teachers. "Even when he joined Adarsh Shankha Vidya Mandir school at Dum Dum as a teacher, he encouraged schoolkids to join the NCC," he added.

Presidency interim VC Nirmalya Narayan Chakraborty, registrar Debajyoti Konar and two other officials visited his Palm Avenue home on Thursday.

His school arranged for a condolence meet. Assistant headmaster Harinath Nanda said, "In 1997, he came to unveil a statue of Jyotirbikash Mitra, who was the first national teacher. He was then the information and cultural minister. On Jan 5, 2001, he inaugurated a memorial plaque of Mitra on foundation day. He was the CM then." The school has announced a holiday on Friday.

CM Mamata on CM Buddha: I pray he takes birth in Bengal again

'Had Several Interactions Beyond Politics, Was Always Extremely Supportive'

Tamaghna Banerjee & Poulami Roy Banerjee | TNN

Kolkata: CM Mamata Banerjee, while speaking to reporters outside Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee's Palm Avenue house on Thursday, prayed that the former CM takes rebirth in Bengal.

When Bhattacharjee was the CM, and Banerjee the opposition leader, the former never referred to her by name. But when their roles reversed in 2011 and Banerjee became the CM, Bhattacharjee greeted her from the visitor's chair at Raj Bhawan with folded hands. The oft-tense relationship showed its first signs of easing.

On Thursday, when Banerjee went to Palm Avenue to pay her condolences, she said: "Politics has its place, personal relationships have theirs. Politics and humanity are separate. He has loads of contributions. This is not the right place to discuss it. Let us pray that his soul rests in peace. A man is known for his works even after his death."



CM Mamata Banerjee outside Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee's Palm Avenue house on Thursday; (R) Bhattacharjee greets Banerjee at Raj Bhawan after the latter became the CM in 2011

ath. I pray that he returns to this land of Bengal again after his death.

Banerjee said Bhattacharjee's death had shocked her: "I feel a sort of vacuum," the chief minister said, adding: "Upon hearing the news, I got so shaken that my hand got scraped against the wall and I have been bleeding profusely."

"I had had several meetings and interactions with

him. Every time he was admitted to the hospital, I went there to meet him and we were thankful that he could return home every time. Although he suffered from chronic respiratory distress, I believe it was still not an age for him to pass away."

As an opposition leader, Banerjee had a few interactions with Bhattacharjee. "When I used to come, we used to have a conversation



on a lot of things. I remember during a riot in 1992, I had run up to him (CM Bhattacharjee) to offer help. I had approached him many times over several issues that were above politics and he had always been extremely supportive. I have always admired it. "Though I belong to another party, my deepest condolences go out to CPM. I offer my condolences to his family and all members of his party,

We will provide all assistance and pay our respects on behalf of the state government during his final journey. Whatever decision his party takes, the state will ensure proper arrangements. He has pledged his body and on behalf of the state government, I announce today as a holiday to mark his death. On Friday, we want to offer our homage with due respect and with gun salute," the CM said.

Brand Buddha lost in '11, not our MLA: Jadavpur voters

Dwaipayan Ghosh
@timesofindia.com

Kolkata: In 2016, dressed in his trademark dhoti-kurta, Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee took a ride in an open jeep from Tollygunge to Garia. He was canvassing for Left Front candidates from three south Kolkata constituencies. Since 1987 — and for five consecutive times — he had represented the "educational and intellectual hub" in the city. It was but natural that his "homecoming" would be special. That, incidentally, was the last major appearance of this Jadavpur leader in his own backyard.

Among those who lined up at the Jadavpur 8B stand and even walked with the rally were 56-year-old Shyamadas Karmakar and 28-year-old Arko Sengupta. Karmakar is still a faithful party worker. He has been a Left campaign manager in the latest Lok Sabha elections and sought votes in the name of the former chief minister. Sengupta, in contrast and by his own admission, "is still far removed from party politics."

Yet, both insist his 2011 loss was a reflection of the performances of 'Brand Buddha' and not the MLA Bhattacharjee. "His loss in 2011 was unex-



Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee's road show in 2016 was his last major public appearance in his own backyard

pected. The Left has held this seat since 1967. But then again, the situation was such that he could have lost from any other seat. Sujan Chakraborty had a smooth sailing in 2016 because the voters knew he had Bhattacharjee's backing," said Karmakar.

The local party members — several of whom have multiple anecdotes to share about Bhattacharjee — held a condolence rally near Sukanta Setu on Thursday.

remember him as the man who perfected the art of simple living," said Sengupta.

Other Jadavpur residents like bank official Jogen Roy and teacher Saptarshi Mukherjee feel that Bhattacharjee "perfectly blended with the political aspirations" of the refugee colonies who stood by him for over two decades. "As the young generation slowly took over — who had never witnessed the rehabilitation process — they could not identify with his politics," said Mukherjee. "You needed men like him at this juncture. The Left has lost ground but nothing is constant. He could have suggested ways out," said retired engineer Amiya Kumar Pal.

Usman, 'Sir's' driver, recalls a journey through life

Poulami.Roy@timesofindia.com

Kolkata: Md Usman, Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee's driver for nearly 30 years, on Thursday promised his son Suchetan and wife Meera Bhattacharjee to be with them forever. "Sir is no more, but I am there for you," he told them as Bhattacharjee left his Palm Avenue house forever.

Usman had driven Bhattacharjee's car since 1982. "We have a 30-year-old relationship with Sir, so how could I sit at home after getting such news? I last came to visit him a few months back after he had returned from the hospital."

Usman was appointed as Bhattacharjee's driver by the CPM. Bhattacharjee took the initiative and absorbed him as a state govt driver. Every Eid, Usman brought homemade biryani for him, which he loved. "The memories of all those moments I shared with the former CM, the ups and downs of his political career are rushing back. I feel pained. I knew he was unwell but never thought that he could leave



Md Usman pays his last respect to Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee on Thursday

us. I can't still believe that he has left forever. Life won't be the same without him around," Usman said.

Usman, too, is not in a good physical state. He has had a brain stroke. He can't walk without a stick and help. Still, he promised to be with the Bhattacharjees whenever needed.

Bhattacharjee's attendant, Haren Adhikary, was also shocked after losing a person who became his family member in the last four years. "He didn't speak much but was very caring. This

morning, after he took his breakfast, when I gave him medicine, he couldn't take it. I made a paste so that he could swallow it but he failed to take it and collapsed in front of me. I can't forget that moment. The person who I looked after as my father will be missed," Adhikary said.

The small flat, the pile of books, old pictures and medical reports stayed behind as the person, who would always be remembered as an epitome of 'simple living', left his home forever on Thursday.

A poet and a playwright, he found his own corner at Nandan, amid books

Priyanka.Dasgupta
@timesofindia.com

Kolkata: Once office work concluded in the evening, Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee would spend a couple of hours at Nandan. That was the time when he would devote to translating Russian poet Vladimir Mayakovsky or watching a film before returning to his two-bedroom Palm Avenue flat.

Many contend that despite being a politician, Bhattacharjee was a poet at heart who inherited this affinity for arts from his upbringing. Bhattacharjee was raised in a joint family at Shyampukur. His uncle was poet Sukanta Bhattacharya. The other uncle, Rakkhal Bhattacharya, was a seasoned sports journalist.

Bhattacharjee often channelled his creative energy into writing. Like many other followers of the Marxist ideology, he was particularly fond of two Latin American writers — Pablo Neruda and Gabriel Garcia Marquez. Academic Pabitra Sarkar recalled his Bengali translation of Gabriel Garcia Marquez's 'Clandestine in Chile'. Despite



(L) The room in Nandan where Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee used to spend his evenings; the former CM at an exhibition in Nandan

his hectic schedule, he found time to author quite a few books. Among them, many recollect works like 'Phire Dekha', 'Swager Mukhe Mahabishrinkhala', 'Nazi Germany: Jonmo O'Mrityu'.

Veteran playwright Ashok Mukhopadhyay, who was four years his senior at Sailendra Sarkar Vidyalaya, said: "He grew up at a time when Kolkata was witness to a cultural renaissance of sorts. Satyajit Ray, Mrinal Sen and Ritwik Ghatak were making films. Sombhu Mitra, Ajitesh Bandyopadhyay and Utpal Dut were staging plays. That milieu had a pro-



(L) The room in Nandan where Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee used to spend his evenings; the former CM at an exhibition in Nandan

und impact on him."

Playwriting — both original and adaptations — was his forte. "As a 20-year-old in Presidency, Buddhadeb wrote a Bengali adaptation of Clifford Odets' 'Waiting for Lefty'. It was titled 'Bijoyer Opekkhay'. It was produced by a local theatre group," said Mukhopadhyay. Subsequently, at least three of his plays were staged by eminent groups. Two of them, 'Dusshomoy' and 'Poka', were immensely popular. In 2000, Bhattacharjee wrote another adaptation. This time, he chose Kafka's novella, 'Metamorphosis'. It was called 'Poka'.

His greater contribution to the cultural landscape was the inauguration of the Kolkata Film Festival in 1995. "He ensured that prominent international filmmakers visited the festival," said film scholar Sanjay Mukhopadhyay.

Nandan was his favourite ever since its inauguration by Satyajit Ray. Many remember that in 1993, when he abruptly resigned from Jyoti Basu's govt, he used to spend most of his evenings at Nandan. The last time Bhattacharjee was prominently seen at Nandan was during the Kolkata Film Festival inauguration in 2010.

CAD-797
INTEGRATED TRIBAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY, PANPOSH
Tel.No.- 0661-2501011, Fax - 2501011, e-mail- itdapan@nic.in

No.1922 / Date : 08.08.2024

e-Tender Notice Bid Identification No. ITDAPAN-01/2024-25

The Project Administrator, ITDA, Panposh on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites Percentage Rate bids in online mode for Construction of the work detailed below.

1. Number of works	: 03 (Three)
2. Nature of work	: Civil Construction work
3. Class of Contractor	: B & A, D & C
4. Period of completion	: 6 (Six) and 11 (Eleven) calendar months
5. Estimated cost	: Rs. 15,09,665/- & Rs. 2,83,35,730/-
6. Date & time of online availability of details of this notice and the Tender Documents	: 09.08.2024 to 02.09.2024 upto 5.00 PM. in the Site www.tendersodisha.gov.in and in the office of the P.A, ITDA, Panposh (on working days).
7. Last date of receipt of online Bid	: 02.09.2024 upto 5.00 PM.
8. Mode of submission of Tender documents.	: The documents should be uploaded through online.
9. The date of opening of Bids received on-line	: 03.09.2024 at 11.00 am in the office of the P.A, ITDA, Panposh.
10. Designation and address of the authority inviting Bids	: Project Administrator, ITDA, Panposh.

The bidders have to participate through online bidding only.

Sd/-
Project Administrator,
ITDA, Panposh.
OIPR-19058/11/006/24-25

CAD-792
NOTICE INVITING BID
Odisha State Medical Corporation Limited (OSMCL)
In front of Ram Mandir, Convent Square, Unit- III, Bhubaneswar -751 001
Tel.: (0674) 2380950, Website: www.osmcl.nic.in, Email: drugs-osmcl@gov.in
Letter No. 5581 Date : 07.08.2024

Bid Ref. No.: OSMCL/2024-25/ OTH-DHS-I/06 Date: 08/08/2024

Online Bids through e-Tender portal (https://tendersodisha.gov.in) are invited from eligible bidders for supply of Insecticides and Larvicides as per the particulars mentioned below:

Sl. No.	Particulars	Date and time
1.	Date & time of release of bid	08/08/2024, 3 PM
2.	Date & time for submission of queries by E-Mail id-drugs-osmcl@gov.in	14/08/2024, 3 PM to 03/09/2024, 6.00 PM
3.	Date & time of Online bid submission	Start Date & Time: 04/09/2024, 10 AM End Date & Time: 11/09/2024, 11.00 AM
4.	Date & time for submission of Tender Documents, Tender Document Fee and EMD amount as per section-IV of tender document	04/09/2024, 10 AM to 11/09/2024, 11.00 AM
5.	Date & time of online Technical bid opening	11/09/2024, 11:30 AM
6.	Date of opening of Price Bid	To be informed to the qualified bidders

The bid document with all information relating to the bidding process including cost of bid document, EMDs, Prequalification criteria and terms & conditions are available in the websites: www.osmcl.nic.in and https://tendersodisha.gov.in. The Authority reserves the right to accept / reject any part thereof or all the bids without assigning any reason thereof. All notice will be published in the OSMCL website www.osmcl.nic.in. Hence the bidders are requested to visit OSMCL website www.osmcl.nic.in in time to time for any published notice against the tender.

Sd/-
Managing Director
OSMCL Ltd., Odisha
OIPR-10112/11/006/24-25

MINERAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
DIRECTORATE OF GEOLOGY AND MINING, MADHYA PRADESH
29- A Khanij Bhawan, Arera Hills Bhopal Phone and fax 0755-2551795
Email: geology.dgm@mp.gov.in

No- 85991/Auction- 13/ Geology / F.No.- 13 / 2024-25 August 08, 2024

Notice Inviting Tender

Government of Madhya Pradesh in exercise of the powers conferred by Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 and in accordance with the Mineral (Auction) Rules, 2015, invites tender from the eligible bidders for the e-auction of major minerals in the state. Eligibility conditions, timelines, terms, and conditions etc. for participating in the electronic auction are provided in the Tender Document available in electronic form only and can be downloaded from the e-auction portal of MSTC Limited (https://www.mstccommerce.com/auctionhome/mlcl/index.jsp) from August 09, 2024.

Interested and eligible bidders can register themselves on the above e-auction portal. The bidders can participate in the bidding only after online purchase of the Tender Document on payment of the Tender fee from the above e-auction portal. Any revision, clarifications, addendum, corrigendum, time extensions, etc. to the tender document will be hosted on the above e-auction portal only and no separate notifications shall be issued in the press. Model Tender Document and Mineral Block Summaries are available free of cost on the e-auction portal of MSTC Limited website (https://www.mstccommerce.com/auctionhome/mlcl/index.jsp).

The block specific tender documents are available for purchase on the e-auction portal of MSTC Limited (https://www.mstccommerce.com/auctionhome/mlcl/index.jsp). The pre-bid conference would be organised in hybrid mode on Thursday, August 29, 2024. The venue, time and link for virtual mode shall be notified separately on the MSTC portal. Last date for purchase of Tender Document, on the e-auction platform is **Monday, 16 September, 2024**, and the last date for submission of the bid is **Monday, 23 September, 2024**, on or before 17:00 hours (IST). The bidders shall note that financial bids are invited in digital format only and technical bids are invited both in digital and physical format.

Sr. No.	Name of the Block	District	Mineral	ML/ CL	Price of Tender Document without GST (in Rs.)
First Attempt Blocks					
1	Pipariya Dyanadas Limestone Block	Damoh	Limestone	ML	5,00,000
2	Dedli B Limestone Block	Dhar	Limestone	ML	5,00,000
3	Naganwat Badi & Choti (Block-D) Manganese Block*	Jhabua	Managnese Ore	CL	25,000
4	Kauhari Diamond Block	Satna & Panna	Diamond	CL	5,00,000
5	Bagda- Sawarsa Basemetal Block	Dewas	Basemetal	CL	5,00,000
6	Jalida (S.E.) Bauxite and Aluminous Laterite Block	Dindori	Bauxite & Aluminous Laterite	CL	2,00,000
7	Tantar Bauxite and Aluminous Laterite	Dindori	Bauxite & Aluminous Laterite	CL	5,00,000
8	Gaganwada Agarwara Limestone Block	Khargone	Limestone	CL	5,00,000
Second Attempt					
9	Papra Kokahansar Diamond Block*	Satna	Diamond	CL	5,00,000
10	Khari Takari Limestone Block	Dhar	Limestone	CL	5,00,000
11	Nandiya Agarwara Manganese Block	Khargone	Manganese Ore	CL	5,00,000
12	Chuli-Barora Limestone Block	Sidhi	Limestone	CL	25,000
13	Parihasi Basemetal Block	Singrauli	Basemetal	CL	5,00,000
14	Baranjh-Pakkatola Bauxite	Anuppur	Bauxite	CL	5,00,000
15	Byodihar Gold and Basemetal Block	Singrauli	Gold & Basemetal	CL	5,00,000

Note: * Mineral Blocks being put up for auction in accordance with section 10A2D of the Act

Sd/-
Director
Directorate of Geology and Mining
Madhya Pradesh
G-14769/24

We'll miss our next-door neighbour: Palm Ave locals

Saikat Ray & Poulami Roy | TNN

Kolkata: Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee was a formidable politician but for the residents of Palm Avenue, where the former CM stayed for decades, he was just a neighbour next-door.

Niranjan Singha, a senior citizen who stays close to Bhattacharjee's residence at 59 Palm Avenue, said he considered him a neighbour more than a chief minister. "I can't recall a single occasion when I went to his place with a problem and returned empty-handed," said Singha, who works in a private firm.

"He would come without security guards to inaugurate our Kali puja and chat with us freely," Singha added. According to him, the former chief minister had a very soft corner for his neighbours and he had given a strict instruction to his chief security officer not to restrict anyone from the para.

Santu Ghosh, another resident of Palm Avenue who works at a pharmaceutical firm, said he would miss him this August as Buddhadeb used to hoist the Tricolour at the Ballygunge Yubak Brinda club. "During his tenure as the chief minister, before going to Writers' Building to attend the flag hoisting ceremony on Aug 15, Buddhadeb would hoist the national flag at our club ground first," said Ghosh.

Lipika Ghosal Banerjee, who stays on the third floor of Bhattacharjee's building, returned from her workspace after finding out about his death on Thursday. "He had always been a very simple person throughout his life. We never felt that we were staying with a VVIP in the same building. I have two sons, and



Neighbours gather at Palm Avenue to bid final farewell to the ex-CM

the younger one is a special child. Every day at 9 am, when Bhattacharjee left home, my son would go down with his grandfather and he would affectionately pinch my son's cheeks and get into the car. Though I never entered his room in the last 10 years, I always spoke with his

His death is a personal loss to me. The state lost a great personality and I lost a friend

Pradip Bhattacharya
CONG LEADER AND NEIGHBOUR

wife whenever I met her." Ground-floor resident Souvik Gupta said his family had a very close relationship with the Bhattacharjees. "He gifted me a pen that I still have. Today, when I left home for the office, everything was quiet, but after reaching the office, I got the news and returned home," Gupta said.

The Bhattacharjee family started staying at Palm Avenue in 1985. Moloy Biswas and Sarmista Biswas, who stay at a house opposite the

Bhattacharjees' flat, stood at their gate holding a photograph when the former CM was taken to Peace World. "Dada gifted six pens to my younger daughter before Madhyamik and the HS. He was fond of fish, especially ilish. I can remember one day I bought an ilish and while my wife was cooking a dish, he called me and asked: 'Bhombol, ilish machh khawabi na?' I sent a dish to him. I had open access to his house. This year, two days after his birthday, I brought dosa for him from my restaurant. It is sad that I won't hear his call 'Bhombol' ever again," said neighbour Moloy Biswas.

Congress leader Pradip Bhattacharya, a resident of the same building, said he had a very long acquaintance with him not only as a political colleague but also as a neighbour. "I remember him visiting me when I was down with chickenpox. I had asked him not to come near me but he said he wasn't afraid of the contamination as he had pox twice earlier. I used to frequently visit him at his home."

(With inputs from Tamaghna Banerjee)

Grand set for facelift, guest rooms to be shut for 1.5 yrs

Banquets To Operate For Now

Ajanta Chakraborty & Udit Prasanna Mukherji | TNN

Kolkata: The city's grand old dame is getting a facelift. Come Independence Day, and The Oberoi Grand, which sits in the heart of Kolkata, will be shut down for 18 months for a thorough overhaul of its interiors. This is the longest time the hotel would be shut for renovation since its opening in 1938.

"The Oberoi Grand, Kolkata will be closing for 18 months for extensive restoration and conservation from Aug 15 to help restore the hotel's former glory while incorporating modern amenities and ensuring the highest standards of luxury and comfort for our guests," a spokesperson of EIH Hotels, the company that owns the hotel in Kolkata, said on Thursday.

The first phase of renovation will be over in 18 months and the hotel will reopen with

RENOVATING HERITAGE

- Oberoi Grand to close for 18 months from 1-Day
- For thorough restoration & conservation work
- Mohan Singh Oberoi acquired the property in 1938
- EIH Hotels owns palatial structure in Kolkata



The hotel will shut down from Aug 15

The Oberoi Grand wants to bring in the next level of experience of luxury hotel stay in Kolkata because the management feels change is the only constant. It believes that great players make way for better players but even the better one isn't permanent - **A guest**

50 rooms and suites, all restaurants, banqueting, back-of-house facilities and an upgraded mechanical, electrical and plumbing infrastructure. The second phase will take another 12 months, following which the hotel will have 200 renovated rooms and suites, the spokesperson added. However, the banquets of the age old hotel would be operational for the time being.

The Grand Ballroom and Burdwan & Cooch Behar Halls will continue to operate. These facilities will close on March 15, 2025 for renovation.

"We are committed to pre-

servicing the historical and architectural integrity of The Oberoi Grand. Our restoration plans have been carefully crafted to maintain the charm and character of the heritage elements while updating the infrastructure to meet modern standards. The restoration will be governed by the State Heritage Committee," the spokesperson said.

Acquired on lease in 1938 by patriarch Mohan Singh Oberoi, the Kolkata landmark with its distinct palatial edifice, has stood the test of time, attracting visitors from India and abroad for its well-appointed

rooms, excellent dining and great location (overlooking Chowringhee and a stretch of the Maidan). In Aug 2018, the hotel was closed for 18 months when 50 new rooms were added after nearly a quarter of a century.

"Although it is located in one of the most congested parts of the city, bearing the onslaught of hawkers below its showpiece 'Grand Arcade', once inside you feel you are far from the madding crowds," said Avijit Dasgupta, a Londoner who spends a staycation here whenever he is visiting his parents in Kolkata.

Italian gets back purse left in app cab

Kolkata: The police with help from cyber cell helped a young Italian national get back her national ID card, flat keys and important documents which she had reportedly left behind inside an app cab.

On Aug 4 Gaia Punzo, an Italian citizen working for an NGO in Kolkata, lost her purse and hand wallet in an Uber cab. "A rider who boarded the cab after Gaia found the pouch and handed it over to sergeant Arpan Aditya of Charu Market PS who sought help from sergeant Suvankar Chakraborty, OC Cyber Cell South Division. Chakraborty contacted Uber authorities and traced Gaia on Thursday," said cops. Gaia was told to visit the cyber cell, where she was handed over her pouch. TNN

Mirrors, speed guns to curb bike accidents

Dwaipayan Ghosh | timesofindia.com

Kolkata: A bike accident last month at the Mukundapur-Bypass crossing in the Survey Park police station area, that claimed the life of a 17-year-old boy riding a sports bike at a high speed, has led Kolkata traffic police to launch a series of steps on the EM Bypass from Thursday that are aimed at curbing bike accidents on this stretch.

This will include setting up convex mirrors for greater visibility, increasing the number of speed guns, ensuring pedestrian barriers and relaying lane markings for merging traffic. Since the minor's de-

ath, the stretch has witnessed four other major accidents on this stretch.

The traffic department, with help from other agencies, has set up convex mirrors across all metro stations on this stretch. Cops have also initiated the process for tenders for setting up the speed cameras.

Currently, advanced technology cameras are installed at seven locations on the Bypass to curb over speeding. But four more spots have been identified where cops will be setting up the new speed cameras. However, the exact number of cameras to be installed at these four locations has not yet been finalized.

B'deshi teens go missing from shelter

Kolkata: Two Bangladeshi teenagers from a shelter home have mysteriously gone missing while on their way to school in Kolkata. One of them is a minor (16) while the other is 18, said a police officer. The incident, which took place last weekend, has led cops to contact the deputy high commissioner's office and alert police stations and BSF at the borders.

Kolkata Police sources said the incident was reported on Aug 3 afternoon from Entally area, close to Sealdah PS. Based on a complaint from the shelter home authorities, Entally police have filed a kidnapping case and started an investigation. However, even after so many hours, there is still no trace of the two. TNN

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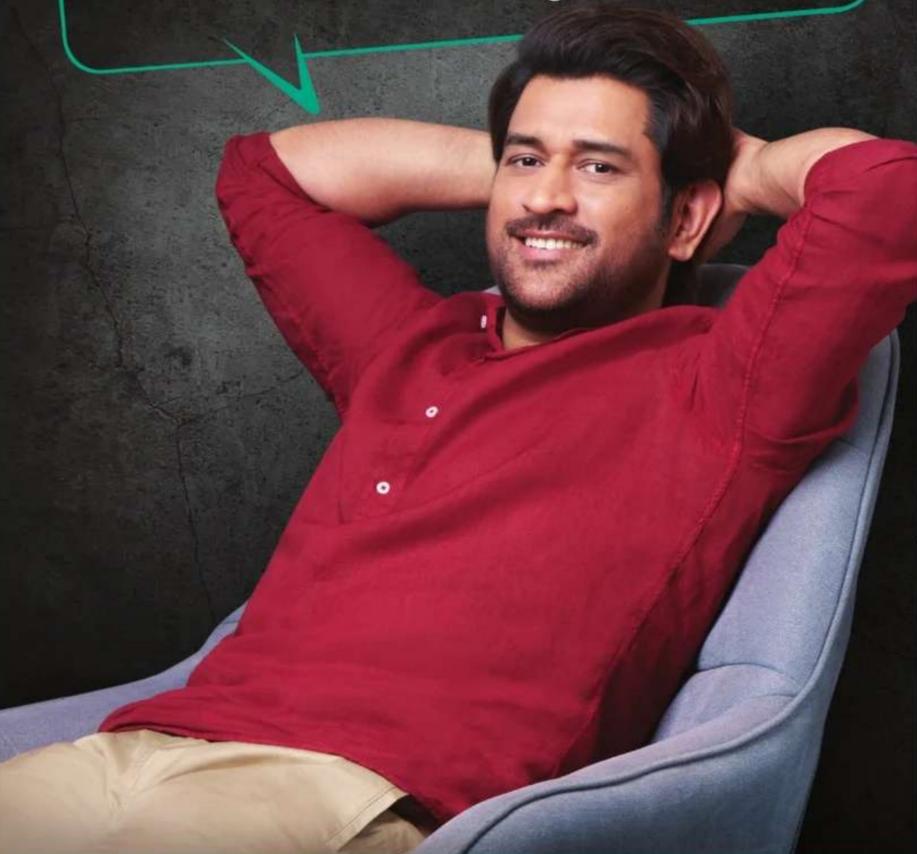


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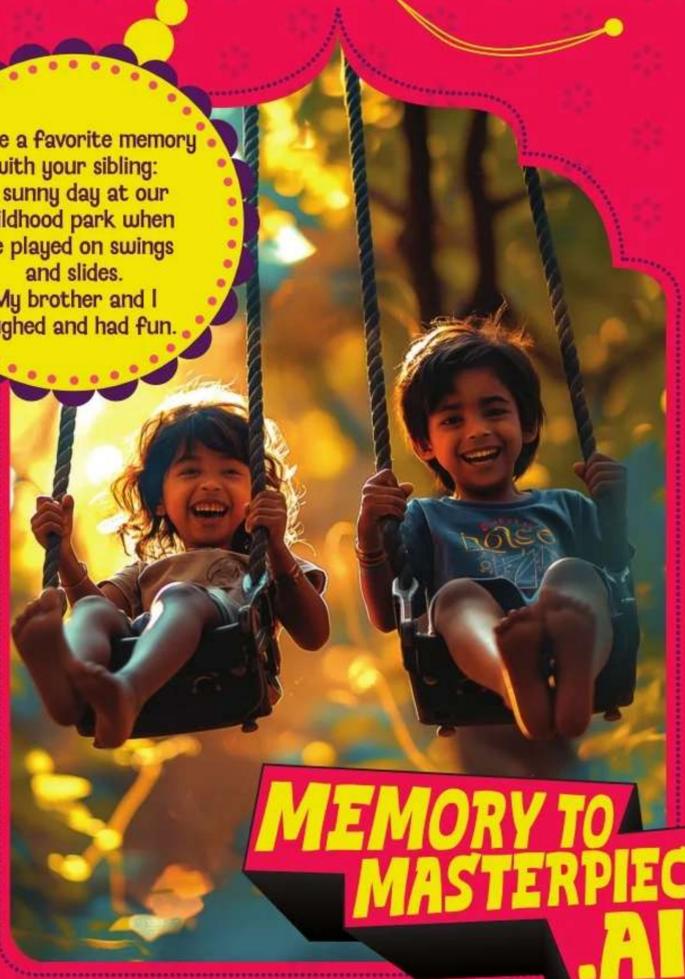
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Auction Catalogue No. TSK-ADVT-RDN-10

Seq No.	Lot No./Category	Description
AA1	Advt-TSK-TSK-OSD-209-24-1 (Advertising-On Station Premise (Digital))	Rail Display Network Contract (RDN) through Supply, Installation, Operation and Maintenance of Video Wall of (size 6' x 4') at 33 stations at Namtiali, Titabar, Amguri, Selenghat, Nakachari, Golaghat, Bhalukmara, Barabamungaon, Numaligarh, Furkating, Kamarbandha Ali, Dulajian, Naharkatia, Namrup, Borhat, Sapekhati, Bhojo, Lakva, Simaluguri, Tinsukia, Makum, Digboi, Margherita, Ledo, Chabua, Panitola, Khowang, Dhamalgaon, Dikom, Lahowal, Chalkhowa, Moranhat, Sivasagar Town with scope of display of advertisements along with railway messages in 50:50 Time Slot / Space sharing
AA2	Advt-TSK-JTTN-OSD-159-24-1 (Advertising-On Station Premise (Digital))	Commercial Advertising LCD/LED (7 Nos. of TVs) at Jorhat Town Railway Station

Auction Start Date & Time: 10.00 hrs. of 27-08-2024 Auction Close Date & Time: 10.40 hrs. of 27-08-2024. Prospective bidders are requested to visit E-Auction Leasing Module on IREPS website www.ireps.gov.in
Divisional Railway Manager (C), Tinsukia
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
Serving Customers With A Smile

RAIL COACH FACTORY, KAPURTHALA
On-line bids are invited by PCMM, RCF on behalf of President of India for following items:-

Sr.	Tender No. and Due Date	Description	Quantity (Nos./Sets)	EMD (Rs.)
1.	13245238A/05/09/2024	The cost of basic machine i.e. BOGIE LOAD TESTING MACHINE as per Specification No. Mech/Project/438/6, Pre-Bid Conference date: 21/08/24, PL No./Item Code: 65901522019	02 Nos.	2,32,450/-
2.	12241316/02/09/2024	1. Supply of one coach set of Aluminium Extrusion/Moulding for LHB SCN Amrit Bharat coach.	220 Set	17,11,850/-
3.	17241406/26/08/2024	Set of Aluminium Components for ACP Roof Paneling for LHB SCN Amrit Bharat Coaches	220 Set	69,580/-
4.	14241126/30/08/2024	PU PAINTS FOR VANDE BHARAT COACHES	320 Set	10,19,520/-
5.	17241400/09/09/2024	Supply, Installation, Testing And Commissioning Of Automatic Smoke/Fire Detection With Alarm System For Non Air Conditioned Memu Rakes.	25 Set	12,58,790/-
6.	17241364/06/09/2024	One Rake Set Of AC Duct Assembly For Vande Bharat Coaches	14 Set	20,00,000/-
7.	17241394/04/09/2024	Set of FRP Modular Toilet For LHB SCN And GS Coaches	400 Set	20,00,000/-
8.	14241122A/30/08/2024	Fire Extinguisher Without Anti-Theft System	1000 Nos.	3,59,900/-
9.	14241105/03/09/2024	PVC Flooring Roll 2x1620x1600MM	1280 Nos.	4,96,360/-
10.	14241133/03/09/2024	Argon Gas GR.I in Cylinders	19961 Cum	77,730/-
11.	01241271/05/09/2024	Air Spring Control Equipment (For Double Ferrule Fittings LHB Bogie)	1720 Set	20,00,000/-
12.	01241283/09-09-2024	Primary Spring For NAC LHB Coach (three Types)	8280 Nos	17,96,680/-
13.	01241296/09/09/2024	Bogie Bolster With In Built Reservoir for Memu	366 Nos	5,37,450/-
14.	01241201A/05/09/2024	Set of Control Equipment Items (Bogie) For 3-phase MEMU/DMC & TC Bogie	496 Nos	4,99,420/-
15.	05241624/04-09-2024	SET OF CARLINE ASSEMBLY	58 Sets	140,030/-
16.	01241288/10/09/2024	SET OF PIN FOR LHB BOGIE	671 Sets	72,840/-
17.	02241502/30/08/2024	Prewired Pump Controller and Set of Contractor	632 Nos	2,75,580/-

1. For details and making on-line bids, visit website <http://ireps.gov.in>. Drawings/specifications, wherever required can be downloaded from RCF website <http://www.rcf.indianrailways.gov.in>. Class III-b digital signature certificate required for on-line bidding, can be obtained from licensed certifying agencies listed at <http://www.cca.gov.in>. 2. Tenders will close for at 14.25 Hrs. and tenders will be opened at 14.30 hrs on due date. Tender for Sr no. 1 to 10 will be opened at RCF Kapurthala and Sr. no. 11 to 17 will be opened at Tilak Bridge, New Delhi 3. For queries, contact IREPS Helpdesk at 011-24102855, 011-24105180 or RCF helpdesk at 011-23378658.
PCMM
CORRIGENDUM-1. Tender No.: 13245149, Due Date to be read as "20/08/24" instead of "05/08/24"; 2. Tender No.: 05241551, Due Date to be read as "09/08/24" instead of "02/08/24"; 3. Tender No.: 1424102A, Due on 20.08.2024. Regarding: Terms & conditions: Additional terms & Conditions incorporated., 4. Tender No.: 17241114, Due Date to be read as "20/08/24" instead of "06/08/24"; 5. Tender No.: 12241215A, Due Date to be read as "28/08/24" instead of "21/08/24"; EMD to be read as "519020" instead of "89770", Quantity to be read as "77438" instead of "13394"; 6. Tender No.: 05231141B, Due Date to be read as "14/08/24" instead of "07/08/24", Quantity to be read as "1584 Set" instead of "1022 Set", Eligibility to be read as "Set of Pipe Sealing Kit For Lavatory of LHB AC Coaches, As Per Drawing: MPLPSK/LHBAC Version 3, Packing Instruction: As Per Standard Packing. It Should Be Ensured That Item Should Not Rub During Transportation. The Item Should Be Packed With Adequate Strength. Transit Damage, If Any, Shall Be At The Cost Of Supplier. [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery]" instead of "Set of Pipe Sealing Kit For Lavatory of LHB AC Coaches, As Per Drawing: MPLPS Klbac Version 3 Installation And Commissioning Inclusive and Follow ICB/MD/SPEC-355 Issue Stat.US:01 REV:00 Date 11/08/2018 With Amendment Nos. 2 Dated 03/01/2022., Packing Instruction: As Per Standard Packing. It Should Be Ensured That Item Should Not Rub During Transportation. The Item Should Be Packed With Adequate Strength. Transit Damage, If Any, Shall Be At The Cost Of Supplier. [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery]"; 7. Tender No.: 17231585A, Due Date to be read as "20/08/24" instead of "09/08/24";
PCMM
No. 55-S/2024-25 Date: 08.08.2024

PROVISION OF OHE MODIFICATION WORK
E-Tender Notice No. RT-RT-EL-RNY-TRD-01-24-25. E-Tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works: **Name of work:** At Rangiya Division: Provision of OHE modification work for proposed RUB/LHS at RM/42, RM/176, RM/177 & RM/251. **Tender Value:** ₹ 1,82,95,772.20. **Earnest Money:** ₹ 2,41,500/-. **Date & Time of closing of tender:** 15.00 hrs. of 27-08-2024. The complete information with the tender document of above e-tender will be available in website www.ireps.gov.in
Sr.DEE, Rangiya
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
Serving Customers With A Smile

NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY
E-AUCTION NOTICE
Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager, North Eastern Railway, Lucknow invites E-Auction for following work. **Admin Unit/Zone:** Lucknow-NER-Division-Commercial/North Eastern Railway **Auction catalogue No./Lot no.:** LJM-MA-EXT-INT Catalogue Published on: 05-08-2024 at 13:08 Hrs. **Auction Start (All Lots) :** 21-08-2024 at 13:00 hrs **Auction close Date/Time :** 21-08-2024 at 17:20 hrs **Auction Type :** Closed **Ended Website particulars where complete details of auction can be made by registered bidders :** E-Auction Module of www.ireps.gov.in
Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager CPRO/C-96 Lucknow
DO NOT SMOKE BIDI/CIGARETTE IN TRAINS

Government of West Bengal
Notice Inviting e-Tender
Tender ID 2024_WBP_728673_1 DATED-06/08/2024 Work Title: Supply of Spare Parts Article / Item for M&M BOLERO / MAXX SUPRO AMBULANCE for the financial Year 2024-2025 Bid Closing Date: 21/08/2024 at 16.00 Hrs. For more details Log on to: www.wbtenders.gov.in
Sr./ Superintendent of Police Bankura
Memo No-473/2/AD/VIDCO/BNK DL-08-08-2024

ENGINEERING WORK
E-TENDER NOTICE No. 44-ENGRNY-2024-25. E-tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following work: **Tender No. 1: Brief Description of Item:** Supply of 50 mm size machine crushed stone Pakur ballast against work "Rangiya Jn.-North Lakhimpur-Recruitment of Ballast (Loop Lines)-34.660 Tkm." **Tender Value:** ₹ 3,19,88,424.96; **Earnest Money:** ₹ 3,10,000.00. **E-tenders will be closed at 15:00 hrs. on 29-08-2024 and Opened at 15:30 hrs. on 29-08-2024** at office of the Divisional Railway Manager (Works), Rangiya. The complete information with the tender document of above e-tender will be available in website www.ireps.gov.in
DRM (Works), Rangiya
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
Serving Customers with a smile

The West Bengal Power Development Corporation Limited
(A Govt. of West Bengal Enterprise)
Corporate Identity No. U40104WB1985SGC039154
Bakreswar Thermal Power Project
P.O. BKTPT, Dist. - Birbhum, Pin - 731104
NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER
Ref. No.: WBPDC/Tend-Adv/24-25/BKTP/CC-2195 Date: 05.08.2024
NIT No.: WBPDC/IKT/PS/NIT/E3234/24-25
E-Tenders in prescribed format are invited at <https://wbtenders.gov.in> by the General Manager, KTPS, WBPDC from eligible Agencies/Companies in 2 Part bid system for "Procurement of Machine Crushed Stone Ballast (50 mm size) for Railway Track under Civil-IPH Dept. at BKTPT." **Tender Document Download Start Date:** 10.08.2024 at 10.00 hrs. **Bid Submission End Date:** 02.09.2024 at 15:00 hrs. **Contact Person:** Mr. Sumit Dasgupta, Senior Manager, HOD (Purchase Dept.), BKTPT, WBPDC. **Mobile:** 8336904051. **E-mail:** cc_ktps@wbpdc.co.in / purchase_ktps@wbpdc.co.in For details please visit: <https://wbtenders.gov.in>
ICA-1136713/2024

The West Bengal Power Development Corporation Limited
(A Govt. of West Bengal Enterprise)
Corporate Identity No. U40104WB1985SGC039154
Kolkata Thermal Power Station
P.O. Mecheda, Dist. Purba Medinipur, Pin - 721137
Notice Inviting E-Tender
Ref. No.: WBPDC/Tend-Adv/24-25/KTPS/CC-2161 Date: 01.08.2024
NIT No.: WBPDC/IKT/PS/NIT/E3058/24-25
E-Tenders in prescribed format are invited at <https://wbtenders.gov.in> by the General Manager, KTPS, WBPDC from eligible Agencies/Companies in 2 part bid system for "Renovation & Life enhancement of 4 ABCD Conveyor Gallery Structure and Track Hopper Structure at KTPS." **Tender Document Download Start Date:** 10.08.2024 at 11:00 AM. **Bid Submission End Date:** 06.09.2024 at 15:30 PM. **Contact Person:** Mr. Subhas Das, Telephone No.: 8336904051. **E-mail:** cc_ktps@wbpdc.co.in For details please visit: <https://wbtenders.gov.in>
ICA-1136801/2024

The West Bengal Power Development Corporation Limited
(A Govt. of West Bengal Enterprise)
Corporate Identity No. U40104WB1985SGC039154
Kolkata Thermal Power Station
P.O. Mecheda, Dist. Purba Medinipur, Pin - 721137
Notice Inviting E-Tender
Ref. No.: WBPDC/Tend-Adv/24-25/KTPS/CC-2160 Date: 01.08.2024
NIT No.: WBPDC/IKT/PS/NIT/E3059/24-25
E-Tenders in prescribed format are invited at <https://wbtenders.gov.in> by the General Manager, KTPS, WBPDC from eligible Agencies/Companies in 2 part bid system for "Life enhancement for Power House Roof of Stage-II (Unit-5 & 6) KTPS." **Tender Document Download Start Date:** 12.08.2024 at 11:00 AM. **Bid Submission End Date:** 10.09.2024 at 15:30 PM. **Contact Person:** Mr. Subhas Das, Telephone No.: 8336904051. **E-mail:** cc_ktps@wbpdc.co.in For details please visit: <https://wbtenders.gov.in>
ICA-1136811/2024

CHITTARANJAN LOCOMOTIVE WORKS
OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE
No.: COS/CRJ/PUB/e-Tender/19/0162, Date: 06/08/2024. The following e-Tenders can be accessed under the link www.ireps.gov.in.
Officers for such e-Tender can be submitted only electronically by accessing the link www.ireps.gov.in → login → E-Tender Stores/Supply. Vendors may also contact the following officials to obtain clarification regarding particular tender or IREPS related information if any, Dy.CMM/HQ/CLW/Chittaranjan, 0341-2525594 or SMM/CON/HQ, 0341-2535631.
Office Address: Office of the PCMM/CLW/Chittaranjan, SI. No.;
Tender No.; Brief Description of Item; Quantity; Earnest Money Deposit (Rupees); **Tender Closing Date & Time (IST)** are as follows: [1]; 75243790; Supply and Installation of Waterless urinal for 3-Phase electric locomotives as per RDSO Specification No./FRS No.: RDSO/2023/EL/FRS/0034 (Rev. '0) issued in February-2023. [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery]; 250.00 Numbers; ₹ 15,22,790.00; 28/08/2024 at 11:00 AM. [2]; 75243844; Hex Head Bolt for Side-Buffer for WAG-9HC Loco M27 x 200/134 x 3P to IS : 1364 (Part-1) : 2002, Product Grade "B" Zn. Plated Specn. MATL-STEEL Property Class 10.9 as per IS : 1364 (Part-1) : 2002. Technical supply Condition as per IS : 1367 (Part-3) : 2002. (Each set of a Loco set consisting of 16 Nos. as per Set details attached). [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery]; 857.00 Set; ₹ 0.00; 30/08/2024 at 11:00 AM. [3]; 75243831; Saddle Light Staff for WAG-9HC (As per set details attached). [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery]; 887.00 Set; ₹ 0.00; 30/09/2024 at 11:00 AM. [4]; 75243748; Axle Box Bearing [CRU-150] for WAG-9HC Loco as per Drg. No.: 1209-01.311-061, Alt.-1, [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery]; 10427.00 Numbers; ₹ 20,00,000.00; 30/08/2024 at 11:00 AM. [PR4/572]
PCMM/CLW/Chittaranjan
Like us on: www.facebook.com/clwrailways

A twisted tale of kidnapping gone wrong done right

CINEMA OF THE WEEK
Aliya Basu Gayab Hai (Thriller) ★★★★★
Cast: Vinay Pathak, Raima Sen, Salim Diwan
Direction: Preeti Singh
Duration: 1 hour 43 minutes
Language: Hindi (A)

Aliya Basu (Raima Sen), a daughter of a wealthy businessman, finds herself kidnapped by two goons. But what starts as a simple case of kidnapping for ransom, soon turns into a diabolical game of greed and betrayal.

This twisted thriller revolves around just three characters whose actions define their fate. Vikram Singh (Vinay Pathak) and Deepak Kumar (Salim Diwan) hatch what they think is a fool-proof plan. They abduct Aliya Basu, the daughter of a rich business tycoon and take her to an undisclosed location, hoping to get a hefty ransom for her release. But do they really know who Aliya is beyond her last name? Clearly, it's a hurriedly put together plan and the men are in for a rude surprise. Revealing anything more than this about the plot would be equal to giving away the spoilers.
Let's just say director Preeti Singh and writers J Blakeston and Gibran Noorani lace a seemingly straightforward story with unexpected twists and turns that are also unpredictable. And that remains the biggest highlight of this modest budget thriller that often leaves its viewer guessing about what will happen next. While the story is restricted between just three central characters, it ends up exploring a range of possibilities between them. Singh keeps her cards close to her chest till the very end unraveling the layers, with one twist at a time.
Vinay Pathak as the more dominant bad guy and the mastermind of the crime does most of the heavy lifting. The actor, who is known for his effortless comic timing, is equally good here as a dangerous kidnapper,



who isn't sure of what he is capable of. Raima Sen is convincing and effective in her role of a beleaguered woman trapped in a very uncomfortable situation. But the actress does rise to the occasion when it comes to showing the strength of her character. Salim Diwan, with all the shades of his character had a huge scope to perform. However, the actor doesn't go beyond a few expressions to convey the range of his character. Surprisingly, it works in his favor as his character is a mix of gullibility and danger. While the entire film revolves around the kidnapping of Aliya Basu, a little more contextual fleshing out with some backstory of each character would help the audience connect better with the overall premise. The background score complements the proceedings while the lack of any unnecessary detours like songs helps maintain the pace of this taut thriller.
Aliya Basu Gayab Hai may not revolutionise the thriller genre, but it certainly knows how to play its cards right. With a tight plot, unexpected twists, and strong performances, the film keeps you on the edge of your seat minus the unnecessary theatrics or bloodshed. It's a smart, suspenseful ride that proves even a modestly scaled thriller can pack a punch.
— Ronak Kotecha

To review any movie and check show timings, visit etimes.in

It Ends With Us (Drama, Romance) ★★★★★
Cast: Blake Lively, Justin Baldoni, Brandon Sklenar, Hasan Minhaj, Jenny Slate
Direction: Justin Baldoni
Duration: 2 hours 10 minutes
Language: English (A)

Based on Colleen Hoover's bestseller, the love triangle-drama follows florist Lily Bloom (Blake Lively), as she embarks on a new life journey in Boston to get over a lingering past trauma. A chance encounter with the charming Ryle Kincaid (Justin Baldoni) makes her optimistic about love and happiness but there's more to him than meets the eye.

While grappling with her new life, she stumbles upon her first love, Atlas Corrigan (Brandon Sklenar) and childhood memories come rushing back. Some precious, some best left forgotten. Making choices lie at the heart of this tale. As the story oscillates between past and present, you discover the life that Lily envisions for herself and the life she wants to leave behind. You don't need to be Sherlock to guess what 'It' stands for in the title. The buck stops with you. You can put an end to generational trauma when you decide to not tolerate the disrespect that's normalised in the family. No matter how passionate the love, domestic violence should be off limits and a deal breaker. Anubhav Sinha's Hindi film Thappad drove this point home.
Actor-director Justin Baldoni makes a faithful adaptation that's melancholic, triggering, empowering, sexy and reflective.



Despite the predictable story, events unfold like a slow burn thriller. Good-looking men are often tactfully used in cinema to show a mirror to our bias towards outer beauty. Women lusting for You's Penn Badgley being an ideal example. Baldoni smartly navigates and explores this aspect, never forgiving or trivialising the violence, nor misinterpreting it as passion but it all feels a tad soapy. This is emotionally heavy and certainly not a breezy watch.
Blake Lively anchors this film and sadly falls short of doing justice to the most important character - Lily. A story this layered, deserved a much stronger actor who doesn't wander around like a spectator in their own story. Despite her gorgeous lively presence, she is extremely limited as an actor and that strips the film of its depth. It all feels a tad superficial because her performance is unable to evoke deep emotions, empathy or strength.
The gaze feels like it's a bit too obsessed with Blake's beauty than her ability to bring a character to life. If you don't look for relatability, you won't mind watching this one more for the glamour than the substance.
— Renuka Vyavahare

RATING SCALE
TRASH ★ | BELOW AVERAGE ★★ | AVERAGE ★★★ | ABOVE AVERAGE ★★★★ | GOOD ★★★★★
VERY GOOD ★★★★★ | OUTSTANDING ★★★★★ | MASTERPIECE ★★★★★

The West Bengal Power Development Corporation Limited
(A Govt. of West Bengal Enterprise)
Corporate Identity No. U40104WB1985SGC039154
Kolkata Thermal Power Station
P.O. Mecheda, Dist. Purba Medinipur, Pin - 721137
Notice Inviting E-Tender
Ref. No.: WBPDC/Tend-Adv/24-25/KTPS/CC-2165 Date: 02.08.2024
NIT No.: WBPDC/IKT/PS/NIT/E3063/24-25
E-Tenders in prescribed format are invited at <https://wbtenders.gov.in> by the General Manager, KTPS, WBPDC from eligible Agencies/Companies in 2 Part bid system for "Operation of Pumps, Valves, Gates of Drainage PH, Zero Discharge PH etc. Cleaning of Oil etc. from Drains Pits etc. at KTPS." **Tender Document Download Start Date:** 12.08.2024 at 11:00 AM. **Bid Submission End Date:** 10.09.2024 at 15:30 PM. **Contact Person:** Mr. Subhas Das, Telephone No.: 8336904051. **E-mail:** cc_ktps@wbpdc.co.in For details please visit: <https://wbtenders.gov.in>
ICA-1136773/2024

KONKAN RAILWAY CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Government of India Undertaking)
NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER
Principal Chief Engineer, Konkan Railway Corporation Ltd., invites Open Tender in Single bid system through E-Tendering on IREPS portal from eligible contractors for the following work. **Name of Work:** Supplying and stacking of 50 mm size Pakur variety machine crushed track ballast for Jayanagar (India) to Kurtha (Nepal) Railway section. **Tender Notice No.: KR-W-1-58-2024-14. Estimated Cost:** Rs. 1,60,89,904/- excluding GST. **Closing Date/Time:** 23.08.2024 up to 15:00 hrs for submission of online Offers/Bids. **Completion period:** Three months including monsoon. Manual offers shall not be accepted. Please visit <https://ireps.gov.in> website for details / participation. Corrigendum / addendum will be hosted in this website only.

IRCON INTERNATIONAL LIMITED
NAVRATNA COMPANY
(A Govt. of India Undertaking)
Website: www.iron.org.in / 45203DL1976G008171
e-Procurement Notice
e-Tender No.: IRCON/2026/GRP/e-TENDER/24-25/Gevra-Pendra/BSP-66 Dated: 08.08.2024
e-Tender for and on behalf of Chhattisgarh East-West Railway Limited (CEWRL) on invitation of bidders meeting qualifying requirements for the work of "Construction of Bridge No. 1C, 2C, 2D, 2C 152, 15D, 20B and 16 for connectivity of Junadli Augmentation work & Dipka Siding to CEWRL Main Line in connection with the construction of New BG Electrified Double Railway Line for Chhattisgarh East West Rail Corridor from Gevra Road (Km 0) to Pendra Road (Km 135) in the state of Chhattisgarh East West Central Railway."
Estimated Cost of the work ₹ 21,27,51,200.63/-
Last Date & Time of Bid Submission 29.08.2024 up to 15:00 Hrs. (IST)
For further details, visit website <https://ireps.gov.in> e-procurement page. Corrigendum, if any, would be hosted only on the website. **1* Floor, The ARK, Link Road, Opposite Zudio, Bileasipur, Chhattisgarh-495001**

TAMILNADU NEWSPRINT AND PAPERS LIMITED
Unit - 1 : Kagithapuram - 639 136. Karur Dist. Tamil Nadu. Ph.: 04324 - 277001 (10 Lines)
Unit - 2 : Mondipatti - 621 306, Trichy District, Tamil Nadu, Ph.: 04332 - 261600
NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

Tender No.	Scope of work	Due date
242513 002653	Supply, Erection and Commissioning of Wet Lime Based Flue Gas Desulphurisation System for 1 X 125 TPH AFBC Boiler under RSPS#2 at TNPL Unit-II.	09.09.2024
242513 002591	TNPL Copier A4-70 GSM & A4-80 GSM 10 Reams Carton Lid and Tray	22.08.2024
242513 002592	Procurement of Sodium Sulphate for Unit - I	22.08.2024
242513 002608	Procurement of CS Pipe, Solf Flanges & Elbows.	22.08.2024
242523 001640	Cross Linker for Board Machine (CCK) of TNPL Unit-II.	26.08.2024
242523 001641	ASA Sizing Chemical for Board Machine (CCK) of TNPL Unit-II.	27.08.2024
242523 001642	To Run Oxidizing Biocide Program including bolout on package cost basis for Board machine (CCK) of TNPL Unit-II.	24.08.2024

242513002653 - pmd@tnpl.co.in
242513002591 - purchase.packing@tnpl.co.in
242513002592 - purchase.rawmat@tnpl.co.in
242513002608 - purchase.enggspare@tnpl.co.in
242523001640, 1641, 1642 - purchaserm.u2@tnpl.co.in
Corrigendum if any will be issued in TNPL Website and NIC Portal only. Detailed requirements, Period, Terms & conditions, Tender fee, EMD, etc., are available in the tender document which can be downloaded from website: <https://tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app>
DIPR/2854/Tender/2024 TNPL - Maker of bagasse based eco-friendly Paper

MAHESHTALA MUNICIPALITY
P.O. - Maheshtala, Dist.- South 24 Parganas, PIN - 700141
Phone : (033) 2490 1651, 2490 3389
Email : maheshtalamunicipality@gmail.com
Abridged Tender Notice

Sl. No.	NIT	Work description	Last date of download and submission of tender
1	MAD/MM/NIT-10/24-25/SI-1 & 2	Laying of pipeline under W-2, 34	23/08/2024 at 3:00 p.m.
2	MAD/MM/NIT-13/24-25/SI-1 to 11	Patch repairing different location under W-13, 14, 15	20/08/2024 at 3:00 p.m.
3	MAD/MM/NIT-14/24-25/SI-1 to 14	Different civil related work under W-2, 3, 7, 13, 14, 15, 19, 35	23/08/2024 at 3:00 p.m.

Details may be had from the <http://wbtenders.gov.in> Chairman

RELIANCE NAVAL AND ENGINEERING LIMITED
TENDER NOTICE
Tender is invited by RNEL from experience and reputed contractors for dredging work at Pipavay Shipyard Basin, located in Amreli dist. Gujarat for the following scope of work

Sl. No.	Parameters	Details
1	Scope of Work	Dredging of Pipavay Shipyard Basin using Grab/Bachhoe for removal of 7,50,000 cu.m. of silt
2	Advertisement of Tenders	09.08.2024 at www.swan.co.in in procurement section
3	Last date of receipt of Final bid	14.08.2024 up to 1500 Hrs. RNEL, Mumbai
4	Opening of Techno-Commercial B	

EAM JAISHANKAR ON 3-DAY MALDIVES TOUR FROM TODAY

FAKE AUDIO CLIP OF CM BIREN BEING CIRCULATED: MANIPUR

Govt set to have RS numbers for waqf bill in Nov-Dec sitting

NDA Will Be 2 Shy Of Majority In House Of 237

Vishwa.Mohan
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Govt may not face difficulty in getting the Waqf (Amendment) Bill passed in Rajya Sabha when it comes up for consideration in the next Parliament session in Nov-Dec as NDA is expected to have adequate numbers in the Upper House by then.

In addition to the alliance's wins in elections to 12 Rajya Sabha seats on Sept 3, govt will also have the advantage of nominated members if it gets the four vacant seats filled before the next session. The four nominated member seats fell vacant last month.

Four more nominated members on board means govt may not need the support of BJP-friendly parties such as AIADMK (four members) to reach the majority mark in the Upper House.

The NDA tally, along with six existing nominated members and two independents, is expected to reach 117 after the



Apart from election to 12 RS seats slated for Sept 3, NDA will also have the advantage of nominated members if it fills the four vacant seats

upcoming polls — just two short of the majority mark of 119 in the House of 237, factoring in eight vacancies including four each from Jammu & Kashmir and the nominated category.

If govt fills the four nominated seats, the House strength will be 241 and the majority mark will be 121. Since nominated members invariably go with govt, NDA's strength will increase from 117 to 121 — the exact majority mark. BJP has 87 members in the Upper House. This number will increase to 94 with party candidates expected to win in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Odisha, Tripura, Assam, Maharashtra and Bi-

har. Its allies may win in Bihar and Maharashtra.

The Sept 3 polls will also work for Congress as the party will get one seat in Telangana, taking its tally to 27 — two more than what it needs to retain the leader of opposition post in Rajya Sabha. With 26 members now, leader of oppo-

► **Related report, P 26**

sition Mallikarjun Kharge's fate hangs by a thread.

Ten of the 12 seats going to polls on Sept 3 fell vacant as sitting BJP, Congress and RJD members from seven states were elected to Lok Sabha while one member each from Telangana and Odisha re-

Waqf bill latest in series to be sent to joint House panel

The Waqf (Amendment) Bill is the latest in a series of key draft legislation to be referred to a joint committee of Parliament since 2015. Amid objections by various opposition parties on its provisions, govt on Thursday decided to refer the bill to a joint panel. The bills referred to joint panels include the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement (Second Amendment) Bill, 2015, the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2015, the Enforcement of Security Interest and Recovery of Debts Laws and Miscellaneous Provisions (Amendment) Bill, 2016, and the Bill to Amend The Citizenship Act, 1955.

signed and switched over to other parties.

In Telangana, Bharat Rashtra Samithi member K Keshava Rao resigned and joined Congress while BJD member from Odisha Mamata Mohanta quit and joined BJP.

Bill brings in DMs as oversight on crucial decision whether property is waqf asset

► **Continued from P 1**

The legislation has been dubbed "communal" by Muslim bodies and politicians, and appears to be aimed at warding off controversies sparked by contentious legislations; for instance, the one brought for farm sector reforms.

Rijju's announcement also came as a surprise because the support for the legislation from BJP's 'secular' allies TDP and JD(U), which are wary of appearing to be insensitive to Muslim causes, guaranteed passage of the law which has done away with the provision requiring CEOs and members of Waqf Boards to be Muslims. Instead, it has brought in district ma-



Samajwadi Party MP Akhilesh Yadav speaks in LS on Thursday

gistrates as an oversight on the crucial decision on whether a particular property is to be declared a waqf asset.

The bill also makes cases related to waqf properties subject to the 'statute of limitations', thus addressing the complaint that the boards could arbitrarily declare any property, no matter how old, as belonging to waqf.

Defending the govt amid

protests from the opposition, TDP's G M Harish Balyogi said his party believes that registration of property as proposed in this bill would help poor Muslims and women by bringing transparency. "The purpose of the donors needs to be protected. But when the purpose and the power get misused, it becomes the responsibility of the govt to bring in reforms and introduce transparency," he said.

JD-U's Rajiv Ranjan Singh 'Lalan', animal husbandry and panchayat raj minister, dismissed opposition's charges as an attempt to mislead people and said the legislation aimed to bring transparency in the functioning of Waqf Boards. Referring to a comparison drawn by Congress with

the Ayodhya and Guruvayur temple boards, the JD(U) leader said the analogy was incorrect as the Waqf bill sought to regulate the functioning of an organisation and not interfere with the administration of a mosque.

The stand of the two allies, TDP (16 MPs) and JD-U (12), which together add 28 MPs to BJP's 240 along with seven of Shiv Sena and five of LJP, among others, should guarantee passage of the bill in LS once it has been examined by the joint parliamentary committee. The govt is comfortably placed in Rajya Sabha, too. While Shrikant Shinde of Shiv Sena spoke strongly in favour of the bill, the Uddhav Thackeray faction was conspicuous by its silence.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, MD. SADRUL HASAN, S/o Mohammed Alauddin at 31/5, Mahendra Roy Lane, Gobinda Khatic Road, Kolkata-700046, have changed my name from MOHAMMED SADRUL HASAN to MD. SADRUL HASAN vide an AFFIDAVIT NO. 17969 Judicial Magistrate 1st Class Alipore dt. 05.08.2024. Both Name is same person.

Before the Ld. District Delegate at Alipore, South 24-Parganas Act 39 Case (P) No. 342 of 2023
Estate of Shyam Sundar Khemka(deceased)
-And-
Smt. Priti Dalmia & AnrApplicants
NOTICE is hereby given to all that Smt. Priti Dalmia wife Shri Sanjay Dalmia of Block-E, 92N New Alipore, Kolkata - 700053 and Smt. Shruji Bhartiya wife of Shri Ravi Bhartiya of Urbana, Tower 2, Apartment 1102, 783, Anandapur, Kolkata - 700107 have applied for grant of Probate of the Last Will and Testament dated 10.01.2003 of SHYAM SUNDAR KHEMKA, since deceased, son of late Parmeshwar Lal Khemka, lately residing at Flat No. 1A on the 1st Floor of 18B, Mayfair Road, Kolkata - 700019, being the named Executors thereof. Anybody having objection against the grant of probate, may bring forward in writing before the Ld. Court within 30 days of this Notice, otherwise the matter will be heard exparte.
By Order
Shreshthadar of the Ld. District Delegate at Alipore

NOTICE TO SALE
Notice is hereby given that my clients, Samir Chanda & others are negotiating to purchase the land admeasuring 76 Decimals, corresponding L.R. Dag No-2097 (area 70 Dec.) and L.R. Dag No-2095 (area 6 Dec.), under L.R. Khatian No - 3512, 3513 & 8255, of Mouja-Hariharpur, J.L. No-40, Under Barasat Municipality, Ward No-30, Holding No. 26/C Jessore Road (South), P.S.-Barasat, North-24 Parganas, Kolkata-700127, from its owners Avinandan Sales Pvt. Ltd. & Paramhans Vyapaar Pvt. Ltd.
All persons having any claim in respect of the above land by way of Sale, Exchange, Mortgage, Charge, Lien, Gift, Trust, Possession, Lease, License, or otherwise nature, are hereby requested to make known the undersigned in writing with all documents, within 7 days from publication, failing which such claims/considered as waived.
Mijanur Rahaman (Advocate)
Barasat Court
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A-Z of Cardiac Care under one roof

In the past decade, the incidence of cardiac ailments has surged significantly. Simultaneously, technological advancements have made remarkable strides, enabling treatments that once required open-heart surgery to be performed without a single incision. Let's explore further.

Q. What are the common cardiac ailments?
A. There are 4 types of cardiac ailments: 1. Coronary Artery Disease where plaque gets deposited inside the coronary artery causing reduced blood flow to our heart muscles. 2. Disruption of our heart rhythm which leads to irregular heart rate. 3. Impairment of the natural heart valves. 4. Congenital heart disease where there is a defect in the heart from birth.

Q. What are the treatment options?
A. CAD can be treated with Angioplasty or Bypass

Q. How has technology augmented clinical outcomes?
A. Modern Cath Labs offer facilities like Intravascular Lithotripsy to fracture heavily calcified plaque. In cases of complete blockage, specialized guidewires and balloons can now deploy stents, providing an alternative to bypass surgery. Additionally, some valve disorders and congenital heart defects can be treated without the need for surgery. This ensures minimal post-operative pain, bleeding, lowers risk of infection, resulting in faster recovery. B.P. Poddar Hospital's advanced Cath Lab and skilled cardiologists ensure a nearly 100% success rate in these procedures.

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2	NT-02	Assistant (Finance)	12	Direct Recruitment	UR-9, SC-2, EWS-1		

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'Safe but don't know for how long. We keep crying in fear'

AKM Moinuddin

Dhaka: Reports of targeted attacks on religious and ethnic minorities have sparked fear among Hindus in Bangladesh, with many saying on Thursday they feel safe for now but are uncertain about how long this will last despite calls by Nobel laureate and interim govt head Muhammad Yunus, alongside student leaders, to restore peace in the nation.

A teacher who graduated from Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology expressed his anguish. "I was never involved in politics. No one in our family is involved in politics. But we have much love and respect for our nation's founding father Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. How could you do that? My eyes are filled with tears," he said. For safety reasons, he chose not to disclose his name or location.

A Hindu architect shared stories of suffering coming in from relatives. "We're safe, but don't know how long we will remain safe. We keep crying in fear of attacks," he said, revealing that an aunt's house had been attacked. He expressed reservations about the situation improving: "We can't stand up. I have



Stranded Indian workers return via Tripura on Wednesday

Students form QRTs to 'protect' minorities

Amid reports of attacks on minorities, some students have formed quick reaction teams (QRT) to address 'SOS' calls, reports Kalyan Das. The step was taken on a call given by sociology student Nahid Islam, one of the leaders of the uprising. "Bangladesh is for everyone. It is the foremost duty of us, students, to ensure nobody is harmed," said Islam addressing a gathering in the capital.

doubts."

He lamented the destruction at Bangabandhu Memorial Museum at Dhanmondi in Dhaka and the defacement of Bangabandhu's murals and statues. "It hurts me. I feel heartbroken. I never thought such things would happen. My friends abroad used to appreciate Bangladesh and its massive development."

Another minority community person, a govt employee, said his family and relatives were safe but traumatised & living in fear.

Cultural activists also voiced their concerns, de-

manding security, and justice. Popular folk singer and cultural activist Rahul Ananda's 140-year-old rented house in Dhaka was vandalised and set ablaze Aug 5. In response, artists and activists gathered under the banner "Shilpa, Sthapana O Shilpangan Dhongsher Birudhe Obosthan" (Stand Against Destruction of Art, Architecture, and Cultural Spaces) and held a rally. European Union's heads of mission in Dhaka expressed concern about attacks on places of worship and members of religious, ethnic, and other minorities.

Will be tough to cooperate if India helps Hasina: BNP

Mohua Chatterjee
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), the main rival of Sheikh Hasina's Awami League party, is clearly unhappy with India hosting the ousted Prime Minister after she fled Dhaka and arrived here on Monday.

Veteran BNP functionary Gayeshwar Roy, who was a minister in the BNP-led govt in 1991, and is a member of the party's standing committee, its highest decision-making forum, told TOI from Dhaka, "BNP believes Bangladesh and India must have mutual cooperation... Indian govt will have to understand and behave in a manner which follows that spirit. But if you help our enemy then it becomes difficult for that mutual cooperation to be honoured. Our former foreign minister (in the Hasina govt) said here before the last elections that India will help Sheikh Hasina's return to office. Hasina's liability is being borne by India... Indian and Bangladesh people don't have issues with each other. But should India promote one party and not the other country?" Roy was replying to questions that BNP is perceived to have anti-India bias.



Functionaries of Students Against Discrimination take the oath of office as Bangladesh's new interim govt was sworn in on Thursday

Asked about reports of alleged attacks on Hindus and the perception about BNP being anti-minority, Roy said, "A perception has been created that BNP is anti-Hindu. BNP is made up of people from different communities in Bangladesh and stands for all religions. BNP is a nationalist party but we believe in the individual rights of all communities."

"When I was a minister in 1991, I started the system of donations for Durga Pujas and no govt after that has stopped the policy, it is still on. It is our party's govt that did it," he added. On the concern about terrorist elements targeting India using Bangladesh, Roy said, "It is a perception again. Not the truth. India has helped in getting our Independence... we cannot be against India."

Asked about BNP's equation with Jamaat-e-Islami, Roy made it clear "it's not an ideological relationship. It is tactical support, which has to do with electoral politics." "Awami League was in an official alliance with the Jamaat. There was Left, there was right, but there was no Jamaat with us. Sheikh Hasina took the Jamaat on board. Later she created Hefazat-e-Islam group to counter Jamaat. Today the same Hefazat is on the streets against Awami League. Jamaat believes in elections," he said.

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HC to J'khand: Act against illegal B'desh migrants

Ranchi: Jharkhand HC on Thursday directed the state govt to take immediate action against illegal Bangladeshi immigrants entering through the Santal Parganas in the state, reports Chandrajit Mukherjee.

While hearing a PIL, a division bench of acting chief justice Sujit Narayan Prasad and Justice Arun Kumar Rai said Bangladesh is, at present, "politically unstable." The bench ordered the director of Intelligence Bureau, DG of BSF, chief election commissioner and DG of UIDAI to be made parties in the case.

The HC suggested that govt should conduct sudden inspection of Aadhaar cards and voter ID to identify bona fide residents of the state. These drives will help identify illegal settlers and deter others from trying to enter India, it added.

HC also said that Centre and state govt should work together to tackle the problem of illegal immigration.

PM's message to Yunus comes amid targeted violence on Hindus

Continued from P 1

India remains committed to working with Bangladesh to fulfil the shared aspirations of both our peoples for peace, security and development," PM Narendra Modi said. The PM's message to Yunus and other minority communities came amid violence which has seen them being targeted and their properties and temples destroyed by violent mobs.



Foreign minister S Jaishankar and his ministry had raised the campaign against minority communities but Modi went far beyond in making a reference to "Hindus", who have borne the brunt of a systematic campaign of violence that appears to have been organised by radicals and known anti-India forces. Also, unlike in the case of Jaishankar who briefed Parliament in the wake of Hasina's resignation and when no govt was in place in Dhaka, Modi's message was aimed at Yunus as the head of the interim govt.

Leader of opposition Rahul Gandhi too congratulated Yunus, while emphasising the importance of fast restoration of peace and normalcy. "Congratulations to Professor Muhammad Yunus on being sworn in as head of Bangladesh's interim govt. A swift restoration of peace and normalcy is the need of the hour," Gandhi said.

Pune business family's Mumbai mansion buy sets tongues wagging

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: A cryptic announcement by Pune-based industrialist Yohan Poonawalla and his wife Michelle on Thursday about a property acquisition in south Mumbai has set tongues wagging in the city's real estate market.

A spokesperson representing the couple said they purchased a mansion in the most coveted and exclusive area of Cuffe Parade in south Mumbai. The standalone property, spanning approximately 30,000 square feet, joins a prestigious collection of mansions in the area that are typically priced between Rs 400 crore and Rs 750 crore.

Despite persistent queries from TOI, the spokesperson refused to divulge the name of the mansion the Poonawallas bought. However, sources in the property market speculated that it could be the early 20th-century heritage property Taraporewala Mansion where the writer Mulk Raj Anand once lived.

Sources said the ground-plus-three-storey property was on sale for several years but added its price could be in the range of Rs 100 crore

to Rs 150 crore only. "MYP Design Studio, under Michelle Poonawalla's creative helm, will orchestrate the transformation of this architectural gem into the opulent Poonawalla Mansion, the couple's secondary residence, their primary home being Poona-



Mansions in Cuffe Parade are typically priced between Rs 400 crore and Rs 750 crore. However, the price of the Poonawalla property could be Rs 100 crore to Rs 150 crore only, sources said

walla House in Pune. This project marks a new chapter in the couple's illustrious journey, promising a harmonious blend of historic grandeur and contemporary luxury," said a press release.

The couple plans to showcase Michelle's art collection from renowned artists as well as her own art and oil. It will also house Yohan Poonawalla's automobile collection.

Odisha plans India's 1st univ for the blind

Hemanta Pradhan
@timesofindia.com

Bhubaneswar: India's first international university for the blind may come up in Odisha, providing education and technical courses, officials said on Thursday.

India has over 50 lakh blind people and Odisha is home to over 5.21 lakh, including 2 lakh young population. "We need a comprehensive and exclusive university for them to cater to their education and training needs," said Sannyasai Behera, a blind deputy secretary of the social security and empowerment of persons with disabilities (SSEP) department.

Named after Bhima Bhoi, a blind poet and 19th century social reformer, the university will have a centre of excellence on technology, besides schools for higher education.

A delegation from Japan's University of Tsukuba, a famous special school for the blind, met SSEPD officials on Thursday. "We will soon send a proposal to CMMO-

"We are planning to set up a campus to provide education to students from Class IX onwards from India and abroad," Odisha social security and empowerment of persons with disabilities dept principal secretary Bishnupada Sethi said

han Charan Majhi for approval. The Japan delegation will also meet him on Friday," said Behera. The plan includes accessible residential facilities with an advanced digital lab on the varsity campus. SSEPD principal secretary Bishnupada Sethi said, "We are planning to set up a campus to provide education to students from Class IX onwards from India and abroad. We will provide vocational courses like acupuncture and physiotherapy, besides policy research."

Poaching alarm in MP: 3 holes in tiger's skull indicate gunshots

Bhopal: MP forest department is aflutter after initial post mortem of a tiger revealed three holes in its skull, indicating gunshot injuries, reports P Naveen. The skull has been sent for ballistics tests.

The carcass was found on July 14 in Ratapani wildlife sanctuary. Three of its paws and three canines were missing. The skull was found the next day, and immediately there was suspicion it had been shot by poachers. On July 20, two suspects, Nafeez and Shakeel, were arrested

from Murar village and two guns were seized from them.

An analysis of the tiger's wounds revealed multiple penetrating head traumas.

"We cannot say anything until the forensic report arrives. If the ballistics report confirms our suspicions, we will take the suspects on remand for further questioning," said a forest officer. The region is home to more than 40 tigers, heightening concerns over the threat posed by armed poachers.

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NAME CHANGE

I, DIPANWITA Seth De, D/O Pradip Kumar Seth & W/O Kalyan De, hereby declare that, Dipanwita Seth De & Dipanwita De residing at 18A, Pratap Ghosh Lane, Kolkata 700007 are same & identical person vide Affidavit No. 2525 dt. 28.08.2023 before the Learned Metropolitan Magistrate at Calcutta.

AFFIDAVIT

I Mohammad Arfuddin son of Late Mohammad Sadruddin residing at Santragachi 1 No. Sultanpur P.S-Santragachi, Dist-Howrah, 711111. Declare that my mother's name was mentioned as Noorjahan Khatoun in my passport, virtue of an affidavit number 94AB76330, Dated 31/07/2024 in the court of 1st class Judicial Magistrate Howrah, the name has been confirmed as Noorjahan Khatoun.

Noorjahan Khatoun and Noorjahan Khatoun both the above mentioned names are the same & identical person.

I, KRISHNA BARAI S/O Madhusudan Barai R/O Purba Jagannadapur, Bethuadahari, Nakhshipara, Nadia, 741126, W.B have changed my name to KRISHNAPADA BARAI vide affidavit dated 03/08/2024 before the notary public at Krishnagar, Nadia (W.B).

I, SRI DIPAK KUMAR GIRI S/O SUDHANSHU SEKHAR GIRI residing at Dhandighi Contai PurbanMedinipur 721401, have changed my name to DIPAK KUMAR GIRI vide affidavit no. 4449/2024 dated 6/8/2024 declared before the notary public contai court, purba medinipur.

LOST & FOUND

I Rajat Kr Pal S/O L. Birendra Nath Pal like to inform that I have lost original link deed (no. 4390/88) of my house 27/7 Motilal Mullick Lane Kolkata-35. If any one finds it contact at 6291673140

tender & notices

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NOTICE

My client SK. RAMJAN ALI son of Late Abdul Kuddus, resident of 89, Curry Road, P.S. A.J.C Bose B. Garden, District Howrah, has decided to sell a Bastu Land measuring about an area of 03 (Three) Kathas 13 (Thirteen) Chittacks 18 (Eighteen) Sq. Ft. situated at 89, Curry Road, P.S. A.J.C. Bose B. Garden, District Howrah, under H.M.C. Ward No. 41. Any person having any right, title, interest, claim or demand of any nature whatsoever in respect of said land, or any part thereof by way of sale, exchange, mortgage, charge, gift, maintenance, inheritance, possession, lease, tenancy, sub tenancy, lien, license, hypothecation, transfer of the title of beneficial interest under any trust right of prescription or pre-emption or under any agreement or other disposition or under any decree, order or Award or otherwise claiming, howsoever, are hereby requested to make the same known in writing together with the supporting documentary proof thereof to me, within 15 (Fifteen) days from the date of publication hereof, failing which the negotiations shall be completed, without any reference to such claims and the claims if any, shall be deemed to have been given up or waived.

RABI PRASAD SHAW
Advocate
91-9836436663

NOTICE

That my client SUJOY GHOSH lost/misplaced the original Deed of Gift vide Being No. 5171 for the year 1987 registered at D.S.R. - Krishnanagar which was in his custody. G.D. Entry lodged at P.S.- Kotwali vide G.D.E. No. 716 dated 09.07.2024. If anyone has any objection contact me with relevant documents within 7 days. Thereafter no claim will be accepted.

Adv. Pranayan Chandra,
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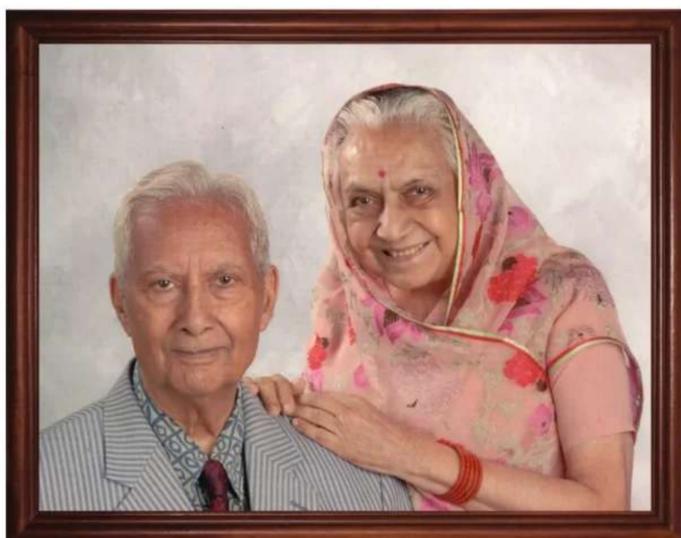
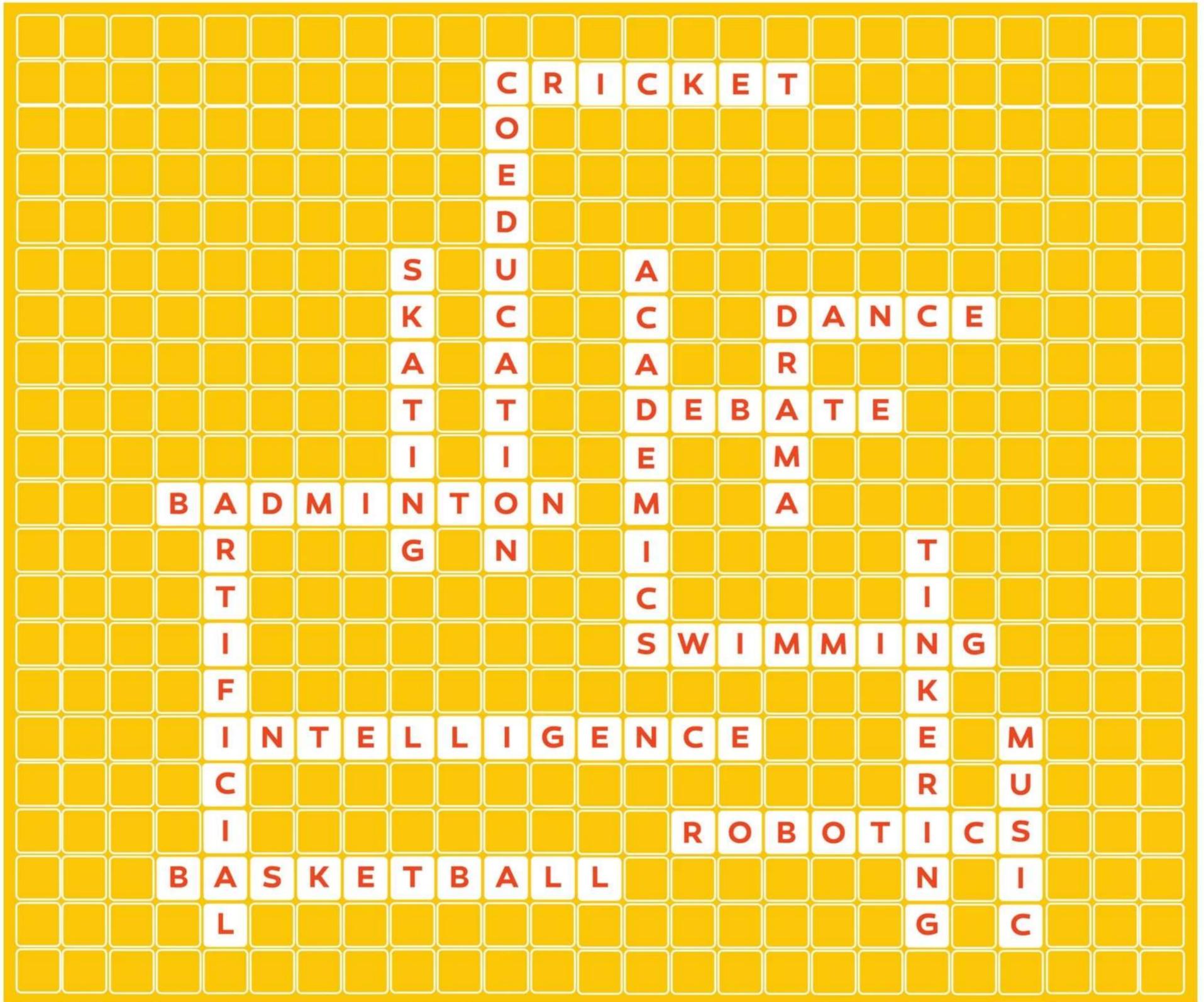
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Government of Kerala
Published Tenders from 05-08-2024 to 07-08-2024
Stationery Department
Tender ID: 2024-STY-684449-1 * Controller of Stationery
(I/c) * Supply of Maplitho Paper 70 gsm 76 cm Reel * Closing
Date: 30-Aug-2024 * PAC: Rs12600000
Visit <https://tenders.kerala.gov.in> for more details.
Ro.No:05-07/Aug/2024/PRD(N)10

Western Railway - Ratlam Division
ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT : E-TENDERING NOTICE
No. : W/623/5/1/NIT, Date : 05.08.2024
The Divisional Railway Manager (WA) RATLAM for and on behalf of the President of India invites "Open Tender" through e-tender on website www.ireps.gov.in in the details as under:-
Sr. No. : 1, E-Tender No. : RTM-2024-25-72, Name of Work : Sehore Station - Providing approach road, goods office room, widening of goods platform, cover shed on goods platform, drain, ladies rest room with wash room etc. work including with electrical work in connection with development of goods shed with various amenities at. Approx Value : ₹ 16,50,38,898.41, Earnest Money to be deposited in Rs : ₹ 9,75,200.00, Completion period : 18 Months, Similar Type of Work : Any Steel Fabrication Work, Date of uploading on website : 05.08.2024, Date of Opening of Tender : 09.09.2024. Sr. No. : 2, E-Tender No. : RTM-2024-25-77, Name of Work : Maksi - Bhopal Section - Annual repair and Maintenance of bridges in ADEN Sehore Section. (For Two Year), Approx Value : ₹ 1,69,24,800.00, Earnest Money to be deposited in Rs : ₹ 2,34,700.00, Completion period : 24 Months, Similar Type of Work : Any Civil Engineering work, Date of uploading on website : 05.08.2024, Date of Opening of Tender : 09.09.2024. Detailed tender notice, eligibility criteria and terms and conditions are available at website www.ireps.gov.in. Cost of tender form is NIL.
Divisional Railway Manager(WA)
Ratlam Division, WR
ADM/5/1/172

Walk-in-Interview for engagement of Contract Medical Practitioner (CMP) over Kharagpur Division
Employment Notice No.: 03/24 (Med.) CMP-2024/KGP Date: 07.08.2024
Sr. Divisional Personnel Officer, South Eastern Railway, Kharagpur Division, Govt. of India, Ministry of Railways, shall conduct a "Walk-in-Interview" for engagement of 07 (Seven) [SC=01, OBC=02 and UR=04] Contract Medical Practitioners on contractual basis {02 GDMOs and 05 Specialists (01 Obstetrics & Gynaecology, 01 Radiologist, 01-Chest Physician, 01 Anaesthetist & 01 Ophthalmologist)} at Kharagpur Division with consolidated remuneration of (i) Rs. 75,000/- for GDMO, (ii) Rs. 95,000/- p.m. (for 1st year) and Rs. 1,05,000/- p.m. (for 2nd year onwards) for the Specialist Doctors in the requisite field but for Retired Govt. Doctors (Rly./Central/State/PSU) subject to the condition that Contractual Remuneration + Pension drawn by retired doctor should not exceed the Last Pay Drawn at the time of retirement. However this condition is not applicable for Retired Doctors of PSUs. The "Walk-in-Interview" shall be held as per the following schedule. Date & Time of Walk-in-Interview: 28.08.2024 (Wednesday) from 11.00 AM onwards. Venue: Office of the Chief Medical Superintendent, South Eastern Railway, Kharagpur. For detailed terms and conditions related to the Notification, Applications Forms and other details, candidates may visit our website www.ser.indianrailways.gov.in (go to Division > Kharagpur > Department > Personnel > Notification & Updates). Moreover, Corrigendum or Addendum or Cancellation if any, shall be published on the website only. Please follow our website periodically.
Sr. Divisional Personnel Officer, Kharagpur
South Eastern Railway
We serve with a smile

E-AUCTION FOR AWARDED VINYL WRAPPING CONTRACT EXTERIOR SURFACE FOR MAIL EXPRESS TRAINS OVER TINSUKIA DIVISION
E-Auction is invited for Awarding vinyl wrapping contract exterior surface at Mail express trains over Tinsukia Division. Auction Catalogue No.: ADVT-TRAIN-10. Lot Auction Start (All Lots): 11:00 hrs. on 22-08-2024; Rate Unit: Annual Licensing Fee; Category: Advertising - Train Exterior (Full Face). Days : 1095.
Sl.No. Lot No./Category Description
AA1/ ADVT-EFF-128593-22-1 Vinyl wrapping contract at 20503/20504 and 20505/20506 (Dibrugarh-New Delhi-Dibrugarh)
AA2/ ADVT-EFF-130039-22-1 15903/15904 (Dibrugarh-Chandigarh-Dibrugarh)
AA3/ ADVT-EFF-179116-23-1 22504/22503 (Dibrugarh-Kanyakumari-Dibrugarh)
AA4/ ADVT-EFF-130042-22-1 15960/15959 and 15962/15961 (Dibrugarh-Howrah-Dibrugarh)
AA5/ ADVT-EFF-129361-22-1 15930/15929 (New Tinsukia-Tambaram-New Tinsukia)
AA6/ ADVT-EFF-128600-22-1 15968/15967 (Ledo-Rangiya-Ledo) & 15928/15927 (New Tinsukia-Rangiya-New Tinsukia)
AA7/ ADVT-EFF-130041-22-1 15934/15933 (New Tinsukia-Amritsar-New Tinsukia)
AA8/ ADVT-EFF-129358-22-1 22501/22502 (New Tinsukia-KSR Bengaluru City-New Tinsukia) Rajdhani/Mail Express train
Auction Closing Date/Time : At 12:40 hrs. on 22-08-2024. Initial Cooling off period is 30 minutes. Successful bids closing interval 10 minutes. Note: Prospective Participant/bidders are requested to visit e-Auction module of IREPS website www.ireps.gov.in for more details.
DRM(C), Tinsukia
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
Serving Customers With A Smile

CHITTARANJAN LOCOMOTIVE WORKS
E-Tender Notice
Tender Notice No.: PCMM/CLW/HWH/E-Procurement/24/49 Dated: 05.08.2024 PCMM/CLW/HWH on behalf of the President of India invites electronic bids from established reliable manufacturer for supply of the following. The following E-Tender/s is for supply of materials for manufacture of Electric Locomotive. The Prospective/likely suppliers are requested to look up the website www.ireps.gov.in for detailed instructions please. These are E-Tenders; only electronic offer bids shall be accepted. Sl. No.; Tender No.; Description of Stores; Quantity; Due On; Tender Cost are as follows: [263]; 14242520A; i) Spring Loaded Switch 2; ii) Spring Loaded Switch For Pantograph/VCB/Hotel Load; iii) Spring Loaded Switch For Head Lights; iv) Spring Loaded Switch For Head Light Intensity; v) Spring Loaded Switch For Compressor. All above to CLW Spec. No. CLW/ES/3/0075/B. [Quantity Tolerance (+/-): 5% percentage, Item Category: Normal, Total PO value variation Permitted: Max 8 lacs]; As Per Tender/Documents: 26/08/2024; ₹ 0.00. [265]; 14242588A; Tract/Brake Effort Meter Bogie to CLW SPEC. No. CLW/ES/3/0071. [Quantity Tolerance (+/-): 5% percentage, Item Category: Normal, Total PO value variation Permitted: Max 8 lacs]; As Per Tender/Documents: 26/08/2024; ₹ 0.00. [266]; 14242563; BUZZER OVER SPEED/FIRE ALARM/VIGILANCE WARNING TO CLW SPEC. No. CLW/ES/3/0078/C. [Quantity Tolerance (+/-): 5% percentage, Item Category: Normal, Total PO value variation Permitted: Max 8 lacs]; As Per Tender/Documents: 24/08/2024; ₹ 0.00. [267]; 1424251A; CAB ACTIVATING KEY SWITCH TO CLW SPEC. No. CLW/ES/3/0074. [Quantity Tolerance (+/-): 5% percentage, Item Category: Normal, Total PO value variation Permitted: Max 8 lacs]; As Per Tender/Documents: 03/10/2024; ₹ 0.00. [268]; 14242589A; SOCKET HAND LAMP TO CLW SPEC. No. CLW/ES/3/0082. [Quantity Tolerance (+/-): 5% percentage, Item Category: Normal, Total PO value variation Permitted: Max 8 lacs]; As Per Tender/Documents: 26/08/2024; ₹ 0.00. [269]; 23245119; Supply Of Base Mounted Feeder Pillar in Sheet Steel Enclosure (of Thickness 1.5MM in All Side With Suitable Locking Arrangement in Front Door) Outdoor Type Fitted With All Components Such As Incoming Feeder: 400A, 415V, 50 Hz MCCB Four Pole. TPN Copper Bus Bar Size 40 X 6MM. Multifunction Meter (Volt, Amp, Hz) With Current Transformer, Phase Indicating Lamp and Outgoing Feeder TPN 200A, 415V Porcelain Type Fuse And Grip 50 Hz 4 Way=12 Nos. Incoming Cable Entry Hole Dia 52MM and Outgoing Cable Entry Hole Dia. 32MM. Make/Brand: 1) Panel: Jai Champion/L&T/Schneider/Havells/ABB or similar. 2) M C C B : L & T / S c h n e i d e r / Havells/ABB or similar. 3) Porcelain KIT-KAT: Jai Champion/L&T/Schneider/Havells/ABB or similar. 4) Multifunction Meter: L&T/Schneider/Havells/ABB or similar. 5) Indicating Lamp: L&T/Schneider/Havells/ABB or similar. 6) C.T: KAPPA or similar, HSN Code 8537; As Per Tender/Documents: 03/09/2024; ₹ 0.00.
PR/6/566 PCMM/CLW/HOWRAH
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GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
PHED TENDER NOTICE
The Executive Engineer, Northern Mechanical Division, P.H.E. Dte., Siliguri on behalf of the Governor of West Bengal invited e-Tender "WBPHED/EE/NMD/NIT/No. 08 of 2024-2025" for (07) seven nos operation and maintenance works having Tender ID : 2024-PHED-729516-1, 2024-PHED-729516-2, 2024-PHED-729516-3, 2024-PHED-729516-4, 2024-PHED-729516-5, 2024-PHED-729516-6 & 2024-PHED-729516-7 under Northern Mechanical Division, PHE Dte." The Tender Document collection and submission from 07.08.2024, 4.00 PM to 23.08.2024, 2.00 PM. For details visit <https://wbtdenders.gov.in>. The tender is also visible at departmental website: www.wbphed.gov.in Sd/- Executive Engineer, NMD PHE Dte.
ICA-113698(4)/2024

SOUTH BENGAL STATE TRANSPORT CORPORATION
(A Govt. of West Bengal Undertaking)
DR. B. C. ROY AVENUE
P.O.- DURGA PURA - 712021, DIST.- Burdwan
TENDER NOTICE
Memo No. : 640/SBSTC/2024
Date : 08/08/2024
SBSTC invites reputed and eligible bidders for participating in the tender vide NIT No. - 638/SBSTC/24 dated 08/08/2024 through the following Tender Portal from 09/08/2024 to 31/08/2024 up to 3:00 P.M.
For details please visit : <https://wbtdenders.gov.in> & www.sbstc.co.in
Sd/- Managing Director
South Bengal State Transport Corporation

SOUTH BENGAL STATE TRANSPORT CORPORATION
(A Govt. of West Bengal Undertaking)
DR. B. C. ROY AVENUE
P.O.- DURGA PURA - 712021, DIST.- Burdwan
Tender Notice
Memo No. : 636/SBSTC/2024
Date : 08/08/2024
SBSTC invites reputed and eligible bidders for participating in the tender vide NIT No. - 627/SBSTC/2024 dated 07/08/2024 through the following Tender Portal from 09/08/2024 to 31/08/2024 up to 3:00 P.M. For details visit : <https://wbtdenders.gov.in> & www.sbstc.co.in
Sd/- MD, SBSTC

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER
No. WB/WR/PUR/AM/NT/08/24-25
Open tenders are invited by the Executive Engineer, Purulia Irrigation Division, 1800, Durgachowdhury Irrigation Colony, P.O. & Dist-Purulia on behalf of the Governor of West Bengal for the works of foredred e-N.I.T. 1. Date of documents download start : 09/08/2024 at 17:00 hrs. 2. Date of Bid submission start : 09/08/2024 at 17:00 hrs. 3. Last date of document download & Bid submission : 21/08/2024 at 11:00 hrs. All details, may be downloaded from www.wbtdenders.gov.in or www.etender.wb.nic.in Sd/- Executive Engineer, Purulia Irrigation Division.
ICA-113693(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
KMDA TENDER NOTICE
e-NIT No. 95/SE/CH/R&B/KMDA of 2024-25
Online Bids are invited by the Superintending Engineer, Circle-III, R&B Sector, KMDA, 3rd floor, Block-D, Umayyan Bhavan, Salt Lake, Kolkata-700091, from bona fide, reliable, experienced & reputed firms/individuals/contractors, for the work, Name of Work, Value of the work, Earnest Money, Time of Completion, New Construction of road with 25 m span steel composite bridge for providing and alternative connectivity road (besides the Amardighat road) between National Road and E M By pass over T.P Canal., Tender ID - 2024_KMDA_728256_1, Rs.6,30,96,869/-, Rs.12,61,937/- [Online through e-Procurement System of Govt. of W.B.], 270 days, Last date & time of Online Bid submission: 04/09/2024 upto 14:00 hrs., for details contact the above office or visit both websites. (KMDA-372) www.kmda.wb.gov.in & www.wbtdenders.gov.in
ICA-113617(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER
WB/NVF/DIR/ENIT/10/24-2025 & Memo No. 7M-1/1877 Dated 02.08.2024 of the State Commandant, WB/NVF Directorate, Kalyani, Nadia
Online rate are being invited on behalf of the Inspector General of Police & State Commandant, West Bengal National Volunteer Force Directorate, P.O.-N.S.S., Kalyani, Nadia, West Bengal through e-tendering from eligible Contractor/ Govt. Agencies/Firms for supply of KITS & UNIFORMS to WB/NVF Organization for the financial year 2024-2025. Bid documents/ specification as well as allied terms & conditions will be available online from 12.08.2024. For submission of e-tender, please refer detailed NIT on : <http://wbtdenders.gov.in> e-tender portal. Prospective bidders are advised to regularly scan through e-tender portal: <http://wbtdenders.gov.in> as corrigendum/ amendments etc, if any, will be notified on the portal only and separate advertisement will not be made for this.
ICA-113664(3)/2024

S. E. RAILWAY - TENDER
For and on behalf of President of India, the Chief Electrical Engineer (TRS), South Eastern Railway, Bondamunda invites open e-Tender for the under mentioned work. Manual offers are not allowed against the tender and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. E-Tender Notice No.: TRS-BNDM-04-2024-25, Dated: 08.08.2024. Description of work: Loco Body and filter cleaning of 3-Phase electric locomotives of ELS/Bondamunda for 02 years. Approx. Cost of work: ₹ 87,78,757.12. Earnest Money: ₹ 1,75,600. Date & time for closing of E-Tender: 17.00 hrs. of 30.08.2024. Website particulars & details: <http://www.ireps.gov.in>. The complete particular of the E-Tender will be available on website. (PR-463)

NOTICE INVITING TENDER ENQ-15: E3 SECTION
CHIEF ENGINEER PROJECT DANTAK
HQ Chief Engineer Project Dantak, Simtokha, Thimphu invites tender for the following works :-
Name Of Work: Supply of Constructional Stores (i.e Lime Unslacked, Thermoplastic Road Marking Paint & Glass Beads) at 504 SS&TC (GREF) Phuntsholing (Bhutan) & Dett 'A' 504 SS&TC (GREF) Samdrup Jongkhar (Bhutan)
Completion period of the work: 24 months from date of issue of LOA. Approximate cost of the work: ₹ 111,53,77,750.30. Bid Security: Nil. Validity of offer: 90 days from the date of opening of tender. Last date of receiving queries: 26.08.2024. Pre bid meeting: 28.08.2024 at 12.00 hrs. Physical submission of original Bank Guarantee (if applicable) for Bid security: 23.09.2024. Date & Time for submission of the tender and opening of tender: (1) Last date of Submission up to 14.00 hrs. on 24.09.2024. (2) Tender will be opened at 15.00 hrs. on 24.09.2024. Website particular where complete details of tender can be seen: www.ireps.gov.in. (PR-464)

SC verdict on Sisodia's bail plea today

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Supreme Court will deliver its verdict on Friday on Aam Aadmi Party senior Manish Sisodia's bail plea in corruption and money laundering cases registered against him in connection with the now-scrapped Delhi excise policy of 2021-22.

A bench of Justices BR Gavi and K V Viswanathan had reserved its order on August 6 when senior advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi, appearing for Sisodia, said the politician should be granted bail as per SC's earlier order in which it had said that if the trial was delayed, then he could seek bail. Referring to the Oct 30 order, Singhvi said the trial was yet to begin in the case.

SC sets up panel to review nod to U'khand hydel projects

'Why Allow 7 Projects Without Citing Reason'

Amit Anand.Choudhary @timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Supreme Court on Thursday directed setting up of a high-powered committee of the Cabinet secretary, secretaries of ministries of jal shakti, power and environment & forests along with chief secretary of Uttarakhand to reconsider the expert panel's report recommending approval for 28 hydro power projects. It also questioned Centre's decision to allow only seven of them without giving any reason.

A bench of Justices BR Gavi, Prashant Kumar Mishra and K V Viswanathan said the expert panel comprised members from various fields and the govt did not give any reason for not accepting the report. The bench said it cannot question the decision but can certainly examine the decision-making process.

"You have to satisfy that the report was duly considered and reasons were given to accept or reject the report. What compelled you to only allow seven projects? When an expert committee was appointed on the direction of the court then you have to show reasons for not accepting it. You have to show that the decision-making

process is rational," the bench told additional solicitor general Aishwarya Bhati who was appearing for the Centre. Bhati told the bench there were differences of opinion among different ministries — power and environment & forests on one side and jal shakti on the other — and there was consensus on only seven projects due to which they were approved.

Besides, she added, these projects were at an advanced stage of construction.

The hydro power projects in the state came under judicial scrutiny after the 2013 floods. Taking suo motu cognisance, the apex court had banned further construction of all such projects. Taking

into account the huge investments made by companies in seven projects, the apex court had asked the Centre to appoint an expert committee to study the environmental and ecological impact of the projects. The seven projects were Tehri Stage II (on Bhagirathi river), Tapovan Vishnugad (Dhauliganga river), Vishnugad Pipalkoti (Alaknanda), Singoli Bhatwari and Phata Buyong (Mandakini), Madhyamaheshwar (Madhyamaheshwar Ganga) and Kalliganga II (Kalliganga).

Opposing the findings of the report, it was submitted by advocate Prashant Bhushan that members of the expert committee which approved the projects were also involved in clearing the projects before the flood disaster.

Agencies trying to reimpose AFSPA in Manipur valley: Biren

Prabin.Kalita@timesofindia.com

Guwahati: Manipur chief minister N Biren Singh on Thursday informed the legislative assembly that various central agencies were pushing for reimposing Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958 in the valley districts of the state since violence broke out in May last year.

Responding to a call attention motion on "the long-standing demand" for removal of AfSPA from Manipur moved by Naga People's Front's Leishiyoi Keishing, the CM said the agencies were pressing for the Act's reimposition "due to the evolving situation in the valley districts". "We were at a point of demanding the removal of AfSPA from the hill districts as well, but I was questioned whether the situation in the valley districts could be managed under normal laws," Biren informed the House, adding, "There is significant pressure for reimposition of AF

spa in the valley."

The CM said he explained to the agencies that the unrest in the valley districts was a result of emotional responses to the violence and assured them that he would address the situation gradually. On the difficulties brought about by AfSPA, Biren stressed the need for a compassionate relook at its fresh imposition. "If the Act could restore law and order, it would have been achieved long ago. A humane approach is needed." He also highlighted his long-standing resistance to AfSPA, both in his capacity as a journalist and as a public figure.

"It is an inhumane and draconian Act that humiliates people, instils fear and destroys dignity," Biren said after the situation improved in the valley districts. AfSPA was removed from the jurisdiction of 19 police stations. He reiterated the desire to remove AfSPA from the hill areas as well, calling for central leaders to be convinced of this need.



DMK never spoke of atheism: TN min

Chennai: Responding to BJP's Tamil Nadu unit president K Annamalai's barbs that DMK was thinking of "reversing its ideology of atheism" and that chief minister M K Stalin would soon be chanting "Jai Shri Ram", state's Hindu religious and charitable endowments minister P K Sekarbabu on Thursday said the party never spoke about atheism. Sekarbabu said, "Hindus are free to worship whatever religion they

wish, and the state will never interfere. They can chant whatever they wish. It can be "Jai Shri Ram" or "Arokora" or "Govindha"."

Asked about Annamalai's comments, Sekarbabu wondered when DMK promoted atheism. "We never said we follow atheism. Annamalai is blabbering something because all the weapons used by him against us have been rendered useless," he said. TN

ODISHA JOINT ENTRANCE EXAMINATION - 2024 (OJEE - 2024) PUBLIC NOTICE REGARDING OJEE WEB COUNSELLING FOR 2024-25

No: OJEE/375 Date: 08.08.2024
This is for the information of all concerned that OJEE Web-Based Counselling Process for Integrated MBA and Pending process for LE Pharmacy is going to start from 9th August, 2024 (Friday).

Interested candidates having valid OJEE 2024 Rank (OJEE conducted during May, 2024) are advised to visit OJEE websites (www.ojee.nic.in/ & www.odishajee.com) and see the detailed Counselling Schedule and the process for these courses. They are further advised to carefully go through the documents, "Counselling Brochure" and "Step-by-Step Procedure", available in the website to get other detailed information about the entire counselling process. The process of Integrated MBA will be as per the schedule only.

Sd/-
Chairman,
OJEE ODISHA
OIPR-44026/11/0008/24-25

Notice for Inviting Tender (NIT)

DIF/HR/2024/2032 Bhopal, Date: 08/08/2024
Selection of Agency for Providing Support Consultant for Directorate of Institutional Finance, Government of Madhya Pradesh

For detailed scope of work and other terms and conditions, please refer to the tender document available at <https://mptenders.gov.in>. Interested Agencies who qualify per the criteria mentioned in the tender document, may submit their proposals online through the <https://mptenders.gov.in> only latest by 03/09/2024 till 03:00 PM.

Any update, corrigendum, addendum, etc. shall be made available only at the MP Tenders portal.
Sd/-
(Commissioner)
DIF, BHOPAL
G-14768/24

ODISHA UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH
Techno Campus, Ghatikia, P.O. - Mahalaxmi Vihar
BHUBANESWAR-751029 ODISHA, INDIA
Advt. No OUTR/DCSE/2024-25/03, Dated 06.08.2024.
E-TENDER CALL NOTICE FOR SETTING UP A
"CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE ON DIGITAL MANUFACTURING"
Tenders are invited from the reputed registered agencies / OEMs for setting up a "Centre of Excellence on Digital Manufacturing" for Skill Development, Research & Consultancy at OTR, Bhubaneswar. Details regarding the eligibility criteria, terms and conditions and formats for submission of tender may be downloaded from the website <https://tenderodisha.gov.in>. The last date and time of submission of e-tender documents through online mode is 05.09.2024 up to 6.00 P.M. The undersigned reserves the right to reject the tender without assigning any reason thereof.
Sd/-
REGISTRAR
OIPR-16005/11/0025/24-25

OFFICE OF THE ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF (CIVIL), ODISHA
NIRMAN SOUDHA, UNIT-V, BHUBANESWAR
INVITATIONS FOR BIDS (IFB)
File No-B-IV-H (H&D)-119/2023 Lr. No.- 31664 Bhubaneswar, the 7th Aug., 2024
Invitation for Bids
Bid Identification No. C.E. (B) - 05/2024-25
1. The Chief Engineer, Buildings, Odisha, Bhubaneswar, on behalf of Governor of Odisha, invites percentage rate bids in double cover system in ONLINE MODE only, for the works, (1) Construction of Trauma Care Unit and New SDH Building at Rairakhol, Sambalpur, (2) Construction of CHC Building at Berhampur in Cuttack District, (3) Construction of CHC Building at Bindhanima in Cuttack District, (4) Construction of CHC Building at Kanpur in Cuttack District, (5) Construction of CHC Building at Kodala in the district of Ganjam, (6) Construction of CHC Building at Patrapur in Ganjam, (7) Construction of CHC Building at Khalikote in Ganjam, (8) Construction of 50 Bedded Critical Care Block at M&H Balasore, Odisha as detailed below.
2. Nature of work : Building works
3. No. of work : 08 Nos.
4. Bid Cost : Rs. 10,000/- (each)
5. Class of Contractor : 'A' / Special / Super Class
6. Availability of Bid Documents in the website : From dt. 20.08.2024 to 17.00 Hours of dt. 05.09.2024.
7. Date of Opening of Bid : Dt. 06.09.2024 at 11:30 AM.
8. The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website: <https://tenders.odisha.gov.in>. Any addendum / corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website only.
Sd/-
Chief Engineer (Buildings),
Odisha, Bhubaneswar
OIPR-34117/11/0013/24-25

CONSTRUCTION & OPERATION OF GATI SHAKTI MULTIMODAL CARGO TERMINAL
Tender No.: C9RNYGCT/KDKN320242; dated: 05-08-2024. E-Tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following work: Name of work: Construction & Operation of Gati Shakti Multimodal Cargo Terminal (GCT) to be set up entirely on Railway Land. Advertised Value: ₹35,25,51,790.01; Earnest Money: ₹3,52,55,200.00. E-tenders will be closed at 16:00 hrs. on 11-09-2024. The complete information with the tender document of above e-tender will be available in website www.ireps.gov.in.
Sr. DCM, Rangiya
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
"Serving Customers with a smile"

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
e-TENDER NOTICE
Tender ID : 2024_MAD_730285_1
Superintending Engineer, MED, Central Circle, invites Fresh Call of online tender from bonafide agencies for civil construction works for proposed 12 TPD Municipal Solid Waste Processing Plant under SWM project within Buniapur Municipality. Start date & time of bid submission is 16.08.2024 from 10:00 Hrs. Last date & time of bid submission is 31.08.2024 up to 15:00 Hrs. Other details may also be seen from the website <https://wbtdenders.gov.in>.
Sd/-
Superintending Engineer
Central Circle
M.E. Directorate

Domestic help among 3 named accused in Delhi doc's murder

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Delhi Police on Thursday filed a chargesheet in the case of a 63-year-old doctor's murder in his home in south Delhi three months ago.

Police have named three persons as accused. Among them is a domestic help. They were charged under sections of murder, robbery and criminal conspiracy. According to the police, the primary motive behind the murder was robbery, which was planned by seven people. Four are absconding and are suspected to be in Nepal.

4 SUSPECTED TO BE IN NEPAL
Sources said that the chargesheet was filed at Saket court. More than 30 witnesses, including neighbours and family members, were examined by the police. The police have charged Basanti, Akash and Himanshu under sections of murder and robbery. "Basanti was working at the house of Dr Yogesh Chandra Paul as the help for 25 years. Of the other two, Himanshu was working as a priest at Hardwar's Birla Ghat. Akash is his brother," a police officer said. Law enforcement officials have said that three fugitive accused persons have been identified as Varsha, her spouse Bhim, and Vishnu Roop, who also goes by the alias Sai. An unknown person, also accused, is absconding.

PWD (GOVT. OF WB) TENDER NOTICE
Executive Engineer, PWD, Howrah Division invites online item rate Tender for the works: Restoration of Black top portion by paver block in patches on Belur Anandnagar Road from 0.61 km to 0.675 km, 0.805 Km to 0.99 & cleaning of drains during the year 2024-2025, Estimated Amount put to Tender : Rs.9,74,911/- Tender ID : 2024_WBPWD_730792_1 N.I.E.T. No. : WBPWD/EE/HD/NIT_36/2024-2025. Bid Submission Start Date (online) : 09.08.2024 up to 10:00 A.M. Bid Submission End Date (online) : 16.08.2024 up to 3.30 P.M. Corrigendum if any will be published in website only. Details of NIT and Tender documents may be downloaded from : <https://wbtdenders.gov.in> Sd/-
Executive Engineer, Howrah Division, PWD

KOLHAPUR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION, KOLHAPUR
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
TENDER NOTICE NO. 29
Online tenders through E-Tendering system are invited from contractors for Proposed Infrastructure development for 100 E Buses at KMT workshop for Kolhapur Municipal Corporation, Kolhapur, 416002 Dist. Kolhapur, Maharashtra. The detailed tender notice can be downloaded from the e-tendering website www.mahatenders.gov.in Date of tender submission from 09/08/2024 09.30 AM to 16/08/2024 at 3.30 PM. Tender Opening Date 20/08/2024 at 4.00 pm.
Date 08/08/2024 Sd/-
City Engineer
Kolhapur Municipal Corporation



झारखण्ड आदिवासी महोत्सव 2024

मुख्य आकर्षण

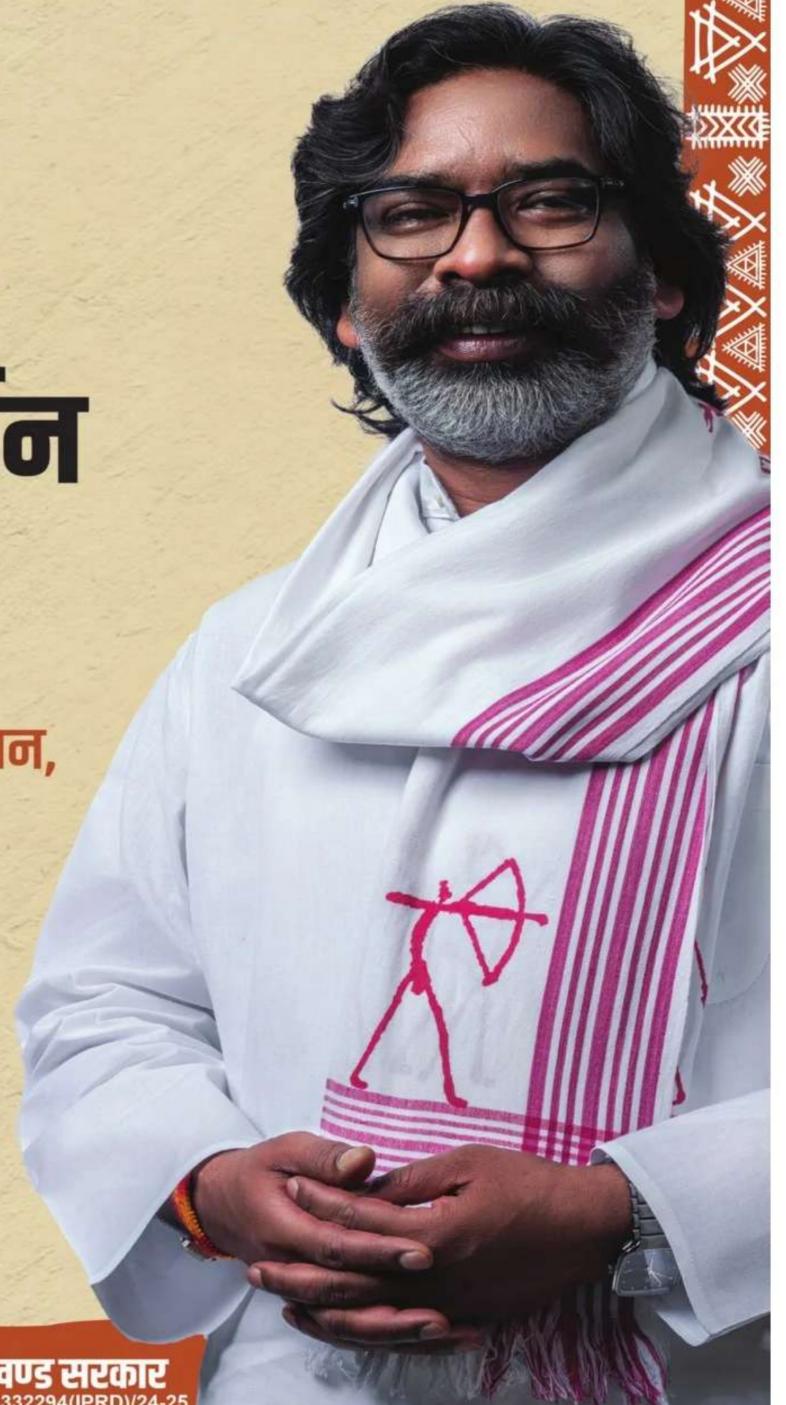
- रीझ रंग शोभा यात्रा
- सांस्कृतिक कार्यक्रम
- झारखण्ड की चित्रकला शैलियां
- आदिवासी पुस्तक मेला
- आदिवासी कवि सम्मेलन
- वृत्तचित्र स्क्रीनिंग
- कला-शिल्प प्रदर्शनी
- परिधान फैशन शो
- खान-पान
- लेजर शो

समृद्ध आदिवासी जीवन दर्शन की झलकियां

9 एवं 10 अगस्त 2024

बिरसा मुण्डा स्मृति उद्यान,
रांची

हेमन्त सोरेन
मुख्यमंत्री, झारखण्ड



सूचना एवं जनसंपर्क विभाग, झारखण्ड सरकार

PR NO: 332294(IPRD)/24-25

ED asst director held by CBI while accepting ₹20L bribe

Rajshekhara Jha
@timesofindia.com



CBI and ED had jointly raided the officer's office and house

New Delhi: CBI has arrested an assistant director of Enforcement Directorate in connection with an alleged bribery case. The accused, identified as Sandeep Singh, was apprehended while accepting a bribe of Rs 20 lakh, the agency said. Subsequent to CBI's raid, ED initiated a money laundering probe against its officer and registered a case against him. CBI and ED had jointly raided the officer's office and house. Singh has been placed under suspension and is being

repatриated to his parent department from ED. Singh, who was attached to the headquarters investigative unit (HIU-II) of the agency in Delhi, was allegedly trying to extort money from a

jeweller who was under investigation by ED. The probe found that Singh was not even the investigating officer of the case in which he was taking the bribe.

"He was requisitioned for the limited purpose of conducting the search at the target premises. However, Singh represented himself as the investigating officer and allegedly accepted the bribe for favouring the accused, though he was in no way connected with the case being investigated," CBI said.

The jeweller filed a complaint with CBI, prompting the agency to initiate an investigation. CBI teams placed Singh's phone under surveillance and gathered evidence of the alleged bribery before carrying out a trap operation.

Singh was caught by CBI in Delhi around 11.30 pm on Aug 7 along with Rs 20 lakh cash, which he had allegedly extorted from an individual under investigation by ED.

In a statement, ED said, "Taking immediate cognisance of this incident and following the policy of zero tolerance towards corruption, ED has initiated criminal action against Sandeep Singh under PMLA"

'Misuse of power': Jamia suspends ex-officiating VC

New Delhi: Jamia Millia Islamia officiating vice-chancellor Mohammad Shakeel has suspended his predecessor E-qbal Hussain with immediate effect over alleged charges of

"misuse of power" in a case involving the selling of a land on which the university has preemptive right, an official order on Thursday said. The university has initiated

an inquiry against Hussain, who was serving as the faculty of law at the university, which is likely to be headed by a sitting or retired judge of the High Court, it said.

While the inquiry is pending against Hussain, he has been barred from visiting the faculty of law and the office of the estate officer until further orders. PTI

POONAWALLA FINCORP LIMITED
Registered and Corporate Office: 201 and 202, 2nd Floor, AP81, Koregaon Park Annex, Mundhwa, Pune - 411036, Maharashtra
Office Unit: Poonawalla Fincorp Ltd, Office No. 15, Park Street, 6th Floor Apeejay House, Block-B, Unit No. B/6/1, Kolkata-700016

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE

Sale of secured immovable asset under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (hereinafter referred to as "the Act")

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and to the Borrowers/Co-Borrowers/ in particular that the under mentioned properties mortgaged to Magma Fincorp Ltd has now been renamed as Poonawalla Fincorp Ltd vide Certificate of Incorporation. The possession of which had been taken by the respective Authorised Officer of the company under section 13 (4)/14 of the Act, will be sold through e-Auction as per the terms mentioned below for the recovery of company's outstanding dues with applicable interest, charges and costs etc.

The property described is being sold on "AS IS WHERE IS, WHATEVER THERE IS AND WITHOUT RECOURSE BASIS" under the Rule 8 & 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules (hereinafter referred to as the Rules):

1. Name of Borrowers/ Co-Borrowers/Guarantors	Description of Property & Nature of Property	1. Date & Time of E-Auction	1. Reserve Price (In lakhs)
RAJPROTIM AGENCIES PRIVATE LIMITED (In Liquidation) PARTHA PRATIM BANERJEE RAJASHREE BANERJEE 2. Notice Date: 28.12.2023 3. Loan No.: HL/0011/H/14/000091 4. Total Dues: Rs. 57,79,181 (Rupees Fifty Seven Lacs Seventy Nine Thousand One Hundred Eighty One only) as on 26.12.2023 along with interest @ 14.30% p.a till the realization.	All that Piece and Parcel of Land Measuring More or Less 5 (Five) Cottahs 9 (Nine) Chittaks 25 (Twenty Five) Square Feet together with 11 (Eleven) Chittaks 25 (Twenty Five) Square Feet More or Less used as Part of 20' (Twenty) Feet Wide Common Passage together with Partly 'G' Plus Three and Partly Three Storied Building Namely 'Purbaniya' Consisting Of 7 (Seven) Flats And Open Car Parking Space, Entire Eastern Side Flat (Flat No. 7), 3rd Floor With Marble Flooring Measuring More or Less 1340 (One Thousand Three Hundred Forty) Square Feet Super Built-Up area Consisting of 3 Bed Rooms, Living-Cum-Dining, One Kitchen, Two Toilets and Two Verandahs and a Car Parking Space at North Western Side Measuring More or Less 125 Sq. Ft. (Except North Eastern Corner Space Exclusively Allotted for the owner of the Said Land), Originally Portion of RS Khatian No. 361, Part of RS. Dag No. 356/406 (or 406 As Stated Subsequently), Touzi No. 3/4/5/12, JL No. 20 Mouza-Kalikapur, PS-Purba Jadavpur, Dist-South 24 Parganas, Premises No.-258, Heder Hat, Ward No.-109 Under Kolkata Municipal Corporation Pin 700099 and Bounded as Follows: On the North: By Premises No. 772/1, Kalikapur Previously Known as Local No. 152; On the South: By Premises No. 259, Hederhat; On the East: By 20' (Twenty) Feet Wide Common Passage; On the West: By Premises No. 31, Kalikapur Previously Known as Local No. 151.	1. Date & Time of E Auction 17.09.2024 (11 AM - 3 PM) 2. Last Date of Submission of EMD (Earnest Money Deposit) 12.09.2024 Before 5 PM 3. Date and time of Inspection of Property 04.09.2024 (11 AM - 3 PM)	1. Reserve Price (In lakhs): Rs. 27,59,813 (Rs. Twenty Seven Lakh Fifty Nine Thousand Eight Hundred and Thirteen only) 2. EMD Amount (In lakhs): Rs. 2,75,981/- (Rs. Two Lakh Seventy Five Thousand Nine Hundred and Eighty One only)

Details terms and conditions of the sale are as below and the details are also provided in our secured creditor's website at the following link/website address: <https://poonawallafincorp.com/pdf/Properties-for-Auction.pdf>.

The intending bidders are advised to visit the Branch and the properties put up on Auction, and obtain necessary information regarding charges, encumbrances. The purchaser shall make his own enquiry and ascertain the additional charges, encumbrances and any third party interests and satisfy himself/herself/itself in all aspects thereto. All statutory dues like property taxes, electricity dues and any other dues, if any, attached to the property should be ascertained and paid by the successful bidder(s)/prospective purchaser(s). The bidder(s)/prospective purchaser(s) are requested, in their own interest, to satisfy himself/herself/itself with regard to the above and the other relevant details pertaining to the above-mentioned property/properties, before submitting the bids.

1. The interested bidders are required to register themselves with the portal and obtain login ID and Password well in advance, which is mandatory for e-bidding, from auction service provider M/s Auegeo Asset Management, H-182, Sector 63, NOIDA 201301 No. +91 7428993244/+91 7428695102/ Email id- shekhar@carttradeexchange.com. Please note that Prospective bidders may avail online training on e-auction from them only. The intending purchaser/bidder is required to submit amount of the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) by way of NEFT/RTGS/DD in the account of "Poonawalla Fincorp Ltd", Bank: ICICI BANK LTD. CC Account No. 000651000350 and IFSC Code- ICIC0000006, 20, R. N. Mukherjee Road- Kolkata-700001 drawn on any nationalized or scheduled Bank on or before 12.09.2024 and register their name at <https://auegeo.samill.in> and get user ID and password free of cost and get training on e-auction from the service provider. After their Registration on the web-site, the intending purchaser/bidder is required to get the copies of the following documents uploaded, e-mail and sent self-attested hard copy to (Respective Manager Poonawalla Fincorp Ltd), Mr. Sabyasachi Sinha, Address: Poonawalla Fincorp Ltd, Office 15, Park Street, 6th Floor, Apeejay House, Block-B, Unit No. B/6/1, Kolkata-700016. Mobile No. 9609868045. E-mail id: sabyasachi.sinha@poonawallafincorp.com

STATUTORY 30 DAYS NOTICE UNDER SARFAESI ACT, 2002

1. The Borrower/Co-Borrowers are hereby notified to pay the sum mentioned above along with up to dated interest and ancillary expenses before the date of e- Auction, failing which the Secured Asset/Property shall be auctioned/sold and balance dues, if any, shall be recovered with interest and cost.

Place: Kolkata
 Dated: 09.08.2024
 Authorised Officer
 Poonawalla Fincorp Limited

AIIMS- Central Armed Forces Institute of Medical Sciences Center (AIIMS-CAPFIMS Center), Maidan Garhi, New Delhi-110068
Advertisement Notice No.- SR-AIIMS (CAPFIMS) / 2024

Date: 29.07.2024

Recruitment to the post of Senior Residents for AIIMS-CAPFIMS Center, Maidan Garhi, New Delhi-110068

Online applications are invited from Indian Citizens as per Govt. of India Residency Scheme, for the tenure posts of Senior Residents for a maximum period upto 3 years for AIIMS-CAPFIMS Center, Maidan Garhi, New Delhi. The details are given below:

Date for Online Registration of applications	
Registration Opens on	29th July, 2024
Registration Closes on	12th August, 2024 (upto 5:00 p.m.)
Date of CBT Examination (Stage-I)	25th August, 2024 (Sunday) in Delhi/NCR
Duration & Timing of Exam	1½ hr. (10:00 AM to 11:30 AM)
Result of Stage-I CBT Examination	28th August, 2024
Date of Interview (Stage-II)	31st August, 2024
Final Result & Joining	1st week of September, 2024

Important: For detailed information etc. please visit the website www.aiimsexams.ac.in. All applicants are required to visit the website regularly since all subsequent Corrigendum/Addendum/Updates will be uploaded on the website only.

Sd/-
ASSISTANT CONTROLLER (EXAMS)

CBC 17112/11/0026/2425

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Sd/-
ASSISTANT CONTROLLER (EXAMS)

CBC 17112/11/0026/2425

भारतीय विज्ञान शिक्षा एवं अनुसंधान संस्थान बरहम्पुर
INDIAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE EDUCATION AND RESEARCH BERHAMPUR
 An Autonomous Institution of the Ministry of Education, Govt. of India

(Short advertisement for recruitment of faculty position on direct recruitment)

No: ISERBPR/DOFA/2024/2
 Opening date for submission of application: 1000 hrs. of August 12, 2024
 Closing date of submission of application: 1700 hrs. of September 11, 2024
 Crucial date for calculation of age/qualification/experience: September 11, 2024

Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER) Berhampur is a premier autonomous Institution of National Importance established by the Ministry of Education (MoE), Govt. of India (GoI) for promotion of high-quality science education and research in the country. IISER Berhampur was set up as the 7th IISER by Govt. of India in 2016 under NITSER Act, 2007. The Institute invites applications through online from eligible candidates for the following positions:-

The details of the posts are as under:

S. No.	Position	Department	Vacancy with category	Area of Specialization
1	Professor	Chemical Sciences	01 (UR)	Synthetic Organic Chemistry, Bio-organic Chemistry
2	Assistant Professor-G-1	Earth & Environmental Sciences **	02 (UR-1, SC-1)	Environmental Chemistry, Hydrogeology, Geochemistry, Structural Geology, Economic Geology
3	Assistant Professor-G-1	Computer Sciences	01 (OBC/NCL)	Environmental Chemistry, Hydrogeology, Geochemistry, Structural Geology, Economic Geology
4	Assistant Professor-G-1	Biological Sciences	01 (ST)	Immunology, Ecological Sciences, Structural Biology, Animal Physiology, Neuro Biology.

** Applicants who have Ph.D. in Geological Sciences or Ph.D in Chemistry and related areas having appropriate experience may apply for environmental chemistry specialization.
 Horizontal reservation of prescribed 4% for PwBD candidates as per the relevant Act & instructions of the Govt. of India as applicable are to be made.

Note: Please visit Institute website www.iiserbpr.ac.in for submission of application and full text of the advertisement for all other details regarding educational qualification, experiences and other eligibility criteria. The detail advertisement as posted on our website will regulate the recruitment of the above posts.

Registrar

भारतीय विज्ञान शिक्षा एवं अनुसंधान संस्थान बरहम्पुर
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3	Assistant Professor-G-1	Computer Sciences	01 (OBC/NCL)	Environmental Chemistry, Hydrogeology, Geochemistry, Structural Geology, Economic Geology
4	Assistant Professor-G-1	Biological Sciences	01 (ST)	Immunology, Ecological Sciences, Structural Biology, Animal Physiology, Neuro Biology.

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Registrar

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Sale of RDF up by ~23% YoY

₹227 Cr. Total Revenue from Operations

₹55 Cr. EBITDA

₹26 Cr. Profit Before Tax

Figures are for Q1FY25

This is an abridged representation of the Unaudited Consolidated Financial Results for the Quarter ended June 30, 2024 and is not for the purpose of legal compliance.

Antony Waste Handling Cell Limited
 CIN : L90001MH2001PLC130485. Reg. Off. : A-59, Road No. 10, Wagle Industrial Estate, Thane (West) - 400 604, Maharashtra, India

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1,734 sq km of forest area lost in last 10 years

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Govt Thursday informed RS that nearly 1,734 sq km of forest area has been lost in the country in the last 10 years due to development activities but land has also been acquired for compensatory afforestation during the period and the overall forest cover has increased by around 21,762 sq km in 2021 compared to 2011.

Data shared by environment minister Bhupendra Patel Yadav shows that highest diversion of forest land for non-forestry purposes during 2014 and 2024 was reported from MP, followed by Odisha, Telangana, Gujarat & Arunachal Pradesh.

"Whenever Centre accords approval for use of forest land for non-forestry purposes, cost of compensatory afforestation and net present value of the land is realised from user agency as per the norms. Moreover, additional mitigation measures such as soil and moisture conservation works, catchment area treatment plans and wildlife management plans, are also stipulated as per the requirement," Yadav added.

He further said, "The compensatory levies realized from the user agencies are utilised for taking compensatory afforestation as per the provisions of Compensatory Afforestation Fund Act, 2016."

RELIABILITY IMPROVEMENT IN TINSUKIA DIVISION

E-Tender Notice No. N-2024-25-TSK-NIT-08-Dtd: 07-08-2024. E-Tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works: E-Tender No. N-2024-25-TSK-T-08. Name of work: Reliability improvement by means of replacement of Low Insulation Quad Cable on condition basis with 48V OFC in the section of Chabua-Dibrugarh Town-Sibsagar Town of Tinsukia Division. Tender Value: ₹. 22,18,72,126/-. Earnest Money: ₹. 22,59,400/-. Date & Time of closing of tender: 15.00 hrs. of 29-08-2024 & opening at 29-08-2024 after 15.00 hrs. The complete information with the tender document of above e-tender will be available in website www.ireps.gov.in

Sr. DSTE/GS/Tinsukia
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
Serving Customers With A Smile

EASTERN RAILWAY

E-Tender No. : LRC-3 AC-INSPECTION-CAR, dtd. 06.08.2024. E-tender (open tender) is invited online by Dy. Chief Mechanical Engineer (LHB), Eastern Railway, Liluah, Howrah, Pin-711204 for the following work: Name of work: Conversion of ICF BG coaches to AC Inspection Saloon Car (CE2 and one other). Approx. Cost of work: Rs. 1,28,78,932.22. Earnest Money: Rs. 2,14,400/-. Tender Document cost: Nil. Tender closing date & time: 24.08.2024 at 14.00 hrs. Website where complete details of tender is available: www.ireps.gov.in (MISC-130/2024-25)

Tender Notices are also available at Website www.easternrailways.gov.in / www.ireps.gov.in

EASTERN RAILWAY

E-Tender Notice (Open Tender) No. F/Mfg/Six Sigma Green Belt, dtd. 07.08.2024. Dy. CME (Mfg), Eastern Railway Locomotive Workshop, Jamalpur, Dist. - Munger, Bihar, Pin-811214 invites E-Tenders against Tender No. F/Mfg/Six Sigma Green Belt. Bidders will be able to submit their bids upto closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards Earnest Money only through payment modes available on IREPS portal like Net Banking, Debit Card, Credit Card etc. Manual payments through Demand Draft, Banker's cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed. Name of work & location: Lean Six Sigma Green Belt Training Project handholding and certification at Jamalpur workshop. Advertised value: ₹. 2,47,800/-. Bid Security: ₹. 5,000/-. Cost of tender document: Nil. Period of completion: 3 months. Date & time of uploading tender: 09.08.2024 at 15.00 hrs. Tender closing date & time: 02.09.2024 at 15.00 hrs. Validity of offer: 60 days. Website particulars and notice board location where complete details of tender can be seen etc.: www.ireps.gov.in hyperlinked with www.easternrailways.gov.in and Dy. CME (Mfg) office, Eastern Railway Locomotive Workshop, Jamalpur on any working day. (MISC-129/2024-25)

Tender Notices are also available at Website www.easternrailways.gov.in / www.ireps.gov.in

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/HQ/HWH. E-Tender No. : 152/2024-25, dtd. 07.08.2024. Description of work: Repair, realignment, increasing dia of underground sewerage line including cross track drain in PF area at Howrah station. Approx. Cost: Rs. 2,17,97,360.36/-. Earnest Money: Rs. 2,59,000/-. Cost of tender form: Nil. Completion period: 12 months from the date of issue of acceptance letter. Closing date & time of tender: 30.08.2024 at 14.00 hrs. In case the date of closing mentioned in the Notice Inviting Tender is declared a holiday/bank holiday on any accepted, 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.ireps.gov.in Tenders 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. 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/215/2024-25)

Tender Notices are also available at Website www.easternrailways.gov.in / www.ireps.gov.in

EASTERN RAILWAY

Following us at: @EasternRailway @easternrailwayheadquarter

Oppn crossing all limits, says irate Dhankhar, leaves House

Not Allowed To Raise Phogat Issue, Oppn Walks Out Of House

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The fraught relationship between Rajya Sabha chairperson and the opposition came to the fore once again on Thursday, with Jagdeep Dhankhar leaving the House for some time after an uproar and walkout by MPs not allowed to raise wrestler Vinesh Phogat's disqualification from the Olympics.

Accusing the opposition parties of "always challenging" him, Dhankhar said they were "crossing all limits" to create "anarchy" in the House and disrespecting the prestige of the Chair. Cautioning Derek O'Brien in particular for "shouting at the Chair", he said the Trinamool neta would next time be "shown the door".

Leader of opposition in Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge sought to raise Phogat's disqualification, wanting to know "who is behind it", as soon as proceedings began after tabling of the listed papers on Thursday. Dhankhar, however, disallowed it. He then told O'Brien, who was up on his



Dhankhar leaves the House on Thursday after accusing the opposition of disrespecting the prestige of the Chair

feet, that his conduct was unbecoming. "You (O'Brien) are shouting at the Chair. Your conduct is ugliest in the House. I condemn your actions. Next time I will show you the door," he said.

Opposition parties then staged a walkout. "We have seen the dark days... the ugliest phase of democracy during Emergency... It starts with a challenge to Parliamentary institutions," Dhankhar said. "They (opposition parties) think they are the only ones whose hearts are bleeding. The entire nation, from

di, he added.

Expressing anguish that he was not getting the desired support from the opposition to run the House despite him making all efforts, Dhankhar said, "They are not challenging me. They are challenging the chairperson's post... they think that the person who is sitting on this Chair is not capable."

"I am not running away from the oath. But what I have seen today, the way a member has behaved, the way the opposition bench has behaved, I am not finding myself in a position to sit here for some time," Dhankhar said, adding he was leaving the House "with a heavy heart".

Deputy chairperson Hariwansh then chaired the zero hour proceedings. Returning to the Chair around mid-way into the question hour, Dhankhar said, "I left my seat to inspect. Having witnessed (the scene)... which I found was unprecedented, and indigestible." He announced he has called a meeting of floor leaders at 1.30 PM to discuss the matter.

Is PMLA review plea 'appeal in disguise'? SC to examine

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Supreme Court, while fixing a batch of petitions seeking review of its 2022 order on validity of various provisions of Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002, has observed whether review petition is an appeal in disguise.

A bench of Justices Surya Kant, C T Ravikumar and Ujjal Bhuyan asked whether review proceedings would partake the character of an appeal even if a judgment was "gravely erred". "Can this partake character of appeal? It is to be seen," the bench said. The issue is of significance because of limited jurisdiction of review hearing which can be entertained only in case of error in verdict.

The petitioners are seeking re-examination of the apex court's July 27, 2022, order which upheld the stringent regime prescribed for money laundering offences and vast powers enjoyed by the Enforcement Directorate, allowing the agency to arrest people and conduct search and seizure even when no complaint has been filed, making statements made before the agency admissible in court while also putting the burden on the accused to prove

his innocence.

Interestingly, within a month of the order, the court decided to re-examine the verdict and issued notice to the central govt in Aug 2022. It said "at least two of the issues raised in the instant petition require consideration".

In a shot in the arm for the anti-money laundering agency, a bench of Justices A M Khanwilkar, Dinesh Maheshwari and C T Ravikumar had validated the twin bail conditions as per which the accused could be granted bail only if there were reasonable grounds for the court to believe that he was not

ORDER UNDER LENS

guilty and was unlikely to commit an offence while on bail.

The provisions, which set the bar for bail very high in PMLA cases, was declared invalid by a two-judge SC bench in 2017 on the ground of being discriminatory but was reintroduced in the law a year later.

In the 2022 order, a 3-judge bench court justified the twin conditions by saying they were also part of other laws which had stood the test of time and constitutional validity.

Bodies of 3 Hmar men bore blunt force bruises: Autopsy

Guwahati: Postmortem and inquest reports of three Hmar individuals, who Assam Police said were militants killed in a "crossfire" between cops and another group of militants on July 16 in Cachar district, have revealed that besides bullet marks, their bodies also showed injuries from the impact of a blunt force. The reports have fuelled allegations of fake encounter, reports Prabin Kalita.

Two of the deceased — Lallungawi Hmar (21) and Lalbikung Hmar (33) — were from Lakhimpur in Cachar, the third, K Joshua Lalrinsang (35), was from Pherzawl district in Manipur.

Alleging torture and extrajudicial killing, family of the deceased had filed a writ petition before Gauhati HC high court and demanded an independent inquiry by CBI, with officials from outside the state conducting the probe. State govt has denied custodial death allegations.

Postmortem report by Silchar Medical College and Hospital (SMCH) stated that Lallungawi's death was "instantaneous following injuries sustained in the thorax caused by bullet fired from rifled firearm", and his body also had an injury "caused by blunt force impact". Besides, his body bore "lacerated injury" on thigh and "multiple pressure abrasions" on right forearm.

Hearing the families' plea on Wednesday, a division bench of Gauhati high court, comprising justices Kalyan Rai Surana and Soumitra Saikia, noted that the petitioners had no objection to taking custody of the bodies, which are lying at the SMCH morgue, to perform their last rites. The case will be heard next on Sept 10.

Cong puts in place performance review system for its MPs

Subodh Ghildiyal
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Putting stress on performance and participation in Parliament, Congress is learnt to have instituted a system to assess its MPs in Lok Sabha. The party has told its members that a keen eye is being kept on them and they should live up to the expectations of their large support base that elected them.

Leader of opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi chaired a meeting of party MPs on Thursday in which they were informed about the performance assessment, which places premium on their showing in the House.

The party management is said to have told the members that they should attend and participate in the proceedings, raising issues, pushing back against the govt where required, and speak effectively. It was conveyed that their performance was being monitored and those who make effective speeches will be given more opportunities in future.

Interestingly, the Gandhiscion asked members' views on the speeches they thought were impactful. When some names were offered, he looked into his personal list and said that their names matched. A special mention

MP Cong roasted over '11-6' notice

A "working hours" board was put up at the entrance to state Congress office Thursday — the party may as well have held up a bull's eye, as it was soon the target of a barrage of sarcasm and criticism from BJP.

The notice, in bold red letters in Hindi, said, "PCC office working hours from 11 in the morning till 6 in the evening, Sunday closed." Such a notice was unheard of in any political office in the state. And the bars came thick and fast. **TNN**

was made about former Punjab CM Charanjit Channi, Jharkhand MP Sukhdeo Bhagat, the two Manipur MPs Arthur Alfred and Bilal Ahoijam, and Punjab member Amrinder Singh Raja Warring, besides a couple of other MPs.

Sources said the MPs were given instructions to stay close to people and raise their concerns in the House. Given that a large part of Congress contingent are first term MPs, the members were encouraged that they have the talent and should not worry about mistakes, adding that they would be guided as required.

Speaker's rights being curtailed, says Akhilesh, attracts Shah's attack

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Home minister Amit Shah Thursday objected to remarks made by Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav, who claimed that the rights of the Lok Sabha Speaker are being curtailed.

"This is an insult to the Chair. The rights of the Speaker do not belong to the opposition only, but to the whole House. Don't speak in a roundabout way. You are not the protector of the Speaker's rights," Shah said.

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla also asked Akhilesh Yadav to refrain from commenting about the Chair.

Shah's reaction came in response to Yadav alleging that the rights of the Speaker are being curtailed and the opposition would have to

fight for him. The Kannauj MP was addressing LS during the debate on Waqf (Amendment) Bill when he said, "Your rights and our rights are being curtailed. I had told you that you are the judge of democracy. I have heard that some of your rights are being snatched and we'd have to fight for you."

Birla later told Yadav that he and other members of the House must not comment on the Chair. "I expect that no personal remarks are made on the Chair," he said.

Opposing the legislation, Yadav said it has been introduced as part of a well-thought-out politics.

"When there is a democratic process for election, why nominate people? No person from outside the community is part of other religious bodies. What is the point of including non-Muslims in Waqf bodies?" he said. Yadav added that BJP has brought this legislation to appease some hardline supporters after its setback in the Lok Sabha election.

Government of Jharkhand Department of Forest, Environment and Climate Change Advertisement

Sub :- Appointment for the post of Member Secretary, Jharkhand State Pollution Control Board (JSPCB), Ranchi.

Applications are invited from eligible candidates for appointment to the post of Member secretary, Jharkhand State Pollution Control Board (JSPCB), Ranchi. The Jharkhand State Pollution Control Board (JSPCB), Ranchi was established under provisions of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974. The Jharkhand State Pollution Control Board (JSPCB), Ranchi exercises functions related to prevention and control of pollution. The Member secretary shall be a full-time incumbent.

3. The following are the terms and conditions for the post of Member secretary, Jharkhand State Pollution Control Board (JSPCB), Ranchi:-

Sl. No.	Description	Tender Quantity	Tender Due on
1	Scale of Pay	According to the Seventh Pay Commission Pay Scale Level-13A in the pay matrix.	
2	Method of Recruitment	Deputation/on contract/direct recruitment.	
3	Terms & Conditions	(A) Allowance of the Member Secretary of the Board, time of joining, salary, provident fund/ National Pension Scheme/Employee Provident Fund, gratuity, retirement age, medical facility and other services shall be regulated with the applicable rules and orders as the holding of the post of equal pay scale of the officer of State Government/Central Government. (B) Appointment to the post of Jharkhand State Pollution Control Board Member Secretary will be called External Services and the provisions of State Government/Central Government for external service will be applicable.	
4	Qualification & Experience	Educational qualification and experience- Persons from Central Government/State Governments/Public Sector Undertakings/ Universities/Recognized Research Institutes/Autonomous or Semi-Governmental or Statutory or Private Institutions having the qualification mentioned below can apply. (A) Qualification:- (i) Bachelor's Degree in Engineering/Technology discipline relating to Environment or Master's Degree in Science preferably relating to Environment from a recognized University or Institute. (ii) Competent, qualified, desirable knowledge in the field of environmental protection and pollution control management and at least 10 years of practical experience. (B) Work Experience:- (i) Regularly holding the analogous post in the seventh pay scale Level-13A in the pay matrix or 6th pay scale PB-IV-37400-67000, Grade pay-8900 or equivalent Or Five years regular service or equivalent in the seventh pay scale Level-13 in the pay matrix or 6th pay scale PB-IV-37400-67000, Grade pay-8700. (ii) Sixteen years of experience at the administrative or managerial level at Central Government/State Governments/ Public Sector Undertakings/ Universities/ Recognized Research Institutes/ Autonomous or Semi-Governmental or Statutory or Private Institutions with at least 10 years of practical experience in the field of Environmental Protection and Pollution Control Management.	20-08-2024
5	Age limit	Maximum age limit will be 55 and minimum 45 years on the date of receipt of application in case of direct appointment.	
6	Tenure	Single term of 3 years	

Interested and eligible candidates other than person who have retired are requested to send their application in the prescribed format in 3 sets within 45 days from the Publication of this Advertisement through the Proper Channel at the Address given below.

Retired Persons/Persons working in Private organization are requested to send their application in the prescribed format in 3 sets within 45 days from the Publication of this Advertisement directly at the Address given below.

Note: Officers working in the Central or State Government or Public Sector Undertaking or University or Recognized Research Institution or Autonomous or Semi Government or Statutory Organization shall send their application through proper channel along with following documents :-

(i) Annual Confidential Report dossier for last five years.
(ii) Integrity Certificate / Vigilance Clearance is to be signed by an officer not below the rank/scale of Deputy Secretary in Government or controlling officer of the office concerned.

Note- Application performa can be seen at departmental notice board and downloaded from www.prj.jharkhand.in and http://forest.jharkhand.gov.in and website of JSPCB.

To,
SPECIAL SECRETARY,
FOREST, ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE CHANGE DEPARTMENT,
GOVERNMENT OF JHARKHAND, NEPAL HOUSE, DORANDA, RANCHI.
PIN CODE-834002 (JHARKHAND)

Sd/-
(Raju Ranjan Roy), Special Secretary,
Forest, Environment & Climate Change, Department,
Government of Jharkhand.

PR 332256 Forest, Environment and Climate Changes(24-25)#D

STORES E-PROCUREMENT

Tender Notice No.: 09/2024, Dtd: 07-08-2024. E-Tender are invited by the undersigned for the following works.

SI.No.:1; Tender No. : 01245116		
Description	Tender Quantity	Tender Due on
Manufacturing & Supplying of Wider Base prestressed monoblock concrete sleeper (pretension type) for (i) 1 in 12 turnout as per RDSO drawing No. T- 4218, (ii) Derailling Switch as per RDSO Drg. No. RT- 6068, (iii) Level Crossing as per RDSO drawing No. T- 8969, (iv) Guard rail for use on ballasted deck bridge as per RDSO drawing No. T-8970, (v) Thick web Switch Expansion Joint as per RDSO drawing No. T- 8838, (vi) 1 in 8.5 turnout as per RDSO drawing No. T- 4865, (vii) Sharp Curve (of radius less than 350m) as per RDSO drawing No. RDSO/T- 8979, (viii) Sharp Curve (of radius less than 350m) as per RDSO drawing No. RDSO/T- 8981, (ix) Sharp Curve (of radius less than 350m) as per RDSO drawing No. RDSO/T- 8980, (x) Sharp Curve (of radius less than 350m) as per RDSO drawing No. RDSO/T- 8982, (xi) Bridge approach as per RDSO drawing No. T-8970 & T-8971 to T-8978 etc.	PL No. 600501100022 = 1 Set, PL No. 60060414 = 1 Set, PL No. 60060415 = 6 Set, PL No. 60060416 = 2 Set, PL No. 60060487 = 220 Nos., PL No. 60060488 = 200 Nos, PL No. 60060499 = 50 Nos, PL No. 60060500 = 60 Nos., PL No. 601900610043 = 450 Nos., PL No. 601900610044 = 550 Nos., PL No. 60190085 = 5 Set, PL No. 60190086 = 12 Set, PL No. 60190097 = 4 Set, PL No. 60190098 = 4 Set, PL No. 60190103 = 650 Nos., PL No. 60190104 = 400 Nos., PL No. 601901700040 = 65 Set, PL No. 601901700041 = 5 Set, PL No. 601902060010 = 34 Nos., PL No. 601902060011 = 34 Nos., PL No. 601902060020 = 34 Nos., PL No. 601902060021 = 340 Nos., PL No. 601902090014 = 15 Set, PL No. 601902090019 = 10 Set	20-08-2024
SI.No.:2; Tender No. : 01249112RC		
2 Years Rate Contract for (i) Manufacturing and supplying of CGRSP for wider base PSC Sleeper (T-8746) for 52/60 kg rail as per Drg. No. RDSO/T-8747, (ii) Manufacturing and supplying of CGRSP for PSC Sleeper (T-2496) as per Drg. No. RDSO/T-6818 for 60 kg rail.	PL No. 6015NS01 = 850780 Sets, PL No. 6015NS02 = 795800 Sets, PL No. 6015NS03 = 105000 Nos.	30-08-2024

Note :- For full details of Tender Notice and Tender Documents, Tenderer may log on to the website (www.ireps.gov.in) prospective bidder who intend to participate in above tenders are required to log in themselves with the above website and submit their offer electronically, if they are already registered with IREPS. In case they are not registered with IREPS, they are advised to obtain class-III Digital Signature Certificate from the certifying agencies under Govt. of India IT Act 2000 and participate in the above tenders.

PCMM/CON, Maligaon

NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
Construction Organization
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Regulation of Trains for Traffic Block Over Sealdah Division

For conversion of Point No. 234B/235A, Traffic Block for 06 hours (from 00:00 hrs. to 06:00 hrs.) will be necessary on Down CCR line at Dum Dum Jn. station over Sealdah Division on the intervening night of 10/11.08.2024 (Saturday/Sunday). Consequently, the following trains will be regulated as under: ● Cancellation on 10.08.2024 (Saturday) : Sealdah-Dankuni - UP : 32249/ DN : 32252. ● Short Termination / Short Origination on 10.08.2024 (Saturday) : 33860 DN Bangoan-Sealdah Local will be short terminated at Barasat instead of Sealdah & 33863 UP Sealdah-Bangoan Local will be short originated from Barasat instead of Sealdah. ● Cancellation on 11.08.2024 (Sunday) : Sealdah-Bangoan - UP : 33811, 33817 / DN : 33824, 33826. Sealdah-Habra - UP : 33651/DN : 33652. Sealdah-Dankuni - UP : 32211, 32213, 32215, 32217/ DN : 32212, 32214, 32216, 32218. Sealdah-Dattapukur - DN : 33612, 33616. Barasat-Dattapukur - UP : 33357. Sealdah-Barasat - UP : 33431/ DN : 33432. Sealdah-Naihati - DN : 31422. Budge Budge-Sealdah - UP : 34117. ● Short Termination / Short Origination on 11.08.2024 (Sunday) : (1) 31051 UP Budge Budge-Naihati Local will be short terminated at Sealdah instead of Naihati. (2) 31052 DN Naihati-Budge Budge Local will be short terminated at Sealdah instead of Budge Budge. (3) 33812 DN Bangoan-Sealdah Local will be short terminated at Dum Dum Cantonment instead of Sealdah & 33813 UP Sealdah-Bangoan Local will be short originated from Dum Dum Cantonment instead of Sealdah. (4) 33814 DN Bangoan-Sealdah Local will be short terminated at Barasat instead of Sealdah & 33815 UP Sealdah-Bangoan Local will be short originated from Barasat instead of Sealdah. ● Rescheduling and Short Termination / Short Origination on 11.08.2024 (Sunday) : 33512 DN Hasanabad-Sealdah Local will be rescheduled for 1 hour i.e. at 04.05 hrs. instead of 03.05 hrs. from Hasanabad and will be short terminated at Barasat instead of Sealdah & 33511 UP Sealdah-Hasanabad Local will be short originated from Barasat instead of Sealdah. ● Rescheduling of Mail/Express train : 22202 DN Puri-Sealdah Duronto Express (JCO 10.08.2024 [Saturday]) will be rescheduled for 2 hours 30 minutes i.e. at 21.55 hrs. instead of 19:25 hrs. from Puri. ● Diversion of Mail/Express : (1) 13148 DN Bamanhat-Sealdah Uttarbanga Express (JCO 10.08.2024 [Saturday]) will be diverted via Bandel-Naihati-Dum Dum instead of Dankuni-Dum Dum and will stop at Bandel & Naihati. (2) 12344 DN Haldibari-Sealdah Darjeeling Mail (JCO 10.08.2024 [Saturday]) & (3) 12378 DN New Alipurduar-Sealdah Padatik Express (JCO 10.08.2024 [Saturday]) will be diverted via Bandel-Naihati-Dum Dum instead of Dankuni-Dum Dum and will stop at Naihati. Note : Last train before block in Sealdah-Bangoan Section : 33861 UP/33858 DN & in Sealdah-Hasanabad Section : 33533 UP / 33538 DN and First train after block in Sealdah-Bangoan Section : 33819 UP/33816 DN & in Sealdah-Hasanabad Section : 33513 UP / 33514 DN. Passengers are requested to follow the public Address System of stations. Inconvenience is regretted.

Divisional Railway Manager, Sealdah

EASTERN RAILWAY

Following us at: @EasternRailway @easternrailwayheadquarter

Pins retrieved from teen's lung

Navi Mumbai: A 13-year-old girl from Rajapur in Maharashtra's Ratnagiri narrowly escaped fatality after accidentally swallowing a pin. Doctors retrieved the pin, ensuring its sharp end doesn't puncture the lung lobe, reports Vijay Singh. The girl had ingested the pin by mistake while holding it in her mouth to wear her scarf. Endoscopy was done to check if the pin was in the stomach. Doctors then did a bronchoscopic removal of the pin.

Lifer for man, 20yr RI for 2 others for Dalit girl's gangrape

Amroha: An additional district and sessions judge sentenced a man to life imprisonment and two others, including a woman, to 20 years of rigorous imprisonment under SC/ST Act for their involvement in kidnapping and gang rape of a Dalit girl in 2016 in a village in UP's Amroha. The court also imposed a collective fine of Rs 1.2 lakh on the three convicts, reports Harver Dabas.

The incident took place on July 10, 2016, when the main convict, accompanied by a neighbour, visited the survivor's house, on pretext of asking for water. When the survivor, then 19 years old, opened the door, the convicts gagged her and forced her into a car where two men were present.

The convicts then drove the girl to a sugarcane field where they threatened her with arms. The following morning, a woman living near the sugarcane field, took the survivor to her house and held her hostage. The convicts then raped her again. The woman arranged for the survivor to be sold to a man from Punjab for Rs 3 lakh. Despite the survivor's police complaint, no action was taken initially.

1,650+ arrests made under anti-conversion law in UP: DGP

Lucknow: As many 1,682 people were arrested and 835 cases registered in UP till July 31 under the state's anti-conversion law since it came into effect in 2020, DGP Prashant Kumar said Thursday, reports Pathikrit Chakraborty.

A total of 2,708 people have been named in the cases under the UP Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion of Religion Act. Most of the cases were filed in Ghaziabad, Ambekarnagar, Bhadohi, Saharanpur and Shahjahanpur. "We have filed charge sheets in almost 98% cases, while 17 are still under probe," Kumar added.

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
CORRIGENDUM NOTICE
Corrigendum is hereby issued by the Executive Engineer, South 24 Pgs Mechanical Division, PHE Dte. on behalf of the Governor of West Bengal vide Ref. No. WBPHE/EE/SMD/Nil-08 of 2024 and ID: 2024_PHE-D_714921_1-10, the last date for submission of tender is extended upto 20.08.2024, 14:00 Hrs. Details will be available in the website: wbenders.gov.in Sd/- Exe Engineer, SMD, PHE Dte. ICA-TJ3686(3)/2024

RECRUITMENT NOTICE FOR ASHA & BLOCK PROGRAMME COORDINATOR - ASHA
Applications are invited from eligible women candidates for the post of ASHA & BPC-ASHA from all eligible candidates. For more details please visit birbhum district website (<https://birbhum.gov.in>) notice section following Recruitment sub-section or download the details advertisement at following link: https://birbhum.gov.in/notice_category/recruitment/

Sd/-
Sub-Divisional Officer
Rampurhat
Memo No: 103(2)/Inf/Advt/Bir, dt. 08.08.2024

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING ATTENDANCE OF DEFENDANT
(Order 5, Rule 20 of the Code of Civil Procedure) In the Court of Sh. Shubham Devayya, Civil Judge-03, South East District, Saket Courts, Delhi

VJ INFONET PRIVATE LIMITED ... Plaintiff
Against
TOUCHCORE TECHNOLOGIES PRIVATE LIMITED ... Defendant
Touchcore Technologies Private Limited, 15, Bow Street, Room No.5, 2nd Floor, Kolkata, West Bengal 700012
Also At: 571 Bosepukur Purbanagar Kolkata, West Bengal 700107
WHEREAS you are intentionally evading service of summons it is hereby notified that if you shall not defend the case on the 23.08.2024 the day fixed for the final disposal, it will be heard and determined ex-parte.
Given under my hand and the seal of the Court, this 09.07.2024.
Civil Judge-03, South East District, Saket Courts, Delhi

INFORMATION WANTED



This is the photograph of **Sarawati Choudhary**, Daughter of **Ramesh Choudhary**, of 21-7 Ram Nagar Colony Bagan, PS-Bhatpara, PO-Kankinara, 743126, who has been missing since 04.07.2024 from Residence, Bhatpara, Barrackpore Commissionerate, W.B., Description of this missing person is: Age-19 years, Complexion-Fair, Height- 163 cms., Wearing-Black Suit, Black Pant, Language-Hindi. 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- D1366 (3)/ 2024

PUBLICATION NOTICE

In the Court of Sub-Judge-I District Civil Court, District-Katihar. Reference- Title Partition Suit Case No.-149/2022 Sajal Biswas Vrs Plaintiff
Sukhendu Biswas and others Defendants
NOTICE against
Defendant No.-01. Sukhendu Biswas S/O-Late Sudhir Kumar Mandal, resident of Mohalla-Teja Tola Ward No.-02 PS-Sahayak, Dist-Katihar, Defendant No.-02. Timirendu Biswas S/O-Late Sudhir Kumar Mandal, resident of Mohalla-Teja Tola Ward No.-02 PS-Sahayak, Dist-Katihar, At present r/o-1 Kailash Ghosh Road, Saourany Housing Complex Block-H Flat-4/W Purbo Barisha, Kolkata, 700008 West Bengal. Defendant No.-03. Samirendu Biswas S/O-Late Sudhir Kumar Mandal, resident of Mohalla-Teja Tola, Ward No.-02 PS-Sahayak, Dist-Katihar At present r/o-47 Dr. B.C. Roy Sarani, West Vivekanand Pally, Siliguri PIN-734006, West Bengal. Defendant No.-04. Mira Biswas S/O-Late Sudhir Kumar Mandal, resident of Mohalla-Teja Tola Ward No.-02 PS-Sahayak, Dist-Katihar At present r/o- Flat No.-02/222/22 M.G. Garden Road, Kolkata-30, West Bengal. It is informed that the plaintiff Krishna Devi has filed a Partition Suit Bearing TPS No. 149/2022 against seven defendants, by which the above noted defendants have not appeared before the court as yet, therefore through a public notice you all are informed that the next date of hearing in connection with this case has fixed on 30/08/2024 for filing objection, accordingly you all are directed to appear before the court on due date at 10.30 AM and represent your case. You are also directed that in absence of the defendant, an ex-parte order will be passed for further proceeding of the suit. It is signed by me by dated 27th day of July 2024 and issued after making seal of this court.
Praveen Kumar Malviya
Sub-Judge-I, Katihar

CANCELLATION OF MAITREE EXPRESS

As per message received from Bangladesh Railways, 13108 Kolkata-Dhaka Maitree Express (JCO 10.08.2024) and 13110 Dhaka-Kolkata Maitree Express (JCO 10.08.2024) will remain cancelled. Inconvenience to be caused to the passengers is deeply regretted.
Chief Passenger Transportation Manager

EASTERN RAILWAY

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We would be glad to hear from our customers on any queries or complaints that they may have with our service. We invite our customers to call us on 121 for general information and queries, and on 198 for service requests and complaints.

If any customer is not satisfied with the resolution provided for the complaint filed, he/she may choose to file an appeal with the Appellate Authority through any of the modes mentioned in the table below, or by simply calling 198 along with the details of the complaint (Service Request No.)

Customer Care (24x7)	General Information Number	For mobile customers	For fixedline and broadband customers
		121 or 9831012345 (postpaid) 121 or 9831098310 (prepaid)	121 or 033-44444121
Consumer Care Number	121@in.airtel.com	121@in.airtel.com	121@in.airtel.com
E-mail	www.airtel.in	www.airtel.in	www.airtel.in
Website	www.airtel.in	www.airtel.in	www.airtel.in
Name	Gunjan Agarwal	Gunjan Agarwal	Gunjan Agarwal
Contact number	9831844865	033-40016676	033-40016676
Appellate Authority (9.30 am to 6.30 pm Monday to Friday)	e-mail: appellate.wb@airtel.com	e-mail: appellate.kolkata@airtel.com	e-mail: appellate.kolkata@airtel.com
	Address: Bharti Airtel Ltd., Infinity Building, 5th Floor, Salt Lake Electronics Complex, Kolkata - 700091		

To register a new complaint <https://www.airtel.in/contact-us>
To check the status of your existing complaint <https://www.airtel.in/s/selfcare/track-request>

121 IVR and 198 are toll-free number. Advisor assistance at 121 is chargeable at 50p/3mins for mobile (prepaid). Please allow the Appellate Authority 39 days to provide a solution. Appellate Authority numbers are not toll free. For deactivation of any Value Added Services activated on an Airtel mobile number through SMS or voice, dial toll-free short code 155223. To start mobile internet services, SMS START to 1925 (Toll Free) or Call 1925. To deactivate SMS STOP to 1925 or Call 1925. *Applicable only in Kolkata.

Notice Inviting Expression of Interest (RI/E&P/EOI/2024/01)
(Under International Competitive Bidding)

Reliance is India's largest private sector company, with a consolidated revenue of ₹ 10,00,122 crore (US\$ 119.9 billion), cash profit of ₹ 1,41,969 crore (US\$ 17.0 billion) and net profit of ₹ 79,020 crore (US\$ 9.5 billion) for the year ended March 31, 2024. Reliance's activities span hydrocarbon exploration and production, petroleum refining and marketing, petrochemicals, advanced materials and composites, renewables (solar and hydrogen), retail and digital services. Currently ranked 86th, Reliance is the largest private sector company from India to be featured in Fortune's Global 500 list of 'World's Largest Companies' for 2024.

Reliance Industries Limited (RIL), as operator, on behalf of itself & its co-venturer BP Exploration (Alpha) Limited invites Expression of Interest (EOI) from reputed and experienced Contractors/ Vendors for following categories, for Deep-water Block No. KG-DWN-98/3 (KG-D6) in East coast of India:

Category Number	Category Description
OAM/KGD6/2024/1	Equipment, Materials & Services (incl. Administrative related services) for Operation and Maintenance of Onshore & Offshore facilities including FPSO

Interested Contractors/Vendors are requested to visit our website www.ril.com (eB2B Suppliers' E&P Notices for EOI) for further details on the above and submit their EOI through e-mail on deveoirresponse.eandp@ril.com, on or before 30 August 2024. Subject of the mail should mention "RI/E&P/EOI/2024/01" along with category number. For documents size beyond 10 MB, Contractors/Vendors should request RIL through e-mail to provide FTP link for uploading EOI documents.

Address for Communication
Chief - Supply Chain Management,
Reliance Industries Limited, Petroleum Business (E&P),
Reliance Corporate Park (RCP),
Building No. 11, 'A' Wing, Second Floor,
Thane-Belapur Road, Ghansoli, Navi Mumbai - 400 701, India.
Email: deveoirresponse.eandp@ril.com
CIN: L17110MH1973PLC019786



APPOINTMENT OF STATION TICKET BOOKING AGENT OVER ASANSOL DIVISION

Tender Notice No.C.5/Selection/STBA-05/ASN/24 dated 07.08.2024 Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Eastern Railway, Asansol Division invites tender from the interested persons for appointment of 'Station Ticket Booking Agent' (STBA) at five (05) 'NSG-6' category station (shown below) of Asansol Division, Eastern Railway for issuing of unreserved tickets through computerized 'Unreserved Ticketing System' (UTS) from the existing counters under the supervision of Station Master/Deputy Station Master for a period of three (03) years. SI. No. 1, Location : Barabani (NSG-6), SI. No. 2, Location : Katoriya (NSG-6), SI. No. 3, Location : Karjhausa (NSG-6), SI. No. 4, Location : Chandan (NSG-6), SI. No. 5, Location : Waria (NSG-6). Cost of Tender Form (non refundable) & Earnest Money Deposit: a) Cost of Tender Form/Documents: Rs.1,120/- Rs. One thousand one hundred twenty only (Rs.1000 + 12% GST) (non-refundable). b) Earnest Money Deposit: Rs.2,000/- (Rs. Two thousand) only. The cost of Tender Form/documents (If downloaded from the Website) and Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) to be submitted separately through Demand Draft/Bank Pay Order to be issued from any Nationalized or Scheduled Bank in favour of 'FA & CAO' Eastern Railway, Kolkata and to be deposited along with the application. Application without Earnest Money Deposit and Cost of Tender Form will be summarily rejected. Address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased: Tender Form/Documents will be available from the office of the Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Divisional Railway Manager's Office, Eastern Railway, Asansol on production of original Money Receipt issued by the Booking Supervisor/Asansol amounting to Rs. 1,120/- Rs. One thousand one hundred twenty only (Rs.1000 + 12% GST) (non-refundable) on and from 12.08.2024 to 10.09.2024 in between 11.00 hrs. to 16.00 hrs. except Saturday, Sunday & holidays. Period of contract: 03 (three) years. Date & time for submission of tender and opening of tender: Date & time of submission of Tender: From 19.08.2024 to 10.09.2024 during office hrs. and up to 14.00 hrs. on 11.09.2024 (except Saturday, Sunday & Holidays). If the tender form/documents send by post, the application should reach this office within 11.09.2024 up to 14.00 hrs. Railway Administration will not be responsible for any postal delay. Date & time of opening of Tender: On 11.09.2024 at 16.00 hrs. In case the date of opening of tender is declared as holiday/closed day for any unforeseen reason, tender will be opened on next working day at the same time. Website particulars and notice board location where complete details of tender can be seen: Tender form/documents can be downloaded from the Railway Website: er.indianrailways.gov.in on & from 11.00 hrs. of 12.08.2024 to 23:59 hrs. of 10.09.2024. For an enquiry, please contact Senior Divisional Commercial Manager's office, DRM's Office, Eastern Railway, Asansol on any working day in between 11.00 hrs to 17.00 hrs.
Divisional Railway Manager (Comml.), Asansol
Eastern Railway
Follow us at: @EasternRailway @easternrailwayheadquarter

WEST BENGAL STATE ELECTRICITY DISTRIBUTION COMPANY LIMITED
(A Govt. of West Bengal Enterprise)
Regd. Office: Vidyal Bhawan, Block-D3, Sector-II, Bidhannagar, Kolkata-700 091
CIN : U40109WB2007SGC113473, www.wbsedcl.in

INVITATION OF OFFER
WBSedCL, a Govt. of West Bengal Enterprise, engaged in the business of Distribution and Hydro Generation of Electricity invites 'REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)' from reputed Companies/Firms as Investment Advisors(s) for Four Terminal Benefit Fund (CFP/GPF/Pension/Gratuity) for the calendar years 2025, 2026 & 2027 on a non-discretionary basis. Interested Companies/Firms may submit their offer in sealed envelope to the AGM (R&A), Corporate Terminal Claims Cell, WBSedCL, 6th Floor (7-Block), Vidyal Bhawan, Block-D3, Sector-II, Bidhannagar, Kolkata - 700091. Last Date of Submission: 30.08.2024 (1 PM). For detailed scope of work, interested Companies / Firms may visit the Company's website: www.wbsedcl.in. ICA-N 380(2)/2024
For details, visit www.wbsedcl.in

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
Consumer Affairs Department
Corrigendum Notice
The date of lodging the consumer complaint at Howrah regional Office may be read as December 14th, 2023 instead of 14th, 2024 in the advertisement published on August 08th, 2024 under No. ICA-D1367(12)/2024
Sd/-
Director
Consumer Affairs & Fair Business Practices
ICA-N382(2)/2024

RABINDRA BHARATI UNIVERSITY
56 A, B. T. Road, Kolkata-700050
No. Estt./ 8708 /2024 Date: 08/08/2024
NOTICE
In continuation to the Employment Notification No.Estt./8666/2024 dated 15/07/2024, it is notified that the last date for submission of duly filled-in application form for the post of Hostel Superintendent is hereby extended upto 29/08/2024. All other details shall remain unchanged.
Registrar (Acting)

राष्ट्रीय गतिशील दिव्यांगजन संस्थान
National Institute for Locomotor Disabilities (Divyangjan)
(दिव्यांगजन सहायकता विभाग, सामाजिक न्याय एवं अधिकारिता मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार)
(Department of Empowerment of PwDs (Divyangjan), Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Govt. of India)
बी टी रोड नवगुरी कालोनी-700090 / B. T. Road, Bon-Hooghly, Kolkata-700090
Phone: 2531-0279, 2531-0610/Tele Fax: 2531-8379/E-mail: nild@nild.in / www.nild.org.in
No. RECRUIT-CONTRACT-2024/2971/ESTT./NILD/822 Date: 29-07-2024
EMPLOYMENT NOTIFICATION
Eligible Indian Nationals are hereby informed to appear for the selection to the following posts purely on contract basis in the Institute. The details of the posts are as given below:-
Sl. No. Name of the Posts/No. of Posts Date of Selection
1 Vocational Instructor - 01 13-08-2024
2 Programme Assistant (Skill Training) - 01
For details of advertisement & application format log in to www.nildohk.in
Sd/-
Director
CBC 38113/11/0007/2425

DEAR WEEKLY LOTTERY
₹ 1 CRORE WON BY JALPAIGURI RESIDENT
14.06.2024. His winning ticket number is 78J 49451. He has submitted his prize-winning ticket along with the prize claim form to the Nodal Officer, Nagaland State Lotteries located in Kolkata. "It gives me immense pleasure and happiness to become a Crorepati. It has happened through Dear Lottery. This will make a magical change in my life. I can think of leading my life more comfortable with this huge prize money. I would like to suggest Dear Lottery to my friends and relatives to try their fortune too," said the Lottery in the draw held on

TIMES ascent
Catalyze your career

राष्ट्रीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान अगर्तला
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY AGARTALA
Agartala, Tripura, India, Pin -799046
Website: <http://www.nita.ac.in>
No. F.NITA.2(472-Estt)/2017/944 Dated: 06/08/2024
RECRUITMENT NOTIFICATION
NIT Agartala invites applications from Indian Nationals to fill the vacant positions of Assistant Professors (Grade-I & II). This is an extension update to the recruitment notice for Assistant Professor vacancies at NIT Agartala, vide reference Nos. F.NITA.2(521-Vol-Estt)/2022/Vol III/734, dated 22/04/2022 & No. F.NITA.2(545-Estt)/2022/6445, dated 07/12/2023.
Closing date for online application : 30.08.2024.
For details please visit Institute website www.nita.ac.in.
Sd/- REGISTRAR

Can Fin Homes Limited
Registered Office: No.29/1, 1st Floor, Sir M.N. Krishna Rao Road Basavanagudi, Bengaluru - 560 004
CIN: L85110KA1987PLC008699
RECRUITMENT
Can Fin Homes Limited (CFHL) is a listed Housing Finance Company, incorporated under Companies Act 1956, registered with National Housing Bank and regulated by Reserve Bank of India. The Company is looking for recruitment of Chief Information Officer on Contract/Regular Basis.
CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER
For further details regarding eligibility criteria, terms & conditions etc., please visit Company's website www.canfinhomes.com
Interested candidates can apply online.
Last date for receipt of application - 19/08/2024
The Company reserves the right of selection of candidates.
Sd/-
General Manager
Date: 08/08/2024

REQUIRED
DEPUTY GENERAL MANAGER
SALES & MARKETING
(H.Q. Kolkata)
Candidate should be M.Sc. (Agri.) / B.Sc. (Agri.) having around 20 years experience in Agricultural inputs marketing like Pesticides, Fertilizers & Seeds, with last 5 years experience as State Managerial position in handling West Bengal, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Odisha & North East states (either full area or part) from reputed organizations. Fluency in English & Regional language is preferable. Salary commensurate with experience & qualification.
Attractive Salary and Incentive & Additional Perks will be given for the Selected Candidates.
Please send your resume on the email or WhatsApp number
DEVI CROPSCIENCE PVT LTD
Plot No. 06, Madhavnagar, Shivirtili Nagar, Paud Road, Kothrud, Pune - 411 038.
Email: job@devicropscience.com
WhatsApp No. +91 9422937678 | 9791391043

Jio JIO FINANCIAL SERVICES LIMITED
(formerly known as Reliance Strategic Investments Limited)
Regd. Office: 1st Floor, Building 4NA, Maker Maxity, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra (East), Mumbai - 400051
E-mail: investor.relations@jfs.in | Tel.: +91 22 3555 4094
CIN: L65990MH1999PLC120918

NOTICE FOR THE ATTENTION OF MEMBERS OF THE COMPANY
FIRST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (POST LISTING) AND INFORMATION ON E-VOTING

Notice convening the First Annual General Meeting (Post Listing) ("AGM") of the Company, scheduled to be held in compliance with applicable circulars issued by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs and the Securities and Exchange Board of India, through Video Conferencing ("VC") / Other Audio Visual Means ("OAVM") on **Friday, August 30, 2024 at 2:00 p.m. (IST)**, and the standalone and consolidated audited financial statements for the financial year 2023-24, along with Board's Report, Auditors' Report and other documents required to be attached thereto, have been sent on **Thursday, August 8, 2024**, electronically, to the members of the Company. The Notice of the AGM and the aforesaid documents are available on the Company's website at www.jfs.in and on the website of the Stock Exchanges, that is, BSE Limited ("BSE") and National Stock Exchange of India Limited ("NSE") at www.bseindia.com and www.nseindia.com, respectively, and on the website of Company's Registrar and Transfer Agent, KFin Technologies Limited ("KFinTech"), at <https://evoting.kfintech.com>.

The documents referred to in the Notice of the AGM are available for inspection electronically by the members from the date of circulation of the Notice of the AGM. Members seeking to inspect such documents can send an e-mail to jfs.agm@jfs.in.

Remote e-voting and e-voting at the AGM:
The Company is providing to its members, facility to exercise their right to vote on resolutions proposed to be passed at AGM by electronic means ("e-voting"). Members may cast their votes remotely on the dates mentioned herein below ("remote e-voting"). The Company has engaged the services of KFinTech as the agency to provide e-voting facility.

Information and instructions comprising manner of voting, including voting remotely by members holding shares in dematerialised mode, physical mode and for members who have not registered their email address has been provided in the Notice of the AGM. The manner in which (a) persons who become members of the Company after despatch of the Notice of the AGM and holding shares as on the Cut-off Date (mentioned herein); and (b) members who have forgotten the User ID and Password can obtain / generate the User ID and Password, has also been provided in the Notice of the AGM.

The remote e-voting facility will be available during the following voting period:
Commencement of remote e-voting: 1:00 p.m. IST on Sunday, August 25, 2024
End of remote e-voting: 5:00 p.m. IST on Thursday, August 29, 2024

The remote e-voting will not be allowed beyond the aforesaid date and time and the remote e-voting module shall be forthwith disabled by KFinTech upon expiry of the aforesaid period.

Members attending the AGM who have not cast vote(s) by remote e-voting will be able to vote electronically ("Insta Poll") at the AGM.

A person, whose name is recorded in the register of members / register of beneficial owners as on the Cut-off Date, that is, Friday, August 23, 2024 only shall be entitled to avail the facility of remote e-voting or for voting through Insta Poll.

Manner of registering / updating e-mail address:

a) Members holding shares in physical mode, who have not registered / updated their e-mail address with the Company, are requested to register / update their e-mail address by submitting Form ISR-1 (available on the website of the Company at www.jfs.in) duly filled and signed along with requisite supporting documents to KFinTech at Selenium Tower B, Plot 31&32, Gachibowli, Financial District, Nanakramguda, Hyderabad 500 032.

b) Members holding shares in dematerialised mode, who have not registered / updated their e-mail address, are requested to register / update their e-mail address with the Depository Participant(s) where they maintain their demat accounts.

In case of any query pertaining to e-voting, members may refer to the "Help" and "FAQs" sections / E-voting user manual available through a dropdown menu in the "Downloads" section of KFinTech's website for e-voting: <https://evoting.kfintech.com>.

Members are requested to note the following contact details for addressing queries / grievances relating to e-voting, if any:

Shri V. Balakrishnan, Vice President
KFin Technologies Limited
Selenium Tower B, Plot No. 31&32, Gachibowli, Financial District, Nanakramguda, Hyderabad - 500 032
E-mail: evoting.jfs@kfintech.com
Toll-free No.: 1800 309 4001 (from 9:00 a.m. (IST) to 6:00 p.m. (IST) on all working days)

Joining the AGM through VC / OAVM:
Members will be able to attend the AGM through VC / OAVM, through JioMeet, at <https://t.jio/v/jfsagm>. The information about login credentials to be used and the steps to be followed for attending the AGM are explained in Note No. 9 of the Notice of the AGM. Members who have cast their vote(s) by remote e-voting may also attend the AGM but shall not be entitled to cast their vote(s) again at the AGM.

By order of the Board of Directors
Sd/-
Mohana V
Group Company Secretary and Compliance Officer
Place: Mumbai
Date : August 9, 2024
www.jfs.in



STEVE MARTIN DECLINES TO PLAY TIM WALZ ON 'SNL', SAYS 'NOT AN IMPRESSIONIST': 'PICKED BECAUSE I HAVE GRAY HAIR AND GLASSES'

CATE BLANCHETT SAYS 'NO ONE GOT PAID ANYTHING' TO FILM 'LOTR', A BLOCKBUSTER: 'I BASICALLY GOT FREE SANDWICHES'



Bangladesh has got independence for second time, must protect it: Yunus

Nahid Islam & Asif Mahmud, Leaders Of Student Protests, In Caretaker Govt

AKM Moinuddin
Dhaka: Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus took the oath of office as head of Bangladesh's interim government on Thursday. Prez Mohammed Shahabuddin also administered oath to 13 members of the advisory council, which includes key organisers of Anti-Discrimination Student Movement — M Nahid Islam and Asif Mahmud Sajib Bhuiyan. In their mid-20s, the two led the protests that resulted in the fall of Sheikh Hasina's govt. The council includes women's rights activist Farida Akhtar, professor of Islamic history and Hefazat-e-Islam's deputy chief AFM Khalid Hossain, Grameen Telecom trustee Nurjahan Begum, freedom fighters Sharmeen Murshid and Farooq-e-Azam, Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Board chairman Supradip Chakma, National Institute of Mental Health and Hospital's psychiatry professor Bidhan Ranjan Roy, and former foreign secretary Touhid Hossain. Also serving are Bangladesh Bank's former governor Salehuddin Ahmed, Dhaka University professor Asif Nazrul, human rights activist Adilur Rahman Khan, ex-attorney general AF Hassan Arif, Bangladesh environmental lawyers association chief executive Syeda Rizwa

TOI LINE OF NO CONTROL



PAKISTAN DIALS BANGLADESH
 na Hasan, and former election commissioner Brig Gen (ret'd) M Sakhawat Hossain. Roy, Chakma, and Farooq e Azam, a naval commando awarded the Bir Pratik for bravery in the 1971 independence war, could not take the oath as they were outside Dhaka. Yunus, who had been in Paris for the Olympic Games, returned to Dhaka on Thursday via Dubai, where he was greeted at the airport by army chief Gen Waker-Uz-Zaman, senior officials, student leaders, and civil society members. "Today is a day of our pride," Yunus said emotionally at a press conference at the airport. "We have got independence for the second time. We have to protect this independence," he added, referring to the ouster of ex-PM Sheikh Hasina as the country's "second independence". Yunus told the

public: "If you have faith in me and trust me, then ensure that there will be no attack anywhere in the country. This is our first responsibility. If I can't do it and you do not listen to me, I don't have any utility here." Bangladesh has been rocked by deadly unrest in recent weeks. At least 232 people have been killed in Bangladesh in violence that erupted following the fall of Hasina govt Monday, taking the death toll to 560 since anti-quo protests first started in mid-July. Following the fall of Hasina's govt, several police stations were attacked, forcing officers to evacuate due to the threat of further violence. In response to Yunus's call, police returned to work Thursday. Yunus expressed gratitude to the youth behind the movement, underscoring the need to save the country from violence and move forward on the path shown by the students. "The student protesters had saved the country, he said, adding: "Whatever path our students show us, we will move ahead with that." Bangladesh Nationalist Party of Khaleda Zia expressed optimism that Yunus will successfully lead interim govt. The optimism stems from Yunus's successful anti-poverty campaign through the Grameen Bank, which has been replicated across continents.

Ready to work with Bangla interim govt: US

AKM Moinuddin
Dhaka: The US on Thursday expressed its readiness to collaborate with the interim govt in Bangladesh, which it believes will be crucial in fostering long-term peace and political stability in the country. "We understand Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus has agreed to lead Bangladesh's interim govt. We stand ready to work with the interim government," US state department spokesperson **Matthew Miller** said in Washington DC. He emphasised the importance of democratic principles. "As you heard the secretary (Antony Blinken) say yesterday, any decisions that the interim govt makes should respect democratic principles, rule of law, and the will of the Bangladeshi people," Miller said. The US also voiced concern over reports of attacks, deaths, and human rights abuses in recent weeks. "We urge all parties to refrain from further violence. We call for full accountability of all perpetrators of violence," the spokesperson said.

'Stolen valour': A battle rages over military records of Walz & Vance

JD Says Kamala's Veep Pick Quit Nat'l Guard To Avoid Iraq Posting; Dem Supporters Mock His Own Non-Combat Media Relations Role

Chidanand Rajghatta | TNN

Washington: Circular fire has erupted in the US political arena over military service of its vice-pres candidates, with both Democrats and Republicans accusing their opposition nominees of "stolen valor". It all began when Republican veep candidate JD Vance's resume listed his military service, including a deployment in Iraq, burnishing a ticket where its presidential nominee Donald Trump is said to have skipped enlistment pleading bone spur problems. When Democrats announced Minnesota governor Tim Walz as their veep candidate, he and his supporters talked up his 25 years with the National Guard, the US reserve military force. That's when the verbal firefight began. "As a marine who served his country in uniform, I went to Iraq honorably when asked. When Tim Walz was asked... he dropped out of the army and allowed his unit to go without him," Vance lashed out. "What's bothersome about Tim Walz is this stolen valor garbage. Do not pretend to be something that you're not." Cue for Walz supporters to dig into Vance's deployment, which showed that much of his service in the Marine Corps, including six months in Iraq, was as a media relations officer. "Talk about Stolen Valor. JD Vance was a combat correspondent who created Marine press releases and spent his 6 months in Iraq, in a NON COMBAT role, babysitting journalists," one critic wrote. Vance supporters in turn accused Walz of misrepresenting his service to suggest he had been deployed in Iraq and Afghanistan in active combat,



COMBATING MACHOISM: JD Vance was on active duty with the Marine Corps from 2003 to 2007 during the Iraq War, but did not serve as a frontline combatant. (Right) Tim Walz served a total of 24 years in various units and jobs in the Army National Guard before retiring in 2005

'Speaking now': Harris shuts down disrupters

When a group of pro-Palestinian protesters first interrupted V-P Kamala Harris at a rally in Detroit on Wednesday, she smiled, with a gentle corrective. "I am speaking now." But as the disruption continued, her patience ran thin. "You know what?" she said, with the sudden force and resolve of a parent in the driver's seat who has had it. "If you want Trump to win, then say that. Otherwise, I'm speaking." As the crowd roared, Harris stayed silent, jaw set, eyes fixed. The stare-down was the latest reminder of how Harris has been able, with an almost theatrical flair, to turn efforts to undermine and rattle her into her own political weapons. She also takes particular umbrage at being interrupted. During 2020 debate with then-VP Mike Pence, she objected to his repeated bids to cut into her responses. Her left hand went up, palm facing Pence. "Mr. Vice President, I am speaking. I am speaking," she said. When it happened again, she smiled at him: "Mr. V-P, I am speaking." NYT

Zero tolerance for anyone spreading anarchy, warns Pak army chief

Omer Farooq Khan | TNN

Islamabad: Pakistan army chief General Asim Munir said Thursday that the act of spreading anarchy in the country was the "greatest sin", alluding to the turmoil in Bangladesh that led to ex-PM Sheikh Hasina resigning and fleeing the country. "If anyone tries to spread chaos in Pakistan, by God, we (army) will stand against them," General Munir said at a national convention. "Whoever doesn't adhere to the Shariah (Islamic law) and the Constitution, we don't consider them Pakistanis." He also took a jibe at India, wondering aloud where were "those who used to say that they drowned the two-nation theory in the Bay of Bengal". "No power in the world can harm Pakistan because it was created to last, and it will exist till eternity," the military chief declared. He blamed mostly social media for instances of anarchy in the region, suggesting further curbs could be clamped as online campaigns criticising Pakistan's powerful military gain traction. Munir termed Kashmir an "incomplete agenda" involving Pakistan and India.

A NATION IN TRANSIT



BEYOND TURMOIL: (Clockwise from above) A student holds up a signboard as she controls traffic on a road in the absence of traffic police in Dhaka; a woman stands in front of Shahid Minar; Army personnel keep guard in front of the President's official residence during the oath-taking ceremony of the interim govt in Dhaka on Thursday



Trump: Willing to debate Harris 3 times

Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump said he is willing to debate his Democratic rival Kamala Harris three times in Sept on different networks during a news conference on Thursday at his Palm Beach, Florida, residence. Trump said he wanted to hold debates on Sept 4 on Fox, Sept 10 on NBC and Sept 25 on ABC. He did not offer specific terms, such as whether there would be an

audience, and it was not immediately clear whether his campaign had made a proposal to Harris' camp. The conference was Trump's first public appearance since Harris selected Minnesota governor Tim Walz as her running mate on Tuesday. Harris, the US vice-prez, and Walz headlined rallies in the battleground states of Michigan and Wisconsin on Wednesday, drawing tens of thousands of attendees in a fresh sign of how her late entry into the race has galvanized Democrats. Her rapid rise, following Prez Joe Biden's decision last month to abandon his faltering campaign, has sent Trump's team scrambling to recalculate their strategy and messaging. Opinion polls show Harris has erased the lead Trump had built over Biden, and Democrats have raked in hundreds of millions of dollars from voters and big donors in a matter of weeks. REUTERS

UK aid agency office in B'desh ransacked

Naomi Canton

London: The regional office of a Catholic relief organisation in Bangladesh has been stormed and ransacked by a mob which is now illegally trespassing in its compound. The Khulna office of Caritas Bangladesh was stormed on Tuesday amid the breakdown of law and order that gripped Bangladesh following the resignation of former PM Sheikh Hasina. Catholic aid agencies, Catholic Agency For Overseas Development, partners with Caritas Bangladesh to deliver agricultural projects. Phil Talman, programme coordinator for Bangladesh at London-based CAFOD, told TOI: "About 40 to 50 people attacked the compound and the office. They wrecked and looted the place and some stayed, occupying the land looking like they are not going to move. It seems as if they want to claim the land. None of the staff was hurt." He said no police came and the staff, many of whom are Christian, had a narrow escape. He added they have not gone back yet as the trespassers haven't left yet.

UK riots halted by communities, police but country remains on alert

London: British police remained on alert on Thursday after a heavy security presence, rapid arrests and displays of unity by people across Britain on Wednesday prevented a repeat of widespread rioting involving racist attacks targeting Muslims and migrants. After police deployed in force and thousands of anti-racism protesters took to the streets on Wednesday evening, threats of widespread gatherings by far-right anti-immigration groups did not materialise. But the govt said it was still cautious after days of riots triggered by false online posts wrongly identifying the suspected killer of three young girls in a July 29 knife attack in Southport as an Islamist migrant. Police said a further potential 20 gatherings and three counter-gatherings were planned for Thursday. "We're going to continue the strong policing response, making sure that there are additional police officers ready to respond," interior minister Yvette Cooper told reporters. More than 480 people have



Thousands from anti-racism groups gathered at Walthamstow, north London, following threats to an immigration centre. Others protected mosques and hotels housing migrant asylum seekers

Several thousand people from anti-racism groups gathered in Walthamstow, north London, on Wednesday following threats to an immigration advice centre there. Others protected mosques and hotels housing asylum seekers that were among other targets. Rowley hailed a "successful" night that had gone "very peacefully" apart from a few criminal incidents. Footage circulated on X showed a councillor from Starmer's Labour Party at the Walthamstow gathering calling for people to cut the throats of "disgusting Nazi fascists." London police said a man in his 50s had been arrested on suspicion of offences including encouraging murder. Labour said the behaviour was "completely unacceptable" and the man, a councillor in Dartford, Kent, had been suspended from the party. Starmer, who met with police and community leaders in Birmingham on Thursday, said Wednesday was "much better than expected". No large far-right gatherings were reported Wednesday. REUTERS

Austria cancels Swift gigs after terror plot busted; 3 teens held, planned suicide op, had IS ties

Vienna: An Austrian teenager arrested over an alleged plot to strike a Taylor Swift concert in Vienna planned to carry out a suicide attack that would have caused a "bloodbath" and had vowed loyalty to Islamic State, authorities said on Thursday. The 19-year-old man, who has North Macedonian roots, made a full confession in custody, Austria's general director for public security Franz Ruf said. He swore allegiance to the IS chief on the internet and had chemicals, machetes and technical devices at his home in the town of Ternitz in preparation for an attack, Ruf added. The suspect was planning a lethal assault among the estimated 20,000 "Swiftie" fans set to gather outside Vienna's Ernst Happel Stadium, said national intelligence head Omar Hajjawi-Pirchner. Two other Austrian youths aged 17 and 15 were detained Wednesday over the reported plot. "The main perpetrator has confessed that he was supposed to carry out a suicide attack with two accomplices," said Austrian Chancellor Karl

Nehammer. "The suspects actually had very specific and detailed plans... to leave a bloodbath in their wake." Authorities said the main suspect had self-radicalised, transforming his appearance and sharing Islamist propaganda online. He quit his job on July 25, telling people he had "big plans", Ruf said. One neighbour said the suspect had kept to himself and had grown a "Talbiban beard". The 17-year-old suspect had been given a job with a company a few days ago that was providing services at the stadium, according to security officials. Event organiser said it has cancelled Swift's 3 concerts in Vienna, due to start Thursday. Swift is scheduled to perform at London's Wembley stadium in five concerts between Aug 15 and 20. London mayor Sadiq Khan said that while he understood Vienna's reasons for cancelling, "We're going to carry on." He said authorities are prepared for shows there following lessons learned from a 2017 attack at an Ariana Grande gig in Manchester that killed 22.

Stuck Boeing Starliner astronauts may fly home on SpaceX in '25: Nasa

For weeks, Nasa has downplayed problems experienced by Starliner, a Boeing spacecraft that took two astronauts to the ISS in June. But Wednesday, Nasa officials admitted the issues might be more serious than first thought and that the astronauts might not return on the Boeing vehicle, after all. The agency is exploring a backup option for the astronauts, Suni Williams and Butch Wilmore, to instead hitch a ride back to Earth on a

spacecraft built by Boeing's competitor SpaceX. The astronauts' stay in orbit, which was to be as short as eight days, could be extended into Feb 2025. The announcement adds more embarrassment for Boeing, an aerospace giant that has billions of dollars of aerospace contracts with the US govt and builds commercial jets that fly all around the world. Nasa and Boeing is had ma-

intained that the crew members who launched with Starliner on its first crewed test flight were not stranded in space. Williams and Wilmore have spent two months aboard the orbital outpost while engineers continue to analyse data about the faulty performance of several of Starliner's thrusters when it approached for docking, as well as several helium leaks. Boeing's testing so far has

shown that four of Starliner's jets had failed in June because they overheated and automatically turned off, while other thrusters re-fired during tests appeared weaker than normal because of some restriction to their propellant. Ground tests in July at the White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico have helped reveal that the thrusters' overheating causes a teflon seal to warp, choking propellant tubes for the thrusters and thereby weakening their thrust.

On Wednesday, a Boeing spokesman said: "We still believe in Starliner's capability. If Nasa decides to change the mission, we will take the actions necessary to configure Starliner for an uncrewed return". Steve Stich, the manager of the commercial crew program at Nasa, downplayed the possibility that the astronauts would not return on Starliner. He said it remained the "prime option" and that a final decision will be taken in mid-Aug. NYT

DAILY PLANET



NEW BANKSY ARTWORK 'STOLEN' IN LONDON: A new Banksy artwork depicting a wolf on a satellite dish in London was removed, possibly stolen, less than an hour after it was unveiled by the elusive street artist on Thursday. The piece was the fourth animal-themed artwork that Banksy had installed across London this week. The wolf silhouette was located on the roof of an empty shop in Peckham. Photos from the scene show a person climbing up a ladder to retrieve the satellite dish while another holds the ladder for them. Further images show an individual walking off with the piece of art

Aus & NZ locked in a battle of tongue in cheek after Maori words are removed

The removal of basic Maori phrases meaning "hello" and "New Zealand" from a Maori lunar new year invitation to an Australian official was not a snub of the Indigenous language by New Zealand's govt, PM Christopher Luxon said Wednesday, seemingly joking that it instead reflected the "incredibly simple" language required when speaking to Australians. New Zealanders enjoy a friendly rivalry with their closest neighbour, often calling Australians stupid. "In my dealings with Australians, it always pays to be incredibly simple and clear and use English," Luxon said. Ripostes between lawmakers across the Tasman have precedent: A New Zealand leader, Rob Muldoon, quipped in 1980s that New Zealanders who migrate to Australia "raise the IQ of both countries". On Thursday, a smiling Australian PM Albanese responded to Luxon with a favourite Australian joke — that no one can understand the NZ accent. "Sometimes though we do

speak a different language and that's when we both think we're speaking English."

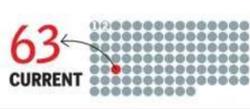
Catalan separatist returns to Spain, only to vanish

Political scientists say voters are now comfortable with electing people who haven't served in the military. Some of this, they surmise, has to do with the decline in the importance of foreign policy, particularly for MAGA voters whose "America First" approach disdains fighting wars abroad. Barcelona on Thursday for ex-Catalonia leader and fugitive **Carles Puigdemont**, a celebrated campaigner for Catalan independence who made a sensational return to Spain and an equally sensational getaway from a rally in the city. After finishing his speech, Puigdemont went backstage and vanished. A police hunt created traffic chaos in the city and near the border with France. Catalan police arrested one of their own officers on charges of aiding his getaway, suspecting Puigdemont used the officer's car.

AROUND THE WORLD
 The Mimic Octopus can not only change colours, but will mimic the shapes of other animals, like the flounder, lionfish, and sea snakes.
 The Times of India is the world's largest-selling English daily

As India aims to be a developed nation by 2047, where will the country be placed in terms of ease of doing business compared to peers

Source: Ministries



US court rejects Byju's lenders' plea to block BCCI settlement

Mumbai: A US court has rejected a plea by Byju's overseas lenders through which they sought to block the settlement between the troubled startup and BCCI. The Delaware Bankruptcy Court refused to interfere with proceedings in another country's judicial system. The settlement which was approved by the Chennai bench of NCLAT last week, related to a dispute over non-payment of Rs 159 crore in dues that Byju's owed to BCCI. The NCLAT order effectively quashed insolvency proceedings against Byju's. The US court's decision recognised that granting lenders the requested relief would be an unjustified move. **TNN**



Vedanta puts \$2.5bn steel business sale on hold: Report

Vedanta has put a plan to sell its steel business on hold after a \$1 billion share sale gave the company more breathing room with its finances, and as environmental and regulatory concerns deter potential bidders, reports Bloomberg. Vedanta has been working on a sale of the business, which includes iron-ore and manganese mines, to raise about \$2.5 billion to help reduce the group's debt load. Vedanta's fundraise last month has eased some debt pressure. **BLOOMBERG**

Biocon Q1 profit up 6x at ₹660cr

New Delhi: Biotechnology firm Biocon on Thursday said its consolidated profit after tax rose over six-fold to Rs 660 crore in the first quarter ended June 2024, on account of a one-time gain from the collaboration between Biocon Biologics and Eris Lifesciences. **AGENCIES**

StanC exits Protean eGov Tech, sells stake

New Delhi: Standard Chartered Bank has exited Protean eGov Technologies by selling its entire 3.1% stake for Rs 225 crore through an open market transaction. Protean eGov is one of the key IT-enabled solution companies in India. **AGENCIES**

figure it out

₹3 lakh cr worth of textiles and apparels, including handicrafts, were exported in FY24, up by 1%



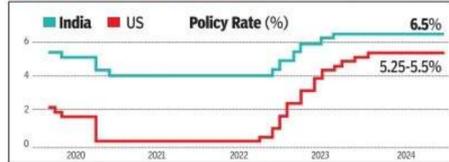
RBI holds repo rate for 9th time in a row at 6.5%
Says Need To Maintain Inflation's Declining Trajectory

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: RBI on Thursday decided to keep policy rates on hold for the ninth consecutive time, citing strong demand and the need to maintain inflation's declining trajectory. The central bank said that there is a need to remain vigilant amid the backdrop of "large and persistent" supply side shocks in food items.

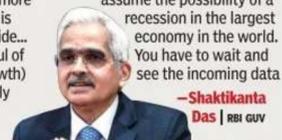
The six-member monetary policy committee voted 4:2 to keep the repo rate — the rate at which the central bank lends to banks — at 6.5% and to continue focusing on withdrawing accommodation to align inflation with the target while supporting growth. "Growth remains resilient, inflation has been trending downward and we have made progress in achieving price stability; but we have more distance to cover. The progress towards our goal of price stability has been uneven

'It's For Banks To Decide On Deposit Rates'



On Slow Deposit Growth...
I am not suggesting that people should not go for equity markets and put more deposits in the banks. It is left to the people to decide... Banks need to be mindful of this (slower deposit growth) because it can potentially create some structural challenges...

On US Recession Fears...
Based on a month's unemployment data you cannot assume the possibility of a recession in the largest economy in the world. You have to wait and see the incoming data



due to large and persistent supply side shocks, especially in food items. We need to remain vigilant to ensure that inflation moves sustainably towards the target, while supporting growth. This approach would be net positive for sustained high growth," Das said in a statement after the meeting of the monetary policy committee. Although the policy maintained a status quo in terms

of action, many read the governor's statement as hawkish. Particularly his comments cautioning banks on growing credit faster than deposits. Das asked banks to beef up household deposit mobilisation by leveraging their branch network and through innovative service offerings. Das retained the growth forecast for FY25 at 7.2% but cut down the forecast for QFY25 to 7.1% from 7.3% earlier due to updated information on high-frequency indicators, which show lower than anticipated corporate profitability, general government expenditure and core industries output. The governor also retained the inflation forecast for FY25 at 4.5% even as he tweaked quarterly forecasts.

According to RBI, the slowdown in deposits is partly because of a winding down of precautionary savings that households have built up during Covid when avenues were limited.

RBI gov cautions against gold, home loan top-ups

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: RBI governor Shaktikanta Das has cautioned lenders against aggressively growing personal loans by offering top-ups on existing home and gold loans. The governor said that some entities are not adhering to regulatory limits on some loans which risked being used for speculative purposes.

Das warned that the banking system could hit by structural liquidity issues if bank deposits continue to trail loan growth. "Alternative investment avenues are becoming more attractive to retail customers and banks are facing challenges on the funding front with bank deposits trailing loan growth. As a result, banks are taking greater recourse to short-term non-retail deposits and other instruments of liability to meet the incremental credit demand," said Das.

The governor said that "banks must focus on mobili-

Consumer Optimism Weakens: Survey

One-year ahead expectations compared with current situation

	May-24	Jul-24	Change
Economic situation	33.5	26.1	↓
Employment	34.3	26.8	↓
Price level	-68.4	-74.3	↓
Income	50.7	49.1	↓
Spending	73.9	75.6	↑
Consumer Confidence Index	124.8	120.7	↓

sation of household financial savings through innovative products and service offerings by leveraging their branch network".

Das's comments on personal loans and concerns on credit growth outstripping deposit comes at a time when personal loans have emerged the fastest growing segment, rising 25% year-on-year to 54.8 lakh crore as of June-end. Within this, housing is

growing at 36% (18.2% excluding HDFC merger impact). Unsecured personal loans grew 15% year-on-year as of end-June 2024. Das cautioned banks against high growth in certain segments of personal loans particularly those used for consumption purposes. He called upon lenders to assess and calibrate their underwriting standards as well as post-sanction monitoring of loans.

financial responsibilities, and this new feature will help them manage their finances more efficiently," said Dilip Modi, founder Spice Money.

On payments, Das also announced continuous clearing of cheques under the truncation system in place of the present batch processing. Das said that this will increase efficiency of cheque clearing and improve ease of doing business as it can lead to same day clearing of cheques. Consumers will soon find it easier to identify legitimate lending apps. RBI is creating a public repository of digital lending apps associated with RBI-regulated entities.

DELEGATED PAYMENTS

rents carving out spending limits for kids or children managing payments for senior citizen parents. "The potential impact of this development is particularly significant for rural communities where access to banking facilities can be limited. Families often share

Sensex drops 582 pts on global mkt weakness

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: Volatility on Dalal Street continued on Thursday with a negative bias despite RBI maintaining a status quo on rates as weakness in global markets affected sentiment in the domestic market.

At close of the day's trading, the sensx was down 582 points at 78,886 points with Infosys, Reliance Industries and L&T impacting the index the most. On the NSE, the broader Nifty lost 181 points to close at 24,117 points.

Foreign funds remained net sellers in the stock market for the fifth consecutive session while domestic funds were net buyers, data from BSE and CDSL showed. According to Ajit Mishra of Religare Broking, Indian markets struggled to maintain Wednesday's recovery, ending over half a percent lower due to weak global cues. After an initial dip, markets witnessed volatility and closed near the day's low. "The ongoing global uncertainty is making market participants cautious, and short-term relief seems unlikely," Mishra wrote in a note to investors.

Among the 30 sensx stocks, 23 closed lower.

Rupee dips by 2p to close at 83.97/\$

Mumbai: The rupee consolidated in a narrow range and settled for the day lower by 2 paise at 83.97 against US dollar on Thursday, after RBI kept the benchmark interest rate and stance unchanged for the ninth straight policy meeting.

Forex traders said weak domestic markets, surge in crude oil prices and foreign fund outflows weighed on the rupee. However, a decline in the US dollar index prevented the local unit from declining sharply. **AGENCIES**

LIC looks to acquire health insurance co
CEO Mohanty Says Co Plans Acquisition This Fiscal To Foray Into Health Business

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: LIC plans to take the acquisition route to get into the health insurance business, said MD & CEO Siddhartha Mohanty.

During the announcement of the company's financial results for the first quarter, Mohanty said that the company is looking at an acquisition during the current financial year. "Rather than set up a vertical for insurance, we felt that we can acquire a company which will allow us to start selling health insurance across the country," said Mohanty.

LIC has over 14.1 lakh agents, which is among the largest agency force among insurance companies worldwide. According to sources, most of the corporation's agents are already distributing health insurance for other private companies as regulations permit an agent to work for life and non-life companies. These agents are expected to switch to selling LIC products.

Industry sources said that health insurance is increasingly becoming a 'pull' product, with many young buyers actively seeking coverage. This presents an opportunity for agents to engage with potential customers.

Therefore, the availability of health insurance is expected to benefit the life insurance business as well.

At present, there are five established standalone health insurance companies — Star Health & Allied Insurance, Niva Bupa, Aditya Birla Health Insurance, Care Health Insurance and ManipalCigna Healthshare, while it dominated the group business with a 76.6% share.

Total premium income for the quarter increased by 15.7% to Rs 1,13,770 crore, compared to Rs 98,363 crore in the same quarter last year. The individual business premium grew by 7.04% to Rs 67,192 crore, while the group

business premium rose by 30.9% to Rs 46,578 crore. The value of new business for the quarter grew by 23.7% to Rs 1,610 crore, and the VNB margin improved by 20 basis points to 13.9%. LIC's assets under management increased by 16.2% year-over-year, reaching Rs 54 lakh crore. Additionally, LIC's solvency ratio improved to 2, up from 1.9 in the previous year. The overall expense ratio decreased by 98 basis points to 11.9%, reflecting improved operational efficiency.

LIC on Thursday reported a 9.6% increase in net profit for the June quarter, reaching Rs 10,461 crore compared to Rs 9,544 crore in the same period last year.

The corporation's market share of first year premium income rose to 64%, up from 61.4% year-over-year. In the individual business segment, LIC held a 39.3% mar-

ket share, while it dominated the group business with a 76.6% share.

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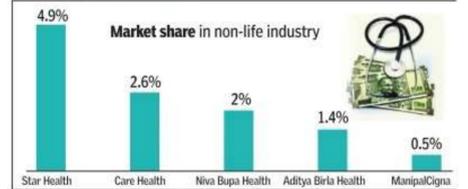
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5 ESTABLISHED HEALTH INSURERS



At 3.8%, FMCG growth in June qtr slowest in a year
Muted Demand In Rural & Urban Mkts: Study

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: Demand for soaps, hair oil, shampoo, packaged atta and other FMCG products remained muted in the June quarter with the slowdown more pronounced in urban markets.

The FMCG industry recorded a volume growth of 3.8% during the quarter, the lowest in over a year, data released by NielsenIQ on Thursday showed. This compares with a volume growth of 7.5% the sector had seen in the year-ago quarter and 6.5% in the preceding (March) quarter.

NielsenIQ India's head of customer success Roosevelt Dsouza attributed the deceleration in volumes largely to macroeconomic headwinds. "Our hypothesis is that unemployment is rising, highest in (month) June 2024," said analysts at NielsenIQ.

While rural volume growth continues to outpace the growth in urban areas, both regions experienced softer consumption in the quarter. Urban volume growth declined to 2.8% in the June quarter from 5.7% in the March quarter.

Rural consumption growth at 5.2% in the April-June period is lower than the 7.6% growth it recorded in the previous quarter. Consumption of staples like packaged salt, packaged at-

ta, palm oil as well as personal care and home care categories took a hit across both markets as consumers tightened purse strings. In rural regions, high contributing

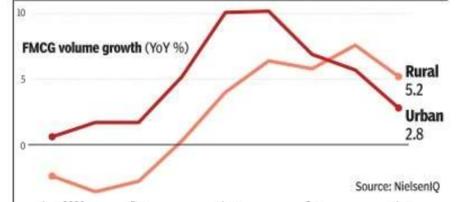
decent monsoons and start of festivities later this month should further help rural consumption.

FMCG companies, which have been grappling with te-

pid growth largely on the back of rural slowdown, have been betting on good monsoons to spur demand.

Volume growth in the food category stood at 2.4% in the June quarter compared to 4.8% in the Jan-March period. In the non-food segment, volume growth was at 7.6% in the quarter, a drop from 11.1% in the March quarter with the decline steeper in urban. India's largest consumer goods company HUL had last month said that while on a two-year CAGR (compound annual growth rate) basis, urban is still growing ahead of rural, growth in rural has started to pick up with the regions outpacing urban in the last couple of months.

CONSUMPTION DIVERGENCE



'India's 3 richest families together worth S'pore GDP'
Combined Wealth At \$460Bn, Ambanis Top List With \$309Bn Value: Study

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: At \$460 billion, business interests of the country's three wealthiest families' put together are worth as much as Singapore's GDP.

With Rs 25.8 lakh crore (\$309 billion), Ambani family ranks first in the Barclays Private Clients Hurun India most valuable family businesses list. They are followed by the Bajaj family, headed by Niraj Bajaj, which comes second with Rs 7.1 lakh crore, while the Kumar Mangalam Birla-headed Birla family ranks third with Rs 5.4 lakh crore.

The list does not include Adani family as they are first-

124 BIZ FAMILIES WORTH OVER \$1BN



Adani family (₹15.4L cr) has not been included in the Barclays Private Clients Hurun India most valuable family businesses list as they are first-generation entrepreneurs

generation entrepreneurs. The first-generation entrepreneurs list is led by Adanis — their business interests are valued at Rs 15.4 lakh crore, followed by Poonawalla family, who manage the Serum

Institute of India, valued at Rs 2.4 lakh crore. The Divi family, overseeing Divi's Laboratories, stands third with a valuation of Rs 91,200 crore.

Business families in the 2024 list control a total value of \$1.3 trillion, exceeding the combined GDP of Switzerland and the UAE. To qualify for the list, a family business must have a minimum value of Rs 2,700 crore. In total, 124 families on the list have a net worth of at least \$1 billion.

In terms of share price growth since inheritance, the Benu Bangur family leads with a 571-fold increase, followed by the Taparia family with a 387-fold growth, and the Dharmal Agarwal family with a 316-fold rise. Additionally, 75% of the companies on the list are publicly traded.

Haldiram Snacks is the most valuable unlisted company in India, with a valuation of Rs 63,000 crore. The list also notes that 15 companies are led by women, while 53 are managed by professional CEOs. Of the companies featured, 85% sell physical products, with 53% being consumer-facing and 47% focused on B2B services.

Bangla trade: Exports body wants RBI relief on payment deadline

Uditprasanna.Mukherjee @timesofindia.com

Kolkata: The Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) will write to RBI for extension of payment realization deadline for exporters to Bangladesh.

Yogesh Gupta, the regional chairman (east) of FIEO, told TOI that exporters had resumed sending goods to Bangladesh but there was concern about payments from the neighbouring country. "We do not know what is exactly happening there and the situation at the banks. This is why we would seek some flexibility from RBI," he said.

Exports from India to Bangladesh are worth \$11.8 billion and a substantial part of this is done through the

land route, mainly via Bengal and the northeast.

Earlier, FIEO president Ashwani Kumar had said that trade with Bangladesh was returning to normalcy with most border gates — including Petrapole, Ghojadanga, Hilli and Changanabandha — being fully functional.

The trade, which came to a halt for a couple of days after the political crisis erupted in Bangladesh, had witnessed occasional disruptions over the last 15-20 days. "However, the feedback given by importers during the disruptions

was reassuring. They expected the situation to normalize in a week or so. The export of perishables did feel a minor impact, while the rest of the commodities will soon catch up," Kumar added.

Exports to Bangladesh comprise cotton, petro products, automobile and auto components, yarn and fabric, cereals, fruits and vegetables, tea, coffee, spices and animal feed. Imports are dominated by apparel, leather goods, animal feed and fish. Engineering Export Promotion Council chairman Arun Kumar Garodia said that the total value of engineering goods exported to Bangladesh during the April-June period in FY 2024-25 stood at \$542.1 million, down 8.2% year-on-year from \$590.4 million last year.



CONTRAPUNTO

A man will commit almost any wrong only to build a great, gloomy, dark-chambered mansion, for himself to die in, and for his posterity to be miserable in

—NATHANIEL HAWTHORNE

Citizen Vinesh

Rarely does a rare sportsperson become a star without winning. And her story is not over

To the podium finishers, belong the laurels. But then there is Vinesh Phogat. Goldless, medalless, she has got India buzzing like the bee's knees. The public gaze on her life story is not new. It intensified as she stormed into the Olympic wrestling final, the first Indian woman to do so. Then grew upon her weighted disqualification. Instead of dimming her story arc, her losses have had a habit of lifting it higher. Will this pattern endure?

Of course, it is routine to lose in sports. Most Olympians will lose in Paris too. There are Indians who will return having been in painful touching distance of bronze. In archery, shooting, badminton, weightlifting. Maybe Vinesh's had more than her fair share of injuries. But the hits to her elbows and knees are only one part of what's riveting about her biography. What's made this Olympian stand out in India, is the battle she has fought outside the ring, and not for herself either. In the fight against sexual harassment, the odds are far more leaden. Many Indians cannot imagine themselves taking on such odds, anymore than an Olympic challenge. But they can appreciate the courage of someone who takes on both, with a kind of reckless heroism. It is also an inspiration for others to climb their own hills.

Conspiracy theories that have grown around her disqualification do suffer from ignorance, about wrestling's rules. This is a country where most sports conversation is about cricket, after all. But the doubting is also related to the institutional response to the wrestlers' anti-sexual-harassment protests, how harshly police were set upon them. There was even opacity in the processes where Vinesh had to transition from the 53kg to 50kg class. That the sports minister has given Parliament details about how much money govt has spent on her training and an MP translated her disqualification into a "lesson for all of us" to keep our weight in check, are scrambling responses to an antsy public sphere.

The power of this story is indivisible from how Vinesh looks and her words. Whether it is protesting, attacking, celebrating, healing, her images have ineffable pull. But so does the tweet announcing her retirement, or how she flayed Indian society for normalising sexual abuse and harassment. It is reminiscent of Muhammad Ali's eloquence: "You my opposer when I want equality." But like him, her decriers are also legion. They will have a say in shaping her story too. The fight is on.



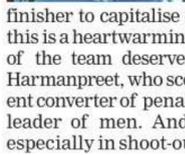
Captain & Goalie

Harmanpreet & Sreejesh best exemplified the spirit of our bronze-winning hockey team

Forty-four years ago in Moscow, India had prevailed over Spain 4-3 in a nerve-jangling final to claim its eighth Olympic gold. The two sides were contesting for a different metal in Paris yesterday. But nothing seemed to have changed. The intensity, the nerves, the desperation — everything was evident once more as Harmanpreet Singh-led India won 2-1 in another pulse-pounding game. For the second time in a row, India has won the bronze in the Olympics, and this one couldn't have come at a more opportune time.

In the past few days, India has endured a string of misses and misfortunes. In Paris, there have been more fourth-spot finishes than ever before, not to forget the tragic disqualification of wrestler Vinesh Phogat, a national heartbreak. The bronze, coming after a week without medals, will bring a degree of joy to millions invested in the national sport.

Teamwork was the key to India's victory. In every match, every member played his heart out. Defeating Great Britain, despite playing with 10 men for the larger part of the game, says a lot about the team's commitment. Overpowering Australia for the first time in Olympics since 1972 showed they had gotten over a major mental block. Had they converted their chances and displayed more self-belief, India might have even defeated Germany in the semis. What the team lacked was a quality finisher to capitalise on the umpteen field goal chances. Nonetheless this is a heartwarming success story that must be relished. Two pillars of the team deserve special mention: Harmanpreet and Sreejesh. Harmanpreet, who scored 10 of the team's 15 goals, wasn't just an efficient converter of penalty corners and a solid defender, but also a true leader of men. And custodian Sreejesh's heroics in all games, especially in shoot-outs, will always be missed but never forgotten.



Let's fake it

If everything and everyone becomes spurious the bogus becomes the bona fide

Jug Suraiya



Employees of an accredited university in Rajasthan have reportedly hit upon a money-making scheme by handing out fake degrees to students in return for cash.

If this lucrative business catches on, and other institutions follow suit, it might lead to a scenario as envisioned in Second Opinion.

Rajesh is an up-and-coming executive in an MNC. The time comes when he has to go for a medical check-up with the company doctor, the result of which will determine whether his annual contract with the organisation will be extended. Rajesh undergoes his tests and the results show that he's failed to meet the required parameters for him to remain in the company's employ.

Desperate, Rajesh asks the doctor to change the report from negative to positive, for a monetary compensation. The medic complies and Rajesh hands in the falsified report to the company's CEO to get a job extension.

However, after a while, Rajesh's conscience begins to bother him and he returns to the doctor and asks for the earlier, negative report to submit to the CEO.

The doctor hands the negative report to Rajesh and says, Here you are, but they're both the same, you know. Confused, Rajesh asks, How can both be the same when the first is real and the second is a fake?

Smiling reassuringly, the doctor explains: The reports are the same because they're both fakes. They're both fakes because I'm a fake. I'm not a real doctor but a fake doctor, having bought my fake doctor's degree from a fake medical college.

Bemused by this revelation, Rajesh goes to the CEO and confesses that the medical report he's submitted was a fake of another report which was also a fake. Not to worry, says the CEO. You see, I'm also a fake, a fake CEO who landed this job on a fake MBA degree.

What a coincidence, says Rajesh. I got my job thanks to a fake diploma from a fake online training institute!

The moral of the story being that if everyone and everything is fake then the fake becomes the real. And vice versa.

HOUSE THAT FAIR?

Reinstating indexation option only for pre-budget real estate sales doesn't help those selling later. Middle class will be hit. Home ownership is not like other assets

Indranil Sen Gupta



The govt's decision to withdraw budget's proposed increase in long-term capital gains (LTCG) tax on real estate must be welcomed. But, as the move is limited to property deals executed before budget day (July 23), transactions after that cut-off date will invite higher tax liability than before. And therein lies the rub.

In India, real estate is special, as it constitutes a large part of household wealth. Given a limited equity culture, property is seen as a hedge against inflation, in terms of both capital value and rentals. While it would be ideal to tax all asset classes at the same rate, which was the logic behind the budgetary proposal, there is no gainsaying that a one-size-fits-all policy does not always work in our complex world. Societies often have relative preferences for particular assets based on social mores that cannot be ignored when it comes to taxation.

Beyond the psychological comfort of having a roof over one's head, property is seen as a hedge against inflation, whether in terms of capital value or rental yield

How it will work | With govt now offering sellers a choice between the old and new regimes, Delhi will apply the lower of the two tax liabilities for properties purchased before July 23. Suppose one had bought a property for ₹100 in 2002 and sold it for ₹400 now. Under the old regime, the seller could claim inflation indexation of 3.63 times from 2001-02. The capital gains levied would broadly work out to ₹7.4, as it would be imposed at 20% on the ₹37 inflation-adjusted capital gains. Under the new regime, the tax liability would rise to ₹37.5, ie, at 12.5% of the entire capital gains of ₹300, with indexation done away with.

It's a relief that the budget's tax proposal for immovable property is not going to be implemented retrospectively. As real estate is likely the single largest investment most Indians make, it is important to provide stable tax rules that ensure clear risk-adjusted rates of return.

Future deals less rewarding | Yet, with indexation benefits no longer available for prospective deals, the new tax regime will impact the public's dream of home ownership by raising the capital gains tax outgo. It is only for periods of a big jump in home prices along with very low inflation that the new tax regime would be similar to, or lower than the old one. Given that property prices typically jump like that once in years, the new capital gains tax liability will exceed that under the old regime over longer periods.

This also begs the question, will raising taxable capital gains not encourage transactions in cash? Authorities will surely have to block evasion by raising official property rates. Property tax rates may also need to be adjusted to avoid additional burden on those not selling.

Capital gains tax objectives | So, why does something like this happen? Capital gains taxation swings between equalisation across asset classes to provide a level-playing field and enabling state incentives/support for investment

a particular asset. The first choice is based on the apprehension that discretion in capital gains taxation, in particular, can favour a group, possibly for some consideration for rentier income. But there's a lot to be said about the second preference, as one size does not really fit all cases in our complex world. There is good reason for govt to support investment in certain assets for some economic, or even, social purpose. In any case, residential investment by the public is a key driver of growth.

What sets realty apart | So, what's so special about real estate? *Roti, kapda aur makaan* (bread, clothing and housing) is surely the Indian dream. Beyond the psychological comfort of having a roof over one's head, property is seen as a hedge against inflation, whether in terms of capital value or rental yield. Till the 1970s, the Indian middle class aspired to build a 2-3 storey house that provided a place to live, a rental income to get by and capital appreciation to tide over the rainy day. With urbanisation pressure leading to the emergence of apartment living, middle class Indians often try to buy multiple flats to replicate the same model.

Should we encourage the public to limit property's utility to a place to stay and shift their balance net worth to financial assets? Not necessarily. Property has returned 9-10% a year, including for rental yield in the past 18 years. This outstrips the 6-7% bank fixed deposit rates. Equities yield a higher return of pre-tax 12-14% but not without risks. Just as importantly, it is hardly feasible for many Indians to invest in stock markets, especially in old age, as financial literacy is still quite limited.

In any case, residential housing investment is as powerful a driver of growth as any financial asset. Its forward linkages to multiple sectors such as cement, steel, chemicals, paints, etc often translate into a higher employment potential. Thus, unlike gold, there is no macro imperative to push homeowners towards financial assets for the sake of economic growth.

The writer is professor of practice of economics at Shiv Nadar University. Views are personal



'Live Up To What Parliamentary Stands For'

Lok Sabha Speaker writes on the criticality of discipline and decorum in legislatures, for both proper conduct of business and health of democracy

Om Birla



Legislatures have a sacrosanct responsibility of oversight, law making and ensuring financial accountability. Over the decades, there has been a manifold increase in roles and responsibilities of legislatures, especially in a developing country like ours. Ensuring discipline and decorum in legislatures has assumed critical importance for orderly and seamless conduct of business of the House and for virtuous outcomes and success of our parliamentary democracy.

When disruption in legislatures becomes a regular feature, it not only results in loss of taxpayer money, but also projects a negative image of legislatures, which can lead to erosion of faith in these institutions. Lack of discipline and decorum in legislatures cannot augur well for the health of our parliamentary democracy.

The All India Presiding Officers' Conference (AIPOC), apex body of presiding officers of legislatures in the country, has played an important role in the evolution of Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in our legislatures. Through dialogue and discussion, it has come up with solutions to complex problems.

At a Nov 2001 conference, AIPOC deliberated on discipline and decorum in Parliament and state and UT legislatures. A resolution and a code of conduct for members were unanimously adopted. In 2000, with AIPOC's efforts, an ad hoc Ethics Committee was constituted, which became a permanent standing committee of Lok Sabha in 2015. Its recommendations have a significant bearing on conduct of members.

Parliamentary decorum encompasses a set of rules, conventions, and etiquette governing behaviour of members within the legislative chamber. Key aspects

relate to respect for the chair and fellow members; relevance of speeches and questions to matter under discussion; orderly conduct; refraining from interrupting other members, creating commotion, or engaging in other disruptive behaviour. Members should use appropriate and dignified language in the House.

Rules and standards of conduct for Lok Sabha members are provided in Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, directions issued by Speaker under Rules of Procedure, and rulings from the Chair. The Handbook for Members and Practice & Procedure of Parliament serve as guides on desirable conduct. Members are expected to be well conversant with these

effective and constructive utilisation of time allocated for legislative and other businesses of the House.

The Lok Sabha Speaker is entrusted by the Constitution, rules of procedure and conduct of business, and by parliamentary tradition, with wide-ranging powers and responsibilities. Speaker is not only looked upon as moderator and facilitator of sittings, but also vested with authority to help frame sound rules and promote practices, customs and conventions that create a healthy parliamentary culture.

Given his wide and onerous responsibilities, Speaker is also vested by Lok Sabha with disciplinary powers. Maintenance of discipline and decorum in the House is a delicate duty.

For instance, Speaker can intervene when a member makes an unwarranted or defamatory remark by asking him/her to withdraw the offending remark and even order its expunction. Speaker may also order a member guilty of disorderly conduct to withdraw from the House and name a member for suspension if such member disregards or questions the Chair's authority and persists in obstructing proceedings.

In no situation should the authority of the Chair be questioned or his/her instructions disregarded. Speaker is final arbiter of all questions arising in the legislature's precincts. Members should regard the Chair not as an individual but as a supreme institution, a living embodiment of the authority of Parliament.

Elected members are looked up to by people of this country, especially youth, as their role models. Therefore, the conduct of legislators should be dignified, orderly, exemplary and beyond reproach. Upholding parliamentary decorum is critical for the edifice of parliamentary democracy and its supreme democratic institution. Parliamentarians and legislators are, thus, bound by the spirit of the Constitution to maintain high standards of conduct in the houses of legislature.

Calvin & Hobbes



Sacredspace

How can you prove whether at this moment we are sleeping, and all our thoughts are a dream; or whether we are awake, and talking to one another in the waking state?

Plato

Politics And Ethics Must Be Welded Into A Unit

Sumit Paul

"Power tends to corrupt, and absolute power corrupts absolutely. Great men are almost always bad men," the historian and moralist, who was otherwise known as Acton, expressed this opinion in a letter to Bishop Mandell Creighton in 1887.

What's happening in Bangladesh is the quintessence of what Acton observed more than a century ago. Despotism is always accompanied by corruption of morality and a sharp decline in ethics. But we tend to explain these observations only in the context of politics and political power, thus limiting the scope and ambit of power. Power in any field has a debilitating influence on the person who wields it and those who are at the receiving end of it.

Humans are hungry for 3Ps: Power, pelf and popularity. Since joining

politics gets you these 3Ps quickly and on a silver platter that, politics and absolute power often go hand in hand. Politics, everywhere and in all eras, has been a rather murky sphere.

Plato's political philosophy argues that in a system, in which everyone has a right to rule, all sorts of selfish politicians who care nothing for the people but are only motivated by their own personal desires can attain power. Power, particularly political power, is highly seductive. Politicians might suffer from Fiefdom Syndrome and also from a sort of pontificating superiority complex, which can be so overwhelming that they cannot part with it. The unbridled power enjoyed by the influential folks is so addictive that they want to perpetuate it despite having a lurking doubt that one day it

might be snatched from them.

Power and politics have a flame and a moth connection. A moth is well aware that the flame will consume it. Yet, it cannot hold itself back from drawing to it and getting burnt to ashes. Likewise, politicians are aware that political power will eventually be their undoing. Power that gets you instant popularity and pelf cannot be done away with so easily. That's the reason politicians are so fond of defending their enviable positions. British PM Herbert Henry Asquith would say that totality of anything could be dangerous. Though there's no denying that there have been morally upright politicians in all countries and ages who stuck to exalted human values, they have been few and far between.

When the public challenges dubious

politicians and their reigns, widespread chaos is a natural outcome. Political chaos invariably gets with religious frenzy in modern times because politics and religion get along very well. We mustn't forget that in the past 10 years in Bangladesh, murders of atheists and rationalists by the fanatics were given Nelson's eye by the just-topped govt.

Politicians nurture religionists and ultimately get the boot by the latter. Religion is a tool for all the politicians. The unfortunate happenings in Bangladesh should serve as lessons to all politicians that the state and faith must never be mixed up. What we can learn from the mayhem and coup in Bangladesh is that a politician can be hoisted with his own petard, and following unethical ways will sooner or later boomerang. Politics and ethics may appear to be poles asunder, but they can be welded into a scrupulous unit for the survival of a democracy.



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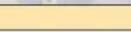
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IS AI RESHAPING THE WORLD?

AI-driven personalisation is key to a more inclusive Web

Currently, the world wide web (www) provides the same experience to everyone. However, as we strive for a more inclusive and accessible future, the Web can evolve to deliver content that aligns with users' cognitive and sensory needs. This transformation is possible with AI's immense potential to provide personalised experiences at a large scale. In an era where software can surpass the human understanding of the Web, transformer-based models can significantly enhance personalisation based on interests and preferences. Envision a future where Web

browsers seamlessly integrate large language models (LLMs) to understand the multisensory needs of each user. For instance, research and anecdotal evidence indicate that neurodivergent individuals prefer to process information through images, diagrams, videos, and minimal text. Similarly, older adults will find webpages with larger fonts, simplified layouts, and minimal navigation to be more accessible and user-friendly. With generative AI, it is possible to adapt webpages to cater to the needs of diverse users. How do we implement this? Web browser providers can embed personal LLMs within their web browsers or use a third-party solution so that their web browsers can understand individual user preferences and their intellectual and sensory preferences.



Mohammed Anzy S | VP ENGINEERING AND MD, GUIDEWIRE INDIA

DATA SCIENCE

Data science is the interdisciplinary field that extracts insights and knowledge from structured and unstructured data. It involves techniques such as statistical analysis, machine learning, and data visualization to uncover patterns, trends, and relationships within large datasets. The goal of data science is to leverage data to solve complex real-world problems, drive decision-making, and generate business value. Data scientists use a combination of technical skills, domain expertise, and analytical thinking to transform raw data into actionable intelligence. By blending mathematics, computer science, and subject-matter knowledge, data science has become an essential discipline for organizations seeking to gain a competitive edge in an increasingly data-driven world.

GLOSSARY OF IN-GROUP TERMS USED

ON THIS PAGE



Data is the new oil, learn to mine it for a resilient career

As companies increasingly rely on data to drive their strategies and operations, the demand for skilled data scientists is expected to soar. Added to this, the government's push for digitalisation is generating massive amounts of data, creating a demand for skilled professionals to analyse and extract actionable insights.



Pankaj Vyas | CEO & MD, SIEMENS TECHNOLOGY & SERVICES

Young professionals in data science should cultivate both technical and analytical competencies. Mastery of programming languages such as Python and R is foundational, while a strong grasp of data interpretation, statistics, and probability is crucial for uncovering meaningful insights. Developing expertise in ML algorithms and the ability to build and validate predictive models are also critical.

Jacob Joseph | VP, DATA SCIENCE, CLEVERTAP

Technical skills aside, it is incumbent that young data science engineers master effective communication skills, critical and strategic thinking, collaboration, and adaptability. With the advancements in AI, technology can assist with technical tasks. But as a data scientist, it is also essential to hone your soft skills like asking the right questions, interpreting insights, and forecasting trends.



Gautam Goenka | VP, SOFTWARE ENGINEERING & SITE HEAD, UPIATH

The exponential growth in available data, coupled with the increasing reliance on data-driven decision-making, fuels demand for skilled professionals who can extract valuable insights. With applications expanding across sectors and a persistent skills gap, AI and Data Science offers a robust career path.

Debdoot Mukherjee | CHIEF DATA SCIENTIST, HEAD OF AI AND DEMAND ENGINEERING, MEESHO



You should master a blend of technical and soft skills. On the technical side, proficiency in programming languages such as Python, R, and SQL is crucial, along with familiarity with data manipulation tools and frameworks like Hadoop, Spark, and SQL databases. Expertise in ML and statistical modelling is also essential.

Rajesh Chopra | SENIOR VP, DATA & SERVICES, SOUTH ASIA, MASTERCARD

You should deep dive into ML algorithms and statistical modeling. Data Science is an interdisciplinary field that requires a granular understanding of data, statistics, and the business domain. Understand the nitty-gritty of your domain, deep-dive into core business problems, and then create meaningful narratives of your data.



Boobesh Ramadurai | VP, MARKETING ANALYTICS, LATENT VIEW

Akhil George@timesofindia.com
AI's rise has heralded a surge in demand for a critical player behind the scenes: the data scientist. That's because the power of AI hinges on data. In the ever-growing sea of information, data scientists act as the indispensable translators, unlocking the secrets hidden within and ensuring AI delivers on its potential.

Industry leaders like Abhinav Nayyar, founder and CEO of Mool.AI, acknowledge the rise of generative AI tools that automate some data analysis tasks. However, he emphasises a crucial shift: data scientists will spend less time on rote analysis and more on identifying the most valuable and actionable insights for businesses. This transition from "artisanal" to "industrialised" data practices demands a new breed of data scientist skilled in scalability and efficiency.

Lakshmana Gnanaprasadam, senior VP at Epsilon India, highlights the key areas of expertise data scientists must now possess. First, data wrangling – before AI can work its magic, data needs to be meticulously identified, curated, and prepared, and data scientists with a deep understanding of an organisation's data landscape are essential. Second, model maintenance – AI models are not "fire and forget" solutions, and data scientists must ensure these models continuously adapt to changing business realities through constant learning and adjustments. Finally, storytelling with data – the ability to translate complex technical insights into clear, actionable messages for non-technical stakeholders is a valuable "data translator" skill.

Chander Damodaran, global CTO at Brillio, paints a broader picture of the future, envisioning a data-driven landscape where AI applications like conversational interfaces and edge intelligence take centre-stage. This, he argues, necessitates data contracts to ensure the quality and trustworthiness of data used to build AI models. Furthermore, organisations will need to become modular enterprises capable of adapting quickly to changing market dynamics. In this dynamic environment, data scientists with strong problem-solving skills and who continuously learn will be invaluable assets.

What to master
As data science continues to evolve, young engineers must master a blend of technical and soft skills to succeed. Proficiency in programming languages such as Python, R, and SQL is crucial, along with familiarity with data manipulation tools and frameworks like Hadoop, Spark, and SQL databases. "Mastery of machine learning algorithms, statistical analysis, and AI concepts is crucial," emphasises Debdoot Mukherjee, chief data scientist and head of AI and demand engineering at Meesho. "This includes a strong grasp of probability theory, advanced mathematics, and understanding of various deep learning architectures and their real-world applications." Developing strong analytical skills, business acumen, and the ability to communicate effectively with stakeholders are equally important. "The ability to align data science with business objectives is vital," stresses Mukherjee. "This involves developing a strong metrics orientation, honing data-driven problem-solving skills, and effectively communicating complex insights to non-technical stakeholders to drive actionable outcomes." Rajesh Chopra, senior vice president of data & services for South Asia at Mastercard, echoes the importance of soft skills: "Beyond technical skills, competencies in project management, analytical thinking, and problem-solving are highly valued. Data scientists should be adept at interpreting complex data, making data-driven decisions, and managing projects efficiently."

In the past 18 months, Infosys has infused AI into seven work streams within the company

HOW TO BUILD AN AI-FIRST FIRM

Sujit John@timesofindia.com

Infosys is one of the world's biggest IT services companies, and today it's increasingly trying to develop and sell AI solutions to the world. In the company's latest annual report, chairman Nandan Nilekani writes that as the company works towards that, "We must learn from applying AI to ourselves, be it in creating an AI-first enterprise or in accelerating the massive talent amplification that's now needed."

So, how much has it applied AI to itself? How much of an AI-first company is Infosys today? We spoke to chief technology officer (CTO) Mohammed Rafee Tarafdar to understand this.

Rafee says they started the AI-first journey about 18 months ago, targeting seven work streams. Here we look at the progress and impact in each of those streams.

Software engg, migration, modernisation

Infosys developers today use an off-the-shelf code assistant. Rafee says the company is one of the largest users of Microsoft Copilot. In addition, they developed 12 other code assistants based on specialised AI models. "In areas where nothing was available out of the box, we took largely open-source models and we fine-tuned these using the code and data we had. For example, we built a specialised model for our Fincade banking product, where, let's say we have a UI design, then looking at the UI design, it can automatically generate code end-to-end. We created fine-tuned models for Oracle, SAP implementation, for Cobol modernisation," he says.

In one case, they reduced the model footprint so much that developers could run it using their laptop CPU instead of an expensive cloud resource. Close to five million lines of code have been generated to date using code assistants.

Rafee says the productivity benefit in coding and testing varies between 10 and 30%. "We have also seen it improves code quality sig-

REAL POWER COMES FROM CONFIGURING DIFFERENT MODELS, TOOLS

Challenges, and how to overcome them

Among the biggest challenges in implementing AI is that regulations around responsible AI are still evolving. The regulations are also fragmented – different countries have different AI regulations, and in some countries like the US, different states have regulations. For a global company, how do you make sure that you know you are tracking every single thing? We have had to put a significant amount of effort and time in order to understand what can or cannot be done, what controls need to be put in place.

Secondly, the AI field is evolving very fast. There are new techniques and models that come up every other week. So, some of the choices you make will decide whether they become a challenge or not. At Infosys, we decided early on that we will be poly AI, which means we will not get tied to any one model. That has helped us well because as



Every day brings new advances in large language models from a dizzying set of actors all pushing for greater innovation. These range from very large models which need massive computing infrastructure to small ones that can run locally on the phone. The real power of AI will come from configuring all the different models and tools to get the best solutions. This is not very different from previous generations of technology.

Nandan Nilekani | CHAIRMAN

nificantly by improving testability, reducing vulnerabilities, helping reduce a lot of tech debt," he says.

Internal experience & processes

This involves building AI assistants for different functions – sales or customer facing teams, HR, etc – by pooling the necessary knowledge base and enabling questions to be asked. Sales teams can use these assistants to quickly find the relevant information, such as case studies or past work, to respond to customers. In HR, if someone



Mohammed Rafee Tarafdar (sitting extreme left) with part of his team

soon as a model comes, I can very quickly deploy and test it on our AI cloud, see whether it makes sense, whether the cost based on tokens or otherwise makes sense, and then I can change as required.

Thirdly, the challenge is change management. AI is very probabilistic, it is predicting. When it predicts, a lot of times, you find that for the same question, you

get different responses, or initially when you roll out, the quality of AI predictions or responses is not that great. As an end user, I need to understand that this will not be very good on day one, but as I keep using it, as I keep feeding more information, it will improve over time. Educating and enabling that change is a challenge.

—Mohammed Rafee Tarafdar, CTO

wants to know about a policy, they can quickly look up that information, instead of raising a ticket, and waiting for somebody to respond. "Since we operate globally across different teams, this was a big challenge because you need to know the right person to reach out to. Now you don't have to," Rafee says.

And these are not independent chatbots; the assistants are embedded within the system. "If I'm working on Microsoft Word or PowerPoint, an assistant comes right within there," he says.

Learning
Infosys's learning platform Lex has been fully GenAI-enabled. It allows the learner to ask questions, and then it probes the learner on her understanding of the concept, and gradually helps build the fundamentals of the concept. It also teaches concepts by providing analogies from other more familiar domains.

Rafee says they have even created over 6,000 content courses using GenAI. "Creating courses used to take us weeks, now it has come down to days," he says.

ENABLING ENTERPRISES TO CONNECT TO ONDC

Shayak Mazumder, Archana Mazumder, and Angad Singh Ahluwalia's Adya.ai aims to drive ONDC (Open Network for Digital Commerce) adoption among enterprises through their suite of AI-powered applications.

Shayak's career journey is remarkable. Despite qualifying for both IIT and NDA, he chose a career in the Indian Navy, becoming one of the youngest officers specialising in nuclear biological chemical warfare and helicopter operations. After retiring in 2012, he established a chain of budget hotels and restaurants in Goa.

Archana, Shayak's wife, started her career under ad guru Prahlad Kakkar before setting up her own TV ad production house, Roe Creation. Angad began his career in FMCG marketing with MNCs including Heineken Asia Pacific and General Mills Singapore, managing brands like Haagen-Dazs, Guinness, and Heineken.

In 2016, Shayak and Archana together started a platform called Eunimart to accelerate growth for e-commerce players. A market downturn in the US forced the closure of Eunimart in 2023. And that's when the trio decided to start Adya.

Adya.ai's flagship platform, Aatmanirbhar Technology



Marketplace (ATMA), helps to streamline the ONDC app creation process. It's a WordPress-like solution. ATMA supports four domains – retail, logistics, education/jobs, and financial services – and provides customisable buyer, seller, grievance management, and financial reconciliation apps. With options for cloud, server, and integration choices, enterprises

can quickly deploy white-labelled, branded apps. ATMA has successfully launched 20 enterprise apps in six months.

"The launch of ATMA AppStudio, in collaboration with Google Cloud Marketplace, will further facilitate innovation and growth by reducing app deployment timeline from 12 months to just 24 hours," says Shayak.

—Shilpa.Phadnis@timesofindia.com

Bottlenecks on the road to utopia

Akhil George@timesofindia.com

As AI continues to revolutionise the way we live and work, the rapid advancement of these models faces significant bottlenecks. The progress of AI hinges on overcoming challenges in energy consumption, hardware efficiency, and the intricate complexities of scaling models. These barriers are prompting a global race among tech giants, researchers, and governments to find solutions that could shape the future trajectory of this tech.

Insatiable energy demand

One of the most pressing issues is the immense energy required to power AI systems. As models become more sophisticated, they demand exponentially more computational power. For instance, training a state-of-the-art language model like GPT-4 requires megawatts of energy, equivalent to the consumption of a small town. This energy hunger not only raises concerns about sustainability but also limits the accessibility of AI development to organisations with deep pockets. As the world grapples with climate change, the AI industry faces mounting pressure to inno-

vate more energy-efficient algorithms and hardware solutions.

The GPU conundrum

In tandem with energy concerns is the challenge of hardware limitations. The chips that power AI, predominantly GPUs (Graphics Processing Units), are being pushed to their limits. While companies like Nvidia have made strides in developing more powerful chips, the current pace of innovation may not be enough to keep up with the escalating demands of next-generation AI models. The industry still faces a critical need for more powerful, efficient, and scalable hardware solutions.

Data problems galore

The availability and quality of data also present significant challenges to AI advancement. As AI models grow more complex, they require vast amounts of diverse and high-quality data to train effectively. However, acquiring such data is no small feat. Many industries are reluctant to share data due to privacy concerns and regulatory restrictions. This scarcity of accessible data creates a significant bottleneck, limiting the scope and performance of AI models.

GALLERY



Leander Paes being felicitated for being the first Asian to be inducted into the International Tennis Hall of Fame, in the city on Thursday

Jayawickrama charged

Sri Lanka spinner Praveen Jayawickrama has been charged with three counts of anti-corruption code breaches for failing to report an approach to fix matches and obstructing an investigation, cricket's global governing body said on Thursday. Jayawickrama, 25, was approached to fix international matches and was asked to approach another player to fix matches in the 2021 season of the Lanka Premier League, ICC said.

PCB ropes in Nielsen

Pakistan Cricket Board has appointed former Australian first-class player Tim Nielsen as the new red-ball high-performance coach.

India to host shooting World Cup Final

India will host the cream of the shooters from around the world when one of the most prestigious ISSF events, the World Cup Final, is held at the Karni Singh Ranges in New Delhi this October. The World Cup Final will be the season-ending tournament for elite shooters in pistol, rifle and shotgun.

Newcastle sign Osula from Sheffield

Newcastle have signed Denmark U-21 striker William Osula from Sheffield United for an undisclosed fee, the Premier League club announced.

ACTION TODAY

CRICKET: WI vs SA 1st test Day III, 7:30pm (Fancode); **FOOTBALL:** Durand Cup: 3 & 7pm (Sony); **OLYMPICS:** 11am onwards (JioCinema, Sports18)

Lin's tough journey through gender row takes her to boxing final in Oly

Paris: Taiwan's Lin Yu-ting called it "a tough journey" after winning again Wednesday at the Paris Olympics to ensure that the two boxers at the centre of a major gender controversy are into their respective finals.

A day after Algeria's Imane Khelif reached the 66kg women's gold-medal match, Lin claimed a unanimous points decision victory over Esra Yildiz Kahraman at 57kg in her semi-final.

After the decision came through, the Turk made an X sign with her fingers to the crowd, just like another of Lin's beaten opponents had in a previous bout. Kahraman declined to say afterwards what it meant.

In most cases, males have both an X and Y chromosome, while females have two X chromosomes. Lin and Khelif both fought at the Tokyo Olympics three years ago but there was no controversy at the time and neither won a medal.

Both were disqualified from last year's world championships after failing gender



TAKE THAT: Taiwan's Lin Yu-ting (left) in action against Turkey's Esra Yildiz Kahraman

eligibility tests, but were cleared to compete in Paris.

"The feeling of entering the gold-medal match is one of gratitude to myself for making it this far," said the 28-year-old Lin.

"After going out in the first round of the Tokyo Olympics, it's been a tough journey to reach the finals."

A former two-time world champion, Lin was given a warm reception as she entered the arena at Roland Garros, usually home to Grand Slam tennis but hosting the

closing stages of the Olympic boxing. The top-seeded Taiwanese enjoyed a clear height advantage over the more compact Kahraman and used her reach to pick off her Turkish opponent, who tried to make it a close-quarters brawl.

Having won the first round, Lin snapped Kahraman's head back early in the second round, to ooohs from the 15,000-capacity Court Philippe-Chatrier.

Ooohs turned to boos when Lin hit the back of the Turk's head.



NOT AMUSED: Esra Yildiz Kahraman gestures in protest after the bout

With two rounds in the bag, Lin just had to avoid serious trouble in the third, and she did that, the two fighters greeting each other at the bell and again as the Taiwanese exited the ring.

Lin also bowed to three sides of the stadium, to cheers and applause from the crowd.

She faces Poland's Julia Szeremeta on Saturday for gold following her third victory in the French capital.

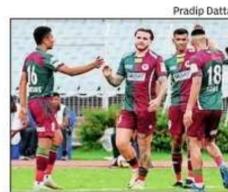
By reaching the title decider Lin is assured of at least silver. AFP

Bagan hit Air Force for a sixer

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Kolkata: In a major boost before the Kolkata Derby, Mohun Bagan Super Giant thrashed Indian Air Force FT 6-0 to go on top of Group 'A' in Durand Cup at the Salt Lake Stadium here on Thursday. While both Bagan and their arch-rivals East Bengal FC have the same number of points (six), the former took the pole position by virtue of a better goal difference. It will thus boil down to the upcoming derby clash on August 18 to decide which team will end up as the group toppers and progress to the knockout stage. However, with Thursday's big victory, Bagan will hold the edge as a draw will see them making the quarters.

It was one-way traffic as Bagan's Jason Cummings scored a brace — one in each half — and Thomas Aldred, Greg Stewart, Anirudh Thapa and Liston Colaco netted the other goals for the Kolkata giants.



Mohun Bagan SG's Jason Cummings (second from left) celebrates with teammates after scoring against Indian Air Force on Thursday

Head coach Jose Molina returned to the sideline as Bagan fielded their star players for the game with only Suhail Bhatt, Thomas Aldred and Abhishek Suryavanshi keeping their place from the last game.

Bagan meant business right from the word go as they went ahead in the fourth minute when the substitute hit a first-time volley from the edge of the box. Cummings completed his brace with a left-footed finish to score the fifth goal for his side.

New-signing Greg Stewart got on the scoresheet when he found the net with a clever finish after being set up by Cummings in the added-on time.

In another match of the day, 10-man FC Goa went on top of group 'F' with a 2-1 win against Tribhuvan Army FC in Shillong.

hin six minutes. Suhail Bhatt's header from a Liston Colaco free-kick was saved by goalkeeper Subhajit Basu, but the rebound fell in the path of Aldred who smashed the ball in. Liston, who created pressure on Air Force defence, finally found the net in the 38th minute from a Sahal pass as Bagan went into the half-time with a comfortable 3-0 lead.

The green-and-maroon increased the lead through Anirudh Thapa in the 65th minute when the substitute hit a first-time volley from the edge of the box. Cummings completed his brace with a left-footed finish to score the fifth goal for his side.

New-signing Greg Stewart got on the scoresheet when he found the net with a clever finish after being set up by Cummings in the added-on time.

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Swapnil Kusale gets hero's welcome

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Pune: Swapnil Kusale got a hero's welcome after his arrival from the Paris Games here on Thursday.

Kusale, who had become the first Indian shooter to win an Olympic medal (bronze) in 50m rifle 3 positions event in Paris, was received by thousands of supporters and budding athletes at the Shiv Chhatrapati sports complex in Balewadi.

"My dream is not fulfilled yet as I wanted to win gold. I was not satisfied with the bronze when I saw the score after my last shot, but the fact that I finished on the podium made me make peace with the result," Swapnil said after a felicitation programme organised by the Gun For Glory academy.

The Kolhapur shooter said the crowd cheering for him in Chateauroux pushed him to finish among the medals after he slipped to sixth position in the final.



Olympic bronze medalist Swapnil Kusale (centre) during a victory roadshow at Balewadi, in Pune, on Thursday.

"I was down in the final but the crowd sitting behind me were rooting for me. That motivated me a lot and I tried to shoot good scores so that the crowd could cheer louder for me than the other countries' supporters," Kusale added.

Kusale spoke about the sacrifices his parents made in his journey from an aspiring shooter to an Olympic medalist. "My parents did so much for my training. They sold our piece of land and took loans but never let me know about these

My dream is not fulfilled yet as I wanted to win gold. I was not satisfied with the bronze when I saw the score after my last shot, but the fact that I finished on the podium made me make peace with the result

Swapnil Kusale | FINISHED THIRD IN 50M RIFLE 3 POSITIONS

things," he added.

His coach Deepali Deshpande, who was present too, said the medal was a result of Swapnil's discipline and hard work.

"You cannot achieve anything if you don't have discipline. It starts from following the civic rules and etiquette, and the habit of following rules make you excel in sport. Swapnil follows a strict discipline and has regards for rules," she said.

Henry hoping to cap 'dream run' with gold

Paris: Thierry Henry admits he doesn't want to wake up from his Olympic dream as his France team look to top off their campaign by winning gold in the men's football final against Spain on Friday. "I think it's going to be difficult waking up. Every night I watch and get goosebumps when I see guys win," the 46-year-old France coach, who won the World Cup and European Championship as a player, said on the eve of the game in Paris.

"When we manage to come together we are a beautiful country, and I think we needed this after all that happened just before the competition." France came into the Games mired in a political crisis with the far right at one point threatening to win power in legislative elections last month.

But it has shaken that off with a successful Olympics in which the host nation sits high up the medals table.

The likes of swimmer Leon Marchand and judo star Teddy Riner have helped lead France to a record medal haul, and Henry's team are guaranteed at least silver after beating Egypt in the semifinals to make it to Friday's showdown with Spain. AFP

Nadal to skip US Open

Madrid: Rafael Nadal has decided not to participate in the US Open due to concerns about his fitness, the Spaniard said on Wednesday while adding his next event will be the Laver Cup in late September. For Nadal, who won the most recent of his four US Open titles in 2019, this marks the second consecutive year he has sat out the year's final Grand Slam. "Writing today to let you guys know that I have decided not to compete at this year's US Open a place where I have amazing memories," the 38-year-old Nadal said in a post on X. Nadal added that his next event will be the Sep 20-22 Laver Cup in Berlin. REUTERS

Jamari towers above all

Khainin Haidermota

Kolkata: Pesi Shroff-nursed Jamari with Vivek G astride is the one they all have to beat in the Maharaja's Gold Cup in Bengaluru on Friday. The daughter of Glynedbourne was a good second to Juliette



RACING CORNER in the Invitation Cup and with a good mock race under her belt looks a best bet of the day.

BENGALURU SELECTIONS
2pm: 1. Mega Success 2. Golden Starlet 3. Meghann.
2.30pm: 1. Monterio 2. The Leader 3. Positano.
3pm: 1. Cat Whiskers 2. Ebotsse 3. Smile Of Beauty.
3.30pm: 1. Disciple 2. Charukala

3. Elegant Time.
4pm: 1. Jamari 2. Supernatural 3. Touch Of Grey.
4.30pm: 1. Art Gallery 2. Never Give In 3. Ricardo.
5pm: 1. Mazal Tov 2. Star Concept 3. River Of Gold.
Day's Best: Jamari. Good Double: Disciple and Mazal Tov.

Yukan wins: Suleiman Attaollahi-trained Yukan bagged the Chief Justice's Cup in Bengaluru on Thursday.

BENGALURU SHORT RESULTS
1: (1-5-3) Alice Blue 1; Double Vision 2; Estefania 3.
2: (5-2-8) Star Comet 1; Free To Play 2; Peridot 3.
3: (4-7-5) Krystallos 1; Flash 2; Makoto 3.
4: (4-5-6) Magnus 1; Constable 2; Tiepolo 3.
5: (6-4-1) Yukan 1; Nezhah 2; Imperial Blue 3.
6: (3-12-10) Golden Peaks 1; Blue God 2; Armory 3.
7: (3-10-4) August 1; Mystical 2; Pharazon 3.

Noida school stirs row with 'no non-veg in tiffin' circular

Cites Hygiene & Respect; No Ban, Just A Request, Says Principal

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Noida: A private school has sent parents a circular that cites "health and hygiene, and respect and inclusivity" to request them not to send non-vegetarian food in students' lunch boxes.

The circular, sent on Wednesday to parents by Delhi Public School in Sector 132, drew criticism from parents and students for its "interference" with dietary practices and also the logic it gives to discourage one kind of food.

"We are writing to respectfully request that students do not bring non-vegetarian food items to school..." the circular says.

It cites "two key considerations". The first — under the subhead "Health and Safety", says that non-vegetarian food may get spoiled "when cooked in the morning for lunchtime consumption" and "can pose serious

Parents said they did not understand the connection the circular makes between respect and non-veg food, besides overlooking the fact that any food can go bad when cooked in the morning and consumed late in the day

health risks if not stored and handled properly".

The second subhead — "Inclusivity and Respect" — underlines that the school "values diversity and promotes a culture of inclusivity" but goes on to add that by "maintaining a vegetarian food environment, all students feel respected and comfortable".

Parents said they did not understand the connection the circular makes between respect and non-veg food, besides overlooking the fact that any food can go bad when cooked in the morning and consumed late in the day, while in hot and humid weather.

"My kid always com-

tein-rich food such as eggs, then how will they get all the nutrients," she asked.

A third parent opposing the circular said that even vegetarian food can go bad in a few hours. "Restricting non-vegetarian food is uncalled for. Moreover, giving nutritious food to a child is a parent's decision and schools should not interfere with that," she said.

But there were some who supported the school and said that "education institutes are like temples for children". "Eating non-vegetarian food is not advisable in that. And a majority of students here are vegetarian. That's why it is a good step," a parent said. Her 14-year-old son studies in DPS.

Asked about the controversy, DPS principal Supriya Chauhan said the circular was just a "request". Education department officials in Noida said parents could file a complaint if they objected to the circular.

Haryana hand-picks tainted officer as OSD to staff selection panel

His Marks Were Raised In 2001 Hiring Test

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Chandigarh: BJP govt in Haryana on Wednesday posted Vatsal Vashisht, a chargesheeted officer in the 2001-batch HCS recruitment scam, as officer on special duty (OSD) in Haryana Staff Selection Commission (HSSC).

The probe had revealed that in the English and English essay exam, 29 extra marks had been awarded to Vashisht

recruitment agencies of the state to select Group C and D employees. The order, handed over charge to Vashisht, who is at present serving as secretary of Haryana Right to Service Commission, was issued by Haryana chief secretary. As per the order, he has been posted as OSD in HSSC in addition to his pre-

sent duties.

In July 2023, state vigilance bureau (now anti-corruption bureau), had submitted a challan against Vashisht along with other HCS officers before a Hisar court in connection with the alleged scam. As per the chargesheet, Vashisht, who was selected to HCS (executive branch), was given 507 marks out of 750 in the written exam & 92 out of 100 in interview (total 599 out of 850).

The probe by ACB had revealed that in the English and English essay exam, 29 extra marks had been awarded to Vashisht by examiner JC Kap-

pan by cutting/overwriting. Similarly, in History of India, nine extra marks had been awarded to him by examiner Maheshwary Prasad.

Thus, his marks were increased by 38, without which he would not have been eligible to appear for interview and would not have been selected to any post, as the cutoff for the interview was 489, according to the probe. Several other HCS officers along with Vashisht were chargesheeted in this case in July last year. With assembly polls in Haryana due in Oct, HSSC has fast tracked selection on various posts.

Delhi LG sanctions prosecution of IAS officer for 'forgery'



A former CEO of DJB, Udit Prakash Rai was suspended by MHA in July last year. He was accused of razing of a heritage structure and building a huge bungalow for Rs 5 crore in south Delhi's Kilokri area

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Lieutenant governor VK Saxena has granted sanction for the prosecution of IAS officer Udit Prakash Rai for allegedly forging the signatures of the chief secretaries of two union territories on his annual performance appraisal reports. Raj Niwas officials said Saxena had also recommended the case to the ministry of home affairs for further action.

The former chief executive officer of Delhi Jal Board, Rai, was suspended by the home ministry in July last year. He was accused of the alleged razing of a heritage structure and building a huge bungalow for Rs 5 crore in south Delhi's Kilokri during his tenure in DJB. Rai, a 2007-batch IAS officer, also faced charges of allegedly accepting a bribe of Rs 50 lakh from an executive engineer during his term as the vice-chairman of Delhi Agricultural Marketing Board.

Rai could not be contacted for a comment.

According to officials, the IAS officer allegedly forged the signatures of his reviewing authority — the chief secretaries of Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Delhi — between 2017 and 2021. A criminal case of forgery was registered against him at IP Estate Police Station on the complaint of the special secretary (vigilance)

of Delhi govt.

Officials added that during his posting as a district magistrate in Andaman and Nicobar administration, Rai allegedly forged the signatures of his then reporting authority and principal secretary (revenue) SCL Das and the then reviewing authority and chief secretary Anindo Majumdar in his annual performance appraisal reports for the period April 1, 2017 to Oct 8, 2017 and Oct 9, 2017 to March 31, 2018.

For the period April 1, 2019 to July 30, 2019, Rai allegedly forged the signatures of his then reporting authority and principal secretary (revenue) Vikram Dev Dutt and the then reviewing authority and chief secretary Chetan Bhushan Sanghi there.

When transferred to Delhi, Rai was posted as director (education) in Delhi govt. Officials said in his successive annual performance appraisal reports for the period Aug 31, 2020 to March 31, 2021, Rai allegedly forged the signatures of his reporting authority, H Rajesh Prasad, the then principal secretary (education), and the reviewing authority, Vijay Kumar Dev, the then chief secretary of Delhi. The official said the matter was earlier placed before LG and due to its seriousness, he had recommended initiating disciplinary and criminal action against Rai.

TOI History Meets AI AUG 9
AI VISUALISATION OF HISTORICAL EVENTS

Construction of the Leaning Tower of Pisa that is famous for the settling of its foundation began on this day in 1173

Banker 'plotted' murder for ₹90L FD
An 82-year-old retired BSNL engineer with strained family ties and living alone was killed in Kerala's Kollam, allegedly by the manager of private local bank where he had a Rs 90-lakh FD and four others, this May in a hit-and-run accident that police now claim was orchestrated by the suspects. Manager Saritha (45) and the others have been arrested over C Pappachan's murder. Police say they hatched the conspiracy on the understanding that the one who would claim the money if Pappachan died. The others held include accounts executive Anoop (37), employees Maheen (47), Hashif Ali (27) and Animon (44), an alleged contract killer. They have been remanded in judicial custody for 14 days after being booked under Section 103 (murder) and Section 61 (criminal conspiracy) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). Pappachan was hit by a car while cycling near Kollam's Asramam Ground. The car sped off and passers-by took him to hospital, where he was declared dead. Police suspected murder after scanning the crash footage.

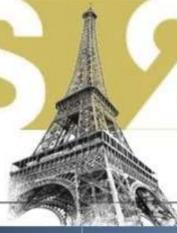
STATISTICS A slice of life in numbers Richa Gandhi

US' scorching record at the Summer Games

US has been the dominant force at the Summer Olympics with the highest overall medal count. Since the inaugural Games in 1896, American athletes have won 2,646 medals, including 1,067 gold. The erstwhile USSR, Germany (including East & West previously), Great Britain, and France are the other countries in the top 5

Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
US	1,067	838	741	2,646
USSR*	721	677	770	2,168
Germany	441	455	492	1,388
Great Britain	285	318	315	918
France	224	255	276	755

Summer Olympic Medal Tally 1896-2020
1 2,646
*USSR includes all the countries that were part of the Soviet Union Source: IOC



"This event is special because (in our sport) you don't think about finishing second or third, or winning a medal. So our story is a success - let's make it better."

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NO FINAL FLOURISH, BUT AMAN ON TRACK FOR MEDAL

Wrestler Loses Semifinal To Rio Olympics Silver Medallist, To Fight For Bronze Today

TIMES AT THE GAMES
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Paris: Young wrestler Aman Sehrawat raised hopes of a gold medal as he stormed into the semifinals of the men's 57kg freestyle event in style. But he was stopped on his tracks in the semis by vastly experienced Japan's Rei Higuchi at the Champ-de-Mars arena here on Thursday. The defeat, though, won't stop Aman from fighting for the bronze on Friday.

The 21-year-old, the lone Indian wrestler in the men's section, was full of confidence ahead of his evening bout after posting two big wins to race through the pre-quarters and quarterfinals.

In the opening bout of the day, he had Vladimir Egorov of North Macedonia on the backfoot soon. At the end of the first period, the wrestler was leading 6-0 on technical points and it soon became 10-0 in the second period. The victory was awarded to the Indian on technical superiority.

In the quarterfinal, Sehrawat lined up against Albanian Zelimkhan Abakarov and the result was another stunning victory much to the delight of the Indian contingent, who were still in a shock after Vinesh was disqualified for being 100g overweight. This time the verdict was 12-0 in the

Indian's favour as he rattled up the points over the two periods.

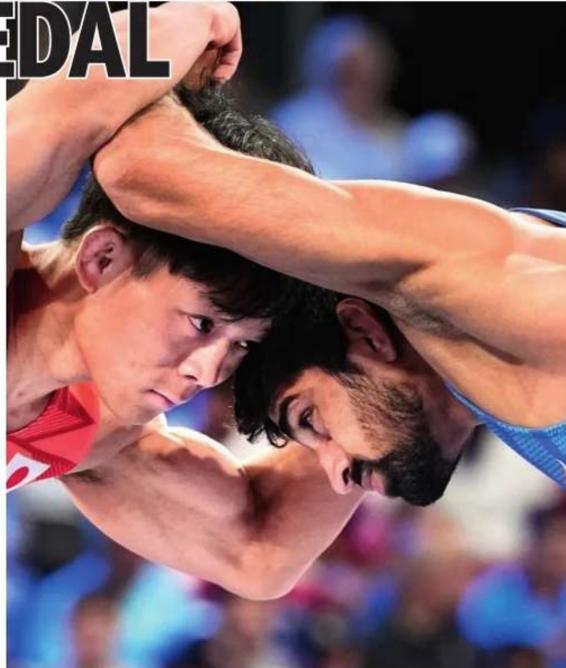
The first period saw an even contest till the Indian took a 3-0 lead. The start of the second period was even more one-sided as he reeled off the points pinning down his opponent and turning him over repeatedly. It earned another technical superiority win for Sehrawat.

A former India coach called it an extraordinary performance by the Indian against Abakarov, a former world champion, who was born in Russia but later took Albanian citizenship in 2021.

"It was a super fight by Aman. He had lost to Akbarov at the Senior World Championships. It was the qualifying tournament for the Olympics and he had lost 0-10. Today, Aman was in fine form as he took revenge," the coach told TOI after watching the Indian in action. Akbarov contested the last two points awarded to the Indian but the referee was unmoved.

But Sehrawat's fine show came to an end against the Japanese who ensured the Indian's defeat in the first period itself. Sehrawat tried his best but it was not enough to trouble the vastly experienced Higuchi who won the Olympic silver medal at the Rio Games and the World Championship in 2022. "It was a slow bout. Aman lost as he failed to stop any of the attacks by the Japanese," the coach added.

On Friday, Sehrawat will get a chance to clinch a medal when he



WAY TOO GOOD: Japan's Rei Higuchi (left) and Aman Sehrawat fight their 57kg freestyle wrestling semifinal bout on Thursday

takes on Darian Cruz of Puerto Rico for the bronze. Cruz is also an experienced wrestler having won the bronze at the Pan American Games.

Anshu loses in pre-quarters

In the women's 57kg bout, India's Anshu Malik's campaign ended in

the pre-quarters as she lost to USA's Helen Louise Maroulis 2-7. In what was a rematch of the 2021 Worlds final in Oslo, Norway where the Indian settled for the silver, the 32-year-old American, Rio winner and Tokyo bronze medallist, asserted her supremacy in Paris too.

JYOTHI'S CAMPAIGN ENDS, FINISHES 16TH IN 100M HURDLES REPECHAGE ROUND

Paris: Asian Games silver medallist Jyothi Yarraji's Paris Olympics campaign came to an end after she finished 16th in the women's 100m hurdles repechage round, here on Thursday. Yarraji clocked 13.17s, to be placed fourth in her heat, behind South Africa's Marione Fourie (12.79), Netherlands' Maayke Tjin-A-Lim (12.87), Viktoria Froster of Slovakia (12.88).

Only the top two hurdlers in each repechage heat advanced to the semifinals. There were a total of three heats and Yarraji was placed in heat 1.

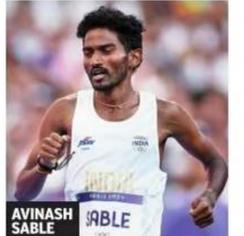
Yarraji, an Asian champion, clocked 13.16s in the first round to rank 35th overall and make the repechage round.

Yarraji holds the Indian record with a timing of 12.78 seconds. She first broke the women's 100m hurdles national record after clocking 13.23s in Cyprus in May 2022 and has improved it several times since then. The current record stands at 12.78s which she achieved in Chengdu, China in August 2023.

The 24-year-old hurdler then matched it at the Motonet GP Jyväskylä athletics meet in Finland in May 2024, where she missed Paris Olympics qualification mark by just 0.01 seconds. She qualified for the Paris Games on the basis of her ranking. ¶¶

Don't ridicule us for not winning: Sable

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Colorado Springs, USA in Jan and Feb where the temperature was below 0 degrees. We train because of the altitude and facilities there. And also we get the right group of athletes to train for long-distance events.

"If anyone thinks that we are enjoying abroad then let me tell you that there is no enjoyment. No one wants to come here to lose. I request all of you to support our athletes," he said.

'Didn't understand the tactics'

Sable, who had clocked his best time of 8:09.91 in Paris last month, said Wednesday night's race was on till the last lap. "This time I had come fully prepared and had the confidence but I didn't understand their tactics. I was in the lead and then the Ethiopian (Samuel Firewu) took the lead, I thought he was setting the pace but did the opposite and slowed down the race. I didn't get that. Then I thought that at the last kilometre, others would make a move. But no one did and the race was on till the last lap."

Paris: National record holder Avinash Sable, who settled for the 11th place in the men's 3000m steeplechase final, took a swipe at trolls and critics who are ridiculing Indian athletes and felt it will take time for the country's top stars to create a bigger impact on the world stage.

"There are some people who are posting messages on social media against our athletes. I felt bad reading them. The top athletes from our country are here and they are lampooned about their performances. I saw athletes sitting next to me, reading those and then they were going into depression. They are thinking how can you represent your country if you are ridiculed like this. Some people are saying our athletes are coming last among all these athletes competing here, but then we are competing against the world's best and trying hard," Sable said.

"There is no enjoyment for athletes while training abroad. Some people think that we are spending government money and going on a tour and having a gala time. But that is not the case. For the last 4-5 months I kept away from my family and friends and trained and I know how tough it is. You are returning from the ground after midnight and then you are cooking your own food. I was training in

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BITTERSWEET SILVER

Neeraj Chopra's Season-Best Not Enough To Defend Javelin Title As Nadeem Settles Issue With Monstrous Second Throw In Final

TIMES AT THE GAMES
ALOK.SINHA @timesofindia.com

Paris: It was hot and humid at the Stade de France on Thursday night. The air was still, and heavy with anticipation. Not the best of conditions for an athlete to give his best. But that would have been the last thing on Neeraj Chopra's mind.

He came here with the tag of the defending javelin throw champion. "It gives you motivation. Helps you focus better on your performance." Just two days ago, Chopra got his second-best throw ever at this arena, 89.94m, during the qualification. "Don't go by this throw. Final *atlag cheez hai* (final is a different thing)," he had said.

It was different. Very different. The Indian, who had topped the qualifications, started with a foul. So did Pakistan's Arshad Nadeem, Neeraj's challenger and a friend on the circuit. But that was not a worry for these two sub-continental heroes.

They went top of the chart on their second try. Nadeem set an Olympic re-



NEERAJ CHOPRA

cord with a huge throw of 92.97m. It was a sensational throw, almost unbelievable. The javelin kept soaring and soaring before it fell to a huge roar in the stadium. The earlier record stood at 90.57m. He had just gone way, way ahead of the others.

Neeraj managed 89.45m on his second try to be second on the list, 3.52m behind the Pakistani. He indicated with his right hand that it was not where he wanted to be at. There was a lot of catching up to do, for him and the others.

Nadeem's third throw was around 88m. He looked satisfied as he pumped his fist. He knew he had done his best. Neeraj fouled his third throw. It was a weak one anyway. The Indian usually gets his best throws on his initial tries. Three gone. So, could he improve now? Had Nadeem's throw put extra pressure on him?

The other challengers — Anderson Peters of Grenada, Jakub Vadlejch of Czech Republic, Keshorn Walcott of Trinidad and Tobago and Germany's

Julien Weber — were just behind Neeraj after four attempts. In the third spot was Vadlejch with 88.5m.

The script could still change. The gold looked to have been secured by the Pakistani in his safe vault. The competition was in his pocket. It was about the other two medals.

Neeraj fouled his fourth and fifth throws too. Out of five attempts, he had managed just one valid throw. It was very uncharacteristic. He was still second on the list, but there was a throw

left and he could be upstaged.

At this stage, it was Pakistan gold, India silver. Not many would have predicted this before the event. Nadeem is a World Championship silver medallist and has crossed the 90m-mark often in his career. He had chosen this venue, this stage to get a throw he would have often dreamed about.

Neeraj fouled his sixth and final throw too. He raised his hands to thank the crowd. Nadeem then went for his final throw. It again went like the first

MAN FOR THE BIG MOMENTS

Neeraj Chopra's medal-winning throws compared to the nearest rival...

Throw distance in metre

Year	Event	Gold	Silver	Neeraj Chopra
2024 Paris Olympic 2024		Arshad Nadeem	Neeraj Chopra	89.45
2023 Asian Games		Neeraj	Kishore Jena	88.88
2023 World Championships		Neeraj	Nadeem	88.17
2022 World Championships		Anderson Peters	Neeraj	90.54
2020 Tokyo Olympics		Neeraj	Jakub Vadlejch	87.58
2018 Asian Games		Neeraj	Liu Qizhen	88.06
2018 Commonwealth Games		Neeraj	Hamish Peacock	86.47

one, just short at 91.79m. He then went down on his knees to thank God.

Chopra was looking to become the fifth athlete in the history of the Games to defend the men's javelin throw Olympic title. He failed to do that but with the silver here, he has gone a step ahead of other Indian Olympians.

BRONZE FEELS LIKE GOLD!

Determined India Repeat Tokyo Feat, Give Sreejesh A Winning Farewell With Medal After Gutsy 2-1 Win Against Spain

TIMES AT THE GAMES
ALOK.SINHA @timesofindia.com

Paris: It was a roller-coaster last two weeks in Paris, but in the end at Yves du Manoir, everything fell into place. When a shot at gold was lost following a narrow defeat to Germany, things could have fallen apart. But Harmanpreet Singh's boys were not ready to brood. They knew a bronze would mean a lot more than a mere consolation. A hungry Spain was in their way, but India were on a mission.

The Indians celebrated and soon got into a huddle, holding each other tight. Then the victory lap began. They first lifted Sreejesh, playing his farewell match, high in the air. The crowd roared its approval. Sreejesh has been the star performer of this team here, along with skipper Harmanpreet Singh.

When the match began, in the first quarter, Spain made the first attack but were foiled easily. India took time to settle down and were soon running at their rivals. A good chance went abegging in the 6th minute. Mandeep Singh raced into the circle from the left and passed to an unmarked Sukhjeet, who hit it out.

In the ninth minute, skipper Harmanpreet Singh's reverse hit from the left of the Spanish circle hit Gurjant Singh on the head, but thankfully there was no serious injury. India attacked towards the end of the quarter in waves, entered the circle but failed to make it count. Surprisingly, both teams failed to earn a penalty corner.

The second quarter started with a blow for India. In the 18th minute, Spain moved inside India's circle. Manpreet fouled Gerard Clapes and the umpire pointed to the penalty stroke spot. Spain's skipper Marc Miralles slotted it past Sreejesh. Spain earned two back-to-back PCs in the 20th minute but were denied by Indian defenders.

The intensity levels had gone up. Spain got their third PC but were foiled again. Just when the quarter was in its final seconds, India struck.

India earned their first PC but Amit Rohidas failed to score. In the last minute of the quarter, with just 15 seconds to go, India earned their second PC. Harman-



DESH KA NAAM DUNIYA PE LEHRA DIYA!

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52 India have bagged medals in two consecutive Olympics after 52 years

13 Total Olympic medals won in hockey (8 gold, 1 silver, 4 bronze)

ACTION REPLAY! Sreejesh (above) sits on the crossbar as Indian team members celebrate their win

Team	Player	Goals	Shots
INDIA	Harmanpreet Singh 30-pc, 33-pc	2	1/15
SPAIN	Marc Miralles 18-ps	1	

STATS THE WAY

India	Goals/Shots	Spain
2/10	Goals/Shots	1/15
20	Shooting Efficiency (%)	7
0/4	Field Goals	0/5
2/6	Penalty Corner	0/9
0/0	Penalty Strokes	1/1
49	Possession (%)	51
2	Green Cards	0

INDIANS IN ACTION TODAY

ATHLETICS: Women's 4x400m relay Rd 1 (2.10pm); Men's 4x400m relay Rd 1 (2.35pm)
GOLF: Women's Rd 3: Aditi Ashok, Diksha Dagar (12.30pm onwards)
WRESTLING: Men's 57kg repechage bronze medal match: Aman Sehrawat vs Darian Cruz (Pur) (9.45 pm onwards)



Felt weakness on stage: Chanu

Paris: It was a heartbreak moment for Tokyo Olympics silver medallist Mirabai Chanu as she finished fourth in the women's 49kg weightlifting final. After the final, the Manipuri lifter revealed that she felt "weakness" while lifting as it was the third day of her periods.

"Everything was going well for me in the warm-up. I gave my best in the snatch (88kg). Clean and jerk was also going very well. I fumbled a bit in my first jerk. While walking on to the stage, I was feeling a little weak because it was the third day (of my periods). It was going well. Whatever the coach said, I did. It is just destiny that a medal slipped out of my hand," she said.

Mirabai finished with a score of 199kg after the conclusion of the two phases of the competition, 3kg less than her total at the Tokyo Olympics (202 kg) for a silver medal. Her personal best is 205kg, which she lifted at the 2020 Asian Championship.

Mirabai began the snatch round with an 85kg lift on her first attempt.

However, her second attempt at 88kg proved to be unsuccessful. Mirabai had initially marked 86kg on her second attempt before making the change to 88kg a few minutes later. IANS

'Wanted my son to retire with an Olympic medal'

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Kochi: Olympian Sreejesh Road in Pallikara, a quiet neighbourhood on the outskirts of Kochi, suddenly came to life on Thursday evening. A swarm of relatives, friends, and media personnel had descended on the home of Pallikara's most famous son, PR Sreejesh. They were expecting a second successive bronze medal from the Indian hockey team, and Sreejesh and his

mates didn't disappoint. As the final hooter sounded at the Yves du Manoir in Paris with the scoreline reading 2-1 in India's favour against Spain, the Sreejesh household erupted in joy. Sreejesh's father, P Raveendran, who had to sell his cow to buy the first hockey kit for Sreejesh, stood up with folded hands and in prayers. "I wanted him to retire with an Olympic medal around his neck. That wish has been fulfilled," Raveendran said.

His mother, Ushakumari, wept tears of joy, while his wife, Aneeshya, also turned emotional. Anticipating a historic moment, Sreejesh's elder brother, Sreejith, had flown down from Canada with his family to celebrate the occasion. Sreejesh's kids, Anushree and Sriyansh, along with their friends and neighbours, were busy lighting sparklers and bursting crackers. About half an hour after India's win, the moment they were waiting for

arrived as a beaming Sreejesh appeared on a video call. "I couldn't hear what he said. But I am very happy for him. I had presented him a pendant with a hockey stick and a ball before he flew to Paris. He wore it while he played every match. It proved to be a lucky charm," Aneeshya told TOI, taking a bit of credit for Sreejesh's achievement. And now their wait begins, the wait to welcome home the country's hero.



The goalpost was my home for the last 24 years: Sreejesh

Biju.BabuCyriac@timesofindia.com

Paris: PR Sreejesh had a few moments of introspection when he sat inside the goal at half time. But at the end of 60 minutes at Yves du Manoir on Thursday, he was on top of the goalpost all over again. It was deja vu — the keeper had relived those winning moments that he had

experienced in Tokyo three years ago. As he stepped down to take off his international hockey pads and passed on the mantle to the next generation — a brilliant chapter in Indian hockey came to an end. "A coach once told me that when you retire people should say 'why' and not 'why not'. Everybody is asking me why now, so I think this is the

right time," Sreejesh said when asked whether he would reconsider this decision. "It (the goalpost) was my home for the last 24 years. And I never lived a life outside that and I didn't know what's going to happen next. During the warm-up I just wanted to recollect all the memories — the day I put on the pads for the first time, the day I entered the Indian camp for the first time back in 2002," Sreejesh added.

"Over the years I changed myself, I used to be an aggressive keeper and shout at my defenders. But when I became the super senior, I could not do the same to my juniors, so I began talking to my post. "Even after the Argentina match, I asked 'what have you done to me'. So when you take out all your frustrations, it helps you to get back to your normal self." Skipper Harmanpreet said the team will miss their talismanic keeper.

10 Goals scored by skipper Harmanpreet Singh in Paris, the highest by any player

Team India, achhe se sona!
Good sleep can lead to 60% better performance.

INDIA'S PARIS MARKERS

15	Goals scored
12	Goals conceded during the competition
3	Field goals scores
53	Penalty corners earned
9	Penalty corners converted
3	Goals via penalty strokes

WRESTLE MANIA OVER AFTER HEARTBREAK

Battered Mentally By Her Unfortunate Disqualification, Resilient Vinesh Cannot Get Up One More Time

Sabi.Hussain@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Another twist was added to Vinesh Phogat's dramatic story when the wrestler, on Thursday morning, announced her retirement from the sport after a heartbreaking exit from the Paris Olympics.

Vinesh's decision followed her unfortunate disqualification for failing to make the required weight during the weigh-in on Wednesday morning ahead of her women's 50kg gold medal bout against the eventual winner, USA's Sarah Hildebrandt.

Vinesh was on the cusp of scripting history after becoming the first Indian woman wrestler to qualify for the finals of an Olympic. She had a great chance to win an unprecedented gold as she has a better head-to-head record against Hildebrandt. Vinesh had floored Tokyo Olympics champion Yui Susaki of Japan in her opening bout.

However, the 29-year-old was found to be overweight by just over 100 grams during the weigh-in, leading to her disqualification from the event. Taking to social media site 'X', Vinesh wrote: "Mother, wrestling beat me, I lost. Your dream and my courage are all broken. I don't have any more strength now. Goodbye wrestling 2001-2024. I will forever be in your debt." The post was addressed to her mother Premalata.

People will talk about her fearless approach and tactical acumen which fetched the three-time Olympian two World Championships bronze medals, three Commonwealth Games titles and gold at the Asian Games and Asian Championships.

She has been a fighter throughout her storied career despite innumerable setbacks suffered during her journey. At Rio 2016, she was a favourite to finish on the podium but was stretchered off the mat writhing in pain after suffering an anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) tear in her right knee. In Tokyo, she entered the



Abhinav Bindra meets Vinesh at the Village on Thursday

Olympics as the reigning world No. 1 in her 53kg weight division and was the top seed. But a shock defeat to Belarus' Vanesa Kaladzinskaya in the quarters again brought her Olympic dreams crashing down. Vinesh would later reveal her struggles with depression and thoughts of suicide engulfing her mind after the then Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh calling her a 'khatta sikka' upon her return from Tokyo.

Los Angeles 2028 is still far away and Vinesh will be 33 by then. Vinesh is an emotional person and her retirement decision is impulsive. She may return to the mat in future.

Vinesh's uncle and family patriarch, Mahavir Phogat said he will ask the wrestler to reconsider her decision. "She is naturally dejected. The gold medal was hers but she got disqualified. The whole nation is with her and everyone wants her to continue wrestling. She can still make the country proud in Los Angeles. We will try to make her revisit her decision," said Mahavir of her niece.

Former Indian women's wrestling team coach, Vinod Kumar, said he will try to convince her to take the decision back. "I have known Vinesh since childhood. She is not the one who easily gets bogged down by the tough surroundings around her. I know she will come back stronger. She is a champion."

"MOTHER, WRESTLING WON AGAINST ME, I LOST. YOUR DREAMS AND MY COURAGE ARE BROKEN. I DON'T HAVE THE STRENGTH TO GO ON ANYMORE. GOODBYE WRESTLING 2001-2024. I WILL FOREVER BE INDEBTED TO ALL OF YOU. PLEASE FORGIVE ME."
(Translation of Vinesh's note on X, addressing her mother Premalata)



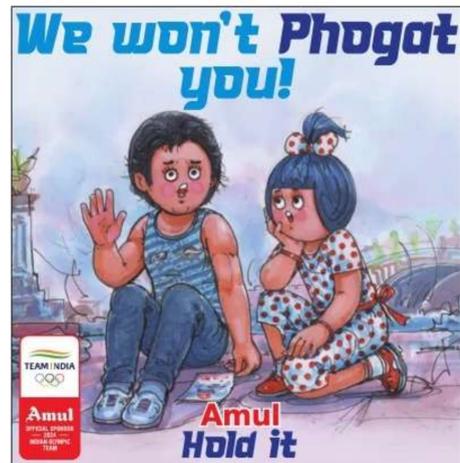
ANTIM STARVED FOR 48 HOURS TO LOSE WEIGHT AHEAD OF BOUT

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New Delhi: Barely hours after Vinesh Phogat was disqualified from the Paris Olympics came another shocker for the Indian wrestling camp — Antim Phangal, touted as a probable medal winner in the women's 53kg division, — crashed out after suffering a humiliating 10-0 defeat against Turkey's Zeynep Yetgil in her opening bout on Wednesday.

It has now come to light that Antim starved herself for 48 hours ahead of her bout to pass the weigh-in. Antim didn't eat a morsel of food and had minimum water intake, leaving her body weak and completely dehydrated.

Antim was overweight ahead of her bout and wanted her masseur and dietician, sister Nisha, to manage her meal intake. Since Nisha was staying outside the village as she wasn't part of the official contingent, Antim was virtually left on her own to manage the weight. The starvation left Antim bereft of energy when she took the mat against Yetgil and it was no surprise that she lost tamely.



ROLLERCOASTER CAREER

BORN IN AUG 1994 IN BALALI, HARYANA.

Was introduced to wrestling at a very young age by her uncle Mahavir Singh Phogat—the father of Geeta and Babita.

GOLD IN CWG: Her first major title came at the 2014 CWG—a gold in the 48kg category.

ACL INJURY IN RIO OLYMPICS: At her first Olympics in 2016, her medal hopes were dashed by an ACL tear in the right knee during the quarterfinals. It took her five months to recover after surgery.

GOLD RUSH: Fully recovered, she grabbed golds at 2018 Commonwealth Games and Asian Games respectively in the 50kg category.

MOVING UP A CATEGORY: Moved to the 53kg category and won her maiden bronze at 2019 Worlds.

TOKYO GAMES LOSS: At the Tokyo Olympics, she was the top seed but lost in the second round.

HARDSHIPS
After that she went through many hardships. WFI suspended her for refusing to train with teammates and not wearing an official Indian kit at the Olympics.
Soon after the suspension, she revealed two reasons for her below-par show at the Olympics. First one was the concussion she suffered in

MEDAL HAUL

World Championships:

Bronze in 2019, 2022

Asian Games: Bronze in 2014, Gold in 2018

Commonwealth Games:

Gold in 2014, 2018, 2022

2017. It always came back whenever her head struck on anything. Second was going through depression in 2019 and how it led to many sleepless nights.
Suffered an elbow injury during the 2021 Worlds trials but returned to action in 2022 and clinched bronze at the Worlds and gold at Commonwealth Games.
Her 2023 Asian Games preparations are interrupted by an elbow surgery. After recovery, her Asian Games hopes are dashed by a knee injury she suffered during training and requires surgery.

THE PROTEST

In 2023, she also became the face of the protest against alleged sexual harassment by the then WFI president Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh against women's wrestlers.

HISTORY AND THEN DISAPPOINTMENT

Became the first woman wrestler to enter Olympics final but on the cusp of history, she was disqualified from competing in the final of the 50kg freestyle final for being just 100 grams overweight.

Did Vinesh's support team mishandle weight issue?

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New Delhi: Vinesh Phogat's heartbreaking disqualification from the Paris Olympics hours ahead of her final bout has led to questions regarding what could have gone wrong in her weight management which resulted in India missing out on a possible gold medal.

The chief medical officer (CMO) of the Indian contingent, Dr Dinshaw Pardiwala, informed that her support staff comprising her personal coach from Hungary, Woller Akos, physio Ashwini Jiwan Patil, the nutritionist and the dietician did everything possible to bring Vinesh's weight down to the required level. Still, the wrestling fraternity is asking questions regarding the coaching team's failure to achieve the desired weight before the weigh-in on Wednesday morning.

It's been learnt that her team estimated that Vinesh's weight would hover between 51.5-52kg after her semifinal bout on Tuesday evening, which they could have cut comfortably.

Former India hockey captain Viren Rasquinha, CEO of Olympic Gold Quest (OGQ), the NGO which has been sponsoring and supporting Vinesh since 2018, informed in a statement that one cannot practice weight management in advance as constant weight control for wrestlers puts their health at severe risk and hampers training which is better at an optimum weight as per medical advice.

"Generally, post the morning weigh-in, wrestlers have a recovery meal to regain strength and your weight immediately bounces back by 2-3 kgs depending on your regular weight. Vinesh's regular weight is 55kg. On Aug 6 evening after the semis, Vinesh weighed in at 52.7kg. Post the semis, she did not have any water or food and immediately started on the plan for losing weight for the next day's weigh-in which was scheduled for the morning. When Vinesh made weight on Day 1, she had to have a planned recovery meal post weigh-in to regain some strength. Her weight went up due to rehydration. This is also because weight loss is mainly by dehydration. So, the challenge was to lose that 2.7kg by 7:15 am the next morning (about 12 hours). Her semifinal bout got over around 7pm Paris time," Rasquinha said.

"Vinesh and the team did everything possible to bring the weight down," added Rasquinha who ruled out any possibility of sabotage.

IOA seeks time to appoint lawyer; CAS hearing rescheduled for Friday

Indian Olympic Association (IOA) has sought more time from the Court of Arbitration for Sports (CAS) to appoint a lawyer in Vinesh Phogat's appeal against her disqualification. The hearing was originally scheduled for Thursday evening Paris time. But upon IOA's request, it has now been rescheduled for 10 am Paris time (1:30 PM IST) Friday.

'Hooda's RS offer a political stunt'

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Uncle of Vinesh Phogat, Mahavir Phogat, dismissed Congress leader Bhopinder Singh Hooda's proposal to send Vinesh to Rajya Sabha as a "political stunt" recalling instances where his daughters, wrestlers Babita and Geeta, were denied their due when Hooda served as Haryana CM.

"This is a political stunt. Today, Hooda said that Vinesh should be sent to the Rajya Sabha, but why was Geeta Phogat not sent to the Rajya Sabha during his govt?" questioned Mahavir, who pointed out that in the 2010 CWG, Babita won silver, and Geeta clinched the gold, and the Hooda govt was in power. According to Mahavir, his daughters should have been appointed as DSPs, but the Hooda govt didn't allow it to happen. "When the CWG were held in 2005 and 2010, Babita Phogat won the silver medal, and Geeta Phogat won the gold medal. She was the first Indian wrestler to win the Commonwealth gold medal. After that, in 2012, Geeta became the first woman wrestler to qualify for the Olympics."

The legal move: The Delhi High Court as it heard a plea filed by Vinesh and fellow wrestlers against the office bearers of the Wrestling Federation of India. After a brief hearing, the HC listed for Sept 12 a petition by Bajrang Punia, Phogat, Sakshi Malik, and her husband Satyawart Kadian challenging the elections held for WFI leadership last year. Appearing for the wrestlers, senior advocate Rahul Mehra asserted that the WFI was being "manned by proxies" and objected to the presence of the current president Sanjay Singh at the Oly Village.

That was not on my bingo card of chaos, says wrestler who was slated to fight Vinesh

American wrestler Sarah Ann Hildebrandt, who won the Olympics 50kg gold medal bout from which Vinesh Phogat was disqualified for being overweight, says she was prepared for chaos on the morning of the summit clash but not the kind that unfolded. "I prepared for chaos, but that was not on my bingo card of chaos," said Hildebrandt, who defeated Cuban Yusneylis Guzman Lopez who replaced Phogat in the final, to claim the coveted gold.

The 30-year-old Hildebrandt did not spot Vinesh at the time of weigh-in and for a while, thought that the Indian had forfeited. "(Vinesh) wasn't at weigh-ins, so I was in my head like, 'Oh my gosh, this might be a possibility.' Then, we get the news that she didn't make weight, and we were under the impression that it was a forfeit. So, there was a lot of celebrating," she recalled.

"It was very strange, like 'Oh my god, I just won the Olympics.' Then an hour later, they were like, 'You did not win the Olympics.' I'm like, 'Oh, this is very weird.' So there had to be a reset. I took a nap, woke up, and it was like a fever dream." PTI

HALL OF FAME

American Quincy Hall produced one of the great Olympic performances to become the fourth fastest man ever in the 400m

Saint-Denis: As the flash of red, white and blue streaked past one sprinter — then the next, then the next — the American man delivering the latest out-of-nowhere comeback on the track said he had one thing going through his mind: "Get home, son! Get home, son!"

Quincy Hall got home in first, then fell to the ground and did snow angels. Just another routine day in a come-from-behind kind of Olympics for the USA Hall reeled in three runners down the stretch of the 400-meter final Wednesday to deliver another heart-stopping win for his country at the Stade de France. He finished in 43.40 seconds, beating Britain's Matthew Hudson-Smith by .04 seconds; they are now the fourth- and fifth-fastest men in history at the distance.

"I've got determination," Hall said. "That's what got me to that line. A lot of hurt, a lot of pain."

Things did not look good for Hall with 100 meters to go. Things looked bad for Hall, a 26-year-old who starred at South Carolina and who breeds



1 Hall is the first American since LaShawn Merritt in 2008 to capture gold in the one-lap race that the country dominated for decades before that. He joins the likes of Michael Johnson, Jeremy Wariner and Lee Evans among the champions the United States has produced in the most tactical sprint on the track programme

them all, then thrust his chest out to beat the Brit. Hall fell to the ground and scissored his arms and legs back and forth — snow angels in 80-degree weather on the bright purple track. "I just wanted to keep doing what my coach told me to do, just keep driving and keep driving and get home," Hall said.

Wilson, 16, in line to be youngest male to compete for US track team

Quincy Wilson is in line to race for the Americans in the men's 4x400-meter relay on Friday, which would make the 16-year-old the youngest male to compete for the U.S. track team. The youngest U.S. male in Olympic track was Arthur Newton, who ran the steeplechase in 1904 at age 17. AP

El Bakkali retains steeplechase title as Girma has a bad fall



Saint-Denis: Morocco's Soufiane El Bakkali retained his Olympic 3000m steeplechase title on Wednesday to become just the third Arab to win double gold as world record holder Lamecha Girma suffered a worrying fall.

El Bakkali timed 8min 06.05sec for victory with American Kenneth Rooks taking silver in 8:06.41 and Kenya's Abraham Kibiwot claiming bronze (8:06.47). Ethiopia's Girma was left prone on the track after falling at a hurdle before being eventually stretchered off.

Girma was taken to hospital, accord-

2 Moroccan El Bakkali became the second man to successfully defend his Olympic steeplechase title after Volmar Iso-Hollo of Finland last achieved the feat at the 1936 Berlin Games

ing to a source at the Ethiopian athletics federation, but was not undergoing surgery. Girma clipped the third-last hurdle with his knee and plunged head first into the track. After receiving medical treatment, he left the arena on a stretcher with his neck secured by a brace. AFP

A GOOD DAY, MATE! AUSSIE KENNEDY SOARS OVER MOON TO POLE VAULT GOLD

Nina Kennedy bounced off the pole vault mats and punched the air once, twice, three times. She ran over to the Olympic crowd and took another three swings at the air. Aussies in the stands flew the flag, shook green-and-gold banners and held up yellow inflatable kangaroos.

Kennedy didn't know at that stage she would deliver Australia an 18th gold medal at the Paris Games — a national record for the Olympics. That was just the celebration for clearing the height to take the lead.

Kennedy clinched the victory a bit later Wednesday when Tokyo Olympic gold medalist Katie Moon failed to clear 4.95 meters after a three-hour final.

Then the emotions took over. Kennedy raced back to her supporters in the crowd and the tears flowed as she hugged friends, family and discus throw bronze medalist Matthew Denny, who just happened to be walking back after his final to join the group. Then Kennedy sprang back across the track, hopping with delight.

A man in the crowd yelled: "What did you just do?" Well, delivering Australia's fourth gold medal on Day 12 helped surpass the country's previous record total of 17 golds for a Summer Games — set at the 2004 Athens Olympics and in Tokyo three years ago. The Australians moved from 14 to 18 gold medals in about six hours, while most of the country Down is was sleeping.

"I didn't know that, that is just insane," Kennedy said after being told of the record haul. AP



NINA KENNEDY

MASKED SHOT PUTTER RAVEN STILL MAKING AN IMPACT

Saint-Denis: Who was that masked person? It was Raven Saunders, of course — the theatrical American shot put standout who uses the pronouns they and them and brings their own distinctive style to every meet they attend.

Saunders qualified for the Olympic final Thursday, wearing a full-faced black mask and gold-hued sunglasses. Their hair was dyed neon green on one side and purple on the other. Saunders had gold grills covering their upper and lower teeth, along with long fingernails on their left hand that were bedazzled and in Team USA colours and the letters H-U-L-K. This is Saunders' alter ego once the shot put starts flying. AP

FRENCH RUNNER FINOT PROPOSES TO HER BOYFRIEND WITH AN OLY PIN

Saint-Denis: Rarely has an Olympic pin contained so much love. When French runner Alice Finot got down on one knee and proposed to her boyfriend after her Olympic steeplechase race, she attached a "Love is in Paris" pin on his shirt. "I told myself that if I ran under nine minutes, knowing that nine is my lucky number and that we've been together for nine years, then I would propose," Finot said. Finot finished fourth in 8 minutes, 58.67 seconds and then ran over to the stands where she found her boyfriend, Spanish triathlete Bruno Martinez.



Golden Sharon quenches thirst with Seine water

Paris: Sharon van Rouwendaal paid little heed to concerns about bacterial infections when she drank a bit of Seine water on the way to Olympic gold on Thursday in the women's 10km marathon swim along the famous river in Paris.

The water quality was approved by Games organisers in the early hours to allow the race to go ahead on time, though pollution issues had proved a headache during the triathlon events, with the men's race postponed by 24 hours.



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P	TEAM	G	S	B	Total
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2	USA	27	35	33	95
3	AUS	18	14	11	43
4	FRA	13	18	21	52
5	GBR	13	17	21	51
6	KOR	12	8	7	27
7	JPN	12	7	13	32
8	ITA	10	11	9	30
9	NED	10	6	7	23
10	GER	9	6	5	20
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Come Aug 15, 'Jai Hind' to replace 'good morning' in Hry schools

Chandigarh: From the coming Independence Day, daily greetings in Haryana schools will acquire a patriotic flavour: Instead of "Good Morning", students will greet each other and their teachers with "Jai Hind", reports **Munieshwer Sagar**.

The directorate of school education has issued instructions to all education officers at district and block levels, principals and headmasters to replace "Good Morning" with "Jai Hind" from Aug 15.

State govt has decided to replace the greeting to "inculcate a deep sense of patriotism and national pride" in students. "Before the hoisting of the national flag, the instructions should be implemented," the department emphasised, adding that greeting each other with "Jai Hind" will ensure

"the students are inspired every day with the spirit of national unity..." Detailing the history of the slogan, the department said it was coined and popularised by Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, when he formed the Azad Hind Fauj to fight against British rule. After Independence, the slogan was adopted as a greeting by the country's armed forces, symbolising their continued commitment to the sovereignty and security of the nation.

The department reasoned that it will promote discipline, traditional values and unity, and will remind students daily "of their identity as Indians and potential contribution to the future of the country".

Respect for the nation will increase if students use "Jai Hind" as their daily greeting, the department further said.

Trainee SI held for extorting ₹7k from cab driver in Noida

Advitya Bahl
@timesofindia.com

Noida: A trainee sub-inspector was arrested after he allegedly extorted Rs 7,000 from a cab driver along with two accomplices near Gaur City on Aug 2.

DCP (central Noida) was removed from post while the SHO and a sub-inspector of Bisrakh police station and the local chowki in-charge were suspended for allegedly not taking action against Amit Mishra, the trainee SI. Mishra was shunted too.

In his complaint, cab driver Rupesh Tomar said he was ferrying a woman from Delhi to Gaur City when Mishra and two others — Ashish and Abhinav — stopped him near his destination around 1am.

Clad in police uniform, Mishra allegedly abused Tomar. When the woman pleaded she was just a passenger and was getting late, the cop asked her to get out and head home. Mishra and two others started frisking him. When he pleaded with Mishra that it was all the money he had, the trio returned him a 500-rupee note and asked him to leave.

Waqf bill: Bid to rid law of archaic clauses: Min

Oppn: Attempt To Interfere In Religious Affairs

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Lashing out at the opposition for criticising the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, minority affairs minister Kiren Rijju on Thursday said the Waqf management was captured by some strong Muslim communities at the cost of minor groups like Bohras, Pasmandas, Ahmedias and Aghakhans, and changes to the law would provide justice to them as well as to Muslim women and children.

The bill's introduction in Lok Sabha was met with vociferous criticism from the opposition which termed it an attempt by BJP to create a polarising issue against Muslims with an eye on the coming Maharashtra and Haryana elections. The Mussalman Waqf (Repeal) Bill, 2024, related to the Waqf bill for scrapping of the old Act, was also introduced. Rijju said the bill did not seek to interfere in the religious affairs of Muslims nor was it anti-Muslim as alleged by the opposition. He said it was futuristic in its intent to rid the law of



Minority affairs minister Kiren Rijju said the changes proposed in the bill were as per Sachar panel's suggestions which were accepted by the previous UPA govt

archaic provisions and for bringing the 'statute of limitations' into force, which would bar any person from being able to lay ancestral claim dating back 500 years to a property and getting it declared Waqf asset.

Congress's K C Venugopal and Gaurav Gogoi, SP's Akhilesh Yadav and Mohibullah Nadwi, DMK's Kanimozhi, RSP's N K Premachandran, AIMIM's Asaduddin Owaisi, NCP's Supriya Sule, TMC's Sudip Bandyopadhyay and Kalyan Banerjee, and Mian Altaf of NC among others said the bill violated Articles 25-26 of the Constitution and was BJP's attempt to interfere in the religious affairs of Muslims, besides being outside the legisla-

Won't accept any adverse tweaks: Muslim groups

Prominent Muslim organisations have demanded that the govt withdraw the proposed amendments to the Waqf bill and engage in a detailed consultation with all stakeholders, including religious leaders and Waqf management bodies.

Maulana Mahmood Madani, president of one of the JUH factions, said the amendments are "detrimental to the protection of Waqf properties". Maulana Arshad Madani of the other faction said, "The Jamiat wants to make it clear we will never accept any change in the Waqf Act, 2013 that weakens the status or nature of Waqf properties." **TNN**

Competence of the govt and Parliament.

Rijju said changes suggested were as per suggestions of Sachar Committee that was constituted and accepted by the former Congress govt.

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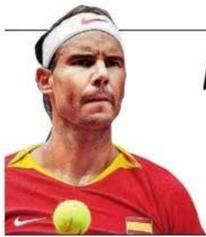
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"I don't think I will be able to give my 100% this time," says Nadal as he decides to skip US Open. His next event is likely to be Laver Cup in Berlin, P 22

Apple iPhone 15

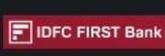
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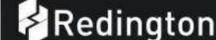


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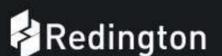
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THE TIMES

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AN AUSTRIAN WHO MASTERMINDED A FOILED PLOT TO ATTACK TAYLOR SWIFT FANS AT A CONCERT IN VIENNA WITH A BOMB OR KNIFE PLEDGES ALLEGIANCE TO IS 18

Buddhababu, a communist and a bhadralok, dies at 80

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Kolkata: Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee, the first Left Front CM who wanted to give an industry- and investor-friendly face to his state and party, passed away around 8.20am on Thursday at his modest Palm Avenue flat following a cardiac arrest. He was 80 and is survived by wife Meera and son Suchetan.

Bhattacharjee, a man of many apparent contradictions, will above all be re-

FULL COVERAGE: P 5 & 6

► Perestroika man who didn't get 3rd chance, P 5

membered for being a communist CM who wanted to take his state to a path of industrial growth without corruption and kickbacks.

It was probably inevitable that he would be misunderstood, both as a Marxist at CPM's Alimuddin Street headquarters and as an administrator at the government's Writers' Buildings headquarters. The consequence, too, was inevitable: his 11 years in the Bengal CM's office ended with CPM's spectacular electoral defeat

REPLACED JYOTI BASU AS CM, TENURE LASTED 11 YRS

- **1964** | Graduates from Presidency College
- **1966** | Joins CPM
- **1971** | Gets elected to CPM state committee
- **1977** | MLA from Kashipur assembly constituency
- **1977-82** | Information and public relations minister
- **1982** | Loses from Kashipur
- **1987** | Wins from Jadavpur
- **1987-91** | Serves as minister



Mar 1, 1944 – Aug 8, 2024

for information and cultural affairs, urban development

► **Sep 1993** | Abruptly resigns following differences with then CM Jyoti Basu, calls cabinet "council of thieves"

► **1996** | Gets responsibility of home and police department

► **1999** | Becomes deputy CM

► **Nov 6, 2000** | Becomes CM after Basu steps down

► **2011** | Loses from Jadavpur

► **2022** | Refuses to accept Padma Bhushan

Shocked and saddened by the sudden demise of former CM Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee. I had known him for several decades and visited him a few times when he was ill and effectively confined to home in the last few years. My sincere condolences to Meeradi and Suchetan at this hour of grief

Mamata Banerjee | CHIEF MINISTER

Saddened by the passing of Shri Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee, former CM of West Bengal. He was a political stalwart who served the state with commitment. My heartfelt condolences to his family and supporters

Narendra Modi | PRIME MINISTER

in 2011 from which it is yet to recover in 2024.

Redemption, though, has followed much quicker than anyone, including Bhattacharjee himself, expected. His efforts to make Bengal a destination for industrialists and investments may have failed both administratively and politically; but it is a measure of his success

that every party in Bengal now has to swear by industrialisation and make it a point to present itself as an industry-friendly entity wooing investors.

In both his failures and redemption, Bhattacharjee can claim kinship with the original Perestroika Man of communism: Mikhail Gorbachev. The Soviet leader tri-

ed to restructure his nation and his party but, ultimately, presided over the USSR's break-up. And, much like Bhattacharjee, Gorbachev found solace in history being much mellow in judging his efforts than the people he once led. And, for both, redemption came before their death.

► 'Irreparable damage', P 5

'No non-veg please': A school in Noida has sent a circular to parents requesting them not to send non-veg food in lunch boxes. **P22**

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With backing of allies, waqf bill tabled in Lok Sabha, sent to joint parl committee

New Delhi: The Waqf (Amendment) Bill, which aims to drastically change the Waqf Act and has attracted resistance from opposition and Muslim bodies, was referred to a joint parliamentary committee on Thursday for scrutiny after govt cleared its first stress test in LS by getting support of 'secular' NDA alli-

es — TDP & JD(U), reports **Pradeep Thakur**.

Soon after its tabling, minority affairs minister Kiren Rijiju proposed to send the

► DMs as oversight, P 9

bill for further scrutiny despite the majority arrayed in favour of the bill, which seeks to introduce oversight on

the powers of Waqf Boards, which in the current scheme of things can declare any property to be a waqf asset.

Govt offering to get the legislation examined by a parliamentary panel, comprising members of both Houses belonging to major political parties, is seen as reflecting the sensitive nature of the bill.

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Why are some debating the sex of two women boxers?

Alleged To Be A 'Biological Male', Algerian Boxer Imane Khelif Has Reignited The Debate Over Sex Classification Following A Bout At The Paris Games

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Controversy over the sex of athletes is not new to competitive sports. The question of whether a male athlete has ended up competing in the female category arose again in the boxing ring at the Paris Games. So, why is Algerian boxer Imane Khelif facing allegations of being a male competing as a female?

In Physical Sports, Men Have An Advantage

It all boils down to how much testosterone one is exposed to while growing up. Experts have concluded that biological males have "higher levels of testosterone during growth, development, and throughout the athletic career". Why is testosterone important? It determines muscle size, bone growth and strength. All this means that women are "on average, unable to compete effectively against men in power-based or endurance-based sports".

Which Is Why Women Compete Separately

Experts note that while there is no difference in testosterone levels and physical performance before the onset of puberty, major changes kick in thereafter. After males enter puberty, their testosterone levels rise by up to 30 times. That means men can have "15- to 20-fold greater circulating testosterone than children or women at any age". In fact, women's categories exist in most sports in recognition of the clear advantage that going through male puberty gives an athlete.

But Distinctions Can Occur

Women can have high levels of testosterone owing to 'differences of sexual development', or DSD, which are a group of rare conditions involving genes, hormones and reproductive organs.



Imane Khelif (left) and Taiwan's Lin Yu-ting both faced disqualification at the world championships last year over sex classification rules. Both are taking part in Paris

Some people with DSDs are raised as female but have XY sex chromosomes, blood testosterone levels in the male range and the ability to use testosterone circulating

TOI Explains

ing within their bodies. What are chromosomes? They are DNA molecules that contain genetic information of an organism. Women have two X chromosomes, while men have one X and one Y chromosome.

And Raise Questions Of Unfair Advantage

Persons displaying XY DSD, that is, male hormonal characteristics, can experience higher levels of testosterone than women athletes. Carole Hooven, a former Harvard University faculty member, said in a post on X (formerly Twitter) that such athletes are "often described as females with 'hyperandrogenism', i.e., abnormally high levels of testosterone". She argues that they "experience physical benefits of this high testosterone during puberty, which translate into athletic advantages over females". She explains that such persons "are usually born with female-appearing genitalia, which can lead to

being sexed as female".

But the issue of physical advantage is not without debate. For instance, an endocrinologist argued on X that even if Khelif has XY DSD, "there's no convincing evidence that Y chromosome/part of Y chromosome alone gives her an unassailable competitive edge". Karthik Balachandran adds that the fact that Khelif has been beaten many times before by women boxers should lay to rest any controversy regarding her participation as a woman.

Especially Where Sex Testing Guidelines Are Not Clear

Asked about the Khelif episode, a spokesman for International Olympic Committee (IOC) said that it is the sports federations that are mandated to make rules regarding classification and fairness. IOC may not itself conduct sex tests, but at the Paris Games it was in charge of the boxing competition. That's because the sport's global body, International Boxing Association (IBA), was derecognised by IOC last year over governance, finance and ethical issues.

IOC defended its decision to allow Khelif to compete, with its spokesman saying, "I would just say that everyone competing in the wom-

en's category is complying with the competition eligibility rules. They are women in their passports and it is stated that is the case." Social media commentators said that Khelif's medical records are not in the public domain and, hence, it's unfair to say DSD is involved in this case. Though some have pointed to her disqualification last year at an event.

Though Khelif Has Faced Disqualification Before

At last year's world championships in New Delhi, Khelif was disqualified hours before her gold medal match for falling foul of IBA eligibility rules preventing athletes with XY chromosomes from competing in women's events. Taiwan's double world champion Lin Yu-ting - also taking part in Paris - lost her bronze medal after she too failed to meet the criteria.

And Stricter Rules Are In Place

Over the past couple of years, the governing bodies of athletics, cycling, swimming and rugby union have been tightening their regulations to exclude those with the advantage of going through male puberty.

The International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) introduced new eligibility rules in 2019 for female or intersex athletes with XY sex chromosomes, testes instead of ovaries, a blood testosterone level "in the male range", and androgen-sensitivity. To compete in track events between 400m and one mile, such individuals should "lower their blood testosterone levels to under 5 nmol/L (nanomoles per litre) because that is the highest level that a healthy woman with ovaries would have". Athletes have to do this for at least six months to become eligible and maintain that level continuously in and out of competition to remain eligible.

OTHER ATHLETES WHO'VE FACED QUESTIONS OVER THEIR SEX

Caster Semenya

The South African runner came under scrutiny in 2009 when questions were raised about her sex. Later, it was found she has an intersex condition and natural testosterone levels in the typical male range. Semenya is barred from competing in any distance between 400m and a mile (1.6 km) since 2018 unless she maintains lower testosterone levels, which requires medication.

Santhi Soundarajan

Soundarajan won the 800m silver at the 2006 Asian Games in Qatar. Subsequently, the Indian athlete failed a gender test and was stripped of her medal after being ruled as not possessing sexual characteristics of a woman.



Dutee Chand

The 100m sprinter won the 200m bronze at the 2013 Asian Championships in Pune. But she was dropped from the Indian squad before the Glasgow Commonwealth Games in 2014 because she failed a hormone test. She was found to have a condition called hyperandrogenism with her body producing natural levels of testosterone that are high enough to place her in the male range.

Aly Raisman

Retired American gymnast Aly Raisman has spoken about being bullied for her muscular arms. In an Instagram post in 2016, she wrote: "Shoutout to all the boys from 5th-9th grade who made fun of me for being 'too strong'... My muscular arms that were considered weird and gross when I was younger have made me one of the best gymnasts on the planet..."

Delhi reaches out to new Dhaka regime, talks of people's interest

'B'desh Army Facilitating Safe Passage For Indians'

Sachin.Parashar
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New Delhi: While India has so far, unlike the US, not welcomed the formation of an interim govt in Bangladesh, New Delhi on Thursday showed the first clear sign of reaching out to the new regime in Dhaka as it said the interests of the people of the country are foremost on its mind.

This follows remarks by foreign minister S Jaishankar in Parliament earlier this week that it had repeatedly advised restraint and urged political forces, without naming the Sheikh Hasina govt, to resolve the situation that caused her downfall with dialogue. The remark was seen as a step towards acknowledgement of the anti-Hasina mood in the country. The minister had also said that various actions and decisions to deal with the public agitation only exacerbated the situation. Hasina's excessive use of force against the protesters was said to have hastened her departure.

While discussing the threat to Indian citizens, govt sources also said Thursday that the Indian high commis-



A bank security guard poses with a photograph of Nobel Peace Prize laureate Muhammad Yunus, who took oath on Thursday to head Bangladesh's interim govt after the ouster of PM Sheikh Hasina

sion in Dhaka in coordination with Bangladesh Army was facilitating "safe passage" for Indian nationals to the border.

In its first remarks on the situation in Dhaka after Hasina's exit, ministry of external affairs (MEA) underscored primacy of the people's interests. "The situation is evolving... we'd like to emphasise that as far as Indian govt and people of India are concerned, the interest of the people of Bangladesh is foremost in our minds," said spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal.

Widely seen as the principal backer of Hasina, and with the former PM still here in the absence of any asylum offer from the West, India has been treading cautiously on the developments in Bangladesh. Unlike the US, India has so far not called for respecting the need to uphold democratic principles or the rule of law.

However, Centre has re-

mained in touch with authorities in Dhaka, including military, to ensure safety of Indian citizens and the minority Hindu community. While recalling the deep concern that Jaishankar expressed for minorities in his statement in Parliament, the Indian officials also said, "We want to make it very clear that it is the responsibility of every govt to ensure the well-being of its citizens, and we hope for early restoration of law and order in Bangladesh."

According to officials, the Indian mission in Dhaka has facilitated movement of Indians including project personnel across the land borders. "Some of these situations were life threatening," said a source, adding movement of the members/staff of Irocon Khulna, L&T, RITES, Tata Projects, Afcons and Transrail Sirajganj was facilitated through the land border.

Amid asylum suspense, UK counterpart calls up EAM

Sachin.Parashar
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New Delhi: UK foreign secretary David Lammy dialled his counterpart S Jaishankar on Thursday amid the suspense over where Sheikh Hasina, who fled to India from Dhaka on Monday, might be headed. Jaishankar said the two discussed the situation in Bangladesh and West Asia.

MEA didn't confirm if India discussed Hasina's asylum with the UK or any other country. In these circumstances, it's unlikely Hasina will be able to leave Delhi in the next few days, if not longer. While she is yet to officially apply for asylum, it's believed she would prefer going to the US or UK. It's not easy for India though to take a decision, given it can't possibly expel Hasina, with whom successive Indian govts have had cordial ties, and allowing her an extended stay may rile the new govt. Media in Dhaka reported Wednesday a call by the local Supreme Court Bar Association for her deportation from India.

The UK's position on Hasina in the past was also vastly different from India's.