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**Congress is run by urban naxals and hates Ganpati Puja, says PM Modi, continuing his offensive against the opposition for slamming him for conducting Ganesh Puja at CJI Chandrachud's house, P 11**

**Manipur flags 'alert' on influx of some 900 tribal rebels from Myanmar, all trained in the use of drones, projectiles and missiles to launch attacks on villages in the Imphal valley, P 7**

**Women turnout exceeded that of men in 6 of 24 J&K constituencies that voted in first phase, with Jammu division leading the way with 5 of its 8 seats witnessing higher participation by female voters, FLAP OPP**

**Bumrah (4/40) becomes 6th Indian pacer & 10th in the country to pick up 400 international wickets. India restrict Bangladesh to 149 in 1st innings of 1st Test, take 308-run lead, P 21**

## German Bakery convict gets 45-day parole

Mirza Himayat Baig, the lone convict in the 2010 German Bakery blast in Pune, was released from Nashik central prison on 45-day parole on Friday. The Nashik divisional commissioner granted him parole on Sept 6. On Sept 3, Bombay HC, setting aside the divisional commissioner's July 31 order rejecting Baig's parole plea, had criticised him for not considering its 2016 acquittal of Baig on terrorism charges. TNN

## 4 BSF personnel, soldier killed in 2 J&K accidents

Four BSF personnel were killed as a bus carrying 36 of them for poll duty skidded off the road and fell into a gorge in Brel Waterhail in Budgam district. In Kathua, a soldier died and five of his colleagues were injured after their vehicle fell into a gorge in Billawer. TNN

## ₹700cr for Adi Ganga clean-up

KMC will spend nearly Rs 700 crore to clean Adi Ganga and rejuvenate water flow in the channel that was once vibrant, but which has now dried up into a canal, known as the Tolly's Nullah. P 4

## CM inaugurates shopping fest

CM Mamata Banerjee on Friday inaugurated the Bengal Shopping Festival at Biswa Bangla Mela Prangan, and dedicated the 5-day event to the livelihoods of millions of artisans and self-help groups in the state. P 19

# Bombay HC strikes down Centre's fact check unit

'Against Freedom of Speech, Right To Equality'

Swati.Deshpande @timesofindia.com

Mumbai: Describing it as an infringement on the right to equality and freedom of speech, Bombay High Court on Friday quashed the amended Information Technology rules enabling Centre to set up its own fact check unit (FCU) and flag social media content about its functioning as 'fake, false or misleading'.

Holding the FCU to be unconstitutional, Justice A S Chandurkar of Bombay High Court — who served as 'tie-breaker judge' after a division bench in Jan 2024 deliv-

## 'AN ARBITER IN ITS OWN CAUSE'

> Ruling passed by 'tie-breaker judge', Justice A S Chandurkar, after a division bench in Jan 2024 delivered a split verdict  
> In this case, as central govt itself is aggrieved by 'fake, false and misleading' news, FCU will be an arbiter in govt's own cause, judge observes  
> The expression 'fake or false or misleading', in absence of it being defined, is vague and overbroad, says HC  
> Rule 'unconstitutional', seeks to 'abridge fundamental rights'

red a split verdict — described the expression 'fake, false and misleading' as 'vague and overbroad'.

"The FCU in a sense is an arbiter in its own cause," said Justice Chandurkar, echoing the view of Justice Patel who

had on Jan 31, 2024, struck down the rule as unconstitutional for its vagueness and disproportionality. Justice Patel had differed with Justice Neela Gokhale, on the two-judge bench that heard the matter and arrived at a split verdict, thus bringing it before a third judge.

Justice Chandurkar said the FCU rule would have "a chilling effect" on individuals as well as intermediaries; the new rule could have led to loss of 'safe harbour' against legal action for social media platforms if FCU-flagged content was not acted upon. The FCU rule is sans safeguards to prevent its abuse, said Justice Chandurkar, rejecting Centre's stand that making the FCU's findings subject to a legal challenge was a safeguard.

► No rationale: Judge, P 15

## Gadkari: Those at helm must tolerate barbs

Pune: The real test of democracy is whether the person at the helm of affairs was able to tolerate the strongest opinion against him and introspect, Union road transport and highways minister Nitin Gadkari said on Friday at a university event. He urged thinkers, philosophers and writers to voice their opinions without fear, reports Anurag Bende.

"At present, our country is facing a problem not about differences of opinion, but the lack of it," Gadkari said at an event citing Constitution guaranteeing freedom of expression to all.

"We are called the mother of democracy, which stands on the four pillars of legislature, executive, judiciary and media. Our Constitution specifies the rights and responsibilities of each," he said.

► 'Work together', P 11

# Mamata writes to PM, seeks his intervention to stop floods

Debashis.Konar @timesofindia.com

Kolkata: Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee on Friday shot off a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, urging his intervention in stopping flooding in Bengal because of DVC's water release. Bengal would have no option but to "disengage entirely" from DVC and "withdraw our participation" if Centre continued to behave unilaterally, she said.

The CM's letter came two days after she had accused DVC of causing a "man-made" flood and a day after she "severed ties" with it.

More than 1,000sq km, across 11 districts in south Bengal, are reeling under severe floods. Around five million people have been affected, with 26 deaths reported over the past week.

In her letter, Banerjee sa-

## Bengal lifts block along J'khand border

Bengal on Friday evening unsealed its border with Jharkhand, clearing a 20km traffic bottleneck on NH 19. CM Mamata Banerjee had announced the block on Thursday, claiming NH 19 was not motorable because of floods. P 8

## More chlorine to treat Hooghly water

The KMC water supply department is charging more chlorine into raw water before its filtration at its Palta water treatment plant. Turbidity level in the Hooghly nearly doubled in two days due to release of storm water from DVC-run barrages. P 2

id DVC "appears to have shifted focus from its primary objective of flood control in the Damodar river, as mandated by law, to power generation," disregarding its social obligations and sacrificing Bengal's interests. She wrote that the floods in Bengal were due to "an unprecedented, unplanned and unilateral release of an enormously huge volume of water at nearly 5 lakh cusecs from the combined system of Maithon and

Panchet dams owned and maintained by DVC."

Union Jal Shakti minister C R Paatil disputed Banerjee's claims. Decisions on water release from Maithon and Panchet were taken by a committee that included representatives from Bengal, he wrote back. The results would have been catastrophic for Bengal if the water was not released, he said.

► 'Biggest after 2009', P 8

# Naidu orders probe into Tirupati laddus; don't politicize issue: Jagan

Srikanth Aluri & Sandeep Raghavan | TNN

Vijayawada/Tirupati: The TDP-led govt in Andhra Pradesh on Friday sought a detailed report from Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams on the alleged use of adulterated ghee in the preparation of lad-

► Have spoken to Naidu, sought report: Nadda, P 16

du prasadam at Tirumala temple even as a full-scale war of words broke out between chief minister N Chandrababu Naidu and his predecessor YS Jagan Mohan Reddy on this sensitive religious issue.

## WAR OF WORDS

People are saying their sentiments were hurt (following allegations of presence of animal fat in Tirupati laddus). When sentiments are hurt, should I spare them (culperts)?  
—CM Chandrababu Naidu

Online tenders floated every six months. Stock accepted only after all 3 samples cleared quality test... Naidu was at helm on July 12 & report was received nearly 2 months ago. Why did he stay silent?  
—EX-CM Jagan Reddy

Attacking Reddy at a public meeting in Prakasam district, Naidu said: "People are saying their sentiments were hurt (following allegations of presence of animal fat in Tirupati laddus). When the sentiments were hurt, should I spare them (culperts) when unpardonable mistakes were committed?"

Breaking his silence on the controversy, Reddy accused the TDP chief of using the "faith of millions of devotees across the world to cover up the failures of his govt in the last 100 days".

► Naidu accusations, P 16

## Sensex crosses 84k, closes at record high

Sensex scaled the 84,000-point level for the first time on Friday as foreign institutional buying, following a global rally sparked by the US Federal Reserve's rate cut, drove key indices to new peaks. After hitting an intraday high of 84,694, the index closed at 84,544, a new mark. Nifty mirrored the trend, ending at a record 25,791, with an intraday peak of 25,849. Foreign institutional investors made net purchases of Rs 14,064 crore, while domestic institutions sold stocks worth Rs 4,427 crore. The rupee, too, closed at 83.56 against the dollar on Friday, up from 83.66. P 19

## THOUSANDS JOIN MARCH FOR JUSTICE

Debobrata Shome



Marchers demanding justice for the RG Kar victim near the Academy of Fine Arts on Friday | P 2

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# Marchers, torches converge at Shyambazar in rally for justice

# Cops struggle to get traffic back to normal

Forums From All Sections Of Society Come Together To Keep Movement Momentum Going

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**Kolkata:** Thousands took part in the torch march on Friday seeking justice for the RG Kar rape-murder victim and in solidarity with the junior doctors' protest. The rally reverberated with slogans that opposed the ingrained patriarchy, the deep-rooted misogyny and demanded dire need for safe spaces for women at work places and on streets.

The march covered 42 kms from Hiland Park to Shyambazar via Ruby crossing, Science City, Chingrighata, Belegata, NRS Hospital, Calcutta National Medical College, SSKM and Medical College. For the first time, multiple forums from all sectors and sections of society came under one umbrella — 'Joint Democratic Front' — to strengthen the movement for justice.

"The horrific incident at RG Kar and the subsequent events in the next three to four hours have shaken all of us. The fire of rebellion is burning in everyone's heart. The torch represents rebellion and people will traverse multiple paths with that torch seeking justice and protesting against the systemic corruption," said chest physician Arindam Roychoudhury, one of the main organisers of the march.

The rally, which started with 500 people from Highland Park, swelled to 2,000 at Ruby as many people assembled at nodal points joined the rally. The torch-bearers handed over the torch, signifying the people's relentless spirit, at specific points.

Soumyadip Maity from IT Workers' Association, who joined the rally at Science City,



<p><b>66</b> The idea of the rally was unique because it signified our common responsibility as we were passing on the torch to the next person so that this fight for justice continues</p> <p><b>Brohmani Bhattacharya, STUDENT</b></p>	<p><b>66</b> The initial battle has been won but not the war. This is the first time multiple forums came together to seek justice and protest against systemic corruption in society</p> <p><b>Udita Nag   DOCTOR</b></p>
<p><b>66</b> The brutality of the rape-murder on R G Kar Hospital campus has shaken us. We all have somehow related to her pain and the angst will stay with us</p> <p><b>Sreelekha Ghosh   IT EMPLOYEE</b></p>	<p><b>66</b> It is very important to keep the movement going so that the authorities do not think that the protests have subdued. We are determined to reform our society</p> <p><b>Aditi Roy Choudhury, GARIAHAT RESIDENT</b></p>

said: "More than 150 IT employees joined the rally because we feel that it is important to raise our voice unitedly to keep the momentum of this apolitical protest going." Dhriti-Man Sengupta from South Kolkata Schools Alumni Collective said: "Some of the South Kolkata alumni were present at Highland Park and Ruby. Majority of us were at the

SSKM nodal point. This initiative will help us to spread the message that we all are united till justice is delivered and the culprits are punished."

Rimjhim Sinha, who had initiated the 'Reclaim the Night' movement, joined the rally from Ruby crossing. "We will have to keep the movement going till justice for Tilotama is delivered. We will

also have to fight for the structural reforms in society so that the patriarchal mindset can be changed." Gender rights activist Satabdi Das joined the rally from Science City. She shared that it was important that such agitations were held so that the focus of the case is not shifted and there is a fast trial.

CNMC senior resident



The march covered 42 kms from Hiland Park to Shyambazar via Ruby, Chingrighata, NRS, Nandan and Medical College

doctor Ambarish Ray said: "The junior doctors have been at the forefront of the movement but the cause has received immense support because a young doctor was raped and murdered at her work place. It can happen to any one of us. Therefore, it is no longer a junior doctors' protest but a citizens' movement for justice."

Film director Birs Dasgupta from Amra Tilotama group joined the march on its last lap from College Street to Shyambazar. "The torch rally signifies the journey towards light from darkness as it marks thousands of citizens raising voices for justice and a corrup-

tion-free society. This is probably the first time that so many common people are coming to the streets for a common cause," added Dasgupta.

Presidency University alumni and East Bengal fan Suchetana Bandyopadhyay, who joined from Chingrighata and then again from College Street, felt this torch rally was serving as a unifying factor among all sections of society. Alumni of Bagbazar Multipurpose Girls School Soma Choudhury said, "Around 25 former students of our school joined the rally from Hatibagan and carried the torch till Shyambazar."

**Kolkata:** Police had a tough time in keeping the traffic moving on important stretches of the city — EM Bypass, Moulali, Bellaghata Main Road, College Street and its adjoining roads — as protesters hit the road on Friday evening for the relay torch rally demanding justice for the RG Kar rape-murder victim.

According to police, the fact that the protesters chose the north-bound flank helped cops in managing traffic as vehicular density remains lesser on the flank as compared to the south-bound one during evening peak hours. "The idea was to keep at least one flank moving."

"We requested the protesters to keep space for cars. A large section, along with the organizers, agreed to our request. However, with fresh protesters joining at every important crossing, it became a struggle to keep the crossings moving each time the rally reached these particular spots. By the time they approached Ambedkar Bridge, the situation worsened as the stretch was narrower. Thus, barely a few minutes of

hold-ups at Avishikta, Ruby and Science City crossing were enough to lead to traffic jams on EM Bypass. When the rally was on top of Ambedkar Bridge, the tail of the jam was all the way back to Ruby crossing around 7.45 pm," claimed a traffic officer.

"While I completely support the protesters trying to ensure justice for the RG Kar victim, I believe there was mismanagement on behalf of both police and organizers at the crossings. While most protesters at the rear walked keeping one lane open, there were some at the front who unknowingly blocked the entire flank. I did not see enough police effort to move them away. I was held up near Ruby crossing-VIP Bazar for over 40 minutes," said Snigdendu Roy, who was returning to Howrah from RN Tagore Hospital.

Police claimed that several vehicles that followed the rallyists added to the confusion. "The snarls were temporary in nature and there were multiple diversionary routes. We also took full advantage wherever there were slip lanes available, especially on EM Bypass," said an officer.



The protesters kept space for vehicles to move in a single file

# KMC uses more chlorine to treat water as Hooghly turbidity rises

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**Kolkata:** The KMC water supply department is charging more chlorine into the raw water before its filtration at its Palta water treatment plant. This is to disinfect the raw water and make it safe for drinking as turbidity level in the Hooghly nearly doubled



TOI SEPT 19, 2024

in two days, from 400 nephelometric turbidity unit (NTU) on Wednesday to around 700 NTU on Friday due to release of storm water from DVC-run barrages in high volume. NTU is the presence of suspended particles in water.

"When the level crosses 500, it becomes a challenge for us to keep the supply of water normal. Now that the turbidity

## SAFETY CONCERNS



The Hooghly is the major source of raw water for Kolkata

- > The turbidity level rose from 400 on Wednesday to nearly 700 mark on Friday at the Palta plant
- > As a precautionary measure, the KMC water supply department is adding extra chlorine to raw water at Palta, Garden Reach and Dhapa plants
- > The water booster pumping stations have been asked to take note of the turbidity factor and take appropriate measures
- > KMC confirmed that the quality of drinking water was safe till now and there was no reason to panic

A KMC engineer said that if the turbidity level rises further and any machine goes out of order, it would be difficult for the civic body to supply safe drinking water to vast parts of the city. "Several machines work together in

our century-old plant to make the filtration process a success. Now we are extremely cautious about the protection of these machines," said a civic official.

Similarly, the engineers at Garden Reach and Dhapa plants are also battling high levels of turbidity. While Garden Reach supplies potable water to large parts of south Kolkata, including the added areas such as Garden Reach, Behala, Tollygunge (parts) and Jadavpur, the Dhapa plant caters to drinking water needs of residents staying along EM Bypass.

According to a KMC official, the slow sand filtration bed at the Palta plant has proved to be a saviour in this hour of crisis.

"It is due to this slow sand bed that we have been able to keep our plant operational. This bed is absorbing the high volume of sludge and keeping our plant operational," he said. Besides, the plant engineers are using an adequate volume of alum as a coagulant to make the water safe for drinking.

# Plaint letter written by JU ragging victim, confirms handwriting expert

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**Kolkata:** The 17-year-old Bengali first-year students found unconscious at the JU Main Hostel on Aug 9 last year, and eventually died at hospital, had indeed been forced to write a fake complaint letter by the accused seniors hours before his death.

A handwriting expert, appearing as state witness, has confirmed that the contents of the letter (seized by police as one of the most crucial pieces of evidence) were indeed written by the deceased. The cross-examination of the handwriting expert is likely on Oct 4.

So far, five witnesses have appeared in the court ever since lawyer Bivas Chatterjee was appointed as the special public prosecutor this Aug. Among them, claimed sources, are the autopsy surgeon, the emergency doctor and the ICU doctor who attended to the victim and the manager-cum-record keeper of the hospital.

## CASE SO FAR

- > A Pocco court had earlier framed charges in the 2023 JU ragging incident
- > Five witnesses have recorded their statements
- > The charge sheet had been placed in a local Pocco court on Oct 19, 2023
- > The charges were framed under IPC sections 305 and 34, sections 10, 12 and 17 of the Pocco Act and Section 4 of the West Bengal Prohibition of Ragging in Educational Institutions, 2020, Act

According to police sources who prepared the charge sheet, main accused Sourav Chowdhury had taken the victim to room 104 of the hostel from a tea stall where the other accused were present and asked him to write a false complaint letter against his Bengali department se-

nior. He was asked to write that the senior — from a rival student union — had spoken ill about the hostel boarders and was trying to drill fear into him that they would force him to jump. He was asked to sign the letter barely 48 hours after his arrival at the hostel.

According to police claims, for the next four-and-a-half hours, at least one of the 12 JU students arrested so far by the police stayed put with him, torturing him mentally.

The chargesheet had been placed at the local Pocco court on Oct 19 last year. "The charges were framed under IPC section 305 along with IPC 34. If convicted, the accused can be sentenced to death or life imprisonment. The cops have also charged the accused under sections 10, 12 and 17 of the Pocco Act and under Section 4 of the West Bengal Prohibition of Ragging in Educational Institutions, 2020, Act. All the accused are in judicial custody.

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CHANGE Begins Here

### 6 convicted for shooting porn, selling online

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Kolkata: A local court has convicted six persons for allegedly shooting pornographic video in New Town three years ago, which were then sold to various apps in India and foreign countries. The sentencing in the case is expected next week. All the accused have been in custody since March 17, 2021 though the probe had begun a year earlier.

#### NEW TOWN

"The case was registered at Bidhannagar Cybercrime PS based on a written complaint. The five were arrested from a hotel while they were preparing for a shoot. Several gadgets, sex toys and medicines were seized," cops said.

The sixth convict was held from Howrah station. They ran an office at Tollygunge and lured girls by offering modelling roles, but later forced them into obscene shoot.

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# Around the world in four days: Pandal themes set puja mood

Revellers Can 'Visit' Las Vegas, White House, Thailand

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**Kolkata:** A crowd-puller pandal in central Kolkata that had showcased a replica of the Ram Mandir in 2023 will feature The Sphere of Las Vegas this year. Another pandal in north Kolkata will feature a 100-foot-high Venkateswara Swamy temple in Tirupati. Yet another pandal will recreate the White House, a month before Kamala Harris takes on Donald Trump at the US elections. Though puja organisers in Kolkata have shied away from promotions till now, themes will very much be a part of the Durga Puja experience this year.

At Santosh Mitra Square which had made a replica of Ayodhya temple last year, this year the organisers are putting in place The Sphere of Las Vegas, a music and entertainment hub in Nevada. The auditorium is famous for its immersive video and audio capabilities, which include a 16K resolution wrap-around interior LED screen, speakers with beamforming and wave field synthesis technologies, and 4D physical effects. The venue's exterior also has LED displays that the organisers are set to replicate.

"Our Durga Puja theme usually centres around a current affairs-related issue. Since there was nothing major in the news when we were planning this year's puja, we thought of offering the city a unique and dazzling experience. Unfortunately, the RG Kar incident occurred just over a month ago and although it is too late to alter the theme, this year's puja will be one of protest, and hence, we have refrained

Pics: Kamalendu Bhadra, Debobrata Shome



Pandals being constructed at (top) Santosh Mitra Square, (above) Tridhara and (right) Ballygunge Cultural

from promotion," said Sajal Ghosh, BJP councillor and one of the organisers of the puja committee.

Sreebhumi Sporting in north Kolkata that is helmed by fire minister Sujit Bose and is known to recreate world monuments including the St Peter's Basilica in Vatican, Dubai's Burj Khalifa and Puri's Jagannath temple, is again going spiritual and replicating the famous Sri Venkateswara Swamy temple, popularly known as Tirupati.

"The 100-foot high structure will be white on the outside and golden on the inside. There will be motifs of the pre-

siding deity, Balaji, in the décor. We are not scaling down the grandeur or extravagance but we have toned-down the promotions. However, we are confident that like previous years, this year too, people will love our presentation and we are going to have record footfall," said Dibendu Goswami, a senior member of the puja committee.

Celebrating their 55th year, Mohammad Ali Park is making a replica of the White House, the official residence and workplace of the president of the US. "People had loved our last year's theme, Kedarnath temple. This



year, we are attempting to recreate the White House that will be in focus as USA's election season is on. We had refrained from a promotional blitzkrieg because of the RG Kar incident but now that the puja mood is setting in, we are trying to wrap up the work at the earliest and promote the theme," said Prabhat Kumar Tiwari of the Youth Association of Mohammad Ali Park Durga Puja.

Salt Lake's BJ block will showcase a slice of Thailand with a 70-foot-high statue of Buddha on the lines of the Big Buddha statue in Ang Thong province. The organisers were in the news last year after they had made a pandal replicating the 112-foot-high Adiyogi Shiva bust in Coimbatore but had to suspend a laser light show accompanying the puja, following concerns about safety in the sky and on the ground. "This year we are sticking to the norms set by the cops but are set to enthral the city with the biggest statue of Gautam Buddha," said one of the organisers.

Gouriberia Sarbojonin will feature terracotta artefacts and temples of Bishnupur while Salt Lake's FD Block will feature pilgrimage sites like Haridwar, Varanasi, Kalighat and Kapil Muni temple in Gangasagar.

## SHOPPERS HIT THE MARKETS

Suparna Goswami, Debobrata Shome



Traders, who had been lamenting poor business so far, were relieved at the upswing in the footfall at the traditional shopping hubs in the city like (top) New Market, Hatibagan and (above) Gariahat. A section of buyers had stayed away from puja shopping in the aftermath of the RG Kar tragedy but the scene has started to change over the past couple of days

## 'Astragram' artisans hopeful of turnaround before puja

Zeeshan.Jawed @timesofindia.com

**Kolkata:** Processions, rallies and the sombre mood in Kolkata due to the protests against the RG Kar tragedy before Durga Puja had cast a spell of gloom on a village in Howrah's Uluberia. But, with junior doctors calling off the cease-work, villagers are finally seeing a ray of hope.

Close to 70 families in Guntinagri village, 65 kms away from Kolkata in Uluberia's Howrah, are involved in making miniature dummy weapons, masks and other items of decoration. As protests peaked in the second week of Aug, retailers and Durga Puja committees put their orders on hold. Many even scaled down their orders, requesting cheaper quality products just for the sake of the rituals.

With doctors calling off the cease-work on Wednesday, residents of the village are hopeful that they will be able to recover some of the losses since Durga Puja organisers are reverting to their earlier plans of full scale arrangements. "With a shadow of uncertainty over the scale of the festival this year, the demand for decorative items had dipped by almost 40 per-



An artisan from Guntinagri displaying a Durga Puja embellishment

The situation has started improving. We received more orders in the past week. With doctors calling off their cease-work, there is still hope for the imbroglio to end before the festival

Prabir Manna | OWNER OF KALPATRU PRODUCTS

cent. The retailers even lowered their rates asking us to scale down the craftsmanship," said Prabir Manna, owner of Kalpatru Products.

Earlier, weapon workers from the village would go to Kumartuli to work in units

producing the dummies. Eventually they started setting up workshops in their own village and hiring local people.

"Last year, a month before the pujas we were working 16 to 17 hours a day. This year we are hardly working eight to nine hours," said Tarak Panja, who has a manufacturing unit in his house. Many manufacturers had even decreased the number of workers.

"It will be difficult to pay if we hire more workers. This is the time of the year when every family in the village makes a decent living. But this year many will have to settle for lesser earnings," said Sandip Ghorai, who has been associated with the trade for over three decades.

## Met keeps eye on system that may bring rain in puja run-up

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Kolkata:** A system is set to form over the Bay of Bengal within the next four days that may trigger rain though the Met office is not yet sure about its impact. The direction in which it will move is still unclear.

"We expect a system to form over the Bay of Bengal that could trigger rain. It's still too early to predict the place of its formation and its direction. We will keep tracking the system over the next 48 hours," said Regional Meteorological Centre (RMC) weather scientist.

Three low-pressure systems that developed into depression in the past one-and-a-half months generated heavy rain in Kolkata and south Bengal, both having received excess rain in Sept so far and the season could end with a healthy excess, said meteorologists.

The city and south Bengal remained dry and humid on Friday, when the maximum temperature here soared to 34.2°C. The monsoon trough, now passing over Digha, remains weak. "This is why we have had no rain in three days. It will stay warm and humid till at least Sunday. A few scattered thunderstorms could strike but there will be no consistent rain till the system forms," said Biswas.

## Battered roads set for facelift for smooth pandal-hopping

Saikat Ray & Tamaghna Banerjee | TNN

**Kolkata:** The civic bodies in Kolkata and Bidhannagar are set to start road repairs ahead of Durga Puja. KMC and BMC officials said the list of roads that had been handed to them by police would act as a guide to prioritise repairs and iron out bumps for the pandal-hopping ride. While roads in Kolkata are not too bad, the abysmal condition of roads in Salt Lake is a major concern.

At a meeting at the KMC headquarters on Friday, mayor Firdah Hakim asked the roads department to get all stretches in order by Mahalaya. The sewerage and drainage department has been asked to be alert to pump out storm water should it rain on the festive days, while the water supply department has been told to ensure round-the-clock supply to puja committees. "We will need to augment our supply for the festive days," said an official. The KMC lighting department has been asked to ensure there is no dark stretch, especially those leading to pandals. "We have alerted our executive engineers to make sure street lights don't malfunction and that there is no risk of electrocution," said a KMC electrical de-



Pics: Biplob Bhattacharjee, Mayukh Sengupta

(Top) A crater at Esplanade; (L) a battered spot in Salt Lake near Belegata crossing

partment official. "We have got a list of roads from the Kolkata Traffic Police. We will need to wrap up by Sept 30," said a KMC roads department official. The stretches that the civic body will take up for repairs include the battered road near Bridge No. 4, Sealdah flyover; Syed Amir Ali Avenue, Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Road in Tollygunge, DH Road, Motilal Gupta Road, MG Road in Tollygunge and EM Bypass. The Bidhannagar Police has identified 95 stretches that require urgent repair. Though BMC has been citing financial

shortage for the sorry state of roads in the township, officials said patchwork repairs would be taken up to fill craters soon.

During a puja coordination meeting between police and representatives of 618 Durga Puja committees in Bidhannagar in the presence of civic officials on Friday, cops identified 39 stretches in Salt Lake, 18 in Baguiati, 13 in New Town, nine in Sector V, five near airport and three each in Narayanpur and Rajarhat that needed repairs. "Temporary repairs were carried out and paver blocks were laid at some places, but they have disintegrated again," said an officer.

At the meeting, police identified certain areas that are prone to waterlogging and those that have poor illumination and have urged the authorities to address them by next week.

## Cops make crowd control plan before puja meet

Dwaipayan.Ghosh @timesofindia.com

**Kolkata:** Ahead of the police coordination meeting that is scheduled for Sept 25 and inspections that are set to begin from Sept 27, Kolkata Police is already working on a plan to manage traffic and crowds before Durga Puja commences.

Cops are primarily focusing on adequate crowd monitoring by deploying a large number of volunteers and effectively using public address systems to make key announcements. Managing the huge rush of passengers at Metro stations is also another area that cops have targeted to improve upon.

The Kolkata Traffic Police has identified a few zones where managing traffic during Durga Puja will remain their main concern. Areas like MG Road-CR Avenue crossing, Chetla crossing, Rashbehari crossing, Deshapriya Park crossing and Sovabazar crossing, will be of prime importance. With Santosh Mitra Square set to replicate Las Vegas's sphere this year, it became the first pandal that got inspected. Additional CP-II Subhankar Sinha Sarkar is likely to make suggestions to its organisers before Mahalaya.

## Cha, chanachur turn dearer with hike in prices of tea leaves, pulses, oil

Krishnendu Bandyopadhyay & Monotosh Chakraborty | TNN

**Kolkata:** The cost of daily essentials have started sliding up ahead of Durga Puja. From the morning cuppa to evening snacks, prices of basic kitchen staples have seen a significant surge, impacting household budgets.

The retail price of all categories of tea has risen sharply by Rs 40-60 per kg, while that of mustard as well as white edible oils has increased by Rs 20-30 per kg, now selling at Rs 140-160 per kg and Rs 100-120 per kg respectively. Pulses, like moong dal and masoor dal, have also jumped up by Rs 10-30 per kg and Rs 10-20 per kg. These hikes in edible oil and dal prices have, in turn, made popular "adda" snacks, such as chanachur or namkeen, pricier by Rs 10-30 per kg. "Next in the line are bread and cakes as ingredients have become dearer," said Anil Pramanik, a bakery retailer in Behala.

The rise in tea prices has been attributed to significant crop loss in Assam and Bengal due to adverse weather conditions, pest infestations and a drop in export prices. According to the Tea Association of India, tea estates in Bengal reported a 21% drop in production till July that in previous year and those in Assam 11%.

The price hike of edible oils is reportedly fuelled by the govt's recent hike in

### EVENING SNACKS NOT A CHEAP AFFAIR

RETAIL PRICE HIKE IN LAST 5 DAYS

- White oil: ₹20/litre
- Mustard oil: ₹20-30/litre
- Tea: ₹40-60/kg
- Moong dal: ₹10-30/kg
- Masoor dal: ₹10-20/kg
- Chanachur/Namkeen: ₹10-30/kg



Tea has turned pricier by Rs 40-60 per kg and namkeen by Rs 10-30 per kg

customs duties on crude oils, such as soybean, sunflower, and palm oil. The duty on crude oil jumped from 0% to 20%, leading to an increase of Rs 20 per litre across varieties. Retailers and wholesalers in Kolkata have already adjusted their prices, with consumers bearing the brunt.

Chitra Dasgupta, a housewife from Bhawanipore, expressed her concern: "With oil prices rising by over Rs 20 per litre, it's becoming challenging to manage our monthly expenses."

With the festive season just around the corner, many families are already feeling the pressure on their finances. Anup Chanda, a retailer in Kidderpore, acknowledged that while sales continued, consumers were growing anxious about the rising prices and limited stock. "Who-

lesalers have raised prices by Rs 22 per litre. We are witnessing a rise in demand as people want to stock up before prices go up further," he said.

While the govt argues the increase in customs duties will benefit domestic oilseed farmers, allowing them to fetch better prices for their produce, the immediate effect has been a sharp rise in consumer prices. This, combined with inflationary pressure, is making it difficult for households to keep up with essential expenses. There are also growing fears that black marketers may hoard oil stocks to create artificial demand, pushing prices even higher. Traders warned this could further strain the market in the festive season, when demand for oil-based food items spiked.

## KMC set to spend ₹700 cr to rejuvenate choked Adi Ganga

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**Kolkata:** The KMC will spend nearly Rs 700 crore to clean the Adi Ganga and rejuvenate the water flow in the channel that was once vibrant but has dried up over the years to turn into a canal, now known as the Tolly's Nullah.

The project will involve the setting up of sewage treatment plants (STPs) along the banks as part of the pollution-abatement work. The scope of work includes managing and operating the treatment plants for 15 years

The three-year project, which is expected to start early next year, involves setting up of sewage treatment plants (STPs) along the banks as part of the pollution-abatement work. The scope of work includes managing and operating the treatment plants for 15 years. EMS Ltd, a water and sewer-



The Tolly's Nullah, now choked with sewage, floods the areas along the banks during high tides

age infrastructure firm headquartered in Ghaziabad, has emerged as the lowest bidder in the Rs 681-crore tender, floated by the civic body. Within three years, the company will design, build, test and commission the infrastructure required to reduce pollution in the Adi Ganga. The firm is engaged in water and sewerage projects in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Uttarakhand and Rajasthan.

The KMC is set to seek concurrence from the World Bank in a month, said a civic official associated with the project. After a nod from the donor (World Bank), the matter will be first placed at the mayor-in-council meeting and subsequently, a proposal will be placed at the KMC House for approval. "We hope to begin work by early next year and wrap up the project by the end of 2027. The contractors will be liable for operation and maintenance of the



High tide inundates large parts of Kalighat and Chetla, areas along Tolly's Nullah

TOI | SEPT 20, '24

infrastructure for 15 years after completion of the project," said a KMC official.

According to the official, the multi-crore project has been taken up with a view to revive the Tolly's Nullah, which is choked with sewage and industrial waste discharge. Three major sewage treatment plants will be set up to treat the water before it flows into Tolly's Nullah. "Right now, the entire length of Tolly's Nullah, from Kidderpore to Garia, is getting polluted by untreated sewage. We have planned to construct three sewage treatment plants and refurbish 24 lifting stations to combat pollution," said a KMC official. According to KMC source there are 72 points along the Tolly's Nullah, where waste water is discharged into the Adi Ganga.

# Del, Mum agencies keen to start paid porter service at Kol airport

End-To-End Fee ₹500 Per Flyer

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Kolkata: There's some good news for flyers at the Kolkata airport! The elusive paid porter service is finally set to be rolled out with at least two bidders responding to the tender floated by the Airports Authority of India (AAI). Airport sources said agencies from Delhi and Mumbai had shown interest in starting this service in Kolkata.

Kolkata airport authorities have since Jan been attempting to reintroduce the paid porter service that was discontinued in 2019. But multiple tenders had failed to elicit a response. Before the service was discontinued, porters used to charge a fee

## HELPING HANDS FOR HASSLE-FREE TRAVEL

- SERVICES OFFERED**
- > Offer end-to-end assistance to the departing and arriving passengers in all processes involved at the airport at ₹500 per flyer
  - > Porterage services and assistance with baggage at ₹200 per passenger
  - > Assistance for arranging transport and accommodation booking at ₹200 per instance
  - > Helping to arrange reservation and purchase of tickets at ₹200 per instance
  - > Priority groups: Unaccompanied minors, elderly, sick and physically-challenged passengers



Paid Porterage at Kolkata airport has been suspended since 2019

of Rs 300 to transport passengers' luggage in trolleys to the baggage scanner. Additionally, arriving passengers received help with calling cabs or booking hotels. This time, they have increased the end-to-end paid porterage charges from Rs 300 to Rs 500 per person.

The paid porter service is to assist the elderly and others, who wish to avail services like carrying the luggage to the check-in counter while departing or fetching it from the luggage belt on arrival against a fee.

The service was discontinued after passengers complained of being scammed by trolley retrievers. They had also alleged of being fleeced by trolley retrievers, impersonating passenger assistance staff.

Flyers — particularly the elderly and infirm and also mothers travelling with children — want the service

to be reintroduced as do business travellers.

"They (the agencies) will be capable of providing various facilities to passengers, from boarding passes to immigration and seating in the waiting lounge. With permission from Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS), the agency's staff will be able to access all these areas," said an airport official, adding that many airports in the country offer such services.

Under the new tender, the service provider will be allocated counters within the airport premises. The licensed agency will assist with airport formalities and provide guidance and assistance specifically to elderly, sick, minor, and physically-disabled passengers. According to the new rules, the agency can only use the facilities available at the airport and cannot rent any cars from outside. This service can be booked online or at the airport. The service provider will have their staff with trolleys.

## Man arrested for molesting high court lawyer

Kolkata: Narendrapur police on Friday arrested one Uttam Ghosh for molesting a Calcutta High Court lawyer. A Baruipur court remand-

ed the accused in 14 days' police custody. A group of youths allegedly clicked photos of the victim, who was walking to-

wards a petrol pump with her husband, and passed lewd remarks. The victim lodged a complaint at Narendrapur PS. Probe is underway. TNN

## Councillor held for abduction, expelled by TMC

Sanjib Chakraborty | TNN

Kolkata: The state CID on Friday arrested a Trinamool councillor from Barasat for allegedly masterminding the abduction of a Tripura-based businessman for a ransom of around Rs 2.3 crore. Trinamool expelled the accused councillor from the party following the arrest.

According to CID sources, Milan Sardar, councillor of Barasat Municipality's ward number 2, who was accused of being involved in the kidnapping at least thrice and already extorted several crores of rupees as ransom and had gone into hiding, was apprehended from his residence at Barasat's Subhas Pally.

The businessman was rescued after a CID team raided a posh apartment in Barasat.

According to CID sources, he was kidnapped at gunpoint from the parking lot of an apartment in the

Sodepur-Khardah area on Sept 2 and was held captive in the residential complex.

Preliminary investigations suggest that Sardar plotted the abduction from the councillor's office in ward 2.

Seven others, including a former police officer and the driver of an SUV, have already been arrested.

Barasat Trinamool MP Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar, Trinamool's district organisational president, confirmed that Sardar has been expelled from the party. "We promptly took action against him for being involved in illegal activities. We have zero tolerance on corruption. If anyone is found guilty, the party will not stand by them," MP said.

Seven others were earlier arrested in connection with the crime, and CID officials came to know about the councillor's involvement while interrogating them.

## Unicef official lauds Kanyashree, Rupashree

Kolkata: Bengal govt's social welfare schemes like Kanyashree and Rupashree have been key drivers of the social upliftment in Bengal. Unicef field office chief Monjur Hossain said at a conclave organised by CII eastern region on Friday.

Hossain also praised India's significant

achievement in the complete eradication of polio and said that huge potential lies in leveraging the human capital available in the east through skill development. He stressed the necessity of achieving sustainable development goals towards a holistic approach of creating a child-friendly society. TNN

## Fresh contracts for fee parking in New Town

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Kolkata: The NKDA on Friday initiated the process to give fresh contracts to agencies for collection of fees in the designated 'fee

**11 ZONES** parking' zones across the township. There are 11 fee parking zones, spread over 33 stretches in New Town, officials said. The contract

tenure of agencies operating 9 of these facilities will end on Dec 31. "We plan to select the agencies in advance so that they can function from Jan 1," an NKDA official said.

No parking will be allowed within 5m of any crossing and at least 3m free space has to be kept on both sides of the passages to adjacent plots. The agency's name would be mentioned at these sites, officials said.

## Cops' wives want transfer of husbands to home dists

Kolkata: The kin of cops serving in Bengal Police — mostly their wives — put up a rare protest near Bhawani Bhavan on Friday, demanding immediate transfers so that cops can return to their home districts. Sources said the kin claimed that these policemen had been posted out of the home districts during the Lok Sabha polls.

### STAGE PROTEST

However, no one has been transferred back despite multiple petitions, several of which include health and other pressing personal reasons.

The protest threw traffic around Gopalnagar and Bhawani Bhavan out of gear during morning rush hours. It took about 10 to 15 minutes to cross the stretch between Horticulture Garden and Bhawani Bhavan. Hazra-bound vehicles had to be diverted for a few minutes during the stir. TNN

## 'State's solar yield potential thrice Centre's estimate'

Kolkata: Bengal's potential for production of solar energy with regards to ground-mounted plants is over 19,000 MW, three times of what the ministry of new and renewable energy (MNRE) had estimated, revealed an iFOREST report released on Friday. It indicates that Bengal has the potential to emerge as a leader in solar energy production. Chandra Bhushan, CEO of iFOREST, said Bengal has over 300 days of sunshine annually — more than Germany. Europe's top solar energy producer.

About 56% of the potential is in Purulia. The floating solar PV potential in 30 dams is 53,567 MW with Kangsabati dam taking the lead. For wind power projects, a theoretical potential of about 20,000 MW is identified at a hub height of 100m above ground level (AGL), and about 23,000 MW at 150 m AGL (at 100% utilisation), the report stated. TNN

# Pujo Shopping Begins at Bengal Shopping Festival

## SHOP AND SUPPORT LIVELIHOODS

**Amazing deals and discounts on selected items\***

**Venue: Biswa Bangla Mela Prangan | Date: 20-24 September, 2024 | Time: 12 noon – 8 pm**

Bengal Shopping Festival is a grand event that evolved out of a private-public partnership. Come and get mesmerised by a rich tapestry of Bengal's finest goods and crafts ranging from a wide array of GI-tagged products, textiles and sarees, to products marketed by different self-help groups, handicrafts of exquisite artistic excellence, electronic gadgets, jewellery, and a plethora of confectioneries and scrumptious food items.

Hon'ble Chief Minister  
**Mamata Banerjee**

Remotely inaugurated the Bengal Shopping Festival, alongside **2 new showrooms and 1 franchisee showroom of 'Banglar Saree'** (a brand of Bengal's finest traditional sarees and female attires) on 20 September, 2024.

Durgachak, Haldia, Purba Medinipur

Biswa Bangla Shilpi Haat, Eco Park, North 24 Parganas

Franchisee Shop, Phulia, Nadia

*Banglar Saree*

\*T&C Apply

**Government of West Bengal**

# Jr docs end Swasthya Bhavan sit-in with march to CBI HQ

'Movement To Continue On Campuses'

Tamaghna Banerjee & Sumati Yengkhom | TNN

Kolkata: To mark the end to their 43-day cease-work, several hundred junior doctors from across campuses on Friday marched from Swasthya Bhavan to CBI headquarters at CGO Complex in Salt Lake — the same route they had taken before starting the 10-day sit-in demonstration outside the state health department headquarters on Sept 10.

"Our movement for justice will continue even as we join emergency duty from Saturday. We will sit in the respective dharna sites at our medical colleges on a roster. We will be keeping a close watch on the development of the investigation and implementation of the assurances given to us by the state," said Aniket Mahata, a protesting doctor.

The walk by 700-odd doctors started around 4 pm with banners and posters crying



Doctors march towards CBI's CGO Complex office

for "justice for Abhaya". Along the 4-km walk, many bystanders and locals joined them as the doctors stopped at multiple points and spoke to their companions stressing on how this was not the end of the protest and that they would continue their fight to seek justice through several other modes. The doctors finally reached CGO Complex around 6.40 pm.

"We lifted the sit-in as some of our demands have been met by the state. We will now head back to our medical college campuses where we

will continue our protest at dharna camps. If the state doesn't keep the rest of the promises and fails to take proper steps to remove threat culture from campuses, we will go for a bigger movement and may start our cease-work again," said Kinjal Nanda, a protesting doctor.

Once the doctors reached CGO Complex, some of them started shouting slogans asking the CBI to arrest the rest of the culprits while the majority of them went to Shyambazar to join another rally by citizens' forum from Hiland

## 1st 'Abhaya camp' in flood-hit zone

The West Bengal Junior Doctors' Front started their first 'Abhaya medical camp' in the flood-affected Panskura on Friday. They also took relief material, dry food items along with medicines. The junior doctors are assessing the worst affected areas where they will be setting up more camps and along with relief material. TNN

Park that was set to culminate at Shyambazar.

Another junior doctor said: "We want to reiterate that we don't want to engage in politics. If we wanted, we wouldn't have sat with our demands for such a long time."

From Friday morning, junior doctors as well as decorators had begun cleaning the area outside Swasthya Bhavan. Once all doctors left, sweepers from conservancy department of NDITA cleaned the streets. Bidhannagar cops said the guardrails have been removed and usual traffic movement would resume from Saturday.

# OPD footfall up but emergency, in-patient ops wait for docs' return

Sumati Yengkhom & Poulami Roy Banerjee | TNN

Kolkata: OPD footfall in almost all medical colleges apart from R G Kar was either normal or near normal on Friday.

While resumption of emergency duty in a phased manner by juniors from Saturday will be a huge relief for hospital administrators and senior doctors, the indoor services will still be under pressure till the junior doctors resume work full-fledged.

On Friday, IPGMEER saw a surge of 9,500 patients at its OPD and 500 patients were rushed to the emergency till 5 pm. The hospital had admitted 300 patients by 5 pm. "The OPD footfall is already normal while both admission rate and elective surgeries too have picked up. The most problematic area is emergency and the indoor wards where many patients need round-the-clock monitoring," said an official at IPGMEER.

At Medical College Hospital Kolkata, the OPD footfall was around 4,000, a little less than its normal count. "While admission rate is still lower than normal, occupancy in some departments like cardiology,

## FRIDAY PATIENT COUNT AT GOVT HOSPS

SSKM	
> OPD   9,500	> Admitted till 5 pm   300
> Patients at emergency till 5 pm   500	
R G Kar	
> OPD   3,355	> Admission till 3 pm   107
> Patients at emergency till 3 pm   90	
Medical College Hospital	
> OPD   Around 4,000	
CNMC	
> Around 4,000 in OPD	
> Admission rate at these hospitals is still 20% to 40% less than on any normal day	



Patients and their relatives outside R G Kar Hospital's trauma centre on Friday

gynaecology and critical care unit is almost full. Some juniors are already helping unofficially. Once they resume work full-fledged it will definitely improve patient care services," said an administrator at MCH Kolkata.

Mina Rajak was admitted for blood transfusion at Medical College Hospital on Thursday night, but her family complained that she has not been treated properly. "Only a

few doctors are there in the ward and they said my mother's condition was critical. We cannot afford to shift her to a private hospital," said her son Suraj.

R G Kar recorded 3,355 OPD and 90 emergency patients while 107 were admitted till 3 pm. But in the absence of junior doctors, the hospital is prioritising serious patients for admission. "My father is being tended by senior doc-

ctors. But I saw many empty beds in the ICU. Protest and treatment can go on simultaneously," said Rahul Paul, whose father is admitted at R G Kar.

At Calcutta National Medical College, around 4,000 patients were attended by doctors on Friday. "But we continue to admit only patients needing immediate surgical or medical intervention," said an official at CNMC.

# Sandip Ghosh refuses consent to CBI's narco analysis test

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Kolkata: The CBI on Friday sought the court's permission to conduct narco analysis test on Sandip Ghosh, ex-principal of R G Kar, and a polygraph test on ex-Tala PS OC Abhijit Mandal. Ghosh has refused his consent to the test. The agency alleged that both, arrested in connection with the larger conspiracy for rape-murder of the R G Kar PGT doctor, were evasive during interrogation.

CBI, which has already conducted layered voice analyst (LVA) and polygraph tests on Ghosh at least thrice, claimed that the test report from CFSL, New Delhi

## POLYGRAPH TEST ON EX-TALA OC: NOD SOUGHT

found Ghosh's "version to be deceptive". The agency, which needs to verify the version of Ghosh, needs a narco analysis test to "get some clues about the incident". It had earlier raised suspicion about Ghosh's replies to a number of charges, including delay in registering FIR and a hurriedly done cremation of the victim. CBI sought the court's nod to conduct narco analysis test on Ghosh at Directorate of Forensic Science at Gandhinagar.

Appearing before the additional chief judicial magistrate, Sealadh's court, the

## RAPE-MURDER PROBE

> CBI seeks court nod for polygraph test on ex-Tala OC Abhijit Mandal

> It has already conducted layered voice analyst (LVA) and polygraph tests on Ghosh at least thrice

> CBI wants a narco analysis test on Ghosh to "get some clues about the incident"

> Sanjay Roy sent to 14 days' judicial custody

> Both Mandal and Ghosh were sent to CBI custody till Sept 23

CBI argued that CCTV footage of Tala PS and R G Kar has been sent to CFSL, Kolkata for analysis. After the data is extracted it will be analysed and the report from the CFSL is expected by Sunday. The agency sought the court's nod for custodial interrogation of the accused persons. It submitted a "separate note" in a sealed cover with the judge.

The CBI also alleged that during interrogation, Mandal allegedly tried to give evasive replies when "confronted with some records and witnesses". The agen-

cy sought the court's nod to conduct the polygraph test to verify his versions.

Mandal's lawyer Ayan Bhattacharya argued that the agency did not need Mandal's custody during data extraction of the DVR and hard disks. "They have interrogated him in custody for six days and still they could not prove anything about his involvement in destruction of evidence. They said there was nothing so far to prove his involvement. The agency will always allege that a person is not cooperating with the probe. But that cannot make a ground for delaying his bail for consecutive terms," Bhattacharya said.

Judicial magistrate Shibashis Dey asked if CBI had gathered any proof to conclude that Sanjay Roy and Sandip Ghosh knew that the incident was going to happen. The CBI said that needed to be proved and also added that there is no direct evidence against Ghosh and Mandal so far. It argued that they needed to be confronted further. Ghosh's lawyer Zohaib Rauf argued that CBI, even after six days' of custodial interrogation, is exploring possibility of a nexus. Roy's bail plea was turned down and he was sent to 14 days' judicial custody.

Ghosh and Mandal were sent to CBI custody till Sept 25. They will be produced in court on Sept 23 for their consent on narco and polygraph tests.

# ED quizzes MLA, his daughters

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Kolkata: Trinamool Congress

MLA Sudipto Roy's daughter on Friday appeared before the Enforcement Directorate to submit

some documents in connection to the consecutive raids at their residence and nursing home.

The ED on Thursday asked Roy to remain present at its CGO Complex office in Salt

## INVESTIGATION INTO GRAFT CASE

Lake. Roy was the former chairman of the Rogi Kalyan Samiti of R G Kar Medical College and Hospital. Roy, who entered the CGO Complex office along with his two daughters, was questioned till late in the night.

Agency sources said that they were questioned about the three mobile phones seized from them.

# Kalyani hospital expels 40 junior docs, students

Asis Poddar & Sumati Yengkhom | TNN

Kalyani/Kolkata: In a continuing heat against those allegedly involved in threat culture on medical college campuses, the College of Medicine and Kalyani JNM Hospital has expelled 40 junior doctors and students for six months.

The 40, who allegedly owe allegiance to the North Bengal lobby, have also been debarred from the campus and hostel. Also, they can't take part in any academic or college activities.

This is the second biggest number against which action has been taken after a similar step by R G Kar Medical College that has debarred 51 — 34 junior doctors and 17 students — against whom inquiry is being conducted on charges of promoting threat culture.

The hospital authority had formed an extended college council that had 32 faculty members and 25 junior

## N BENGAL LOBBY

> 40 expelled from college for six months

> Allegations of extortion, intimidation and involvement in exam malpractices

> They have been asked to vacate their hostel and debarred from entering campus

> None can be part of any student body during their entire stint in the medical college

doctors to decide on the punitive action against the 40. In addition to intimidating students, the 40 were allegedly involved in extortion from students.

On finding prima facie evidence, including digital and deposition by other students, the council decided to take the action.

It has also decided to forward all evidence it found against them to the cops for

further action. The council also dissolved Students' Welfare Committee till further notice or formation of a democratically elected students' body. All have been debarred from contesting such student elections.

"The extended college council and the anti-ragging panel decided to expel the 40 for six months after several complaints were registered against them. The 40 include interns and students of different MBBS batches," said Manidip Pal, principal of the hospital.

The council has also decided to disallow former principal Avijit Mukherjee and Ayan Ghosh, assistant professor of community medicine, from holding any administrative position and engaging in examination related issues.

Students have accused the duo of being a part of threat syndicate and promoting malpractices during examinations.

## CINEMA OF THE WEEK

**Yudhra (Action thriller) ★★★**  
Cast: Siddhant Chaturvedi, Raghav Juyal, Raj Arjun, Ram Kapoor, Malavika Mohanan, Gajraj Rao  
Direction: Ravi Udyawar  
Duration: 2 hours 21 minutes  
Language: Hindi (UA)

■ A tragic past turns Yudhra (Siddhant Chaturvedi) into an eccentric young man with anger issues. He finds momentary solace in childhood sweetheart, Nikhat (Malavika Mohanan) but gets embroiled in the criminal activities of a drug cartel that leads him to a shocking truth.

Siddhant Chaturvedi (as Yudhra) amps up his inner MC Sher to portray a hothead battling daddy issues and strange love for lizards. He gets triggered at the drop of a hat but has his heart in the right place. As an out-and-out mercurial action hero, he pulls off the angry young man with a twist convincingly despite his innocent baby face. He may not look menacing but packs a punch.

Yudhra finds ruthless adversaries in drug lord Firoz (Raj Arjun) and his son Shafiq (Raghav Juyal). The former hams a bit but Raghav has quickly emerged as one of the most interesting antagonists in recent times. On the heels of violent action thriller *Kill* comes yet another striking performance from the dancer-turned-actor who knows how to



play the freak. Ram Kapoor plays a suspicious cop and Gajraj Rao, Yudhra's father.

The cutting-edge action serves as the film's backbone and its biggest asset. The music score featuring Malavika, Siddhant and Raghav is one of the finest action scenes in a Bollywood movie. The bicycle parkour scene is nerve-racking too. Action director Nick Powell, known for his work in *Gladiator*, has worked on the movie and the action choreography keeps you on tenterhooks for a reason. It is intense, gripping and integral to storytelling. The film is technically sound. You appreciate the neurotic world-building

and the unique background score, but the story lacks emotional heft. Though the posters may mislead you into believing that this is an old-school crime drama (belonging to the *Vaastav* era), *Yudhra* is far from that. It is contemporary in nature. You wish it had the compelling structure of its predecessors where the angry young man had a cause to rebel. Even with aimless anger, a film can find its footing and *Yudhra* shows ample promise but doesn't quite capitalize on its intentional *sankhina* (insanity). The first half builds momentum and creates an anticipation of a solid twist, but the second half douses its own fire before things could get all heated. The film never reaches the tipping point despite showing promise and that's frustrating.

Director Ravi Udyawar uses action and violence as cinematic language to give you that rage room effect. The style and stunts are on point, but the story meanders. Characters are skillfully created, and their swagger ensures there's not a single dull moment. Siddhant and Malavika look great but lack the chemistry required to establish their connect.

Be it *Bloody Daddy*, *Kill* and now *Yudhra*. It's interesting to see Bollywood going full throttle in action. But action doesn't need to be devoid of emotions.

— Renuka Vyavahare

To review any movie and check show timings visit [etimes.in](http://etimes.in)

## Never Let Go (Horror, Suspense) ★★★

Cast: Halle Berry, Percy Daggs IV, Anthony B Jenkins  
Direction: Alexandre Aja  
Duration: 1 hour 42 minutes  
Language: English (A)

■ When an unstoppable evil force overpowers the world, a mother and her twin sons seek refuge in their sacred home deep in the woods. They're protected by ropes they must never let go. When one of the boys turns sceptical, the trio fights to survive.

The woods in *Never Let Go* are dreadful, dark, and deep. An unnamed mother (Halle Berry) and her sons, Nolan (Percy Daggs IV) and Sammul (Anthony B Jenkins), live there in an isolated cabin, harrowed by the constant threat of starvation and the encroaching darkness. Their mother has convinced the boys that the outside world is a wasteland overrun by an omnipresent malevolent spirit. However, as Nolan begins to question their isolation, a chilling tension emerges, testing the once-harmonious bond between the trio.

Director Alexandre Aja and writers Kevin Coughlin and Ryan Grassy craft a tense, suspenseful narrative that explores the blurred lines between reality and paranoia. Maxime Alexandre's atmospheric cinematography, the eerie forest and the grotesque creatures inhabiting it are both terrifying and mesmerising. Rob's haunting score further makes this suspenseful horror a visceral experience.



The tension is palpable as the family grapples with the constant threat of invasion and the possibility of betrayal.

As the narrative unfolds, the audience is left wondering: is the sinister presence real or a product of the mother's paranoid delusion? The movie presents both possibilities but lacks the conviction to be on one side. The intrigue is effectively built, with ample jump scares and unnerving scenes, but the slow pace detracts from the overall impact. Themes of folklore, fairy tales, and shared psychosis are touched upon but left underexplored.

The story is a metaphor for the evil that men do and the destructive nature of humanity's darker impulses, which threaten to erase civilisation's last vestiges of compassion. While *Never Let Go* boasts unexpected twists, they fail to deliver a knockout punch, leaving the viewer wanting more.

Despite narrative shortcomings, the performances are standouts. Halle Berry, Percy Daggs IV, and Anthony B Jenkins deliver powerful portrayals of the complexities of fear, doubt, and survival versus loyalty.

*Never Let Go* is a gripping and disturbing film with a chilling atmosphere. However, the narrative falls short of fully realising its potential. As a one-time watch, genre fans may enjoy the stellar haunting visuals and the occasional jump scares.

— Dhaval Roy

# Submit security infra report of med colleges: Lalbazar to DCs

Dwaipayan Ghosh @timesofindia.com

Kolkata: Even as the state has appointed former DGP Surajit Kar Purkayastha to carry out an audit of physical security measures at all government hospitals and health centres, the first step has already been taken in this direction with joint commissioner Meeraj Khalid asking all divisional DCs to provide report on the security infrastructure requirements at medical colleges in Kolkata.

Sources said the state is formulating the process through which the audit will be carried out at each establishment, the composition of the team being an important aspect of the task. "The overall guidance will come from the Supreme Court's observations on the security of the medical establishments," claimed a source.

## SAFETY AUDIT

Joint CP Khalid requested that all DCs must send this report to additional police commissioner-V of Kolkata Police, Ashesh Biswas, by Sept 25 midnight. The next hearing on the R G Kar case in the Supreme Court is likely to be scheduled on Sept 27. The state may submit an affidavit on the progress of work regarding the SC's ruling on the safety of doctors and health workers.

In the directive sent to the DCs on Thursday, Khalid stated that the report should be based on paragraphs 9, 10, and 11 of the Supreme Court's Sept 17 observations on the R G Kar incident. It talks about additional restrooms and separate toilets for doctors that should be constructed, and extra CCTV cameras that should be installed within a short stipulated time span.

The DCs must inform Lalbazar about the progress of this work in their report. Furthermore, a paragraph of the ruling instructs that to prevent a recurrence of the R G Kar incident and to stop outsiders from entering doctors' restrooms in medical college hospitals, a biometric system should be implemented.

**SIDDA HINTS AT PROBE INTO LAND SCAM CASE INVOLVING HDK, BSY**

**GOT NOD TO PROSECUTE LALU IN LAND-FOR-JOBS SCAM: CBI TO COURT**

## Maha doc held with booze in govt ambulance

**Nagpur:** A relentless cat-and-mouse chase between police and bootleggers in Maoist-hit Gadchiroli, where prohibition is in force, ended with the arrest of a doctor and seizures of 10 cartons of desi liquor and 96 bottles of foreign liquor from a govt ambulance, reports Soumitra Bose.

The consignment of liquor, pegged at more than Rs 50,000, was impounded during a checking drive four days ago.

Dr Brahmanand Pungati, in charge of Pipli Burgi primary health centre, was arrested and may lose his medical licence. He got bail on Thursday.

Sources said the consignment was likely to have come from Pakhanjore or Irapnar in neighbouring Chhattisgarh, where interstate liquor smugglers are learnt to actively push booze across the state borders in Gadchiroli hamlets.

Police said Pungati would hold "liquor parties" at the PHC quarters with his aides, who too were nabbed during the mid-night operation.

## Manipur flags 'alert' on influx of 900 tribal rebels

**'Militants Trained In Use Of Drones Entered From Myanmar'**

Prabin.Kalita@timesofindia.com

**Guwahati:** Manipur CM N Biren Singh's office has forwarded to police a purported intelligence alert about an influx of 900-odd tribal militants from Myanmar — all newly trained in the use of drones, projectiles and missiles as part of a mission to launch coordinated attacks on villages in the Imphal valley around Sept 28.

Kuldip Singh, security adviser to the BJP-led govt, said Friday that "until this intelligence input is proved wrong, we believe it is 100% correct and prepare for that".

"If it does not come true, either it didn't happen or our efforts didn't let it happen. Either way, you cannot take it lightly," said the ex-CRPF director general on deputation to Manipur since the ethnic conflict flared up in mid-2023.

The Sept 16 alert from

**The Sept 16 alert from Manipur CM's office states that the tribal militants 'are reportedly grouped in units of 30 members each and scattered on the periphery, and expected to launch multiple coordinated attacks' on Imphal valley villages around Sept 28**

the CMO states that tribal militants "are reportedly grouped in units of 30 members each and currently scattered on the periphery, and expected to launch multiple coordinated attacks".

The security adviser said all districts and border units of Manipur Police and Assam Rifles were on maximum alert. A meeting of strategic operations group took place in the chief secretary's conference hall on Sept 18.

Singh said the planned measures had been communicated to the relevant agencies with a directive that any movement of militants be "nipped in the bud". The districts on high alert are Churachandpur, Tengenoupal, Ukhrul, Kamjong and Pherzawl.

Singh said traditional combing operations focus on seizing arms and ammunition, but there was now "increased scrutiny" of materials used to manufacture rockets, missiles, drone components, and batteries.

"District magistrates have been alerted and asked to check stocks of explosives with licensed owners. All connected roads and villages within a 5km radius of the hills are also being checked for stockpiles."

The security adviser said that of the 2,681 weapons seized by security forces since the conflict started, one-third were in the hills and two-thirds in the valley.

"The availability of weapons in society in both hills and valley is not because of looting (from state armouries and police stations). They were already available much before (the conflict). Single-barrel breech loaders and double-barrel breech loaders were there, some licensed and some manufactured illegally."

## Ker-born Norway nat'l linked to Lebanon pager blasts

Rajeev.KR@timesofindia.com

**Kozhikode:** A man from Wayanad who briefly trained for the clergy before migrating to Norway in search of greener pastures has emerged as an alleged link in the sensational pager explosions in Lebanon on Tuesday that targeted Hezbollah fighters and killed 12 people, including civilians, and injured dozens.

Norta Global Ltd, based in Sofia, Bulgaria — allegedly owned by Rinson Jose (37) of Wayanad, now a Norwegian citizen — is being probed by international security agencies following reports linking

it to the sale of hundreds of pagers.

Central intelligence agencies and Kerala Police special branch collected details on Friday about Rinson from his native village, Ondayangadi, near Mananthavady, Wayanad. Wayanad district police chief Taposh Basumathary said police had done a normal background check. "Now that the identity and details of the family have come out in the media, police have taken steps to ensure they are safe. We are patrolling the area," the cop said.

Family sources said Rin-

son, lived in Norway with his wife and had last come home in Nov 2023 and returned in Jan 2024. "Rinson last spoke to his family here three days ago. They haven't been able to contact him on the phone since. News reports about him are unbelievable; he could also have been deceived," Rinson's uncle, Thankachan, told TOI.

Hungarian media reported that Norta Global had facilitated the sale of the pagers. The firm's website, describing it as a leading technology company has been taken down now.

Bulgaria's State Agency for National Security said that Norta Global and its owner had "not carried out any transaction linked to the sale or purchase of the merchandise" or that which "falls under laws on terrorism financing".

Reuters had reported Thursday that Norta's Bulgarian headquarters was registered at an apartment building near Sofia that was also home to 200 other companies, but there was no sign of Norta. Reuters said Rinson declined to comment on the pagers when reached by phone and hung up asked about the Bulgarian business.

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## State facing biggest flood after 2009: CM

► Continued from P 1

Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee wrote to the PM that the "huge quantum of discharge from DVC dam system has never happened in the past", adding that the state was facing "the biggest flood in Lower Damodar and adjoining areas after 2009."

Union Jal Shakti minister C R Paatil, disputing Banerjee's claims, said DVC had cut down the water release by 50% from Sept 14 to 17 after Bengal's request and heavy rain in south Bengal. Paatil said that because of heavy rain on Sept 16 and 17, it became imperative to scale up water release "to avoid catastrophic impact in south Bengal due to possible dam failures." Even then, while the water inflow to these dams at that point was 4.2 lakh cusec, the release was 2.5 lakh cusec, Paatil said.

Banerjee said that she had spoken to the DVC chairman on Sept 16. "In spite of all this, combined dam release was increased in quick successions on the early hours of Sept 17— from 90,000 cusec at 11.20 pm on Sept 16 to abruptly 2,50,000 cusec, within just nine hours, till 8.10 am on Sept 17— which continued for long hours," she said.

Banerjee, who had visited the flood-affected districts, wrote she was "compelled to call it a man-made flood", hav-



ing witnessed people's misery first-hand. She went on to call it a "situation engineered by sheer neglect." She argued that the water release could have been deferred because when the water was released, the levels at Maithon and Panchet reservoirs had scaled up to the "maximum flood management levels".

The CM wrote that the need to dredge and desilt the DVC reservoirs had been highlighted to the PM and in several other forums numerous times in the last 10 years. "However, actions from govt of India and the DVC have so far been limited to studies, investigations and half-hearted attempts to formulate projects. Our delegation of MPs and ministers has also raised the matter with the Union minister of Jal Shakti, and I flagged this issue during the NITI Aayog meeting. Unfortunately, no visible action has been taken on the ground," the letter claims, adding, "Reports indicate that the siltation has already reduced the combined live and flood storage capacity of these two reservoirs by 30%, and I believe the situation has further worsened. This is a serious issue that cannot be ignored any longer."

## Ghatal PS flooded, cops move to irrigation office

### One Dead, One Missing In Howrah

Sujoy Khanra, Rupak Banerjee & Suman Mandal | TNN



Cops said not all documents could not be transported from Ghatal PS

Midnapore/Tamluk/Howrah: Bengal continued to reel under floods on Friday, with Ghatal police station inundated with 6 feet of water, prompting police officers to take shelter at the local irrigation department office. In Howrah, a 52-year-old homemaker died while another person is missing.

The swelling Silabati river has led to the worst floods in Ghatal since 2017. All official work at the police station had been shifted to the irrigation office from Sept 18. West Midnapore police superintendent Dhritiman Sarkar said the police station was now operating from the irrigation office. However, there was constant vigil at the thana complex, he added.

Police said not all documents could not be transported. There was also anxiety about the safety of goods stored in the police station's malkhana. Officers said most of the cars they had seized were now completely

under water and feared that police vehicles, too, had been damaged.

Police officers were spotted patrolling in boats to keep tabs on the thana. Cops and the SP were seen using speedboats to distribute relief.

West Midnapore district magistrate Khurshed Ali Qadri also giving out relief material to the flood-affected in Ghatal.

In Howrah, Sumitra Pramanik (52), a resident of Kulkikari in Udaynarayanpur, fell into the deluge and drowned. Swapan Samanta (42) of Shibaniapur in Udaynarayanpur went missing while crossing the floodwaters.

Ten village panchayats in Udaynarayanpur and nine in Amta Block 2 have been submerged. Over 4 lakh people have been affected. The National Highway

connecting Panskura to Kharapur was partly submerged, leading vehicles to be diverted through Mechogram. NDRF was deployed to rescue people in waterlogged areas.

East Midnapore district magistrate Purnendu Maji distributed relief in Panskura. He said repair of the embankment was yet to begin as the water level was too high. Panskura municipality area and adjoining panchayats are also waterlogged.

The situation at Khanakul of Arambag sub-division remained unchanged with major parts still disconnected due to release of water from DVC dams.

The Hooghly administration is trying to reach out to the flood-hit with dry food and drinking water.

(With inputs from Falguni Banerjee in Arambag)

## SC turns down ED plea to quiz Moley in Delhi

► Continued from P 1

Kolkata: Supreme Court on Friday turned down the Enforcement Directorate's plea seeking to question state minister Moley Ghatak in the illegal coal-mining case in Delhi, not Kolkata. Delhi HC had earlier directed ED to question Ghatak at its Kolkata office after giving him a 24-hour notice. The agency had moved the SC challenging the order.

On Friday, an SC bench of CJJDY Chandrachud and justices JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra questioned ED's 181-day delay in making the challenge.

Ghatak had filed an application with Delhi HC, seeking protection in the coal smuggling case and requesting to be summoned and interrogated at ED's Kolkata office instead of Delhi. On Sept 5, 2023, the HC granted his request. The court also directed that ED officers should not face any obstruction and that their safety must be ensured. The ED, arguing that HC order provided Ghatak with an undue advantage, approached the SC. TNN

The court, after a brief hearing, allowed CBI to withdraw the petition but noted its displeasure in its order

## 'Unfortunate that CBI cast aspersions'

► Continued from P 1

The agency in its petition said, "In some of the post-poll violence cases, the accused persons are being released on bail by the concerned trial court without even hearing the prosecution CBI, which had carried out investigation into the cases on the orders of Calcutta HC... In the light of the hostile environment prevailing in the courts in Bengal, it would not be possible to carry out the trial of the post-poll violence cases in a fair and judicious manner."

Opposing the CBI plea, senior advocate Gopal Sankarnarayanan and lawyer Pranav Sachdeva told the bench that the petition had been settled by the attorney general himself and raised questions on why CBI was seeking transfer of trial when the alleged victims were silent.

The court, after a brief hearing, allowed CBI to withdraw the petition but noted its displeasure in its order

Opposing the CBI plea, senior advocate Gopal Sankarnarayanan raised questions on why CBI was seeking transfer of trial when the alleged victims were silent

over the allegation made by CBI against judiciary.

"Scandalous allegations have been made against all the courts in general in Bengal. Repeatedly averred that there is a hostile environment prevailing in the courts. It is very unfortunate that the central agency has chosen to cast aspersions on courts in Bengal. Learned ASG states that there was no intention to cast aspersions. However the averments are to the contrary. He seeks permission to withdraw. We make it clear that all objections to the proposed transfer are expressly kept open," the bench added.

## Collegium is not a search committee, SC reminds govt

► Continued from P 1

A bench led by Justice Sanjay K Kaul had, for a year prior to his retirement in Dec last year, kept the heat on Centre to expedite appointment of persons recommended by the SC collegium for HC judgeship and criticised the govt's "pick and choose" approach.

While seeking the status of pendency of collegium recommended names, the bench reminded the govt that "Collegium is not a search committee. It has a certain status in the constitutional fabric. In the case of a search committee's recommendation, there is an absolute discretion (with the govt) whether to accept the

names or not."

Attorney general R Venkataramani said he was not sure to what extent the court could enter into a deliberation on this contentious issue. The bench said, "AG, you tell us by next week the status of pending names recommended by the collegium. ULTIMATELY, the idea is not to unearth skeletons in the cupboard but to move forward, so that the business of governance proceeds."

Advocate Prashant Bhushan said those collegium resolutions reiterating names for appointment as HC judges, after rejecting the govt's objections, must be given effect immediately. He said

over a dozen reiterated names, including that of senior advocate Saurav Kirpal, by the collegium is not acted upon by the govt for years.

"Often govt sits over initial recommendations for years," Bhushan said, adding that if a name remains pending for six weeks without the govt spelling out objections, it should be deemed to have been accepted. Under the Memorandum of Procedure for appointment of judges, govt has no option but to appoint collegium reiterated names.

The bench said, "Attorney general, we will keep the matter after some time as some of the appointments are in the pipeline. We are expecting the chief justices' appointments to come through soon."

## Bengal unseals Jharkhand border, traffic resumes

Mohammad Asif | TNN

Kulti (West Midnapore): Bengal on Friday evening lifted the block along the Bengal-Jharkhand border, clearing a 20-km traffic bottleneck of hundreds of heavily loaded trucks on NH19.

Other vehicles, too, had stopped, unable to snake past trucks and drivers squatting on the roads after Bengal shut its border with Jharkhand.

CM Mamata Banerjee had on Thursday announced the block, claiming that NH19 was not motorable due to the floods. It came in the backdrop of Banerjee blaming DVC and



The blockade had created a 20-km traffic bottleneck

Jharkhand govt for not heeding Bengal's pleas to defer the water release.

CPI (ML) workers had also blocked the Jharkhand-bound road near Maithon border on Friday afternoon, making the situation complex.

In the morning, the border belt was clogged with helpless truck drivers waiting in the heat for several hours, with many forced to walk over a kilometre to fetch drinking water. While some truck drivers anxiously looked at news broadcasts, others were repeatedly going to police outposts to enquire if there was any news of lifting the blockade.

Kulti traffic officer-in-charge Ananta Kumar Ray said: "From Thursday 5 pm, the roads were closed for repair works due to the floods. These were opened at 6.30 pm on Friday after instructions from higher authorities."

Ram Raj, a truck driver, said: "I had to deliver the consignment on Friday but got late. We have been stranded here since Thursday night without water and food. I got only an apple to eat from a driver coming from Shimla." But many drivers carrying perishable goods were allowed to pass.

It was not just truck drivers alone. An Army officer posted in Panagarh cantonment said: "We were coming from Gaya. Our vehicle was stranded for several hours before it was allowed to pass."

New Town resident Azharuddin, along with a group of 60, was returning from Ajmer

Sharif in a bus. Their bus was parked near a roadside dhaba. They were stranded for five hours. Roy said: "The roads have been severely damaged due to the floods. Repair work is being carried out swiftly. Around 4 pm, we received the order to allow vehicles carrying raw materials and fruits to pass. From 6.30 pm, all vehicles were allowed to go."

BJP MLA Ajay Podder went to Duburdihi checkpoint in afternoon. He asked the police to show the written govt order about such road closures. He and his supporters got engaged in an altercation with cops.

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**personal**  
CHANGE OF NAME  
I, Shahidulla Faruque S/o Yead Ali Sardar R/o Village + PO + PS: Basanti, 24 Pgs (S), PIN-743312, do hereby declare that Shahidulla Faruque & Shahidulla Sardar is same and one identical person vide Alipore 1st class judicial magistrate affidavit no. 58991 dated 11/09/2024.

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**LEASE OR RENT**  
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Contact: 9836047674

**NAME CHANGE**  
I SANJAY Gupta, s/o Lt. Kamlesh Kumar Gupta r/o 126/A Lenin Sarani kolkata -700013, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Sanjay Kumar Gupta as declared before the Notary Public Bankshall Court Kolkata vide affidavit no. AS 697051, 19th September, 2024. Sanjay Gupta & Sanjay Kumar Gupta both are same & identical person.

**JOB for Sr. Manager/ Finance Position preferred Govt Retd/ Expd age: 35-65 Salary Based. Contact: Ph:8100292390/ 62905327287**

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**NAME CHANGE**

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E-mail: mohammed.imran@timesgroup.com

**tender & notices**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
Shri Saikat Chakraborty s/o Lt. Birendra Nath Chakraborty, of Kolkata has obtained a Decree of Divorce from the Learned Alipore Judges Court on 15/05/2024 against his former wife, Madhabilata Debnath d/o Lt. Monilal Debnath. So, it is hereby clarified that Saikat Chakraborty and Madhabilata Chakraborty (nee Debnath) are no longer married and have no legal or any familial relationship with each other. This Public notice is for the confirmation of the legacy rights including judicial and nonjudicial claims that are absolved with the dissolution of the said "Marriage".  
Sd/-  
Saikat Chakraborty

**TENDERS**

**INDIAN PORT RAIL & ROPEWAY CORPORATION LTD.**  
IA, JV Company Under Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways, Govt. of India (An ISO 9001, 14001, 45001 & 37001 Certified Company)  
IPRCL invites EOI for "Empowerment of eligible consultants / Firms for undertaking consultancy services for Feasibility Study Report (FSR) Detailed Project Report (DPR) / Detailed Design Consultancy (DDC) for the (1) Railway Projects of Indian Port Rail & Ropeway Corporation Limited (IPRCL) including ROE (2) Roads & Highway Projects of IPRCL (3) Ropeway projects (incl. Execution of work) of IPRCL.  
EOI document will be available for downloading from 11:00 hours of 18.09.2024 till the website.  
www.iprcl.in/Tender-ONLINE-TENDER-EOI  
Any corrigendum / addendum would be posted on the above website only.

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## Buxa's largest forest village to be relocated

Pinak Priya Bhattacharya | TNN

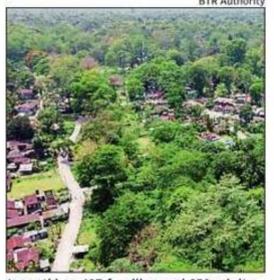
Jalpaiguri: In a big leap towards conservation, Jayanti village will be relocated outside the periphery of Buxa Tiger Reserve forest.

BTR authorities have sent the file to the principal chief conservator of forests (PCCF), wildlife, for clearance. According to sources, the PCCF has forwarded the same to the additional chief secretary, forests, for action.

Of the 14 forest villages in Buxa, Jayanti is the largest with 427 beneficiary families and an adult population of 650. "It is still not decided where govt will accommodate the residents. The villagers are ready to leave the forest in the larger interest of the tiger population," said Debashish Sharma, deputy field director (East), BTR.

Prior to the Lok Sabha polls, two forest villages — Gangutia (91 families) and Bhutia Busty (51 families) — were cleared and forest dwellers were shifted to Bono Chhaya Village, near Bhatpara Tea Garden in Kalchini, where they were provided patta in Non-Forest Land.

There are 11 more forest villages dotted across the core of BTR that need to be relocated for introduction of tigers to the reserve. Of these,



Jayanti has 427 families and 650 adults

nine are in BTR East Division and two are in BTR West Division.

Authorities said that it appeared, based on evidence, that the forest had got at least one resident tiger after 40 years. BTR officials believe the improved habitat is leading to their return. "Buxa is contiguous to Bhutan's Phibsoo WL sanctuary and Royal Manas National Park and Manas NP in Assam. By enhancing the prey base, we are trying to make sure that if more tigers come to Buxa from the contiguous forests, they can settle here," a senior forest officer said. The forest department has introduced over 600 deer to prepare a prey base for the big cats.

## Stranded in Lebanon for 18 yrs after losing passport, Punjab man back home after 23 years

IP.Singh@timesofindia.com

Jalandhar: A man from Punjab returned from Lebanon after 23 years — 18 of those years spent stranded in that volatile country — because he had lost his passport there in 2006 and all subsequent attempts to return home failed.

By the time he got home, one of the two sons he had left behind had a son of his own.

Gurtej Singh, of Mattewara village in Ludhiana, managed to return to India and was reunited with his family after Rajya Sabha MP Baba Balbir Singh Seehwal took up his case with the ministry of external affairs, which then facilitated his return.

Other men from his and neighbouring villages, who had gone with him to Lebanon in 2001, returned in 2006, but he could not. Gurtej, who belongs to Mazhabi Sikh community, returned to his village on Sept 6 after having left in 2001. The entire village celebrated his return.

In the 23 years he was away, Gurtej lost his father and brother. "I was working in a factory in Ludhiana but was finding it difficult to sustain the family. I thought of moving abroad and arranged Rs 1 lakh, demanded by a travel agent. Initially I was flown to Jordan, from where I was sneaked into Syria, and then to Lebanon. In 2006, I lost my passport and then all my attempts to return failed. I was working there in the fields, and it was frightening due to the long conflict in the region," he recalled.

Baba Seehwal told TOI that Gurtej had been making rounds of the Indian embassy in Lebanon, but every time the embassy officials would ask him to get some proof. "Back home his family sought help from the Regional Passport Office, Chandigarh, but failed to get a copy of the record of his lost passport from there. This continued for years."

The RSM said the Chandigarh passport office was slow to react after his team contacted them.

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**E-Tender Notice**

U.P.S.R.T.C. is inviting e-tenders from only eligible sources for purchase of 3,108 Buses, 42 Trucks (Eligibility for participating in tender is given in the tender documents) for following item :-

Sl. No.	Buses Type	Tender No.	Availability & e-submission of e-Tender	Pre-Bid Meeting	Opening of e-Tender
1	High End luxury 12-M Nos. 100	2422MT/2024-49MT/2024 DT. 20.09.2024	21.09.2024 to 14.10.2024 At 15:00 PM	03.10.2024 At 12:00 Hrs.	14.10.2024 At 16:00 PM
2	AC Sleeper 12-M Nos. 39	2423MT/2024-50MT/2024 DT. 20.09.2024	21.09.2024 to 14.10.2024 At 15:00 PM	01.10.2024 At 15:00 Hrs.	14.10.2024 At 16:00 Hrs.
3	Non AC Sleeper 12-M Nos. 51	2424MT/2024-51MT/2024 DT. 20.09.2024	21.09.2024 to 14.10.2024 At 15:00 PM	01.10.2024 At 15:00 Hrs.	14.10.2024 At 16:00 PM
4	AC Mid Segment 2x2 12M Nos. 197	2425MT/2024-52MT/2024 DT. 20.09.2024	21.09.2024 to 14.10.2024 At 15:00 PM	01.10.2024 At 12:00 Hrs.	14.10.2024 At 16:00 PM
5	AC Mid Segment 2x3 Nos. 72 10M	2426MT/2024-53MT/2024 DT. 20.09.2024	21.09.2024 to 14.10.2024 At 15:00 PM	01.10.2024 At 12:00 Hrs.	14.10.2024 At 16:00 PM
6	Ord. 11 Meter 6 Cylinders-Nos. 1297 Bus Body	2427MT/2024-55MT/2024 DT. 20.09.2024	21.09.2024 to 14.10.2024 At 15:00 PM	30.09.2024 At 12:00 Hrs.	14.10.2024 At 16:00 PM
7	Ordinary 10 Meter 4 Cylinders 2x3 -50 Seater-445	2428MT/2024-56MT/2024 DT. 20.09.2024	21.09.2024 to 14.10.2024 At 15:00 PM	30.09.2024 At 12:00 Hrs.	14.10.2024 At 16:00 PM
8	Ord. 9 Meter-827	2429MT/2024-57MT/2024 DT. 20.09.2024	21.09.2024 to 14.10.2024 At 15:00 PM	30.09.2024 At 12:00 Hrs.	14.10.2024 At 16:00 PM
9	80 Nos., CNG-2x3 -11M Bus Body	2430MT/2024-59MT/2024 DT. 20.09.2024	21.09.2024 to 14.10.2024 At 15:00 PM	30.09.2024 At 12:00 Hrs.	14.10.2024 At 16:00 PM
10	42 Nos. Store Truck	2431MT/2024-13MT/2023 DT. 20.09.2024	21.09.2024 to 14.10.2024 At 15:00 PM	30.09.2024 At 12:00 Hrs.	14.10.2024 At 16:00 PM

All e-Tenders of U.P.S.R.T.C. shall be available on the website of Govt. e-portal [etender.up.nic.in](http://etender.up.nic.in). Detailed Bill of quantity, eligibility for participating in tender, other terms and conditions of the tender and calendar/timing of the tender may be seen on Govt. e-portal [etender.up.nic.in](http://etender.up.nic.in). Please do visit [etender.up.nic.in](http://etender.up.nic.in) from time to time before last date of submission of tender for any possible amendment/corrigendum/addendum. Any amendment/corrigendum/addendum will only be published in e-portal [etender.up.nic.in](http://etender.up.nic.in). For any query/clarification regarding submission of e-tender vendors may call on following numbers :-  
1. 8726005007  
2. 8726005012

Additional Managing Director

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श्रीमद्भगवद्गीता 2.22  
ॐ श्री राम ॐ



**Kusum Kumari Singhal**  
Left for her heavenly abode on Thursday 19.09.2024

**Baithak & Shradhdhanjali Sabha**  
22nd September 2024: 3:30 to 5:30 PM  
Venue: The Conclave, 216, A.J.C. Bose Road, Kolkata 700017

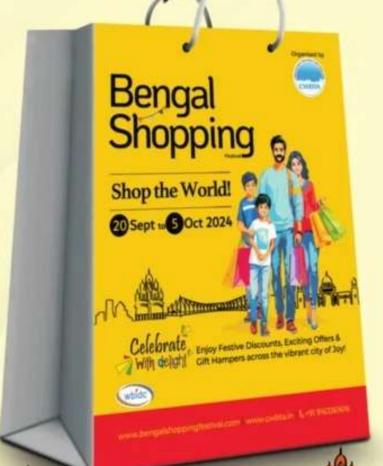
**In Grief:**  
Daughter Sonal Maheshwari  
Son-in-law Ranjan Maheshwari  
Grandsons Vikram • Varun Maheshwari  
& The Entire Singhal and Maheshwari Family  
Families at K. Plastics & Chemicals Group and Rudimental Group

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**ICICI Bank** Branch Office: ICICI Bank Limited, 228A, A.J.C. Bose Road, Landmark Building, 4th Floor, Kolkata-700020

**PUBLIC NOTICE-TENDER CUM E-AUCTION FOR SALE OF SECURED ASSET**

[See proviso to Rule 9(6)]  
Notice for sale of immovable asset(s)

E-Auction Sale Notice for the sale of immovable asset(s) under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 9 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

This 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/charged to the Secured Creditor, the Physical Possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of ICICI Bank Limited will be sold on 'As is where is', 'As is what is' and 'Whatever there is' as per the brief particulars given hereunder:

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower(s)/Co-Borrowers/Guarantors/Loan Account No.	Details of the Secured asset(s) with known encumbrances, if any	Amount Outstanding	Reserve Price/Earnest Money Deposit	Date and Time of Property Inspection	Date & Time of E-Auction
(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)
1.	Mrs. Savantika Dewan (Borrower) Mr. Sankar Dewan (Co-borrower) LBCAL00005729023 LBCAL00005851375	Residential Flat No.3B, 2nd Floor, South Eastern side, KMCC Premises No.3A, Hafiz MD Ishaque Road, P.S. Haridepur, Pargana- Magura, Mouza Sirfy, J.L. No-11, R/S No.29, Touzi No.B, Khatian No.170, C.S. Dey No.591, KMCC Ward No.115, District-24 Pargana South, Kolkata, West Bengal-700082. Admeasuring Super Built Up 440 Sq.ft. More Or Less Together With The Undivided Proportionate Share Of The Land.	Rs. 18,60,270/- As on September 16, 2024	Rs. 12,80,000/- To, Rs. 12,80,000/-	October 21, 2024 From 11:00 A.M. to 02:00 P.M.	October 28, 2024 From 11:00 A.M. to 02:00 P.M.

The online auction will be conducted on the website (URL Link-<https://disposalhub.com>). of our auction agency M/s. NexXen Solutions Private Limited. The Mortgagors/Notices are given a last chance to pay the total dues with further interest by October 25, 2024 before 05:00 P.M. else the secured asset(s) will be sold as per schedule. The prospective bidder(s) must submit the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) Demand Draft (DD) (Refer Column E) at ICICI Bank Limited, 228A, A.J.C. Bose Road, Landmark Building, 4th Floor, Kolkata-700020 on or before October 25, 2024 before 05:00 P.M. Thereafter, they have to submit their offer through the website mentioned above on or before October 25, 2024 before 05:00 P.M. along with the scanned image of the Bank acknowledged DD towards proof of payment of EMD. In case the prospective bidder(s) is/are unable to submit his/ her/ their offer through the website, then the signed copy of tender documents may be submitted at ICICI Bank Limited, 228A, A.J.C. Bose Road, Landmark Building, 4th Floor, Kolkata-700020 on or before October 25, 2024 before 05:00 P.M. Earnest Money Deposit DD/PO should be from a Nationalised/Scheduled Bank in favour of ICICI Bank Limited, Kolkata.

For any further clarifications in terms of inspection, Terms and Conditions of the E-Auction or submission of tenders, contact ICICI Bank Employee Phone No. 916334439.

Please note that the Marketing agencies M/s. NexXen Solutions Private Limited have also been engaged for facilitating the sale of this property.

The Authorised Officer reserves the right to reject any or all the bids without furnishing any further reasons. For detailed Terms and Conditions of the sale, please visit [www.icicibank.com/n4p4s](http://www.icicibank.com/n4p4s).

Date: September 21, 2024  
Place: Kolkata

Authorized Officer  
ICICI Bank Limited

**Nabadiganta Industrial Township Authority**

**NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER**  
No. : WBMD/NDITA/35/2024-25, Dated : 19.09.2024  
e-Tender ID : 2024\_MAD\_754505\_1

For details contact the office of NDITA at Nabadiganta Bhavan, Sector-V, Salt Lake City on all working days during office hours or visit : [www.ndita.org](http://www.ndita.org), <https://wbtdenders.gov.in> & [www.wburbanservices.gov.in](http://www.wburbanservices.gov.in)  
Sd/- Executive Officer, NDITA

**REPAIRING WORK**

E-Tender Notice No. RN-ST-09-2024-25; Date: 18-09-2024. E-tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following work. Name of Work: Repairing work of Electronic LC gate Telephone systems with voice logging facility consisting of Master Telephone, Slave Telephone, 24 volt power supply unit used for L. C gate communication in Rangiya Division, N. F. Railway. Tender Value: ₹15,56,797/-; Earnest Money: ₹31,100/-. E-tender will be closed at 15:00 hrs. on 11-10-2024 and Opened at 15:30 hrs. on 11-10-2024 at Sr. DSTE/Rangiya's office. The complete information with the tender document of above e-tender will be available in website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in)  
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**CORRIGENDUM**

NIT No.: KMC/SWM-I/MNTTVC/2024-25 published in this Newspaper on 13.08.2024 (Key No. 388/24-25) of SWM Department. Last date and time of submission of bid (online) will be 26.09.2024 (2 p.m.) instead of 09.09.2024 (2 p.m.) and Tender (Technical Proposal) will be opened on 28.09.2024 (2 p.m.) instead of 11.09.2024 (2 p.m.)

566/24-25

**INVITATION OF BIDS FOR PROCUREMENT OF MOBILE DENTAL VAN (MDV) FOR UPGRADATION OF DENTAL TREATMENT FACILITIES**  
(Advertised Tender Enquiry)  
Request for Proposal (RFP) No: 1540/MS/LP (IMTRAT)/NE/RFP-05/2024-25 dt 21 Sep 2024

- HQ IMTRAT is inviting bids for procurement of Mobile Dental Van (MDV) for Upgradation of Dental Treatment Facilities for hospitals within IMTRAT.
- All the firms desirous of participation may send a request on email for the tender document on the letter head of the firm.
- The official email address is 'medicalstoreshaa@gmail.com'
- The last date of collection of RFP from email of medical stores is 27 Sep 2024.

Sd/- DADMS, HQ IMTRAT

**The West Bengal Power Development Corporation Limited**  
(A Govt. of West Bengal Enterprise)  
Corporate Identity No. U40104WB1985SGC039154  
Registered & Corporate Office: Bidyut Udayan Bhawan Plot No.: 3.C. LA. Block, Sector-I, Bidhannagar, Kol-700106

**Notice Inviting E-Tender**  
Ref No.: WBPDDL/Tend-Adv/24-25/CORP/CC-2400 Date: 19.09.2024  
NIT No.: WBPDDL/CORP/NIT/E1920/24-25 Dated: 18.09.2024  
"Hiring of one AC Vehicle (Bolero/Scorpio) for Official duty at Pachhwara N Coal Mine for 01 year."

NIT Document Download Start Date/ Bid End Date: 19.09.2024 from 13.00 hrs / 30.09.2024 at 10.00 hrs. Contact Person: Smt Seema Das, Sr. Manager (M&C). Contact No: 9073908003. E-mail: s.das03@wbpdcl.co.in For details please visit <https://wbtdenders.gov.in>  
ICA-T17264(3)/2024

**UTI Infrastructure Technology And Services Limited**  
(A Government of India Company)

UTIITSL invites online Bids through GeM portal for selection of Bidders / Vendors / Agencies / Entities for Supply of Housekeeping Manpower Services to UTIITSL.

For details and bidding through GeM portal, please log on to: <https://gem.gov.in>.

Bid for Supply of Manpower for Providing Housekeeping Services at Corporate Office Belapur Navi Mumbai (GeM Bid Number : GEM/2024/B/5417872).

All in general are requested to visit website <https://www.utiitsl.com> and <https://www.gem.gov.in> regularly for details and free download of all the tender documents / RFP with terms and conditions.

**UTTARAKHAND CIVIL AVIATION DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**  
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No. 2159/UCADA/2024 Date: 20/09/2024

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S.No.	Post Name	Vacancy	Remarks
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2.	Quality Inspector	01	On Contract Basis
3.	Foreman	01	On Contract Basis
4.	Procurement Expert	01	On Contract Basis

Application should reach UCADA, through E-mail [ucadadon@gmail.com](mailto:ucadadon@gmail.com) till 5:00 P.M of 28.09.2024.

The relevant details are available on our website [www.ucada.in](http://www.ucada.in)  
CEO, UCADA

**KRIBHCO Green Energy Pvt. Ltd. (KGEPL)**  
Corporate Office, Noida, Uttar Pradesh  
(100% owned subsidiary of KRIBHCO)  
Tel: 0120-2543762

**REQUEST FOR QUOTATION (RFQ)**

KGEPL invites bids from experienced bidders for construction of Plant Shed, Pipe rack, Plant Internal Structural Work and Pipelines including supply of required materials as per the approved design for CO2(Carbon Dioxide) Plant and auxiliaries for M/s. Kribhco Green Energy Pvt. Ltd. at Nellore, Andhra Pradesh and Hazira, Scope of work covers Plant Shed, Pipe rack, Plant Internal Structural Work and Pipelines including supply of required materials etc. as per process requirements of Bio Ethanol Project located at KGEPL-Sarvepalli Bit-II (Village), Venkatchalam Mandal, Industrial Area Survepalli, SPNR Nellore, Andhra Pradesh-524321 and KGEPL-Hazira Road, KRIBHCO Nagar, Limla, Surat-Gujarat-394515

Interested bidders can download RFQ from web site <https://www.kribhco.net/> till -27th Sep 2024 at 16.30 Hrs.

Last date of submission of the Bid: 17.00 Hrs on 27th Sep-2024  
RFQ No: KGEPL/J004

Chief Financial Officer,  
[rvnkat@kribhco.net](mailto:rvnkat@kribhco.net)

**Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) - Third Call (Very Short-Term Notice)**

**Prayagraj Smart City Limited**  
New Building (East), Nagar Nigam Campus, 1, Sarojini Naidu Marg, Prayagraj Uttar Pradesh 211001

Notice Inviting Tender on behalf of Prayagraj Smart City Limited, Prayagraj Uttar Pradesh for the following works:  
"Construction of Senior Citizen Care Centre Includes O&M for 2 years in Prayagraj City (UP) Under Smart City Mission".

Online Bid is invited for the above-mentioned work. For more details, please visit the website at <http://www.etender.up.nic.in> on 21.09.2024 at 5:00pm.

Mission Manager (General)  
Prayagraj Smart City Limited

**PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited**  
(Regd. Office : PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001)  
Corporate Identity Number : U40109PB2010SGC033813  
Website : [www.pspcl.in](http://www.pspcl.in) (Contact Number 96461 47777)

**TENDER ENQUIRY NO TSQ-1159/TD-I**

Dy. CE/TL (Design), B-1 Shakti Vihar, PSPCL, Patiala invites E-tender for carrying out survey, design, fabrication, testing, supply, laying of foundation, erection of 66 KV monopole structures along with cross arms on Turmkey basis. Stringing and sagging of conductor at Earthwire (Porcelain insulators, Conductor and Earthwire along with all accessories for conductor and Earthwire will be supplied by PSPCL at its own cost) and commissioning of 66 KV monopole line as per detailed scope mentioned in Part-6 of tender specification no. TSQ-1159. For detailed NIT and Tender Specification please refer to <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> from 23.09.2024 from 11.00AM onwards.

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

C-72324, DPR/Pb.: 76155/12/3480/2023/37913

**EASTERN RAILWAY**

**Additional E-Auction Programme of Eastern Railway for the Month of September 2024**

No. S.4/S/DAP/2024-25, Dtd. 18.09.2024. Following additional e-auction programme is invited by Chief Materials Manager (Admn.), Eastern Railway, 2nd Floor, Fairlie Place, 17, Netaji Subhas Road, Kolkata-700001 for Jamalpur Depot for the month of September 2024.

Additional date of Jamalpur Depot : 30.09.2024

Other dates of Jamalpur Depot along with other Depots & Divisions shall remain unaltered. (STORES-43/2024-25)  
Tender Notice is also available at websites : [www.eindianrailways.gov.in](http://www.eindianrailways.gov.in) / [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in)

Follow us at : @EasternRailway @easternrailwayheadquarter

**MAHESHTALA MUNICIPALITY**  
P.O. - Maheshtala, Dist. - South 24 Parganas, PIN - 700141  
Phone - (033) 2490 1651, 2490 2359  
Email : [maheshtalamunicipality@gmail.com](mailto:maheshtalamunicipality@gmail.com)

**Abridged Tender Notice**

Sl. No.	NIT	Work description	Last date of download and submission of tender
1	MAD/MM/NIT-17/24-25/2nd Call	Supply, fitting, fixing of LED 30W & 45W Light	25/10/2024 at 3.00 p.m.

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

Chairman

**Rajasthan Medical Services Corporation Ltd.**  
Gandhi Block, Swarnajayanti Bhawan, Tikka Marg, Jaipur - 302005  
Phone No: 0141-2222007, Fax: 0141-2222006, Email: [info@rmscrajasthan.gov.in](mailto:info@rmscrajasthan.gov.in)  
CIN:U40109RJ2011SGC039047, Website: <http://www.rmscrajasthan.gov.in>

No. F-8 (JRMSC/EPM/M-17/2024-25/NB/849-712) Dated : 20/09/2024

**NOTICE INVITING BID**

Bids for Item Transcutaneous Bilirubinometer are invited from interested bidders up to 17.10.2024; 06:00 PM. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (<http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in>, <http://pspp.raj.nic.in>) of the state; and <http://mhc.health.rajasthan.gov.in>. UBN No.: MSC2425GLRC00034  
Raj.Samwad/C/24/5429 Executive Director (EPM)

**WEST BENGAL STATE ELECTRICITY DISTRIBUTION COMPANY LIMITED**  
(A Govt. of West Bengal Enterprise)  
Regd. Office: Vidyut Bhawan, Block-D, Sector-I, Bidhannagar, Kolkata-700091  
CIN: U40109WB2007SGC113473, [www.wbsecl.in](http://www.wbsecl.in)

**WBSECL invites e-Tender as follows:**

NIT No.: WBSECL/IT/C/33.10(iii)/466. Date: 18.09.2024 of the Chief Engineer (IT&C Cell) for the work of "Renewal of Subscription to Microsoft Office 365 Cloud Services on a Software-as-a-Service (SaaS) model and Bulk Mailing Solution with three years support service in WBSECL. ICA-T17135(3)/2024  
For details, visit <https://wbtdenders.gov.in> & [www.wbsecl.in](http://www.wbsecl.in)

**PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited**  
(Regd. Office : PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001)  
Corporate Identity Number : U40109PB2010SGC033813  
Website : [www.pspcl.in](http://www.pspcl.in) (Contact Number 96461 47777)

**TENDER ENQUIRY NO TSQ-1157/TD-I**

Dy. CE/TL (Design), PSPCL, Patiala invites E-tender for the procurement of ACSR Panther for the 66KV works to be carried out under RDSS in departmental mode, as per PSPCL Specification No. TSQ-1157/TD-I. For detailed NIT and Bidding Document, please refer to <https://gem.gov.in> (GeM Portal) from 07.09.2024 (11:00 AM onwards).

Note : Corrigendum and addendum, if any will be published online at <https://gem.gov.in> (GeM Portal).

C-72124, DPR/Pb.: 76155/12/3477/2023/37910

**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**  
Commissionerate of Agriculture,  
Seshadri Road, Bengaluru - 560001

No.: DDA(FM&M)/FM RFP/Drone/2024-25 Date: 19.09.2024

**SHORT TERM REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL NOTIFICATION**

The Department of Agriculture invites Short Term Request for Proposals (RFP) from OEM / Manufacturers for supply of Kisan Drones to farmers under Departmental subsidy Programmes and CHSC Centers. The interested OEM / Manufacturers who are interested to participate in this RFP can submit their proposals through e-Procurement platform <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>.

The interested OEM of Kisan Drones / Manufacturers can download the RFP document through e-Procurement platform free of cost by payment of applicable e-Procurement processing fees and the EMD amount as fixed by the Department. Applications for RFP can be downloaded from the website <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> from 20.09.2024 to 07.10.2024. The last date for submission of proposals in e-Procurement platform is 07.10.2024 at 4:30 p.m. The Technical proposals will be opened on 09.10.2024 at 11:00 a.m. in Samruddhi VC Hall, Commissionerate of agriculture, Seshadri Road, Bengaluru-560001.

The Hard copies (Physical Deposition) of the Technical and Financial Proposals along with other relevant documents uploaded in the e-Procurement portal will be received at the Office of the Deputy Director of Agriculture (Farm Mechanization & Micro irrigation), Department of Agriculture, Seshadri Road, Bengaluru-560001 upto 4:30 p.m., on Dt: 08.10.2024.

The interested Manufacturers / OEM have to register at the e-procurement cell, Centre for e-Governance, 4th Floor, Sri Arvinda Bhavan, Mythic Society Compound, Nrupathunga Road, Bengaluru-560001 and obtain the DSC key or e-token (Helpdesk: +91 80 46010000, +91 80 68948777).

NOTE: e-Procurement processing fee is non-refundable and Tender documents are non transferable.

Sd/-, Director of Agriculture and Tender Inviting Authority

DIPR/CPI/C/2074/2024-25

**GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL**

O/o MSVP, Burdwan Medical College & Hospital, Purba Burdwan  
e-Tender Notice Vide Memo No.BMCH/1886 Da te 18.09.2024

The MSVP, Burdwan Medical College and Hospital, Purba Bardhaman, invites e-Tender short notice vide memo no. BMCH/1886 Date.18.09.2024 for supply, installation, testing, commissioning, training, maintenance of closed circuit television systems (cctv) camera and its accessories with one year CAMC for security surveillance system at ANA MOY SEN WBPDDL from eligible Agencies / Companies in bid system for "ARC for LT Motor Rewinding (Rating 45kw to 160kw) under CHPEM as & when basis), BKTPPP, Tender Document Download Start Date: 24.09.2024 at 09:00 AM. Bid Submission End Date: 18.10.2024 at 05:00 PM. Contact Person: Mr. Indrani Kakraborty, DGM-Engg, CC, BKTPPP, WBPDDL. Mobile: 8373055604. E-mail: cc\_bktps@wbpdcl.co.in For details please visit: <https://wbtdenders.gov.in>  
ICA-T17148(3)/2024

**The West Bengal Power Development Corporation Limited**  
(A Govt. of West Bengal Enterprise)  
Corporate Identity No. U40104WB1985SGC039154  
Bakreswar Thermal Power Station  
P.O. BKTPPP, Dist. - Birbhum, Pin - 731104

**Notice Inviting E-Tender**  
Ref No.: WBPDDL/Tend-Adv/24-25/BKTPPP/CC-2402 Date: 19.09.2024  
NIT No.: WBPDDL/BKTPPP/NIT/E3313/24-25

E-Tenders in prescribed format are invited at <https://wbtdenders.gov.in> by General Manager, BKTPPP/WBPDDL from eligible Agencies / Companies in bid system for "ARC for LT Motor Rewinding (Rating 45kw to 160kw) under CHPEM as & when basis), BKTPPP, Tender Document Download Start Date: 24.09.2024 at 09:00 AM. Bid Submission End Date: 18.10.2024 at 05:00 PM. Contact Person: Mr. Indrani Kakraborty, DGM-Engg, CC, BKTPPP, WBPDDL. Mobile: 8373055604. E-mail: cc\_bktps@wbpdcl.co.in For details please visit: <https://wbtdenders.gov.in>  
ICA-T17267(3)/2024

**Rajasthan Medical Services Corporation Ltd.**  
Gandhi Block, Swarnajayanti Bhawan, Tikka Marg, Jaipur - 302005  
Phone No: 0141-2222007, Fax: 0141-2222006, Email: [info@rmscrajasthan.gov.in](mailto:info@rmscrajasthan.gov.in)  
CIN:U40109RJ2011SGC039047, Website: <http://www.rmscrajasthan.gov.in>

No. F02178/RMCSL/Proc/585 (MD)/NIB-14/2024/316 Dated : 20.09.2024

**Corrigendum - III in NIB-14/2024/316**

In Reference to NIB No. 14/2024 Dated - 25.07.2024 UBN No. MSC2425GLOB00024 Corrigendum-III is issued for inclusion in the bid document. All details may be seen on [www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in](http://www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in), [www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in](http://www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in) & [www.rmsc.health.rajasthan.gov.in](http://www.rmsc.health.rajasthan.gov.in).  
Raj.Samwad/C/24/5457 Executive Director (Proc.)

**WEST BENGAL STATE ELECTRICITY DISTRIBUTION COMPANY LIMITED**  
(A Govt. of West Bengal Enterprise)  
Regd. Office: Vidyut Bhawan, Block-D, Sector-I, Bidhannagar, Kolkata-700091  
CIN: U40109WB2007SGC113473, [www.wbsecl.in](http://www.wbsecl.in)

**WBSECL invites e-Tender as follows:**

NIT No.: RM/DRO/CE/TENDER/2024-25/03, Dt.: 11.09.2024 of the Regional Manager, Dakshin Dinajpur Region, WBSECL. Estimated Cost: ₹ 6,83,508/- for "Tilt-bit repair & maintenance work of the civil portion alongwith the electrical wirings, in the Staff quarter(s) and other allied civil work within the premises of the Divisional Office, Balurghat."

Extension of Time  
Ref. Original NIT No.: DM/Garia/Tender/2024-25/1483, Dt.: 03.09.2024 of the Divisional Manager, Garia Division, WBSECL. Bid Submission End Date (online) is hereby extended up to 30.09.2024 (15:00 hrs.). ICA-T17159(1)/2024  
For details, visit <https://wbtdenders.gov.in> & [www.wbsecl.in](http://www.wbsecl.in)

**WEST BENGAL STATE ELECTRICITY DISTRIBUTION COMPANY LIMITED**  
(A Govt. of West Bengal Enterprise)  
Regd. Office: Vidyut Bhawan, Block-D, Sector-I, Bidhannagar, Kolkata-700091  
CIN: U40109WB2007SGC113473, [www.wbsecl.in](http://www.wbsecl.in)

**WBSECL invites e-Tenders as follows:**

- NIT No.: RM/S24PGS/Electrical/E-Tender/2024-25/1060, Dt.: 11.09.2024 of the Regional Manager, South 24 Parganas Region, WBSECL. Estimated Cost: ₹ 14,65,088.68 for civil & electrical work of "Extension of 33 kV bay at FSE SEC-133/11 kV sub-station, drawl of 33 kV UG line by 3Cx400 Sq. mm. XLPE cable and associated civil works for drawl of 2" 33 kV source to U/S WEBSOL Energy System Ltd. at Falta SEZ under Diamond Harbour Division".
- NIT No.: RM/UDRO/CE/TENDER/2024-25/03, Dt.: 10.09.2024 of the Regional Manager, Uttar Dinajpur Region, WBSECL. Estimated Cost: ₹ 13,19,581.41 for the work of "Construction of boundary wall, road, area development and other allied works of Karandighi CCC at the premises of Bkore 33/11 kV sub-station under Raiganj Division".
- NIT No.: MRD/CE-TENDER/24-25/1409, Dt.: 17.09.2024 of the Regional Manager, Murshidabad Region, WBSECL. Estimated Cost: ₹ 18,41,842.55 for the work of "Repair renovation of cable trenches, switchyard, pathways, replacement of cover slabs, tilt-bit repair maintenance works of CRB and other ancillary civil works at Labagh 33/11 kV sub-station under Liaganj Division".
- NIT No.: DM/RD/E-Tender/24-25/103, Dt.: 13.09.2024 of the Divisional Manager, Raiganj Division, WBSECL. Estimated Cost: ₹ 6,42,800/- for the work of "AMC service for IT equipment for the period of 02 (two) years".  
For details, visit <https://wbtdenders.gov.in> & [www.wbsecl.in](http://www.wbsecl.in)  
ICA-T17244(1)/2024

**BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE**  
Office of the Executive Engineer, Chamarajapete Division, BBMP Anganawadi Centre, 2nd Main, T.R. Mill Road, Bengaluru-18

No: EE/CMP/Tend/E-PROC/07(Call-2)/2024-25 Dated: 19.09.2024

**INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT)**

**TWO COVER SYSTEM (Standard Tender Document KW-4)**  
(Through GOK KPP Portal <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>)

The Executive Engineer, Chamarajapete Division, BBMP, Bengaluru invites tenders from eligible contractor registered in KPWD/BBMP registered in KPWD/CPWD /Railways/MES/National Highways or any State Government Organizations class-1 contractor for the work mentioned in the statement below.

Sl No.	Name of the work
1.	Comprehensive Development of Roads, Drains, Culverts, Footpaths and other works at 1, Chamarajapete Division Jurisdiction. (3 works)

Amount: ₹.1000.00 Lakhs EMD: 10.00 Lakh (Rs.1.00 Lakh Online plus remaining balance BG/FDR)

**Calendar of Events:** (1) Tender documents may be downloaded in the KPP Portal of Government of Karnataka from 20.09.2024 onwards. (2) Tender must be submitted online through KPP portal on or before 30.09.2024 upto 3:00 pm. (3) Last Date & Time for Receipt of Tenders is 30.09.2024 upto 3:00 pm. (4) Opening of Technical Bid Document for Two Cover is 01.10.2024 at 4:00 pm. (5) Pre-Bid Meeting will be held on 26.09.2024 at 4:00 pm in the Office of the Chief Engineer (West) Bashyam Park, Sheshadripuram, Bengaluru. (6) Opening of Financial bid document is 03.10.2024 at 2:00 pm (If Possible)

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Chamarajapete Division

**The West Bengal Power Development Corporation Limited**  
(A Govt. of West Bengal Enterprise)  
Corporate Identity No. U40104WB1985SGC039154  
Santalidih Thermal Power Station  
P.O. Santalidih Thermal Plant, Dist. - Purulia, Pin - 723146

**Notice Inviting E-Tender**  
Ref. No.: WBPDDL/Tend-Adv/24-25/STPS/CC-2398 Date: 19.09.2024  
NIT No.: WBPDDL/STPS/NIT/E3700/24-25

E-Tenders in prescribed format are invited at <https://wbtdenders.gov.in> by the General Manager, STPS, WBPDDL from eligible Agencies/Companies in 2 Part bid system for "Electrical Tilt bit jobs for U&S & under E&MHP dept. STPS". Tender Document Download Start Date: 21.09.2024 from 10:00 hrs. Bid Submission End Date: 07.10.2024 within 16:00 hrs. Contact Person: Mrs. D. Paul Gupta. Mobile: 9147165627. E-mail: draulgupta@wbpdcl.co.in For details please visit: <https://wbtdenders.gov.in>  
ICA-T17261(3)/2024

**EASTERN RAILWAY**

**e-Auction for Leasing of Parcel Space over Howrah Division**

No. : COM/PARCEL/LEASING/Long term e-AUC/HWH/2024/PT-III, Dated 16.09.2024. Railway Administration invites e-Auction for the following work : e-Auction for 10 Nos. of SLRs in 05 passenger carrying trains and 03 Nos. of RTVPs in 03 passenger carrying trains originating from Howrah Division for two years through e-Auction module of IREPS website. Non-transferable Auction catalogue containing detailed terms and conditions are available at [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) the bidding for the instant e-Auction is to be submitted through e-Auction module on [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) For participation in e-Auction process, one time Registration of merchants through e-Auction module in website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) is mandatory. Merchants are also required to take digital signature of Class-III. Auction Catalogue details : • Auction Catalogue No. : PCL-HWH-L-24-90. • Train: 10 Nos. of SLRs in 05 passenger carrying trains and 03 Nos. of RTVPs in 03 passenger carrying trains. • Auction start date & time : 30.09.2024, 13.00 hrs.

Senior Divisional Commercial Manager,  
Eastern Railway, Howrah, 4th Floor, Rail Yatri Niwas Building, (HWH-297/2024-25) near Howrah station, Howrah-711011  
(Tender Notice is also available at websites : [www.eindianrailways.gov.in](http://www.eindianrailways.gov.in) / [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in))

Follow us at : @EasternRailway @easternrailwayheadquarter

**RAJASTHAN RAJYA VIDYUT UTPADAN NIGAM LTD.**  
Suratgarh Super Thermal Power Station, Suratgarh-335805

**Online Tender Notice - 3060 (RVU2425WLOB01110)**

E-tenders are invited for work Annual Rate Contract for transportation of pond/mound ash from Ash Dye of STPS, RVUN, STPS to various locations of user agency(s), within 300 Kms. Tender details are available on websites <http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in> (for e-tender), [www.energy.rajasthan.gov.in](http://www.energy.rajasthan.gov.in) / [www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in](http://www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in).  
Raj.Samwad/C/24/5450 RVUN/PR-4057 Addl. Chief Engineer (O&M)

**POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION OF UTTARAKHAND LTD.**  
(A Govt. of Uttarakhand Enterprise) Corporate ID U40104UR2004GOC028675  
"Vidyut Bhawan" Near ISBT Crossing, Saharanpur Road, Majra, Dehradun-248002 Tel. No. 0135-2642711

**E-TENDER NOTICE**

Power Transmission Corporation of Uttarakhand Limited invites E-Tender for "Construction of 220/33 kV GIS Substation, Banbasa, Tanakpur" against tender specification no. PICUL/E-Tender/C&P-I/SS-10/2024-25. The last date submission of e-bid is upto 24.10.2024 15:30 Hrs. For more details please visit e-tender website [www.uktdenders.gov.in](http://www.uktdenders.gov.in) (tender id no. 2024\_PTCUJ\_75027\_1) and for e-tender notice our website [www.ptcul.org](http://www.ptcul.org)

For any assistance on E-Tendering, please contact +91-8899890000. Letter No. 169/HQ/PTCULJ Dated : 19.09.2024 Superintending Engineer (C&P-I)  
"Save Electricity in the Interest of Nation"

**PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited**  
(Regd. Office : PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001)  
Corporate Identification Number (CIN) : U40109PB2010SGC033813  
Website : [www.pspcl.in](http://www.pspcl.in); Contact No. : 96461-1938

# 'Cong run by urban Naxals'

Vaibhav Ganjapure & Akhilesh Singh | TNN

**Wardha/New Delhi:** Continuing his offensive against Congress for attacking him for attending Ganapati puja at CJI D Y Chandrachud's residence, PM Narendra Modi on Friday also targeted Shiv Sena (UBT) and Sharad Pawar's NCP for keeping mum on the "insult to Ganapati Bappa".

"A party which has even the slightest respect for our faith and culture can never oppose Ganapati puja. But today's Congress hates Ganapati puja. The land of Maharashtra is witness that under the leadership of Lokmanya Tilak in the freedom struggle, Ganapati Utsav



PM Modi in Wardha on Friday

became a celebration of the unity of India. People from every section of society and every class used to join together in Ganesh Utsav. That is why Congress is irritated with Ganapati puja. When I went to the Ganesh puja programme, the ghost of appeasement by Congress arose, Congress started opposing Ganapati puja. Con-

gress is doing anything for appeasement," the PM said, asserting Congress had been commandeered by "urban Naxals".

"You see the language of Congress people these days, their anti-national agenda of breaking up society and the country while in foreign land, insulting Indian culture and faith. Congress is being torn to pieces by a gang, is being run by urban Naxal people," Modi said. "Congress we are seeing today is not Congress with which great men like Mahatma Gandhi were once associated. The spirit of patriotism has died in today's Congress. The ghost of hatred has entered today's Congress."

# Shah assures aid to Maoist violence survivors

► Continued from P 1

**New Delhi:** As survivors of Maoist violence from Bastar region sought to amplify their plight at the hands of left-wing extremists and their demand that "Bastar be freed from Naxal violence" through silent protests, engagements with 'activists' and meeting home minister Amit Shah, the latter endorsed their campaign, saying ministry of home affairs and the entire country welcomes their sentiment to bring lasting peace to Bastar and save its other residents the pain they have experienced, reports **Bharti Jain**.

# 'Must work together to eradicate inequality'

► Continued from P 1

The same Constitution allows thinkers to voice their opinions in the national interest without fear," **Nitin Gadkari** said.

Gadkari said the country wouldn't progress with social inequality triggered by caste or religion. "The fundamental spirit of the Gita, Quran, and the Bible is the same. It is an individual's choice how to offer prayers to his or her God. Just as we have freedom of



speech, we have freedom of religion. We must rise above all such differences and must work together to eradicate social inequality."

Harking back to Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, the minister said, "There cannot be a bigger example of a secular personality than Shivaji Maharaj. He never destroyed places of worship of other religions. If we want our nation to be-

come 'Vishwaguru' (educator of the world), we should take the path of social harmony."

Gadkari flagged social disparity as a worrisome trend in India and said people must realise that a person's stature does not depend on caste, language, religion or sex.

"The person's ability determines it. Till we eradicate untouchability and differences between the so-called higher-lower class, we cannot say that we have progressed," Gadkari said.

**HDFC Bank Ltd.** Head Office: HDFC Bank House, Senapati Bapat Marg, Lower Parel (West), Mumbai - 400 013  
Branch Office: HDFC Bank Ltd., Dept. Of Special Operations, "Jardine House", 1st Floor, 4 Clive Row, Kolkata-700001.

**E-AUCTION NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY/IES**  
E-Auction 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 M/s. BRH Commodities Pvt Ltd and Mr. Anubhav Bhattar (Guarantors / Mortgagors) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the HDFC Bank Limited as Secured Creditor, the Physical Possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of HDFC Bank Ltd., will be sold on "AS IS WHERE IS", "AS IS WHAT IS", and "WHATEVER THERE IS" basis on 08th October, 2024, for recovery of Rs.18,46,83,45.66 as on 10.03.2020 as per Demand Notice dated 16.03.2020, due to the HDFC Bank Ltd. as Secured Creditor for realization of Bank's dues plus interest till realization, from Borrower.

Description of Immovable property	Inspection Date and Time	Reserve Price		Date / Time of E-Auction	Encumbrances
		EMD	Bid Increase Amount		
All that the piece and parcel of the Cemented Office Space, having a super built-up area of about 22,951 sq. ft. on the Second floor of the Crystal - II Building at "Globsyn", Premises No. XI-11 & 12, together with the parking space being 18 spaces for parking medium sized cars lying and situated at Block EP, Sector V, Salt Lake Electronics Complex, P.S. Bihannagar (E), Kolkata 700 091, within the jurisdiction of Nabadiganta Industrial Township Authority, together with the undivided proportionate share of land, standing in the name of BMA Commodities Pvt. Ltd., which is bounded as under: On the North: Plot No. XI-10; On the East: Road; On the South: Road; On the West: Plot No. XI-15 & XI-16.	27.09.2024 11 A.M. to 1 P.M.	Rs.9,01,00,000/-		08.10.2024 at 11 A.M. - 12 Noon	Encumbrance relating to the property which includes society dues, maintenance dues etc.
		Rs.90,10,000/-	Rs.50,000/-		

**TERMS & CONDITIONS:**  
1. To the best of knowledge and information of the Authorised Officer, there is encumbrance relating to the property which includes society dues, maintenance dues etc. As per e-mail dated 01/07/2024 received by the Authorised Officer from the society, there is an outstanding due of Rs.2,52,91,079.81 as on 30/06/2024 towards maintenance and other utility dues. However, the intending bidders should make their own independent inquiries regarding the encumbrances, title of property/ies put on auction and claims/ rights/ dues/ affecting the property, prior to submitting their bid. The E-Auction advertisement does not constitute and will not be deemed to constitute any commitment or any representation of the Bank. The property is being sold with all the existing and future encumbrances whether known or unknown to the bank. The Authorised Officer/ Secured Creditor shall not be responsible in any way for any third party claims/ rights/ dues. To the best of knowledge and information of the Authorised Officer, there is encumbrance relating to the property which includes society dues, maintenance dues etc. The Bank however shall not be responsible for any outstanding statutory dues/encumbrances/tax arrears, if any. The intending bidders should make their own independent inquiries regarding the encumbrances, title of property/ies & to inspect & satisfy themselves. Property can be inspected strictly on the above mentioned dates and time. 2. The interested bidders shall submit their EMD details and documents through Web Portal: <https://www.bankauctions.com> (the user ID & Password can be obtained free of cost by registering name with <https://www.bankauctions.com>) through Login ID & Password. The EMD shall be payable through Pay Order/ Demand Draft of Nationalized / Scheduled Bank drawn in favor of HDFC Bank Limited payable at Kolkata. It should reach the office of the HDFC BANK LTD. At 1st Floor, Jardine House, 4 Clive Row, Kolkata-700001 latest by 5:00 p.m. on or before 07.10.2024. Offers below the Reserve Price / without EMD / qualified / conditional shall be disqualified. 3. The intending bidders who have deposited the EMD and require assistance in creating Login ID & Password, uploading data, submitting bid, training on e-bidding process etc., may contact M/s. C1 India Pvt. Ltd., Plot No 301, Gulf Petro Chem Building, Udyog Vihar, Phase 2, Gurgaon, Helpline Nos: 0124-4302021/22/23/24. Mr. Mihelish Kumar Mobile: 789804466. Help Line e-mail ID: [support@bankauctions.com](mailto:support@bankauctions.com), [kolkata@e1india.com](mailto:kolkata@e1india.com) and for any property related query may contact the concerned Authorised Officer Mr. Debojit Mukherjee (Mobile-9674713082). E-Mail- [debojit.mukherjee@hdfcbank.com](mailto:debojit.mukherjee@hdfcbank.com) or at address as mentioned above in office hours during the working days. (10 AM to 2:00 PM). 4. The highest bid shall be subject to approval of HDFC Bank Limited. Authorised Officer reserves the right to accept/ reject all or any of the offers/ bids so received without assigning any reasons whatsoever. His decision shall be final & binding. For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in [www.hdfcbank.com](http://www.hdfcbank.com) and [www.bankauctions.com](http://www.bankauctions.com)

**THIRD STATUTORY SALE NOTICE UNDER RULE 8(6) OF THE SARFAESI ACT, 2002**  
The Borrower/Guarantors/Mortgagors in the account M/s. BRH Commodities Pvt Ltd and Mr. Anubhav Bhattar are hereby notified to pay the sum as mentioned above along with upto dated interest and ancillary expenses before the date of e-Auction, failing which the property will be auctioned/ sold and balance dues, if any, will be recovered with interest and cost.  
Date: 21.09.2024  
Place: Kolkata  
Sd/- Authorised Officer, HDFC Bank Ltd.

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# MAHAL LAMP SHADES

# MAHAL LAMP SHADES

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MONDAY-SATURDAY | 10:00AM-7:30PM

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
Notice Inviting Tender
Tenders are invited from Bonafide resourceful and financially sound agencies with valid credentials against e-NIT (3rd Call) of 2024-25 of the undersigned vide Tender ID: 2024\_HSD\_753763\_1.

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
On behalf of the Governor of West Bengal, E-Tender is invited by the CMOH, Dakshin Dinajpur for following e-Tender (E-Tender No. DHFW/S/RT/27/29 dated 18.09.2024) from resourceful, eligible agency having experience in similar nature of works.

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
e-TENDER NOTICE
Online tender of e-NIT No. 06 of 2024-25 is being invited by the undersigned for the works vide Tender ID No. 2024\_WBPWD\_750990\_12 to 2024\_WBPWD\_750990\_12 from Bonafide bidders. Details will be obtained from the website https://wbenders.gov.in and office Notice Board. Bid submission end date (online) for SL No. 6, 11 and 12-21/09/2024 and for SL No. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9 and 10-23/09/2024. Sd/- Sarfaraz Executive Engineer, Hooghly Hwy, Dvnl-I, P.W./Roads) Direct.

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
NOTICE TENDER (3rd Call) for CMOH Of Water Purifier system at CMOH NIT No. CM5/25/2024-25, Dt:18.08.2024. MSVP, CMOH invites bids from eligible qualified suppliers for CMC of Water Purifier system at CMOH. For details, please visit www.wbhealth.gov.in and www.cmoah.gov.in. Sd/- MSVP, CMOH, Kamarhati. ICA-117142(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
NOTICE TENDER (3rd Call) for CMOH Of Water Purifier system at CMOH NIT No. CM5/25/2024-25, Dt:18.08.2024. MSVP, CMOH invites bids from eligible qualified suppliers for CMC of Water Purifier system at CMOH. For details, please visit www.wbhealth.gov.in and www.cmoah.gov.in. Sd/- MSVP, CMOH, Kamarhati. ICA-117142(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
P.WD TENDER NOTICE
E-tender work is hereby invited by the Executive Engineer, Bidhannagar IT Division, P.W.D. No. 115, 1st Floor, DF Block Purba Bhawan Sector-1, Saltlake, Kolkata-700091. Name of Work: Testing Repair & Supply of network accessories for office of the Assistant Engineer, Ilambazar Highway Sub-Division, P.W./Roads) Directorate. NIT No: WBPWD/EE/BBT/NIT-21 OF 2024-25. Tender id: 2024\_WBPWD\_751117\_1. Bid Submission Start Date (Online): 20.09.2024. Bid Submission Closing Date (Online): 01.10.2024. Corrigendum if any will be published website only. Details of NIT and tender documents may be downloaded from http://wbenders.gov.in Sd/- EE, Bidhannagar IT Division, P.W.D. ICA-117123(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
Re-e-Tender Notice
Re-e-Tenders are invited by Commissioner of Police, Kolkata from Bonafide Dealers / OEM/ Traders having experience in Supply & Maintenance of Baggage Scanner (6040) for use of Kolkata Police. Last date of submission of tender is on 21.10.24 up to 3 PM. The NIT Document and other details are available in the website https://www.wbenders.gov.in & https://www.kolkatapolic.gov.in Sd/- For CP, Kolkata ICA-117260(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
WR/ADD, e-NIT
Executive Engineer, DPMU, NADIA, WBADMIP invites e-Tender for Excavation of WDS Schemes at 13 nos of various site in different model and block in Nadia district under DPMU Nadia, WBADMIP Ph. ICA-117164(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
Tender Notice
The Executive Engineer, Bdt, Divn. H. Dte. has invited open tender against eNIT No. 03 of 2024-25 for Renovation and Repairing works for front side verandah at A1 and A2 building at RHE Katwa, in the dist. Of Purba Bardhaman. T.H.No 2024\_HSD\_753912\_1. Bid submission closing date (online) on 20.09.2024 up to 4.00pm. For details please visit website: http://wbenders.gov.in, further corrigendum if any may be required will be published in the website only. Sd/- Executive Engineer, Burdwan Division, Housing Dte. ICA-117161(2)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
P.WD TENDER NOTICE
Superintending Engineer, Western Electrical Circle, P.W.D. invites online e-Tender for the work of Supply and Installation of Compound Light in the campus of Burdwan Medical College & Hospital, Purba Bardhaman. e-NIT No. :- WBPWD/SEWC/EE/2024-25. Tender ID: 2024\_WBPWD\_751222\_1 Bid submission start date (online): 20.09.2024 up to 11.00 P.M. Corrigendum if any will be published in website only. Details of N.I.T. and Tender documents may be downloaded from : http://wbenders.gov.in Sd/- S.K.Biswas, Superintending Engineer, P.W.D. Western Electrical Circle. ICA-117181(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
Tender Notice of I & CA Dept
Memo No. of NIT 250/RCP/ICA dt. 20/09/2024. Tender ID: 2024\_ICAD\_754728\_1. e-Tender is hereby invited from intending bidders for the work related to organizing the programme of Paschimanga Charukala Utsav-2024. Bid submission closing date: 21/10/2024 at 12:30 pm. Other details may be seen from the website: https://wbenders.gov.in and office notice board Sd/- E.O., RCP, Information & Cultural Affairs Dept., Govt. of West Bengal. CA-117274(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
Tender Notice Reference No. (STM/07/01/E-TENDER-62/045/2024, Tender ID: 2024\_HWD\_750807\_1 Dated: 18.09.2024) is invited by the MSVP, School of Tropical Medicine, 108 C R Avenue, Kolkata - 700 073 for the Procurement of CCTV for STM. Technical & Financial Bid Submission Closing Date: 28/09/2024 at 12:00 PM. For details, please visit www.wbenders.gov.in Sd/- Medical Superintendent cum Principal, School of Tropical Medicine, Kolkata. ICA-117151(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
P.WD TENDER NOTICE
Executive Engineer, Bishnupur Division, P.W.D. invites online Tender for the work of 1. Bishnupur-Kotulpur Road from 2.00 kmp to 7.00 kmp in stretches, all maintenance and repairing work under South Bishnupur Sub-Division, P.W. Dte. in the district of Bankura. Amount Put to Tender- Rs. 2371409.00, Tender ID: 2024\_WBPWD\_753314\_1. e-NIT No: 12 of 2024-25 of EE/BP/PWD; Bid submission closing date 04.10.2024 up to 12:00 P.M. corrigendum if any will be published in website only. Details of NIT and Tender documents may be downloaded from http://wbenders.gov.in Sd/- Executive Engineer, Bishnupur Division, P.W. Dte. ICA-117215(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
WR/ADD, e-NIT
Executive Engineer (A-I), Malda (A-I) Division, WRDD, invites e-Tender for Installation of 4 Nos. Cluster of Light Duty Tube well (Solar Operated) Scheme (23 nos installations) at different location of Malda Division under E.E. (A-I), Malda (A-I) Division under Core-Sector Program for the Financial Year 2024-25. Tender Ref. No.: WRDD/ EE (A-I) /Malda/eNIT-06/2024-25 (SI no. 1 to 4) & Tender ID: 2024\_WRDD\_754609\_1 to 4. Amount put to tender is Rs. 44,26,831/- to 53,14,686/- Lakh. Last date & time for bid submission is 05.10.2024 up to 05:00 P.M. Intending bidders are requested to visit the website http://wbenders.gov.in for details. Sd/- Executive Engineer (A-I), Malda (A-I) Division, Malda. ICA-117262(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
Tender Notice of DHFWD/Dep'tt
Memo No. of NIT-DHFWS/RPH/2312 dt. 18-09-2024and Tender ID 2024\_HFW\_753232\_1e-Tender is hereby invited to receive bids for the Supply of Temporary and Contractual Engagements of Security Guards. Bid submission closing date: 04/09/24 at 01:00 pm. Other details may be seen from the website: https://wbenders.gov.in and office notice board. Sd/- CMOH & Member Secretary, DHFWS, Rampurhat HD, Govt. of West Bengal. ICA-117152(2)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
TENDER NOTICE
e-NIT No. 15 of 2024-25 of E.E., Barasat Hwy Divn. No. 11, P.W. (Roads) Dte. (SI. No. 1 to 4). Inviting online e-tender for 04 (Four) Nos. Poles, including bus restoration work and Civil work under Barasat Highway Division No.11 in the District of North 24 Pgs. Details may be obtained from the Website: wbenders.gov.in Tender ID: 2024\_WBPWD\_751001\_1/2/3/4. Last date of bid submission: 30.09.2024. Sd/- Executive Engineer, Barasat Highway Division-II ICA-117178(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
P.W/RTD TENDER NOTICE
eNIT No. 12 of 2024-25 of EE/BHD-IPW(R) Dte. for 1 (One) Nos. Road Restoration / Repairing work at Dumdum -Lahati road under Barasat Highway Division No.1, inviting from bonafide bidders having credential for similar nature of work. Bid submission closing date (online) will be on 21/10/2024 upto 13:00 hrs. Tender id: 2024\_WBPWD\_750465\_1. Other details may be seen from website: https://wbenders.gov.in Sd/- Executive Engineer, Barasat Highway Division-II ICA-117178(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
P.WD TENDER NOTICE
EE, Jalpaiguri Highway Division, P.W. (Roads) Dte., Jalpaiguri, invites online e-NIT for the work of "Providing of Security guards for Jalpaiguri Highway Division in the district of Jalpaiguri during the year 2024-25" Tender Ref No: WBPWD/EE/JHD/ENIT/03/24-25. Tender ID: 2024\_HST/104/024/NHM/2024/322. DATED 18-09-2024. Bid Submission start date (online): 24.09.2024 upto 16.00 p.m. Corrigendum if any will be published in website only. Details of NIT and Tender documents may be downloaded from: http://wbenders.gov.in Sd/- EE, PWR(R), JHD, Jalpaiguri, Govt. of WB. ICA-117198(4)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
P.WD TENDER NOTICE
EE, Jalpaiguri Highway Division, P.W. (Roads) Dte., Jalpaiguri, invites online e-NIT for the work of "Providing of Security guards for Jalpaiguri Highway Division in the district of Jalpaiguri during the year 2024-25" Tender Ref No: WBPWD/EE/JHD/ENIT/03/24-25. Tender ID: 2024\_HST/104/024/NHM/2024/322. DATED 18-09-2024. Bid Submission start date (online): 24.09.2024 upto 16.00 p.m. Corrigendum if any will be published in website only. Details of NIT and Tender documents may be downloaded from: http://wbenders.gov.in Sd/- EE, PWR(R), JHD, Jalpaiguri, Govt. of WB. ICA-117198(4)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
P.WD TENDER NOTICE
Executive Engineer, N.H. Division-IV, P.W. (Roads) Dte., invites online Tender for the work of Providing of Security Guards (un-Armed) for round the clock guarding arrangement for Office of the Executive Engineer, National Highway Division No-IV, & Office of the Assistant Engineer, Purulia N.H Sub-Division, P.W./Roads) Dte. & attached Stackyard for the period of one year. Tender ID: 2024\_WBPWD\_751317\_1. \* Bid Due Date: 22.10.2024 up to 6.00 p.m. Corrigendum if any will be published in website only. Details of N.I.T. may be downloaded from : website: http://tender.wb.nic.in Sd/- EE, NHD-IV, P.W./Roads) Dte. ICA-117201(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
WR/ADD, e-NIT
Executive Engineer (A-I), Malda (A-I) Division, WRDD, invites e-Tender for Installation of 4 Nos. Cluster of Light Duty Tube well (Solar Operated) Scheme (23 nos installations) at different location of Malda Division under E.E. (A-I), Malda (A-I) Division under Core-Sector Program for the Financial Year 2024-25. Tender Ref. No.: WRDD/ EE (A-I) /Malda/eNIT-06/2024-25 (SI no. 1 to 4) & Tender ID: 2024\_WRDD\_754609\_1 to 4. Amount put to tender is Rs. 44,26,831/- to 53,14,686/- Lakh. Last date & time for bid submission is 05.10.2024 up to 05:00 P.M. Intending bidders are requested to visit the website http://wbenders.gov.in for details. Sd/- Executive Engineer (A-I), Malda (A-I) Division, Malda. ICA-117262(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
Tender Notice of DHFWD/Dep'tt
Memo No. of NIT-DHFWS/RPH/2312 dt. 18-09-2024and Tender ID 2024\_HFW\_753232\_1e-Tender is hereby invited to receive bids for the Supply of Temporary and Contractual Engagements of Security Guards. Bid submission closing date: 04/09/24 at 01:00 pm. Other details may be seen from the website: https://wbenders.gov.in and office notice board. Sd/- CMOH & Member Secretary, DHFWS, Rampurhat HD, Govt. of West Bengal. ICA-117152(2)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
P.W/RTD TENDER NOTICE
eNIT No. 12 of 2024-25 of EE/BHD-IPW(R) Dte. for 1 (One) Nos. Road Restoration / Repairing work at Dumdum -Lahati road under Barasat Highway Division No.1, inviting from bonafide bidders having credential for similar nature of work. Bid submission closing date (online) will be on 21/10/2024 upto 13:00 hrs. Tender id: 2024\_WBPWD\_750465\_1. Other details may be seen from website: https://wbenders.gov.in Sd/- Executive Engineer, Barasat Highway Division-II ICA-117178(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
P.WD TENDER NOTICE
EE, Jalpaiguri Highway Division, P.W. (Roads) Dte., Jalpaiguri, invites online e-NIT for the work of "Providing of Security guards for Jalpaiguri Highway Division in the district of Jalpaiguri during the year 2024-25" Tender Ref No: WBPWD/EE/JHD/ENIT/03/24-25. Tender ID: 2024\_HST/104/024/NHM/2024/322. DATED 18-09-2024. Bid Submission start date (online): 24.09.2024 upto 16.00 p.m. Corrigendum if any will be published in website only. Details of NIT and Tender documents may be downloaded from: http://wbenders.gov.in Sd/- EE, PWR(R), JHD, Jalpaiguri, Govt. of WB. ICA-117198(4)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
P.WD TENDER NOTICE
EE, Jalpaiguri Highway Division, P.W. (Roads) Dte., Jalpaiguri, invites online e-NIT for the work of "Providing of Security guards for Jalpaiguri Highway Division in the district of Jalpaiguri during the year 2024-25" Tender Ref No: WBPWD/EE/JHD/ENIT/03/24-25. Tender ID: 2024\_HST/104/024/NHM/2024/322. DATED 18-09-2024. Bid Submission start date (online): 24.09.2024 upto 16.00 p.m. Corrigendum if any will be published in website only. Details of NIT and Tender documents may be downloaded from: http://wbenders.gov.in Sd/- EE, PWR(R), JHD, Jalpaiguri, Govt. of WB. ICA-117198(4)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
P.WD TENDER NOTICE
Executive Engineer, N.H. Division-IV, P.W. (Roads) Dte., invites online Tender for the work of Providing of Security Guards (un-Armed) for round the clock guarding arrangement for Office of the Executive Engineer, National Highway Division No-IV, & Office of the Assistant Engineer, Purulia N.H Sub-Division, P.W./Roads) Dte. & attached Stackyard for the period of one year. Tender ID: 2024\_WBPWD\_751317\_1. \* Bid Due Date: 22.10.2024 up to 6.00 p.m. Corrigendum if any will be published in website only. Details of N.I.T. may be downloaded from : website: http://tender.wb.nic.in Sd/- EE, NHD-IV, P.W./Roads) Dte. ICA-117201(3)/2024

WEST CENTRAL RAILWAY
CORRIGENDUM No. 09/2024
Kindly refer this office advertised tender no. 50/24/520, opening date: 24/09/2024 published in advertised tender notice no. EPS/37/2024. The amendment made is as under: (1) Tender No. & short Description: Rate Contract for Supply of Underground Railway jelly filled. Tender Opening date: 24/09/2024. To: 30/09/2024. Latest terms & condition and full information is available on website https://www.ireps.gov.in. Please see the modified undertaking in above tender. Principal Chief Manager WCR, Jabalpur

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
WR/ADD, e-NIT
Executive Engineer (A-I), Malda (A-I) Division, WRDD, invites e-Tender for Installation of 4 Nos. Cluster of Light Duty Tube well (Solar Operated) Scheme (23 nos installations) at different location of Malda Division under E.E. (A-I), Malda (A-I) Division under Core-Sector Program for the Financial Year 2024-25. Tender Ref. No.: WRDD/ EE (A-I) /Malda/eNIT-06/2024-25 (SI no. 1 to 4) & Tender ID: 2024\_WRDD\_754609\_1 to 4. Amount put to tender is Rs. 44,26,831/- to 53,14,686/- Lakh. Last date & time for bid submission is 05.10.2024 up to 05:00 P.M. Intending bidders are requested to visit the website http://wbenders.gov.in for details. Sd/- Executive Engineer (A-I), Malda (A-I) Division, Malda. ICA-117262(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
e-Tender Notice
N.I.e.T. No. 15 of EE/MLMD of 2024-25, Malda Mechanical Division, PHE Dte. Tender ID: 2024\_PHE.D\_751289\_1 and 2024\_PHE.D\_751289\_2, Executive Engineer, MLMD invites e Tender in WBF 2911 for Design, Supply and Installation of different capacity Solar Power Plant and other electro-mechanical components under MLMD, PHE Dte. Last date of Submission 28.10.2024 upto 4:00 PM. For details visit at: www.wbenders.gov.in. Sd/- Executive Engineer, Malda Mechanical Division, PHE Dte. ICA-117165(4)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
P.W/RTD TENDER NOTICE
eNIT No. 12 of 2024-25 of EE/BHD-IPW(R) Dte. for 1 (One) Nos. Road Restoration / Repairing work at Dumdum -Lahati road under Barasat Highway Division No.1, inviting from bonafide bidders having credential for similar nature of work. Bid submission closing date (online) will be on 21/10/2024 upto 13:00 hrs. Tender id: 2024\_WBPWD\_750465\_1. Other details may be seen from website: https://wbenders.gov.in Sd/- Executive Engineer, Barasat Highway Division-II ICA-117178(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
P.WD TENDER NOTICE
EE, Jalpaiguri Highway Division, P.W. (Roads) Dte., Jalpaiguri, invites online e-NIT for the work of "Providing of Security guards for Jalpaiguri Highway Division in the district of Jalpaiguri during the year 2024-25" Tender Ref No: WBPWD/EE/JHD/ENIT/03/24-25. Tender ID: 2024\_HST/104/024/NHM/2024/322. DATED 18-09-2024. Bid Submission start date (online): 24.09.2024 upto 16.00 p.m. Corrigendum if any will be published in website only. Details of NIT and Tender documents may be downloaded from: http://wbenders.gov.in Sd/- EE, PWR(R), JHD, Jalpaiguri, Govt. of WB. ICA-117198(4)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
P.WD TENDER NOTICE
EE, Jalpaiguri Highway Division, P.W. (Roads) Dte., Jalpaiguri, invites online e-NIT for the work of "Providing of Security guards for Jalpaiguri Highway Division in the district of Jalpaiguri during the year 2024-25" Tender Ref No: WBPWD/EE/JHD/ENIT/03/24-25. Tender ID: 2024\_HST/104/024/NHM/2024/322. DATED 18-09-2024. Bid Submission start date (online): 24.09.2024 upto 16.00 p.m. Corrigendum if any will be published in website only. Details of NIT and Tender documents may be downloaded from: http://wbenders.gov.in Sd/- EE, PWR(R), JHD, Jalpaiguri, Govt. of WB. ICA-117198(4)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
P.WD TENDER NOTICE
Executive Engineer, N.H. Division-IV, P.W. (Roads) Dte., invites online Tender for the work of Providing of Security Guards (un-Armed) for round the clock guarding arrangement for Office of the Executive Engineer, National Highway Division No-IV, & Office of the Assistant Engineer, Purulia N.H Sub-Division, P.W./Roads) Dte. & attached Stackyard for the period of one year. Tender ID: 2024\_WBPWD\_751317\_1. \* Bid Due Date: 22.10.2024 up to 6.00 p.m. Corrigendum if any will be published in website only. Details of N.I.T. may be downloaded from : website: http://tender.wb.nic.in Sd/- EE, NHD-IV, P.W./Roads) Dte. ICA-117201(3)/2024

EASTERN RAILWAY
Abridged Tender Notice GeM Bid No. GEM/2024/B/5392718, Dated 18.09.2024. Tender Notice for e-Tender through GeM portal invited by Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer/Loc, Eastern Railway Workshop, (Kanchrapara, Pin-743145, 24-Parganas (North), West Bengal for the following work: Tender No.: GeM Bid No. : GEM/2024/B/5392718. Description : "Facility Management Service - Outcome Based - Stripping, repairing and fitting of Door machine room, Door corridor and Cab window of modified WAP4, WAG7, WAP7, WAG9 Locom and replacement of most change item of WAG9, WAP4, WAP7, WAG7 crew friendly modified cab type locomotive, Qty 50 Locom. Tender Value: ₹ 33,33,533/- Date & time of opening of tender: 28.09.2024 at 17.30 hrs. Contract Period : 01 (One) year. The tender document and other details can be obtained from the website : GeM portal. The bidding for the tender is to be submitted e-tendering through GeM portal on above website. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any manual offer if received shall not be accepted and will be summarily rejected. (MISC-173/2024-25) Follow us at: @EasternRailway @easternrailwayheadquarter

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
WR/ADD, e-NIT
Executive Engineer (A-I), Malda (A-I) Division, WRDD, invites e-Tender for Installation of 4 Nos. Cluster of Light Duty Tube well (Solar Operated) Scheme (23 nos installations) at different location of Malda Division under E.E. (A-I), Malda (A-I) Division under Core-Sector Program for the Financial Year 2024-25. Tender Ref. No.: WRDD/ EE (A-I) /Malda/eNIT-06/2024-25 (SI no. 1 to 4) & Tender ID: 2024\_WRDD\_754609\_1 to 4. Amount put to tender is Rs. 44,26,831/- to 53,14,686/- Lakh. Last date & time for bid submission is 05.10.2024 up to 05:00 P.M. Intending bidders are requested to visit the website http://wbenders.gov.in for details. Sd/- Executive Engineer (A-I), Malda (A-I) Division, Malda. ICA-117262(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
P.WD TENDER NOTICE
SE/SWHC, PW (Roads) Directorate invites online e-Tender for the work of Geotechnical Sub-Soil Investigation and Topographical Survey by Total Station machine in the District of Purba Medinipur during the year 2024-25 (NIQ). Name of the Concerned office under which work will be executed: Tamuk Division, PWD, e-NIT No: 01 of 2024-2025, Tender ID: 2024\_WBPWD\_751246\_1. e-NIQ, Bid Submission Start Date (Online): 21.09.2024 from 1.00 PM. e-NIQ Bid Submission Closing Date (Online): 22.10.2024 upto 2.00 PM. Corrigendum if any will be published in website only. Details of NIT and Tender Documents may be downloaded from : http://wbenders.gov.in Sd/- SE, SWHC, PWRD, GOVT. OF WB. ICA-117240(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
P.WD TENDER NOTICE
Executive Engineer, Barasat Highway Division No.1, inviting from bonafide bidders having credential for similar nature of work. Bid submission closing date (online) will be on 21/10/2024 upto 13:00 hrs. Tender id: 2024\_WBPWD\_750465\_1. Other details may be seen from website: https://wbenders.gov.in Sd/- Executive Engineer, Barasat Highway Division-II ICA-117178(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
P.WD TENDER NOTICE
EE, Jalpaiguri Highway Division, P.W. (Roads) Dte., Jalpaiguri, invites online e-NIT for the work of "Providing of Security guards for Jalpaiguri Highway Division in the district of Jalpaiguri during the year 2024-25" Tender Ref No: WBPWD/EE/JHD/ENIT/03/24-25. Tender ID: 2024\_HST/104/024/NHM/2024/322. DATED 18-09-2024. Bid Submission start date (online): 24.09.2024 upto 16.00 p.m. Corrigendum if any will be published in website only. Details of NIT and Tender documents may be downloaded from: http://wbenders.gov.in Sd/- EE, PWR(R), JHD, Jalpaiguri, Govt. of WB. ICA-117198(4)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
P.WD TENDER NOTICE
EE, Jalpaiguri Highway Division, P.W. (Roads) Dte., Jalpaiguri, invites online e-NIT for the work of "Providing of Security guards for Jalpaiguri Highway Division in the district of Jalpaiguri during the year 2024-25" Tender Ref No: WBPWD/EE/JHD/ENIT/03/24-25. Tender ID: 2024\_HST/104/024/NHM/2024/322. DATED 18-09-2024. Bid Submission start date (online): 24.09.2024 upto 16.00 p.m. Corrigendum if any will be published in website only. Details of NIT and Tender documents may be downloaded from: http://wbenders.gov.in Sd/- EE, PWR(R), JHD, Jalpaiguri, Govt. of WB. ICA-117198(4)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
P.WD TENDER NOTICE
Executive Engineer, N.H. Division-IV, P.W. (Roads) Dte., invites online Tender for the work of Providing of Security Guards (un-Armed) for round the clock guarding arrangement for Office of the Executive Engineer, National Highway Division No-IV, & Office of the Assistant Engineer, Purulia N.H Sub-Division, P.W./Roads) Dte. & attached Stackyard for the period of one year. Tender ID: 2024\_WBPWD\_751317\_1. \* Bid Due Date: 22.10.2024 up to 6.00 p.m. Corrigendum if any will be published in website only. Details of N.I.T. may be downloaded from : website: http://tender.wb.nic.in Sd/- EE, NHD-IV, P.W./Roads) Dte. ICA-117201(3)/2024

EASTERN RAILWAY
Abridged Tender Notice GeM Bid No. GEM/2024/B/5392718, Dated 18.09.2024. Tender Notice for e-Tender through GeM portal invited by Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer/Loc, Eastern Railway Workshop, (Kanchrapara, Pin-743145, 24-Parganas (North), West Bengal for the following work: Tender No.: GeM Bid No. : GEM/2024/B/5392718. Description : "Facility Management Service - Outcome Based - Stripping, repairing and fitting of Door machine room, Door corridor and Cab window of modified WAP4, WAG7, WAP7, WAG9 Locom and replacement of most change item of WAG9, WAP4, WAP7, WAG7 crew friendly modified cab type locomotive, Qty 50 Locom. Tender Value: ₹ 33,33,533/- Date & time of opening of tender: 28.09.2024 at 17.30 hrs. Contract Period : 01 (One) year. The tender document and other details can be obtained from the website : GeM portal. The bidding for the tender is to be submitted e-tendering through GeM portal on above website. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any manual offer if received shall not be accepted and will be summarily rejected. (MISC-173/2024-25) Follow us at: @EasternRailway @easternrailwayheadquarter

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
WR/ADD, e-NIT
Executive Engineer (A-I), Malda (A-I) Division, WRDD, invites e-Tender for Installation of 4 Nos. Cluster of Light Duty Tube well (Solar Operated) Scheme (23 nos installations) at different location of Malda Division under E.E. (A-I), Malda (A-I) Division under Core-Sector Program for the Financial Year 2024-25. Tender Ref. No.: WRDD/ EE (A-I) /Malda/eNIT-06/2024-25 (SI no. 1 to 4) & Tender ID: 2024\_WRDD\_754609\_1 to 4. Amount put to tender is Rs. 44,26,831/- to 53,14,686/- Lakh. Last date & time for bid submission is 05.10.2024 up to 05:00 P.M. Intending bidders are requested to visit the website http://wbenders.gov.in for details. Sd/- Executive Engineer (A-I), Malda (A-I) Division, Malda. ICA-117262(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
P.WD TENDER NOTICE
Superintending Engineer, Southern Circle, PWD, 76 Dr. Deodar Rahman Road, Lake Gardens, Kolkata-700033 invites Nlet No. WBPWD/SE/SC/NIT/09/2024-2025 for the work of Restoration of drainage which caused due to piping by PHE Department at 1) Fatepur-Falta Road, 2) Purba Bishnupur-Raidighi Road, 3) Thakurpukur-Birbhat Bakrahat Raipur Road & 4) Bhatra Road. Tender ID: 2024\_WBPWD\_751212\_1 to 3. Estimated Amount: 1) Rs. 16665892.00, 2) 13916430.00, 3) 10185548.00 respectively. Bid submission start date (Online) 24.09.2024 upto 4:00 PM. Bid submission closing (online) 07.10.2024 upto 1.00 PM. The detail NITs may be seen and downloaded from the website http://wbenders.gov.in. Corrigendum and addendum to this NITs, if any will be published only in the above website. Sd/- Superintending Engineer, Southern Circle, P.W.D. ICA-117158(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
P.WD TENDER NOTICE
Executive Engineer, Barasat Highway Division No.1, inviting from bonafide bidders having credential for similar nature of work. Bid submission closing date (online) will be on 21/10/2024 upto 13:00 hrs. Tender id: 2024\_WBPWD\_750465\_1. Other details may be seen from website: https://wbenders.gov.in Sd/- Executive Engineer, Barasat Highway Division-II ICA-117178(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
P.WD TENDER NOTICE
EE, Jalpaiguri Highway Division, P.W. (Roads) Dte., Jalpaiguri, invites online e-NIT for the work of "Providing of Security guards for Jalpaiguri Highway Division in the district of Jalpaiguri during the year 2024-25" Tender Ref No: WBPWD/EE/JHD/ENIT/03/24-25. Tender ID: 2024\_HST/104/024/NHM/2024/322. DATED 18-09-2024. Bid Submission start date (online): 24.09.2024 upto 16.00 p.m. Corrigendum if any will be published in website only. Details of NIT and Tender documents may be downloaded from: http://wbenders.gov.in Sd/- EE, PWR(R), JHD, Jalpaiguri, Govt. of WB. ICA-117198(4)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
P.WD TENDER NOTICE
EE, Jalpaiguri Highway Division, P.W. (Roads) Dte., Jalpaiguri, invites online e-NIT for the work of "Providing of Security guards for Jalpaiguri Highway Division in the district of Jalpaiguri during the year 2024-25" Tender Ref No: WBPWD/EE/JHD/ENIT/03/24-25. Tender ID: 2024\_HST/104/024/NHM/2024/322. DATED 18-09-2024. Bid Submission start date (online): 24.09.2024 upto 16.00 p.m. Corrigendum if any will be published in website only. Details of NIT and Tender documents may be downloaded from: http://wbenders.gov.in Sd/- EE, PWR(R), JHD, Jalpaiguri, Govt. of WB. ICA-117198(4)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
P.WD TENDER NOTICE
Executive Engineer, N.H. Division-IV, P.W. (Roads) Dte., invites online Tender for the work of Providing of Security Guards (un-Armed) for round the clock guarding arrangement for Office of the Executive Engineer, National Highway Division No-IV, & Office of the Assistant Engineer, Purulia N.H Sub-Division, P.W./Roads) Dte. & attached Stackyard for the period of one year. Tender ID: 2024\_WBPWD\_751317\_1. \* Bid Due Date: 22.10.2024 up to 6.00 p.m. Corrigendum if any will be published in website only. Details of N.I.T. may be downloaded from : website: http://tender.wb.nic.in Sd/- EE, NHD-IV, P.W./Roads) Dte. ICA-117201(3)/2024

EASTERN RAILWAY
Abridged Tender Notice GeM Bid No. GEM/2024/B/5392718, Dated 18.09.2024. Tender Notice for e-Tender through GeM portal invited by Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer/Loc, Eastern Railway Workshop, (Kanchrapara, Pin-743145, 24-Parganas (North), West Bengal for the following work: Tender No.: GeM Bid No. : GEM/2024/B/5392718. Description : "Facility Management Service - Outcome Based - Stripping, repairing and fitting of Door machine room, Door corridor and Cab window of modified WAP4, WAG7, WAP7, WAG9 Locom and replacement of most change item of WAG9, WAP4, WAP7, WAG7 crew friendly modified cab type locomotive, Qty 50 Locom. Tender Value: ₹ 33,33,533/- Date & time of opening of tender: 28.09.2024 at 17.30 hrs. Contract Period : 01 (One) year. The tender document and other details can be obtained from the website : GeM portal. The bidding for the tender is to be submitted e-tendering through GeM portal on above website. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any manual offer if received shall not be accepted and will be summarily rejected. (MISC-173/2024-25) Follow us at: @EasternRailway @easternrailwayheadquarter



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*In loving memory of*



**Shri Ramesh Sharma**  
December 26th, 1954 - September 14th, 2024

A visionary entrepreneur and dedicated philanthropist, he spent his life helping others and driving innovation. His passion for serving people will continue to inspire us, and we pray that his legacy will guide us in the future.

The prayer meet will be held on Sunday, 22nd September 2024 at 4:00 - 6:00 pm at ISKCON House Banquets, 22 Gurusaday Dutta Road, Ballygunge, Kolkata 700019.

In grief,  
Bulbul, Wife - Kaushal, Son-Deepak,  
Daughters- Rachayita & Shruti,  
Brother - Naresh, & Sharma Family

## SC: Witnesses' condition pathetic in legal system

AmitAnand.Choudhary@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Observing that the condition of witnesses, who are considered the eyes and ears of justice, was pathetic in the Indian legal system and they were subjected to harassment by high-profile accused, Supreme Court on Friday directed CBI to probe the false case registered against Ajay Katara, the star witness in Nitish Kataria murder case, when it came to light that the petitioner whose name was used to file the case had nothing to do with it.

A bench of Justices Bela M Trivedi and Satish Chandra Sharma said brazen attempts were made to falsely implicate Ajay Katara by filing a false case in the name of Bhagwan Singh in Allahabad High Court and the SC on the basis of false and fabricated documents and many advocates were involved in facilitating filing of the case. It said the matter assumed serious concern as advocates, who are officers of the court, were involved in the ill-motivated litigations of unscrupulous persons, and assisted them in misusing and abusing the process of law to achieve their ulterior purposes.

The bench said, "The condition of witnesses in the Indian legal system is very pathetic. Witnesses are threatened, coerced by using force and lured by monetary considerations, at the instances of those who are in power, their henchmen and hirelings, with a view to smother and stifle truth, and to make a mockery of justice. Though the witness protection scheme has been framed by the central govt and approved by this court, there is hardly any effective implementation of the same."

## Not taking EY to court, says dead CA's father

### EY India Chief Denies Anna Died Due To Work Pressure

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: After labour ministry initiated probe into the tragic death of Ernst & Young (EY) India employee Anna Sebastian Perayil, her father, Sibi Joseph clarified that the family is not pursuing legal action against EY. "She cleared her CA in Feb this year and in March joined the firm. We used to speak to her every day and her major grouse was extreme work pressure. She was engaged in an audit of Bajaj Auto. Most of the days she used to work till 12.30 in the night and get back to her paying accommodation by 1.30am," Joseph told news agency IANS. The family alleged that Anna was under work stress and had not main-



Anna's family said that she did not maintain a proper diet due to demanding work schedule

tained a proper diet due to her demanding work schedule. Her death triggered an uproar after a lengthy letter by Anna's mother, Anita Augustine, to EY chairman Rajiv Memani went viral on social media on Wednesday. Augustine voiced her concerns regarding the excessive workload placed on her daughter, a newcomer to the company, which indicated that Anna ultimately succumbed to work-related stress. Anna had joined the company in March, after completing CA, and passed away on July 20. Late Thursday, Memani took to LinkedIn to express his regret for being unable to

attend Anna's funeral, describing it as uncharacteristic of the firm's culture. "I truly regret the fact that we missed being present at Anna's funeral. This is completely alien to our culture. It has never happened before; it will never happen again," Memani, however, said that Anna's death was not a result of work pressure and that all EY employees are assigned equal workloads.

Former HCL CEO Vineet Nayar took to LinkedIn to say that across industries, young employees are overworked under the guise of "training" or "preparation for the real world." "Although hard work is essential, extreme hours should not become standard."

World Health Organisation links long working hours to a 35% increased risk of stroke and a 17% higher risk of heart disease. Nayar said this prevalent pattern sees young professionals working tirelessly for weeks or months without a break, fostering a toxic culture where exhaustion is celebrated and well being is ignored.

## AAP wants govt housing for Kejriwal

New Delhi: AAP on Friday demanded govt accommodation for outgoing CM Arvind Kejriwal on account of his role as the convener of a national party.

Addressing a press conference, AAP Rajya Sabha MP Raghav Chadha said the party's national secretary was writing a letter to ministry of housing and urban affairs, expressing hope that the accommodation would be provided to Kejriwal without any "politically motivated" decisions. He emphasised that this was not a matter of privilege, but a necessity to ensure smooth functioning.

AAP Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh had stated on Wednesday that Kejriwal had decided to give up all govt facilities, including his official residence and security, and live like a common man. Chadha said every national party is entitled to an office and accommodation for its head to function from Delhi.

**THE UNIVERSITY OF BURDWAN ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT**

For e Tenders of Civil Work under tender ID. Nos. 2024\_BU\_749124\_1, 2024\_BU\_749124\_2 and for Electrical Work under tender ID No. 2024\_BU\_749296\_1, please visit <https://wbtenders.gov.in> under Organization Burdwan University University Engineer (In-Charge)

**Metro Railway, Kolkata**  
EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

Metro Railway, Kolkata would like to have Expression of Interest (EOI) for advertisement on the back side of 'QR Code Paper Ticket' (Space for advertisement/per ticket: Length-85 mm, Width-50 mm). At the side belt of front side of the QR ticket may be used for providing Name & Logo of the company. (Specification of Paper Roll: Length-15 metres paper roll, Width-56mm, Thermal Paper-65 GSM to 72 GSM). 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 (Com.) of Metro Railway, Kolkata. Telephone no. : 033-22555288/Email ID: [dycomcmml@mpr.railnet.gov.in](mailto:dycomcmml@mpr.railnet.gov.in) for further information. Closing date: 05.10.2024. Time: Up to 16.00 hrs.

Dy. Chief Operations Manager/Comml.  
Follow us at: [metrorailwaykol](https://metrorailwaykol) / [metrorailkolkata](https://metrorailkolkata)

**GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL**  
Corrigendum Notice  
1st Corrigendum Notice of e-quotation No. 01/2024-25/EE/HHD-II from bonafide outsiders. Tender ID-2024\_WBPWD\_741208\_1. Details will be obtained from the PWD website & <https://wbtenders.gov.in> and office notice board. Bid Submission end date (Online)- 25/09/2024 upto 2.00 PM. Sd/- S. K. Sarkar, Executive Engineer, Hooghly Hwy. Divn-I, P.W.(Roads) Direct. ICA-T17242(3)/2024

**GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL**  
1st CORRIGENDUM DATE  
CORRIGENDUM NOTICE  
e-NIT No. 08 of 2024-25 of EE/BHD-1/PW(R) Div. (SI.No.1) Tender ID-2024\_WBPWD\_738782\_1 Bid submission closing date (online) will be on 23/09/2024 upto 15:00 hrs. Bid opening date for Technical Proposals on 25/09/2024 after 15:00 hrs. Other details may be seen from website <https://wbtenders.gov.in> & <http://wbpwd.gov.in> Sd/- EE/BHD-1/PW(R) Div. ICA-T17242(3)/2024

**CORRIGENDUM**  
Please note Bid submission end date (online) is extended to 27.09.2024 up to 03.00 PM. for the following job "Replacement of Concealed type Air conditioning Machines at Blood Centre and Burn Unit of Surgical Block under the campus of Calcutta National Medical College and Hospital Kolkata." vide e-Tender No. : WBPWD/EE/CKHED/ENIT-27/24-25. Tender ID : 2024\_WBPWD\_737929\_1. Detail information / download / upload will be available from the website : <https://etender.wb.nic.in>, <https://wbtenders.gov.in> & <https://pwdbw.in>

**GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL**  
Notice Inviting e-Tender  
The District Information & Cultural Officer, North 24 Parganas, under the Dept. of I&CA, Govt. of West Bengal invites e-tender for Private Security agency for providing Night Guard for the Ojo DICO, North 24 Parganas (vide NIT no. 2890/DICO/N24Pgs, dt. 20.09.2024). Tender ID : 2024\_ICAD\_754974\_1. Bid submission will be started on 21.09.2024 from 12 PM and will be closed on 28.09.2024, upto 12 PM. Details may be obtained from the Website : [wbtenders.gov.in](https://wbtenders.gov.in).

Sd/- District Information & Cultural Officer, North 24 Parganas  
Memo No. : 2895(3)/DICO/N24Pgs, Dt. 20.09.2024

## Birbhum Trinamool 'eagerly awaits' Anubrata homecoming

S Boral | TNN

Suri: Trinamool Congress netas and workers in Birbhum expressed relief and happiness on Friday as news arrived that Anubrata Mondal would walk out of prison after two years.

The party's district president — who had been in jail in connection with the cattle smuggling case — was never ousted from his post, with CM Mamata Banerjee forming a core committee to lead in his absence. Trinamool fought the 2023 panchayat elections and the 2024 Lok Sabha polls without Mondal at the helm and won both decisively.

Bikash Roychowdhury, convenor of the five-member core committee, said: "It is great news for us before Durga Puja. We are eagerly waiting for his homecoming. He is still our district president. In his absence, CM Banerjee formed this core committee. After his return, we will work per his direction like earlier." Chowdhury, a known Mondal loyalist, was earlier sabbhapti of Birbhum zilla parishad.



Kajal Seikh, sabbhahpti of Birbhum zilla parishad, distributes sweets in Bolpur on Friday

Kajal Sheikh, the new Birbhum zilla parishad sabbhapti whose political stock rose in Mondal's absence, also expressed happiness. Sheikh was known to rebel against the Trinamool district president. He, however, said: "We are happy. It proves that the allegation against him was false. He is our leader. In his absence, we fought two elections with the same organisation that he had set up. TMC workers are enthusiastically waiting for him."

State minister and Bolpur MLA Chandranath Sinha said: "We knew that he would get bail soon because the allegations were politically motivated. His contribution to the development of

this district is known to all."

Party workers have been asked to refrain from any celebrations for now. Sudipto Ghosh, a member of the core committee, said: "We want him to return and lead us again. His release adds more joy to Durga Puja. We have told our workers to maintain restraint right now. Let us wait for some time."

Birbhum's only BJP MLA, Anup Saha, said: "He may have got bailed, but he has not been acquitted of the charges. Let the entire legal process be completed. It is shameful that a person accused of cattle smuggling who spent two years in Tihar is still district president of a party."

**GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL**  
Notice Inviting e-Tender  
The Sub-Divisional Information & Cultural Officer, Barrackpore, under the Dept. of I&CA, Govt. of West Bengal invites e-tender for Private Security agency for providing Night Guard for the O/o SDI&CO, Barrackpore (vide NIT no. 202/INF/BKP, dt. 20.09.2024). Tender ID : 2024\_ICAD\_754837\_1. Bid submission will be started on 21.09.2024 from 12 PM and will be closed on 28.09.2024, upto 12 PM. Details may be obtained from the Website : [wbtenders.gov.in](https://wbtenders.gov.in).

Sd/- Sub-Divisional Information & Cultural Officer, Barrackpore  
Memo No. : 2894(3)/DICO/N24Pgs, Dt. 20.09.2024

**WEST BENGAL MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATION LIMITED**  
NOTICE INVITING TENDER  
West Bengal Medical Services Corporation Ltd. is inviting online bids for the works mentioned below:-

S.No.	Name of the work	NIT Ref. No.	Last date of submission of bid (online)
1.	Supply, installation, Testing & commissioning (SITC) with AMC of water purifier at different buildings of Rampurhat Govt. Medical College & Hospital, Rampurhat, Birbhum including Civil S&P and electrical works under Rattifier Sathi scheme	WBMSCL/NIT- 538/2024 Dated- 18/09/2024	25.09.2024 up to 03.00 P.M.
2.	Construction of boundary wall with MS gate and barbed wire fencing within the campus of Prafulla Chandra Sen Government Medical College and Hospital at Arambag, District-Hooghly.	WBMSCL/NIT/EE/C-94/037/2024, Dated- 20/09/2024	03.00 P.M.

Tenders can be downloaded from [www.wbtenders.gov.in](https://wbtenders.gov.in) or [www.wbmsc.gov.in](http://www.wbmsc.gov.in) on or after 21/09/2024 at 10:00 A.M. Clarification requests, if any may be sent to [info@wbmsc.gov.in](mailto:info@wbmsc.gov.in) or call 033 40340410 Sd/- General Manager, WBMSCL & Joint Secretary to the Govt. of West Bengal

**JAPIT**  
Biharhand Agency for Promotion of Information Technology & e-Governance, Govt of Jharkhand  
Ground Floor, Engineer's Hostel-I, Near Golchakkar, Dhuwa, Ranchi, Jharkhand  
Phone: 0651-2401044, 2401047 email: [japit\\_dotit@rediffmail.com](mailto:japit_dotit@rediffmail.com)

**CORRIGENDUM-V**  
Request for Proposal for Empanelment of Consultants for e-Governance Initiatives. - RFP Ref No: JAP-IT-Cons/EMP/01/2024  
With reference to the above tender, it is hereby informed that the date has been modified as under:

S.N	Basic Requirement	Specific Requirement
1.	Last Date for Submission of Bids online	27/09/2024 up to 3:00 PM.
2.	Date of Opening of Technical Bid	30/09/2024 at 3:30 PM
3.	Date of Commercial Bid opening	To be Informed Later

PR Ref No. 332585 Sd/ (OSD, JAP-IT)  
PR 336414 Information Technology(24-25)#D

**EXPRESSION OF INTEREST**  
ENGAGEMENT OF HONORARY VISITING SPECIALIST (HVS) AT LILUAH RAILWAY WORKSHOP HOSPITAL  
Chief Medical Superintendent, Eastern Railway Workshop Hospital, Liluah is inviting application from willing specialist of Medical Professional in the below mentioned discipline for engagement of Honorary Visiting Specialist. Name of Speciality: (1) Surgery (2) Gynaecology & Obstetrics (3) ENT. Duty Hours: 04 hours per day for each discipline. Number of Days of the week needs to be attended : Six (06) days. Honorarium to be paid per month : Rs. 78,000/- . No. of Post : One post for each discipline. Interested professionals may apply with Bio-data along with Photo copies of relevant certificates and two copies of recent passport size Photograph duly attested to Chief Medical Superintendent, Eastern Railway Hospital, either by hand or post or e-mail. Postal Address: Office of Chief Medical Superintendent, Liluah, Dist: Howrah PIN : 711204, West Bengal. e-mail : [cmlls@rediffmail.com](mailto:cmlls@rediffmail.com) Application should reach to this office on and before 18th October, 2024. All the term and conditions are available in Railway website [er.indianrailways.gov.in](http://er.indianrailways.gov.in)  
Chief Medical Superintendent, Liluah  
Eastern Railway  
Follow us at : [EasternRailway](https://EasternRailway) / [easternrailwayheadquarter](https://easternrailwayheadquarter)

**Durgapur Municipal Corporation**  
City Centre, Durgapur - 713216, Dist- Paschim Bardhaman  
e-Tender Notice  
1) Name of the work : Construction of Cover Drain at Main Gate Bazar within Ward No.-13 under D.M.C. area  
e-Tender No. : WBDMC/DRGSW/NIT-57/24-25  
Tender ID : 2024\_MAD\_754874\_1 • Est. Amt. : Rs. 8,77,104.00  
2) Name of the work : Construction of Drain at Royal City, Bidhanpark within Ward-25 under DMC  
e-Tender No. : WBDMC/DRGSW/NIT-61/24-25  
Tender ID : 2024\_MAD\_754970\_1 • Est. Amt. : Rs. 5,68,432.00  
3) Name of the work : Enhancement of Sewerage network at Ungaganin Path DMC Market Muchipara within Ward-27 under DMC  
e-Tender No. : WBDMC/DRGSW/NIT-60/24-25  
Tender ID : 2024\_MAD\_755023\_1 • Est. Amt. : Rs. 8,49,181.00  
4) Name of the work : Renovation of main Sewerage Line in Schobee Street within Ward-27 under DMC  
e-Tender No. : WBDMC/DRGSW/NIT-59/24-25  
Tender ID : 2024\_MAD\_755062\_1 • Est. Amt. : Rs. 7,04,003.00  
5) Name of the work : Renovation of Sewerage Line at Bidhannagar Zonal Market within Ward-27 under DMC  
e-Tender No. : WBDMC/DRGSW/NIT-58/24-25  
Tender ID : 2024\_MAD\_755121\_1 • Est. Amt. : Rs. 8,15,385.00  
6) Name of the work : Rate Quotation of spare parts for Intra V 30 Vehicles under DMC (original spare) one year rate contract  
e-Tender No. : WBDMC/AUTO/EEOI-32/24-25  
Tender ID : 2024\_MAD\_755139\_1  
Last Date : 28.09.2024 upto 5.00 p.m.  
7) Name of the work : Supply of different Electrical items for DMC  
e-Tender No. : WBDMC/PUR/COM/NIT-004/24-25  
Tender ID : 2024\_MAD\_755164\_1  
Last Date : 05.10.2024 upto 5.00 p.m.  
For details : [wbtenders.gov.in](https://wbtenders.gov.in) Sd/- Executive Engineer, DMC

**PWD (GOVT OF WB) Tender Notice**  
Executive Engineer-II, P.W.Dte., Central Kolkata Health Electrical Division, P-12, C.I.T Road (1st Floor), Kolkata-14 invites e-Tender (online) for the work of "Supply Installation Testing and Commissioning of Air Conditioning system 24 Hours with allied El Work at PG Lab and Bacteriology Lab Department Microbiology at Academic Building of the Calcutta National Medical College Kolkata." vide e-Tender No. : WBPWD/EE/CKHED/ENIT-33/24-25 (2nd Call). Tender ID : 2024\_WBPWD\_755132\_1. Bid Submission End Date (online) for the job is 27.09.2024 upto 03.00 P.M. Detail information / download / upload will be available from the website : <https://etender.wb.nic.in>, <https://wbtenders.gov.in> & <https://pwdbw.in>

**BIDHANNAGAR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION**  
POURA BHAWAN, BIDHANNAGAR  
e-quotation has been invited for :- N1Q No. 8.06/PWD (BMC) dt.19/09/2024 (2nd Call) of Tender ID: 2024\_MAD\_754185\_1 to 2 for "Supply of Hydraulic Dumper on hire basis at different places under BMC." N1Q No. 8.07/PWD (BMC) dt.19/09/2024 of Tender ID: 2024\_MAD\_754206\_1 for "Engagement of agency for providing labours for sweeping & cleaning within the Rajarhat area under BMC." Last date of Bid submission: 21/10/2024 up to 15.00 Hrs. Bid opening date: 23/10/2024 at 15:30 Hrs. Corrigendum, if any will be published in website & office Notice Board only. For details, please follow [www.wbtenders.gov.in](https://wbtenders.gov.in), office website ([bmcwb.gov.in](https://bmcwb.gov.in)) & office notice board. Sd/- Executive Engineer, SWM Bidhanagar Municipal Corporation

**GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL**  
P.W.D TENDER NOTICE  
EE/PWD/Purulia Division invites Online e-tender for 14(Fourteen) Nos. work related to mtc. of building & road under Purulia Division P.W.D. N.I.E.T. No. 12 of 2024-25 Bid submission start date (Online) 19.09.2024. Bid submission closing date (Online) 25.09.2024 (Except SI. No-4 & 10). Bid submission closing date (Online) (SI. No-4 & 10) is 03.10.2024. Corrigendum if any will be published in website only. Details of N.I.T. and documents may be downloaded from: <https://wbtenders.gov.in> TENDER ID NO. 2024\_WBPWD\_753165\_1, 2024\_WBPWD\_753165\_2, 2024\_WBPWD\_753165\_3, 2024\_WBPWD\_753165\_4, 2024\_WBPWD\_753165\_5, 2024\_WBPWD\_753165\_6, 2024\_WBPWD\_753165\_7, 2024\_WBPWD\_753165\_8, 2024\_WBPWD\_753165\_9, 2024\_WBPWD\_753165\_10, 2024\_WBPWD\_753165\_11, 2024\_WBPWD\_753165\_12, 2024\_WBPWD\_753165\_13 & 2024\_WBPWD\_753165\_14. Sd/- Executive Engineer Purulia Division, P.W.D. ICA-T17217(3)/2024

**EASTERN RAILWAY**  
NOTICE INVITING E-AUCTION  
Contract for Operation and Maintenance of Normal Pay & Use Toilets at different stations over Howrah Division  
No. : COM/DEV/E-Auction/PU/HWH/2022, Dated : 19.09.2024.  
e-Auction is invited by Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Eastern Railway, Howrah, 4th Floor, Rail Yatri Niwas Building, near Howrah Station, Howrah-711101 for the following work : Name of Work : Awarding fresh contract for Operation and Maintenance of Normal Pay & Use Toilet at Belur (Near Main Booking Office), Uttarpara (Near Howrah end of Platform No. 3) and Rishra (Near Additional Booking Office) stations for 03 (Three) years over Howrah Division. The subject e-Auction is governed as per Railway Board's Freight Marketing Circular No. 11 of 2022 and Commercial Circular No. 14 of 2022. For more details and participation in e-Auction kindly visit the website [www.irps.gov.in](http://www.irps.gov.in) through E-Auction Leasing Module.  
• Auction Catalogue No. : PnU-HWH-3-9-24. SI. No. & Lot No./Category; Station respectively : (1) PnU-HWH-RIS-Toi-31-24-2; Rishra (RIS). (2) PnU-HWH-BEQ-Toi-19-24-2; Belur (BEQ). (3) PnU-HWH-UPA-Toi-20-24-2; Uttarpara (UPA). • Auction date & time: 03.10.2024 at 12.00 hrs. (HWH-298/2024-25)  
Tender Notice is also available at websites : [www.er.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.er.indianrailways.gov.in) / [www.irps.gov.in](http://www.irps.gov.in)  
Follow us at : [EasternRailway](https://EasternRailway) / [easternrailwayheadquarter](https://easternrailwayheadquarter)

**झारखण्ड सरकार**  
पथ निर्माण विभाग, पथ प्रमण्डल, हजारीबाग  
अल्पकालीन ई-प्रोक्योरमेंट सूचना  
ई-निविदा प्रसंग सं :- RCD/HAZARIBAG/731./2024-25  
दिनांक :-19.09.2024

क्र.सं.	कार्य का नाम	प्रारंभिक राशि (रुपये में)	कार्य का अंतिम तिथि एवं समय
1.	कार्य का नाम	1,50,00,000.00	03 (तीन) माह
2.	प्रारंभिक राशि (रुपये में)	(एक करोड़ पचास लाख रुपये मात्र)	
3.	कार्य समाप्ति की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय		24.09.2024 10:30 AM
4.	निविदा प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय		30.09.2024 12:00 Noon
5.	निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय		01.10.2024 12:30 PM
6.	निविदा अंतिम करने वाले का नाम एवं पता		कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय, पथ निर्माण विभाग, पथ प्रमण्डल, हजारीबाग।
7.	प्रोक्योरमेंट प्रदाता/संस्था का समर्क संख्या	8799320541	
8.	ई-प्रोक्योरमेंट सेल का हेल्प लाईन नं.	0651-2446007	

अतिरिक्त जानकारी के लिए वेबसाइट पर देखें- <http://jsharkhandtenders.gov.in>  
E-mail ID : [eercdhazari-jhr@nic.in](mailto:eercdhazari-jhr@nic.in) Tel. No. - 06546-225818  
कार्यपालक अभियंता, पथ निर्माण विभाग, पथ प्रमण्डल, हजारीबाग।  
PR.NO.336441 Road(24-25):D

**GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL**  
JALPAIGURI ZILLA PARISHAD  
JALPAIGURI  
Memo No. 2057/Eng Date: 19.09.24  
Date & Time Corrigendum to NIT No. WBPZ/08 - DE/JLP/24-25 for 1 (One) no. work vide Tender ID No. 2024\_2PHD\_745792\_4 is invited. Last Date of Submission of Bid has been extended upto 5.00 P.M. on 26.09.24. Details may be seen in at our website: [www.wbtenders.gov.in](https://wbtenders.gov.in) & simultaneously this office Notice Board during working hours. Sd/- District Engineer Jalpaiguri Zilla Parishad

**GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL**  
The West Bengal Small Industries Development Corporation Limited (A Government of West Bengal Undertaking)  
31, Block Burn Lane, 'Shiba Bhavan' (Near Poddar Court), Kolkata-700012  
Website: [www.wbsidcl.in](http://www.wbsidcl.in) Email: [info@wbsidcl.in](mailto:info@wbsidcl.in)  
Notice to procure Furnitures:  
Hospital Furniture & Equipment  
N.I.E.T. (I) 196/MKT of 2024-2025 (ii) 197/MKT of 2024-2025, (iii) 198/MKT of 2024-2025, (iv) 199/MKT of 2024-2025, (v) 200/MKT of 2024-2025, (vi) 201/MKT of 2024-2025, (vii) 202/MKT of 2024-2025, are invited for supply of Furniture, Hospital Furniture & Equipment in West Bengal. For details, please visit [www.wbsidcl.in](http://www.wbsidcl.in) / [www.wbtenders.gov.in](https://wbtenders.gov.in) Last date for submission of bid: 196,197/MKT of 2024-25 dated 23.09.2024 at 10:00 A.M. 198/MKT of 2024-25 dated 21.09.2024 at 10:00 A.M. 199/MKT of 2024-25 dated 27.09.2024 at 04:00 P.M. 200/MKT of 2024-25 dated 25.09.2024 at 10:00 A.M. 201/MKT of 2024-25 dated 24.09.2024 at 10:00 A.M. 202/MKT of 2024-25 dated 01.10.2024 at 01.00 P.M. Sd/- Executive Director-I, The WBSIDCL. ICA-T17137(3)/2024

## K'taka HC asks couple to seek spiritual guru's help to save marriage

Chamaraj Savadi | TNN

Koppal: Karnataka HC's Dharwad bench has advised a married couple seeking divorce to try and resolve their differences by approaching a spiritual guru. Sri Gavisiddeshwara Swamiji of Gavi Mutt, Koppal, whom Justice Krishna S Dixit compared with Swami Vivekananda. A video on social media shows Justice Dixit purportedly offering the advice after learning the couple had already consulted a specialist for "psychological issues".

"Problems are common in any marriage. However, it is not right for a couple to separate by focusing (only) on (these) issues," the judge said at Wednesday's hearing. "The road is not

straight up. There will be twists and turns. We take care of all of those and proceed carefully. So is family. There are disagreements and resentments, (but) you must go beyond that and get along with each other."

Based on the court's advice, the husband said he would like to meet Siddalingeshwar Swamiji in Gadag. His estranged wife made known her preference for Sri Gavisiddeshwara Swamiji. Justice Dixit endorsed the latter's choice and ordered that Shri Gavisiddeshwara Swamiji be intimated about the case. He told the couple to meet the pontiff in Koppal this Sunday.

Swamiji's assistant, Sharanu Shettar, told TOI the mutt was aware of the court's directive.

**कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय**  
ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमण्डल, जामताड़ा।  
Email Id: [rdsdjt@gmail.com](mailto:rdsdjt@gmail.com)  
अति-अल्पकालीन पुर्ननिविदा ई०-निविदा आमंत्रण संख्या-RDD/SD/JAMTARA/RE/09/2024-25

1. कार्य की विस्तृत विवरणो :-

क्र.सं.	कार्य का नाम	प्रारंभिक राशि	अंदाजित राशि	परिमाण विवरण का मूल्य	कार्य समाप्ति की अंतिम तिथि
1.	जामताड़ा जिला अन्तर्गत प्रखण्ड नारायणपुर के पंचायत-सबनपुर में मंगलादीह दासगंजीह और आहारकीह के बीच जोरिया में पुल निर्माण।	21687200.00	434000.00	10000.00	15 माह
2.	जामताड़ा जिला अन्तर्गत प्रखण्ड कर्पटारडिह में खुदाबीह और दुर्गुरिया के बीच जोरिया पर पुल निर्माण।	19098200.00	382000.00	10000.00	15 माह
3.	जामताड़ा जिला अन्तर्गत प्रखण्ड नारायणपुर में पंचायत-पोस्ता में अर्जुनकीह और लोहरनी के बीच जोरिया में पुल निर्माण।	23549600.00	471000.00	10000.00	15 माह

2. वेबसाइट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि :- दिनांक-23.09.2024  
3. ई०-निविदा प्राप्ति की तिथि एवं समय :- दिनांक-23.09.2024 से दिनांक-28.09.2024 (अपरहाल 5:00 बजे)  
4. निविदा शुल्क एवं अंदाज की राशि केवल Online Mode द्वारा ही स्वीकार्य होगी।  
5. निविदा शुल्क एवं अंदाज की राशि का ई-मुद्राण जिस खाता से किया जायेगा, उसी खाते में अंदाज की राशि वास्तुतः होगी। अगर खाता को बंद कर दिया जाता है तो सारी जवाबदेही संबंधित निविदादाता की होगी।  
6. निविदा खोलने का स्थान :- e-Procurement Cell, कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय

# No rationale behind FCU exercise: Judge

Continued from P 1

Striking down Centre's proposed fact check unit, Justice A S Chandurkar of Bombay high court said there was no rationale to undertake an exercise in determining whether information related to the business of central govt was fake or false or misleading when in digital form but not doing the same when such information was in print.

"Under the right to freedom of speech and expression, there is no further 'right to the truth', nor is it the responsibility of the State to ensure that citizens are entitled only to 'information' that is not fake or false or misleading as identified by FCU," HC said.

Justice Chandurkar in a 99-page opinion accepted all major contentions raised by comedian Kunal Kamra and others who challenged its constitutional validity, citing its "chilling effect" on fundamental rights. The judge said he agreed with arguments that the rule violated Article 14 (right to equality), Article 19(1) (a) (freedom of speech), and Article 19(1)(g) (freedom of trade) of the Constitution.

The third judge's ruling renders a majority view against FCU by 2:1. The judge

## Data protection act rules soon: Meghwal

The rules for Digital Personal Data Protection Act will be released soon, said Arjun Ram Meghwal, MoS (independent charge), ministry of law and justice, during a symposium at 'Legal reforms for sustainable growth-Paving the path to India's \$5 trillion economy by 2030' at Bharat Chambers on Friday. Meghwal said the Jan Vishwas Bill would decriminalise 183 provisions in 42 legislations, including over half-a-dozen colonial-era laws. **TNN**

ment to strike down the rule will be formally pronounced soon by a two-judge bench assigned the roster, one of the judges being Justice Gokhale.

FCU was brought into play in April 2023 through an amendment to rules for intermediaries under IT Act of 2000. Centre introduced it as a mechanism to flag as 'fake, false or misleading' digital content concerning the 'business' or functioning of Centre.

Kamra, followed by others including Editors Guild of India, News Broadcasters & Digital Association and Association of India Magazines challenged the decision.

# Army officer assault: Engg students among 7 detained

Debarata.Mohapatra  
@timesofindia.com

Bhubaneswar: Seven people, including students of two engineering colleges, were detained on Friday and questioned in connection with the scuffle involving an Army officer late Sunday night, which eventually led to his alleged assault and his fiancée's molestation in police custody, in Bhubaneswar.

**The officer claimed that a group of 10-12 men in three vehicles had waylaid and assaulted him and passed lewd remarks on his fiancée**

"We are questioning them on what led to the scuffle. Efforts are on to identify others involved in the case," a senior police officer said. "We registered a case at

Chandaka police station on Wednesday after the woman's father submitted a memorandum to the police commissioner," the officer added. The detained youths are likely to be arrested.

The Army officer had alleged in his complaint to the Crime Branch, which is investigating the case, that a group of 10-12 men in three vehicles had waylaid and assaulted him and passed lewd remarks on his fiancée. The suspects claimed the officer was driving recklessly in the middle of the road, and hurled abuses at them when they overtook the couple's vehicle.

The inspector in-charge (IIC) of Bharatpur police station, Dinakrushna Mishra, who is among the five cops suspended over the custodial torture of the couple, faces imminent arrest.

(With inputs from Ashok Pradhan)

# Dalit minor abducted & raped by 3 in moving car in Mathura

Agra: Three youths abducted a 13-year-old Dalit girl after offering her water laced with some intoxicating substance and took turns to rape her inside a moving van while she was in a semi-conscious state in Mathura on Thursday.

They then dumped the survivor under a flyover and fled. When the girl regained consciousness, she reached home and told her parents about her

ordeal and complained of severe stomach pain. The family got her admitted to a private hospital, where doctors confirmed that she had been raped, following which her father approached police.

A case has been registered at Chhata PS against the three accused, who are on the run, police said on Friday, adding that two of the accused have been identified. **TNN**

# 'Everything looked worn out or broken, trash still in cabin'

Continued from P 1

On many international sectors, especially the US, AI is the only non-stop option for flyers who pay lakhs (up to Rs 16 lakh for return first class fare) to fly these monopoly routes. The Tata-owned AI has been issuing refunds to passengers of some flights in recent months delayed by many hours or even days. Now it has started issuing refunds for broken seats too, as with this latest case.

"I recently endured a 15-hour non-stop flight from Chi-

cago to Delhi, and it was far from pleasant. I had heard negative things about Air India in the past, but I was hoping the recent changes under new management would improve experience. Unfortunately, that wasn't

**MONOPOLY ROUTE** the case.... IFE was down the entire flight. First class was in poor condition—unclean, with leftover food and trash still in the cabin and everything looked worn out or broken. It was a pretty frustrating experience overall. Be aware if you're flying with them," Patel said.

## Eastern Railway Not Liable to Repay Private Loan taken by Railway Employees

It is hereby notified that Eastern Railway will not be responsible and liable for re-payment of any outstanding loans taken by Railway Employees from Banks/Financial Institutes directly. Eastern Railway do not give any undertaking to the Banks/Financial Institutes since 2004.

Principal Chief Personnel Officer

**EASTERN RAILWAY**

Follow us at: @EasternRailway @easternrailwayheadquarter

## CANCELLATION OF BANDHAN EXPRESS & MAITREE EXPRESS

As per message received from Bangladesh Railways, 13129 Kolkata-Khulna Bandhan Express (JCO 22.09.2024) & 13130 Khulna-Kolkata Bandhan Express (JCO 22.09.2024) and 13107 Dhaka-Kolkata Maitree Express (JCO 22.09.2024) will remain cancelled. Inconvenience to be caused to the passengers is deeply regretted.

Chief Passenger Transportation Manager

**EASTERN RAILWAY**

Follow us at: @EasternRailway @easternrailwayheadquarter

## Commissionerate of Health, Medical Services and Medical Education (ME)

GMERS Medical College, Library Department  
Second Floor, Sector-12 Gandhinagar-382012.

### ADVERTISEMENT FOR 11 MONTHS CONTRACTUAL APPOINTMENT

Walk in Interviews will be held for the posts of Professor, Associate Professor and Assistant Professor in various subjects in Govt. Medical Colleges & attached institutions for 11 months contractual appointment on Fix pay basis. Interview will be conducted for the advertised vacant posts only. All eligible candidates have to appear personally along with requisite certificates as per scheduled date for the concerned subject. Interested candidates are advised to check the vacancy & other details on website before appearing in Interview. Subject wise Walk in Interview will be held on 25.09.2024 other details are available on website: [www.gujhealth.gujarat.gov.in](http://www.gujhealth.gujarat.gov.in) on or before 24.09.2024

Commissioner (Health)

INF/1066/24-25

## UNIMONI FINANCIAL SERVICES LIMITED

RO: N.G. 12 & 13 Ground Floor, North Block, Manipal Centre, Dickenson Road, Bangalore - 560 042. CIN No.U85110KA1995PLC018175

### PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the Public that Auction of pledged Gold Ornaments will be conducted by UNIMONI FINANCIAL SERVICES LIMITED on 24.09.2024 at 10:00am at the respective centers given below. The Gold Ornaments to be auctioned belong to Loan Accounts of our various Customers who have failed to pay their dues. Our notices of auction have been duly issued to these borrowers. The Gold Ornaments to be auctioned belong to Overdue Loan Accounts of our various Customers mentioned below with branch name.

**Auction Centre Address & Loan Nos:** BAGULA ( BAG - No. 925, Ground Floor, Khatian No. 11 ( Kree ), Hanskhali Road, Bagula - 741502, Contact no : 9332366809) 2096882, 2051094. DUTTAPULIA (DPA - Duttapulia More Ranaghat Road, Duttapulia, Dhantala - 741504, Contact no : 8697982156) 2095731. KALIKAPUR (HOW - Building No354, Purbanchal, Kalikapur, Opposite of SBI - 700078, Contact no : 9333473008) 2091151, 2099804. KALYANI (KYI - No A -1/1 (C,A), Kalyani P O P S, Kalyani -741235, Contact no : 9339314433) 2085283. KOLKATA -BAGUIATI (KOB - Dc 2/13, First Floor, Shastribagan, Baguiati, Deshbandhunagar, Baguiati, Kolkata - 700059, Contact no : 9333473010) 2069610, 2070998, 2040010. KRISHNANAGAR (KRI - No. 4939, J L 92, Krishnanagar, M Ghosh Street, Krishnanagar - 741101, Contact no : 9333473019) 2096105, 2089553, 2069785, 2096855. RANAGHAT (RGT - 1/1, Vivekananda Saranikamar, Pararanaghat, Nadia, Ranaghat - 741201, Contact no : 9332149500) 2035491.

(Reserves the right to alter the number of accounts to be auctioned & postpone / cancel the auction without any prior notice.)

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# 'Animals have endured domestication to imperialism — no species is truly 'wild' today'

Harriet Ritvo is Arthur J. Conner Professor Emeritus of History at MIT. Speaking to Srijana Mitra Das at Times Evoke, she discusses the past — and present — of animals:

## Why do we need to study the history of animals?

History is as complicated as the present — the things we consider important today have been so in the past as well. Over time, history has been expanding its acknowledgement of the role different people played in the past — this also means acknowledging the role of other animals. That doesn't only mean what we humans have done to them but the reciprocal effects animals have had on us. Studying their history is part of getting a more complete understanding of the past — and a more open-minded view of the present.

## What have been some decisive turning points in human-animal relations?

The biggest one which happened between 5,000 and 10,000 years ago was animal domestication — this was intertwined with people settling down, becoming farmers and human populations increasing. This began a systematic transformation of our environment. The domestication of the dog had happened earlier but our livestock, mammals and birds were all domesticated in that period.

That moment had profound social and economic consequences for humans — it also transformed the lives of animals, both physically and psychologically. There began a strong selection process among big animals like cattle for individuals who could be easily controlled physically and were also not inclined to attack humans,



**HORSE POWER:** Made to labour for us



**WILD THING?** A million species face human-caused extinction now — even the remote polar bear finds sea ice, its food source, melting with global warming

including in emotional ways. So, while most domestic animals could breed with their wild relatives today, their behaviour is quite different from those who are untamed.

## Why did humans domesticate animals purely as pets?

That is very hard to say since the archaeological evidence we have does not show us much about the emotional relationships people developed with their animals. Some ties were about collaborative labour, like with plough animals. Some were relationships involving guarding, like with dogs. I find it hard to imagine though that there wasn't some degree of friendship — hopefully, in both directions — between humans and animals.

In history, pets were first considered a luxury — having a pet was something people of privilege tended to do. If you look at European paintings from, say, the Renaissance period, you often see a dog or a cat sitting with the upper-class person whose portrait is being painted. Having an animal just for pleasure was something people of more modest means started to do around the end of the 19th century.

## What were some uses of animals in spreading imperial power?

In settler colonies like North America, animals were part of an assemblage, which includes domestic plants, that expedited the transformation of the environment to make this suitable for European-style farming. This meant these animals competed with indigenous species, including herbivores like deer, and indigenous carnivores like wolves

or mountain lions which were seen as a threat to imported livestock — this encouraged the destruction of those wild animals. In East Africa, livestock introduced from Europe brought diseases with them which transmitted to and harmed local animals. Another way imperial power expressed itself was in the animals used in sports hunting while the incorporation of information about animals indigenous to one part of the world was integral to the totalising European knowledge agenda.

## What do you include in what you term your 'anti-imperial bestiary'?

In that particular piece of writing, I discussed the quagga — this was a kind of zebra which went

extinct both in the wild and captivity in the late 19th century. It wasn't hunted much as it wasn't the most spectacular-looking of zebras — it didn't have very dramatic stripes. However, it competed with livestock for feed and was also killed as food, not for European settlers but their African labourers. Quaggas were wild animals which had been numerous early in the 19th century — and suddenly began to disappear. This was similar to the vanishing of the passenger pigeon in North America and the near extinction of the American bison. The quagga was an unspectacular victim of imperial economics. It was also an important signal — the quagga was part of what convinced many people about animals being driven to extinction. They knew this about species like the dodo, confined to a small island and not very numerous. But the idea that species which had been numerous and widespread in terms of their territory could disappear so suddenly made people think differently about the impacts of imperial transformation on environments.

## Are there still animals on Earth whom we could call 'wild'?

There are some animals who, from their own perspective, could be called 'wild' in that they choose to live without interacting with people. However, there aren't animals today who are 'wild' as in their lives being unmodified by human activity — even animals in the Arctic and Antarctic are feeling the impacts of climate change. To say an animal is wild on its terms is different from an animal living a life impacted by human beings.



**FLOCK TO FORK:** Crops need livestock

## READERS WRITE

Dear Times Evoke,

I'm 14 years old and I love reading TE because of its amazing pictures and all the knowledge! My father is a paraglider and now, after reading TE on wings (14th September), I can see how humans learnt to fly by observing the cool flight of insects, birds and animals. Thank you for a fabulous page!

— Avni Kaklasaria, Bengaluru

I greatly like TE's articles. These are so knowledgeable and well-researched. The beautiful page on wings was stunning — it was amazing to read how the wings of huge pterosaurs and tiny bees differ but they both produce thrust and lift. Such articles are truly very meaningful. Keep it up and my best wishes for TE!

— Rekha Mishra, Delhi

It was very enriching to read about flying creatures and their wings! As TE said, many of these beings are truly nature's farmers. It was also amazing to learn there are so many 'frequent flyers' like flying fish and lemurs. A thousand thanks for this valuable page, TE!

— Mousumi Ghosh, Kolkata

It was fascinating to learn bird anatomy has remained largely unchanged for millions of years. The TE line, 'A birdwing today is actually a living fossil' left such a lasting impression. Captivating information, TE!

— R. Sreestuti, Hyderabad

Today's TE truly felt like attending a live lecture by Dr Longrich! I was so surprised to know birds are successors of dinosaurs! Reading about wings made me dig up more about fossils on the internet. I will be eagerly awaiting the next TE. Thank you, TOI!

— Anant Jain, Surat

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# SC to consider laying down SOP for proceedings

Continued from P 1

In a bid to preserve the dignity of judiciary and people's faith in it, the bench said it would consider laying down guidelines for smooth conduct of judicial proceedings to help maintain the sanctity of proceedings and insulate them from being subjected to public ridicule because of a few voluble judges.

The bench sought the assistance of attorney general R Venkataramani and solicitor general Tushar Mehta in laying down guidelines and taking the suo motu proceedings to its logical end.

The bench said, "The attention of the court has been drawn to media reports pertaining to certain comments which have been made by a judge of Karnataka High Court, Justice V Srishananda, during the conduct of judicial proceedings.

"We have requested the AG and SG to assist this court. At this stage, we request the registrar general of the HC of

## The Supreme Court bench sought the assistance of AG R Venkataramani and SG Tushar Mehta in laying down guidelines and taking the suo motu proceedings to its logical end

Karnataka to submit a report to this court after seeking administrative directions from Chief Justice N V Anjaria in regard to the subject matter. This exercise may be carried out in the next two days and a report be submitted to the secretary general." The bench posted the matter for further hearing on Wednesday.

With hearings in the SC and HCs going live after the Covid pandemic, comments of judges, especially colourful ones and those that sound like scolds, acquire virality on social media, bringing judges and courts under public scrutiny.

# SC lets off Revanth over remark on Kavitha bail

AmitAnandChoudhary  
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Underscoring that the three organs of governance — executive, legislature and judiciary — must respect each other and not transgress their limits while criticising, Supreme Court on Friday dropped proceedings against Telangana CM Revanth Reddy for his contemptuous remark against its order granting bail to BRS' K Kavitha in the Delhi excise scam case and let him off after he tendered an apology, reports Amit Anand Choudhary.

A bench of Justices BR Gavai and KV Viswanathan cautioned all constitutional functionaries to be alert and responsible while passing com-

ments on court proceedings but at the same time made it clear that any fair criticism was welcome. It had taken strong exception to Reddy's statement that "there is talk that Kavitha got bail because of the deal between BRS and BJP" and sought explanation from him for casting aspersions on court proceedings. Senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, appearing for the CM, told the bench that Reddy had apologised twice and the proceedings should be dropped.

"Noting the apology, we close the matter. We put in a word of caution that all constitutional functionaries... should perform their constitutional duties within their respective wings," the bench said.

# Naidu accusations based on tests of rejected raw material. Will write to CJI, PM: Jagan

Continued from P 1

YS Jagan Mohan Reddy said N Chandrababu Naidu was levelling accusation on basis of test reports of raw material stocks that were rejected and added that he would write to the CJI and PM Narendra Modi to seek a high-level probe into the allegations.

At a high-level meeting at the secretariat to discuss the quality issues, which was attended by senior ministers and bureaucrats, Naidu directed TTD executive officer (EO) J Shyamala Rao to sub-

## 'Didn't supply adulterated ghee'

Tamil Nadu-based AR Dairy Food Pvt Ltd has refuted charge that it supplied adulterated ghee to Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam (TTD) following allegations that the ghee used to make Tirupati laddu contained animal fat. Company officials said the ghee supplied by them was tested before despatch and tested by TTD too, adding they have sent all test reports to temple authorities after the row erupted, said the company's quality control officials Leni and Kannan. They claimed the company supplied ghee to TTD in June and July and stopped after that. Sources in the food safety department said they conducted tests after consultations with TTD's Agama, Vedic and Dharmic councils, which deal with the temple's architecture, rituals and religious issues, respectively.

Denying charges against his govt, Reddy said the samples of the "so-called adulterated stock" were taken on July 12 and the test report was received on July 23. "Naidu was at the helm on July 12 and the report was received nearly two months ago. Why did he stay silent for two months and is now talking about it after his govt completed 100 days?" Jagan said.

### TIRUPATI LADDUS

## A lot Goes Into Making Lord Balaji's 'Mahaprasadam'

The Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams prepares and distributes over 3.5 lakh laddus every day. The process of making and distributing the much in demand laddus is elaborate, with layers of checks at every step to ensure purity of the mahaprasadam is maintained. Sandeep Raghavan reports

### FOUR TYPES OF LADDUS

**Small or free laddu:** Weights about 25gm, offered to devotees after darshan of Lord Venkateswara Swamy

**Praktham:** Weights between 160 and 175 gram, sold at ₹50 each to visiting devotees. TTD also provides one such laddu free to every devotee

**Kalyanotsavam laddu:** The biggest laddu. Weights about 700 gram and is offered free to select arjitha seva devotees. Also sold to devotees at ₹250 per laddu

**Asthana laddu:** For internal distribution. Not for sale

### LADDU IN NUMBERS

**₹250 crore** | TTD's annual expense for procuring top-quality ghee

**3.5 lakh** | Average number of laddus prepared and distributed to devotees at Tirumala every day. TTD also prepares about 7,000 odd Kalyanotsavam laddus daily

### 12-13 crore

Average number of laddus sold by TTD annually

### WHAT GOES INTO MAKING TIRUPATI LADDU:

**'Srivari' or Tirupati laddu:** One of the most venerated 'mahaprasadam' offered to devotees visiting the Lord Venkateswara Swamy temple at Tirumala

**Aug 2, 1715:** Practice of offering laddus to Lord Venkateswara Swamy at Tirumala temple begins

Spiritual prominence of laddu prasadam increased significantly over the centuries, and by the advent of the 21st century, the 'Tirupati laddu' emerged as an iconic mahaprasadam

**2009:** TTD obtained patent for Tirupati Laddus under the foodstuff category of geographical indication (GI) tag

**₹500 crore:** Annual revenue earned by TTD only through sale of laddus

### HOW TIRUPATI LADDU GAINED PROMINENCE

**Aug 2, 1715:** Practice of offering laddus to Lord Venkateswara Swamy at Tirumala temple begins

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### IN THE KITCHEN

● All laddus cooked within the temple kitchen called 'Potu'. TTD opened another boondi potu, next to the main temple complex a few years ago, to cater to additional demand

● Utmost significance given for procurement of raw material used for laddus

● Top priority to ghee procurement as aroma and quality impacts overall quality, taste, texture and shelf life of laddus

### GHEE A KEY COMPONENT

**16,000kg:** Average daily requirement of pure cow ghee for preparation of 3.5 lakh laddus

● In recent times, TTD called for tenders for procurement of 35.9 lakh kg ghee for a period of six months

**85,000 litre:** Capacity of ghee tank set up close to main temple complex

Modern flour mill that can grind up to 15,000kg Bengal gram

### PROCUREMENT

● TTD procures pure cow ghee with Agmark special grade only. Rates vary between ₹320 to ₹411 per litre

● While the previous TTD administration spent anywhere between ₹320-₹410 per kg for ghee, the new administration headed by EO J Syamala Rao decided to shell out ₹475 for top-quality ghee from Karnataka milk federation

### NEW STATE-OF-THE-ART LAB TO TEST GHEE SOON

● Until now, TTD used to subject ghee samples to wet testing to check adulteration at its in-house laboratory. Following charges by the Andhra Pradesh chief minister over use of animal fat in ghee during YSRC regime, TTD has decided to establish a state-of-the-art testing lab at Tirumala soon

● National dairy development board has stepped forward to donate equipment worth approximately ₹75 lakh to the TTD and provide assistance to establish the lab

# Lawyer files plaint with MHA against Jagan, TTD officials

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: A Supreme Court lawyer on Friday has reportedly filed a complaint with the Home Ministry, as well as with the Directors General of Police (DGP) of Andhra Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh, against former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, officials of the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD), and a contractor alleged to have supplied adulterated non-vegetarian ghee to the Tirupati Temple.

Complainant advocate Vineet Jindal emphasises that the accused parties are responsible for undermining the religious integrity of the temple through their alleged involvement in supplying adulterated, non-vegetarian ghee for prasadam.

The lawyer's complaint also states that these acts were carried out with full knowledge of their potential to harm the religious sentiments of millions of devotees and to desecrate the sanctity of one of the most revered Hindu temples.

## HC to hear YSRC neta's plea on Sept 25

Andhra Pradesh HC has agreed to hear a petition filed by senior YSRC functionary Y V Subba Reddy on Sept 25 over the Tirupati laddu controversy.

Subba Reddy sought to file a lunch motion petition on Friday to unearth the truth behind the controversy. The court said it will hear the petition on Wednesday. "Let this be investigated by a sitting judge of the high court or let the HC constitute a committee or let it be done by the CBI," said Subba Reddy's counsel P Sudhakar Reddy.

The complainant demands the registration of an FIR under various sections of the BNS and calls for strict legal action, including the invocation of the National Security Act (NSA), against all those involved.

The complaint highlights that a private laboratory report revealed the presence of foreign fats, including palm oil, fish oil, beef tallow, and

## '3 quintal laddus used at Ayodhya event'

Expressing anguish over the matter, Ayodhya's Ram temple chief priest Acharya Satyendra Das on Friday said over three quintals of 'laddu prasadam' from Tirupati were brought to Ayodhya during consecration ceremony of Ram Temple in Jan this year, reports Arshad Afzaal Khan.

"In Ayodhya, Vaishnav saints and devotees do not even use garlic and onions. In such a context, the use of fat in the offerings is unfortunate. It is a mockery of Hindu faith. A major agency should investigate this," he said.

# Laddu row: Centre seeks report, Nadda vows action on issue

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Union health minister J P Nadda on Friday said he had spoken to Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu and sought a report on the Tirupati laddu issue. Nadda said the matter would be examined by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) and suitable action taken.

Naidu earlier said animal fat was used for making Tirupati laddus during the previous Jagan Mohan Reddy government, triggering a massive political row, with YSRC accusing the CM of indulging in "heinous allegations" for political gains and TDP circulating a lab report to back the claim. Addressing a press conference on achievements in the health sector during the first 100



days of the Modi govt's third term, Nadda said, "I got to know about the issue through social media. I spoke to Chandrababu Naidu today and asked him to share the available report so that I can examine it. I will also speak to the state regulators and take their views."

"The report will be examined, and suitable action taken within the legal framework and regulations under the FSSAI. The FSSAI will examine it, give a report and then we will act," he added.

Union food minister Prahlad Joshi has also called for an investigation. "Whatever the Andhra CM has said is a matter of serious concern. A detailed inquiry is required, and the culprit should be punished," Joshi said.

## Rahul: Need to protect sanctity of religious sites

New Delhi: Describing reports about defilement of the 'prasad' at Sri Venkateswara temple in Tirupati as "disturbing", leader of opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi said Lord Balaji was a revered deity for millions of devotees in India and across the world and the issue would hurt every devotee and needed to be thoroughly looked into.

"Authorities across India have to protect the sanctity of our religious spaces," he said. Party functionary Pawan Khera said, "If the claims of desecration of the Tirupati laddus are right, of course an enquiry must identify the guilty." TNN



**SEAN 'DIDDY' COMBS PLACED ON SUICIDE WATCH WHILE AWAITING TRIAL IN SEX CRIMES CASE, SAY REPORTS**

**LADY GAGA REVEALS WHY SHE NEVER DENIED EARLY RUMOURS SHE WAS A MAN: 'I DIDN'T FEEL LIKE A VICTIM & THOUGHT IT WAS FUNNY'**



## Israel's 'targeted strike kills' Hezbollah ops chief in Beirut

10 Other Commanders Killed, Were Planning Oct 7-Like Attack In North: Israeli Army



An injured man is evacuated from the site of Israeli air strikes in the southern suburbs of Beirut in Lebanon on Friday as a crowd gathers around. Hezbollah launched more than 140 rockets into Israel on Friday. Israel said its air defences had intercepted some of the rockets and others fell in unpopulated areas.

**Beirut/Jerusalem:** Israel launched a "targeted strike" that killed a top Hezbollah military official in a densely populated southern Beirut neighbourhood on Friday, the Israeli army said. It was the deadliest such attack on Lebanon's capital in years, with Lebanese health authorities reporting at least 12 people killed and 66 others wounded in the attack. The Israeli military's chief spokesman, Rear Adm. Daniel Hagari, said Ibrahim Aqil, a commander of Hezbollah's elite Radwan Force, was killed along with 10 other Hezbollah operatives. He did not elaborate on the identities of the other commanders allegedly killed. The Israeli military said Aqil had been head of Hezbollah operations since 2004 and was responsible for a plan to launch a raid on northern Israel, similar to the Hamas-led attack on southern Israel on Oct. 7 that triggered the war in Gaza. "The Hezbollah commanders we eliminated today had

been planning their 'October 7th' on the Northern border for years," Israeli army chief General Herzli Halevi said. Yet to comment on his death, a Hezbollah official, however, confirmed Aqil was supposed to be in the building that was hit but gave no further information. Friday's airstrike hit during rush hour, as people were leaving work and children heading home from school. The strike inflicted another blow on Hezbollah after the group suffered an unprecedented attack in which paggers and walkie-talkies used by its members exploded, killing 37 people and wounding thousands. That attack was widely believed to have been carried out by Israel, which neither confirmed or denied its involvement. A White House spokesman said he was not aware of any Israeli notification to the US before the Beirut strike. "War is not inevitable, and we're going to continue to do everything we can to try to prevent it." AGENCIES

## \$7m bounty on head, slain commander was wanted for 1983 US embassy blast

**Beirut:** Ibrahim Aqil, the Hezbollah operations commander killed in an Israeli strike on Friday, had a \$7 million bounty on his head for two 1983 Beirut truck bombings that killed more than 300 people at the American embassy and a US Marines barracks. Believed to be in his 60s, Aqil, who has also used the aliases Tahsin and Abdelqader, was the second member of Hezbollah's top military body, Jihad Council, to be killed in two months after an Israeli strike in the same area targeted Fuad Shukur in July. Over the past two decades, Israel has slowly killed many of the Jihad Council's members, who are some of Hezbollah's chief Hassan Nasrallah's top advisers. Like Shukur, Aqil is a veteran of Hezbollah, which was founded by Iran's Revolutiona-

ry Guards in the early 1980s to battle Israeli forces that had invaded and occupied Lebanon. The US accuses him of a role in the Beirut truck bombings at the American embassy in April 1983, which killed 63 people, and a US Marine barracks six months later that killed 241 people. It further accused him of directing the abduction of American and German hostages in Lebanon and listed him as a specially designated global terrorist in 2019. When Shukur was killed, it was seen as the heaviest blow to its command structure since the 2008 killing of Imad Mughniyah, remembered by Hezbollah as a legendary commander. Aqil, whose bounty was set by the US at an even higher value than that of Shukur's, may prove a similar blow. REUTERS

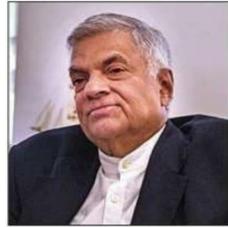


Ibrahim Aqil

## 'We don't see BRI as a threat to India as far as what we are doing'

As Sri Lanka votes in presidential poll today, interim prez Ranil Wickremesinghe spoke to Padma Rao Sundarji on a range of issues. Excerpts:

**Marxist-Leninist Anura Kumara Dissanayake (AKD), represents 'revolution from the bottom', you represent 'continuity', and Sajith Premadasa represents a mix. What makes you stand apart from the two?**  
 ■ It is not a question of bottom to top, but about who was willing to take on responsibility in 2022... I took over because the others were unwilling to. I represent the ability to confront challenges and overcome them. They represent the willingness to run away.



TOI INTERVIEW

to be changing anything. We must get all ongoing projects off the ground as fast as possible, to create jobs.

**There are many projects and investments by India in Sri Lanka. Analysts say a land bridge is a 'done deal'. Are all these really projects Sri Lanka needs?**  
 ■ On the land bridge, there are certainly ecological concerns. But India is doing a feasibility study. Until that is done, there won't be much output from Sri Lanka. Still, Sri Lanka and India have to work together on economic issues. The Vision Statement put out by myself and PM Narendra Modi contains references to that. One of the areas we have identified is renewable energy. And since India is willing to buy Sri Lanka's renewable energy, it is natural that some of India's entrepreneurs will want to invest in Sri Lanka.

**Sri Lanka is member of China's BRI. In March 2024, its external debt totalled \$55.4 billion. There have been frequent visits by China's navy in the guise of 'research vessels'. Indian analysts say there are only two reasons: to entrap your country in debt and to establish military presence in the Indian Ocean. How are you going to address these concerns?**  
 ■ We don't see the BRI as a threat to India as far as what we are doing is concerned. But we have always said even before, that there are security concerns, they should be addressed by us, and that we must discuss with India and decide how to tackle them.

**Earlier this week, AKD said a \$442m wind power project by Adani Green Energy in Mannar and Pooneryn in northern Sri Lanka will be cancelled if he is elected prez. Are you also taking a second look at it?**  
 ■ There is an ongoing court case against that project. So we will have to study it at the time the audit is given. Other than that, I don't see any need

**The BRI stands discredited in many countries. In light of the economic crisis in Sri Lanka, can you pull out?**  
 ■ We don't see a problem with BRI and it won't create a problem for India either.  
**Apart from Brics, does any other Indo-Pacific grouping interest Sri Lanka?**  
 ■ We are in BIMSTEC and we have applied to join the Regio-

nal Comprehensive Economic Partnership. Asia is now becoming an economic bloc. Brics signifies the emergence of a non-western group and we should get involved in it. This is a reality of global politics today.

**All the groupings you mention include China. Are you not looking to join others that exclude that country?**  
 ■ These are not military, but commercial and political organisations. In any case, what's the problem? I mean are we to leave the UN because China is in it? Why, even India is there in Brics along with China, in fact they started it, not us!

**The Tamils of north and east Sri Lanka are miffed with you because you promised them a committee, new statutes... but have not delivered. A faction has even floated its own independent Tamil candidate in the presidential poll, for the first time in the history of Sri Lanka**  
 ■ Their floating a Tamil candidate has more to do with their Tamil parties and not with me.

**UNHRC has rolled forward a repeated resolution on 'accountability' for alleged genocide by the Lankan armed forces at the end of the civil war in 2009 and on thousands of 'disappearances' in Sri Lanka. How are you addressing those concerns?**  
 ■ We have a Truth and Reconciliation Commission law, which will be enacted. We have implemented other mechanisms too. But we have said accountability comes within the framework of Lanka's jurisdictions, and Lankan judges. We have no problems if others want to come in as observers. But the final decision has to be made by our judges.

## 'No politician ever retires'

In 2022, the Rajapaksa were ousted from office. Mahinda Rajapaksa now breaks his silence

**This election is your son, Namal's political debut. People are saying he won't win**  
 ■ They can say what they like. Namal may be young, but he is an attorney, and has been in parliament since 2019. He has a long political future ahead.



**After the chaos of 2022 your entire family was chased out of power. Do you feel your SLPP will be re-elected?**  
 ■ In these 2 years, I have travelled around the country frequently. There is a groundswell of support for us.

**From 2005 right up to 2019, despite corruption and nepotism allegations, you remained popular, largely for having ended the war. So what happened 2 years ago?**  
 ■ Look, the country was totally devastated after 30 years of civil war. After we defeated LTTE in 2009, we took the country forward. So why were we driven out? Well, that's politics. People vote for you, then they bring you down. Now, they might vote for us yet again. The anger was not against the Rajapaksa family, but the system. But yes... My brother Gotabaya was not a politician, he was a bureaucrat. He made some wrong decisions.

**Will you go into retirement?**  
 ■ No politician ever retires. As long as people want me, I will continue in one form or another. (Q&A by Padma Rao Sundarji)

## Woman whose firm was linked to exploding pagers 'receives threats, put under Hungary's protection'

**Rome:** The woman whose company was linked to thousands of pagers that exploded in Lebanon and Syria this week is under the protection of the Hungarian secret services, her mother told AP on Friday. Cristiana Barsony-Arcidiano has not appeared publicly since the deadly simultaneous attack that targeted Hezbollah on Tuesday and that has been widely blamed on Israel. She is listed as the CEO of Budapest-based BAC Consulting, which the Taiwanese trademark holder of the pagers said

**Israel probes soldiers throwing bodies off roof**  
 The Israeli military said on Friday it had opened an investigation after videos showed soldiers pushing what appear to be dead bodies off a roof in the occupied West Bank during a raid against Palestinian militants. The videos, which began circulating online Thursday, showed three soldiers on the roof of a building in the town of Qabatiya, dragging, pushing, throwing and in one case kicking what appear to be dead men off the edge. The Israeli military said the incident was serious and was not in keeping with its values. REUTERS

was responsible for the manufacture of the devices. Her mother, Beatrix Barsony-Arcidiano, told the AP that her daughter had received unspecified threats and "is currently in a safe place protected by the Hungarian secret services". Hungary's national security authorities did not respond to a request for comment. Two days of attacks this

week, first targeting pagers and then walkie-talkies, have killed at least 37 people and wounded more than 3,000. Cristiana Barsony-Arcidiano's company came under scrutiny after Gold Apollo, a Taiwanese firm, said it had authorised BAC Consulting to use its name on the pagers, but that the Hungarian firm was responsible for manufacturing. On Wednesday, a Hungarian govt said the pagers delivered to Hezbollah were never in Hungary, and that BAC Consulting merely acted as an intermediary. AP

## Trump ratchets up anti-immigrant rhetoric

Says Will Visit Cities Where He Claims 'Haitians Eat Pets' & 'Venezuelan Gangs' Rule

Chidanand Rajhatta | TN



Trump claims Dems are enlisting illegal immigrants to vote for them

**Washington:** Best known as the fictional setting for "The Simpsons" cartoon series even though there are 67 real American towns with the same name, Springfield, Ohio, is bracing for a proposed Donald Trump visit even as he ratchets up his campaign against recent immigrants, saying Democrats are enlisting them to vote in the upcoming presidential elections. So fearful of his visit is the town — already a tinderbox of bomb threats after he spread the canard about immigrants there eating pet dogs and cats — that even its Republican mayor Rob Rue is pleading with him not to come. Ohio's Republican governor, Mike DeWine, has also debunked the story amid growing disquiet in the GOP establishment over Trump and his running mate, JD Vance, taking extreme positions endangering the Republican majority in Congress, which also goes to polls on Nov 5. But with his opponent Ka-

mala Harris edging ahead in most polls, Trump is in no mood to retort his campaign now centring on the purported immigrant invasion of America which, he argues, will skew the results of the Nov elections. On Saturday, the former president posted a manipulated video on social media showing Kamala Harris welcoming immigrants streaming across the border and asking them to vote for her. The MAGA (Make America Great Again) supreme has not announced a date for his Springfield visit (he has also said he will go to Aurora, Colorado, where he has falsely said Venezuelan gangs have taken over the city). Despite very little evidence and very few instances of illegal immigrants

included citizens from Japan, Germany, and Italy. Many poll analysts and think tanks have said non-citizen voting is not a big issue and does not alter election results. Trump's grandstanding is ostensibly aimed at casting doubts on the authenticity of the 2024 elections, where the presidential outcome aside (which is decided by the electoral college), he is again expected to suffer an embarrassing loss in terms of popular vote — he lost by nearly three million votes in 2016, and seven million in 2020. About one in 10 US voters (totalling around 24 million) is a foreign-born immigrant who has become a naturalised citizen, and is therefore eligible to vote. Some MAGA radicals have argued that only US-born citizens should be eligible to vote. Incidentally, "The Simpsons" series features a fictional Indian immigrant named Apu Nahasapeemapetilon. He is a naturalised US citizen who runs a corner store in Springfield, and he also has a PhD in computer science.

**In N Carolina, GOP gov candidate hit by 'Black Nazi' claims**  
**Washington:** The Republican candidate for governor of North Carolina rebuffed calls Thursday to drop out of the race following a report that he called himself a "Black Nazi" and made other incendiary comments on a porn website message board. A number of Republican officials are reportedly pushing Mark Robinson to drop out, fearing his candidacy could impact the Nov elections. Robinson denounced the report by the CNN cable television network as "salacious tabloid lies". According to CNN, Robinson was active more than a decade ago on the message board of a porn site called "Nude Africa," calling himself a "perv" and a "Black Nazi" and making lewd comments. Robinson, an African American, also attacked civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr, calling him a "commie b\*\*\*\*d," CNN said. He also allegedly said on the message board that slavery is "not bad... I would certainly buy a few." Robinson has been dogged by his controversial past comments such as calling the Holocaust "hogwash". AFP

## Study: At 2m, Indians lead pool of educated immigrants in US

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

A recent analysis done by the Migration Policy Institute (MPI), a US-based think tank, revealed that nearly 48% of 'recent' immigrants — those arriving in the US between 2018 and 2022 — held a college degree. Thirty-five percent of all immigrant adults (14.1 million people) had a bachelor's degree or higher as of 2022, roughly similar to the 36% of all US-born adults (67.8 million) who graduated college, cites this study by Jeanne Batalova, a senior policy analyst. India led the global pool of educated immigrants, constituting 2 million degree holders, or 14% of the total educated immigrant population. China (including Hong Kong) followed with 1.1 million educated immigrants, making up 7.9% of the total college-educated immigrant population as of 2022. The Philippines and Mexico followed with 7% and 6%, respectively. The analysis relied on data from the US Census Bureau (2022 ACS). Some college-educated immigrants come to the US on

Country	Numbers (as of 2022)	Percentage to total
India	2,038,176	14.4
China (incl HK)	1,118,166	7.9
Philippines	976,626	6.9
Mexico	891,702	6.3
South Korea	552,006	3.9

Total of educated immigrants: 14,154,000 (aged 25 and older)

temporary visas for high-skilled workers and researchers, or as family members of US residents, or as humanitarian migrants, or via other paths. Others obtain their education once they are in the US. The analysis does not reflect the numbers of college-educated immigrants as of 2022 as against the stock in each of the previous years. However, it analyses the number of college-educated immigrants arriving between 2018-2022, this inflow was 1.7 million. Nearly 20% of this inflow was from India. College-educated immigrants are likely to be proficient in English, with 74% reporting speaking only English or speaking English 've-

ry well' in 2022. Highly skilled immigrants are more likely to have advanced degrees than their US-born counterparts. In 2022, 15% of immigrant college graduates held professional or doctoral degrees, compared to 11% of their US-born counterparts. Both groups were roughly equally likely to have a master's degree (30% for the foreign born and 28% for the US born). The top five occupational groups for immigrant college graduates were management (16%), computer and mathematical occupations (13%), health practitioners and technicians (11%), business and financial operations (10%), and education and related occupations (9%).

## Pak blasphemy case: Police 'encounter' leaves accused dead

Omer Farooq Khan | TN

**Islamabad:** Police in Pakistan's southern Sindh province shot dead a man accused of blasphemy in an alleged encounter on Thursday, drawing condemnation from the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan. The incident took place in Mirpur Khas a day after violent protests were held by certain religious groups against Dr Shahnawaz Kanbar, a resident of Umarkot district, for posting blasphemous content on social media. During the protest, demonstrators set a police mobile van on fire. The situation calmed only after police assured protesters that a case would be registered against the Kanbar. Kanbar went into hiding on Tuesday. Kanbar is the second blasphemy suspect in Pakistan to be shot dead by police in the span of a week. "Dr Shahnawaz Kanbar was killed mistakenly in a shootout with cops who did not know it was him," claimed local police chief Niaz Khoso. After the "encounter", the body was handed over to the family, who brought it to his native village for burial. But there a mob managed to grab the corpse and set it on fire. Earlier, on Sept 11, a police constable had gunned down blasphemy suspect Adul Ali, a hotel owner, inside a police station in Quetta, the capital of Balochistan province. The Human Rights Commission of Pakistan, which expressed "grave concern" over the alleged "extrajudicial killing of two people accused of blasphemy," strongly condemned the deaths.

## Kamala basks in star power, but can it power her to White House?

Chidanand Rajhatta | TN



HOLLYWOOD'S FAVE: Harris held a star-studded event hosted by talk show legend Oprah Winfrey on Thursday. Stars Jennifer Lopez, Meryl Streep and Julia Roberts beamed in remotely to lavish praise

**Washington:** If star-power and celebrity endorsement could swing the US prez elections, Kamala Harris may well have it in the bag. Meryl Streep, Julia Roberts and Jennifer Lopez were among the celebrities who pitched for the Democratic candidate in an emotional online event hosted by Oprah Winfrey centering on women's reproductive rights, a lightning rod for female voters in America. Members in the live audience dabbed tears on Thursday as Winfrey introduced the mother of a Georgia woman who died after waiting for medical attention in a state that has banned most abortions. They also gave a standing ovation to a 22-year-old Kentucky woman who said she had been raped and impregnated by her stepfather, and that Trump's support for overturning constitutionally protected abortion rights took away women's freedom. The 90-minute event brought together over 100 online groups, including White Dudes for

ridiculed the Oprah-Harris event and the Democratic Party as "elitist", but still boasted of a new endorsement — from singer Lady Gaga's father. Trump has become increasingly replete with celebrity support for Harris, petulantly tweeting "I HATE TAYLOR SWIFT" after the singer endorsed her last week. In a recent video clip posted on X, the actress Jane Fonda, who is now 86, was seen canvassing door-to-door for Harris in Michigan. The Democratic switch from Biden to Harris was triggered by another Hollywood celebrity — George Clooney. None of this is guaranteed to power Harris to the White House although there has been a massive uptick in voter registration among young people after Swift's endorsement. Harris herself has repeatedly urged supporters to take nothing for granted and said she, her side is the "underdog" in the race. Winfrey echoed the sentiment at the event, saying, "We love having you here, but the rah-rah moment is going to end, and then we need to get to work."

## DAILY PLANET

### Nintendo sues 'Pokémon with guns' video game over copyright

Japan's Nintendo said Thursday it has filed a lawsuit accusing the developer of a video game jokingly dubbed "Pokémon with guns" of patent infringement. Nintendo and The Pokémon Company are suing Pocket-

pair, the Japan-based studio behind the "Palworld" game that became a viral hit when its prototype was released in Jan. "Palworld" — which sold more than 5 million copies in just three days — features weapon-wielding player avatars and monsters that look similar to the creatures of Nintendo's wildly popular "Pokémon" franchise giving it the nickname "Pokémon with guns".

**X goes offline in Brazil after brief return:** Elon Musk's X platform went back offline in Brazil Thursday, a day after it resumed service in contravention of a judicial ban, internet providers said. Brazil's SC had earlier in the day ordered X to suspend access to the platform. X was banned last month. X said the return of its service was "inadvertent and temporary".



## A thought for today

There are some subjects that can only be tackled in fiction

JOHN LE CARRE

## Spooks' People Skills

Tech has supercharged spying. But humint is still key

Booby-trapped devices are nothing new. But even seasoned espionage agencies are shaken and stirred by the weaponisation of supply chains in Lebanon's exploding pager and walkie-talkie attacks. Vulnerability of supply chains – compromising hardware or software at source – has long been flagged in threat assessments, especially when supply chains include rival nations. A terrible successful first, Lebanon attacks were but a demonstration of the extent of harm and synchronicity that can be built into devices.

It is barely disputed the attack has Mossad's stamp. Satcom, cybertech and advanced surveillance networks have taken the art and science of espionage to levels almost indecipherable for those not fed on a diet of spy thrillers. Even the literature on the genre, of deception and manipulation, infiltration and ciphers, of dead drops and dead men, cyberspies and APTs (advanced persistent threats), has evolved with the changing nature of the world's second oldest profession.

Spying remains mostly boring work, poring over tonnes of info, far removed from the glamour or romance of very early spy tales. If Maugham's Richard Ashenden (1928) was the first secret agent with a touch of reality – the short stories based on Maugham's own experience with British intelligence – real-life accounts of a Kim Philby or Aldrich Ames, of unlikely spy Virginia Hall or legendary Soviet secret agent Richard Sorge, were about ordinary men and women trained for extraordinary circumstances.

But here's the thing. Successful attacks make news, while the novels, stories and reels deal mostly with thwarting plans and attacks. The Lebanon attack, long in the making, came just two weeks before the first anniversary of the Oct 7 Hamas attack – that Israeli intelligence spectacularly missed. All the spook-gadgetry in the world can come to naught if humint can't make sense of the chatter.

## Don't Judge

Courts should refuse to hear pleas against creative freedom

Bombay HC was spot on saying creative freedom can't be held hostage to law and order problems. Hearing a case against denial of film certification to *Emergency*, it directed the Censor Board to make a decision by Sep 25. But while this HC got it right, many HCs and other courts have ruled otherwise. This inconsistency doesn't help the cause of freedom of expression. MP HC had issued a notice to the Censor Board on the same movie, for example.

The bigger point is whether courts should be venturing into this domain at all. As SC itself observed in the *Adipurush* case, "everyone is touchy about everything now." By entertaining petitions over "hurt sensibilities" and becoming arbiters of what is kosher, courts end up granting censorship calls legitimacy they shouldn't have. As it is, India has an inglorious record on censorship of films and books over decades. For the longest time, creative output

hasn't had a judicial eye on it in other democracies. Literature classics like *Lady Chatterley's Lover* or *Lolita* were proscribed in some Western countries. But those days are over. They should be over in India, too. For movies, India has a regulator. GOI should reconstitute the censor board appellate tribunal – abolished in 2021 – to hear appeals. Courts should refuse to hear such petitions. They have better things to do – the case backlog is over 50mn.

## Why AI Can Harm Us How We Can Stop It

Harari dips into ancient history to analyse the newest threat

Humans are at once the smartest and the most stupid animals on earth, says Yuval Noah Harari in *Nexus: A Brief History of Information Networks from the Stone Age to AI*. We produce nuclear missiles and algorithms that have the power to destroy us. Why? Because our information networks are predisposed to using power unwisely. Networks bind members, through fiction, fantasy and mass delusion. Nazism and Stalinism were exceptionally powerful but ignorant networks, the book argues.

Tech entrepreneurs often espouse a rosy view of information, suggesting that AI is the key to our pressing challenges. But despite the fact that your smartphone now contains more information than the library of Alexandria, humans have never been closer to annihilating themselves.

Meanwhile, the populist view of information claims there is no truth. Power is the only reality. While this sceptical view has roots in the radical left, it is now echoed by right-wing figures like Trump and Bolsonaro.

The book seeks a middle ground between these two extremes. It explores the nature of information flows in the ancient past and present-day states, from the church and its schisms to rival political systems, and the roles of mythology and bureaucracy.

We have dramatically increased connectivity, between the Stone Age and the Silicon Age – global networks link billions of people through common stories. Stories are an information technology, as are bureaucratic lists and documents. Bureaucracy may oversimplify complex reality, but there's no better way to manage large-scale human networks.

The problem is when networks don't self-correct. A dictatorship, for instance, is a centralised information network that lacks strong self-correcting

mechanisms, while a democracy is a distributed information network that has them. Mass media enables mass democracy, but the 20th century also saw totalitarian regimes that aimed to control every aspect of people's lives and concentrate power with no checks.

Harari says, with AI, we are creating an "alien inorganic intelligence", argues that this is an entirely new realm, and we only have a small window of time to shape our future.

Will AI favour democratic or totalitarian regimes, will it tend towards truth or order? The book argues that AI is like nothing that's come before, and a new Silicon Curtain may divide humans from unfathomable algorithmic overlords. It could as easily cause catastrophic harm. It can process

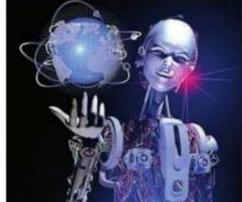
information and generate new ideas – it is not a tool, but an agent. Algorithms already make crucial decisions for us and know us better than we know ourselves. They can hack the human operating system, manipulate us with stories. They can surveil us intimately, even getting under our skin and reading our bodily signals. This non-human intelligence has enormous power, but it can also be wrong, misaligned with larger goals. An inter-computer reality could dominate human intersubjective reality.

The book suggests ways to mould tech in a democratic direction, baking in principles of benevolence, decentralisation and mutual openness. Bots that swamp and shape public discourse should be banned, to keep democracies safe. Today, US and China are AI superpowers, and their digital spheres are taking distinct shapes, dividing the world into separate information cocoons. Does international regulation of AI stand a chance?

Creating wiser information networks calls for building human institutions with strong self-correcting mechanisms. This is mundane work, but it matters the most.

## mindfield

SHORT TAKES ON BIG IDEAS



## Dilemma For Netanyahu, Nasrallah

As Israel-Hezbollah conflict broadens... Can Israelis live through another war after 11 months of Gaza attacks? Can Hezbollah gamble with the future of Lebanon, its own and its chief's fate?

Attila Somfalvi



Columnist based in Tel Aviv

Israel's escalation strategy in this war – on Friday evening, Indian time, Israeli air force carried out strikes in Beirut – is not about the sheer quantity of explosives dropped on Lebanon, but rather about the precision of intelligence and the willingness to carry out pinpoint, lethal operations. This was evident in the elimination of Hezbollah's chief of staff Shukur, in the assassination of Hamas leader Haniyeh in Tehran, and in the destruction of pagers, communication devices, and the targeting of other Hezbollah officials hiding in Beirut's Dahiya district.

In the early months of the war, Israel avoided striking high-ranking Hezbollah leaders, but in recent weeks, that restraint has become irrelevant. Even as these words are being written, officials in the Tel Aviv war room are awaiting updated intelligence on another Israeli airstrike in Dahiya – this time, it appears, aimed at taking out Nasrallah's head of operations.

Israel's focus has shifted. Rather than indiscriminate bombardment, the emphasis is now on decapitating the leadership of Hezbollah, a shift that signals the changing dynamics of the conflict. And as long as the intelligence remains sharp, these strikes will continue to undermine Hezbollah's operational capabilities.

This conflict between Israel and Hezbollah has evolved into one of the most bizarre hostilities on the planet today. For the past 11 months, the two sides have been pummeling each other with every possible means – launching missiles, dropping bombs, deploying drones, engaging in intelligence operations that seem straight out of a

James Bond film (mostly Israel).

Every few days or weeks, almost as if following a scripted plot, someone declares a "red line" has been crossed, threatening an unprecedented, earth-shattering retaliation that will be remembered for generations. Then, after a few days of heightened tension, the "revenge" is carried out. The parties accept the outcome and return to battering one another exactly as they did before the supposed red line was crossed. From all the evidence accumulated over these 11 months of skirmishing, it's clear that neither Hezbollah nor Israel truly wants to escalate into a full-scale war.

This war of attrition, which has

half, Israel has begun to shift course – both in rhetoric and action. While the war in Gaza nears its conclusion, with or without an official declaration, the threats of a northern war have grown increasingly tangible.

This week, Israel revealed – without explicitly admitting it – some of its most extraordinary capabilities, simultaneously neutralising thousands of pagers and communication devices used by Hezbollah operatives. Though Israeli officials declined to comment on this remarkable operation, they see it as having restored Israel's intelligence services to their rightful place among the world's best. Hezbollah's secretary-general Hassan

forces are lurking. That reality is simply untenable. UN Security Council Resolution 1701, passed after the 2006 Lebanon War, has eroded over time, allowing Hezbollah's terrorist forces to establish themselves along Israel's northern border, just metres from the comfortable homes of Israeli citizens. For many years, this arrangement was a modus vivendi that Israelis could live with. After Oct 7, however, this will no longer be tolerated.

Thus, Israel must achieve a decisive outcome – whether through diplomatic channels or by unleashing its formidable firepower. Yet, unlike Gaza, Hezbollah presents an entirely different challenge: more painful, more threatening, more heavily armed, more determined, and far more supported by Iran.

While Lebanon would burn, and Israel could potentially send the country back centuries in time, the cost to Israel would also be steep. Hezbollah has amassed more than 100,000 missiles and rockets over the years, along with drones and advanced weaponry, capable of wreaking havoc on Israeli cities – despite Israel's exceptional air defence systems.

Are we on the brink of a broader war? It remains unclear. Both Israel and Hezbollah know that neither would emerge from such a conflict unscathed. The costs would be immense. Yet Israel understands that the current threatening reality cannot continue. No sane nation would tolerate threats of this nature on its borders, and no sovereign state can exist with terrorists and missiles looming at its fence.

The question now is whether Hassan Nasrallah will take the hint from Israel's intelligence operations this week or gamble with Lebanon, his organisation, and perhaps even himself. For Israel, the question is whether its people, after 11 months of war, have the resilience to face a prolonged and unpredictable battle with an enemy that has been preparing for this very moment for decades.



displaced tens of thousands of Israelis from their homes in the north and emptied villages in southern Lebanon, seemed until recently to be an acceptable status quo for both sides.

Both recognise that their clash is inevitable, but neither side desires it. Each side, for its domestic audience, has spun a narrative: Hezbollah clings to its resistance as long as Israel operates in Gaza, while Israel broadcasts its focus on Gaza, signalling that it would prefer not to open a second front in the north.

However, this charade appears to be reaching its limit. In the past week and a

Nasrallah was forced to deliver a lengthy, dramatic speech filled with threats and curses, once again accusing Israel of crossing red lines.

Just days ago, Israel's war cabinet defined a new objective, one that had not been part of the initial goals of 'Operation Iron Swords': to return tens of thousands of Israelis to their homes in the north. To achieve this, Israel knows it must push Hezbollah back from the border.

No Israeli will return home after Oct 7 knowing that mere metres from their doorstep, Hezbollah's elite Radwan

## Can Sri Lanka Really Afford A Regime Change?

The island nation votes today. Wickremesinghe stabilised the country after 2022's turmoil. But Lankans almost always vote out incumbents. Doing so this time, though, is inviting trouble

Padma Rao Sundarji



Columnist based in Sri Lanka

From grey to pink, orange to silver: Sri Lanka's skies shift hues all day. Over the past 15 years, its citizens, too, have repeatedly sought new political alternatives. So, will the presidential election today see yet another 'vote for change'?

In 2009, former president Mahinda Rajapaksa, revered for ending the 30-year-long separatist war in which 120,000 people were killed, sailed home to a second term. There followed a period of rapid development and reconstruction. But corruption and nepotism mounted, China laid its first debt-traps and the Rajapaksa family fell from grace.

In 2015, despite all else, there was relative prosperity. But the 'people's voice' – a term heard frequently in Sri Lanka right now – rose again and elected as president Maithripala Sirisena who promised 'good governance'. Barely two years later, his star waned. Sirisena had not undertaken constitutional reforms, there was a shortage of cash. MPs received additional perks, while unemployment, taxes and prices shot up. When 269 people were killed and 500 injured in ISIS terror attacks on Easter Day 2019, it proved the last straw.

The 'people's voice' dumped Sirisena and brought back the terrorist-vanquishing Rajapaksas. This time, Gotabaya Rajapaksa, Mahinda's younger brother (defence secretary at the time of LTTE's defeat), was elected president. Mahinda became PM and various Rajapaksas settled into other exalted posts.

By 2022, that second honeymoon had ended. Sri Lanka's economy collapsed completely. External loans had mounted, there was no foreign exchange to pay them off. The terror attacks and then the pandemic had dealt a blow to tourism, a revenue-earning mainstay. Gotabaya's total ban on chemical fertilisers destroyed Sri Lanka's export of tea, the Ukraine war caused a shortage of grain. There was no cooking gas and no petrol, even as ships laden with both, waited in the harbour to be paid first.

Protests spilled onto the streets and gov't responded with brute force. Anger turned into loot and arson,

Mahinda Rajapaksa resigned and Ranil Wickremesinghe was named interim PM. Gotabaya, too, stepped down and fled the country. Sri Lanka was rendered headless.

At the time, opposition leader Sajith Premadasa and Leninist-Marxist MP, Anura Kumara Dissanayake – who are both contesting today's presidential poll – had led thunderous demonstrations against the Rajapaksas. And yet, both declined the unenviable job at the helm of a broke and furious nation. It was left to Wickremesinghe, then 73, to take over as interim president.

Two years later, lavish weddings are in full swing, families are shooting the ocean breeze on the Galle Face

years, the experienced politician has persuaded international donors to restructure external debt and ease pressure on Sri Lanka's coffers. He has cut public spending, raised taxes and controlled lending rates and inflation.

And yet, Sri Lanka's affluent chatterati – many of whom reside abroad – love to deride him as 'The Establishment'. In fashionable cafes at the Dutch Hospital shopping centre, they swear allegiance to either Dissanayake – known as 'AKD' – or the LSE graduate Premadasa before anyone who cares to listen. As for Namal Rajapaksa, 38, Mahinda's son who is also contesting with vigour; they have nothing but scorn. 'Woke' Sri Lankans also champion the 'Tamil Cause' vociferously but draw a blank when asked the name (Pakkiaselvam Ariyanethiran) of the first Tamil in their country's history to contest a presidential poll (this time).

Opinion polls have registered an upswing for Ranil Wickremesinghe, but still place AKD and Sajith Premadasa in the lead. "AKD represents the revolution, Premadasa the change and Wickremesinghe stands for stability," says leading activist Jehan Perera. "Remember: there's still a substantial percentage of undecided voters."

India played a leading role in helping ease Sri Lanka's crisis and many Sri Lankans acknowledge that help. South Block seems confident and unconcerned about who will win. But other than AKD playing to the gallery about how he will cancel a 'corrupt' wind power project awarded to Adani group, neither he nor Premadasa has clearly spelled out how they intend to address India's trade interests in Sri Lanka, and its security concerns over Chinese naval forays into Sri Lankan waters.

So, will Sri Lankans settle for the continuity that Wickremesinghe represents? Or bring in untested candidates at this very crucial time in the country's history, merely because they promise 'change'?

Ranil Wickremesinghe's election symbol is, aptly, a blue cooking gas cylinder. In response to a question by a local newspaper on what's at stake in today's poll, the seasoned politician sounded clear:

"The future of Sri Lanka, nothing else," he said. The writer is a foreign correspondent and author of Sri Lanka: The New Country



Green, tall hotel towers are ablaze with fairy lights, there is full occupancy. To anyone who witnessed the desperate scenes of grandmothers hauling gas cylinders forward, inch by inch, to keep their place in snaking queues during the 2022 crisis, Sri Lanka seems to have turned the corner.

And it is Wickremesinghe, an erstwhile foreign minister, opposition leader, and prime minister multiple times, who is behind that gradual revival. In the last two

## Calvin &amp; Hobbes



D-St Upbeat On Hopes Of US Eco Achieving A 'Soft Landing'

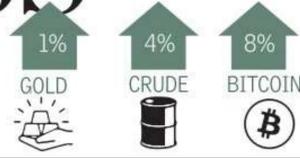
Indian markets rally gained further momentum after the US Fed's 50 bps rate cut in the week. The move sparked hopes of the US economy achieving a soft landing — a scenario where inflation cools without triggering a recession

Sensex 2%

Sensex Gainers



Losers



136% Bajaj Housing Finance, which had a recordbreaking IPO last week, more than doubled investors' money on listing

Source: Refinitiv, ETG, Reuters

Nike replaces CEO with veteran exec Hill in revival bid

Nike ousted beleaguered CEO John Donahoe, bringing longtime executive Elliott Hill out of retirement in a bid to return the struggling athletic brand to its glory days. Hill, 60, originally joined Nike in 1988 and served as president of consumer and marketplace before he retired in 2020. He will take over on Oct 14. Donahoe, 64, will retire and remain an adviser through Jan. Nike shares jumped 7% in New York trading on Friday morning, while chief rivals Adidas and Puma fell in Germany. BLOOMBERG

IT cos returning to campuses after gap year

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Bengaluru: IT companies are resuming their campus recruitment drives after a nearly year-long hiatus amid signs of revival in business. IT firms are tapping into these colleges for skilled programmers and digital specialists who command salaries in the range of Rs 6 to 9 lakh, rather than entry-level roles where salaries are much lower. Companies such as IBM, Infosys, TCS, and LTIMindtree have visited campuses for an initial phase of placements, which began in July. While TCS has said it will hire 40,000

Focus On Skills, Not Entry Level Roles

IT firms are looking for talent in the areas of cloud, analytics, data, and AI, who command ₹6-9 lakh salaries, rather than entry-level roles where salaries are lower

Hiring Plans This Fiscal

TCS | 40k freshers, Infosys | 15k to 20k, Wipro | 10k to 12k

freshers, Infosys has planned to recruit 15,000 to 20,000 fresh graduates from colleges and through off-campus drives. In FY24, Infosys had 11,900 campus recruits in the 2023-24 financial year, a 76% drop compared to the 50,000 freshers it hired in the year-ago period. "After a break of one year, we will return to the campuses with which we have partners-

the backlog of the previous years in the next few quarters.

The employment outlook for recent engineering graduates is showing signs of improvement. Beyond bulk hiring of engineers, IT firms are keen to onboard digital talent and domain specialists in the areas of cloud, analytics, data, and AI.

Additionally, the selection process has become more rigorous compared to previous years. Shailendra Vidhate, training and placement officer at the engineering college of the NMIMS group, said the cut-off to sit for the placement season has risen to 70% from 60% last year.

Ashok Mittal, chancellor of Lovely Professional University, said that there's a uptick in the number of people recruited this time around — about 1,350 so far this year compared to 600 people during the same period last year. Companies are increasingly looking beyond traditional coding tests when evaluating potential hires. Instead, they are examining candidates' social media profiles and considering certifications they have earned. This shift in hiring practices reflects a desire to gain a more comprehensive understanding of each applicant's skills and background.

MG slashes Comet's price by ₹2L to ₹5L

New Delhi: The price war is escalating in electric vehicles market, with JSW MG Motor setting an aggressive Rs 5 lakh (ex-showroom-Delhi) entry threshold for the zero-emission mobility segment, reports Pankaj Doval. Led by its battery rental model where customers only pay for the vehicle with running cost being charged on a per km battery usage basis, the Comet mini electric is now available for an entry price

of Rs 5 lakh, which is Rs 2 lakh lower than its current price. MG said that those opting for the Comet's new pricing will need to pay Rs 2.5 per km of running as rental for the battery. This is the second time the model has seen a price cut as it had seen a reduction by Rs 1 lakh earlier. With this, the Comet is the cheapest car in the country. The closest rival for the model in EVs is the Tata Tiago, which is priced at Rs 8 lakh.



90% of IMPS fraud money recovered: UCO Bank MD

UCO Bank has recovered more than 90% of the "erroneous" IMPS credits that went into the accounts of its customers last year, and efforts were on to recover the rest of the money, bank MD and CEO Ashwani Kumar said on Friday on the sidelines of the 17th Banking Colloquium organised by CII. Around Rs 820 crore was credited to as many as 41,000 UCO Bank accounts last Nov. The bank told CBI that between Nov 10 and 11, IMPS inward transactions initiated from around 14,600 accounts of seven private banks were wrongfully sent to the accounts of its customers. TNN

I-T settlement scheme window opens on Oct 1

Mumbai: The Vivad Se Vishwas scheme-2024, which will enable the I-T department to realise tax demands quickly and free both the taxpayer and the department from protracted litigation, will come into effect from Oct 1. The date of closure (last date) of the scheme is not known yet. TNN

HDFC Bk unit HDB Fin gets board nod for IPO

Mumbai: HDB Financial Services, a subsidiary of HDFC Bank, has received in-principle approval from the bank's board for a Rs 2,500-crore IPO. TNN The listing proposal aligns with RBI's mandate from Oct 2022, requiring 'upper layer' NBFCs to be listed on exchanges. TNN

figure it out Nearly 71MW

IT capacity was added across India's eight major cities in first half of 2024 as footprint of data centres moved to tier-2 and -3 cities



Physics Wallah raises \$210mn, sees valuation jump 3x to \$2.8bn in 2 yrs

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Bengaluru: Even as some edtech majors are going through a boom and bust cycle, edtech unicorn Physics Wallah has secured \$210 million in a funding round led by India-focused hedge fund Hornbill Capital. The funding round has valued the company at \$2.8 billion, a nearly 3x jump from its previous valuation of \$1.1 billion in 2022. Physics Wallah's funding round, which saw participation by Lightspeed Venture Partners, GSV, and WestBridge

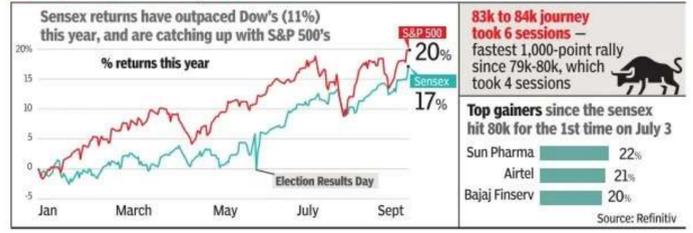
Sensex crosses 84k mark 1st time on FPI flow, Fed rate cut

Nifty Mirrors Trend With 1.5% Rise, Ends At Record 25,791 Pts

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: The Sensex crossed the 84,000 mark for the first time on Friday as foreign institutional buying, following a global rally triggered by the US Fed's aggressive rate cut, drove key indices to record-highs. The momentum — combined with India's increased weightage in global indices as well as volatility from F&O expiry — boosted trading activity.

SURGES OVER 12,000 PTS IN UNDER 9 MONTHS



The Sensex touched an intraday high of 84,694, before ending at a record 84,544 — up 1.6% from Thursday's close. Nifty mirrored this trend, rising 1.5% to end at a record 25,791, with an intraday peak of 25,849. The market has scaled new highs with regularity as investors, including retail, have flocked to stocks chasing high returns.

Foreign institutional investors made net purchases of Rs 14,064 crore, while domestic institutions sold stocks worth Rs 4,427 crore. The influx of foreign capital also supported the rupee, which closed at 83.56 against the dollar, up from 83.66. Ear-

lier in the session, the rupee had reached a two-month high of 83.49, recording a nearly 0.4% weekly gain to mark its strongest rise so far this year. Lower interest rates in the US have made emerging markets like India more attractive to foreign investors, leading to increased portfolio inflows. After a moderation in Aug, foreign investments have surged in Sept, with inflows on track to reach a six-month high.

All major sectoral indices ended the day in the green, with auto, energy, banking, FMCG, and metals leading the way — each gaining between 1.3%. Broader markets parti-

culated in the rally as well, with the Nifty Midcap 100 index closing 1.4% higher and the Nifty Smallcap 100 gaining nearly 1%. Among stocks, Mahindra & Mahindra, JSW Steel, ICICI Bank, L&T, Bharti Airtel, and Nestle saw significant upward movement.

Vinod Nair of Geojit Financial Services said, "The Indian market has joined the rally following the 50 basis points Fed rate cut and super accommodative monetary policy. This is expected to bring positivity to the economy and foreign inflows in the short-to-medium term as the global economy remains robust." He noted that interest

'Russian roulette' in mkts, RBI flags volatility risks

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: RBI has warned of a 'Russian roulette' scenario as market expectations regarding central banks are reset. The regulator noted significant volatility risks, given that markets experience wild swings with each new data release, in its State of the Economy report.

The US jobs data in Aug had caused a market downturn, only for it to rebound later. Subsequently, a manufacturing report in Sept triggered another selloff in US stocks, which then spread to Asian and European markets. In India, while IPO activity remains strong, there are concerns about promoters selling off holdings at high prices, especially in the SME segment.

"As markets recalibrate their expectations of central banks pivoting from divergence to convergence, a Russian roulette seems to be playing out. Every incoming data dispels the gathering good feeling of a soft landing and sparks fears of a thudding

end to disinflationary monetary policy pathways," the report, authored by RBI staff and led by deputy governor Michael Patra, said. Despite these fluctuations, the report observes that markets have shown resilience, recovering quickly without significant exchange rate movements or liquidity issues. Interestingly, on the day the report was released, markets rose again following a US Federal Reserve rate cut.

While chief economic adviser V Anantha Nageswaran has suggested excluding food prices from inflation targets, RBI maintains that they are crucial to understanding Indian prices. The report projects GDP growth for FY24 at 7.3% — up from the 7.2% forecast in Aug. "The in-house dynamic stochastic general equilibrium model projects GDP growth at 7.3% (YoY) and headline CPI inflation at 4.6% (YoY) during 2024-25," it states.

Other macro data indicates that household consumption is expected to grow faster in Q2 as inflation eases, supported by a revival in rural demand. The widening trade deficit and an increase in overseas travel by Indians are likely to shift the current account balance from a small surplus in early 2024 to a deficit of 1-1.2% of GDP in the first half of 2024-25.

ICAI seeks pause on change in key audit rule

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) on Friday asked regulator National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA) to pause the proposed changes in the auditing standard SA 600 related to group audits, possibly setting the stage for a confrontation.

In a statement, ICAI argued that the move by NFRA came as a surprise and sought more time for comprehensive review and discussions with all stakeholders. Sources countered ICAI's claim, saying that the issue has been pending since 2009 and NFRA has been raising the matter periodically, starting with 2020, which was followed by another request in 2021. Even in April 2024, the issue was flagged to ICAI, which had sought time to study the proposal, said a source, adding that for 15 years, the agency was in "permanent pause mode" on the issue.

"The ICAI Council, in its meeting held on Sept 17, 2024, expressed its view that while the current SA 600 has been effective and has stood the test of time, there is room for further review and strengthening to better serve public interest. The Council has tasked the Auditing and Assurance Standards Board with this review and start the process of reviewing the standard for exposure as has been the practice in ICAI," the agency, which regulates bulk of the auditors in the country, said, adding that NFRA's consultation paper was issued on the same day as the council meeting. It said it will send inputs after consultation process is completed.

The NFRA paper, sources said, had addressed several of the issues that was flagged by ICAI. NFRA, which was set up after enactment of Companies Act 2013, was not notified for several years, with govt blaming it on intense lobbying by ICAI.

Didi opens Bengal Shopping fest, dedicates it to artisans

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Kolkata: Chief minister Mamata Banerjee on Friday inaugurated the Bengal Shopping Festival at Biswa Bangla Mela Prangan, dedicating the 5-day event to the livelihoods of millions of artisans and self-help groups (SHGs) in the state.

Bengal's first shopping fest, on the lines of Dubai Shopping Festival, has 144 stalls by the state's artisans out of a total 430 stalls. The event is being organized by West Bengal Industrial Development Corporation Limited (WBIDC) in association with Confederation of West Bengal Trade Association and FICCI.

Banerjee addressed the inauguration programme over the phone as she was unable to attend it personally following floods in the districts. The CM used the occasion to urge Puja committees to allocate stalls to self-help groups, which, in Bengal, are predominantly run by women. Later, principal chief adviser to the CM, Amit Mitra, pointed out that there were 12 lakh SHGs in Bengal and 98% of these were led by women. Nearly 1.2 crore women were involved in SHGs, he said.

The CM said she was planning to set up malls in all 23 district headquarters on a private-public partnership basis. "We will give one acre of land in every district. But there would be one pre-condition for this. In each mall, two flo-



The Bengal Shopping Festival has 144 stalls by the state's artisans out of a total 430 stalls

ors would be with the state govt. We will give it to artisans and SHGs to promote their products in these malls. There would be national and international brands, cinema halls and restaurants in these malls and there will be stalls from our own artisans," she added. On Friday, Banerjee also inaugurated Banglar Saree showrooms at Durga Chowk in Haldia, Eco Park in New Town and Fulia. Banglar Saree is the new umbrella brand created by the state govt for all kinds of sarees made in Bengal. The CM pointed out how MSMEs played a pivotal role in shaping Bengal's economy. "Bengal ranks first in saree production in India. This shopping festival showcases the immense potential of Bengal and aims to transform the state into an international shopping destination. This unique public-private partnership initiative brings together artisans, small businesses, SHGs, retailers and

consumers in an impactful way," she said.

Banerjee said that the primary objective of the festival was to ensure last-mile connectivity for rural artisans, boosting their livelihood by providing direct access to consumers and enhancing their visibility.

Mitra highlighted how 60% of country's GDP came from private consumption. "The main aim of the event is to promote consumption and thereby the livelihood of millions," he added.

State industry, commerce and enterprises minister Shashi Panja said Bengal was the second largest handloom hub in the country and a lot of such products are on display at the festival.

WBIDC chairman Alapan Bandopadhyay said all major local brands were participating in the festival along with state brands like Tantuja, Manjusha, Biswa Bangla and Resham Shilpi.

Samsung threatens employees with pay cut and termination

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Chennai: Samsung Electronics India on Friday warned employees of pay cuts and termination of service if they did not end their strike and report for duty within four days. The Chennai factory's operations have been "severely hindered" by the strike, the company said.

The company has sought an explanation in writing from employees on why an eight-day pay cut should not be imposed on them and why they cannot be sacked within seven days if they did not

report to duty within four days. It said the strike is in violation of the Industrial Disputes Act and the company's standing orders.

Samsung also warned of legal action against those who prevent workers who wished to from working. Employees and labour representatives TOI spoke to confirmed the company had sent such notices.

Hundreds of workers at the Samsung consumer electronics plant at Sanguvarcharam near Chennai have been on strike since Sept 9, demanding wage revision and better working condi-

tions. This has impacted production at the facility, which contributes a third of Samsung's \$12 billion annual revenue in the country. E Muthukumar, president of the union, said, "Samsung maintained there was no impact on the production, but the notices are contradictory to it. It is up to the courts to decide whether the strike is illegal. The employees will continue to strike."

Samsung, in a statement, said, "We have informed our policy to our workers based on relevant laws and regulations, and urged them to return to work immediately."

Sebi: Cases where Buch recused herself not 'readily available'

New Delhi: The cases where Sebi chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch recused herself due to potential conflict of interest are not "readily" available and collating them would "disproportionately divert" its resources, the market regula-

tor said in response to an RTI application on Friday. In the response furnished to transparency activist Commodore Lokesh Batra (retd), the regulator also refused to provide copies of Buch's declarations to govt and the Sebi Board on the financial assets and equities held by her and her family members on the grounds of these being "personal information" and that their disclosure may "en-

danger" personal safety. It also denied disclosing the dates on which the disclosures were made. The Sebi Central Public Information Officer used the grounds of "personal information" and "safety" to deny copy of those declarations.

"Since the information sought does not pertain to you and the same relates to personal information, the disclosure of which has no relationship to any public activity or interest and may cause unwarranted invasion into the privacy of the individual and may also endanger the life or physical safety of the person(s). The same is, therefore exempt in terms of Section 8(1)(g) and 8(1)(j) of the RTI Act, 2005," the RTI response said. AGENCIES

No immediate legal view on SC's telecom AGR call: Govt

New Delhi: The govt will not take any suo motu legal opinion on the financial crisis for Vodafone Idea and Bharti Airtel after dismissal of a curative petition by the Supreme Court on the adjusted gross revenue (AGR) matter. Any view will be initiated only after a plea by the telcos, sources have said.

"There is no need for a legal view as yet, as the decision of a curative petition broadly means closure of a case," the source said. This comes even as Vodafone Idea has announced a conference call with investors on Sept 23 to provide "an update on recent developments". Asked whether some other relief measures can be considered to bail out the companies, the sources said, "This can happen once we receive a request to this effect from the companies." TNN

RTI REPLY

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## GALLERY



Tennis greats (from left) Yannick Noah, Team Europe's captain Bjorn Borg, Roger Federer and John McEnroe, captain of Team World, during the opening night gala of the Laver Cup in Berlin

## Rathour is RR's batting coach

Rajasthan Royals on Friday named former India opener Vikram Rathour as their batting coach. Rathour, 55, is the second high-profile appointment by the franchise for the upcoming IPL season after they roped in Rahul Dravid as their chief coach. Rathour served as India's batting coach under Dravid.

**Devang quits Delhi job:** Devang Gandhi has not re-applied for the post of Delhi men's senior cricket team's head coach for personal reasons. Former India national selector Saranidip Singh has been appointed in Gandhi's place

**Lifter Dhanush wins bronze:** Lifter Loganathan Dhanush on Friday claimed the bronze medal in the 55 kg weight category at the IWF Junior World Weightlifting Championships at Leon, Spain. The 17-year-old lifted a total of 231 kg, also securing a bronze in the snatch event with 107 kg.

**Disappointing start for Aditi:** Aditi Ashok had a disappointing start at the Kroger Queen City Championship, finishing with a two-over 74 to be tied 103rd.

**Sharma in danger of missing cut:** Shubhankar Sharma stared at missing the cut after a 3-over 75 to lie T-114 at the BMW PGA Championship at Wentworth Club.

**Ridhima and Tvesa tied 17th:** Golfers Ridhima Dilawari and Tvesa Malik were tied 17th at 2-under 70 each after the first round of the La Sella Open on the Ladies European Tour in Denia, Spain. The other two Indians, Pranavi Urs (even par 72) and Seher Atwal (73), were placed T-31 and T-63 respectively.

**India make winning start:** Sumit Sharma headed in the all important goal to give defending champions India a winning start in their SAFF U-17 Championship campaign as they defeated Bangladesh by a solitary goal in a Group A match in Thimphu on Friday.

## ACTION TODAY

**AUTO:** Singapore FL GP: 6.30pm (Fancode)  
**CHESS:** Olympiad: 6.30pm (chessolympiad2024fide; Youtube); **CRICKET:** India vs Bangladesh 1st Test Day 3, 9.30am (JioCinema); SL vs NZ 1st Test 10am (Sony); Eng vs Aus 2nd ODI 3.30pm (Sony) **FOOTBALL:** ISL: 5pm & 7.30pm (JioCinema); EPL: 5pm, 7.30pm & 10pm (Star); **TENNIS:** Laver Cup: 4pm & 10pm (Sony Sports)

## Vantika saves the day for India

Scores Crucial Win After Vaishali's Loss On Top Board, Helps Team To Hold USA

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The top seeded India women slipped again. Though Vantika Agrawal's face-saving win against Irina Krush of USA in a topsy-turvy game helped India hold seventh seeds USA to a 2-2 draw, they have to win the last two rounds to keep the aspirations of gold medal alive. That appears to be a huge task at the moment considering Team India's slipping form in the last two rounds after having taking sole lead.

The men are in a comparatively better position because even a win or draw could clinch the issue for them.

It was a day of grudge matchups for India — the women had lost to USA in the last Olympiad and men were held by Uzbekistan in the penultimate round then.

Though R Praggnanandhaa is playing below-par by his high standards, he can take credit for India's satisfactory show against the defending champions and fourth seeds. Pragg, playing with black pieces, came up with effective answers against Javokhir Sindarov's prepared line in the Paulsen attack on the second board for a much-valued draw after 36 moves.

However, when pushed to the top board after resting off-



**ALL CONCENTRATION:** Vantika Agrawal sizes up the board during the game against Alice Lee in the ninth round of Chess Olympiad

colour Harika, Pragg's sister GM R Vaishali (2498) failed to rise to the occasion and lost to Gulrukhbegim Tokhirjonova (Elo 2380) in the women's section. After Divya Deshmukh and Tania Sachdev's drawn games, followed by Vaishali's defeat, Vantika Agrawal held her nerve for an invaluable win with black pieces against Alice Lee and levelled the tie.

## Men draw with Uzbekistan

In a tense clash the men's side managed to hold Uzbekistan 2-2. This was the first drawn match for the men's team in this edition of the competition.

"Do we sense the evil hand of Big Vlad," Anand asked jokingly about Sindarov's position against Pragg.

Big Vlad — Russia's Vladimir Kramnik — is captaining Uzbekistan. Russia as a team is banned due to the country's invasion of Ukraine.

"I expected them to try to get a risk-free game. But I did not expect them to force a draw. It seemed like a defensive strategy to use white for a draw."

—Vidit Gujrathi | TEAM INDIA

Kramnik was quite active in the match against India. The brain behind the decision to rest Nodirbek Yakkubov (Elo 2666) from the second board seemed to be his. For Yakkubov's replacement, Jakhongir Vakhidov (2571), is deemed as a weaker player and Indians were taken by surprise.

The stunner of the day was provided by Vladimir Fedoseev of Slovenia who defeated Norway's world No. 1 Magnus Carlsen with black. The last position was crazy (rook, pawn vs rook and two pawns) with all black pieces on white's half of the board and vice-versa.

## Dubois and Joshua primed for Wembley showdown

London: Britain's Anthony Joshua and Daniel Dubois left the hype to their promoters as they met in a low-key press conference ahead of Saturday's IBF world heavyweight title fight at Wembley Stadium.

The job of selling the fight was already done, with a British post-World War Two record crowd of 96,000 expected to attend. Convincing fight fans that Joshua would com-

mand comparisons with Muhammad Ali, Lennox Lewis, Evander Holyfield and Vitali Klitschko if he were to become a three-times heavyweight champion might be a taller order.

Neither boxer is prone to trash talk, with Dubois no great conversationalist either, and both men kept things simple in the Great Hall of London's historic Guildhall on Thursday. "I need to retain it and hold onto it. So yes, it's a great thing to have, but now I need to legitimize myself by winning this fight," said Dubois, who has won 21 of his 23 pro bouts. REUTERS

## Olympiad trophy goes missing, AICF flies plaint

Chennai: An "embarrassed" All India Chess Federation (AICF) has filed a police complaint after a Chess Olympiad trophy its team won in the last edition of the tournament at home went missing from its office, forcing the sports body to arrange for a replica of the prized possession and tender an apology.

It is a rolling trophy, and the incident came at a time when the Indian men's team is closing in on the gold medal in the ongoing 45th edition

## Women lose tempo as Harika struggles

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Greatest strength can also be the greatest shortcoming and vice-versa. Indian women's team is finding that out in a hard way as far as D Harika's performance at the ongoing Chess Olympiad in Budapest, Hungary is concerned. Harika, 33, has scored only three points in seven games, having suffered three defeats. Besides, she was winless in the last four rounds. Still, it was a bit of a surprise that she was missing the ninth round clash against the USA on Friday.

Harika is not even among the top15 performers (in terms of rating performance) on the top board in the tournament. While the girls on the top board from Poland, China, Armenia and Switzerland have come up with an Elo performance of 2500-plus, Harika is at 2364.

Harika's teammates, far less experienced players Divya Deshmukh (7/8) and Vantika Agrawal (5/6), have punched above their weight on their debut with the 'A' team. In the process, they have remained undefeated.

The youth is generally fearless, the veterans are not.

It cannot be good for the morale of the team and the youngsters that the top two players of the team (the second being R Vaishali) are not performing up to the mark. Harika, time and again, has displayed her vulnerability in tense situations in must-win situations - multiple failures to win knockout World Cup

despite being in better positions in many of the games is a case in point. Harika is seen as a stable player and an asset on the top board. After all, she is among the only three Indian women having a GM title. However, there was always a question mark about her ability to come up with an impressive show in the Swiss League tournaments — the Olympiad is played in this format.

In the absence of women-only Swiss League tournaments, Harika played the Sharjah Masters but quit after six of nine rounds after losing three and drawing three games against men.

Harika was advised to rest before the last round of the last Olympiad. India lost to the USA and the gold slipped away from them.

## Malvika's dream run ends in quarters of China Open

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Nagpur: Malvika Bansod's remarkable journey in the China Open Super 1000 badminton tournament ended in the quarterfinals. The promising Nagpur shuttler went down against two-time world champion Akane Yamaguchi on Friday.

Despite Malvika's positive start against Japan's fourth-seeded opponent, the 43rd-ranked Indian struggled to maintain her momentum after the world No.5 Japanese reeled off six consecutive points midway through the first game. Malvika ultimately lost the first game 10-21.

Malvika exhibited tremendous determination in the second game, engaging in a fierce battle that saw her making a late comeback with four straight points and bringing the scores close at 15-19. However, the seasoned Yamaguchi clinched the game 21-16. The Japanese sealed the victory in a mere 35 minutes.

## Man City face Arsenal in showdown of favourites

Manchester: Manchester City host Arsenal in a showdown between the Premier League title favourites on Sunday, while Tottenham boss Ange Postecoglou badly needs a win when his side host Brentford.

Liverpool are looking to bounce back from a shock home defeat to Nottingham Forest when Bournemouth visit Anfield and Manchester United seek revenge with a trip to Crystal Palace.

A battle between the top two pits the unstoppable force in City's in-form striker Erling Haaland against the immovable object in Arsenal's obdurate defence.

The top two in each of the past two seasons already occupy those positions once more.

City are the only side with a perfect 12 points so far, but a depleted Arsenal made sure they are only two points behind by grinding out a 1-0 victory over Spurs in last weekend's north London derby. AFP

## EURO LEAGUES FIXTURES

**EPL — On Sat:** West Ham vs Chelsea (5pm); Aston Villa vs Wolverhampton Wanderers; Fulham vs Newcastle United; Leicester City vs Everton; Liverpool vs AFC Bournemouth; Southampton vs Ipswich Town; Tottenham vs Brentford (all 7.30pm); Crystal Palace vs Man United (10pm). **On Sun:** Brighton & Hove Albion vs Nottingham Forest; Man City vs Arsenal. **La Liga — On Sat:** Real Valladolid vs Real Sociedad (5.30pm); Osasuna vs Las Palmas (7.45pm); Valencia vs Girona (10pm); Real Madrid vs Espanyol (12.30am, Sun). **On Sun:** Getafe vs Leganes; Athletic Club vs Celta de Vigo; Villarreal vs Barcelona; Rayo Vallecano vs Atletico Madrid. **On Mon:** Real Betis vs Mallorca. **On Tues:** Sevilla vs Real Valladolid; Valencia vs Osasuna; Real Madrid vs Deportivo Alaves. **Serie A — On Sat:** Venezia vs Genoa (6.30pm); Juventus vs Napoli (9.30pm); Lecce vs Parma (12.15am, Sun). **On Sun:** Fiorentina vs Lazio; Monza vs Bologna; Roma vs Udinese; Internazionale vs Milan. **On Mon:** Atalanta vs Como.

## Jesin rescues EB in 2-2 draw with MSC

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Kolkata: League leaders East Bengal FC had to rally twice to share the spoils with defending champions Mohammedan Sporting in an entertaining 2-2 stalemate in their CFL Super Six championship round match at Naihati on Friday.

Mohammedan Sporting went in front on either side of the break, thanks to goals from Bamiya Samad (21st minute) and Soraisam Robinson Singh



East Bengal's PV Vishnu (right) tries to move past Mohammedan Sporting's Lalhanikma during their CFL match in Naihati on Friday

(51). However, a brace from Jesin TK (40 and 77 minutes) helped East Bengal escape with a point and keep their unbeaten run in the league. This was East Bengal's second draw in 15 matches and their first in the Super Six stage. Bino George's side, however, stayed atop the standings with 41 points, 5 points ahead of Diamond Harbour FC, who have a game in hand.

Mohammedan Sporting, who, with 23 points now, have lost the title defence, were the better side at Naihati and deservedly went ahead when Joseph Lalmanuawma laid it off for Samad to come up with a simple tap-in. East Bengal, however, ended the first half at 1-1 with PV Vishnu sending a centre from the byline and Jesin turning Aman CK's attempt off it towards the goal. Mohammedan SC regained their lead soon after the restart, Robinson beating goalkeeper Aditya Patra with a powerful shot from the edge of the box.

With the holders now raising their game and controlling the proceedings, East Bengal were starting at their first defeat. But Aman sent Jesin free down the left flank with a delectable through ball and the latter rounded an advancing goalkeeper Subhadip Pandit before placing it into an open net.

## MSC seek first win in ISL

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Kolkata: Mohammedan Sporting (MSC) will look for their first win of the ongoing ISL when they take on FC Goa at the Kishore Bharati Krirangan here on Saturday. In their first season in the tournament, Mohammedan Sporting had lost their opener to NorthEast United FC through an added-time strike. They would be keen to get over that heartbreak.

The team's head coach Andrey Chernyshov is aware that MSC need time to settle down in the tournament. "We need to improve in defensive situations, as well as in attacking ones. It's not easy for players coming in from other countries to adapt quickly to the game here. Different players adapt differently to circumstances, some take less time and some more than that," Chernyshov said on the eve of the match.

Goa too faced defeat in their tournament opener, going down to Jamshedpur FC through a late goal. Head coach Manolo Marquez is hoping that his team bounces back. "From the training sessions, the hunger among the players to respond to the defeat in the first game is there," Marquez said.

"But you cannot promise results, you can only promise that the players will work hard to achieve them. And I feel that on Saturday against Mohammedan SC, they will work hard."

He will take heart from that fact that



Mohammedan Sporting players during a training session at Salt Lake Stadium's practice ground on Friday

Goa have won four out of their last five matches against Kolkata-based teams. However, that doesn't make their task any easier.

Marquez is also grappling with some injury issues. "Mohammad Yasir had a big injury and he will be out at least for a month. All of our injured players won't be available before the Fifa break window in October," the coach revealed.

MSC will be banking on home support to get their first points in ISL.

In another match on Saturday, Jamshedpur FC take on Mumbai City FC at home.

**Second win for Punjab:** Punjab FC registered their second straight win, beating Odisha FC 2-1 in New Delhi. Punjab FC thus moved to the second place on the table with six points.

## Raya's wonder save earns Arsenal a point

Bergamo (Italy): Arsenal goalkeeper David Raya secured his side a hard-earned point with a sensational penalty save in a 0-0 draw away to Atalanta in their Champions League opener on Thursday.

Spaniard Raya dived low to his right to beat out Mateo Retegui's spot kick in the 51st minute then sprang across his goal to claw away the forward's follow up header.

It was a gritty display by Mikel Arteta's side who soaked up home pressure inside a raucous Stadio di Bergamo and occasionally looked dangerous at the other end.

Atalanta were handed the chance to go ahead when Partey tangled with Ederson on the edge of the area and the referee Clement Turpin pointed to the spot.

After a lengthy VAR check, Retegui eventually took the kick but his low shot was read by Raya who then showed elastic-like agility to make the double-save.

"It was a very difficult game but I think we also made it difficult for them," Raya said.

Of his penalty save, he added: "I was lucky to go the right way and unlucky that the rebound fell to him, but I was quick enough to get up and save it. Fantastic to keep a clean sheet."



Arsenal goalie David Raya saves the rebound from Atalanta's Mateo Retegui (not in pic) after saving a penalty

## Barca's Flick takes positives after loss

Monaco: Barcelona coach Hansi Flick said he is not worried about his side's performance despite the 1-2 defeat to Monaco in their Champions League opener on Thursday.

Monaco made the most of their man advantage after Barcelona defender Eric Garcia was sent off only 11 minutes in, before goals from Maghnes Aklouch and George Ilenikhena secured the

triumph over the Catalans. "With (Garcia's) red card the game changed totally but I can see the positives. We tried to defend as a team and attack as a team. We had chances but they deserved to win," Flick told reporters.

"I have told the team to lift their heads up because they are disappointed. It's the time to recover, hopefully players will be back with a lot of energy," REUTERS

## Atletico win: A late header by defender Jose Maria Gimenez gave Atletico Madrid a 2-1 win over RB Leipzig.

The German visitors took a shock lead in the fourth minute thanks to a header by striker Benjamin Sesko after a quick coun-

ter-attack. However, Antoine Griezmann struck a fine volley into the top corner in the 28th minute to level the score.

Atletico dominated the match with 20 attempts on goal in total, but it wasn't until the 90th minute that they finally managed to find the winner, with Gimenez heading in a cross from Griezmann.

"We knew that any mistake could cost us a goal and that was what happened, but we were mature enough to keep calm and work our way back from behind," Griezmann told Movistar Plus.

## THURSDAY'S RESULTS

Red Star Belgrade 1 (Milson 86) Benfica 2 (Akturkoglu 9, Kokcu 29); Feyenoord 0 Bayer Leverkusen 4 (Wirtz 5, 36, Grimaldo 30, Wellenreuther 44-og); Atalanta 0 Arsenal 0; Atletico Madrid 2 (Griezmann 28, Gimenez 90) RB Leipzig 1 (Sesko 4); Monaco 2 (Aklouch 16, Ilenikhena 71) Barcelona 1 (Yamal 28); Brest 2 (Magnetti 23, Sima 56) Sturm Graz 1 (Fernandes 45+1-og).

## 'Winning has become an addiction at Man City'

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Shaun Wright-Phillips has a favourite adage for life: If you fall from the bike, you get up and ride again. Honest in observations, chipping in with wisecracks, the former winger took time out from his Manchester City Trophy tour to talk to TOI. Excerpts... **Man City during your time and the Man City of today. Tell us about the turnaround.**

It happened gradually. Man City, in my first spell was a sleeping giant. It just didn't have the same backing as the other top clubs. When I rejoined in 2008, the take-over had happened. The new owner and his team have done a magnificent job. I think the biggest point is they didn't just win that first trophy and kind of sit back. It became an addiction. **How was the atmosphere in the blue side of Manchester when you were playing, and the club wasn't win-**

## ning enough?

Quite like a roller-coaster ride. Sometimes we'd blow teams out and other times we'd play well and lose. But to beat Alex Ferguson's Man United was difficult. United had that power. When you have the likes of Paul Scholes, David Beckham, Andy Cole, Roy Keane, Wayne Rooney, Michael Owen, you generate formidable power. We couldn't financially get there. **And now?**

Now we're at par. But now United spend more money than us and it's just not working. We're here to stay. To win four Premier Leagues in a row, it is a summit that no one has ever scaled. In so many ways, United have kind of lost their way. I think if you look at Old Trafford, that was a place everybody was scared to go to. Now, not so much. And then things like the leaky roof, that's not Old Trafford. It was called a theatre of dreams for a reason. They need to get back there, but it isn't a qu-



Former Manchester City winger Shaun Wright-Phillips

## Can Pep Guardiola be the new Ferguson?

No, I don't think he can. I think Alex Ferguson was a phenomenal manager and a lovely human being, and made football seem completely different during his time. He made that team. He didn't start well but look where he ended up. Then Arsene Wenger comes and changes football completely again, with counter-attacking fast breaks. I remem-

ber playing at Highbury and it would take Arsenal three passes to put the ball in the back of the net. And now you've got Pep, who is completely different in his own right. He has influenced football, not just the Premier League, down to the grassroots. Now everybody wants to play out from the back. You go and watch Sunday league football. Goalkeepers are engaging in passes that didn't exist before. They've all changed and brought something unbelievable to the world of football. **Currently, the fight for the European supremacy is between Man City and Real Madrid. Why do Real win more trophies?**

Real Madrid, for me, isn't the Real that I've seen, say, last seven or eight years ago. (Now) It's a completely different way of playing. Carlo Ancelotti knows how to win football matches. And if you watch them against us in the Champions League last year, Real had individual moments of brilliance. They just keep the ball away from their goal and score when they have a chance. That's how they play — they can be free in the blink of an eye. That is Real Madrid for you. And that's why they win trophies. They don't need to play well to win. They just need a split second of magic, and they have magic all over the pitch. **Man City captain Rodri has spoken strongly about the congested schedule. Do you share his concerns?**

It's hard on them. Not just physically, mentally as well. I think that people forget. There is no respite. And you want top players like Rodri and Kevin de Bruyne to play as long as possible. You don't want to lose players. I think this punishing schedule can shorten that. It will take its toll. In football you get wear and tear. So, when people like Kevin and Rodri talk about it, they're not saying it for no reason. They're saying it because they're feeling it. I can agree with a lot of what the players are saying.

## Excellent Lass decimates rivals

Khainin Haidermota

Kolkata: The Mysore 1000 Guineas was an easy pickering for Rajesh Narredu-nursed Excellent Lass at Mysuru on Friday. The daughter of Remembrance Of You gave Suraj Narredu an armchair ride to victory.



## MYSURU SHORT RESULTS (WITH INTER-VENUE DIVIDENDS)

**1:** (7-9-2) Sky Storm 1; Pettes Love 2; One Diamond 3. **2:** DECLARED NULL AND VOID **3:** (1-10-9) Natural One 1; Coyote Girl 1; Free Spirited 3. **4:** (2-9-4) Gallahad 1; Aabushan 2; Mustic Bond 3. **5:** (2-3-5) Excellent Lass 1; Finley 2; Sherouk 3. **6:** (3-1-9) Seoffor Bullet 1; Court Jester 2; Emerald Queen 3. **7:** CANCELLED DUE HEAVY RAINS **Jackpot:** Rs 64 paid on four

legs. **Mini Jackpot:** 22 paid on three legs. **Treble:** (II) Rs 22 paid on two legs.

**New Dimension for Trophy event:** Deepesh Narredu's Mumbai import New Dimension is the one who appeals most to lift the VST Grandeur Trophy at Guindy on Saturday. The daughter of Victoria Falls will be guided by Yash Narredu. Still i Rise and Supreme Grandeur will fight for the minor placings.

## CHENNAI SELECTIONS

**2pm:** 1. Memory Lane 2. Sacre Couer 3. Western Girl. **3.30pm:** 1. Amazing Joy 2. State Flag 3. Silk Stuff. **3pm:** 1. Royal Chivalry 2. Aarini 3. Juliet Rose. **3.30pm:** 1. Light The World 2. Knotty One 3. Bertha. **4pm:** 1. All Stars 2. Relic Warrior 3. Asio. **4.30pm:** 1. New Dimension 2. Still i Rise 3. Supreme Grandeur. **5pm:** 1. Brilliant Lady 2. Key To The Mint 3. Impiana. **5.30pm:** 1. Multiflora 2. Clockwise 3. Safety. **Day's Best:** Amazing Joy. **Good Double:** Brilliant Lady and Multiflora.



**DEFENDING CHAMPION IGA SWIA TEK PULLS OUT OF THE CHINA OPEN FOR PERSONAL REASONS**

**CHAMARI ATHAPATHTHU TO LEAD SRI LANKA IN UPCOMING WOMEN'S T20 WORLD CUP**



## INDIA EXTEND DOMINANCE

**Bumrah & Co. Prove Too Hot To Handle For Bangladesh Batters Who Were Skittled For 149 In 1st Innings; Hosts End Day Two At 81/3 To Take 308-Run Lead And Tighten Their Grip**

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**Chennai:** Midway through the second session at the MA Chidambaram Stadium, a young crop of Bangladeshi journalists got busy in a discussion about the nearest tourist spots around Chennai.

Much like the captain of the Bangladesh team, Najmul Hossain Shanto, this group of scribes had thought, leading into the Test, that Bangladesh could stretch India to five days. By the end of Friday's action in Chennai, it was crystal clear that post lunch on Sunday, they are in for a mini-vacation before the Kanpur Test.

The hint of fight that the Bangladesh pacers showed on Thursday slowly dissipated into an abject capitulation of the batting unit against an Indian attack which didn't give an inch.

The class of Jasprit Bumrah (4/50) has been way too much to handle for even the best batters in world cricket in recent times, and the brittle Bangladeshi batting lineup merely added a footnote to the long list.

After being bowled out for 149 in their first innings, Bangladesh conceded a lead of 227, which left fans in Chennai with tickets for Saturday's play ecstatic. The party mood was sullied just a bit late in the day by the back-to-back fail-

Friday's instance was the fourth time that all 10 wickets in an innings claimed by India came through catches. The previous three occasions being vs New Zealand at Hyderabad in 1988-89; vs Australia at Wankhede Stadium, Mumbai, in 2000-01 and vs England at Chennai in 2020-21.

ures of Rohit Sharma (5) and Virat Kohli (17). Kohli, though, had got an inside edge as he missed a flick off off-spinner Mehidy Hasan Miraz to be adjudged leg-before, but strangely he didn't ask for a referral.

At stumps, entertainers Rishabh Pant (12 batting) and Shubman Gill (33 batting) were at the crease, the lead already going to 308 with seven wickets still in play.

While the first half of the morning session didn't go as planned for India with Ravindra Jadeja (86) missing out on a deserved century, the rest of the day was a master-versus-novice mismatch.

That Bumrah would be dangerous was a foregone conclusion, what made it a difficult watch for those who were looking forward to some competition was the lack of application of the Bangladeshi batters.

The procession started in the first session itself when left-hander Shadman Islam shouldered arms to Bumrah bowling around the wicket and was bowled. The bounce and the movement that Bumrah generated from good length accounted for Mushfiqur Rahim, who edged one to slip while the tail was merely cannon fodder.

### Akash Deep leaves an impression

While Bumrah was doing what he usually does, it was Bengal pacer Akash Deep's spell that left a mark. It's true that left-handers Zakir Hasan

**LEADING FROM FRONT:** Jasprit Bumrah took 4/50 as India ran through Bangladesh batting lineup



**SCOREBOARD**  
**INDIA 1ST INNINGS (overnight 339/6):** Ravindra Jadeja c Das b Ahmed 86, R Ashwin c Shanto b Ahmed 113, Akash Deep c Shanto b Ahmed 17, Jasprit Bumrah c Hasan b Mahmud 7, Mohammed Siraj not out 0; **Extras:** (B18, LB7, NB4, W1) 30; **Total:** (all out in 91.2 overs) 376; **FoW:** 7-343, 8-367, 9-374; **Bowling:** Taskin Ahmed 21-4-55-3, Hasan Mahmud 22-2-83-5, Nahid Rana 18-2-82-1, Mehidy Hasan Miraz 21-2-77-1, Shakib Al Hasan 8-0-50-0, Mominul Haque 1-0-4-0  
**BANGLADESH 1ST INNINGS:** Shadman Islam b Bumrah 2, Zakir Hasan b Akash Deep 3, Najmul Hossain Shanto c Kohli b Siraj 20, Mominul Haque b Akash Deep 0, Mushfiqur Rahim c Rahul b Bumrah 8, Shakib Al Hasan c Pant b Jadeja 32, Litton Das c sub (Jurel) b

and Mominul Haque aren't exactly big-league material, but Akash Deep hit the right length from the word go.

The 27-year-old—who is very much in the reckoning for a berth in the Test squad for the Australia series—got the ball to cut back enough and to dismiss Mominul and Zakir as Bangladesh were reduced to 22-3 before lunch.

Bangladesh pacer Taskin Ahmed acknowledged that the batting left a lot to be desired. But he felt that the SG ball, too, played its part in the Bangladesh capitulation.

"The Indian players are used to playing with the SG ball. It does quite a bit in the first 10 overs and we probably were unable to adapt. A better performance was expected from our batters," Taskin said.

With the back of the Bangladesh batting well and truly broken in the first session itself, it was on Litton Das and Shakib Al Hasan to stage a comeback. Both have the experience of playing in India and for a while, the duo seemed to give them a bit of hope. But it's their tendency to sweep a little too much against spinners which brought about their downfall.

Jadeja extracted a bit of extra bounce from the red-soil track and Litton produced a top-edge that was taken at deep fine-leg. It was expected that Shakib would look to grind, but his untimely reverse-sweep jumped off the boot into Pant's gloves, making it a walk in the park for India.

### INDIAN PACERS WITH 400-PLUS INTERNATIONAL WICKETS

Bowler	M	W	Ave	BB	SWI	10WM	SR
Kapil Dev	356	687	28.83	9/83	24	2	56.6
Zaheer Khan	303	597	31.48	7/87	12	1	48.4
Javagal Srinath	296	551	29.11	8/86	13	1	49
Mohammed Shami	188	448	26.06	7/57	11	0	37.8
Ishant Sharma	199	434	32.35	7/74	11	1	53.3
<b>Jasprit Bumrah</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>401</b>	<b>21.01</b>	<b>6/19</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>33.2</b>

## After missing out on century, Jadeja targets 300 Test wickets

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**Chennai:** Amid the euphoria of Ravichandran Ashwin's century, a performance that went slightly under the radar was that of Ravindra Jadeja's. Had the 35-year-old completed his fifth Test century on Friday morning, the spotlight would have been on him, but the new ball and morning dampness got the better of his defence as he fell 14 short of the milestone.

But Jadeja has an ability to take small disappointments in his stride. "Yes, I got out today, but that's part and parcel of the game," Jadeja said with a smile after dismissing the two Bangladesh batters Litton Das and Shakib Al Hasan who looked set in the middle.

The Chennai Super Kings player, who calls the MA Chidambaram Stadium his home, is four short of the 300-wicket mark, a significant milestone for any bowler. "Yes it's a good opportunity for me to get there tomorrow," Jadeja said.

India have won the last 17 Test series at home and it's the Ashwin-Jadeja combo that has played a massive role in the success. While they have won numerous Test matches with the ball, this Chennai Test will probably be remembered for their 199-run batting partnership that destroyed Bangladesh in one-and-a-half sessions. "Jaddu is one cricketer who has evolved so nicely. I always envy him, I have made that amply clear. He is so gifted and talented and has found ways to maximize his potential," Ashwin said.

When they bowl together, Ashwin is the one who experiments while Jadeja's strength is to keep repeating the same thing for hours. "He keeps it really simple and can repeat it day in, day out. He is just an exceptional cricketer," the 516-wicket man said.

The secret of the Ashwin-Jadeja combo is the fact that they both enjoy each other's success, both with the bat and the ball. Ashwin had said on Thursday how Jadeja helped him as he moved towards his century, but Jadeja feels "Ashwin doesn't need any advice".

"I was just talking to him that we are not going to make errors because the wicket was good and we were batting well. Well played to him, a brilliant knock at his home ground," Jadeja said.

Both are towards the back-end of their careers and have gone through different phases. As Jadeja became India's No. 1 spinner abroad, Ashwin had to come to terms with the fact that it's the left-hander's batting that gave him the advantage.

Ashwin, though, has more Test centuries than Jadeja, but a much-evolved Chennai man acknowledged that he has learnt a lot from his colleague's batting.

"Watching him bat over the last couple of years has given me insight on how I can be better. Both of us have grown together, and have done some special things," Ashwin said.

For the duo, the MA Chidambaram Stadium pitch over the weekend will be a perfect stage to make their Chennai fans happy, probably for one last time in Test cricket.

**INDIA 2ND INNINGS:** Yashasvi Jaiswal c Das b Rana 10, Rohit Sharma c Hasan b Ahmed 5, Shubman Gill batting 33, Virat Kohli lbw b Miraz 17, Rishabh Pant batting 12; **Extras:** (LB4) 4; **Total:** (for three wickets in 23 overs) 81; **FoW:** 1-15, 2-28, 3-67; **Bowling:** Taskin Ahmed 3-0-17-1, Hasan Mahmud 5-1-12-0, Nahid Rana 3-0-12-1, Shakib Al Hasan 6-0-20-0, Mehidy Hasan Miraz 6-0-16-1

### ALL-ROUND IMPACT: Ravindra Jadeja (centre) celebrates after taking the wicket of Shakib Al Hasan on Friday. He finished with figures of 2/19 besides scoring 86 runs with the bat



**MOST WICKETS BY LEFT-ARM SPINNERS IN TESTS**

Player	M	Wkts	BB	Ave	ER	SR	5w	10w
Rangana Herath (Sri Lanka)	93	433	9/127	28.07	2.80	60	34	9
Daniel Vettori (New Zealand)	113	362	7/87	34.36	2.59	79.5	20	3
Derek Underwood (England)	86	297	8/51	25.83	2.10	73.6	17	6
<b>Ravindra Jadeja (India)</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>296</b>	<b>7/42</b>	<b>24.03</b>	<b>2.47</b>	<b>58.3</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>2</b>
Bishen Singh Bedi (India)	67	266	7/98	28.71	2.14	80.3	14	1

## 'Want to play cricket with a smile on face'

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**Chennai:** Ravichandran Ashwin may be at the end of his glorious Test career but the veteran allrounder is still operating at the top of his game.

The 38-year-old has become a bigger force than the one he was a few years ago, not only with his off-spinning guile but his much-improved batsmanship. His fighting yet aggressive ton in the first innings of the opening Test against Bangladesh was further proof that Ashwin is among the top echelon of players in the longest format. So how does he continue to remain at the elite level and excel on the international stage? Ashwin came up with a crisp response.

"I used to be critical (about myself). I had put a lot of pressure on myself and people had put pressure on me. I used to be happy about it. But it is not like that anymore," said Ashwin, whose 113 placed India on top and delighted the home crowd.

"The most important thing for me is to enjoy my cricket. I want to play cricket with a smile on my face. Four or five years ago, I had promised myself that I will not respond to anyone. I had promised myself that I will play for my happiness. I have been maintaining that promise till now," added Ashwin, one of the driving forces behind India's near-invincible home record in Tests over the last 10 years or so.

Ashwin has "embraced" the tough challenges that have come his way. When he walked out to bat on the opening day, India were in the doldrums against a Bangladeshi side brimming with confidence. He took



the task head-on and ensured the visitors had no avenue to mount more pressure. "As a cricketer, the pride is in the performance. You want to win and you play the game for that. I do enjoy pressure, there is no doubt about it," said Ashwin.

"That is one of the reasons I love playing this sport. It gives you opportunities to respond when you are pushed to a corner. For me, it is about being in the present and using the experience from the past to negotiate hard situations."

Ashwin, a keen learner, is constantly striving for "progress" and pursuing excellence even though age is not on his side. He is doing all of it for the sake of "happiness". "You want to be good and you want to excel. You feel happy at the end of the day (when you perform). Every time I do well, I am in a good, happy state of mind. That is why you get on this journey. You want to excel on the global stage. People are watching you and you feel happy about it."

## Easwaran scores ton, Surya disappoints

**Anantapur:** Sanju Samson completed his 11th first-class hundred before Arshdeep Singh showed his wares with the semi-new ball as India D held sway over India B on the second day India D scored 349 in 87.3 overs in their first innings while India B were not very comfortably placed at 210/6 when stumps were drawn despite skipper Abhimanyu Easwaran's (116) second hundred of the tournament.

The hundred happens to be Easwaran's 25th in first-class cricket. Suryakumar Yadav, the India T20 captain, who missed the first couple of rounds due to finger injury, didn't last long, managing only five before he was dismissed by the opposition team's best bowler Arshdeep (3/30 in 12 overs).

Samson, who smashed his way to an unbeaten 89 on the opening day, knocked off the required 11 runs as his 106 off 101 deliveries comprised 12 boundaries and three huge sixes.

**Brief Scores:** India D 349 in 87.3 overs (Sanju Samson 106, Navdeep Saini 5/74) vs India B 210/6 in 56 overs (Abhimanyu Easwaran 116, Washington



**TOP SHOT:** India A skipper Abhimanyu Easwaran scored his second hundred of the tournament

Sundar 39 batting, Arshdeep Singh 3/30).

### Avesh, Aaqib give India A upper hand

Pacer Avesh Khan sparked with a gritty unbeaten half-century before taking the prized scalp of Ishan Kishan as India A mounted a strong challenge against India C on Day Two of the Duleep Trophy final-round match here on Friday.

The 27-year-old Avesh hammered five fours and four sixes in an unbeaten 68-ball 51 while batting at No. 9, propelling India A to 297.

In response, India C faced a top-order collapse as youngster Aaqib Khan (3/43) tore through their lineup. Aaqib, the 20-year-old pacer from Uttar Pradesh, was particularly impressive as he dismissed Ruturaj Gaikwad and Rajat Patidar off successive deliveries.

At stumps, India C were 216/7, trailing by 81 runs and struggling to take a first-innings lead. Only Abishek Porel, with a gritty 82, impressed. India C currently lead the points table with 9 points, followed by India B (7) and India A (6), with the top team after this round set to claim the Duleep Trophy title.

Meanwhile, Shashwat Rawat's resolute knock came to an end for 124 (250 balls). A crucial 42-run partnership between Avesh and Prasad Krishna (34 off 39) then took India A forward as the tailenders kept adding vital runs. Avesh then went on to complete his second first-class half-century, boosting the team's total. India C crumbled under the fiery pace of Aaqib, who rattled the top order with crucial wickets.

**Brief Scores:** India C 216/7 (Porel 82; Aaqib 3-43, Shams Mulani 2-30) trail India A 297 (Rawat 124, Avesh 51\*, Vyshak 4-51) by 81 runs.

## Chahal shines with successive five-wkt haul for Northants in County Championship

**Northampton:** Indian leg-spinner Yuzvendra Chahal worked his magic to grab five wickets in his second successive match as Northamptonshire resisted a Leicestershire fight-back to secure a nine-wicket win in the English County Championship.

Following up on his 4/82 in the first innings, Chahal claimed 5/134—a nine-wicket match haul—as Northants bowled out Leicestershire for 316 to set an easy target of 137 in the Division Two County Championship here on Thursday. Northants romped home in 30.3 overs, losing just the wicket of Gus Miller (11).

Skipper Luke Procter (68 not out) and George Bartlett (54 not out) sealed the chase.

## Lanka seize control against NZ

**Galle:** Dinesh Chandimal and Dimuth Karunaratne forged a 147-run partnership to propel hosts Sri Lanka to a lead of 202 on Day Three of the first Test against New Zealand on Friday.

Sri Lanka were 237-4 at stumps here on Friday with Angelo Mathews and Dhananjaya de Silva, both batting on 34, to resume in the morning.

Karunaratne (83) was on song, punishing loose deliveries and forcing New Zealand to spread the field to protect the boundaries. Chandimal (61) was more conservative.

"When you play in Galle there is a way I play, and I back that style," Karunaratne said. "Rather than trying to defend, the best way forward is sweeps and reverse sweeps. In the fourth in-



nings, 300 or 350 is a tough target. That's what we want to get to feel safe."

Ajaz Patel broke the deadlock after tea with a ball that spun sharply from outside the rough, catching off-guard the left-handed Karunaratne when the ball snuck

## HEAD'S CAREER-BEST 154 FASHIONS AUSTRALIA'S CHASE OF 316 VS ENG



**TAKE THAT:** Opener Travis Head notched up his sixth ODI hundred on Thursday

**Nottingham:** Travis Head was at his belligerent best in smashing a career-best 154 not out to underpin Australia's chase of 316 to win the first One-Day International against England on Thursday and gain a 13th straight victory in the 50-over format.

It was the left-handed opener's sixth ODI century—and his first since a similarly brutal knock of 137 in Australia's victory over India in the World Cup final 10 months ago.

The tourists needed a big innings from someone after Ben Duckett hit 95 in England's 315 all out at Trent Bridge, a ground known for being a batter's paradise with short boundaries.

England would have hoped for more after being 211-2 after 32 overs, only for Australia's spinners—including part-time slow bowler Marnus Labuschagne (3-39)—to slow down the run rate and take nine wickets in total, many at crucial times. England's final seven wickets fell for 83 runs, with Head even getting involved with two of the wickets.

Head then let rip with the bat, hitting 20 fours and five sixes as Australia stroled to 317-3 and a seven-wicket victory with six overs remaining.

**Brief Scores:** England 315 (Duckett 95, Labuschagne 3-39, Zampa 3-49) lost to Australia 317/3 (Head 154\*, Labuschagne 77\*) by 7 wickets.

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Trump ratchets up campaign against recent immigrants, says Democrats enlisting them to vote in upcoming prez polls, P 17

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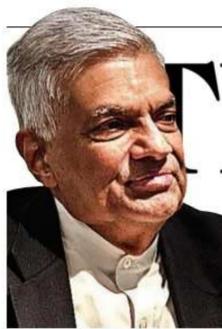


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# THE TIMES

INCLUSIVE OF CALCUTTA TIMES

**BRI NOT A THREAT TO INDIA AS FAR AS WHAT WE'RE DOING, SAYS LANKA INTERIM PREZ RANIL WICKREMESINGHE AHEAD OF VOTE TODAY 17**

## TMC's Anubrata gets bail, to walk out of jail after 2 years

Was Arrested In 2022 By CBI, ED In Cattle Scam

TNN &amp; AGENCIES

New Delhi: Trinamool Congress's Birbhum district president Anubrata Mondal was on Friday granted bail by Rouse Avenue Court in Delhi, two years and two months after he was arrested by Enforcement Directorate in a multi-crore cattle-

**► Birbhum TMC 'eagerly awaits' homecoming, P 14**

smuggling case. On July 30, Supreme Court court had granted him bail in a case filed by CBI implicating him in the same case, saying "trial is unlikely to commence soon."

Mondal was arrested by the two central agencies in July 2022. Friday's bail in the ED case means he will now walk out of Tihar jail, where

### NEVER REMOVED AS BIRBHUM CHIEF

► Anubrata Mondal, 64, is TMC's Birbhum district president. He was not removed from the post even after his arrest

► He was arrested by CBI on July 11, 2022 and by ED on July 17, in connection with the cattle-smuggling scam

► He was granted bail in CBI case on July 30 this year, and on Friday in the ED case

► His political journey started in the early nineties, when he joined Youth Congress. In 1998, he walked out of Congress under the leadership of Mamata Banerjee



Anubrata Mondal during a court production in 2022

► In 2000, he was appointed TMC's Birbhum district president. He quickly became a trusted Trinamool lieutenant and helped the party consolidate its position in Birbhum

he has been incarcerated since March 2023 — he was in Bengal jails before his case was transferred to Delhi. He has been asked to furnish a Rs 10-lakh bail bond and is likely to be released on Mon-

day, sources said.

The Trinamool neta's bail comes 10 days after Delhi High Court on Sept 10 granted bail to his daughter, Sukanya, who was arrested by ED for allegedly laundering the

proceeds of the cross-border India-Bangladesh cattle smuggling racket. She was also lodged in Tihar jail. In her case, too, Delhi HC granted bail saying trial could take a long time.

Mondal's bail plea stated that he continued to be in jail for over two years and there was no likelihood of the trial even starting in the near future. "The prosecuting agency has been delaying the trial by not providing the accused persons with the complete set of documents along with the chargesheet, which is making it impossible for the counsel for the accused persons to prepare and argue on the point of charge," it said.

His counsels, Mustafa and Ahmad Ibrahim, said even if arguments were heard and charges framed, it would take a very long time to complete trial as 85 witnesses were mentioned in the prosecution complaints.

► 'Nerve disorder', P 14

## SC: Where and why are names collegium cleared for HCs stuck?

New Delhi: Reigniting its tussle with Centre for quick implementation of collegium resolutions on appointment of HC judges, Supreme Court on Friday asked Union govt to explain "why some of the names recommended were pending and at which level", reports Dhananjay Mahapatra.

Kapil Sibal, appearing for Jharkhand govt, which has filed a contempt petition for delay in implementing collegium recommendation for appointment of the last

“Collegium is not a search committee. It has a certain status in the constitutional fabric. AG, you tell us by next week the status of pending names recommended by collegium. Ultimately, the idea is not to unearth skeletons in the cupboard but to move forward, so that the business of governance proceeds”

—SC BENCH HEADED BY CJI

two chief justices for the state, alleged that Centre either "delayed or maintained a stoic silence" on appointment of judges.

Dealing with a PIL by Harsh Vibhor Singh seeking a timeline for govt to implement collegium recommendations, a bench led by CJI Chandrachud said, "Names for appointment as chief justices of various HCs are expected to be notified soon. Let us wait till next week."

► 'Not search panel', P 8

### WEATHER

Max 34.2°C (+1.4) Min 28.6°C (+2.3) Sunrise: Sunday 5.25am  
Sunset: Saturday 5.34pm  
Partly cloudy sky. Possibility of thundery development towards afternoon. Maximum and minimum temperature may be around 34°C & 28°C. Max humidity 93% min 71%. Rain: Nil

## 'Contemptuous': SC slams CBI for doubting courts in Bengal

AmitAnand.Choudhary @timesofindia.com

New Delhi: CBI's complaint that it was contending with hostility in Bengal courts drew a sharp reaction from Supreme Court, which pulled it up for casting aspersions on the judiciary by branding all state courts hostile.

The agency brought up alleged hostility against it to press for the transfer of trial in 42 cases related to post-assembly poll violence in 15 districts out of Bengal to another state. But a bench of justices Abhay S Oka and Pankaj Mishal took exception to CBI pointing a finger at the functioning of all courts in the state and said that it was contemptuous, for which action could be taken against the officer who filed the petition.

In its petition, the agency had taken the stand that the

### SC rejects ED plea to quiz Moly in Delhi

Supreme Court on Friday turned down ED's plea seeking to question state minister Moly Ghatak in the illegal coal-mining case in Delhi, not Kolkata. Delhi HC had earlier directed ED to question Ghatak at its Kolkata office after giving him 24-hour notice. The agency had moved SC challenging the order: P 8

accused in post-poll violence cases being investigated by the agency had been released without hearing it.

"What ground have you taken? You are bracketing all courts as hostile. Blanket averments have been made that bail is being granted without hearing you. This is casting aspersions that the entire judiciary is hostile," the bench

asked additional solicitor general S V Raju.

The ASG said it was not about hostility inside the court but outside and admitted that the petition was loosely drafted. He, however, insisted that transfer of trial outside Bengal was needed for free and fair proceedings, leading the bench to say that the agency had to first withdraw the blanket allegation.

"If we transfer matters then we are certifying that there is a hostile atmosphere over all the courts in the state and courts are not functioning. Your officers may not like the judicial officer or a particular state but don't say that the entire judiciary is not functioning.... It is a fit case for contempt. How can you cast aspersions on the judiciary," the bench said.

► Unfortunate: SC, P 8

## SC objects to K'taka HC judge calling B'luru locality 'Pakistan'

Dhananjay.Mahapatra @timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Supreme Court on Friday took a dim view of Karnataka High Court judge V Srishananda's purported gratuitous reference to a Muslim-majority Bengaluru locality as Pakistan, and said it would consider laying down guidelines to keep judges from getting carried away during judicial proceedings and ending up being the butt of ridicule on social media.

CJI D Y Chandrachud took suo motu cognizance of Justice Srishananda's reference to a Bengaluru locality in the course of observations on traffic rule violation, which trended on social media along with his misogynistic comment aimed at a woman lawyer. The CJI constituted a bench of five judges —

### IN THE COURTS

► Karnataka High Court's Dharwad bench advises couple seeking divorce to approach a seer for mediation. Judge compares the swamiji to Vivekananda | P 14

► SC directs CBI to probe false case registered against Ajay Katara, star witness in Nitish Katara murder case. Man named as petitioner says he had nothing to do with it | P 14

► After Telangana CM Revanth Reddy apologises for remarks on K Kavitha getting bail, SC drops proceedings against him | P 16

► SC's YouTube channel paused after it is hacked, shows videos promoting cryptocurrency | P 14

► Prompt action needed, Old Rajender Nagar coaching tragedy should not be repeated, SC tells Centre

justices Sanjiv Khanna, B R Gavai, Surya Kant and Hrishikesh Roy besides him — to record SC's displeasure over judges going overboard. The bench asked the HC registrar general to consult the chief justice and file a report.

Justice Srishananda was appointed an additional judge of the HC on May 4, 2020, and

made permanent on Sept 25, 2021. The bench said with an increasing number of people watching live telecast of proceedings, the resultant intense scrutiny required judges to exercise restraint during proceedings to avoid gratuitous or impertinent remarks.

► SOP for proceedings, P 16

## Post 'worst 1st class' flight from US, AI refunds flyer

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Air India has issued a refund to a passenger who had the "worst first class" experience on a Chicago-Delhi flight that cost him \$6,300 (Rs 5.3 lakh) for a one-way ride.

The seats and carpet were extremely dirty and had stains; its in-flight entertainment (IFE) didn't work during the 15-hour flight; "30%" of the food options on the menu weren't available, according to Anip Patel. Founder of a Chicago-based VC firm CaPatel Investments, Patel shot a video of his harrowing experience and posted it on Instagram. The video went viral, garnering thousands of views. Complaints have been mo-

### AIRING GRIEVANCE

► 'AI first class was in poor condition—unclean, with leftover food and trash still in cabin and everything looked worn out or broken. (Meal service) was first come first served for 4 passengers'

► 'I did not file any complaint with AI but they saw this video. They called me & refunded my entire flight'

—Anip Patel, Chicago-Delhi flyer

unting, especially for flyers on AI's old wide-body aircraft that are still some years from a desperately needed rejig. A reply was awaited from AI till the time of going to press.

► 'Trash in cabin', P 15

## Kerala-born Norwegian linked to pager blasts?

Rinson Jose, 37, from Kerala's Wayanad who briefly trained for the clergy before migrating to Norway has emerged as an alleged link in the pager blasts that killed 12 in Lebanon. Norta Global Ltd, a 'tech firm' based in Sofia, Bulgaria, allegedly owned by Jose, is being probed by international security agencies following reports linking it to the sale of the pagers. Central intelligence agencies and Kerala police special branch collected details on Friday about Rinson from his native village, Ondayangadi. Wayanad district police chief Tappos Basumathary said police had done a normal background check. P 7

### Israeli airstrike kills 12 in Beirut

Israel said it killed a senior Hezbollah commander in Beirut while Lebanese authorities reported at least 12 people dead and dozens wounded. Hours earlier, Hezbollah pounded north Israel with 140 rockets. P 17

### Stuck in Lebanon for 23 yrs, Indian returns

A man from Punjab returned from Lebanon after 23 years because he lost his passport there in 2006. RS MP Baba Balbir Singh Seechewal took up his case with the MEA. P 8

# Women turnout exceeds that of men in 6 J&K seats in Ph-1

Inderwal Constituency In Jammu Region Records Highest Polling At 82.2%

Bharti Jain  
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**New Delhi:** Women voters' turnout exceeded that of men in six of the 24 Jammu & Kashmir constituencies that went to polls on Wednesday, with Jammu division leading the way with five of its eight constituencies having witnessed higher participation by female electors.

Only one of Kashmir's 16 assembly constituencies covered in Phase 1 — Kokernag (ST)—witnessed higher polling by its women voters as compared to male voters.

Overall, J&K clocked nearly 61.4% polling in the first phase, as per the final EVM turnout figures released by the Election Commission on Friday. This is



higher than 60% turnout recorded in the corresponding districts in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls and the 50.3% polling in 2014 state polls.

At 63.7%, male vote turnout in Phase 1 of J&K poll was almost 5.2 percentage points higher than women's polling percentage (58.9%). The polling percentage for third gender voters was 40%. Interestingly, the overall polling percentage among women in 2014 J&K assembly poll (66.3%) was higher than that of male voters (64.9%) by 1.4 percentage points. The trend was however reversed in the Lok Sabha polls this year, with 60.7% male voter turnout across J&K as compared to 56.4% women's turnout. As per assembly constitu-



MAKING A MARK

## High voting signifies a new chapter: BJP neta

Akhilesh Singh  
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**New Delhi:** BJP on Friday celebrated the jump in poll percentage in the first phase of assembly polls in J&K with party members terming it as evidence of democracy being mainstreamed in the state once notorious for abysmally poor turnouts and boycott calls.

"It is heartening to see the transformation in the region, where fear has been replaced by hope. The people are embracing democracy with open arms," said Union minister and an MP from Udhampur Jitendra Singh, highlighting the active participation of citizens in the poll process.

The first phase of polling, J&K witnessed an impressive voter turnout of 61.1% in the first phase and is expected to amplify the perception of a turnaround in the UT after the nullification of special status of J&K.

"These remarkable turnouts surpass previous records and signify a new chapter in the region's democratic history," wrote Singh. "PM Modi has inspired a resurgence of democratic aspiration, which has gone dormant. What we witnessed today is the true mainstreaming of democracy in J&K," added Singh.

last Wednesday, witnessed noteworthy enthusiasm. Kishtwar, Doda, Ramban, and Kulgam, have seen a voter turnout of over 80%, 71%, 70%, and 62% respectively.

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mu region recorded the highest polling at 82.2%, followed by Kishtwar AC (78.2%) and

Doda West AC (76%).

Among the 16 constituencies of Kashmir Valley that voted on Wednesday, Pahalgam recorded the highest turnout at 71.3%, followed by DH Pora (68.9%) and Kulgam (63.4%). Only five of these 16 Kashmir ACs witnessed higher than overall turnout for Phase 1. Among the assembly constituencies (ACs) that witnessed lower than average polling in Phase 1 were Pampore (45%), Tral (43.6%) and Anantnag (45.6%), though these figures were still higher when compared to 2024 Lok Sabha elections and, barring Pampore, to the 2014 assembly election.

In constituencies like Pampore, Tral and Zainapora, the difference between women turnout and male turnout was over 11 percentage points. Only 39.5% of Pampore's female electors voted as compared to 50.7% men. Similarly, in Tral, women turnout was 37.9% against 49.3% male turnout.

The picture in Jammu region was quite different. All its eight constituencies witnessed higher polling than in 2024 Lok Sabha elections. But the voting percentage in two of its three districts that went to polls in Phase 1 — namely, Doda and Ramban — was lower than in 2014 LS polls. Women turnouts in ACs across Jammu not only showed a marked improvement over those recorded in the Valley, but surpassed male voter turnouts in five ACs — Inderwal, Kishtwar, Bhadarwah, Doda and Doda West. Even in Padder-Nagseni, Ramban and Banihal, the difference between women and men's turnout was only marginal.

## Strong emotions over Art 370 unite youths in Valley

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**Ganderbal (Kashmir):** His flowing beard evokes a picture of piety and his humble tone of a decent young man. His cakes and pastries suggest a passion to bake. But his lament runs a dagger deep through the heart.

Aamir Nazir (29) is an engineer from Kashmir University, a 2020 graduate, who is making a living by selling tea and snacks on a highway passing through the 'Ganderbal garage' area. He banks on good local traffic and booming tourism to Sonmarg. "I am still doing something. I was an average student. But even the toppers of my batch are without jobs," he said. And to underline, Aamir is vocal about Article 370.

Special status for J&K, under whose shadow is unfolding the 2024 assembly election, evokes strong emotions. But for youngsters like Aamir, the junked provision is as utilitarian as a livelihood question. "Article 370 reserved jobs and land for us. It's important for my genera-

tion," he reasoned.

Throughout the region, the anger over nullification of Article 370 has triggered the people to rush to voting booths in hordes. But it is also a sentiment that connects with the cry for jobs and incomes echoing from Anantnag to Srinagar to Ganderbal.

Aamir claims he cannot compete with engineering graduates from Delhi and that posts advertised in J&K are attracting those settling in Jammu. He insists it's true.

The fate of Article 370 has appeared sealed over the last five years. But along the highways and in cities and towns of Kashmir, there is no dearth of those who claim that "protection of jobs and land exist in many states like Himachal Pradesh and Jharkhand".

There are sharp concerns about the cultural dimensions of existence sans the special status but people are also eagerly hoping that a new govt will help the youth stand on their feet.

Amid discussions over the fate of National Conference vice president Omar Abdullah, Mohd Sultan, who heads



Supporters cheer during PM Modi's roadshow in Katra last week

a 'transport union' in Ganderbal, said, "The job scene is bad. Educated are without work. And, prices are high. Life is very difficult."

Desperate for an elected govt for the last six years and facing routine difficulties, people in villages and towns alike are waiting for the installation of local MLAs whom they can approach with their problems. It will be interesting to see what MLAs, ministers and govt would face post October 8, given the mounting grievances over jobs, electricity, roads, jailed youth, schools etc.

"We want our govt and MLAs. That is the reason why voting will be high," said Sultan, seconded by Abdul Qadar and Mohd Yaseen. It is a view

expressed by Mohd Saleem in Bijbehara and Tahir in Srinagar. High voting in Kashmir has a reason, and it is the desperation for an open door of an elected representative where residents can go and plead with hope, and leave with optimism, true or misplaced. Aamir said he appeared for panchayat assistant exam that was clouded by paper leak allegations and for engineer's post by the Service Selection Board in 2023 which he did not pass.

"I worked as a delivery boy for one and a half years and saved Rs 60,000 to start this shop," Aamir said, carrying a tray of fresh pastries.

Call it the swelling pride of a trier, or wrenching regret of a failure.

## HC: Trial courts often convict innocents to avoid action

**Prayagraj:** Allahabad high court has observed that trial court judges often convict accused individuals who should be acquitted, solely to avoid facing action from the high court in criminal appeals, reports Rajesh Kumar Pandey.

While making this observation on Sept 12, a division bench comprising Justices Siddharth and SQH Rizvi noted that the show-cause notice issued in 2010 by a single judge bench of the high court to the then district judge of Aligarh for acquitting an accused in a dowry death case was not correct.

"The single judge of this HC not only issued notice to the sessions judge but directed the matter to be placed before the chief justice for perusal without waiting for reply of district and sessions judge and deciding whether reply was satisfactory or not," the bench observed. "Such conduct of the high courts is responsible for the fear on the part of judicial officers in trial courts," the bench added.

## Man killed on Kanpur road as sis stays firm on testifying against goon

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Kanpur:** A 30-year-old man whose sister was a witness in a case against a notorious history-sheeter who is out on bail was beaten to death in a busy street in Shastri Chowk area of Kanpur on Friday.

The brutal attack on the victim, a drummer, was carried out by a group of men, allegedly at the behest of the history-sheeter who had been pressuring the deceased's sister to refrain from testifying in the case against him, said police sources. According to the deceased's sister, the accused was released on bail 15 days back. A purported video of the attack has gone viral on social media.

According to sources, the attack took place while the victim, along with his sister, was returning home after lodging a complaint against the criminal. The siblings had approached

**Sources said the history-sheeter, who recently walked out on bail, had been pressuring the deceased's sister to drop her complaint against him**

the police to file a complaint after receiving threats from the assailants.

The deceased succumbed to injuries during medical treatment. Police have sent the body for an post-mortem examination and are awaiting a formal complaint to proceed with the investigation.

DCP Ankita Sharma said, "We are currently awaiting a formal complaint from the victim's family to initiate further legal action against the perpetrators."

A substantial police force has been deployed in the area to maintain law and order, the DCP said.

## At convocation, 5 TISS students protest scholar's suspension

**Mumbai:** Five students from Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) marked their dissent over the suspension of Dalit research scholar Ramadas K S and the lack of job security for over 100 teaching and non-teaching staffers during the institute's 84th convocation ceremony held on Friday, reports Yogita Rao. These students went on the dais, collected their certificates, and held placards saying, 'Revoke suspension of Ramadas' and 'Ensure job security for teachers and staff'.

While the students claimed that their protest was peaceful, Arghya Das, former president of Progressive Students' Forum, was forcibly taken off the stage by the institute's security personnel and his degree certificate was taken away, alleged the students in a statement. This incident happened around 7pm. All five students were master's students from different schools and centres at the institute. Das, whose certificate was taken away, was from women's studies.