



THURSDAY
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PEOPLE'S PARLIAMENT, ALWAYS IN SESSION

Prime Minister's Package worth ₹ 2 Lakh Crore for Youth



One Month's Salary to First-Time Employees upon Joining Workforce

100 Days of Modi 3.0
Paving the Path to Viksit Bharat

WEATHER

Thunderstorms developing in the afternoon. Maximum and minimum temperatures likely to be around 34 °C and 28 °C respectively.

RAINFALL: NIL
RELATIVE HUMIDITY: Max. 84 % Min. 72 %
TEMPERATURE: Max: 34.5 °C Min: 28.2 °C
SUN RISES: 05:24 hrs
MOON RISES: 18:31 hrs
SUN SETS: 17:35 hrs
MOON SETS: 06:24 hrs
New Moon on 3 October

THUMBNAILED



Devotees perform the 'Tarpan' ritual on the first day of the 'Pitru Paksha' at Parade Ground near Sangam, in Prayagraj on Wednesday. ■ ANI

Mpox infection confirmed in man undergoing treatment in Kerala's Malappuram: A 38-year-old youth at Edavanna in Kerala's Malappuram district, who is under observation at Manjeri Medical College Hospital, was confirmed to have Mpox, said Kerala Health Minister Veena George on Wednesday. The youth, who returned from Dubai last week, reached Manjeri Medical college hospital with fever and rashes on his hands on Monday.

One Nation, One Election gets Cabinet clearance

The government is expected to table a Bill on simultaneous elections in the forthcoming Winter Session of Parliament

NIKHIL VYAS
NEW DELHI, 18 SEPTEMBER

In a move that has far-reaching implications for the country, the Centre has given its nod to simultaneous elections for the Lok Sabha and state Legislative Assemblies recommended by the High-Level Committee formed to go into the proposal. The committee, led by former president Ram Nath Kovind, also advocated elections to urban bodies and panchayats within 100 days of Parliamentary elections.

Following the approval of the committee's recommendations by the government, a Bill on simultaneous polls for the lower house of Parliament and the Assemblies is likely to be introduced in the forthcoming Winter session of Parliament. Once cleared by both Houses of Parliament, the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha, it will become a law. The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, accepted the recommendations of the High-Level Committee. The committee extensively consulted a broad spectrum of stakeholders, including political parties and experts, before preparing the report. It received extensive feedback indicating overwhelming support for simultaneous elections in the country.



President Droupadi Murmu with former President Ram Nath Kovind and Union Home Minister Amit Shah as the Union Cabinet approves the government's 'One Nation, One Election' proposal in a meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on Wednesday. ■ ANI

Cabinet has accepted the recommendations by the high-level committee on 'One Nation, One Election. Cabinet approved the proposal unanimously.' He said that the proposal would be implemented in two phases. "In the first phase, Lok Sabha elections and Assembly elections will be held simultaneously, and in the second phase, local body elections (panchayat and municipal polls) will be held within 100 days of the general elections," the Union Minister said.

Confirming the approval of the recommendations of the Kovind Committee report by the Central government at a press conference here, Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said: "The Union

PM Modi hails Cabinet's decision

NEW DELHI, 18 SEPTEMBER

Prime Minister Narendra Modi Wednesday welcomed the Union Cabinet's decision to accept the recommendations of the high-level committee on simultaneous elections to the Lok Sabha and State assemblies, calling it an important step towards making democracy even more vibrant and participative.

"The Cabinet has accepted the recommendations of the High-Level Committee on Simultaneous Elections. I compliment our former President, Shri Ram Nath Kovind Ji for spearheading this effort and consulting a wide range of stakeholders," he wrote. BJP President JP Nadda said the decision aims to streamline the electoral process and ensure better governance. ■ SNS

Congress, others flay One Nation, One Poll decision by Cabinet; SP and BSP support it

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 18 SEPTEMBER

Opposition parties have reacted sharply to the Union Cabinet's approval of the 'One Nation One Poll' recommended by the Kovind Committee on Wednesday afternoon, describing it as impractical and undemocratic.

Barring the INDIA bloc ally Samajwadi Party and Bahujan Samaj Party, the entire Opposition flayed the move of the BJP-led Central government while the main Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Congress, called it a diversionary tactic by the government.

Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge rubbished the decision saying: "We don't stand with this. One Nation One Election cannot work in a democracy. Elections need to be held as and when required if we want our democracy to survive."

Party General Secretary KC Venugopal said: "It is not at all practical in this country. They want to divert attention from present issues." Registering its strong opposition to the decision, AIMMS chief Asaduddin Owaisi said that it compromises democracy. Stressing that he has always opposed it, he said: "I have consistently opposed One Nation One Election



because it is a solution in search of a problem. It destroys federalism and compromises democracy, which are part of the basic structure of the constitution."

The Trinamul Congress described the decision as a "cheap stunt" by the "anti-democratic" BJP. Its MP, Derek O'Brien, said it is a "classic PM Modi-Amit Shah jumla". He wondered why Maharashtra polls were not announced along with elections in Haryana and J-K in keeping with the BJP's policy.

The AAP MP Sandeep Pathak also opposed the move. He questioned the sincerity of the government, saying only a few days back polls for four states were to be announced but the government announced elections only for Haryana and J-K and leaving Maharashtra and Jharkhand. "The point is if they can't

"One Nation One Election cannot work in a democracy. Elections need to be held as and when required if we want our democracy to survive," Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said

conduct elections in four states simultaneously, how then they would manage the same in the entire country? What if a state government falls before completing its full term. Will the President's rule be imposed in that state," he asked.

However, the Samajwadi Party, an ally of the INDIA bloc, came out in support of the decision saying the party is all for conducting the elections simultaneously. The party, however, said all modalities in this context should be made clear.

BSP chief Mayawati also hailed the move. In a post on X, she said, "Our party's stand on the approval given today by the Union Cabinet to hold simultaneous elections of Lok Sabha, Assembly and local bodies in the country under the system of One Country, One Election is positive, but its objective must be in the national and public interest."

Flood situation: Mamata slams Centre for failing to implement Ghatal Master Plan

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, 18 SEPTEMBER

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee came down heavily on the NDA government for its failure to implement the Ghatal Master Plan which has left the residents of the region vulnerable to devastating floods.

Miss Banerjee visited flood-hit Ghatal on Wednesday to make an on-the-spot survey and assess the situation. Visiting Pursura in Arambagh subdivision of Hooghly district, the worst-affected in the district, Miss Banerjee said it was purely a man made flood.

"I have personally spoken to the DVC and the chief minister of Jharkhand requesting them to release the water in a controlled manner so that both states are saved from a flood-like situation, but they are least bothered about the people of Bengal." "We have repeatedly asked the central government to



carry out dredging in Damodar valley so that the water-holding capacity is increased... The indifferent attitude of the central government has affected West Bengal very badly," Miss Banerjee said.

In this connection, The Trinamul Congress posted on microblogging site X: "The failure of the NDA government to implement the Ghatal Master Plan has left the residents of the region vulnerable to devastating floods. Smt Mamata Banerjee personally visited Ghatal to assess the situation firsthand. The state administration is doing everything possible to mitigate

the damage and provide relief."

The districts that are badly hit by the floods include East and West Midnapore, Jhargram, Bankura, Purulia, East Burdwan, Hooghly and Howrah.

The state government has evacuated people living in the low-lying areas and put them up in makeshift relief camps. Tarpaulins have been distributed among the affected people. The district magistrates of these districts have been asked to constantly monitor the situation. A 24x7 control room has been opened and the state chief secretary, home secretary and other senior officials are constantly monitoring the situation. Miss Banerjee is overseeing the relief work.

Miss Banerjee has been urging the Central government to clear the Ghatal Master plan, which will eliminate the flood threat in East and West Midnapore and the lower Damodar basin permanently.

Long queues outside polling booths in J&K

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, 18 SEPTEMBER:

A voter turnout of 61.13 per cent was recorded in the 24 assembly constituencies of Jammu and Kashmir where polling was held in the first phase of the elections on Wednesday.

Except for a brief suspension of polling in Kishtwar due to a quarrel between supporters of two candidates, the process remained largely peaceful. Long queues of voters were seen outside all 3,276 polling booths right from the morning when polling started at 7 a.m. Kishtwar district recorded the highest turnout at 80.14 per cent followed by Ramban at 70.55 per cent, Doda at 71.34 per cent, Kulgam at 62.60 per cent, Anantnag at 57.84 per cent and Shopian at 55.96 per cent.

The Pulwama district recorded the lowest at 46.65 per cent. (Earlier report: Page 5)

Marital rape: Supreme Court to hear pleas for prosecution of husbands

PARMOD KUMAR
NEW DELHI, 18 SEPTEMBER

The Supreme Court said on Wednesday that it would consider listing of the pleas challenging the validity of Exception 2 of Section 375 of Indian Penal Code (IPC) and that of the equivalent provision of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita that protects a husband from criminal prosecution for having non-consensual sex with his wife.

Besides the challenge to the Exception 2 of Section 375 of the IPC and its equivalent in the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, the issue has landed in the Supreme Court in the wake of 11 May 2023, split verdict by a division bench of Delhi High Court on criminalising marital rape.

Heading a bench comprising Justice J B Pardiwala and Justice Manoj Misra, the Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud said they were seized of a part heard matter and would assess the workload in the next two



days after conducting the hearings.

Chief Justice Chandrachud said this after senior advocate Indira Jaising mentioned the matter for urgent hearing.

In an earlier hearing held on 22 March 2023, Indira Jaising and Karuna Nandy had told the court that the issues that need to be adjudicated have been agreed upon between the parties, and a common compilation is ready.

The Supreme Court, on 16 January 2023, had asked the Centre to respond to the petitions challenging the con-

stitutional validity of the Exception 2 to Section 375 of Indian Penal Code on the touchstone of Articles 14, 19(1)(a) and 21 of the Constitution.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, on 16 January 2023, had told the court that the issue has legal as well as "social implications" and the government would like to file its response to the petitions. "The Union of India shall file a counter affidavit by February 15, 2023. The batch of petitions will be heard on March 21," the court had ordered. One of the pleas has been

filed by Khushboo Saifi, who was one of the petitioners before Delhi High Court. Another plea has been filed by a man against the Karnataka High Court verdict which paved the way for his prosecution for allegedly raping his wife.

The Karnataka High Court had on 23 March 2022 said exempting a husband from the allegation of rape and unnatural sex with his wife runs against Article 14 (equality before law) of the Constitution.

The others are PILs, including one by AIDWA filed against the IPC provision, and have challenged the constitutionality of the marital rape exception under Section 375 IPC (rape) on the ground that it discriminates against married women who are sexually assaulted by their husbands. Under the exception given in Section 375 of the IPC, sexual intercourse or sexual acts by a man with his wife, the wife not being minor, is not a rape.

Nod for Chandrayaan-4, development of Venus Orbiter Mission

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 18 SEPTEMBER

The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Wednesday approved another mission to the moon named Chandrayaan-4 to develop and demonstrate the technologies to come back to Earth after successfully landing on the moon and also collect moon samples and analyse them on Earth.

The Chandrayaan-4 mission will achieve the foundational technologies' capabilities for an eventual Indian landing on the moon (planned by year 2040) and return safely back to Earth. The major technologies required for docking/undocking, landing, safe return to earth and also accomplish lunar sample collection and analysis would be demonstrated.

The Union Cabinet also



approved the development of a Venus Orbiter Mission (VOM), which will be a significant step towards the government's vision of exploring and studying Venus, beyond the Moon and Mars.

Venus, the closest planet to Earth believed to have formed in conditions similar to Earth, offers a unique opportunity to understand how planetary environments can

evolve very differently.

The government has outlined an expanded vision for the Indian space programme during the Amrit Kaal that envisages an Indian Space Station (Bhartiya Antriksh Station) by 2035 and Indian Landing on the Moon by 2040. To realise this vision, a series of Gaganyaan and Chandrayaan follow-on missions are envisaged, including the develop-

ment of associated space transportation & infrastructure capabilities. The successful demonstration of safe and soft landing of Chandrayaan-3 Lander on the Lunar Surface has established vital technologies and demonstrated capabilities that only few other nations possess. A natural successor to the successful landing mission is the demonstration of the ability to collect Lunar Samples and return them safely back to Earth.

ISRO will be responsible for the development of spacecraft and launch. The project will be effectively managed and monitored through the established practices prevailing at the ISRO. The mission is expected to be accomplished within 36 months of approval with the participation of industry and academia.

All the critical technologies are envisaged to be indige-

nously developed. The realisation of the mission is through various industries and it is envisaged that there would be high employment potential and technology spin-off to other sectors of the economy. The total fund requirement for the technology demonstration Chandrayaan-4 mission is Rs. 2104.06 crore. The cost includes spacecraft development and realisation, two launch vehicle missions of LVM3, external deep space network support and conducting special tests for design validation, finally leading to the mission of landing on the moon surface and safe return to Earth along with the collected lunar sample. The mission will enable India to be self-sufficient in critical foundational technologies for manned missions, lunar sample return and scientific analysis of Lunar samples.

Lebanon rocked by second wave of device explosions; at least 14 dead

AGENCIES
BEIRUT, 18 SEPTEMBER

Walkie-talkies and solar equipment exploded in Beirut and multiple parts of Lebanon on Wednesday in an apparent second wave of attacks targeting electronic devices a day after hundreds of pagers used by Hezbollah blew up, state media and Hezbollah officials said.

At least 14 people were killed and more than 450 people wounded in the second wave, the Health Ministry said.

The attacks, which were widely believed to be carried out by Israel targeting Hezbollah, have hiked fears that the two sides' simmering conflict could escalate into all-out war, and were followed by statements from Israeli leaders that indicated the Israeli military



is turning its focus to the northern front, against Hezbollah.

Soon after the second round of explosions, Israel's army chiefs said his country has drawn up plans for additional action against Hezbollah and is ready to strike. "We have many capabilities that we have not yet activated," Lt. Gen. Herzl Halevi said. Defense Minister Yoav Gallant told troops that the country was at the start of a new phase in the war and that the centre of gravity of the conflict was moving north. In

a video statement, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu promised that tens of thousands of residents evacuated from Israel's border with Lebanon will "return to their homes".

The new blasts hit a country still reeling with confusion and anger after Tuesday's pager bombings, which appeared to be a complex Israeli attack targeting Hezbollah members that caused civilian casualties, too. Tuesday's bombings killed at least 12 people, including two children, and wounded some 2,800 others. The second wave also deepens concern over the potentially indiscriminate casualties caused in the attacks, in which hundreds of blasts went off wherever the holder of the pager happened to be. (See also Page 9)

Shrinking storage at Durgapur barrage causes devastation

Combined discharge by the Maithon and Panchet upper dams was reduced to 1.30 lakh cusecs

KANCHAN SIDDIQUI
DURGAPUR, 18 SEPTEMBER

Zero precipitation in the upper catchment and substantially reduced dam discharges by 1 lakh cusecs, loss of storage capacity of Durgapur Barrage due to siltation has led the Damodar to cause extensive devastation in the lower valley.

Uncountable localities in East Burdwan's Galsi, Raina, Jamalpur and Hooghly's Arambagh, Goghat, besides Udaynarayanpur, Amta in Howrah have been receiving water by the Damodar flood waters since yesterday, especially after the Barrage mounted discharge to 2.79 lakh cusecs against its designed bearing capacity of 1.5 lakh cusecs, claimed Shashi Rakesh, member secretary, Damodar Valley River Regulation Committee.

At 5 pm today, the barrage



maintained discharge rate at 2.39 lakh cusecs. The combined discharge by the Maithon and Panchet upper dams was reduced to 1.30 lakh cusecs from yesterday's 2.5 lakh cusecs. Sanjoy Majumdar, executive engineer, Damodar Headworks of state irrigation department said, "Their discharge takes almost 10 hours to hit our lock gates and so, once they have stepped down discharge, we'd get the reduced water in the small hours tomorrow." Up to then, barrage would

have to choose for a very little slowdown, he claimed.

The unrelenting deluge by the Durgapur Barrage meanwhile has badly affected 212 villages in East Burdwan where 12,908 persons suffered the disastrous situation. In the district, 237 houses fully and 428 houses were partly destroyed. In Bankura, 620 houses were fully and 2402 houses were fully destroyed, the Disaster Management cells of the districts informed today.

On why the barrage can't



hold excessive discharge by the upper dams, Mr Majumdar said, "We've already suffered storage capacity loss due to continued siltation over the decades." The barrage's installed water bearing capacity was 10.273 million cubic metres. But since its inception in 1956, the barrage's pond area has lost 52 per cent of its initial storage and siltation alone has reduced this by 37 per cent, the morphodynamic meas-

urement of the alluvial Damodar by the Central Water Commission experts revealed. The study by hydrology expert, Prof S Nandy had claimed: "About 6 million cubic metre sedimentation was transported to the riverbed from the upper catchment through dam-discharge over the years." The volume of sediment discharges ranged between 70 to 1308 MT per day, the research unearthed.

Large areas of W Burdwan, Birbhum inundated, minister inspects area

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
ASANSOL, 18 SEPTEMBER

Though the rainfall has stopped since last night, the Damodar Valley Reservoir Regulatory Committee (DVRRC), the competent authority for releasing water from dams of River Damodar has released about 1.70 lakh cusecs of water from its Panchet and Maithon Dams.

About 1.3 lakh cusecs of water was released from Panchet dam in Jharkhand and 40,000 cusecs of water from the Maithon dam in Jharkhand of DVC today morning. A combined flow of 1,70,000 cusecs have reached the downstream in Durgapur barrage.

State government has sent Sanjay Bansal, secretary, backward classes welfare department to supervise the flood situation in West Burdwan district.

S Ponnambalam, district magistrate of West Burdwan has also visited the marooned areas. People are being rescued and sent to flood shelters. Tarpaulin sheets and dry

food are distributed.

The rivulets like Barakar, Nunia, Garui, Tamla are also overflowing.

The district administration has set up a control room in Asansol. Coal production and dispatch through rakes from open cast coal mines of Eastern Coalfields Limited have been hampered due to waterlogging.

The Asansol Municipal Corporation has issued helpline numbers for flood assistance. The state disaster management wing has been kept alert, and deployed in danger zones along with police. Durgapur Municipal Corporation (DMC), chairperson Anindita Mukherjee has also visited and inspected the waterlogged areas.

Meanwhile law minister Moloy Ghatak inspected several flood affected areas of Sitampur, Majher Mana, Barisal para in Bankura district adjacent to river Damodar along with MLA of Barjora, Aloke Mukherjee.

"This is a man-made flood and the DVC should be blamed for creating such

havoc a few weeks before the biggest festive season of West Bengal," Moloy Ghatak said in Durgapur.

Three people are killed in West Burdwan district, two in Bankura and three people are killed in Birbhum district so far.

Mayurakshi, Ajay, Kopai, Kuye all the rivers of Birbhum district are overflowing. The famous burning ghat of Tarapith is under water. So, is the satipith Kankalitala temple in Bolpur. Prangopal Gorai (65) was killed when a high tension electric wire of WBSEDCL fell upon a tree in his house in Sainthia. He got electrocuted and died.

More than 15 villages are marooned and thousands of villagers are affected. DM of Birbhum, Bidhan Roy went to inspect and make an assessment of the damages due to the flood. "The BDOs are instructed to monitor the situation 24x7 and report. The affected people are rescued and shifted to flood shelters. We are waiting for the water to recede as the rainfall has stopped," he said.

DM, SP, MP, MLA rescued after boat overturns during inspection

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
BIRBHUM, 18 SEPTEMBER

In a bizarre incident, 13 persons, including two Members of Parliament, one MLA and district magistrate and police superintendent of Birbhum fell into the river when their rubber speed boat overturned while inspecting a marooned area in Labhpur of Birbhum today.

They are rescued later, while one person is still missing till the time of reporting.

About 15 villages have been inundated due to overflowing of Kuye river in Labhpur and all officials had boarded the rubber speed boat without wearing life saving jackets.

District magistrate of Birbhum, Bidhan Roy, MLA of Labhpur, Abhijit Sinha, Rajya Sabha MP Samirul Islam, Bolpur MP Asit Mal, police superintendent Raj Narayan Mukherjee and eight others



boarded the rubber speed boat today evening when suddenly the boat overturned and capsized.

Immediately local police and other rescue workers swung into action and rescued 12 persons from the Kuye river.

"In the middle of the river, the boat overturned after hitting a floating tree trunk. All of us fell into the river. Seeing us, the police on the banks of the rivers and local villagers

jumped into the river and rescued us," said Abhijit Sinha, MLA of Labhpur.

The DM Bidhan Roy said that about six to seven villages have been completely marooned and mud houses have flattened in the area after heavy rainfall in the past five days. The officials were rescued.

The State Disaster Management Force has been sent to Labhpur block to rescue the marooned villagers.

Waterlogging woes at Andal airport

DEBAJYOTI CHAKRABORTY
ANDAL, 18 SEPTEMBER

Disruptions of flight operations from Kazi Nazrul Islam Airport due to waterlogging at regular intervals in the peak monsoon season this year has been a matter of concern for the authorities as CM plans to upgrade it into an international airport.

The flight operations from Kazi Nazrul Islam Airport in Andal have become normal from Tuesday.

On Monday, the flight operations at Kazi Nazrul Islam Airport in Andal were suspended due to waterlogging in the runways after heavy rainfall in the surrounding areas.

"Our flight operations have become normal since yesterday and flights to Chennai, Bengaluru and Bhubaneswar have taken off successfully with passengers from Tuesday. Our team is monitoring the situation closely," said Kailash Mondal,



director of Kazi Nazrul Islam Airport in Andal.

He further added that on Monday, four flights could not take off due to incessant rainfall in the surrounding area leading to waterlogging in the runway. Kailash Mondal said that today also all flight operations are normal.

Presently, domestic commercial flight operations from Kazi Nazrul Islam Airport in Andal take place to destinations like New Delhi, Chennai, Mumbai, Hyderabad, Bengaluru, Bhubaneswar,

Guwahati and Bagdogra and vice versa.

Due to this regular waterlogging, the airport has been facing huge revenue losses due to flight disruptions. From 2-4 August, flight operations have been cancelled by the airlines operator, IndiGo Airlines due to waterlogging in the runway after heavy downpour in the upper catchment areas.

Flight services resumed from 5 August after water level receded.

The regular waterlogging



in the runways and airport terminal during heavy rainfall has been a matter of concern for the authority of Kazi Nazrul Islam Airport in Andal.

Due to repeated cancellations of flights the airport is losing its revenue during the heavy monsoon season.

Besides the regular passenger domestic flight operations, India's budget air carrier, IndiGo Airlines has also started a cargo terminal from KNI Airport in Andal. CMMamata Banerjee has

dreams to start international flight operations from Andal to neighbouring countries like Bangladesh, Nepal, Thailand, Bhutan, Singapore etc.

The state government has already sent a letter to the Union ministry of civil aviation seeking approval to convert the KNI Airport in Andal, which can presently handle 4 lakh passengers per annum to an international airport.

The airport also has night landing facilities.

ARTIST AT WORK



An artist prepares a Durga idol at his Kumartuli workshop weeks ahead of Durga Puja in Kolkata on Wednesday. ■ MOUL MONDAL

Felicitation ceremony of BSF athletics team

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
SILIGURI, 18 SEPTEMBER

The Border Security Force (BSF) North Bengal Frontier organised a felicitation ceremony to honour its athletic team for securing the top position in a recent competition.

The BSF North Bengal Frontier's athletic team, comprising 39 personnel from various units, earned the first position with an impressive 141 points. The team achieved this by winning eight Gold, five Silver, and seven Bronze medals at the BSF Inter-Frontier Athletic Competition 2024, held from 9-13 September in Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh.

Eleven teams from BSF Frontiers, including those from Kashmir, Jammu, Guwahati, Tripura, Punjab, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Mizoram & Cachar, South Bengal, North Bengal, and Megha-



laya, participated in the competition. The event featured a variety of athletic challenges, including a 26-mile marathon, 5000-meter run, 800-meter run, 400-meter run, 200-meter run, 4x100 meter relay, discus throw, javelin throw, and high jump.

In recognition of their remarkable performance, a felicitation ceremony was held for the BSF North Bengal Frontier Athletics team at BSF Campus Kadamtala on Wednesday, September 18, 2024. Inspector General Soorya Kant Sharma of BSF

North Bengal Frontier presided over the event, congratulating the team for their outstanding achievement.

Speaking at the ceremony, IG Sharma highlighted the BSF's vital role in securing the Indo-Pak and Indo-Bangladesh borders since 1965.

He praised the team's dedication, noting that the discipline and devotion to duty demonstrated by the Seema Paharis are reflected not only in border management but also in their excellence in sports.

Brijendra Pratap Singh new CMD of Nalco



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
ASANSOL, 18 SEPTEMBER

Brijendra Pratap Singh, director in-charge of Iisco Steel Plant (ISP), Burnpur and Durgapur Steel Plant (DSP) in Durgapur of Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) has been selected as the chairman cum managing director of National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO) by the Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB).

During his tenure as director in charge of Iisco Steel Plant and Durgapur Steel Plant massive modernization projects were planned. Initial work of land leveling and boundary wall constructions and removal of encroachments have also started.

During his tenure Iisco Steel Plant (ISP), Burnpur has also registered record steel productions.

He will take charge after vigilance clearances. Nalco is a Schedule 'A', central public sector undertaking.

The new and upcoming plant will be automatic and green and about 13,000 to 15,000 construction workers are expected to work during the massive construction period, thus changing the socio economic scenario of this industrial region.

Tea industry leaders fear losses, cry for govt help

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
SILIGURI, 18 SEPTEMBER

Sandeep Singhania, president of the Tea Association of India (TAI), has called for urgent government intervention, warning that without timely support, the future of the north Indian tea industry is in serious jeopardy.

According to Mr Singhania, the first and second flush crops, which produce the highest-quality teas, have been severely impacted, creating a significant strain on the industry's cash flow.

He further highlighted that the escalating costs of inputs, including rising wages and food grain prices, are exacerbating the financial

challenges faced by the industry.

In light of these difficulties, tea industry leaders are urging the West Bengal government to offer fiscal incentives similar to those provided by the Assam government to help the sector navigate these turbulent times.

Mr Singhania noted that extreme weather conditions have played a pivotal role in the significant decline in tea production in north India, particularly in Assam and West Bengal.

Citing data from the Tea Board of India, he revealed that insufficient rainfall and excessive heat early in the season, followed by heavy rainfall in June and July 2024,

have severely hampered crop growth.

This has resulted in a sharp decline in production, with Assam experiencing an 11 per cent drop in output and West Bengal facing a more drastic 21 per cent decrease up to July 2024 compared to the same period last year.

The situation is further complicated by weakened tea bushes and severe pest and disease infestations. Reports from tea estates estimate an additional 10 per cent production loss in West Bengal and 3 per cent in Assam during August 2024 compared to last year.

Weather data from the India Meteorological Department shows significant devi-

ations in rainfall patterns. West Bengal received 50 per cent to 80 per cent less rainfall between March and May 2024, while Assam saw a 10 per cent to 30 per cent deficit. Although the southwest monsoon brought heavy rainfall to the region, the erratic weather and another drastic reduction in rainfall in August have worsened the outlook for tea growers.

The erratic weather has also severely impacted tea bush health, contributing to crop losses. Severe pest infestations, including Helopeltis, Looper Caterpillar, Green Fly, and Red Spider Mites, have plagued many tea gardens. Additionally, diseases like Fusarium Dieback, Bac-

terial Blight, and Red Rust have spread widely, further affecting yields, according to Mr Singhania.

The tea industry is also grappling with restrictions on the use of chemicals for pest control.

Currently, only 33 chemicals are approved for use under the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) guidelines, with 26 more awaiting approval. As a result, the industry is struggling to combat pest infestations effectively.

While acknowledging FSSAI's efforts to ensure safe and compliant tea production, the tea industry has urged the West Bengal government to prohibit the sale and dis-

tribution of banned chemicals in North Bengal's tea-growing regions. Without such measures, the industry risks being at a competitive disadvantage compared to other tea-producing areas.

"Despite the challenges, the industry appreciates the West Bengal government's initiative to develop a roadmap to meet the Maximum Residue Limits (MRL) standards for tea," said Mr Singhania. However, he stressed the need for further awareness among stakeholders regarding the importance of using only approved chemicals in tea plantations.

Sources indicate that in response to crop losses, the Tea Board of India has revised

its production estimate for 2023 to 1393.66 million kilograms, down from an earlier estimate of 1367.70 million kilograms. The industry anticipates a further drop in production of around 160-170 million kilograms in 2024.

Although tea prices in North India have risen by 13%, this increase is insufficient to offset the production losses.

While domestic prices have gone up, export prices have fallen by 4% to date. Assam has seen a 15% price increase despite an 11% drop in production, while West Bengal's 21 per cent production loss has only been matched by a 7 per cent price rise.

THUMBNAILS



Alumni of Ballygunge Science College take out a rally against the RG Kar rape and murder incident. ■ MOUL MONDAL

AC coaches to be added in 5 popular trains: Aiming to enhance passenger amenities in key areas such as Rampurhat, Azimganj, Malda Town and Jamalpur, the Eastern Railway has decided to augment air-conditioned and sleeper class coaches with five popular mail/express trains. According to the ER, one AC 3-Tier Coach each is to be augmented with 13187/13188 Sealdah-Rampurhat - Sealdah Express and 13466/13465 Malda Town - Howrah - Malda Town Intercity Express from 21 September. In addition, one sleeper class and one AC-3 tier coach each would be augmented with 12347/12348 Howrah - Rampurhat - Howrah Express and 13017/13018 Howrah - Azimganj - Howrah Ganad-epta Express from 24 September. Also one Sleeper class and one AC-3 tier coach would be augmented with 13015/13016 Howrah - Jamalpur - Howrah Kavighru Express leaving Howrah from 24 September. ■ SNS

Trinamul Congress councillor arrested: A municipal councillor belonging to the Trinamul Congress was arrested by the police for shooting at a rival party member. North 24-Parganas' Titagarh is in turmoil over this incident. Gunshots were fired over a dispute about who would control the area. TMC councillor Inam Khan has been arrested in this connection. Reports suggested that the accused, Inam, is the councillor of Ward 11 in Titagarh municipality. The situation escalated due to a conflict over territorial control. Allegedly, Inam Khan fired at Mithun, alias Tamam, a close associate of TMC councillor Bishnu Singh, near Korbala in Ward 4 of Titagarh municipality. Fortunately, Mithun narrowly escaped with his life. Around 7 pm, the Khardah police arrested the accused and are currently questioning him. ■ SNS

Ritika Tirkey pilots the inaugural Tatanagar-Patna Vande Bharat train



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE KOLKATA, 17 SEPTEMBER

With her eyes constantly scanning the tracks to move forward and her hands effortlessly guiding the Vande Bharat Express to reach its destination, Ritika Tirkey, a female loco pilot, drove the Tatanagar-Patna Vande Bharat train on its maiden journey on 15 September. Making a lasting mark in the majorly male-dominated field, Ritika has been working in the Indian Railways since 2019 as a senior assistant loco pilot. She has driven numerous goods as well as passenger trains till date. In her early life, Tirkey completed her education in Ranchi. After completing her mechanical engineering degree, she joined the Dhanbad division in Jharkhand as an assistant loco pilot. Her career in railways began with her first posting in Chandrapura, Bokaro. Tirkey was transferred to Tatanagar in 2021 and promoted to senior assistant loco pilot due to her good performance in 2024.

Abhishek urges doctors to join work

TMC MP urged the CBI to ensure that no perpetrators are spared with swift punishment handed down at earliest opportunity

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE KOLKATA, 18 SEPTEMBER

Abhishek Banerjee, Trinamul Congress national general secretary and MP from Diamond Harbour urged the CBI to ensure that no perpetrators are spared with swift punishment handed down at the earliest opportunity. At the same breath he requested the junior doctors to resume duty. On his X-handle Mr Banerjee wrote, "As a gesture of goodwill, the doctors should now consider calling off the strike and work collaboratively with the government to serve the people and expedite the implementation of the task force initiatives to ensure these charges are promptly executed." Coming down heavily on the CBI, Mr Banerjee further wrote: "The CBI record speaks for itself over the past 10



years, they have not completed a single investigation they have undertaken. Justice delayed is justice denied." Mr Banerjee said since day one, he had supported the doctors in their concerns regarding the safety and security and he had always said that most of their concerns, barring a few are valid, sensible and justified. Mr Banerjee further wrote: "As per the SC directions and the GoWB's submission before the SC yesterday, most of the measures for improving their safety and security are in progress, including the installation of CCTV cameras and

infrastructural development in the medical colleges and hospital across West Bengal which are expected to be completed within 14 days. Additionally, the government has honoured their demands for transferring certain top officials in the health department and Kolkata Police, as confirmed by the HCM the day before in her media address." The junior doctors are still on strike as they think that the principal secretary of the health department should be transferred. They said the former commissioner of Kolkata Police Vineet Goyal has not been forced to resign, on the contrary he has been promoted. A senior state government official said they are keeping a tab on the situation. Mamata Banerjee said no punitive measure will be taken against the junior doctors once they resume work.

Junior doctors meet CS at Nabanna, continue with protest

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE KOLKATA, 18 SEPTEMBER

The protesting junior doctors met chief secretary Manoj Pant today at the state secretariat to discuss their remaining charter of demands. The meeting was still on at the time of reporting. Agitating junior doctors on Wednesday had written to the state chief secretary Manoj Pant seeking a meeting as early as possible to discuss on certain "key unresolved issues" like safety and security in government medical colleges and hospitals and removal of Narayan Swaroop Nigam, principal secretary in-charge of health department, as pre-conditions for lifting their ongoing nine day-long sit-in protest in front of the Swasthya Bhawan,

health department headquarters at Salt Lake. The protesting medics including postgraduate trainee (PGT) doctors, house staff and interns of 26 government teaching hospitals across the state sent an email at 11.19 am with respect to their general body (GB) meeting, which concluded early Wednesday morning. The protesters highlighted issues of safety and security inside state-run hospital premises, and details of formulation and functions of the promised task force headed by the chief secretary, as agenda for the proposed meeting. Under the banner of the West Bengal Junior Doctors Front (WBJDF), they have been organizing cease-work in outpatient departments (OPDs) in 26 medical colleges

since 9 August demanding hospitals. "The issues regarding safety and security within the hospital and college premises were discussed. The state government proposed that a task force headed by the chief secretary and including the home secretary, the DG Police and CP Kolkata as well as representatives as would be proposed by the junior doctors will look into the related matters," point number 6 of the minutes reads. "We want a task force to be formed in every government medical college hospital. Only a state-level task force can't ensure safety and security for us in medical colleges. The college-level task force should have members like junior doctors and nurses of respective teaching hospitals," junior doctors said.

Can expect respite from rain next few days: Weatherman

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE KOLKATA, 18 SEPTEMBER

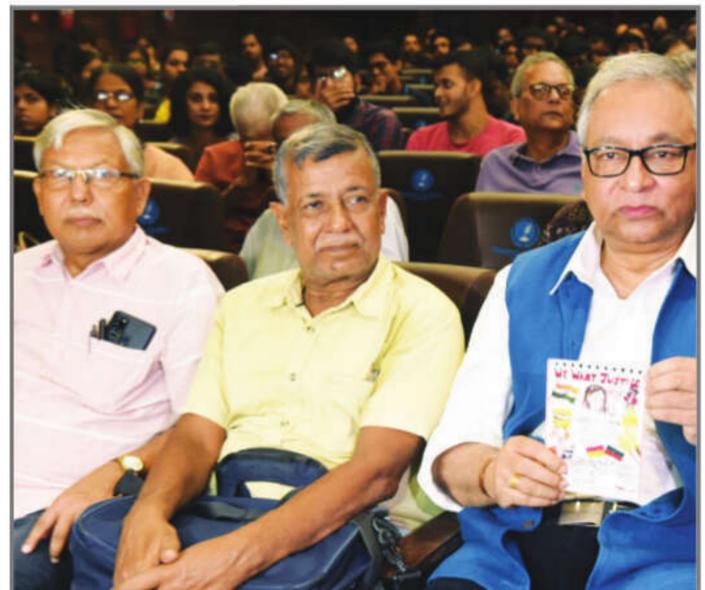
Amid the fear of floods looming large over various districts of south Bengal, the weather department has tipped some relief for the citizens of this part of the state. According to the Regional Meteorological Centre, south Bengal is unlikely to have any significant amount of rainfall for the next few days.



As informed by the weather scientists, the weather in Kolkata and other districts of south Bengal is anticipated to remain relatively dry for the next four to five days. "As there are no 'systems' in the vicinity of south Bengal, the region is unlikely to have any significant amount of rainfall for the next three to four days," informed a weather department official. "Generally, a system over Jharkhand impacts the rainfall here too. However, in absence of any monsoon troughs or cyclonic circulation nearby, not only in south Bengal, there is hardly any rainfall likely even in the state of Jharkhand," added the scientist. Moreover, the monsoon trough at mean sea level now passes through Ferozpur, Narnaul, the centre of well marked low pressure area over central parts of north Madhya Pradesh and neighbourhood, Pendra Road, Puri and then southeastwards to east central Bay of Bengal. The system however, is unlikely to bring any significant amount of rainfall to south Bengal. "Even if there is rainfall, it is likely to be in the light to moderate range at one or two places over the districts.

But overall, south Bengal is anticipated to be dry till 21 September," added the weather department official. As learnt from the RMC, Kolkata as well as south Bengal recorded normal rainfall during the season. From 1 June till today, Kolkata is said to have received 1,125 mm of rainfall against the 1,209 mm normal figure thereby registering a seven per cent deficit. In contrast, as compared to the normal figure of 1,057 mm, south Bengal has recorded 1,054 mm, which is just normal. In terms of rainfall in the month of September, the city recorded seven per cent excess rains till today while south Bengal registered about 72 per cent excess rainfall. As explained by a scientist, due to continuous rainfall from the end of July, the rivers were already swollen. The incessant rainfall last week has aggravated the situation. PHOTO BY MOUL MONDAL

PRESIDENCY MEET



Resistance through dialogue, music, performance and canvas was held at Presidency University on Wednesday. The call for the meeting was by Presidency Shikha Samaj. ■ SNS

Medical council cancels registration of Sandip Ghosh

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE KOLKATA, 18 SEPTEMBER

The West Bengal Medical Council (WBMC) on Wednesday cancelled registration of Prof (Dr) Sandip Ghosh, the former principal of the R G Kar Medical College Hospital and an accused in the horrific rape-murder of the 31-year-old woman postgraduate trainee, after he failed to reply to the show-cause notice issued to him on 7 September. The former principal is also accused of alleged financial irregularities in the same institute. The council had issued a show-cause notice to him seeking to know his clarifications within three days on why his medical registration won't be cancelled. He could not respond to the notice

even after 12 days. The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), probing the incident of rape and murder said on Tuesday that Prof Ghosh was not directly involved in the case but has been a part of a larger conspiracy. Presenting the case before the Sealdah court on Tuesday, where both Abhijit Mondal, the arrested officer-in-charge (OC) of Tala police station and Prof Ghosh were produced, the CBI lawyers said that former principal did not visit the crime scene even after knowing about the incident and there were procedural lapses on the part of the OC. Mr Mondal was not also directly involved in the incident, the lawyers of the central investigating agency said in the court.

Mystery death of Birbhum girl in Gujarat; family cries non-cooperation

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE BIRBHUM, 18 SEPTEMBER

Piya Das, a hotel management student hailing from Mallick Gunpara in Suri of Birbhum district died mysteriously in Gujarat, her family has sought a high-level probe on her death to reveal the truth. On 12 September, the family received a phone call from the private hotel management institute in Gujarat claiming that their daughter has committed suicide. In February, she took admission in the Gujarat institute for studying hotel management. The family went to Gujarat to bring back her body and has alleged that the local police station has not coop-

erated with them and has not investigated the case seriously. Kajal Sheikh, the sabbahhipati of Birbhum zilla parishad has helped to bring back the victim's body to her ancestral house. "We have brought the body to Suri last evening to do her last rites. But it is very pathetic that the police station in Gujarat did not hear our plea and instead claimed that it is an unnatural death case," alleged Papiya Das, the sister of the victim. The victim wanted to join five star hotels after completing her course in hotel management, but her dream is cut short it seems, said her elder sister. Raj Narayan Mukherjee,

SP of Birbhum said that if the family seeks assistance from district police they are ready to provide it. The victim's family has also urged the West Bengal government and the district magistrate of Birbhum to contact their Gujarat counterparts and unravel the truth. The family has claimed that there was no such issue, which could prompt her to commit suicide. "The Gujarat police didn't allow us to lodge a separate FIR in this case. We were not told where her body was found. They said that the complaint by the institution was enough," said her brother-in-law Manish Kumar Das.

Centre's enemy property dept surveys plot in city



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE KOLKATA, 18 SEPTEMBER

Officials from the Ministry of home affairs' (MHA) Enemy Property Office surveyed the status of a building in Raja Bazar today. "The government aims to monetise and generate revenue from these (enemy) properties. This particular property had a case related to the building. We have come to assess the status, survey the building, and gather details of the occupants," the official said. Around 100 police and CRPF personnel accompanied the survey team since locals had opposed such a survey earlier. "We came accompanied with central forces this time as in February we had taken a drive and we had filed a FIR," said an official. One official said the survey was conducted under the Enemy Property Act, 1968. The Act was introduced after the Indo-Pak war of 1965 and 1971, following the migration of people from India to Pakistan. An officer said the Rajabazar plot is spread over 44 kottah areas. "There is a SC directive which is an instruction to KMC to demolish it. We came to see it and then will give a status report to the court. AS of now, none of the occupants are giving us rent. There is a process of online rent payment and we are trying them to be brought under the system. If they want to buy the property, the central government has kept that option as well. That will only be applicable if they are occupants paying regular rent," added another official. The official stated that there are 96 such properties in Kolkata, 4,500 in West Bengal as identified by the ministry. "After the 1962 China war and Bangladesh war, people had moved to erstwhile East Pakistan and the rent paid to them was draining the Indian economy. To block this, the central government created a custodian locally. In this property, there are three Pakistani nationals, who moved to Pakistan and their property got vested with the central government," added the official. We have records that there are 66 assesses in this property, officials added. On being told that the occupants are paying tax, the official said they are not supposed to. "We are paying tax to the KMC for the other Enemy Property. They have muted the property in their own name. We are supposed to take tax from them on a pro-rata basis. We have taken it up with the KMC. The occupants will not give us taxes but will give us rent," clarified the official. PHOTO BY BISWAJIT GHOSHA

Princep Ghat station managed by all-women staff



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE KOLKATA, 18 SEPTEMBER

Lady staff of Eastern Railway are managing Princep Ghat station safely and the enhanced security feature of Princep Ghat assures a more inclusive and secure environment for this empowered women workforce, making it the first all-women



operated railway station in Sealdah division from March 2020. Women are breaking barriers and challenging traditional stereotypes in this pioneering move. The station's entire staff, including the station master, pointsmen, porter and sanitation staff are now exclusively women. This milestone marks a sig-



nificant step towards women's empowerment and safety. Safety is a top priority at Princep Ghat station, with enhanced security features and regular security patrols, and emergency response systems. These measures ensure a secure environment for women passengers. Beyond safety, this initiative promotes women's empowerment through training programs in railway operations, recruit-

ment drives, and gender-sensitive infrastructure development. By investing in women's growth, Princep Ghat station is fostering a more inclusive workplace. The all-women team at Princep Ghat station is equipped to handle all aspects of railway operations. From managing train operations and work shifts to providing exceptional passenger services and maintaining cleanliness and sanitation, these women are leading the way. "Women play a vital role in shaping our society, and this initiative is a testament to their capabilities," said Kausik Mitra, chief public relations officer, Eastern Railway. He further added, "We believe that empowering women and providing them a safe workplace leads to a more inclusive and secure community."

DMK committed to fight for state autonomy: MK Stalin

Will take initiatives for constitutional amendments to empower state govts, says Tamil Nadu CM

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
CHENNAI, 18 SEPTEMBER



To get state governments empowered with all powers, the DMK will take necessary legal steps and initiatives for a constitutional amendment. We will certainly do this," Stalin said, addressing the party's 75th foundation day celebration late on Wednesday evening. "This announcement

to secure state autonomy is the message on the platinum jubilee of the party," he added. "Through the Dravidian Model Government has been implementing various welfare programmes taking the state on the path of development, we have not achieved all our dreams. We do not have a Union Government which respects and concedes states' rights. State autonomy is among the cardinal principles of our party and pioneered by party founder Anna (CN Annadurai) and Kalaingar (late patriarch M Karunanidhi)," he said. To drive home the

need for state autonomy, he recalled Karunanidhi as saying "We may be ruling from the fort (Fort St George, the Secretariat), but we don't have the power even to cut a grass." Having a dig at Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, the Chief Minister said, "A situation has developed today wherein we can't even ask why so much tax is put on cream bun." It was a reference to the recent incident at Coimbatore when a popular hotelier raised the issue of rationalising GST before Sitharaman. But, he tendering apology to the

Union Minister in person had stoked a political storm. Taking pride in the DMK celebrating its platinum jubilee, Stalin said "It is no mean achievement for a movement to stand tall with majesty even after 75 years. It is because of the party organisation. When the DMK lost power in 1977, some media had written an obituary for the party. But Kalaingar's response was "Even if Karunanidhi dies the party will not only survive but will be alive and kicking. So strong is the party's organisational structure."

Udhayanidhi discounts reports of his elevation as deputy chief minister

M C RAJAN
CHENNAI, 18 SEPTEMBER



him as the number two in the government. Though not a Constitutional position, it will elevate his stature with a clear indication as the successor. It is also widely perceived that the DMK's first family too has been pressing for making Udhayanidhi as the Deputy CM well in time ahead of the 2026 assembly elections.

Ahead of his recent US tour, Stalin has hinted at a cabinet expansion saying, "Change is the only constant and your expectation will get fulfilled." Following the CM's remark, speculation of Udhayanidhi's elevation gained fresh momentum. Similarly, there are reports of the DMK scion having his loyalists inducted into the ministry.

Owaisi opposes 'one nation, one election'

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD, 18 SEPTEMBER



Owaisi, who is a vocal critic of the NDA government, went on to lambast Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah for advocating the move. He said, "Multiple elections aren't a problem for anyone except Modi and Shah. Just because they have a compulsive need to campaign in even municipal and local body elections does not mean that we need simultaneous polls. Frequent and periodic elections improve democratic accountability."

Veteran YSRCP leader quits

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD, 18 SEPTEMBER

The exodus from YSRCP continued with former minister and veteran leader from Ongole, Balineni Srinivasa Reddy, who is also a relative of former chief minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy quitting the party. He is likely to join NDA coalition partner Jana Sena and would meet its president and deputy chief minister Pawan Kalyan tomorrow. He has sent his resignation letter to the YSRCP president where he cited personal reasons for quitting the party. Significantly, as speculation mounted, he was called for a discussion with YS Jagan Mohan Reddy at Tadepalli. However, the meeting was not fruitful although he was offered key posts by the party chief. A five time MLA he had been in YSRCP since its

Govt. of Bihar Office of Executive Engineer Master Planning Investigation and Project Preparation Division-2. Eol Notice No. - 006402(WRD)2024-25. Corrigendum- Extension of Proposal Submission Date. Name- Expression of Interest for Consultancy Services for "Preparation of Detailed Project Report of River Linking Project related to Water Resources Department, Government of Bihar".

Government of Maharashtra Office of Deputy Conservator of Pune, Pune forest Division, Pune. E-Tender 2024-25. Deputy Conservator of Forest Pune Department of Forests, Pune is inviting tender through e-Tender system (online) for the following works from the registered contractors of Forest Department, Government of Maharashtra.

TENDER Govt. of Bihar Office of Executive Engineer Master Planning Investigation and Project Preparation Division-2. Eol Notice No. - 006402(WRD)2024-25. Corrigendum- Extension of Proposal Submission Date. Name- Expression of Interest for Consultancy Services for "Preparation of Detailed Project Report of various Dams/Barrages including canal network project on different rivers of the state".

EASTERN RAILWAY E-Tender Notice No. : O-AC-T-129 to 134-24-25 (Open), dated 13.09.2024. e-Tenders (Open) are invited by Divisional Railway Manager, Eastern Railway, Asansol Division, Station Road, Asansol, Pin-713301 for the following works :

EASTERN RAILWAY e-AUCTION NOTICE Awarding contract for operation of Pay & Use Toilets over Malda Division. Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager, Eastern Railway, Malda Division, Malda Town Office Building, P.O.-Jhaljhala, Dist-Malda, Pin-732102.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION DIVISION, HATIA PROJECT, RANCHI VERY SHORT TENDER E-Request For Proposal Notice (1st Call) e-Tender Notice No.- LAB/DWS/04/2024-25 Dated-13.09.2024

झारखण्ड सरकार कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय, ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमंडल,साहेबगंज विकास भवन, साहेबगंज ई- अल्पकालीन पूर्णविदा आमंत्रण सूचना ई0-अल्पकालीन पूर्णविदा संख्या-05 /2024-2025/EE/RWD/SAHIBGANJ दिनांक-18.09.2024

THUMBNAILS

CAF personnel kills 2 colleagues in Chhattisgarh: A Chhattisgarh Armed Force personnel opened indiscriminate fire on his fellow comrades at the Bhutahi Camp in the Naxal-affected Balam-pur district, killing two and critically injuring one. The incident occurred on Wednesday at around 11:30 AM when CAF personnel Ajay Sidar, assigned to the 11th Battalion stationed at Bhutahi Camp, turned his service INSAS rifle on his colleagues. Rupesh Patel died on the spot, while Sandeep Pandey succumbed to his injuries while being rushed to the Kusmi Community Health Centre. Guard Commander Ambuj Shukla, who sustained bullet wounds in both legs, has been transferred to Ambikapur Medical College for advanced treatment. According to initial reports, fellow soldiers, upon hearing the gunfire, immediately subdued Sidar and handed him over to the authorities. However, the motive behind the shooting remains unclear, and an investigation has been launched by local police. The Bhutahi Camp is located near the border with Jharkhand, where anti-Naxal operations are ongoing. CAF forces are stationed in the region to curb Naxal activities, and tensions often run high due to the complex and dangerous nature of these operations.

Long queues outside polling booths in J&K

58.19 per cent voting was recorded till 5 p.m.; likely to increase

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE JAMMU, 18 SEPTEMBER

More than 58.19 per cent polling was recorded by 5 p.m. amidst a huge voter turnout in the 24 assembly constituencies of Jammu and Kashmir where elections were held in the first phase on Wednesday. The final voting percentage is expected to be available by late evening as polling will continue until 6 p.m.

Except for a brief suspension of polling in Kishtwar due to a quarrel between supporters of two candidates, the process remained largely peaceful.

Long queues of voters were seen outside all 3,276 polling booths right from the morning when polling started at 7 a.m.

The Inderwal, Padder and Kishtwar constituencies in the Kishtwar district of Jammu recorded the highest polling percentage of 80.06, 76.80, and 75.04, respectively. The Doda West also polled 74.14% votes.

However, polling in the South Kashmir constituencies that went to the polls



in the first phase was lower compared to the Jammu region. The highest turnout in the Kashmir valley was recorded in Pahalgam, with 67.86 per cent polling. The lowest turnout was in Tral, where 40.58 per cent of votes were cast till 5 p.m.

The Bijbehara constituency, where PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti's daughter Iltija is contesting for the first time, recorded 56.02 per cent voting. Iltija was locked in a triangular contest with Bashir Ahmad Veeri of the National Conference and Sofi Mohammad Yousof of the BJP.

Pulwama and Shopian, considered hotbeds of terrorism, witnessed 46.22%

and 54.72 per cent voting, respectively.

These elections, being held in three phases, are taking place after a gap of ten years. The first phase of polling was conducted in 24 assembly seats in seven districts of South Kashmir, the Chenab Valley, and parts of the Pir-Panjal mountain ranges of the Jammu region, areas that have witnessed Pakistan-sponsored terrorism.

These districts are Anantnag, Pulwama, Shopian, and Kulgam in the Kashmir

Division; Doda, Ramban, and Kishtwar in the Jammu Division. Constituencies that went to polls on Wednesday are Pampore, Tral, Pulwama, Rajpora, Zainapora, Shopian, DH Pora, Kulgam, Devsar, Dooor, Kokernag (ST), Anantnag West, Anantnag, Srigufwara-Bijbehara, Shangus-Anantnag East, Pahalgam, Inderwal, Kishtwar, Padder-Nagseni, Bhadarwah, Doda, Doda West, Ramban, and Banihal.

More than 23.27 lakh voters were registered to decide the fate of 219 candidates in the first phase. Interestingly, there was a high number of 91 (41.55 per cent) independents.

It is the first time in about 37 years when the banned Jamaat-e-Islami has participated in the elections by fielding its candidates as independents. Besides, bailed-out MP Engineer Rashid, who is facing allegations of terror funding, has also fielded his candidates.

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, 18 SEPTEMBER

People of J&K eager to embark on true era of development: Kharge

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Wednesday said the people of Jammu and Kashmir are eager to safeguard their rights and embark on a true era of development, as the voting for the first phase of Assembly polls in the Union Territory gets underway.

He called upon the voters to exercise their franchise and be the catalysts for change.

Kharge, who is also the Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha, wrote in a social media post, "The people of Jammu and Kashmir are eager to safeguard their rights and embark on a new era of true development and full statehood. As the first phase of voting in 24 Assembly constituencies commences, we urge everyone to exercise their democratic right and vote in large numbers."

He stated that every single vote holds the power to shape the future and bring about an era of peace, stability, justice, progress, and economic empowerment.

"We appeal to all, especially first-time voters, to

participate in this crucial election and be the catalysts for change. For the first time ever, a state was downgraded to a Union Territory, when you cast your vote, do remember who is responsible for this travesty. Let us unite and shape a brighter future for Jammu and Kashmir, where voices of all citizens are heard," he added.

Former Congress chief and Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul

Gandhi also appealed to people to exercise their democratic right.

In a post on X, he wrote, "My brothers and sisters of Jammu and Kashmir, today the first phase of voting is taking place. For the first time in the history of the country, the statehood of a state has been snatched away and it has been made a Union Territory. This is a violation of the Constitutional rights of all of you and an insult to Jammu and Kashmir."

Uncertainty, insecurity leading nations to increase defence expenditure: CDS Chauhan

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, 18 SEPTEMBER

Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan Wednesday observed that there is a growing propensity amongst nations to use force to contain conflicts in this most violent decade since World War II.

"The growing uncertainty and insecurity is leading nations to renew their National Security Strategy and increase expenditure on Defence," he said while addressing a conclave for Foreign Service Attaches (FSAs) hosted by the Defence Intelligence Agency of Head-

quarters Integrated Defence Staff. The CDS articulated the importance of Military Diplomacy, wherein the FSAs have a pivotal role to play.

He highlighted four distinct areas of India's Defence viz operational preparedness, modernisation, transformation and indigenisation. He emphasised the significance of Data Centric Warfare and the role of Artificial Intelligence in revolutionising warfare. The CDS gave an insight into India's Atmanirbharta for defence capability development and strategic autonomy.

Director General Defence Intelligence Agency (DG DIA) Lt Gen DS Rana apprised the FSAs that India's Defence Diplomacy was expanding steadily in terms of the nature of activities as well as geographic coverage wherein security cooperation was a key component. He highlighted the vision of Atmanirbharta and indigenisation in Defence and implored upon FSAs to gain first-hand experience in modernisation programmes.

A holistic overview of India's strategic perspective was given to the FSAs by defence experts.

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL e-TENDER NOTICE Assistant Engineer, Rampurhat Sub-Division, PHE Dte. on behalf of Governor of West Bengal vide Ref. No. 2/2024-2025 and ID: 2024_PHE/751424_1 to 10 for Trial Run works of different W/S Schemes under Rampurhat Sub-Division, PHE Dte. Details will be available in the website wbtenders.gov.in. Last date for submission of tender is 25.09.2024 at 15:00 IST. Sd/- Assistant Engineer, Rampurhat Sub-Division, PHE Dte. ICA: 116924(2)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL PWD TENDER NOTICE Executive Engineer, Hooghly Electrical Division, P.W.Dte. invites online e-Tender for the work of "Special repairing & renovation to the EI work" under Installation of AC machines for formation of Doctors' Rest room in the SDH building of PCSGCHL-5/ITC of AC machines. e-NIT No.: WB/PWD/EE/HD/NIT-8/2024-25. Tender ID: 2024_WBPWD_751093_1. Bid submission start date (online): 13/09/2024 from 2:00 PM. Bid submission closing date (online): 24/09/2024 upto 02:00 PM. Corrigendum if any will be published in website only. Details of N.I.T. and Tender documents may be downloaded from the website http://wbtenders.gov.in Sd/- Executive Engineer, P.W.Dte. Hooghly Electrical Division ICA: 116924(2)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL e-TENDER NOTICE Executive Engineer, Hooghly Electrical Division, P.W.Dte. invites online e-Tender for the work of "Special repairing & renovation to the EI work" under Installation of AC machines for formation of Doctors' Rest room in the SDH building of PCSGCHL-5/ITC of AC machines. e-NIT No.: WB/PWD/EE/HD/NIT-8/2024-25. Tender ID: 2024_WBPWD_751093_1. Bid submission start date (online): 13/09/2024 from 2:00 PM. Bid submission closing date (online): 24/09/2024 upto 02:00 PM. Corrigendum if any will be published in website only. Details of N.I.T. and Tender documents may be downloaded from the website http://wbtenders.gov.in Sd/- Executive Engineer, P.W.Dte. Hooghly Electrical Division ICA: 116924(2)/2024

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GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL e-TENDER NOTICE Executive Engineer, Hooghly Electrical Division, P.W.Dte. invites online e-Tender for the work of "Special repairing & renovation to the EI work" under Installation of AC machines for formation of Doctors' Rest room in the SDH building of PCSGCHL-5/ITC of AC machines. e-NIT No.: WB/PWD/EE/HD/NIT-8/2024-25. Tender ID: 2024_WBPWD_751093_1. Bid submission start date (online): 13/09/2024 from 2:00 PM. Bid submission closing date (online): 24/09/2024 upto 02:00 PM. Corrigendum if any will be published in website only. Details of N.I.T. and Tender documents may be downloaded from the website http://wbtenders.gov.in Sd/- Executive Engineer, P.W.Dte. Hooghly Electrical Division ICA: 116924(2)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL e-TENDER NOTICE Executive Engineer, Hooghly Electrical Division, P.W.Dte. invites online e-Tender for the work of "Special repairing & renovation to the EI work" under Installation of AC machines for formation of Doctors' Rest room in the SDH building of PCSGCHL-5/ITC of AC machines. e-NIT No.: WB/PWD/EE/HD/NIT-8/2024-25. Tender ID: 2024_WBPWD_751093_1. Bid submission start date (online): 13/09/2024 from 2:00 PM. Bid submission closing date (online): 24/09/2024 upto 02:00 PM. Corrigendum if any will be published in website only. Details of N.I.T. and Tender documents may be downloaded from the website http://wbtenders.gov.in Sd/- Executive Engineer, P.W.Dte. Hooghly Electrical Division ICA: 116924(2)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL e-TENDER NOTICE Executive Engineer, Hooghly Electrical Division, P.W.Dte. invites online e-Tender for the work of "Special repairing & renovation to the EI work" under Installation of AC machines for formation of Doctors' Rest room in the SDH building of PCSGCHL-5/ITC of AC machines. e-NIT No.: WB/PWD/EE/HD/NIT-8/2024-25. Tender ID: 2024_WBPWD_751093_1. Bid submission start date (online): 13/09/2024 from 2:00 PM. Bid submission closing date (online): 24/09/2024 upto 02:00 PM. Corrigendum if any will be published in website only. Details of N.I.T. and Tender documents may be downloaded from the website http://wbtenders.gov.in Sd/- Executive Engineer, P.W.Dte. Hooghly Electrical Division ICA: 116924(2)/2024

WEST BENGAL STATE ELECTRICITY DISTRIBUTION COMPANY LIMITED (A Govt. of West Bengal Enterprise) Regd. Office: Vidyut Bhavan, Block-01, Sector-II, Bidhannagar, Kolkata - 700 091 CIN: U40104WB1985SGC039154 www.wbsecl.in WBSIEDCL invites e-Tenders as follows: 1) NIT No.: WBSIEDCL/Communication/Tender/WHF/1753, Date: 11.09.2024 of the Chief Engineer, Communication Cell. Estimated Cost: Rs. 31,00,000/- for the work of 'Supply, installation, commissioning and (05) five years maintenance for WHF base station and Walkie-Talkie sets and accessories. 2) NIT No.: RM/PRO/CIVIL/TENDER/24-25/09, Date: 13.09.2024 of the Regional Manager, Purulia Region. Estimated Cost: Rs. 5,83,765/- for the work of 'Arrangement for water supply by digging deep bore well with Geographical Investigation at Manbaraj 33/11 KV sub-station under Raghunathpur Division, Dist.: Purulia.'

The West Bengal Power Development Corporation Limited (A Govt. of West Bengal Enterprise) Corporate Identity No. U40104WB1985SGC039154 Bakreswar Thermal Power Project P.O. BKTTP, Dist. - Birbhum, Pin - 731104 NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER Ref No.: WBPDCCL/Tend-Adv/24-25/BKTP/CC-2378 Date: 11.09.2024 NIT No.: WBPDCCL/BKTP/NIT/E3298/24-25 E-Tenders in prescribed format are invited at https://wbtenders.gov.in by the General Manager, BKTP, WBPDCCL from eligible Agencies/Companies in 2 Part bid system for "Renovation of Security Barrack at Zilla Pariseda Gate and near Gate No. 1 and Overhauling Barrack at Township, CAPEX 24-25". Tender Document Download Start Date: 14.09.2024 at 09:00 AM. Bid Submission End Date: 04.10.2024 at 04:00 PM. Contact Person: Mr. Indrani Chakraborty, Sr. Manager - CC, BKTP, WBPDCCL. Mobile: 8373055604. E-mail: cc_bktp@wbpdcl.co.in For details please visit: https://wbtenders.gov.in ICA: 116942(2)/2024

The West Bengal Power Development Corporation Limited (A Govt. of West Bengal Enterprise) Corporate Identity No. U40104WB1985SGC039154 Bantel Thermal Power Station P.O. Tribeni, Dist. - Hooghly, Pin - 712503 Notice Inviting E-Tender Ref. No.: WBPDCCL/Tend-Adv/24-25/BTPS/CC-2384 Date: 11.09.2024 NIT No.: WBPDCCL/BTPS/NIT/E2449/24-25 E-Tenders in prescribed format are invited at https://wbtenders.gov.in by the General Manager, BTPS, WBPDCCL from eligible Agencies/Companies in 2 (two) Part bid system for "Construction of Pump House and other ancillary works within BTPS Plant premises". Tender Document Download Start Date: 17.09.2024 at 18:00 hrs. Bid Submission End Date: 03.10.2024 at 15:00 hrs. Contact Person: Mr. Saji Saha, Dy.GM (Engg.) BTPS, WBPDCCL. Phone: 8332684231/2341. E-mail: contract_bktp@wbpdcl.co.in For details please visit: https://wbtenders.gov.in ICA: 116942(2)/2024

The West Bengal Power Development Corporation Limited (A Govt. of West Bengal Enterprise) Corporate Identity No. U40104WB1985SGC039154 Santaldih Thermal Power Station P.O. Santaldih Thermal Plant, Dist. - Purulia, Pin - 723146 Notice Inviting E-Tender Ref. No.: WBPDCCL/Tend-Adv/24-25/STPS/CC-2381 Date: 11.09.2024 NIT No.: WBPDCCL/STPS/NIT/E3674/24-25 E-Tenders in prescribed format are invited at https://wbtenders.gov.in by the General Manager, STPS, WBPDCCL from eligible Agencies/Companies in 2 Part bid system for "Procurement of 150 MT Hydrochloric Acid conforming to IS 865-1993 minimum 30% (W/W) purity under Chemical Dept., STPS". Tender Document Download Start Date: 19.09.2024 at 15:00 hrs. Bid Submission End Date: 03.10.2024 at 15:00 hrs. Contact Person: Mr. D. Biswas, DGM (Purchase), STPS, Telephone No.: 06336904045. E-mail: dbiswas@wbpdcl.co.in For details please visit: https://wbtenders.gov.in ICA: 116942(2)/2024

The West Bengal Power Development Corporation Limited (A Govt. of West Bengal Enterprise) Corporate Identity No. U40104WB1985SGC039154 Registered & Corporate Office: Bidyut Unnayan Bhaban Plot No.: 3/C, LA - Block, Sector-III, Bidhannagar, Kol-700106 Notice Inviting E-Tender Ref. No.: WBPDCCL/Tend-Adv/24-25/CORP/CC-2395 Date: 13.09.2024 NIT No.: WBPDCCL/CORP/NIT/E1919/24-25 Dated: 13.09.2024 "Hiring of one AC Vehicle (Bolevo/Scorpio) for Official duty at Pakur Railway Siding for (01 year) 12 hrs. basis with a provision of extension of further six months". NIT Document Download Start Date/End Date: 13.09.2024 from 12.00 hrs./ 27.09.2024 at 10:00 hrs. Contact Person: Smt. Seema Das, Senior Manager (M&C) Contact No.: 9073908003. E-mail: s.das@wbpdcl.co.in For details please visit: https://wbtenders.gov.in ICA: 116942(2)/2024

The West Bengal Power Development Corporation Limited (A Govt. of West Bengal Enterprise) Corporate Identity No. U40104WB1985SGC039154 Sagardighi Thermal Power Project P.O. Monirgram, P.S. Sagardighi, Dist. - Murshidabad, Pin - 742237 Notice Inviting E-Tender Ref. No.: WBPDCCL/Tend-Adv/24-25/SGTPP/CC-2387 Date: 13.09.2024 NIT No.: WBPDCCL/SGTPP/NIT/E3104/24-25 E-Tenders in prescribed format are invited at https://wbtenders.gov.in by the General Manager, SGTPP, WBPDCCL from eligible Agencies/Companies in 3 (three) Part bid system for "Procurement of different Boiler Straight Tubes for HP Drain & HP Vent Line for Overhauling of Unit - 1, SGTPP". Tender Document Download Start Date: 18.09.2024 at 11:00 AM. Bid Submission End Date: 30.09.2024 upto 03:00 PM. Contact Person: Mr. Arun Mandal, Senior Manager (Purchase). Phone: 8336903813. E-mail: amandal@wbpdcl.co.in For details please visit: https://wbtenders.gov.in ICA: 116942(2)/2024

The West Bengal Power Development Corporation Limited (A Govt. of West Bengal Enterprise) Corporate Identity No. U40104WB1985SGC039154 Bakreswar Thermal Power Project P.O. BKTTP, Dist. - Birbhum, Pin - 731104 Notice Inviting E-Tender Ref. No.: WBPDCCL/Tend-Adv/24-25/SGTPP/CC-2385 Date: 12.09.2024 NIT No.: WBPDCCL/SGTPP/NIT/E3105/24-25 Dated: 05.09.2024 E-Tenders in prescribed format are invited at https://wbtenders.gov.in by the General Manager, SGTPP, WBPDCCL from eligible Agencies/Companies in 3 Part bid system for the job "Repairing and painting of different rooms and toilets of DC colony at BKTTP, WBPDCCL". Tender Document Download Start Date: 18.09.2024 at 18:00 hrs. Bid Submission End Date: 14.10.2024 at 15:00 hrs. Contact Person: Mr. Jaydeep Kundu, Dy. GM (Contract). Mobile: 8336903930. E-mail: kunjdu@wbpdcl.co.in For details please visit: https://wbtenders.gov.in ICA: 116942(2)/2024

WEST BENGAL STATE ELECTRICITY TRANSMISSION COMPANY LIMITED (A Government of West Bengal Enterprise) Registered Office: Vidyut Bhavan, Block-01, Sector-II, Bidhannagar, Kolkata-700 091 CIN: U40104WB2007SGC11344 www.wbsecl.in E-TENDER FOR THE FOLLOWING WORKS ARE INVITED:- NIT No.: AOKGPEE/106/2024-25/02 Complete electrical wiring work including Date: 19.09.2024 supply of materials as per schedule at B-type quarter (under construction) building at Hizi 132 KV sub-station colony complex. For above two NITs (01, 02), bid documents can be downloaded from 19.09.2024, 06:00 PM. and bids shall be submitted online up to 03:00 P.M., 28.10.2024.

The West Bengal Power Development Corporation Limited (A Govt. of West Bengal Enterprise) Corporate Identity No. U40104WB1985SGC039154 Bakreswar Thermal Power Project P.O. BKTTP, Dist. - Birbhum, Pin - 731104 Notice Inviting E-Tender Ref. No.: WBPDCCL/Tend-Adv/24-25/BKTP/CC-2377 Date: 11.09.2024 NIT No.: WBPDCCL/BKTP/NIT/E3297/24-25 E-Tenders in prescribed format are invited at https://wbtenders.gov.in by the General Manager, BKTP, WBPDCCL from eligible Agencies/Companies in 2 Part bid system for "Annual Civil Maintenance job at BKTTP Township". Tender Document Download Start Date: 14.09.2024 at 09:00 AM. Bid Submission End Date: 04.10.2024 at 04:00 PM. Contact Person: Mr. Indrani Chakraborty, Sr. Manager - CC, BKTP, WBPDCCL. Mobile: 8373055604. E-mail: cc_bktp@wbpdcl.co.in For details please visit: https://wbtenders.gov.in ICA: 116942(2)/2024

The West Bengal Power Development Corporation Limited (A Govt. of West Bengal Enterprise) Corporate Identity No. U40104WB1985SGC039154 Kalgath Thermal Power Station P.O. Mecheda, Dist. Purba Medinipur, Pin - 721137 Notice Inviting E-Tender Ref. No.: WBPDCCL/Tend-Adv/24-25/KTPS/CC-2390 Date: 12.09.2024 NIT No.: WBPDCCL/KTPS/NIT/E3096/24-25 E-Tenders in prescribed format are invited at https://wbtenders.gov.in by the General Manager, KTPS, WBPDCCL from eligible Agencies/Companies in 2 Part bid system for "Supply, Erection & Commissioning of Fire water spray system at conveyor belt-7 & 8 areas at CHP, KTPS". Tender Document Download Start Date: 23.09.24 at 10:00 AM. Bid Submission End Date: 22.11.24 at 14:00 PM. Contact person: Mr. Subhas Das, Telephone no.: 8336904051. E-mail: cc_ktps@wbpdcl.co.in For details please visit: https://wbtenders.gov.in ICA: 116942(2)/2024

The West Bengal Power Development Corporation Limited (A Govt. of West Bengal Enterprise) Corporate Identity No. U40104WB1985SGC039154 Santaldih Thermal Power Station P.O. Santaldih Thermal Plant, Dist. - Purulia, Pin - 723146 Notice Inviting E-Tender Ref. No.: WBPDCCL/Tend-Adv/24-25/STPS/CC-2383 Date: 11.09.2024 NIT No.: WBPDCCL/STPS/NIT/E3704/24-25 E-Tenders in prescribed format are invited at https://wbtenders.gov.in by the General Manager, STPS, WBPDCCL from eligible Agencies/Companies in 2 Part bid system for "Service contract for Renovation of Walkway of 39A, 34A, 34B Conveyor at CHP-MM, STPS under CAPEX 24-25". Tender Document Download Start Date: 17.09.2024 at 11:00 hrs. Bid Submission End Date: 11.10.2024 upto 16:00 hrs. Contact Person: Mr. G.C.Maji, Mobile: 8336903939. E-mail: cc_stps@wbpdcl.co.in For details please visit: https://wbtenders.gov.in ICA: 116942(2)/2024

WEST BENGAL STATE ELECTRICITY TRANSMISSION COMPANY LIMITED (A Government of West Bengal Enterprise) Registered Office: Vidyut Bhavan, Block-01, Sector-II, Bidhannagar, Kolkata-700 091 CIN: U40104WB2007SGC11344 www.wbsecl.in E-TENDER FOR THE FOLLOWING WORKS ARE INVITED:- NIT No.: SESAM/JAL-AD/CIVIL-E/TENDER/2024-25/28/01 Supply, delivery, installation, testing & commissioning of new AC Machines (split type, non-ductable, wall mounted, latest 5 star rated inverter type, 100% copper condenser & evaporator) complete with all accessories at following sub-stations: 1. Odabari 66 KV sub-station (23 nos. 2 TR capacity) (NIT 1) 2. Banarhat 66 KV sub-station (10 nos. 2 TR capacity and 6 nos. 1.5 TR capacity) (NIT 2) For above two NITs (01, 02), bid documents can be downloaded from 19.09.2024, 06:00 PM. and bids shall be submitted online up to 03:00 P.M., 23.10.2024.

The West Bengal Power Development Corporation Limited (A Govt. of West Bengal Enterprise) Corporate Identity No. U40104WB1985SGC039154 Bakreswar Thermal Power Project P.O. BKTTP, Dist. - Birbhum, Pin - 731104 Notice Inviting E-Tender Ref. No.: WBPDCCL/Tend-Adv/24-25/BKTP/CC-2377 Date: 11.09.2024 NIT No.: WBPDCCL/BKTP/NIT/E3297/24-25 E-Tenders in prescribed format are invited at https://wbtenders.gov.in by the General Manager, BKTP, WBPDCCL from eligible Agencies/Companies in 2 Part bid system for "Annual Civil Maintenance job at BKTTP Township". Tender Document Download Start Date: 14.09.2024 at 09:00 AM. Bid Submission End Date: 04.10.2024 at 04:00 PM. Contact Person: Mr. Indrani Chakraborty, Sr. Manager - CC, BKTP, WBPDCCL. Mobile: 8373055604. E-mail: cc_bktp@wbpdcl.co.in For details please visit: https://wbtenders.gov.in ICA: 116942(2)/2024

The West Bengal Power Development Corporation Limited (A Govt. of West Bengal Enterprise) Corporate Identity No. U40104WB1985SGC039154 Kalgath Thermal Power Station P.O. Mecheda, Dist. Purba Medinipur, Pin - 721137 Notice Inviting E-Tender Ref. No.: WBPDCCL/Tend-Adv/24-25/KTPS/CC-2390 Date: 12.09.2024 NIT No.: WBPDCCL/KTPS/NIT/E3096/24-25 E-Tenders in prescribed format are invited at https://wbtenders.gov.in by the General Manager, KTPS, WBPDCCL from eligible Agencies/Companies in 2 Part bid system for "Supply, Erection & Commissioning of Fire water spray system at conveyor belt-7 & 8 areas at CHP, KTPS". Tender Document Download Start Date: 23.09.24 at 10:00 AM. Bid Submission End Date: 22.11.24 at 14:00 PM. Contact person: Mr. Subhas Das, Telephone no.: 8336904051. E-mail: cc_ktps@wbpdcl.co.in For details please visit: https://wbtenders.gov.in ICA: 116942(2)/2024

The West Bengal Power Development Corporation Limited (A Govt. of West Bengal Enterprise) Corporate Identity No. U40104WB1985SGC039154 Santaldih Thermal Power Station P.O. Santaldih Thermal Plant, Dist. - Purulia, Pin - 723146 Notice Inviting E-Tender Ref. No.: WBPDCCL/Tend-Adv/24-25/STPS/CC-2383 Date: 11.09.2024 NIT No.: WBPDCCL/STPS/NIT/E3704/24-25 E-Tenders in prescribed format are invited at https://wbtenders.gov.in by the General Manager, STPS, WBPDCCL from eligible Agencies/Companies in 2 Part bid system for "Service contract for Renovation of Walkway of 39A, 34A, 34B Conveyor at CHP-MM, STPS under CAPEX 24-25". Tender Document Download Start Date: 17.09.2024 at 11:00 hrs. Bid Submission End Date: 11.10.2024 upto 16:00 hrs. Contact Person: Mr. G.C.Maji, Mobile: 8336903939. E-mail: cc_stps@wbpdcl.co.in For details please visit: https://wbtenders.gov.in ICA: 116942(2)/2024

WEST BENGAL STATE ELECTRICITY TRANSMISSION COMPANY LIMITED (A Government of West Bengal Enterprise) Registered Office: Vidyut Bhavan, Block-01, Sector-II, Bidhannagar, Kolkata-700 091 CIN: U40104WB2007SGC11344 www.wbsecl.in E-TENDER FOR THE FOLLOWING WORKS ARE INVITED:- NIT No.: BDNAO/Tender/Civil/2024-25/01 Construction of underground water Date: 23.09.2024 storage tank to facilitate municipal water supply at Kaha 132 KV sub-station. Bid documents can be downloaded from 23.09.2024, 06:00 PM. and bids shall be submitted online up to 03:00 P.M., 22.10.2024. NIT No.: AM/AAO/Tender/electrical/AMC/2024-25/03 Biennial contract for operation Date: 23.09.2024 and maintenance including risk protection of H/W Emulsifier System, Fire Hydrant System and operation and maintenance of Diesel Generator sets for ACDB & H/W Emulsifier System at Arambag 400 KV sub-station. Bid submission starting date (online): 23.09.2024, 06:00 PM. and closing date (online): 21.10.2024, 03:00 PM. Visit the following websites:- www.wbtenders.gov.in, www.wbsecl.in for details

MORE TENDER ADS ON PAGE 11 & 13

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Kashmir poll

The elections in Kashmir, beginning on Wednesday, signal a significant turning point for the region, as they take place for the first time in a decade under profoundly altered circumstances. These elections are not merely about forming a new government but are deeply intertwined with the larger issue of Kashmir's identity and autonomy, which has been a contentious subject for decades. With the abrogation of Article 370 in 2019, Kashmir lost its special status, and since then, it has been governed by Delhi with limited self-governance. The stakes in this election, therefore, extend far beyond the usual dynamics of electoral politics. The revocation of Article 370, which was justified by the Union government as necessary for the region's development and integration, continues to cast a long shadow over the political landscape. Many Kashmiris still view the move as a betrayal, stripping them of their political autonomy and exclusive rights to land and jobs.

While the government has promoted its decision as a pathway to peace and economic prosperity, those promises remain only partially fulfilled in the eyes of the local population. Unemployment remains high, and the anticipated economic boom has not materialised. The elections offer a platform for political parties, particularly regional ones like the National Conference (NC) and the Peoples' Democratic Party (PDP), to reignite the debate over Kashmir's political future. Both parties have vowed to fight for the restoration of statehood and special status, appealing to voters who feel marginalised by Delhi's policies. The re-emergence of these traditional political actors, as well as the participation of separatist figures, points to a growing sense of pragmatism among voters who see this election as a means to influence the future governance of the region.

However, the Bharatiya Janata Party, which played a crucial role in revoking Kashmir's autonomy, faces an uphill battle in the Kashmir Valley, even as it remains strong in Jammu. The party's developmental agenda, which initially resonated with some sections of the population, now faces criticism for not delivering sufficient results. Thus for some Kashmiris, the elections offer a chance to push back against the BJP's vision for the region by rallying behind local parties that promise to restore their lost rights. A crucial element of this election is the shift in political attitudes, particularly among younger voters. Many are increasingly disillusioned with the old political narratives of separatism and conflict. For these voters, the primary concerns are unemployment, corruption, and political instability. They are participating in these elections not necessarily to revive the Kashmir dispute but to address the pressing socio economic issues that affect their daily lives. This is an opportunity for Kashmiri voters to make their voices heard and to elect representatives who will address their needs and concerns, even within the constraints of Delhi's control. The political trajectory that emerges from this election could shape Kashmir's future in ways that go beyond the immediate contest for power.

Europe's floods

The devastating floods that have ravaged central Europe are a harsh reminder of the unpredictable and destructive forces of nature. Stretching from Romania to Poland, the disaster has not only claimed lives but has also destroyed homes, infrastructure, and livelihoods. While the immediate concern lies in the human toll, it is crucial to also reflect on the broader implications of such catastrophic events - both in terms of disaster preparedness and the urgent need to address climate change, which has undeniably intensified the severity and frequency of natural disasters. One of the most striking elements of the current flood situation is the sheer scale of destruction it has caused across different countries.

Historic cities, such as Wroclaw in Poland, are scrambling to protect their cultural and architectural heritage as rising waters threaten to engulf them. Volunteers, alongside emergency workers, are doing everything they can to reinforce riverbanks, while authorities attempt to manage water levels by controlling reservoirs. This community effort is a testament to the human spirit, but it also highlights a broader issue: Are we truly prepared for disasters of this magnitude, or are we merely reacting to them? Flooding is not a new challenge in central Europe. The floods in 1997 that devastated parts of Poland, including Wroclaw, were a wake-up call for the region, yet it appears the lessons learned may not have been enough.

While some efforts, such as filling large reservoirs to prevent coinciding flood peaks, are being taken, the current disaster shows that infrastructure remains vulnerable, and disaster preparedness needs to evolve. The response of local authorities, with military helicopters dropping sandbags and residents banding together, is commendable but reactive. The countries need to shift toward proactive measures - stronger early warning systems, more resilient infrastructure, and better coordination between governments to manage transnational waterways.

The impact of climate change cannot be ignored when examining the scale of these floods. Rising global temperatures have led to more erratic and extreme weather patterns, resulting in higher rainfall and greater flood risks. While Europe has been relatively proactive in addressing climate change, these disasters show that adaptation strategies need to be accelerated. Urban planning must account for the increased likelihood of floods, especially in low-lying areas and cities near major rivers. Investments in green infrastructure, such as wetlands and floodplains, can provide natural defences, absorbing excess water and reducing the pressure on human-built barriers. This flood is also a reminder of the fragile nature of our ecosystems and infrastructures. As Europe works toward recovery, the conversation must expand beyond immediate relief. Governments, civil society, and global organisations must commit to long-term strategies that mitigate risks while addressing the root causes exacerbated by climate change. Only then can we hope to safeguard not just the lives and homes of people, but also the cultural and historic legacies that define regions like Wroclaw. This disaster is a wake-up call for a more sustainable and resilient future.

Tottering cities

The 74th Amendment is often blamed for providing an incomplete roadmap that has led to the present maladministration in civic bodies, but this is not true. The amendment did leave considerable discretion with State Governments, but Parliament could never have imagined that State Governments would implement the amendment in a way that effective control over civic bodies would not pass to elected councillors, but remain with the State Government



The recent flood devastation across all major cities, was preceded by frequent fire accidents in offices, coaching classes, hospitals, gaming zones etc. Then, the monsoon rains saw the collapse of dozens of dilapidated buildings, with the death of their occupants. The diverse nature, and wide geographical sweep, of such tragedies, points to serious shortcomings in municipal administration across India.

Things were much better earlier. Urban Local Bodies have a long history; the first Municipal Corporation was set-up in Madras (now Chennai) in 1688, which was preceded only by London; similar corporations were established in Bombay (now Mumbai) and Calcutta (now Kolkata) in 1726. Eminent people headed these Municipal Corporations and tourists and residents, both, swore by their efficiency.

Later on, in 1882, Lord Ripon, 'the Father of Local-Self Government in India', gave Indians the right to local self-government. By the time of Independence, almost all cities had a municipality. Still later, the 74th Amendment to the Constitution (1992) gave legal shape to Urban Local Bodies, comprehensively defining their powers and responsibilities.

However, despite legislative empowerment, and allocation of considerable resources to Urban Local Bodies, their performance has been less than satisfactory. Almost all ULBs are mired in politics, because political leaders want to control cash-rich municipal corporations. The Municipal Corporation of Delhi, one of the largest municipal bodies in the world, catering to more than two crore citizens, witnesses a daily tug-of-war between the LG and the CM.

Then, for political reasons, elections to the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation have been on hold since March 2022 and polls for Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike are pending since September 2020. The public is the sufferer; with no effective supervision at ground-level, municipal hospitals, schools, waste management systems etc. function sub-optimally, and dishonest contractors make merry.

Corruption is so deeply ingrained in municipal administration that even High Courts find themselves unable to enforce their writ in municipal matters; after the devastating floods of 2023, the Delhi High Court issued a slew of directions to ensure better coordination between different departments, control waterlogging, manage

drainage systems, and improve the condition of water bodies. Scarcely three months later, the 2024 floods revealed that hardly any of the High Court's directions had been carried out. Hearing 2024 flood-related cases, the High Court observed that a major reason for water logging was permitting construction of multi-storied buildings in places that had no proper drainage. The High Court further observed that the Government was not collecting taxes, leading to bankruptcy of civic bodies.

Recently, 33 people were killed in a fire that broke out in a gaming zone in Rajkot. The amusement park was built in 2022, in a tin-roofed, two-floored temporary structure, which had insufficient fire extinguishers and emergency exits. Most importantly, the building had no fire safety certificate. During a hearing in Gujarat High Court, it emerged that the Rajkot collector, DDO, Municipal Commissioner, Superintendent of Police, all were present at inauguration of the gaming zone.

The Chief Justice remarked "You have given him a licence by your presence at the inauguration that look I am here, do whatever you want to do...You are sacking the smaller fish. The big fish who were at the inauguration, where are they? Why have you not trapped them? Why have you not fixed responsibility on them?" Another judge asked: "So you were ignorant of these structures existing in the vicinity? So, you were blind to it, that these big structures existed, you were unaware of it for eighteen months? Was fire safety applied for it? Did you inspect?"

The Chief Justice observed "We also require that... an inquiry be conducted into the working of the municipal corporations in the state in view of recent incidents reflecting dereliction of duties on the part of the municipal commissioners...which have become evident with unfortunate incidents such as the Morbi Bridge Collapse, Harni Lake boat tragedy and Rajkot TRP gaming zone fire incident."

A parallel can be drawn with the Grenfell Tower fire in London; a public inquiry uncovered a litany of failings, dishonesty and greed of construction companies, and the failure of politicians to act on citizens' concerns, resulting in the death of 72 unfortunate people.



The 74th Amendment is often blamed for providing an incomplete roadmap that has led to the present maladministration in civic bodies, but this is not true; the amendment did leave considerable discretion with State Governments, but Parliament could never have imagined that State Governments would implement the amendment in a way that effective control over civic bodies will not pass to elected councillors, but remain with the State Government. All Corporations have a Municipal Commissioner, a nominee of the State Government, who calls the shots, as all executive powers vest in him.

A survey by Janaagraha, a Bengaluru-based NGO, indicates that States have implemented only 42 per cent of the provisions of the 74th Amendment meant to empower local urban bodies. The 74th Amendment envisages transfer of eighteen functions to civic bodies, but so far, no State has transferred all the eighteen functions to them.

Additionally, municipal finances are in poor shape. According to an analysis of budgetary data for 201 municipal corporations by RBI in their 'Report on Municipal Finances' (November 2022), municipal expenditure in India declined from 2012-13 to 2017-18, though the urban population increased significantly. According to the Report, establishment cost increased, capital expenditure was minimal, while revenue expenditure declined from 70 per cent to 58 per cent of the municipal budget. The Report noted that municipal taxes and user charges were grossly inadequate to meet expenditure needs of municipal bodies, and there were elaborate state government controls on their authority to levy taxes and user charges, setting of rates, granting of exemptions, and borrowing of funds, as well as on the design, quantum and timing of transfer of funds.

The report also noted that in terms of fiscal autonomy, ULBs in India were among the weakest globally. The size of municipal budgets in India were much smaller than peers in other countries, with municipal expenditure in India at around 1 per cent of GDP, while municipal expenditure accounted for 7.4 per cent of GDP in Brazil, and 6 per cent of GDP in South

Africa. To provide the required funds to municipalities, the Report suggested earmarking of one-sixth of GST collections for municipalities, and floating of municipal bonds. However, implementation of these recommendations may not be possible; cash-strapped governments are unlikely to forego GST revenue, and given the precarious state of municipal finances, municipal bonds may not find many takers.

On the positive side, budget allocation to the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has increased significantly from around Rs. 8,000 crore in 2009-10 to around Rs. 47,000 crore in 2021-22. Despite glitches, there has been visible progress in creation of urban infrastructure and provision of municipal services, through flagship schemes and missions like Swachh Bharat Mission, AMRUT (Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation), Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, and the Smart Cities Mission. Now metro rail services are available in many cities, and there has been general improvement in water supply, sanitation (including solid waste management), and stormwater drains.

However, much more needs to be done. Humongous investment is required; according to a World Bank paper, by 2036, India will need to invest Rs.70 lakh crore in municipal infrastructure - an average of Rs.4.5 lakh crore per year or 1.2 per cent of GDP per annum as against investment of 0.6 per cent of GDP between 2011 and 2018.

To sum up: We are witnessing a rapid and continuous increase in urban population. According to a 2016 World Bank report more than half of our population resides in cities, which incidentally, is much more than the 2011 Census figure of 31 per cent - probably due to different benchmarks. Be that as it may, problems like unplanned growth of cities, climate change, pollution, etc. will only get worse in future.

Despite well-intentioned interventions by various High Courts, no improvement or a better response to recurring calamities has been forthcoming in a single city, leading to the inescapable conclusion that the solution to civic problems lies with citizens alone, who will have to come together to reform municipal administration.

Undeniably, the pitiable condition of our premier cities, reflects poorly on us. As the philosopher Plato had said: "This City is what it is because our citizens are what they are."



DEVENDRA SAKSHENA
The writer is a retired Principal Chief Commissioner of Income-Tax

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

editor@thestatesman.com

Follows a script

SIR, Delhi's new CM, Atishi has a high-profile job with a short-term tenure. If AAP wins the Delhi polls, Arvind Kejriwal will be CM. Atishi's candidature was 'unanimously' backed by AAP MLAs, after Kejriwal proposed her name.

Unanimity here is a thin cloak over the lack of intra-party democracy. Atishi's key political virtue for the job is possibly her fealty to the



party chief.

How much support she will receive from party MLAs remains to be seen, since there are examples across the political spectrum of such "unanimous" choices later facing dissension from those nursing thwarted ambitions.

Atishi's elevation merely follows the script of CMs being chosen by one or two leaders of mainstream political parties. MLAs rubber stamping their choice kills the democratic process, which would have meant choosing between competing candidates by vote.

Such top-heavy political parties impact the quality of governance and health of our democracy. It also has a link with other ills of our polity, like dynastic rule and

criminalisation. The long-term damage that replacement of party structure by a leadership cult can do to an organisation has been evident across parties. Only a fair shot at big jobs creates an enabling environment for nurturing talent.

Yours, etc., N Sadhasiva Reddy, Washington, USA, 18 September.

CONDEMNABLE

SIR, While the general public including people from all walks of life, doctors, office goers, school and college students and even senior citizens have been tirelessly and relentlessly protesting against the brutal rape and murder of the junior doctor at R.G. Kar Medical College and Hospital and seeking justice, most Durga Puja committees have been carrying on with their usual and annual routines. Their members are still going from door

UNCOVERED?

SIR, This is with reference to the editorial "Elders' Healthcare" (Sept.14). While the extension of the programme launched in 2018 is welcome for those above 70, it is not clear if citizens in all states would benefit, for example those in Bengal. If one is correct, the original Ayushman scheme has not been implemented in Odisha, Bengal, and the Delhi NRC. It has been implemented in all other states and UTs. This extended programme will undoubtedly follow the same course. Health being in the State List of the Constitution, it appears the decision is left to states. There is no plan as yet to put Health in the Concurrent List, where both the Centre and State would have jurisdiction. If it is placed in the Concurrent List, and the Centre has final say, then it would benefit all citizens. Citizens of these two or three states, whether below or above 70, are being deprived of Central healthcare.

Yours, etc., Amit Banerjee, Kolkata, 15 September.

to door to demand the puja subscription.

A couple of them in my locality have even had the audacity to ask for a rise in subscription. This is highly condemnable and shameful to say the least. The atmosphere

A MEMBER OF THE ANN ASIA NEWS NETWORK

ASIAN VOICES

Drowning prevention lessons should be mandatory in schools

Viet Nam has been one of the most successful countries in child preventing child drowning over the past five years. The programme has been implemented in over 130 communes across 15 provinces, increasing awareness about child drowning prevention and teaching children aged 6 to 15 survival swimming skills.

We've trained more than 1,000 teachers in safe swimming instruction. Despite challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic, around 32,000 children have learned to swim, and 52,000 have been taught water safety skills.

The percentage of children who can swim has more than doubled, rising to 32.6 per cent from 14.7 per cent. Additionally, in the areas where we've implemented the programme, the number of child drowning incidents has decreased.

We've acknowledged sincere thanks for the strong support and pro-active engagement from relevant ministries and local authorities, particularly from the Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs and the Ministry of Education and Training. They've actively engaged in the programme planning and interventions at local levels, especially before the peak seasons for child drowning, such as summer and flood periods.

Public awareness has also increased significantly, with parents now actively seeking out information to protect their

Việt Nam News

children. Social media has played a vital role in disseminating information in engaging formats, while in remote, underserved areas, healthcare workers visit homes and use public address systems to spread key messages.

However, in rural areas where children are often cared for by their grandparents or other elders, we need to provide even more support. These children are particularly vulnerable and should be prioritised for swimming lessons and safety training.

It's important to see drowning prevention as a comprehensive issue. Drowning can happen to anyone, at any time, so we need a multi-faceted approach.

Survival swim is one of the most effective ways to prevent drowning. The WHO defines "survival swim" as the ability to swim at least 25 metres and float for at least 30 seconds. For primary school children, it's crucial to teach them not just how to swim, but also how to assess risks and perform basic self-rescue.

For children under five, however, we don't recommend swimming lessons. Instead, parents and caregivers should supervise them closely and keep them away from open water.

The UN's Resolution on drowning prevention encourages countries to incorporate drowning prevention into their natural disaster action plans. There's a clear connection between child drowning and climate change, as floods and other disasters increase the risk for children who play near open water.

Viet Nam has made significant progress in reducing child drowning, but we must have more joint efforts for long-term sustainability and impact to reduce the ratio of drowning deaths.

In the coming year, I hope to see more investments in teaching water safety skills, especially in schools, with a focus on primary school students. Incorporating these lessons into both the main curriculum and extracurricular activities would be ideal.

If possible, communities should also host swimming classes for children, but it's critical that these are conducted in safe conditions. This includes having qualified teachers who are knowledgeable about child safety.

Parents and caregivers must also be proactive in ensuring their children's safety, whether that's through reminders or careful supervision. Sometimes, a simple reminder or close watch can prevent a tragedy.

this time is not at all conducive for extravagant celebrations. I strongly feel that puja committees should refrain from approaching the general public for the subscription at

Yours, etc., Anupam Neogi, Kolkata, 17 September.

Psychology and the subaltern

PAROMITA GHOSH

Psychology's tryst with the subaltern goes deep. It is ironic that the relation has not been acknowledged save in a passing manner.

The story begins in Leipzig where in 1879 the first Psychology laboratory was set up by Wilhelm Wundt in the periphery of the university there. It drew students whose hobbies turned into formal learning leading to university degrees. The likes of Kraepelin, famous for schizophrenia research, were drawn to the laboratory.

At that point in time, as in centuries prior, the hospitals rather asylums for 'lunatics' were marked by bedlam where poor mental patients were put behind bars and excluded from the social mainstream. The richer members of society kept their 'mads' hidden away in attics. The persons having psychological problems were however sometimes paraded for the amusement of the rich who visited these Institutions as benefactors.

After the French Revolution (1789-1794) that nation took the lead in treating mental patients of humble background with compassion. The humanitarian mission spread across the 'civilized' world — asylums became mental hospitals. The Lumbini clinic was set up in the Calcutta of the 1940s with the same mission.

Meanwhile, a sea change was taking place in the world of Psychology transforming it from its philosophical beginnings to a model of Social Science. Sigmund Freud (1856-1939) had ushered in the psychological model in the treatment of neurosis by psychoanalysis of his middle class patients. His neglect of poor patients left much to be desired.

But the subaltern was finding a way into the research work of Faris and Dunham in the 1930s. They found that mental disorders, especially schizophrenia, were more common in underprivileged areas. This was the beginning of the social causation or sociogenic hypothesis of mental disorders. It was later explained that persons belonging to the underprivileged sections of the society encountered more of life's stresses in the shape of lack of educational facilities and employment as well as overarching poverty. Criminal activities also figured prominently in this ecosystem.

This hypothesis was contested by another more plausible one — the social drift or social selection hypothesis which was proposed by social scientists Goldberg and Morrison in 1963. It posits that persons with mental disorders like schizophrenia show downward social mobility. They find it difficult to secure employment and drift into neighbourhoods lived in by people of 'lower class'. It implies marginalization and abandonment by their peers. A compromise has been worked out thereafter. In 1992 Dohrenwend and fellow investigators found that the social causation hypothesis worked best in depression and the social drift hypothesis in cases of schizophrenia.

The theme leads us to the cotton fields of the United States of America during the 1920s where the declining price of cotton and inflationary pressures led to the prevalence of lynching of the poor black agricultural labour. This perhaps set the stage for the Frustration-Aggression hypothesis in its most rigid form which posits that frustration results in aggression and aggression is the inevitable consequence of frustration by Dollard and



the Yale group in 1939. Soon this hard stance was changed to accommodate other causes of aggression.

Abraham Maslow's hierarchy of needs arguably best represents the leitmotif. It lists needs according to precedence from the lowest that is physiological needs and on to that for self actualization. It implies that people who are poor are so busy in satisfying their hunger and ensuring their safety that they do not give much thought to the realization of their potential. The Maslovian theory of 1943 is supported by David McClelland's view articulated about two decades later that the subaltern lacked achievement motivation (nAch). Even societies were judged according to the need for achievement inherent in them. The theme is

discerned even in the area of family size.

In India large families bring on poverty, exceptions are hard to come by. This trend is noted not only in India but also in other lower middle income countries. It finds relevance in the Confluence Model proposed by Zajonc and Markus in 1975 when the family planning movement in India was gaining strength. The Confluence Model says that the IQ of siblings is related with the size of the family with larger families having children of lower intelligence. This model obviously courted controversy. In a similar vein, the Cognitive Reserve hypothesis introduced by Yaakov Stern in 2002 following up investigations by Katzman and others in the 1980s and the 1990s says that the buffer stock of

education, occupation, IQ before illness and intellectual activities offers protection against severity of Dementia in old age.

The whole IQ movement is biased towards the middle class with IQ tests full of idioms used in their everyday parlance. Even the problems used in assessment of IQ are within the ambit of the middle and upper middle classes. This sets a trap for the persons of lower socioeconomic status to fare badly in IQ tests. Culture-free testing using non-verbal and performance — based problems to be solved has addressed this issue to some extent. The subaltern requires social equity to bridge the narrowing gap.

(The writer is Professor, Department of Home Science, University of Calcutta.)

100 YEARS AGO
OCCASIONAL NOTE

SIR GEORGE NEWMAN'S report on the state of the public health of England and Wales for 1923 is full of interest. The rapid decline in the birth-rate is a feature that has attracted attention for years past, but there are compensating features in a decline in the death-rate, a big reduction in infant mortality, an increase in longevity, and a successful struggle against certain diseases. The fall in the birthrate is slackening, the drop from the previous year being only 22,000 as compared with the 70,000 shown in the returns for 1922. The actual decrease however is sufficiently startling, from 35.4 per 1,000 of population in 1871-1880 to 19.7 in 1923. During the same period the death-rate has fallen from 21.4 per 1,000 to 11.6, the lowest figure ever recorded. Equally encouraging is the reduction in infant mortality, which in 1871-1880 showed 149 per thousand, but only 69 in 1923. This Sir George describes as "perhaps the greatest recent triumph of preventive medicine." Among the death figures those for cancer and diseases of the nerves and the heart are disquieting. The table ascribes 48,667 deaths, or 109 per thousand, to cancer, and 47,694 or 107 per thousand, and 56,886, or 128 per thousand, to the other two causes.

NEWS ITEMS
SITUATION AT COLLEGE EASIER

THE Prabandhak Committee celebrated the "Akhand Path" day yesterday, when processions were organized in different cities of the province and collections for the "Five Annas Fund" were also commenced. A procession passed through Amritsar streets.

The Khalsa College opened this morning. There were apprehensions of a breach of the peace for which the managing committee had requisitioned a police force. The District and City Magistrates visited the place. Students at first hesitated to enter the college premises as there was a large number of spectators but members of the managing committee and other sympathisers who had mustered strongly persuaded them and succeeded in preventing a strike.

The Hon. Sardar Sunder Singh Majithia, president of the managing committee, stated that they were prepared to take back the expelled and rusticated students if they apologized, and also to engage the old professors if any vacancies occurred, provided they expressed regret. The opposition does not intend resorting to obstruction and thus the situation may well be regarded as easier.

Can Pakistan regain global relevance?

MALEEHA LODHI

Pakistan is becoming increasingly marginalised in international affairs. It is no longer able to shape the strategic environment in its neighbourhood to advance its interests, much less influence global geopolitics.

The country has faced reversals on a number of fronts, notably Kashmir and Afghanistan. Once an active diplomatic player in the Middle East, today its principal engagement with the region is to seek loans from rich Arab countries. Even the country's most critical bilateral relationship — with China — is facing challenges. Its international relevance has been progressively declining and its diplomatic options shrinking.

A combination of factors is responsible for this situation. Pakistan's economic weakness, political instability, unceasing turmoil, poor governance, continuing internal security threats and strategic confusion. The key question raised by this is why the country was strategically 'relevant' in the past when some of these characteristics were also present.

The answer is that factors or developments extraneous to Pakistan gave it a significant role and importance in global geopolitics. For over two decades after its independence, it was the Cold War that catapulted Pakistan into the position of a much sought-after ally by the US-led West in its fight against communism. Mem-

bership of Western-sponsored military alliances enabled it to benefit from significant economic and military assistance.

In the 1980s, it was the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan that propelled Pakistan in a 'front-line' role in the international coalition's campaign to roll back Russian occupation. The defeat and disintegration of the Soviet Union was followed by a period in which Pakistan's geostrategic importance declined precipitously. 9/11 dramatically changed that. Pakistan once again assumed a front-line role in the so-called War on Terror. This enabled the country to coast along for two decades in a globally prominent role as a result of the US and Nato countries' need for Pakistan's cooperation in the war in Afghanistan.

What all three phases underlined was that external dynamics, regional geopolitical storms or big power rivalries enhanced Pakistan's international importance. Thus, factors extraneous to the country affected transformations in Pakistan's global status, not its intrinsic importance. But in the changed international environment of the post-Cold War era what increasingly mattered was countries' own attributes that gave them importance. There Pakistan came up short.

This should have been an urgent call to adjust to new realities. External overreach and internal underreach had characterised Pakistan's past priorities and actions. That was no longer tenable. But successive govern-

ments failed to see the world had changed fundamentally and the days of living off geopolitical rents were over. Ruling elites didn't understand the only way the country could reverse the erosion in its strategic importance was by strengthening and empowering itself at home and putting its own house in order. But old habits persisted as did outdated paradigms.

Pakistan now has to operate in and adapt to a vastly transformed international environment. The post-Cold War era has given way to a world of growing multipolarity, where power is being redistributed and where there is intense competition among states for global influence. In this transformed landscape, it is increasingly the economic power of countries that gives them international clout and heft. Nations with strong economies and who are technology innovators are the ones that have become consequential in the international arena.

The growing importance and rising clout of 'middle powers' in global affairs reflects this. Middle powers are not superpowers but have characteristics that give them the ability to influence and shape geopolitics. Most middle powers have strong economies and possess other positive attributes that provide them leverage in global affairs to pursue their national interests as well as the ability to build multiple relationships through skilful diplomacy.

The structural changes and dispersal of power in the international system — the currency of power having changed — has created an enabling environment for middle power diplomatic activism and for them to wield greater influence and become global players. Middle powers play off the US-China competition to strengthen their bargaining position even while they seek to enhance relations with both global powers. They try to avoid getting into the crosshairs of that confrontation but also reap advantages from it. This urges both the US and China to pay more attention to them to ensure they are not firmly tied to their rival's camp.

Pakistan doesn't figure today among middle powers that include many countries of the Global South, such as Türkiye, India, Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Singapore among several others. But it has all the potential to become one.

To be internationally relevant, it must first and foremost build a strong and resilient economy that is not reliant on external life support, on bailouts and borrowing — an economy integrated into the global economy, which at present it is far from being. This needs efficient governance, political stability and an end to the political squabbles that keep the country in such an unsettled, distracted and divided state. It also needs an educated citizenry and workforce that has the ability to innovate and

contribute to scientific and technological progress. All this will engender national self-confidence that can empower the country with hope and optimism, which acts as a force multiplier.

Along with building domestic strength, incorporating soft power in the country's diplomatic strategy will also help to improve its global standing and reputation. Understood as a country's qualities or behaviour that appeals to others, soft power can be an indispensable tool to boost its international influence and image. Pakistan has several soft power resources which if identified and leveraged intelligently can help create positive perceptions about the country and build trust, which in turn, can elevate its position and elicit support from the international community for its foreign policy goals.

To sum up, Pakistan's international relevance now depends on its domestic repositioning and the choices made at home to strengthen the economy, establish durable political stability, provide competent governance, invest in people and address its human development deficits. It also involves fashioning and implementing a coherent and imaginative foreign policy. What should be clear is that there are no shortcuts to rebooting Pakistan's global influence.

Dawn/ANN

"A REIGN OF TERROR"

PAYMENT OF CAPITATION TAX REFUSED

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)
RANGOON, SEPT. 19

A BURMA Government communique says that the movement to refuse payment of capitation tax has spread very widely in Tavoy. No pretence is made that the persons taking part in the movement are unable to pay owing to poverty, or that the refusal is a protest against any act of omission on the part of the Government. The movement, continues the communique is, as might be expected, accompanied by hooliganism against any who stand out against it.

Preparations are being made to assault any persons who pay taxes and the Government officers who collect them. An attempt is being made to establish a reign of terror. Proceedings under the Land and Revenue Act and prosecutions under the C. P. C., being ineffectual, the Government have decided to declare some of the more prominent associations unlawful, and quarter police in the truculent, tracts. The local Government will take all lawful measures against their misguided adherents and to protect them from the effects of their ignorance and credulity.

"KALA-AZAR" PATIENTS

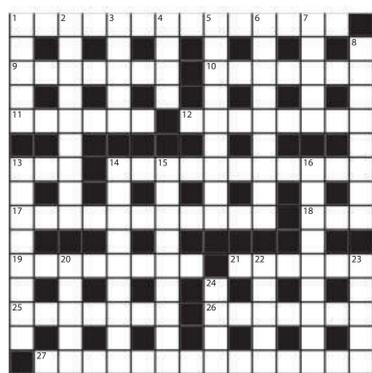
ADMISSION TO SHILLONG INSTITUTES

A communiqué states: It has come to the notice of the Government that persons suffering from kala-azar have proceeded to Shillong for treatment without first ascertaining whether accommodation was available in the kala-azar ward of the Pasteur Institute, or, in the case of Europeans, in the segregation ward of the Lady Minto Nursing Home. Finding these institutions unable to receive them, they have been compelled to seek temporary lodgings in the town or to stay with friends or in boarding houses. This practice, if generally adopted, would constitute a serious menace to the health of the town.

The Government desire to impress on patients that it is most desirable that all kala-azar patients, desirous of treatment in Shillong, should invariably ascertain, before they leave for Shillong, that accommodation will be available for them in one of these institutions.

CROSSWORD

NO-292906



ACROSS

- 1 Hackneyed phrase heard in Hackney, falsely promising truth (3,4,2,5)
- 9 Observers initially imply, wrongly, Charlie is like a legendary athlete (7)
- 10 A feature of Saturn, it emits a flame (3,4)
- 11 Pub invested in satellite TV not doing enough food (6)
- 12 Poor Root, a prisoner of history, stewing for hours on 10 (3,5)
- 13/15 Rubbish, burnt out team from 27 making a fast start (3,9)

- 14 Civic officer left Ann in charge of Newport revamp (4,7)
- 17 Two points for partners at auction (4,3,4)
- 18 Raab's department beginning to pester Rees-Mogg, perhaps (3)
- 19 Assistant Chief Constable (Retired) saving a built up (8)
- 21 Honour King working a role in AMND (6)
- 25 Frigid virago's admission? (3-4)
- 26 Front of Ford Sierra hit US radio presenter (7)
- 27 UK hero's history novel The Fourth Riding? (5,9)

DOWN

- 1 Would Woods's woods be with these? (5)
- 2 Small, tallless Aussie songbird starts to gently hover towards sash windows (9)
- 3 Upcoming noir showcasing quiet northern city (5)
- 4 Dons' home outside University College mess (4)
- 5 Geel I pop in after work for something from the oven (6,3)
- 6 Watchful old retainer escorting bishop (9)
- 7 Awkward gait when going over American forest (5)

- 8 Isn't this Soviet spin pervading? Tag it properly! (8)
- 13 A very English mass song/prayer (3,5)
- 14 No longer 25, in 27 you got married off (6,3)
- 15 See 13 Across
- 16 "Flipping hit it ref!" English Queen gulped (9)
- 20 Statement of principles: firm is in the red (actually, the opposite) (5)
- 22 Leader of supporters supporting supporters in part of orchestra (5)
- 23 Run round second base (she'll never strike) (5)
- 24 Discover big game trip from a great distance (4)

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



'Greater participation of women in R & D important for socio-economic development'

The President said that NITs were established to promote quality technical education and research in the country

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, 18 SEPTEMBER

President Droupadi Murmu Wednesday stated that greater participation of women in the field of R&D is important not only for the social and economic development of the country but also for improving the quality of life of the daughters of the nation.

She was addressing the 18th convocation of Malaviya National Institute of Technology (MNIT) at Jaipur.

The President said that NITs were established to promote quality technical education and research in the country. They are playing a major role in providing skilled and capable human resources. Given the importance of NITs, they have been given the status of 'Insti-

tutions of National Importance'.

The President said that half the students in the NITs come from the home state while the other half come from other states based on the India ranking. Thus, while on the one hand, this system allows local talent to flourish, on the other hand, it also works to strengthen the country's spirit of unity in diversity.



She said that technical institutes like NITs play an important role in making India a research and innovation hub.

She was happy to note that the Innovation and Incubation Centre established in MNIT has organised many start-up programmes so far, which have benefited a large number of participants. About 125 start-ups have been registered in the Incubation Centre of MNIT, which are also creating new employment opportunities.

The President said that

in this era of the fourth industrial revolution, along with challenges, new opportunities are also coming. "The role of our technical institutions is very important in taking advantage of these opportunities and making India a leading nation in the field of technology." She stated that the establishment of the Department of Artificial Intelligence and Data Engineering in MNIT reflects its

commitment to adapt itself to the demands of the times.

The President was happy to note that MNIT has secured a position in the top 50 institutes of the country in the 'Engineering category' of NIRF's India Rankings 2024. She expressed confidence that the faculty, students and staff of MNIT will work harder and bring MNIT into the top 10 institutes of the country.

Over 12 cr pilgrims visited Ayodhya in 7 months, footfall greater than in Varanasi, Mathura

AGENCIES NEW DELHI, 18 SEPTEMBER

More than 12 crore pilgrims and tourists visited the holy town of Ayodhya in the first seven months of 2024, according to data released by the Uttar Pradesh (UP) tourism department on Wednesday.

The surge in footfall in Ayodhya, after the inauguration of the grand Ram Temple on January 22 this year, has been recorded for both domestic as well as international pilgrims and tourists.

Other religious centres of the state including Mathura, Prayagraj and Varanasi have also seen a significant uptick in numbers, however, Ayodhya has surpassed all others in the number of footfalls.

Mukesh Meshram, Principal Secretary of Tourism and Culture Department in UP shared an update about the growing religious tourism and its impact in the state.

He said that holy cities of UP are drawing tourists from places as far as the US and Canada.

Speaking to the press, he said that there is immense eagerness and excitement among the people to visit the Ram Temple and today, their long-held dreams of visiting the birthplace of Lord Ram are turning into a reality.

When speaking about the annual Deepotsav celebration in Ayodhya, he mentioned that this event has now gained global recognition.

"This year, we have set a target of lighting 2.5 million diyas, setting a new world record. Various Ram Lilas from different countries have also been invited to participate in the festival," he pointed out.

Additionally, there will be a grand procession and cultural showcases.

With a large number of visitors expected this year, seating galleries are being constructed near the riverbanks to accommodate the crowd.

Last year, Varanasi attracted 10.5 crore tourists, and in the first seven months of this year alone, 5.45 crore people

have visited it. Similarly, Mathura saw 5.5 crore and Prayagraj 4.5 crore visitors during this period.

This reflects the state's growing popularity as a tourist destination and the increasing global interest in its cultural and religious heritage.

The senior bureaucrat also shed light on the grand preparations for the forthcoming 2025 Maha Kumbh Mela in Prayagraj and mentioned that old temples were being developed as tourist spots and also a world-class tent city was being planned for the event.

Mukesh Meshram highlighted the rapid development in various religious and cultural locations such as Mathura, Vrindavan, Chitrakoot, and Naimisharanya.

He stated that the Vindhyaasini Corridor had been completed, and other sacred sites are also seeing significant improvements.

"Since 2017, development work has been carried out at more than 650 locations in the state," he informed.

Bulldozer not symbol of the rule of law: Mayawati



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE LUCKNOW, 18 SEPTEMBER

In a sharp reaction on the Supreme Court's ruling on the bulldozer issue, Bahujan Samaj Party supremo Mayawati has said that the bulldozer is not a symbol of the rule of law and the increasing trend of its use is worrying.

She said that the Central Government should make guidelines on this issue for everyone, which is not happening and that was the reason the apex Court had to intervene in the matter.

In a couple of tweets on Wednesday, she said that despite the bulldozer not being a symbol of the state's

demolition law, the increasing trend of its use is a matter of grave concern.

However, when the general public does not agree with bulldozers and any other matter, the Center should come forward and make uniform guidelines for the entire country, which is not being done," she said.

The BSP chief said that had the government done something concrete in this regard, the Supreme Court would not have intervened and fulfilled the responsibility of the Central Government.

The Central and state governments must pay attention to the implementation of the Constitution and the rule of law, she said.

Manipur bans hunting migratory Amur falcons



AGENCIES IMPHAL, 18 SEPTEMBER

In a bid to protect and provide support to migratory Amur falcon birds, Manipur's Tamenglong district authorities imposed a total ban on hunting, catching, killing and selling of the seasonal winged guests by anyone in the district and nearby surrounding areas, officials said on Wednesday.

The district authority also asked the concerned people to deposit their air guns to the village authorities immediately.

Suspected militants launch attack on Mongbung Meitei Village in Manipur, No injuries reported



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE IMPHAL, 18 SEPTEMBER

In a fresh escalation of violence, suspected militants attacked Mongbung Meitei village in Manipur's Jiribam district, prompting an exchange of gunfire between the attackers and local volunteers, police said Wednesday.

The militants opened fire with sophisticated weapons around 7 pm on Tuesday, but no injuries were reported. Security forces swiftly responded and managed to bring the situation under

control by 8 pm. Authorities have urged residents to cooperate with ongoing security operations in the area, as tensions remain high.

Villagers reported increased drone activity in recent days, raising concerns of further threats.

Meanwhile, security forces conducted search operations in nearby Chanung and C Zoulen villages in Imphal East district, seizing a locally made single barrel gun, an SLR magazine, and live ammunition on Monday.

Cong accuses Assam CM of using Assam Accord to divert attention from alleged family corruption

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE GUWAHATI, 18 SEPTEMBER

The opposition Congress on Wednesday flayed the BJP-led Assam government, accusing Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma of using the Assam Accord issue to distract the public from alleged corruption involving his family.

Addressing a joint press conference here, Leader of the Opposition Debabrata Saikia and the state Congress president Bhupen Kumar Borah claimed that the state government's focus on implementing 57 recommendations of the Justice Biplab Kumar Sarma Committee has no real basis, as only the central

government can execute such actions.

Borah accused that the Chief Minister is attempting to mislead the people ahead of the 2026 assembly elections, using the Assam Accord as a smokescreen to cover up corruption allegations.

He asserted that the key clauses of the accord, which address the detection and deportation of illegal immigrants, remain untouched.

He wondered why hasn't the state government provided a clear plan for implementing the 57 clauses, and that, why is there no word from the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) on the matter. Saikia also criticized the



state BJP for not forwarding the committee's report to Union Home Minister Amit Shah, despite having it since

2020. He noted that the state government had set up a separate committee in 2021 to develop a framework for implementing the accord, but no progress has been made so far.

Signed in 1985 after a violent anti-foreigner movement, the accord mandates the identification and deportation of all foreigners who entered the state after March 25, 1971.

Despite the government's recent announcements, Congress leaders expressed doubt over the sincerity and feasibility of the accord's implementation under the current regime.

Meghalaya minister warns against proposed cow protection march

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE SHILLONG, 18 SEPTEMBER

Meghalaya Cabinet Minister Ampareen Lyngdoh has strongly criticised the proposed Gau Dhawj Staphana Bharat Yatra scheduled to be held on 2 October in Shillong to elevate the cow to the status of "mother of the nation" and push for a nationwide ban on cow slaughter.

The minister warned that such actions could disrupt Meghalaya's peaceful atmosphere and its diverse cultural fabric.

As the movement, led by certain Hindu groups, plans



a countrywide stir from September 22 to October 26, Lyngdoh firmly opposed the interfering with people's food choices, emphasising that Meghalaya's traditions must be respected.

She pointed out that the state's cultural and ethnic diversity makes it particularly

important to avoid actions that could incite division.

Her stance reflects growing unease in the region with local sentiments about food and cultural practices, particularly concerning meat consumption, differing from the national agenda promoted by cow protection movements.

Lyngdoh reassured citizens that the government would take necessary measures to maintain communal harmony, urging outsiders to honour local customs as they would expect their own traditions to be respected.

Earlier, the Khun Hyn-

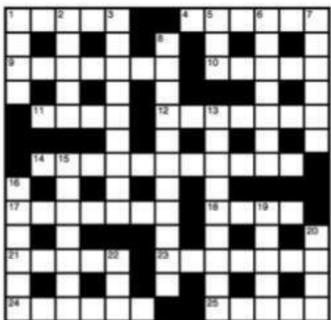
niewtrep National Awakening Movement (KHNAM) had also voiced its opposition to the move, calling for stalling the event, warning that it could disturb the state's delicate communal balance.

In a broader context, the Gau Pratishta Andolan movement advocates declaring the cow as "Rashtra Mata" and protecting it under the Indian Constitution, aiming to ban cow slaughter nationwide.

However, in states like Meghalaya, where beef is an integral part of local diet, such initiatives meet with stiff opposition.

LEISURE

10 MINUTE CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- Native American people (5)
 - Thin outer layer (6)
 - Ice cream flavour (7)
 - Aspices (5)
 - Quick look (4)
 - Order to attend (7)
 - Musician (11)
 - Saying (7)
 - Egg part (4)
 - Hard dark wood (5)
 - Bell tongue (7)
 - Being defeated (6)
 - Rear of a ship (5)
- DOWN**
- Except (4)
 - Unit of weight (5)
 - Percussion instrument (9)
 - Age (3)
 - Absorb (7)
 - Oppose (6)
 - Shift responsibility (Informal) (4, 3, 4)
 - Rich person (Informal) (9)
 - In love (7)
 - Power to attract (6)
 - Drop in standard (5)
 - Measure of herring (4)
 - Desire (Informal) (3)

- SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD**
- ACROSS**
- Mane
 - Obstacle
 - Sale
 - Cascade
 - Annul
 - Rain
 - Backfire
 - Resemblance
 - Massive
 - Neat
 - Bravo
 - Trachea
 - Mime
 - Perambulate
 - Loek
 - Let alone
 - Clothes
 - Bomb
 - Share
 - Sway
 - Data

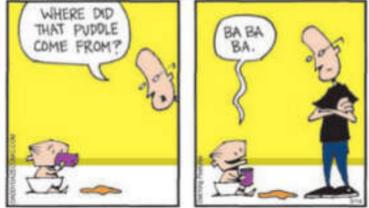
BEETLE BAILEY/Mort Walker



RED EYE/Bill Yates & Mel Casson



DADDY DAZE/John Kovaleski



NEED TO KNOW

- Ambulance**
FD Block Association (Amb) 9830452536, 9830181286
Happy Calcuttans 24400160
City Point Nurses Centre 2567-4113, 9831142623
People's Relief Committee 2280-4943/9444
- 24 hrs Medical Oxygen Delivery**
BOC India Ltd. 9831277777
- Blood Banks**
Ashok Laboratory 24720333
Central Blood Bank 23510619
- Life Care** 2284-6940
Peoples Blood Bank 2455-5164/5557
RK Mission Seva Pratishthan 2475-3636/39
- Police/Fire**
Lalbazar (Police Control Room) 22143230
S. P. (North 24-Pgns) 25423005
S.P. (South 24-Pgns) 2479-3333/1311
Bhawani Bhawan 24791761/9, 24791933
Fire Service Station Salt Lake: 2357-5293;
- Howrah** 2666-8111; Behala 2497-6285
- Civic Services**
Kolkata Municipal Corporation: 2286-1000
Water: 2543-1602
- Calcutta Telephones**
Changed Number Announcement 1951, 1952, 1953
- Taxi Refusal**
SMS 575756: Complaint and registration
- Police Toll Free No.** 1073
Transport Deptt. No. 6451-6718
- CESC Fault Reporting**
1912 and 4403-1912
- Trains**
Howrah Station Old Complex 1331/1332 (Auto Telephone Numbers), 1310, 2638-7412/3542/2581 (manual), Sealdah: 2350-3535/3537
Shalimar Station: 2668-1121, Eastern Railway and South-Eastern Railway: 139.

SCRABBLE (BRAND) (G R A M S I)

PAR SCORE 115-125
by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

INSTRUCTIONS: Make a 2 to 7 letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each letter using scoring directions at right. Blank tiles used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in the Official Scrabble Players Dictionary (Merriam-Webster) and the Official Scrabble Words (Chamberlain). Judd's solution tomorrow.

rack 1 = 79
rack 2 = 68
rack 3 = 63
rack 4 = 16

rack 1 = 79
rack 2 = 68
rack 3 = 63
rack 4 = 16

rack 1 = 79
rack 2 = 68
rack 3 = 63
rack 4 = 16

SUDOKU
Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level: ★★★

Instructions: Make a 2 to 7 letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each letter using scoring directions at right. Blank tiles used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in the Official Scrabble Players Dictionary (Merriam-Webster) and the Official Scrabble Words (Chamberlain). Judd's solution tomorrow.

answer to previous puzzle

Hezbollah pagers in apparent Israeli attack made by Hungarian company

Hezbollah and Israeli forces have exchanged fire nearly daily since 8 Oct.

AGENCIES
TAIPEI, 18 SEPTEMBER

A company based in Hungary was responsible for manufacturing the pagers that exploded in Lebanon and Syria in an apparent Israeli operation targeting Hezbollah's communications network, another firm whose brand was used on the devices said Wednesday.



tens of thousands on each side of the border have been displaced.

Tuesday's attack — and the fact that Hezbollah blamed Israel — renewed fears that the two foes could lead to all-out war. Despite periodic cycles of escalation, the two have carefully avoided that so far, but Israeli leaders have issued a series of warnings in recent weeks that they might escalate operations against Hezbollah in Lebanon.

The AR-924 pagers used the attack were manufactured by BAC Consulting KFT, based in the Hungarian capital of Budapest, according to a statement released by Gold Apollo, a Taiwanese firm that authorized the use of its brand on the pagers.

BAC appeared to be a shell company. "According to the cooperation agreement, we authorize BAC to use our brand trademark for product sales in designated regions, but the design and manufacturing of the products are solely the responsibility of BAC," Gold Apollo said in a statement.

The company's chair,

Hsu Ching-kuang, told journalists Wednesday that the firm has had a licensing agreement with BAC for the past three years.

BAC Consulting Kft., a limited liability company, was registered in May 2022, according to company records. It has 7,840 euros in standing capital, the records showed, and had revenue of \$725,768 in 2022 and \$593,972 in 2023.

At the headquarters in a building in a residential neighborhood of Budapest, Associated Press journalists saw the names of multiple companies, including BAC Consulting, posted on pieces of paper on a window.

A woman who emerged from the building and declined to give her name, said the site provides headquarter addresses to various companies.

BAC is registered to Cristiana Rosaria Barsony-Arcidiacono, who on her LinkedIn page describes herself as a strategic advisor and business developer. Among other positions, Barsony-Arcidiacono says on the page that she has served on the board of directors of the Earth

Child Institute, a sustainability group. The group does not list Barsony-Arcidiacono as among its board members on its website.

The AP has attempted to reach Barsony-Arcidiacono via her LinkedIn page and has been unable to establish a connection between her or BAC and the exploding pagers.

The attack in Lebanon started Tuesday afternoon, when pagers in their owners' hands or pockets started heating up and then exploding — leaving blood-splattered scenes and panicking bystanders.

Gaza publishes identities of 34,344 Palestinians killed in war with Israel

AGENCIES
RAMALLAH, 18 SEPTEMBER

Gaza's Health Ministry has identified 34,344 Palestinians killed by Israeli attacks in the territory, publishing a list of names, age, gender and ID numbers that cover more than 80 per cent of Palestinians killed in the war so far, Ministry officials said.



The remaining 7,613 people included in its death toll, which is now above 41,000, are Palestinians whose bodies have been received by hospitals and morgues, but whose identities have not yet been confirmed.

The identified people include 169 babies born after the Hamas attacks of October 7 that began the war, and a man born in 1922 who had survived more than a century of war and upheaval.

The document runs to 649 pages, with the dead listed largely by age. Gaza's population is youthful, and the register underlines the high toll of Israeli attacks on Palestinian children.

More than 100 pages are filled with the names of victims under 10 years old and the first adult names do

not appear until page 215. Israeli officials question the death toll given by the authorities in Gaza, arguing that because Hamas controls the government there, Gaza's health officials cannot provide reliable figures.

However, doctors and civil servants in the territory have a credible record from past wars. After several conflicts between 2009 and 2021, United Nations investigators drew up their own lists of the dead and found they closely matched ones from Gaza.

"Unfortunately, we have the sad experience of coordinating with the Ministry of Health on casualty figures every few years," Farhan Haq, a spokesperson for the UN secretary general, has said.

"Their figures have proven to be generally accurate."

They are also directed to file the written statement with a copy thereof furnished to the applicant and to appear before Registrar on 19/09/2024 at 10:30 AM failing which the application shall be deemed to have been abandoned and decided in your absence. Given under my hand and the seal of this Tribunal on this date: 23/03/2021.

Ukrainian drones strike a large military depot in a Russian town northwest of Moscow

AGENCIES
KYIV, 18 SEPTEMBER

Ukrainian drones struck a large military depot in a town deep inside Russia overnight, causing a huge blaze and prompting the evacuation of some local residents, a Ukrainian official and Russian news reports said Wednesday.



According to the official, the depot housed Iskander and Tochka-U missiles, as well as glide bombs and artillery shells. He said the facility caught fire in the strike and was burning across an area 6 kilometers (4 miles) wide.

Russian state news agency RIA Novosti quoted regional authorities as saying air defense systems were working to repel a "massive drone attack" on Toropets, which has a population of around 11,000. The agency also reported a fire and the evacuation of some local residents.

There was no immediate information about whether the strikes had caused any casualties.

Successful Ukrainian strikes on targets deep inside Russia have become more common as the war has progressed and Kyiv developed its drone technology.

Zelensky is also seeking the approval from Western nations for Ukraine to use the sophisticated weapons they are providing to hit targets inside Russia. Some Western leaders have balked at that possibility, fearing they could be dragged into the conflict.

Ukraine's targeting of Russian military equipment, ammunition and infrastructure deep inside Russia, as well as making Russian civilians feel some of the consequences of the war that is being fought largely inside Ukraine, is part of Kyiv's strategy.

Form No. 3 [See Regulation-15 (1)(a)] DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL KOLKATA (DRT 1) 9th Floor, Jeevan Sudha Building, 42-C J. L. Nehru Road, Kolkata-700 071

SUMMONS WHEREAS, 04/10/2020 was listed before Hon'ble Presiding Officer on 23/02/2021. WHEREAS this Hon'ble Tribunal is pleased to issue summonses on the said Application under section 19(4) of the Act, (OA) filed against you for recovery of debts of Rs. 2926703.73/- (application along with copies of documents etc. annexed).

Date: 11.09.2024. To: RAINBOW IMPORT EXPORT, Banglubi Timmore Suli Dalahat, Aurangabad Murshadabad - 742224 West Bengal - India

LOOKING FOR LEGAL CLAIMANT Name: Aryamaan Gungur Age / Date of Birth: 14 Years (Approx) Sex: M Complexion: Whitish

INFORMATION WANTED This is the photograph of Santosh Kumar, son of Kiran Singh of Lakshmi, PS-Kotwali, PO - Katawali, 251201 who has been missing since 05.08.2019 from Itinda Community Development Society, Bagnan, Howrah Rural, W.B., Description of this missing person is: Age-17 years, Complexion-Sallow, Height-163 cms., Wearing -Yellow Printed Colour Full Shirt, 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.

INFORMATION WANTED This is the photograph of Ismail Ali, Son of Lt. Abdul Hussain, of Vill-Kadamguri, PS-Houli, Dist-Guwahati, PO-Kadamguri, 781001, who has been missing since 05.08.2019 from Itinda Community Development Society, Bagnan, Howrah Rural, W.B., Description of this missing person is: Age-14 years, Complexion-Sallow, Height-155 cms., Wearing-Brown Colour Full Jacket, Language-Bengali. Please inform whereabouts of the missing person, to the Spl. Supdt. of Police, C.I.D. (W.B.), Bhabani Bhaban, Kolkata-700027, Ph. No.-033-2450-6120.

INFORMATION WANTED This is the photograph of Rabin Das @ Rabin Miya, Son of Md Sahab Ali, of Vill-Naikuri, PO-Nuruddin, PS-Jamalpur Bangladesh, 813102, who has been missing since 05.08.2019 from Itinda Community Development Society, Bagnan, Howrah Rural, W.B., Description of this missing person is: Age-14 years, Complexion-Fair, Height-158 cms., Wearing-Yellow Full Sleeve Sayer, Language-Bengali. Please inform whereabouts of the missing person, to the Spl. Supdt. of Police, C.I.D. (W.B.), Bhabani Bhaban, Kolkata-700027, Ph. No.-033-2450-6120.

INFORMATION WANTED This is the photograph of Md Murtaja, Son of Md Najrul, of Dhulagarh, PO-711313, who has been missing since 26.08.2024 from Dhulagarh Track Terminal Sabji Mandi, Sankrail, Howrah Commissionerate, W.B., Description of this missing person is: Age-21 years, Complexion-Sallow, Height-171 cms., Wearing- Blue Jeans Full Pant, Red Full Pant, Language-Bengali. Please inform whereabouts of the missing person, to the Spl. Supdt. of Police, C.I.D. (W.B.), Bhabani Bhaban, Kolkata-700027, Ph. No.-033-2450-6120.

INFORMATION WANTED This is the photograph of Khoka Sabbo, Son of Chotu Sabbo of Vill- Basajhur, PS-Dharbungarh, PO - Paluama, 170 who has been missing since 05.08.2019 from Itinda Community Development Society, Bagnan, Howrah Rural, W.B., Description of this missing person is: Age-14 years, Complexion-Sallow, Height-163 cms., Wearing-Black Colour Full Ganji, Language-Bengali. Please inform whereabouts of the missing person, to the Spl. Supdt. of Police, C.I.D. (W.B.), Bhabani Bhaban, Kolkata-700027, Ph. No.-033-2450-6120.

INFORMATION WANTED This is the photograph of Surman Ali, Son of Asrat Ali, of Vill-Silosai, PS-Boka, PO-Mohatuli, Dist-Kamrup, PO-Nugulayan, 711312, who has been missing since 05.08.2019 from Itinda Community Development Society, Bagnan, Howrah Rural, W.B., Description of this missing person is: Age-15 years, Complexion-Sallow, Height-163 cms., Wearing-White Full Shirt, Yellow Half Ganji, Language-Bengali. Please inform whereabouts of the missing person, to the Spl. Supdt. of Police, C.I.D. (W.B.), Bhabani Bhaban, Kolkata-700027, Ph. No.-033-2450-6120.

INFORMATION WANTED This is the photograph of Farida Bibi, Daughter of Safar Ali, of Narayanpur Paschim Beraberi, PS-Narayanpur, PO-Rajarhat Gopalpur, 700136, who has been missing since 18.05.2024 from Residence, Narayanpur PS, Bidhannagar Commissionerate, W.B., Description of this missing person is: Age-35 years, Height-153 cms., Language-Bengali. Please inform whereabouts of the missing person, to the Spl. Supdt. of Police, C.I.D. (W.B.), Bhabani Bhaban, Kolkata-700027, Ph. No.-033-2450-6120.

INFORMATION WANTED This is the photograph of Ranjit Bhowmick, Son of Lt. Dulal Bhowmick, of Vill-Uttar Paikpara, PO-Antila, PS-Bagnan, who has been missing since 21.12.2021 from Presidency Correlational Home, Alipore, Kolkata South Division, W.B., Description of this missing person is: Age-50 years, Complexion-Dark, Height-168 cms., Wearing-Full Sleeve White Shirt, White Full Pant, Language-Bengali. Please inform whereabouts of the missing person, to the Spl. Supdt. of Police, C.I.D. (W.B.), Bhabani Bhaban, Kolkata-700027, Ph. No.-033-2450-6120.

INFORMATION WANTED This is the photograph of Raquib Islam, Son of Arif Bhuiya, of Vill-Rasupur, PS - Baliyagandhi, PO - Nuntiya, 711312, who has been missing since 05.08.2019 from Itinda Community Development Society, Bagnan, Howrah Rural, W.B., Description of this missing person is: Age-15 years, Complexion-Sallow, Height-163 cms., Language-Bengali. Wearing - Blue Printed Colour Half Shirt. 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.

INFORMATION WANTED This is the photograph of Sandip Singh, Son of Bir Singh, of Vill-JJ Coloni Trinagar near Kanhaaya Metro Station Delhi, who has been missing since 05.08.2019 from Itinda Community Development Society, Bagnan, Howrah Rural, W.B., Description of this missing person is: Age-15 years, Complexion-Sallow, Height-168 cms., Wearing-Black Full Shirt, 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.

INFORMATION WANTED This is the photograph of Suraj Kumar, Son of Binod Kumar Roy, of Vill-Jhikta, PO-Ramandhi, PS-Dhoraiya, 813102, who has been missing since 05.08.2019 from Child Itinda Community Development Society Institution, Bagnan, Howrah Rural, W.B., Description of this missing person is: Age-15 years, Complexion-Dark, Height-128 cms., Wearing-Red Full Shirt, 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.

INFORMATION WANTED This is the photograph of an Unknown Female Deadbody, of PO-Andal, 713321, found on 19.07.2024 KM Post No 3-4 inbetween Kajora RS to Andal GRPS. Description of this Deadbody is: Age-30 years, Height-158 cms., Sex: Female, Wearing-Pink White and Black Nighty. Please inform whereabouts of the Unknown Female Deadbody/ person or contact (to) the Spl. Supdt. of Police, C.I.D. (W.B.), Bhabani Bhaban, Kolkata-700027, Ph. No.-033-2450-6120.

INFORMATION WANTED This is the photograph of Vijay Kisku, Son of Ashok Kisku, of Vill-Ganaharia, PS - Rainagar, PO - Sarikala, 170, who has been missing since 05.08.2019 from Itinda Community Development Society, Bagnan, Howrah Rural, W.B., Description of this missing person is: Age-15 years, Complexion-Sallow, Height-163 cms., Language-Bengali. Wearing - White Colour Full Shirt Yellow Colour Half Ganji. 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.

INFORMATION WANTED This is the photograph of Md Ashiq, Son of Md Samuil, of Vill-Balapa, PS-Chowpacha, PS-Jessore Bangladesh, PO-Mugkalyan, 711312, who has been missing since 05.08.2019 from Itinda Community Development Society, Bagnan, Howrah Rural, W.B., Description of this missing person is: Age-16 years, Complexion-Sallow, Height-163 cms., Wearing-Deep Brown Colour Half T-Shirt, Language-Bengali. Please inform whereabouts of the missing person, to the Spl. Supdt. of Police, C.I.D. (W.B.), Bhabani Bhaban, Kolkata-700027, Ph. No.-033-2450-6120.

INFORMATION WANTED This is the photograph of Sidhu Tudu, Son of Md Ganga Tudu, of Vill-Sarasdanga, PS-Sitaripara, PO-Mugkalyan, 711312, who has been missing since 05.08.2019 from Itinda Community Development Society, Bagnan, Howrah Rural, W.B., Description of this missing person is: Age-12 years, Complexion-Sallow, Height-133 cms., Wearing-Black Printed Full Ganji, 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.

INFORMATION WANTED This is the photograph of Suman Kumar, Daughter of Suresh Paul, of ganti Paul para Saradapaly, PO-Ganganagar, who has been missing since 17.04.2024 from Residence, Madhyamgram, Barasat Police District, W.B., Description of this missing person is: Age-15 years, Complexion-Sallow, Height-153 cms., Wearing-Yellow Churidar, Black Pant, Language-Bengali. Please inform whereabouts of the missing person, to the Spl. Supdt. of Police, C.I.D. (W.B.), Bhabani Bhaban, Kolkata-700027, Ph. No.-033-2450-6120.

INFORMATION WANTED This is the photograph of Bikram Show, Son of Lt. Adis Shaw, of West Bardhaman, PS-Asansol near R D S Jan Niketan, PO-Asansol, 713301, who has been missing since 05.08.2019 from Itinda Community Development Society, Bagnan, Howrah Rural, W.B., Description of this missing person is: Age-16 years, Complexion-Sallow, Height-135 cms., Wearing-Ash Colour Printed Half Shirt, Language-Bengali. Please inform whereabouts of the missing person, to the Spl. Supdt. of Police, C.I.D. (W.B.), Bhabani Bhaban, Kolkata-700027, Ph. No.-033-2450-6120.

INFORMATION WANTED This is the photograph of Raj Khariya, Mother's Name: Sukru Khariya, of Vill-Thalajora, PS-Melti, PO-Bhooria, 711303, who has been missing since 05.08.2019 from Itinda Community Development Society, Bagnan, Howrah Rural, W.B., Description of this missing person is: Age-15 years, Complexion-Dark, Height-153 cms., Wearing- White Half Ganji, 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.

INFORMATION WANTED This is the photograph of Tunton Das, Son of Sri Nandu Das, of PS- Barasat, PO-Barasat, 700124, who has been missing since 05.08.2019 from India Community Development Society under Bagnan PS, Basirhat, Basirhat Police District, W.B., Description of this missing person is: Age-16 years, Complexion-Sallow, Height-163 cms., Wearing- Blue Full Shirt, Language-Bengali. Please inform whereabouts of the missing person, to the Spl. Supdt. of Police, C.I.D. (W.B.), Bhabani Bhaban, Kolkata-700027, Ph. No.-033-2450-6120.

INFORMATION WANTED This is the photograph of Shuvra Gharami @ Rinki, Daughter of Surjing Gharami, Spouse's Name-Nepal Gharami of Das para Ranabhatia, PO-Dhalua, Narendrapur, 700152, who has been missing since 01.07.2024 from House, Narendrapur, Barupur, W.B., Description of this missing person is: Age-24 years, Complexion-Fair, Height-153 cms., Wearing-Sky Colour Churidar, Language-Bengali. Please inform whereabouts of the missing person, to the Spl. Supdt. of Police, C.I.D. (W.B.), Bhabani Bhaban, Kolkata-700027, Ph. No.-033-2450-6120.

INFORMATION WANTED This is the photograph of Rahul Sani, Son of Baleswar Sani, of Vill-Bhorepur, PS-Khari, Dist-Samastipur, PO-Samastipur, 809101, who has been missing since 05.08.2019 from Itinda Community Development Society, Bagnan, Howrah Rural, W.B., Description of this missing person is: Age-16 years, Complexion-Sallow, Height-138 cms., Wearing-Blue and Black Printed Full Shirt, Language-Bengali. Please inform whereabouts of the missing person, to the Spl. Supdt. of Police, C.I.D. (W.B.), Bhabani Bhaban, Kolkata-700027, Ph. No.-033-2450-6120.

INFORMATION WANTED This is the photograph of Naba Biswas, Son of Uttam Biswas, of Allahabad Station 4 No Platform, Dist-Allahabad Uttar Pradesh, PO-Bhooriya, 711302, who has been missing since 05.08.2019 from Itinda Community Development Society, Bagnan, Howrah Rural, W.B., Description of this missing person is: Age-16 years, Complexion-Sallow, Height-163 cms., Wearing-Blue and Black Printed half Shirt, Language-Bengali. Please inform whereabouts of the missing person, to the Spl. Supdt. of Police, C.I.D. (W.B.), Bhabani Bhaban, Kolkata-700027, Ph. No.-033-2450-6120.

INFORMATION WANTED This is the photograph of Kalyani Khanra, Daughter of Lt. Bishtupado Khanra, Spouse's Name-Sukumar Khanra of Nabagram, Vill-Nabagram, PS-Shyampur, Dist-Howrah, 711315, who has been missing since 01.01.2021 from Residence, Shyampur, Howrah Rural, W.B., Description of this missing person is: Age-42 years, Complexion-Sallow, Height-153 cms., Wearing-Blouse, Saree, Language-Bengali. Please inform whereabouts of the missing person, to the Spl. Supdt. of Police, C.I.D. (W.B.), Bhabani Bhaban, Kolkata-700027, Ph. No.-033-2450-6120.

INFORMATION WANTED This is the photograph of Sumanta Chowdhury, Son of Bhudeb Chowdhury, of Vill-Kishogram, PO-Katwa, PS-Mangalkote, who has been missing since 20.09.2022 under Madhyamgram PS, Katwa, Burdwan, W.B., Description of this missing person is: Age-43 years, Complexion-Sallow, Height-171 cms., Wearing-Black White T-Shirt, Blue Jeans, Language-Bengali. Please inform whereabouts of the missing person, to the Spl. Supdt. of Police, C.I.D. (W.B.), Bhabani Bhaban, Kolkata-700027, Ph. No.-033-2450-6120.

THUMBNAILS



JSW MG Motor India Launches Windsor, India's 1st Intelligent CUV offers a unique ownership program: JSW MG Motor India, today launched India's first Intelligent CUV-the MG Windsor, at the price of a manual compact SUV. The Windsor, combining the comfort of a sedan and the expanse of an SUV, will be offered with innovative aerodynamic design, spacious and opulent interiors, reassuring safety, smart connectivity, driving comfort, and many hi-tech features. It is built on 'Pure EV Platform' offering a luxurious business-class experience. With BaaS - a unique ownership program, MG Windsor is offered at INR 9.99 Lakhs + 3.5 Rs./km for battery*.

Markets fail to hold early gains, end on negative note

During trading, Nifty reached a new all-time high of 25,482 points, approaching the 25,500 level

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 18 SEPTEMBER

Benchmark indices failed to hold on the early gains on Wednesday and ended on a negative note with Nifty below 25,400.

At close, the Sensex was down 131.43 points or 0.16 per cent at 82,948.23, and the Nifty was down 41 points or 0.16 per cent at 25,377.50.

During trading, Nifty reached a new all-time high of 25,482 points, approaching the 25,500 level.

Sensex also achieved a new record high of 83,326 points during the trade.

Small and midcap stocks underperformed the benchmark indices with the Nifty Midcap 100 dropping to 59,752 points, a 0.71 per cent fall, while the Nifty Smallcap 100 index also tumbled by 0.64 per cent to 19,389 points.



On Nifty 50, 29 stocks ended in the negative territory, with TCS leading at 3.4 per cent drop while Infosys, HCL Technologies, Tech Mahindra, Wipro, Bajaj Auto, Sun Pharmaceutical, and Tata Consumer Products, all of which dropped between 3.1 per cent and 1.5 per cent. Among the sectors, except

bank, all other indices ended in the red with Information Technology shed more than 3 per cent, while auto, pharma, metal, oil & gas down 0.5-1 per cent.

IT stocks experienced a sharp sell-off, leading the Nifty IT index to plunge by 3.7 per cent to 41,820 points, falling below the 42,000 mark

for the first time since September 9.

Mphasis emerged as the biggest loser, dropping 5.6 per cent. L&T Technology Services, Persistent Systems, Tata Consultancy Services, HCL Technologies, and Tech Mahindra followed closely, each trading with losses ranging between 3 per cent and 4 per cent.

It is to be highlighted that the banking stocks surged sharply as investors shifted their focus from the IT and pharmaceutical sectors. The Nifty Bank index ended the session with a 1.08 per cent gain, closing at 52,954 points, and hit a 10-week high during the day.

Reliance Infrastructure shares gained 20 per cent after the company settled and paid its entire obligations with Edelweiss Asset Reconstruction Co Ltd. Torrent Power gained

over 9 per cent after it received a Letter of Intent from Maharashtra State Electricity Distribution Company for procurement of 1,500 MW energy storage capacity from the Pumped Hydro Storage Project.

Further, the SBI Cards and Payment Services shares fell 1.6 per cent after it said it will raise Rs 5,000 crore via issue of non-convertible debentures (NCD).

The US Federal Reserve is scheduled to announce its monetary policy decision late night on Wednesday. The market is expecting a 25 bps cut in the key interest rate, marking the first reduction in four years.

The Fed chair's speech is expected to be a key policy event influencing sentiment in both domestic and global stock markets, which are seeking his direction on the start of the easing cycle.

Govt approves fixing NBS rates for Rabi season on Phosphatic and Potassic fertilizers

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 18 SEPTEMBER



The Union Cabinet has approved the proposal for fixing the Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) rates for the Rabi Season 2024 on Phosphatic and Potassic (P&K) fertilizers.

The proposal was shared by the Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers for fixing NBS rates for Rabi Season from October 1, 2024 to March 31, 2025.

The tentative budgetary requirement for Rabi season 2024 would be approximately Rs 24,475.53 crore, Cabinet said.

It said that the move will benefit in availability of fertilizers to farmers at subsidized, affordable and reasonable prices will be ensured.

Further, it will also help in rationalization of subsidy on P&K fertilizers in view of recent trends in the international prices of fertilizers and inputs. Notably, the subsidy on

P&K fertilizers will be provided based on approved rates for Rabi 2024 to ensure smooth availability of these fertilizers to the farmers at affordable prices.

The subsidy on P&K fertilizers is governed by NBS Scheme w.e.f April 1, 2010. In accordance with its farmer friendly approach, the Government is committed to ensure the availability of P&K fertilizers to the farmers at affordable prices.

In view of the recent trends in the international prices of fertilizers & inputs i.e. Urea, DAP, MOP and Sulphur, Government has decided to approve the NBS rates for Rabi 2024 effective from 01.10.24 to 31.03.25 on Phosphatic and Potassic (P&K) fertilizers.

Indian Railways becomes key driver of progress to high-income economy in a decade: From high-speed rail projects to widespread electrification, investments worth Rs 17.4 lakh crore between fiscals 2016 and 2025 are helping modernise Indian Railways and reinforce it as a key driver of India's progress to a high-income economy, a Crisil report said on Wednesday. Indian Railways has had a transformative journey over the past decade, marked by infrastructure development, technological advancement and a focus on enhancing operational efficiency. Indeed, railway capex for the period has clocked a compound annual growth rate of 12 per cent, the report mentioned. The government has committed to advancing each of the core elements of a rail system — tracks, trains and the extensive land to support it all.

ICICI Bank becomes 5th firm to cross ₹ 9 trillion m-cap



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 18 SEPTEMBER

ICICI Bank on Wednesday became the fifth Indian firm to cross market capitalisation of Rs 9 lakh crore for the first time. Notably, the private lender's shares rallied over 30 per cent so far in 2024.

The stock hit a record high of Rs 1,295 on BSE on Wednesday up 2 per cent from previous close with mcap standing at Rs 9.1 lakh crore.

ICICI Bank continued to deliver strong core operating

performance despite macro-economic challenges.

The bank has maintained solid business momentum across various segments, with management optimistic about robust deposit inflows to drive credit growth in the coming quarters.

In terms of the bank's recent performances, in Q1FY25, ICICI Bank's net interest income (NII) rose 7.3 per cent YoY and 2.4 per cent QoQ to Rs 19,553 crore, 1.3 per cent below estimates.

Pre-Provision Operating Profit (PPOP) grew 13.3 per

cent YoY and 6.6 per cent QoQ to Rs 16,025 crore. In the same quarter, the bank's NII increased by 28.8 per cent YoY but dropped 24.0 per cent QoQ.

Profit after tax jumped 14.6 per cent YoY and 3.3 per cent QoQ to Rs 11,059 crore, 2.8 per cent above estimates, driven by slightly higher-than-expected operating profits.

It is worth highlighting that recently, the analysts expect ICICI Bank to continue investing in branch expansion and digital banking, with a stable cost-to-income ratio supported by healthy revenues in FY25E/FY26E.

ICICI bank is well-capitalised to seize credit opportunities, and analysts believe its business momentum will support superior return ratios.

Indian pharma sector set for 8-10pc revenue growth this fiscal: Report



AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, 18 SEPTEMBER

After achieving about 10 per cent growth last year, the Indian pharmaceuticals sector is again set to log a revenue growth of 8-10 per cent this fiscal, according to a report on Wednesday.

The report by rating agency Crisil suggested that the growth is supported by healthy exports to regulated markets, recovery in exports to semi-regulated markets, and steady domestic demand.

The resultant improvement in operating leverage along with easing pricing pressure in the US generics market will improve operating margins by 70-80 basis points (bps) to about 22.5 per cent this fiscal. This will be on the back of an increase in margins by 100bps last fiscal.

Continued strong annual cash generation and low financial leverage, will support 'stable' credit profiles of play-

ers even as companies continue to pursue acquisitions in targeted therapeutic areas.

According to a CRISIL study of 190 drug makers, the sector accounts for about half of the Rs 4.1 lakh crore market last fiscal.

The pharmaceutical sector revenue pie is split almost equally between domestic sales and exports. Domestic formulation revenue comes equally from chronic and acute therapeutic segments.

As for exports, formulations, and bulk drugs contribute about 80 per cent and about 20 per cent, respectively. For formulations, 58 per cent of exports are for the regulated markets and 42 per cent of exports for the semi-regulated markets.

"Formulation exports are expected to grow 12-14 per cent in rupee terms this fiscal. The regulated markets of the US and Europe will witness a growth of 13-15 per cent, driven by continued drug shortages, easing pricing pressures in the US generics market, and the volume uptick expected from new product launches as well as players shifting focus towards niche molecules and specialty products," said Aniket Dani, Director, Crisil Market Intelligence and Analytics.

Tupperware files for bankruptcy protection amid mounting losses



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 18 SEPTEMBER

The famous food storage containers business, Tupperware Brands Corp. and some of its subsidiaries filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection.

It gives in to dwindling demand for its once- iconic food storage containers and mounting financial losses.

Notably, post-pandemic jump in costs of raw materials such as plastic resin, as well as labor and freight, further dented Tupperware margins.

The journey had a short-lived pandemic boost, when increased home cooking briefly drove demand for its colorful, airtight plastic containers.

As per the reports, Tupperware has been planning to file for bankruptcy protection after breaching the terms of its debt and enlisting

legal and financial advisers. Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the company, Laurie Goldman in a press release said, "Over the last several years, the company's financial position has been severely impacted by the challenging macroeconomic environment."

It is to be highlighted that Tupperware listed \$500 million-\$1 billion in estimated assets and \$1 billion-\$10 billion in estimated liabilities, according to bankruptcy filings in the US Bankruptcy Court for the District of Delaware.

It showed the number of creditors to be between 50,001-100,000. In 2023, the company finalized an agreement with its lenders to restructure its debt obligations, and signed investment bank Moelis Co to help explore strategic alternatives.

Classified

CHANGE OF NAME	CHANGE OF NAME	CHANGE OF NAME	COMPANY NOTICE
I, SHAIKH Nasima, W/o. Shaikh Anis Rahaman, R/o. Vill.: Argori, Tarafdar Para, P.O.: Argori, Sankrail, Howrah-711302, declare that vide an affidavit 1st Class Executive Magistrate Court Howrah on 12-09-2024 that "Shaikh Nasima", "Sekh Nasima", "Sk Nasima" and "Nasima Begum" are one and identical person.	and shall henceforth be known as Anindita Mandal Majee as declared before the Notary Public, Serampore Court, Hooghly, W.B., vide Affidavit No. 210 dated 10-09-24. Anindita Mandal Majee both are same and identical person.	09-24 before Judicial Magistrate, C.J.M. Court, Kol.-1.	PRABARTAK JUTE MILLS LIMITED Notice is hereby given that the Eighty Sixth Annual General Meeting of the company will be held on Friday, 27th September, 2024 at 12-30 P.M. at its Registered Office. Notice of the Annual General Meeting with Directors' and Auditors' Reports on the accounts for the year ended 31st March, 2024 being posted. Register of Members and Share Transfer books of the company will remain closed from 20th to 27th September, 2024 (both days inclusive). Regd. Office: 33A, Jawahar Lal Nehru Road, Chatterjee International Centre, 17th Floor, Room No. 9A, Kolkata-700071. Registration No.: U17119WB1935PLC008462 By Order of the Board B. M. Mall Managing Director Dated: 18th September, 2024 Place: Kolkata
I, SHAIKH Anis Rahaman, S/o. Late Sk Babur Ali, R/o. Vill. + P.O.: Argori, Tarafdar Para, Sankrail, Howrah-711302 declare that vide an affidavit 1st Class Judicial Magistrate Court Howrah on 12-03-2019 that "Shaikh Anis Rahaman" "Sk Anis Rahaman", "SK Anis Rahaman" and "Sk Anisr Rahaman" is one and same identical person.	I, CHAYNA Mahanta, spouse of No.-2998163k Ex-Hav Tushar Kanti Mahanta, resident of 7/1H Rajabagan Lane, Dist.: Kolkata, Pin-700030 have changed my name from Chayna Das to Chayna Mahanta vide affidavit dated 28 August, 2024 before the Judicial Magistrate, Calcutta.	I, CHAMALI Jana, W/o. Sri Tarak Nath Jana, residing at Vill.+P.O.: Birampur, P.S.: Bagnan, Dist.: Howrah, do hereby declared that in my husband's PPO vide No. S/033005/93 (Army) and Corrigendum PPO my name has been written as Chameli. Henceforth, I shall be known as Chameli Jana and D.O.B. 04-05-1953 vide affidavit sworn before the Court of Judicial Magistrate 1st Class at Uluberia, Howrah on 10-5-2024.	TENDERS TENDER Dum Dum Girls High School, 2/1 U. K. Dutta Road, Kolkata - 700028 invites e Tender for details go to https://wb.tenders.gov.in Id 2024_DSE_751362_1
I, PRADIP Kumar Sancheti, son of Late Indra Chand Sancheti, residing at 1/C, New Road, Alipore, Kolkata-700027 have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as (new name) Pradip Sancheti as declared before the Notary Public vide Affidavit No. 25/24 dated 17-09-2024 (old name) Pradip Kumar Sancheti and (new name) Pradip Sancheti both are same and identical person.	I, UDIT Kr Saxena, S/o. Umesh Kumar Saxena, residing at 15/6, Karfarma Lane, P.O.: Beadon Street, P.S.: Jorabagan, Kolkata-700006, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Udit Kumar Saxena as declared before the Learned Metropolitan Magistrate at Calcutta vide Affidavit No. 753 Dated 16-05-2017. Udit Kr Saxena and Udit Kumar Saxena both are same and identical person.	I, GAUTAM Dasgupta, son of Late Nara Narayan Dasgupta, residing at 49C, Gobindapur Road, Golpark Housing, Flat-15/G/A1, Kolkata-700045, P.S.: Lake, do hereby solemnly affirm and declare that 'Gautam Dasgupta', 'Goutam Dasgupta' and 'Goutom Dasgupta' is the one, same and identical person. This has been sworn before the Learned Judicial Magistrate, First Class, Affidavit Section, Calcutta on 18th September, 2024, vide an Affidavit No. 2539. Henceforth, by virtue of the said affidavit, that everywhere I am using my name as 'Gautam Dasgupta'.	The Statesman CLASSIFIED TO BOOK AN ADVERTISEMENT PLEASE CALL 98308 74087 9830780924
I, ANINDITA Majee, W/o. Asim Kumar Majee, have changed my name	I, ANITA Chowdhury, W/o. Panchu Chowdhury swear that my son Shivam Chowdhary changed his name to Shivam Chowdhury vide Affidavit No. 2324 dt. 17-		The Statesman Readers are requested to make appropriate enquiries and seek appropriate advice before sending money, incurring any expenses, acting on medical recommendations or entering into any commitment in relation to any advertisement published in this publication. The Statesman Group doesn't vouch any claim made by the advertisers of products and services. The printer, publisher, Editor and owners of The Statesman Group publications shall not be held liable for any consequences, in the event such claims are not honoured by the advertisers. For any loss incurred, the onus lies entirely with advertisers and not with the publication.

Indian markets resilient over last 2 decades after US Fed rate cuts: Report

AGENCIES
MUMBAI, 18 SEPTEMBER

The Indian benchmark indices have been resilient over the last two decades irrespective of US Fed Reserve stance on rate cuts, a report showed on Wednesday.

Set to announce a fresh rate cut during the Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) meeting, US Fed has had six alternating easing and tightening cycles over the last 34 years.

For Indian markets, the most productive cycle was the US Fed's easing cycle from July 1990 to February 1994 where Nifty witnessed a gain of 310 per cent, followed by the tightening cycle in June 2004 to September 2007 where it witnessed a gain of 202 per cent, according to a report by Capitalmind Financial Services.

The only stretches of negative Nifty returns came during tightening cycles in February 1994 to July 1995 at -23 per cent and March 1997 to September 1998 at -14 per cent.

The median Nifty return on the day after the announcement (since the Fed announcement happens after India close) is -0.2 per cent. Nifty has outpaced or, at worst, matched the S&P500 in local currency



terms over the last two decades.

According to Anoop Vijaykumar, Investments and Head of Research at Capitalmind, of the 78 US Fed announcements in the last 34 years, Nifty has witnessed a positive change on 50 accounts on the following trading day of the announcement.

The year 1995 was the only calendar year to witness both rate increases and decreases by the US Fed. "Since the global financial crisis (GFC) in 2008, rates

have been perennially low until 2016, when the Fed started raising rates after years of Quantitative Easing. However, COVID-19 called for drastic measures and rates were again reduced before the ensuing unprecedented inflation caused the Fed to raise rates quickly to levels not seen in over two decades," Vijaykumar explained.

In the last three decades, the most frequent Fed action has been an increase of 25 bps, which has been done 39 times.

While the Fed announced a 50bps rate cut 10 times in the last three decades, which has resulted in a median return of +1.6 per cent for the Nifty. A 25bps cut has been followed by a more modest -0.5 per cent median Nifty return.

While easing US interest rates are directionally positive for equities in general, "we should keep in mind interest rates are just one variable in a complex adaptive system that determines the direction of Indian equity markets", said Vijaykumar.

Aussie cops infiltrate 'Ghost' app used by criminals, arrest dozens

Australian police have prevented 50 people from being killed, kidnapped or seriously hurt by monitoring threats among 125,000 messages and 120 video calls since March, Schofield said

ASSOCIATED PRESS MELBOURNE, 18 SEPTEMBER

Australian police said Wednesday they have infiltrated Ghost, an encrypted global communications app developed for criminals, leading to dozens of arrests.

The app's alleged administrator, Jay Je Yoon Jung, 32, appeared in a Sydney court Wednesday on charges including supporting a criminal organization and benefiting from proceeds of crime.

Jung did not enter pleas or apply to be released on bail. He will remain behind bars until his case returns to court in November.

Australian police arrested 38 suspects in raids across four states in recent days while law enforcement agencies were also making arrests in Canada, Sweden, Ireland and Italy, Australian Federal Police Deputy Commissioner Ian McCartney said.

"We allege hundreds of criminals including Italian



organized crime, motorcycle gang members, Middle Eastern organized crime and Korean organized crime have used Ghost in Australia and overseas to import illicit drugs and order killings," McCartney told reporters.

Australian police had prevented 50 people from being killed, kidnapped or seriously hurt by monitoring threats among 125,000 messages and 120 video calls since March, Assistant Commissioner Kirsty

Schofield said. Police allege the Jung developed the app specifically for criminal use in 2017.

Australia joined a Europol-led global task force targeting Ghost in 2022.

Col. Florian Manet, who heads France's Home Affairs Ministry National Cyber Command Technical Department, said in a statement issued by Australian police that his officers provided technical resources to the task force

over several years that helped decrypt the communications.

McCartney said the French had "provided a foot in the door" for Australian police to decrypt Ghost communications. Australian police technicians were able to modify software updates regularly pushed out by the administrator, McCartney said.

"In effect, we infected the devices, enabling us to access the content on Australian devices," McCartney said,

Col. Florian Manet, who heads France's Home Affairs Ministry National Cyber Command Technical Department, said in a statement issued by Australian police that his officers provided technical resources to the task force over several years that helped decrypt the communications.

adding that the alleged administrator lived in his parents' Sydney home and had no police record.

Jung was arrested at his home on Tuesday. Police say Jung used a network of resellers to offer specialized handsets to criminals around the world.

The modified smartphones sold for 2,350 Australian dollars (\$1,590) which included a six-month subscription to Ghost and tech support.

North Korea test-fired ballistic missiles in latest military display, neighbours say



ASSOCIATED PRESS SEOUL, 18 SEPTEMBER

North Korea on Wednesday test-fired multiple ballistic missiles toward its eastern seas, the South Korean and Japanese militaries said, adding to its military demonstrations as tensions with Washington and neighbors escalate.

The launches came days after North Korea offered a rare view into a secretive facility built to enrich uranium for nuclear bombs as leader Kim Jong Un called for a rapid expansion of his nuclear

weapons program. South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said it detected North Korea firing multiple short-range ballistic missiles from north of its capital, Pyongyang, and said they traveled about 400 kilometers (244 miles) while flying toward the north-east.

The joint chiefs said it was closely communicating with the United States and Japan while analyzing the launches but didn't immediately provide further flight details.

Japan's defense ministry said it detected at least two

missiles but didn't immediately say what types of missiles they were and how far they flew.

Japan's coast guard said the missiles were believed to have already fallen into waters between the Korean Peninsula and Japan and urged vessels to watch out for falling objects. Japan's NHK television said the missiles were believed to have landed outside of Japan's exclusive economic zone.

The South Korean joint chiefs condemned the launches as a provocation that "seriously threatens peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula." It said in a statement that South Korean and U.S. militaries were closely monitoring North Korean activities while maintaining a combined defense posture "to respond overwhelmingly to any provocation."

North Korea didn't immediately confirm the launches. They followed a previous round of ballistic tests last week as Kim vowed to have his nuclear force fully ready for battle with its rivals.

Mali troops put down a deadly militant attack in the capital

ASSOCIATED PRESS BAMAKO, 18 SEPTEMBER

Mali troops subdued the Islamic militants who attacked a military training camp and the airport in Mali's capital Tuesday after gunbattles that killed some soldiers, authorities said. An al-Qaida-linked group claimed the attack.

The militants tried to infiltrate the Faladie military police school in Bamako in a rare attack for the capital before government troops were able to "neutralize" the attackers, army Chief of Staff Oumar Diarra said on national TV, without elaborating.

At least 15 suspects were arrested, a security official who was inside the training camp at the time of the attack told



The Associated Press. He spoke on condition of anonymity because he wasn't authorized to talk to reporters.

"This cowardly and perfidious attack led to some losses of life on the army's side," the army said in a statement read on national television in the evening, confirming that trainees at the military training camp were killed but not saying

how many. Mali's army also confirmed the militants targeted the airport, in the statement.

The al-Qaida-linked militant group JNIM claimed responsibility for the attacks on its website Azallaq. Videos posted by JNIM show fighters setting a plane on fire. The group claimed to have inflicted "major human and material losses."

An AP reporter heard two explosions in the area earlier Tuesday and saw smoke rise from a location on the outskirts of the city where the camp and airport are located. Soon after the attacks, Mali's authorities closed the airport, with Transport Ministry spokesman Mohamed Ould Mamouni saying flights were suspended because of the exchange of gunfire nearby. The airport reopened later in the day. The U.S. Embassy in Bamako told its staff to remain at home and stay off the roads.

Mali, along with its neighbors Burkina Faso and Niger, has for more than a decade battled an insurgency fought by armed groups, including some allied with al-Qaida and the Islamic State group.

Iran's President wants stronger ties with Russia to mitigate effect of Western sanctions

AGENCIES TEHRAN, 18 SEPTEMBER

Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian (photo) said that strengthening cooperation between Tehran and Moscow would help mitigate the impacts of Western sanctions and "unjust" measures imposed on both nations.

Pezeshkian made the remarks on Tuesday in a meeting with visiting Secretary of the Russian Federation Security Council Sergei Shoigu, according to a statement on the website of his office.

Emphasising the background of "constructive" rela-



tions between Iran and Russia, Pezeshkian said bilateral ties would be developed on a "permanent, continuous, and lasting path."

He affirmed that his administration is committed to advancing cooperation and enhancing the relationship between the two nations,

Xinhua news agency reported.

Shoigu, for his part, conveyed a message from Russian President Vladimir Putin, affirming that Moscow's position on cooperation with Iran on regional issues remains unchanged. Earlier in the day, Shoigu met with Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council Ali Akbar Ahmadian to review the agreements between the two countries, reported the semi-official Fars news agency.

In response to US sanctions, Iran and Russia have recently strengthened their political and economic relations to counter the US moves.

TENDER

CORRIGENDUM
Due to unavoidable circumstances the date of submission of Technical Bid tender up to 23-09-2024 at 4:00 P.M. against this office e-NIT No. 107 /UDZP /24-25 & 110 /UDZP /24-25 and the opening of Technical Bid extended up to 24-09-2024 at 4:00 P.M.

www.wbtenders.gov.in

Sd/-
District Engineer
Uttar Dinajpur
Zilla Parishad

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER
Notice Inviting e-Tenders against 1 (One) No. work of P.W. Deptt. within Englishbazar Municipality, details of which will be available at <https://wbtenders.gov.in> Tender Ids: 2024_MAD_752786_1. Bid submission closing date: 01-10-2024 at 4:00 p.m.

Sd/-
Chairman
Englishbazar Municipality
Malda

BRIEF REFERRAL
The undersigned invites e-QUOTATION vide No. 1038/Elec. Date: 11-09-2024 for printing of Electoral Roll. For details pl. visit: <http://wbtenders.gov.in> / www.uttardinajpur.nic.in and Office Notice Board.

For DM & DEO
Uttar Dinajpur

NEW BARRACKPORE MUNICIPALITY
New Barrackpore, Kolkata-700131

CORRIGENDUM
NIT No. WBMAD/ULBNB/NIT-52/24-25 Tender ID: 2024_MAD_749552_1 to 2024_MAD_749552_11

Due to some unavoidable circumstance the Bid Submission closing (Online) date 21/09/2024 10.00 Hrs. and Bid opening date for Technical Proposals (Online) 23/09/2024 17.00 Hrs. are to be changed as 25/09/2024 and 27/09/2024 respectively. Detailed information is available at <https://wbtenders.gov.in> & New Barrackpore Municipal website www.nbmonline.org.

Sd/- Executive Officer
New Barrackpore Municipality

e-Tender Notice
e-Tenders are hereby invited from the bonafide Contractor vide NIT- 09/BGGP/2024-25, dated- 19.09.2024. Last date of submission Bids (Online) 25.09.2024 upto 1.00 PM. Others details can be seen from the notice board of the undersigned in any working days also as well as in <http://wbtenders.gov.in>.

Sd/-
Pradhan
Buraganj GP

CENTRAL RAILWAY
OPEN TENDER NOTICE NO. DYCECWIR-09-2024 DATED 13-09-2024

Name of work: "Earthwork and execution of Building work for SP/SSP/TSS in Wardha-Yavatmal New BG line section in Connection with Wardha-Pusad-Nanded New BG Line Railway Project." Approximate cost: Rs. 20,30,93,255.24. Completion Period: 12 Months. EMD: Rs. 11,65,500.00 Date and time of closing of tender: 08.10.2024 at 15.00 Hrs. Complete details and instruction for E-Tendering and on line participation for the work is available on the railway's website www.ireps.gov.in

Dy. Chief Engineer (Con.), CR, Wardha
अनेत ज्ञानवर्ती को रेल लाइन से दूर रखें

e-TENDER NOTICE
Office of the BDO Banarhat Block, Jalpaiguri

Notice Inviting e-Tender by the undersigned for different works vide NIT No. BANARHAT / EO / NIT-019 / 2023-24 (4th Call). Last date of online bid submission: 01-10-24 at 5:00 P.M. respectively. For further details you may visit: <https://wbtenders.gov.in>

Sd/-
BDO, Banarhat Block

NOTICE INVITING E-QUOTATION
The Chairman, Berhampore Municipality, invites e-Quotations for Supply and delivery at site of 4 (four) numbers of Tractor with Hydraulic Trolley, NleQ No. 13/BM/2024-25, Tender ID No. 2024_MAD_752918_1 and last date of bid submission is 03-10-2024 up to 5 P.M. (Online) details will be available at www.wbtenders.gov.in

Sd/-
Chairman
Berhampore Municipality

E-Tender Notice
MSETCL invites online bids (E Tender) from registered contractors / agencies on Mahatransco E-Tendering website <http://srm.tender.mahatransco.in>; for following works.

Re-Tender No.: CE/EHV PC O&M Zone/Pune/T-44/2024-25 RFX No. 7000033423

Subject: Re-Tender (2nd call) for the Work Contract for the work of replacement of normal/antifog type porcelain disc insulators by antifog long rod porcelain disc insulators along with DSN/DTN hardware of various 400kV lines under EHV O&M Circle, Pune.

Tender Amount: Rs. 16,72,26,102/- EMD: Rs. 16,72,261/- Tender Fees: Rs. 25,000/- +GST.

Download of Tender Documents: From dtd. 19/09/2024 @10:00 Hrs to dtd. 26/09/2024 up to 10:00 Hrs.

Bid Opening : Dtd. 26/09/2024 after 10:05Hrs (Tech.); Dtd. 27/09/2024 after 11:00Hrs (Price)

For further details visit our website <http://mahatransco.in> and open above RFX for downloading tender document, schedules, and annexures.

Sd/-
Chief Engineer, EHV PC O&M Zone Pune.

HOWRAH MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
4 BANATMA GARDH ROAD, HOWRAH-711011 Fax: 633 2631 2211/2212, Fax: 633 2641 8933, www.hmcc.in

Executive Engineer, H.M.C. invites e-tender as furnished below. Interested tenders are to submit offers along with valid PAN Card, GST, I.T., ITR, Trade License & credentials.

Sl. No.	Name of work	Tender No. & Date
1.	Supply, installation and commissioning of 1 No. new pit less type 80 ton capacity unarmoured Weigh Bridge at Belgachia Trenching ground, under Howrah Municipal Corporation.	No. 010 / Cons. / 24-25 Date: 13-09-2024
2.	Carrying of segregated waste works of various places under H.M.C. Ward No. (21 & 23), (35 & 32), (2, 3, 4, 5, 10, 27, 28), (34 & 37), (8, 11, 12), (40, 42, 43, 44), (26 & 28), 22, 38	No. 011 / Cons. / 24-25 Date: 13-09-2024

Bid submission closing (online): 05-10-2024 up to 5-00 p.m.
Please visit: <https://wbtenders.gov.in>

63/3/24-25, 18-09-24 Executive Engineer, Howrah Municipal Corporation

Indicative Tender Notice
Notice No.: SER/P-HQ/RRC/GDCE/2024 Date: 17.09.2024

An open tender for engagement of Exam. Conducting Agency (ECA) to conduct Computer Based Tests (CBTs) and all related activities for recruitment for various posts notified in GDCE Notifications for 03 years over South Eastern Railway have been published on GeM-IREPS website www.ireps.gov.in. Brief details are furnished below: Tender No.: RRC-SER-ECA-GDCE-1. Date of publication: 13.09.2024. Pre-bid Conference date: 20.09.2024 at 16.00 hrs. Bidding start date: 23.09.2024. Closing date and time: 07.10.2024 at 15.00 hrs. Bidding System: Two Packet System. Advertised Value: ₹ 2,09,25,000. EMD: ₹ 2,54,600. Period of Completion: 36 months.

(PR-620) Chairman, RRC

South Eastern Railway
We serve with a smile

E-AUCTION NOTICE FOR LEASING OF SLR/LVPH
E-Auction notice no. LEASE-KGP-2024-18 Date : 17.09.2024

For and on behalf of the President, Union of India, the Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Kharagpur Division, South Eastern Railway invites e-Auction for leasing of SLR/LVPHs for a period of 02 (Two) years for transportation of parcels in the trains which are notified in the <https://www.ireps.gov.in> website. Sl. No. 1, Category : Parcel, Catalogue No. : LEASE-KGP-2024-18. Date of Auction : 03.10.2024. Auction Start Time : 11:00 hrs. Auction Closing Time : 12:10 hrs. Interested parties and contractors to take note of this and go through the website as mentioned above for details of the trains and related information about the E-Auction notice. For enquiries/clarifications, if any, please contact the office of the undersigned.

(PR-623) Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Kharagpur

South Eastern Railway
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NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY
No. CEN-CAR-CPU-2024-25-07 Dated: 12.09.2024

E-TENDER NOTICE
Deputy Chief Engineer (Construction), Planning, N.C. Railway, Prayagraj for and on behalf of the President of India invites e-Tenders for "Project Supervision Services (PSS) for "Chunar-Chopan doubling Project including all Bridges Civil works, P.ways, safety, quality control, planning, and execution in Chunar Chohan section and construction of two lane ROB at LC No.37 in Sonbhadra yard in Uttar Pradesh." (Two packets System) for the following works:

Description of work : "Project Supervision Services (PSS) for "Chunar-Chopan doubling Project including all Bridges Civil works, P.ways, safety, quality control, planning, and execution in Chunar Chohan section and construction of two lane ROB at LC No.37 in Sonbhadra yard in Uttar Pradesh".

Approx. Cost : Rs. 11.64 Crore Date of closing Tender : 24.10.2024

Completion period : 36 months

Tenders online can be submitted up to 11:00 hrs. on 24.10.2024
For full details and submission of bid please see the Indian Railways website www.ireps.gov.in 1648/24 (AS)

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

PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LTD.
(Regd. Office PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala)
Corporate Identification Number: U-40109PB20185GC033813
Website: www.pspin.com
(Contact number 96461-192991)

Tender Inquiry No.03/2024-25/PWMDI Dated:18.09.2024

Dy. Chief Engineer/PWs & MDI Circle, PSPCL, E-4, Shakti Vihar, Patiala, invites e-tender for the work of Manufacturing, stacking, curing and testing of 68900 no. 9m long FCC poles & 2560 no.11mm long PCC poles as per PSPCL specifications at Pilot Workshop, Mohali. For detailed NIT & tender specification, please refer to <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> from 02.00 PM onwards.

Note: Corrigendum and addendum, if any, will be published online at <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> c797/24

Abridge Copy of e-Tender for Corrigendum-I being invited by the Executive Engineer, WBSRDA, Alipurduar Division vide 03 / APD / WBSRDA / POSTDLP/MAINTENANCE / 2024-25, Dated: 03-09-2024. Details may be seen in the State Govt. portal: <https://wbtenders.gov.in> / www.wbprdnic.in & office Notice Board.

Sd/- Executive Engineer & Head of PIU
WBSRDA Alipurduar Division

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY
E-Procurement Tender Notice No. 24/63 Dt. 13.09.2024

On behalf of the President of India, The Principal Chief Materials Manager, North Central Railway, Prayagraj, (An ISO 9001:2015 certified unit) invites the following E-Procurement Tenders.

S. No.	Tender No.	Short Description	Qty.	Tender Opening Date
1	6324RC02	This is tender to enter into Rate Contract for Manufacture and supply of Fittings for Thick Web Switches.	1213 Sets	07.10.2024
2	30242230A	AXLE BOX HOUSING	1400 Nos.	09.10.2024
3	30242135	GUIDE WITH CLOSING PLATE	4170 Nos.	10.10.2024
4	30242047	YAW DAMPER	1738 Nos.	15.10.2024
5	6324RC03	This is tender to enter into Rate Contract for Manufacture and Supply of Various types of Washers [MS Tapered T-3930 & Spherical T-023 (M)]	1130999 nos.	21.10.2024
6	64245250	Clutch Assembly Complete	10 Nos.	14.10.2024
7	50241523	Supply of 6 Core cable	140 KM	09.10.2024
8	50235555A	SMPS Based IPS	89 Nos.	14.10.2024

Note: The complete information of above tenders can be seen and downloaded from IREPS website i.e. <http://www.ireps.gov.in>. For any change/corrigendum in tender, please visit this website regularly. No separate corrigendum/change will be published in news paper. 1643/24 (MG)

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

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY
E-Tender Notice No. CEN00AGC1624 Date: 13.09.2024

E-Tender Notice
Deputy Chief Engineer (Construction), North Central Railway, Agra Cantt for and on behalf of the President of India invites in Two PACKET (E-RA) open tender on prescribed forms online (E-Tendering). Tender offer can be submitted online up to 15.00 hours of 08.10.2024, on website <http://ireps.gov.in>. The details of the tenders are as under:

Description of work: Construction of two lane ROB in lieu of LC no 469 by providing 1x54.00 m Bow string Girder at km-1300/10-12 between Mania-Dholpur station of AGC-DHO section, two lane ROB in lieu of LC 3AB between TDL- JAB in Agra - Tundla Section by providing 42 m Bowstring and 18 m Composite Girder. Construction of ROB at LC no 18 at Km 254-5 on IDH-BKI section (INACHHNERA YARD).

Approx Cost ₹ : ₹ 107.50 Crore (App.) Earnest Money in ₹ : ₹ 55.25,200/-

Completion Period: 24 Months including harvest & monsoon period

Date of opening : 08.10.2024 Validity : 90 days

Note: For complete details and submission of tender please see Indian Railway's website <http://www.ireps.gov.in>. 1641/24(DG)

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

Evolution of Salt Lake

ASHOK CHATTERJEE

The book deals with the many facets of Salt Lake, its birth (1956), rise into a township (1962) and its present avatar. What is little known to most of us readers or the residents of the township is the existence of the Salt Lakes, the marshy lands and how life existed there.

The local history apart, the book also gives the readers an insight into how the place used to be a bird's paradise and many rare varieties would frequent the place from around and afar.

The book traces the time when habitation first started in the 1830s. Going earlier, in the 18th century, the author says the place (eastern fringes) were known as malicious jungles and the huge waterbody was part of Sundarbans. Bidyadhari river used to flow through the jungles, the wetlands served as the backwater swamp. The brackish water was saline in nature and so, the British started calling this place, Salt Lakes.

The writer has done some extensive research in forking out information from the British newspaper archives and maps. He goes back three centuries to trace the formation of Salt Lakes. Tracing reports from the European magazines and newspapers, the author mentions a monstrous storm on 11 to 12 October, 1737 and an accompanying earthquake around the same time, which caused widespread destruction and deaths in lakhs. That catastrophe

led to the formation of the Salt Lakes and the marshy land turned into a forest.

Author Ray has divided the chapters based on the timeline, with the earlier chapters chronicling the transition from marshy lands to a township and then again, the later chapters mentioning about the historical, sociological importance of the place. This tells us how the early Salt Lake played a role in India's freedom movement and it developed into a trade hub with boats carrying goods from Bangladesh and afar through the Kestopur canal, traces of which are still there.

The author, who is presently employed with the state government as assistant labour commissioner said the motivation to write this book came to him as he wanted to know the unknown facts of the city. "People have a certain interest in Salt Lake. I also live here and wanted to know how it came about and wanted to let people know the history of this place. Through more awareness, we can save portions of it. There is no recorded history of this place though it is such an important address today. A book by Bhupesh Kumar Pramanik has some scattered information. As a People's Green Bench member, my interest grew further on Salt Lake. The PGB is into the local history of a place, researching the place. The source of most of my information is libraries. I have been researching this for close to 15 years," said Mr Ray.

The author also used to bring out a magazine, *Ekti Shohorer Kotha*, which has now shut shop, where he first wrote about Salt Lake. "This book is a compilation of all the articles I wrote in the magazine. The few remaining traces of the earlier Salt Lake, including Mahishbathan, I visit once in a while. These areas are still underdeveloped. Only the major Salt Lake areas were developed, spread over 12 sq km, confined to Sector 1, 2 and 3. Originally, the Salt Lake area was over 45 sq km. A few parts of it are protected under the Kolkata Wetlands," added the author.

Now, the author plans another edition of the book with pictures of birds, which used to flock in this part earlier. Some of them still flock to the New Town area, added the writer.

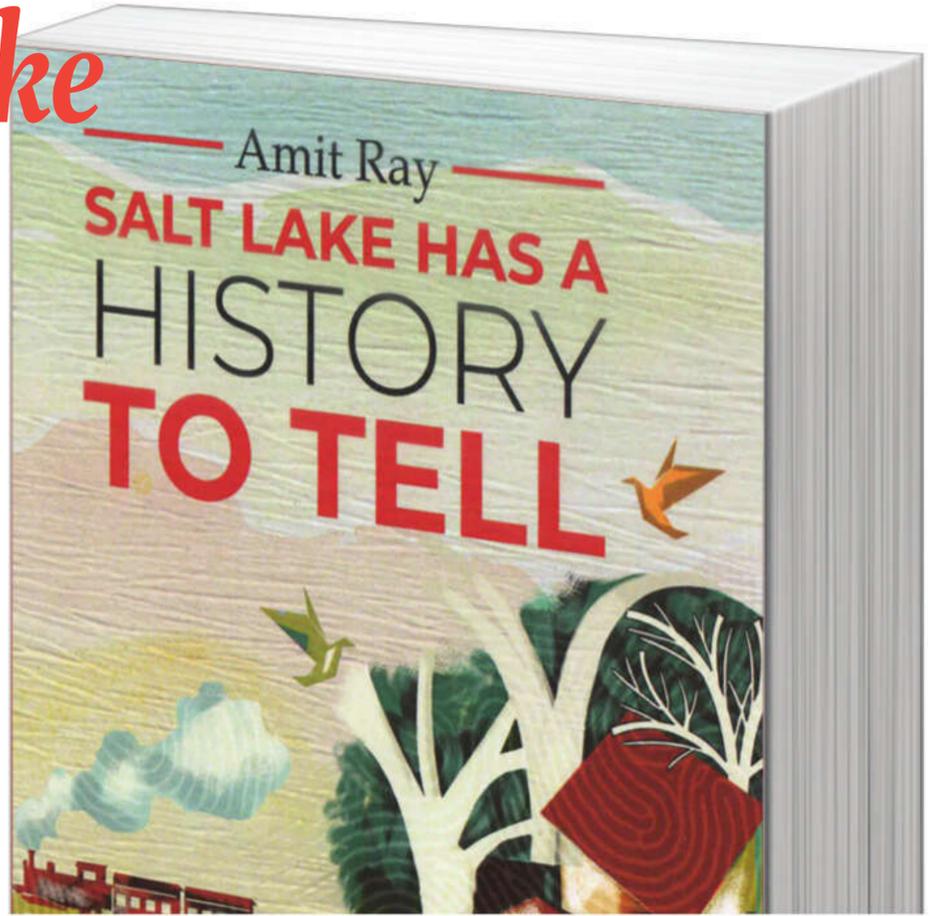
Spot Light

SALT LAKE HAS A HISTORY TO TELL

BY AMIT RAY

NILANJANA PRAKASANI, 2024

RS 120/-



A voice of courage and protest

NABANITA SENGUPTA

"I can say with confidence that it is my determination that has brought me to this place" (159).

The book, *I, Salma* ends with this statement. It is the closing remark of an extensive interview of the poet Salma taken by Chandana Dutta as a part of this text. This statement aptly summarises the entire ethos of Rajathi Samsudeen, aka Salma's works. When one has to fight long and arduous battles against orthodoxy, exploitation, violence and discrimination, not just within society but also within one's home, it takes a strong determination or will to succeed. Reading Salma's story is reading a story of an iron will and a never-say-die attitude.

I, Salma is not just a book but a celebration of a woman who has become a feminist icon through her lived experiences and her writings against patriarchy. As the title suggests, it is the reiteration of the self, as pitted against the authoritative forces that stand against the freedom, dignity and identity of an individual, particularly if the identity is that of a marginalised person. It is a call to recognise the power of a woman, a reclaiming of her identity through the power of her pen. In a uniquely composed book that brings together several intellectuals in their capacities as translators, interviewer and essayists, *I, Salma* is a significant addition to the repertoire of feminist studies, marginal literature and of course, poetry.

Poems of Salma, translated by K Srilata and Shobhna Kumar, form the central body of the book. The poems are in Salma's own words, her 'freedom song'. Indian poetry has a long history of protest poems and Salma's works significantly contribute to that. Poetry has been used as a tool to communicate issues related to oppression, violence, identity politics, and much more. Works of women poets like Akka Mahadevi, Lal Ded and in more recent years, Kamala Das, the contemporary Meena Kandaswamy, to name a few, boast of a legacy of poetry that resisted the traditional expectations of society from women and questioned the legitimacy of such expectations. Salma's verses too speak against meaningless conventions and restrictions imposed upon women in general and Muslim women in particular. Her poems strike the readers with their directness and simplicity. Her voice is that of the one who has suffered, one who has fought this battle almost single handedly. That adds a strong note of authenticity to her poems. They speak of resistance and solidarity. They also speak of the body – the female body as a site of violence, the stigma attached to it, the need to be liberated from the patriarchal notions of the female body.

In the first poem of the anthology, the poet talks about 'Self Portrait', which she knows "has been drawn in bold strokes" (21). This is an apt introduction to the poet, who is unapologetic in speaking up against exploitation and authoritarianism. The poems that follow unravel this bold self through verses that are brutally honest, shredding through the patriarchy and its trappings.

The poetry section of this book has been divided into five parts, titled respectively 'Between Waking and Sleeping', 'Dreams', 'The Deep Night', 'The Waking Rays of Dawn' and the last one, 'Beginnings' by the translators, according to their readings of Salma's poems and the tropes that they located in these. It is difficult to categorise Salma's poems as they blend into each other, yet a loose thematic resemblance can be traced in the categorisation.

The first section contains poems that talk about the anxieties of a conjugal relationship, loss of sovereignty of a woman over her body that comes with marriage, motherhood toils, as well as loss of childhood innocence and shelter. "This bed only fuels fearful/ thoughts of pregnancy./ This bed is a weapon/ in the hands of its master" (22), says the poet in the poem, 'When all traces have disappeared'. Marital bed becomes the site of a battlefield where the man exercises complete control over the woman's or wife's body. An interesting composition in this section is the poem 'Rain of Parting'. Constructed as a poem with two voices – one that is awakened to reality and the other voice that 'dreams', it is a suitable closing to this section titled 'Between Waking and Sleeping'. It speaks of the loneliness of a woman, her solace in memories, and her pain.

The poems in the section 'Dreams' also speak of the loneliness of the woman and the "stench of unsought sex, unwanted" (53). In Salma's poems, dreams are often nightmares. In the poem, 'The Sisters of Waris Dirie', she raises voice against female genital mutilation, a practice followed in many communities –

"Pierced by the pointed edges of sharpened tools, these tender flowers pulsate with pain in the wind." (45) Salma writes of the body, with the body. In many ways, her poems exemplify the 'écriture féminine' in a way that it should mean within this subcontinent. By talking of the 'stitched yonis', 'unsought sex', and many similar examples scattered throughout her poems, she creates a language that disrupts the conventional patriarchal discourses of female sexuality.

The poems in the section 'The Deep Night', speak of nights of agony, betrayal, loneliness and violence. The section begins with the need to build a fortress around the self.

"On the ruins of an open field I build a fortress to protect myself now." (59)

There is a search for peace in solitude because the company does not allow it to the woman. In 'The story of a Deep Night' we meet another anguished woman whose partner is revolted by the "fat body, with its stretch marks" (63). The father remains 'unmarked by their birth' while it is the mother who bears the pain of birthing as well as the marks of that pain. Yet, instead of bearing the dissatisfaction of the man in silence, the woman here has the courage to ask, "Wasn't it with you that it began – that first phase of my downfall?"

The women in Salma's poem question, protest and fight for their space in this world. This indomitable spirit is captured

in the poem, 'The One Who has Become Herself', in which the woman retorts, "You've been eliminating me from history" (69) on being asked to "cover (her) body. Guard (your) youth".

After 'The Deep Night' comes the next section, 'Waking Rays of Dawn'. Ironically, the section begins with a poem referring to hysterectomy, "may the womb find peace at least now" (76). The idea of femininity, which revolves around a woman's reproductive organ and gives her social validity through motherhood, is challenged when the woman "declares in a voice that holds no fear, 'Now I am half woman'". The poet also talks about the growing up of a son and the growing away, a distance that every mother has to cover. The poems in this section talk about the ailing grandmother and blossoming friendships, shifting the focus from marital relations and sexual abuses for a

The final section of the poems is titled 'Beginnings'. Poems in 'Beginnings' are mostly poems of realisation, of the self and the other. There is no new 'beginning' in the literal sense of the word, but in many ways, they are a continuation. The opening poem of this section, 'What else to do' (89) is coming to terms with an understanding of the self and a realisation that there is nothing more can be done apart from an acceptance of that understanding. 'Angles' in a few lines highlight the ways in which we look at the other from our perspective "with fear and wonder" (90). The poet understands 'Violence' (100) as betrayal of the body. The everyday movements of the woman through the social space is often a trespassing of her physical self, a violence that women have to deal with throughout.

The poems of Salma are hard-hitting and thought provoking. They compel the readers to take note of the issues that the poet raises. Poetry translation has often been associated with a sense of loss. In spite of Robert Frost's aphorism of poetry being what gets lost in translation, these poems read remarkably well. One of the measures of successful translation is to reach the target readers in a way that the translation does not read as translation. That means the translated pieces can stand on their own as creative work. The poems in *I, Salma* translated by K. Srilata and Shobhna Kumar do just that. Without any knowledge of Tamil language, the Source Language of Salma's poems, I cannot be a judge of the exactness of translation or their degrees of fidelity. But as a reader of poetry, I can feel the poems reaching out to me. The anger, the disillusionment, resistance and retaliation, all of these are well articulated through these poems. The craft of poetry has also been taken care of. Short lines, precise expressions and minimalist footnotes have helped in retaining the sharpness of the poems. Inclusion of a rich metatext in the form of an introduction, a translators' note, three significant essays on the poet and an extensive interview, has complimented the poems in a meaningful way. For readers of poetry in translation, a background helps in a deeper appreciation of the text. These metatexts help the readers understand the world and worldview of Salma in a more engaged manner.

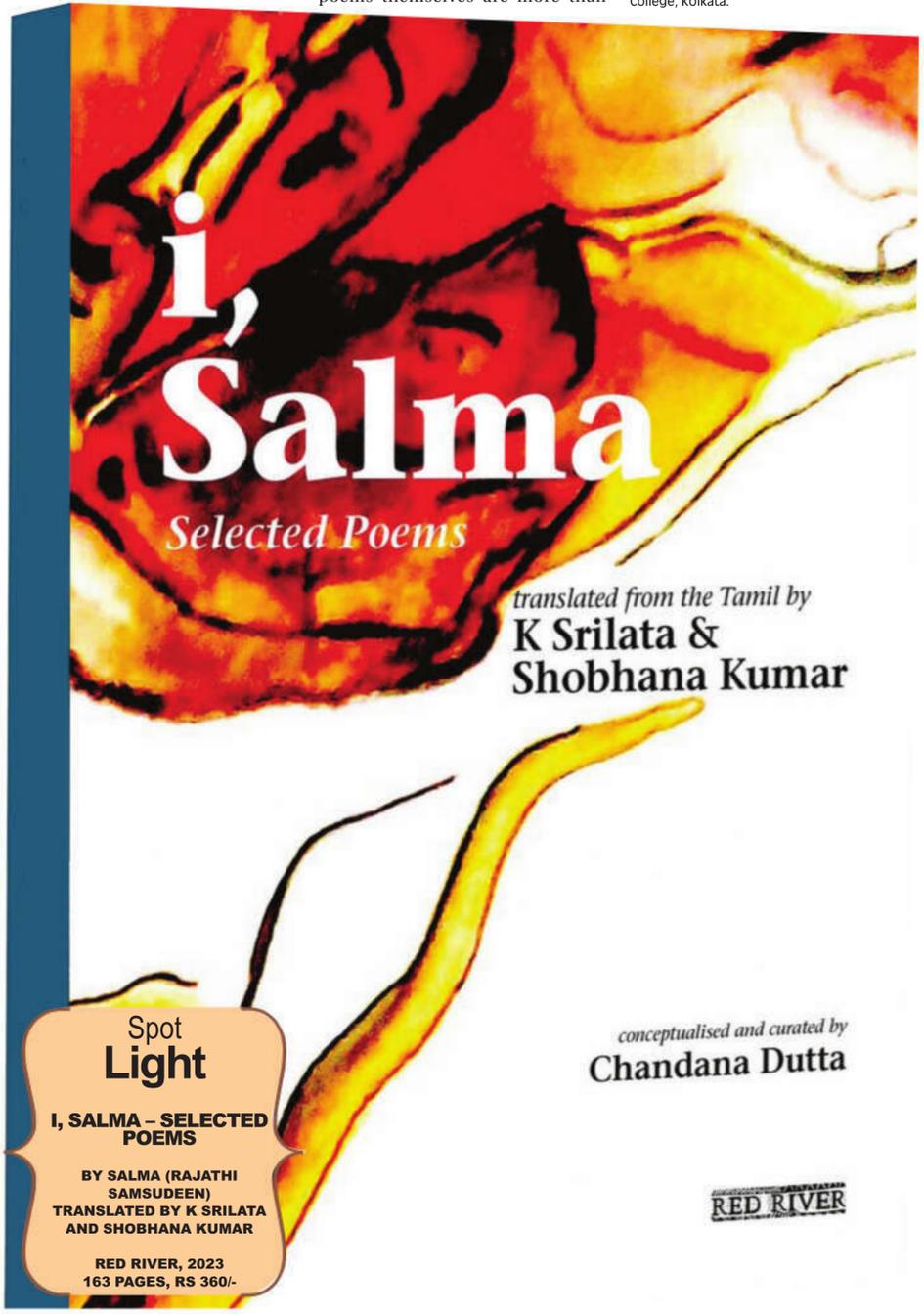
They act as channels of communication between her readers and herself. The interview by Chandana Dutta focuses on the becoming of Salma, the travails, her journey through life and much more. It gives a holistic picture of the poet's life: her journey from the exploited and marginalised wife to the liberated woman, her political career, her literary career and her overall growth as a human being.

She is as candid in her interview as she is in her poetry. The three essays

that are included in this volume, 'Reclaiming Women's Space' by Meena Kandaswamy, 'Friendships We Cannot Take Home' by Perumal Murugan and 'From a Small Village to State Politics: The Evolution of Salma the Writer' by Kannan Sundaram critically discusses both prose and poetry of Salma as well as her life. These third person narratives are significant because they present the poet in the perspective of contemporary literature. Though the poems themselves are more than

enough to stand for themselves and reach the readers, these additions enrich the reading experience. The essays and the interviews are literary pieces in their own merit. Conceptualised and curated by Chandana Dutta, this book therefore reaches the readers as a wholesome nourishment for the soul. For any literary minded person, this anthology from the Red River is a must read.

The reviewer is a translator, creative writer and academician, and teaches in Sarsuna College, Kolkata.



Spot Light

I, SALMA – SELECTED POEMS

BY SALMA (RAJATHI SAMSUDEEN)
TRANSLATED BY K SRILATA AND SHOBHANA KUMAR

RED RIVER, 2023
163 PAGES, RS 360/-

conceptualised and curated by
Chandana Dutta

RED RIVER

Champions League: Liverpool open campaign with AC Milan thriller

English giants produce excellent attacking performance to down former European champions



AGENCIES
MILAN, 18 SEPTEMBER

Liverpool opened up their Champions League campaign with an impressive 3-1 victory over AC Milan at San Siro under Arne Slot in 46th birthday.

A goal apiece from central defensive pairing Ibrahima Konate and Virgil van Dijk gave the Reds a half-time lead, having overcome an earlier Christian Pulisic opener. Liverpool began well after the break and immediately saw a chance fall to Jota inside the box after the restart.

Milan attempted to find a way back into the match and wanted a penalty after

Gakpo and Alvaro Morata tangled in the box, but protests were swiftly waved away by the match officials.

It was Liverpool, however, who would be next to add to the scoreline thanks to a swift breakthrough with the hosts caught short at the back.

Gakpo drove forward in the 67th minute, delivered well and Szoboszlai had matched his run into the middle to guide home a cushioned volley in off the post.

In response to the two-goal lead, Darwin Nunez and Diaz were introduced from the bench. Liverpool continued to push forward in search of a fourth with Van Dijk again going close with a header from another corner

delivery. There was still time

for Milan to threaten in the closing stages too, Tijjani Reijnders shooting a low drive past the diving Alisson's far post. Substitute Matteo Gabbia also planted a header over the bar following a short-corner routine, while Rafael Leao saw a chance pushed onto the post by Alisson, though it was as near as either side came to adding to the score further before the full-time whistle.

Bayern crush Zagreb
Harry Kane scored four goals to lead Bayern Munich to a commanding 9-2 win over Dinamo Zagreb in the opening round of the Champions League season.

Bayern started brightly, with two early goals disallowed from Jamal Musiala and Serge

Bellingham hails Mbappe after Madrid beat Stuttgart



AGENCIES
STUTTGART, 18 SEPTEMBER

Midfielder Jude Bellingham has heaped praise on Kylian Mbappe for making an immediate impact in his UEFA Champions League debut for Real Madrid, as Los Blancos started their title defence with a 3-1 victory over Stuttgart.

Madrid settled the game in the second half, with

Mbappe making it 1-0 fresh out of the dressing room. Tchouameni's through ball picked out Rodrigo and the Brazilian squared for Mbappe to tap in and grab his first Champions League goal as a Madridista, his third in a row in all competitions (four goals).

He almost doubled his tally but Stuttgart goalkeeper Alexander Nübel stood tall to deny the Frenchman.

BFC face Hyderabad



AGENCIES
BENGALURU, 18 SEPTEMBER

Bengaluru FC coach Gerard Zaragoza called for his side to be focused on the task at hand when former League champions Hyderabad FC visit the Kanteerava Stadium for their first fixture of the season, on Thursday.

Hyderabad, who finished bottom of the pile last season, will be keen to begin with a win under Head Coach Thangboi Singto.

"The aim is to see where we can improve from the game against East Bengal and do better. The reality is that when we faced Hyderabad FC last season, it was a difficult game. We don't want that to happen on Thursday. We have to control and dominate. The last 20 minutes of every ISL match so far this season has been difficult for the teams, and that's something I want to avoid," said Zaragoza, speaking to the press on the eve of the fixture.

Bengaluru began their League campaign with a 1-0 win at the Kanteerava Stadium on Saturday, with Vinith Venkatesh's first half strike proving the difference against East Bengal FC. BFC ended the game with an all-Indian backline, featuring former Hyderabad FC players Nikhil Poojary and Chinglensana Singh, in addition to Rahul Bheke and Naorem Roshan Singh. At the end of the first round of ISL fixtures, the Blues are the only side to win at home.

"Kanteerava has been a fortress for us, and that's what we are banking on. The idea is to improve and make sure that we are doing the best we can to keep moving forward in a good way. The players have to remain focused. In a league like the ISL, to win against teams who seem not ready is very important. The top teams are going to win and lose, but when you feel that a team is not ready - you sometimes need to do even more," added Zaragoza.

Hyderabad, with seasoned coach Thangboi Singto at the helm, had a busy finish before the transfer window shut, and with no team having seen much of this newly assembled side, it will be difficult to plan for them. The side that finished last in the table last season after they managed to win only one game in the previous edition. Zaragoza confirmed that he had a fully fit squad available for selection, but for young attacker Shivaldo Singh, who remains sidelined with an injury sustained in the Durand Cup semifinal against Mohun Bagan S

AS Roma sack coach De Rossi

AGENCIES
ROME, 18 SEPTEMBER

Daniele De Rossi has been sacked as Roma head coach after eight months in charge and four games into the new Serie A season.

Following the dismissal of Jose Mourinho in January, De Rossi was first appointed on an interim basis. He was then awarded a three-year contract in June for salvaging Roma's season, which included a sixth-place finish in Serie A and Europa League semifinals.

However, Roma were unable to win any of their Serie A matches this season. "AS Roma announces that Daniele De Rossi has been relieved of his duties as head coach of the first team. The club's decision is made in the best interests of the team, to get back on the desired path as soon as possible at a time when the season is still in its early stages," the club said.

My client intends to purchase and acquire free of all encumbrances, liens and charges ALL THAT piece and parcel of land area 21 decimal more or less lying and situated at Mouza Ramnagar, JL No. 84, R.S./L.R. Dag No. 1888/2889, L.R. Khatian No. 1861, within the limits of Barupara Pallagari Gram Panchayat, P.S. Singur, Dist. Hooghly, Pin 712306, WB from the present owner Coromondal Merchandise Private Limited.

Any person having any claim or charge in respect of the said property, may please intimate the undersigned with supporting valid documents within 15 days from this notice failing whereof Claims, if any, shall be deemed to have been waived and/or abandoned.

Hirojit Ghosh, Advocate
Calcutta High Court
8017140491

NOTICE

My client Coromondal Merchandise Private Limited intends to apply for mutation of ALL THAT piece and parcel of land area 25 dec. more or less lying and situated at Mouza Ramnagar, JL No. 84, R.S./L.R. Dag No. 1454, R. Khatian No. 1235, within the limits of Barupara Pallagari GP, P.S. Singur, Dist. Hooghly, Pin 712306, WB, which is purchased from the previous owners Prathas Ghosh, Rama Ghosh and Subhash Chandra Ghosh through their attorney holder Subhash Chandra Ghosh [vide Reg. P.O.A being no. IV-00147/2006, dated 28.04.2006], by virtue of Sale Deed No. 03153/2007, dated 3.10.2007, ADSR Singur.

Any person having any claim or charge in respect of the said property, may please intimate the undersigned with supporting valid documents within 15 days from this notice failing whereof Claims, if any, shall be deemed to have been waived and/or abandoned.

Hirojit Ghosh, Advocate
Calcutta High Court
8017140491

ASSETS CARE & RECONSTRUCTION ENTERPRISE LTD.
Corporate Office: Unit No. 502, C Wing, ONE BKC, Plot No. C-66, G-Block, Bandra Kurla Complex, Mumbai - 400051.
Tel: 022 68643101
Registered Office: 14th Floor, EROS Corporate Tower, Nehru Place, New Delhi - 110019
E-mail: acre.ac@acredia.in | Website: www.acredia.in | CIN: U65993DL2002PLC115769

APPENDIX IV-A
Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Property
E-Auction Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described Immovable Property mortgaged to Assets Care & Reconstruction Enterprise Ltd., acting as Trustee of ACRE-102-Trust [CIN : U65993DL2002PLC115769] ("Secured Creditor" and the constructive possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "as is where is", "as is what is", and "whatever there is" basis on 21.10.2024 from 04.00 P.M. to 05.00 P.M., for recovery of Rs. 22,80,50,034/- (Rupees Twenty Two Crores Eighty Lakh Fifty Thousand Thirty Four only) pending towards Loan Account No. HILAKLM00428865, by way of outstanding principal, arrears (including accrued late charges) and interest till 12.08.2024 with applicable future interest in terms of the Loan Agreement and other related loan document(s) w.e.f. 13.08.2024 along with legal expenses and other charges due to the Secured Creditor from EMC LIMITED (THROUGH ITS DIRECTOR), MANJO TOSHNIWAL, METALIND PRIVATE LIMITED and MKN INVESTMENT PRIVATE LIMITED.

The above Loan Account bearing No. HILAKLM00428865, along with all rights(s), title(s), interest(s), underlying security(ies), pledge(s) and/or guarantee(s), including the Immovable Property, had been assigned by Dharm Loans and Services Limited ("DLBSL") to Indiabulls Asset Reconstruction Co. Ltd. ("IARCL") vide Assignment Agreement dated 30.09.2020. The said Loan Account has been further assigned by IARCL to and in favour of the Secured Creditor, acting as a Trustee of ACRE-102-Trust, vide Assignment Agreement dated 26.04.2021 read with Rectification Deed dated 26.08.2021.

The Reserve Price of the Immovable Property will be Rs. 13,80,00,000/- (Rupees Thirteen Crores Eighty Lakh only) and the Earnest Money Deposit ("EMD") will be Rs. 1,38,00,000/- (Rupees One Crore Thirty Eight Lakh only) i.e. equivalent to 10% of the Reserve Price.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

PROPERTY NO. 1
UNIT NO. 1301 ON 13TH FLOOR, HAVING BUILT-UP AREA 734.32 SQUARE METERS (EQUIVALENT TO 7904.27 SQUARE FEET) (EQUIVALENT TO SUPER BUILT-UP AREA 11647 SQUARE FEET), IN THE PROJECT KNOWN AS "GOOREJ GENESIS", CONSTRUCTED UPON LEASEHOLD LAND ADMEASURING 4.2996 ACRES, SITUATED AT PLOT NO. XI (XI - 9.10.13 & 14), BLOCK - EP & GP, SECTOR V, SALT LAKE CITY, BIDHANNAGAR, SUB REGISTRATION OFFICE BIDHANNAGAR, DISTRICT NORTH 24 - PARGANAS, P. S. BIDHANNAGAR, WITHIN THE LIMITS OF NABADIGANTA INDUSTRIAL TOWNSHIP AUTHORITY, KOLKATA - 700091, WEST BENGAL, ALONGWITH 4 COVERED CAR PARKING SPACES, TOGETHER WITH PROPORTIONATE, UNDIVIDED, IMPARTIBLE LEASEHOLD AND/OR INTEREST IN THE SAID LAND.

PROPERTY NO. 2
UNIT NO. 1302 ON 13TH FLOOR, HAVING BUILT-UP AREA 386.28 SQUARE METERS (EQUIVALENT TO 4157.97 SQUARE FEET) (EQUIVALENT TO SUPER BUILT-UP AREA 6127 SQUARE FEET) IN THE PROJECT KNOWN AS "GOOREJ GENESIS", CONSTRUCTED UPON LEASEHOLD LAND ADMEASURING 4.2996 ACRES, SITUATED AT PLOT NO. XI (XI - 9.10.13 & 14), BLOCK - EP & GP, SECTOR V, SALT LAKE CITY, BIDHANNAGAR, SUB REGISTRATION OFFICE BIDHANNAGAR, DISTRICT NORTH 24 - PARGANAS, P. S. BIDHANNAGAR, WITHIN THE LIMITS OF NABADIGANTA INDUSTRIAL TOWNSHIP AUTHORITY, KOLKATA - 700091, WEST BENGAL, ALONGWITH 6 COVERED CAR PARKING SPACES, TOGETHER WITH PROPORTIONATE, UNDIVIDED, IMPARTIBLE LEASEHOLD AND/OR INTEREST IN THE SAID LAND.

PROPERTY NO. 3
UNIT NO. 1303 ON 13TH FLOOR, HAVING BUILT-UP AREA 592.47 SQUARE METERS (EQUIVALENT TO 6377.36 SQUARE FEET) (EQUIVALENT TO SUPER BUILT-UP AREA 9397 SQUARE FEET) IN THE PROJECT KNOWN AS "GOOREJ GENESIS", CONSTRUCTED UPON LEASEHOLD LAND ADMEASURING 4.2996 ACRES, SITUATED AT PLOT NO. XI (XI - 9.10.13 & 14), BLOCK - EP & GP, SECTOR V, SALT LAKE CITY, BIDHANNAGAR, SUB REGISTRATION OFFICE BIDHANNAGAR, DISTRICT NORTH 24 - PARGANAS, P. S. BIDHANNAGAR, WITHIN THE LIMITS OF NABADIGANTA INDUSTRIAL TOWNSHIP AUTHORITY, KOLKATA - 700091, WEST BENGAL, ALONGWITH 4 COVERED CAR PARKING SPACES, TOGETHER WITH PROPORTIONATE, UNDIVIDED, IMPARTIBLE LEASEHOLD AND/OR INTEREST IN THE SAID LAND.

PROPERTY NO. 4
UNIT NO. 1305 ON 13TH FLOOR, HAVING BUILT-UP AREA 289.10 SQUARE METERS (EQUIVALENT TO 3111.98 SQUARE FEET) (EQUIVALENT TO SUPER BUILT-UP AREA 4596 SQUARE FEET) IN THE PROJECT KNOWN AS "GOOREJ GENESIS", CONSTRUCTED UPON LEASEHOLD LAND ADMEASURING 4.2996 ACRES, SITUATED AT PLOT NO. XI (XI - 9.10.13 & 14), BLOCK - EP & GP, SECTOR V, SALT LAKE CITY, BIDHANNAGAR, SUB REGISTRATION OFFICE BIDHANNAGAR, DISTRICT NORTH 24 - PARGANAS, P. S. BIDHANNAGAR, WITHIN THE LIMITS OF NABADIGANTA INDUSTRIAL TOWNSHIP AUTHORITY, KOLKATA - 700091, WEST BENGAL, ALONGWITH 4 COVERED CAR PARKING SPACES, TOGETHER WITH PROPORTIONATE, UNDIVIDED, IMPARTIBLE LEASEHOLD AND/OR INTEREST IN THE SAID LAND.

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided on the website of the Secured Creditor i.e. www.acredia.in, Contact No: 0124-6910910, +91 7065451024; E-mail id: auctionhelp@sammanacapital.com. For bidding, log on to www.auctionfocus.in.

sd/-
AUTHORIZED OFFICER
Date: 17.09.2024 ASSETS CARE & RECONSTRUCTION ENTERPRISE LTD.
Place: KOLKATA TRUSTEE OF ACRE-102-TRUST

"For any grievance you may contact Mr. Mohd Sharif Malik, Grievance Redressal Officer, Phone No.: 011-66115609, Email: complaint@acredia.in. The detailed policy on Grievance Redressal Mechanism within the organisation can be accessed at https://www.acredia.in/compliance"

Italy's 1990 World Cup hero Salvatore Schillaci dies at 59

AGENCIES
PALERMO, 18 SEPTEMBER

Italy football legend Salvatore "Toto" Schillaci, the topscorer of the 1990 FIFA World Cup, has passed away aged 59 after the striker was admitted in a hospital in Palermo last week.

The former Italy and Juventus striker was diagnosed with colon cancer in 2022. Following him being admitted into the hospital, a hospital statement said he was "receiving treatment to stabilise his heartbeat".

"I immediately fell in love with Toto. His desire, his story, his being so wonderfully passionate, and it showed in every game he played. We at Juve were lucky enough to get excited about him before, in that incredible summer of 1990, the whole of Italy did, captivated by those wonderfully energetic celebrations of his. Toto arrived at Juve in 1989, and in that season he scored 15 goals in the league, four in the UEFA Cup and two in the Coppa Italia," a Juventus statement read.



On behalf of the Principal Secretary, GTA, following online tenders are invited by the Executive Engineer, Mirik Engineering Division, GTA from the interested & competent bidders under this division, the details can be downloaded from the website: <http://wbtenders.gov.in>

Other details can be obtained at office of the undersigned on any working day during office hours.

ONLINE TENDER NOTICE NO.

- NieT No. 09 / EE / MED / GTA / 2024-25
- NieT No. 10 / EE / MED / GTA / 2024-25

Sd/- Executive Engineer
Mirik Engineering Division
GTA

North Eastern Railway

Online E-Tender Notice

Dy. CME/Repair for Chief Workshop Manager, N.E. Railway, Mechanical Workshop, Gorakhpur for and on behalf of President of India invites tender through on-line E-Single Tender for the following work-

S.No. : 1, E-Tender Notice No. & Name of the Tender: No. "26-GKP-MWS-2024-25" "Comprehensive AMC of CNC Axle Turning Lathe Model No. Spinner-25 (Make-ASKAR MICRON) for 03 years (36 months) of Wheel Shop at GKPS, Qty-01 No.", Estimated Cost: Rs. 92,74,800.00, Earnest Money: Rs. 1,85,500.00, Last date of tender submission: Upto 11.00 hrs., Date 14.10.2024, Cost of the Tender Forms: Zero, Period of Contract: 36 Months.

The details of above tenders are also available on Indian Railway website "http://www.irps.gov.in".

Sd/-
Secretary
Malda Zilla RMC, Malda.

ABRIDGED NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER

Memo No-1286/MZMRC/2024 Dated-18/09/2024 & N.L.E.T. No-08/MZMRC/2024 Dated-18/09/2024

On behalf of Secretary MZMRC invites e-tender (online) vide N.L.E.T. No-08/MZMRC/2024 Dated-18/09/2024 & Tender ID No-2024_DMM_753114_1 to 5.

Last Date Of Tender Download and Submission 03.10.2024 Up to 12.00 PM. Details information/Download/Upload will be available from the website-

<https://www.wbtenders.gov.in> & www.malda.nic.in.

Sd/-
Secretary
Malda Zilla RMC, Malda.

Metro Railway, Kolkata

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

Metro Railway, Kolkata would like to have an Expression of Interest (EOI) for commercial utilization of space of two (2) Property Development Areas at Dakshineswar Metro Station premises of Metro Railway, Kolkata for a period of five (05) years under the following constraint: "Usage of cooking gas is not permissible". Dimension of spaces mentioned below: (a) [72 ft x 34 ft] = 2,448 sq.ft. (b) [100 ft x 32 ft] = 3,200 sq.ft. Interested firms/Agencies may come up at the earliest with the affordable L/fees for the venture and may contact to office of Dy.COM (Comm.), of Metro Railway, Kolkata. Telephone no.: 033-22555288, Mob: 9674578879 for further information. Closing date: 25.09.2024; Time: Upto 18.00 hrs. Dy. Chief Operations Manager/Comm.

Follow us at: metrorailwaykol metrorailkolkata

Jharkhand Urja Sancharan Nigam Ltd.
(CIN: U40108JH2013SGC001704)
Regd. Office: 2nd Floor, JUSNL (SLDC) Building, Kusai Colony, Doranda, Ranchi-02 (E-mail: cetjusunl@gmail.com)

TENDER CANCELLATION NOTICE

Due to unavoidable circumstances, tender invited vide RFP No. 122/PR/JUSNL/2024-25 for Appointment of a consultancy firm for IT department of JUSNL to guide and improve service delivery mechanisms and efficiency of the department is hereby cancelled.

स्वहित एवं राष्ट्रहित में ऊर्जा बचतों। कृपया अपनी शिकायतों को 18003456570 (कॉल सेंटर) पर दर्ज कराया।

PR No. 331129 Sd/-
General Manager, C&M (NWBP) JUSNL, Ranchi
PR 335894 (Jharkhand Urja Sancharan Nigam Ltd) 24-25 (D)

TENDER

BENFISH
G.N. 31, Block, Sector-V, Salt Lake City, Kolkata - 700091

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Ref. No.: BENFISH/MD/NIT-04(e)2024-25 & BENFISH/MD/NIT-05(e)2024-25
Memo No.: 1335/IV-291/11
Date: 18.09.2024

MD, BENFISH invites Tender for the work "Setting up of fresh fish vending kiosks under the brand name Sufal Bangla (Matsya) in different district of West Bengal, New construction of fresh fish vending kiosks (12 nos. = Phase - 1 & 8 nos. = Phase - 2), Remodeling portion of Sufal Bangla Static Store for fresh fish vending kiosks (8 nos. = Phase - 1) and Renovation of existing fresh fish vending kiosks (3 nos. = Phase - 1 & 3 nos. = Phase - 2)" from reliable reputed companies. Bid Opening Date: 03.10.2024. Bid Closing Date: 01.10.2024, for NIT-04 - Phase-2 & Bid Opening Date: 24.10.2024, Bid Closing Date: 22.10.2024, for NIT-05 - Phase-1. For details please visit: (<https://wbtenders.gov.in>) / benfish.co.in/Tenders

PWD (GOVT. OF W.B.) SHORT TENDER NOTICE

EE, JCD, PWD, Jalpaiguri, invites Short NIT for the work of "Construction of New 590 Metre Boundary wall and repair and renovation of 353m old boundary wall with new R.B.T. (Reinforced Barbed Tape) of Jalpaiguri Govt. Medical College & Hospital under Jalpaiguri Construction Division during the year 2024-25". Short N.I.T. No.: 21 of 2024-2025 of EE / JCD / PWD, Tender ID: 2024_PWD_752581_1. Bid submission start date (online): 18-09-2024 from 11-00 A.M. Bid submission closing date (online): 21-09-2024 up to 4-30 P.M. Contingendum if any will be published in website only.

Sd/-
EE, JCD, PWD, Jalpaiguri
Govt. of W.B.

PWD (GOVT. OF W.B.) TENDER NOTICE

EE, JCD, PWD, Jalpaiguri, invites NIT for the work of "Repairing of MS steel pipe and other accessories in connection with the existing fire fighting system at DH Campus JGMCS&H under Jalpaiguri Construction Division, Jalpaiguri during the year 2024-25. N.I.T. No.: 20 of 2024-2025 of EE / JCD / PWD, Tender ID: 2024_PWD_752485_1. Bid submission start date (online): 19-09-2024 from 11-00 A.M. Bid submission closing date (online): 25-09-2024 up to 11-00 A.M. Contingendum if any will be published in website only.

Sd/-
EE, JCD, PWD, Jalpaiguri
Govt. of W.B.

SOUTH EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

TENDER NOTICE FOR REPAIR/OVERHAULING OF POWER TRANSFORMER

Tender No. - TRD-BSP-249-24-25. Date: 04/09/2024
Name of Work: Repair/Overhauling of Power Transformer No. 2 (Srl. No.: 24954) at PND TSS of CGL Make: 220/25KV, 20 MVA.

Tender Value: ₹ 19,54,479.34/-
EMD: ₹ 39,100.00/- Submission of Tender: Up to 15:00 hrs. on 26/09/2024.

For further details/purchase of Tender document, eligibility criteria & complete details for the above works, please contact Office of the Sr. DEE/TRD/SECR/Bilaspur or refer/download tender document which is available on our website www.irps.gov.in.

Sr. Divl. Elect. Engg. (TRD) CPR/10/248 S.E.C. Railway, Bilaspur. South East Central Railway @secrail

CHITTARANJAN LOCOMOTIVE WORKS

E-TENDER NOTICE

E-tender is invited for and on behalf of the President of India for the following work: Sl. No.: [01], Tender No.: Engg-26-2024-25. Name of Work: Disposal of condemned/abandoned Railway Quarters/Buildings of masonry structure in CLW Township. Tender value (Rupees): ₹ 12, 28,605.00. EMD/Bid Security (Rupees): ₹ 24,600.00. PDC: 04 (Four) Months. Date of Closing: 14/10/2024. Note: (i) Complete details can be seen in the Railways website www.irps.gov.in & www.clw.indianrailways.gov.in. (ii) Contact Number: 9163340201, 9163340203.

Dy. Chief Engineer/CLW/Chittaranjan (PR/4/636) Like us on: www.facebook.com/clwrailways

Entrepreneurship Development Programme

Coir Board Sub Regional Office, Kolkata is organising a three days Entrepreneurship Development Programme (EDP) for Coir Workers, Registered NGOs, Registered Coir Societies Prospective Entrepreneurs on coir industries etc. from 20.09.2024 to 22.09.2024 at the Conference Hall of Shibpur Sambay Krishi Unnayan Samity, Shibpur, Dakshin Shibpur PO, Shyampur – I Block, Howrah District, West Bengal. Interested candidates from the Coir Industry are requested to register their name on 20.09.2024 at 10.00 am along with copy of their Aadhaar card. The admission will be on first come first serve basis. Total seat limited to 50 Nos. of participants.

Officer in Charge
Coir Board SRO, Kolkata

CBC-25131/12/0007/24-25

Tel:033-22625735
e-mail: cbsrokol@gmail.com

Secretary
13.09.2024



'NEVER EXPECTED TO PLAY THIS MUCH FOR AUSTRALIA'

Australia's upcoming ODI series opener against England at Trent Bridge on September 19 will also mark Adam Zampa's 100th appearance in the 50-over format. On the verge of reaching this milestone, Zampa said he never anticipated playing these number of matches for his country in ODIs. Zampa will become the 32nd Australia men's player to play 100 ODIs. He becomes just the third specialist spinner to achieve the landmark for Australia after Shane Warne and Brad Hogg. Zampa's wife Harriet, son Eugene and parents Darren and Alison will be in attendance at Trent Bridge to see the leg-spinner reach this landmark. In 99 ODIs, Zampa has taken 169 wickets at an average of 28.05 and an economy rate of 5.47. Zampa has also been a T20 World Cup and ODI World Cup winner for Australia in 2021 and 2023.

For more updates www.thestatesman.com

THUMBNAILS

Rohit's leadership and respect make him an exceptional captain, says Gambhir: With the India-Bangladesh two-match Test series set to commence on Thursday, Gautam Gambhir, the newly appointed Head Coach of Team India opened up about the bond with captain Rohit Sharma. For Gambhir, the captain is central to a team's success, and while the coach plays an important role, the ultimate responsibility lies with the leader on the field. Rohit's leadership qualities, Gambhir believes, have earned him immense respect in the dressing room—an essential trait for any successful leader. "The team ultimately belongs to the captain because he leads on the field. Rohit's leadership and respect in the dressing room are crucial. So, he's a great guy and has got a lot of respect in that dressing room and that is the first and foremost quality of a leader. I think my relationship with him when we were playing together was fabulous. Even then he was a great human being and hopefully, I think it continues that way as well," Gambhir said. He said that there will always be disagreements in, but the final call should rest with Rohit.

Team India look to extend domination vs Bangladesh

World Test Championship leaders return to longest format for the first time since March

TRIDIB BAPARNASH
CHENNAI, 18 SEPTEMBER

Skipper Rohit Sharma has already made it clear that the two-Test series against Bangladesh, starting in Chennai on Thursday, is "no dress rehearsal" as the two-time World Test Championship finalists return to the traditional red-ball format for the first time since March. The Tests against Bangladesh are a part of the 10 Tests that current WTC leaders, India will play in their second leg of the 2023-25 WTC cycle, that also includes three Tests against New Zealand at home in October, followed by a gruelling five-Test rubber for the Border-Gavaskar trophy Down Under, later this year. "Every game we play is important. No dress rehearsal here (in the context of the Bangladesh series). Every game becomes important because of what is at stake. WTC. The (standings) table is still quite open. And every game is important," Rohit said. Bangladesh, fresh from a recent 2-0 whitewash of



Pakistan, have previously played three Tests in India, and lost all three (including two by an innings), are no pushovers this time, and this will add spice to the contest between India's world-class batting and Bangladesh's potent spin unit at the MA Chidambaram Stadium, that traditionally assists the slower

bowlers. India's 40-4 (win-loss) home record in the last decade speaks of one-sided domination but the Bangladeshis will be eager to take advantage of the diminishing returns from the star duo of Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma against quality spin in the past three years. Kohli, who has been a night-

mare for opposition sides in India's dominant home run since 2015, has recently seen his numbers against spin dip to an average of 30 in 15 Tests since 2021 while Rohit, who once averaged over 90 against tweekers, has seen his numbers slip to 44 in 15 matches during the same period. Even KL Rahul in his

limited appearances finds himself at 23.40 in the five matches he has featured. Even though the numbers aren't alarming, the Indian batters will have to work their way around to fine-tune the art of playing spin, especially in sub-continent conditions. India's newly-appointed assistant coach Ryan ten Doeschate had stressed on this point recently after the side's debacle against Sri Lankan spinners in a three-match ODI series which they lost 0-2. In contrast, the numbers from the younger lot led by Rishabh Pant (five matches, average 70), Shubman Gill (10 matches, average 56) and Yashasvi Jaiswal (five matches, average 115), sound promising, and the team will expect the trio to carry forward the form in the upcoming games. While the numbers of Gill and Jaiswal are primarily against an inexperienced English spin attack, India will expect the explosive Pant to lead the charge when he makes a much-anticipated return to the Test circuit for the first time ever since the near-fatal car crash in December 2022.



'Retirements have become bit of a joke'

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
CHENNAI, 18 SEPTEMBER

A couple of months after announcing his retirement from the shortest format following India's 2024 T20 World Cup triumph in the Americas, Rohit Sharma said his decision was final and he has no plans of making a comeback to the format.



Several cricketers from across the world have reversed their decisions to retire multiple times, including the likes of Shahid Afridi, Mohammad Hafeez, Shoaib Malik and more. Even renowned athletes such as Michael Jordan, Michael Phelps, Kim Clijsters, Tom Brady have made U-turns after announcing retirements. Rohit feels that the word "retirement" has lost a bit of its value in international cricket after several cricketers from across the world have returned after announcing their plans of retiring. "The concept of retirements in world cricket has become a bit of a joke. Someone announces retirement and comes back to play

again. Although it hasn't happened in India, I see players overseas announcing retirement and reversing it. You can't figure out whether the player has actually retired or not. I'm not talking about myself. I am final and clear in my decision," Rohit said. Rohit, along with Virat Kohli and Ravindra Jadeja were the three high-profile Indian cricketers to announce their retirements from the shortest format after guiding India to a World Cup triumph after 13 years. India had last won a World Cup back in 2011 under Mahendra Singh Dhoni, who also guided India to their first ever World Cup title in the shortest format in 2007.

Rishabh Pant, KL Rahul to feature in first Bangladesh Test, confirms coach Gambhir

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
CHENNAI, 18 SEPTEMBER

On the eve of the first Test against Bangladesh, India head coach has all but confirmed the home side's batting line-up after he revealed that stumper Dhruv Jurel and middle-order batter Sarfaraz Khan will have to wait for their chances, signalling the return of Rishabh Pant back in Test cricket for the first time in 21 months. KL Rahul, who missed the last four Tests of the five-match series against England after suffering a quadriceps injury following the first Test in Hyderabad, is also set for a return, replacing Sarfaraz. On Wednesday, Gambhir asserted that players from his team aren't dropped and instead players, who fit the XI are selected. "We don't drop anyone. We just pick the players who fit the XI. We believe in selecting the XI. Jurel is a phenomenal player but when Pant is coming in, sometimes people have to wait. Same with Sarfaraz. There will be opportunities and you have to wait. We all know how destructive Pant can be and what he has done. Not many of his age have done it across conditions. With batting and



behind the stumps he has been phenomenal. His batting overshadows his keeping especially against the spinners," Gambhir said. Going by Gambhir's statements, it appears that Rohit Sharma, Yashasvi Jaiswal,

Shubman Gill, Virat Kohli, KL Rahul and Pant will form the top-six, followed by the likes of Ravichandran Ashwin, Ravindra Jadeja, and a toss-up between Axar Patel and Kuldeep Yadav. Axar's batting could give him an edge if India pushes

for batting depth in their first ever Test appearance since March. Jasprit Bumrah and Mohammed Siraj will be India's frontline pacers, if the team management decides to go in with three specialist spinners. In the scenario of a three-

prong pace attack, it could be a toss-up between Akash Deep and the uncapped Yash Dayal. **Squads:** India: Rohit Sharma (c), Rishabh Pant (wk), Yashasvi Jaiswal, Shubman Gill, Virat Kohli, KL Rahul, Ravindra

Jadeja, Ravichandran Ashwin, Sarfaraz Khan, Axar Patel, Kuldeep Yadav, Dhruv Jurel, Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Siraj, Yash Dayal, Akash Deep. **Bangladesh:** Najmul Hossain Shanto (c), Mahmudul Hasan Joy, Zakir Hasan, Shadman Islam, Mominul Haque, Mushfiqur Rahim (wk), Shakib Al Hasan, Litton Kumer Das, Mehidy Hasan Miraz, Taijul Islam, Nayeem Hasan, Nahid Rana, Hasan Mahmud, Taskin Ahmed, Syed Khaled Ahmed, Jaker Ali Anik

Not thinking about condition and opponents, says Bangladesh captain

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
CHENNAI, 18 SEPTEMBER

Fresh from a historic white-wash of Pakistan, Bangladesh skipper Najmul Hossain Shanto reminded his side that there was no point in resting over past laurels as the Indian team poses a different challenge, when the two sides lock horns in the two-Test series, starting Thursday. Acknowledging Bangladesh's dismal Test record in India, Shanto said that his side isn't thinking about the outcome as such thoughts might drain them emotionally when they face a quality Indian team, comprising world class players across departments. "We are here to play a new series, and the dressing room believes we can play very good cricket. We are not thinking about the outcome, but just trying to follow our processes," the 26-year-old said during the pre-match



press conference in Chennai on Wednesday. "I think in the last 10-15 years, most of the players have (gained) experience. Of late players aren't getting too emotional. In the last couple of years, I felt we have been better in controlling our emotions." "I think they (India) are a

very quality side. We know they have covered all the bases, like batting, bowling, and fielding. But, we are not thinking about the condition and the opponents. We are just thinking about ourselves," he added. Regarding his side's strengths, the Bangladesh captain expressed confidence

on his spin and pace attack to counter the hosts. "I think we have a very experienced spin-bowling attack. But I think in the last couple of years, we have had very good pace bowlers as well. I know they are not that experienced, but they are capable of doing. So, I am not thinking too much about

spin or pace bowling." Commenting on the wicket, Shanto feels that it will all boil down to how one adapts to it. "As far as the wicket is concerned, it will be a good wicket. I don't want to talk too much about it. We will try to adapt the wicket as soon as possible," he said.

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