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3.5 Lakh Homes get Solar System under PM Surya Ghar - Muft Bijli Yojana

100 Days of Modi 3.0

Paving the Path to Viksit Bharat

WEATHER

Generally cloudy sky. Possibility of rain/thunderstorm towards afternoon/evening. Maximum and Minimum Temperature most likely to be around 34°C and 29°C respectively.

RAINFALL: 0.0 mm
RELATIVE HUMIDITY
Max. 91% Min. 57%
TEMPERATURE
Max: 34.8°C (+2.0) Min: 30.6°C (+4.6)
SUN RISES 05:26 hrs **SUN SETS** 17:32 hrs
MOON RISES 21:37 hrs **MOON SETS** 10:49 hrs

New Moon on 03 October

THUMBNAILED



Workers prepare Kalawa threads (a traditional sacred orange-yellow thread) ahead of the Navaratri festival, at Lal Gopalganj Village in Prayagraj on Sunday. *ANI*

Badlapur minor girls' rape case accused injured in 'police encounter': In a shocking development, Akshay Shinde - the prime accused in the sensational Badlapur rape case of two nursery school girls in August - who allegedly grabbed a policeman's gun, was allegedly shot at in return fire and injured seriously, here on Monday evening. Another policeman is reported to be injured in the sudden firing, and both have been admitted to a hospital in Kalwa town for treatment. The incident - suspected to be an 'encounter' by the police in self-defence - occurred when Shinde was being shifted by a police escort from Talaja Jail to Badlapur town for investigation in another case in which he is an accused.

Flood meeting: CM takes on Centre, Bihar; blames DVC

CM stressed immediate inland measures to combat difficulties faced by people in post-flood situations

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
BURDWAN, 23 SEPTEMBER

Chief minister Mamata Banerjee today sharpened her attack against the Centre and DVC for causing delays in flood control projects and stressed immediate inland measures to combat difficulties faced by people in post-flood situations.

On the Ghatat Master Plan for flood ravaged West Midnapore, Banerjee said, "Centre caused unnecessary delays in execution and after much waiting, we've taken the matter in our own hands seriously. The work for preparing the DPR (detailed project report) is in progress. It'll take another three years to see completion. We've already spent Rs 400 crore on this. Due to this monsoon, work is suspended temporarily to prevent wastage of money." The Ghatat Master Plan further took the centre stage during recent floods when Tamluk MP, Abhijit Ganguly mocked this afternoon prior to her visit to the flood-hit areas in Barjora, Bankura. Chief secretary Manoj Pant, principal secretaries of 13 departments, four state ministers, Arup Biswas, Pradip Majumdar, Siddiquallah Chowdhury and Swapan Debnath joined the meeting.

The BDOs also were connected virtually and were ordered to procure microphones for urgent communication. She admonished one district official for his lackadaisical approach in addressing



of the proposed second bridge on the Damodar in Burdwan had not begun.

She also ridiculed the Centre for erecting towering buildings, statues here and there, saying, "You spend huge on such buildings, statues. Give us just one-fourth of that sum to help revamping our flood-hit areas."

The chief minister today held a high-level flood review meeting in Burdwan District Collectorate this afternoon prior to her visit to the flood-hit areas in Barjora, Bankura. Chief secretary Manoj Pant, principal secretaries of 13 departments, four state ministers, Arup Biswas, Pradip Majumdar, Siddiquallah Chowdhury and Swapan Debnath joined the meeting.

The BDOs also were connected virtually and were ordered to procure microphones for urgent communication. She admonished one district official for his lackadaisical approach in addressing

the difficulties faced by the people in this critical time. She said: "I warn you, give up your practice of spending more time with family, otherwise you may face harsh action." She instructed the government officials to visit the grassroots, saying, "Go down and meet people and find out their problems."

The CM, after the meeting, blamed DVC (Damodar Valley Corporation) further for its continued discharge. At Manachar in Barjora, Bankura, she inspected the Damodar river and expressed her disgust over the unabated release, saying, "You can see, they haven't stopped as yet. We've already cut off all relations with DVC and two of our senior executives have already stepped down from their board." She added: "They actually want to liquidate DVC through privatization." The DVC meanwhile maintained a combined discharge of 39,000 Cusecs combined release

from its Maithon and Panchet upper dams till this evening, the catchment there though recorded zero precipitation since five days. The CM alleged: "They release entire water to Bengal purposely to protect Jharkhand. So does the Farakka Barrage causing inundation in Malda, Murshidabad. Bihar also directs flows of trapped water to those districts, unfortunately."

The chief minister asked the district level officials to expedite post-flood restoration and stabilization works, besides, accelerating delivery of relief to the flood-hit areas. She suggested: "Talk to the rice millers and extend support to the farmers buying the entire remaining paddy. Also, I assure that the farmers who lost their yield in the flood would be compensated through crop insurance for which the state itself bears the premium." She directed the MLAs and MPs to use their funds for restoration of damaged roads in their constituencies. The panchayat minister, Pradip Majumdar was told to kick off a survey of partly and fully damaged houses and by December, funds for 11 lakh houses should be released in two phases.

She also prescribed the principal secretary, health, Narayan Swarup Nigam to ensure ample supply of anti-snake venom (AVS), diarrhea, antibiotics in the hospitals especially in the flood-hit districts. The chief minister asked the farmers to look for alternative crops after water recedes.

Committed to make India 3rd-largest global economy: PM



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 23 SEPTEMBER

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has expressed his government's resolve to make India the third-largest economy in the world during his third term.

Expressing his government's commitment to making India a global semiconductor manufacturing hub, he highlighted the economic transformation happening in India, particularly in electronics and information technology manufacturing, semiconductors, biotech and green development. The PM was interacting with technology industry leaders in New York in a Roundtable anchored by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), School of Engineering. The tech-roundtable focused on Artificial Intelligence and Quantum; Biotechnology and Life Sciences; Computing, IT and Communication; and Semiconductor technologies.

The CEOs participated in a deep dive with the PM on the evolving technology landscape at a global level and how these cutting-edge technologies are contributing to

the well-being of people around the world including in India. They touched upon how technology is being leveraged for innovations, which have the potential to revolutionize the global economy and human development. Mr Modi appreciated the efforts of the MIT School of Engineering and its Dean for bringing the technology leaders together. He noted that technology collaboration and efforts such as the Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technologies (ICET) lie at the core of the India-US Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership.

He stressed that in his third term, India will make every effort to become the third-largest economy in the world. He encouraged the companies to take advantage of India's growth story for collaboration and innovation. They can co-develop, co-design, and co-produce in India for the world, harnessing the opportunities from India's economic and technological growth. He assured the business leaders of India's deep commitment to the protection of intellectual property and to fostering tech-innovation, he said. The PM also dwelt on India's BIO E3 policy to develop India into a biotech powerhouse. On AI, he noted that India's policy is to promote AI for All, underpinned by its ethical and responsible use.

Odisha CM Majhi orders time-bound judicial probe into custodial abuse case

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
BHUBANESWAR, 23 SEPTEMBER



Amid growing national outrage over the alleged custodial harassment of an army officer and his fiancée on 15 September, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi and his cabinet colleagues met the victims and assured them that justice will be served.

In a series of swift developments, the Chief Minister, Deputy CM K.V. Singh Deo, Revenue Minister Suresh Pujari, Law Minister Prithviraj Harichandan, senior bureaucrats, DGP Y.B. Khurania, and Advocate General Pitambar Acharya met late on Sunday night. They announced a judicial probe by retired High Court judge C.R. Das. The commission has been directed to submit its report within 60 days. The

government also requested the High Court to oversee the ongoing Crime Branch investigation into the case.

However, the High Court declined the request today, stating that investigative agencies have statutory powers in cognizable offenses and court should not face interference unless under exceptional circumstances. Hearing a public

interest litigation (PIL) related to the incident, the court also instructed the media not to reveal the names of the army officer and his fiancée and called for a status report on CCTV installations at all police stations in the state.

Having ordered a judicial inquiry, Chief Minister Majhi, on Monday met with the army officer, his fiancée, and her father at the state secretariat (Lok Seva Bhawan). During the meeting, Majhi assured them of an impartial investigation. "Mohan Majhi has proved that he is truly a people's CM," said the fiancée after the meeting. Her father expressed optimism, saying, "We are hopeful of getting justice with the government's judicial probe order. I have sought protection for my daughter, who runs a

restaurant, and the CM has assured us that police security will be provided."

He also requested action against those who circulated defamatory videos related to the incident on social media. "I thank CM Mohan Majhi for ordering a judicial inquiry. Justice will be done in a time-bound manner," he added.

Law Minister Prithviraj Harichandan reiterated the government's stance, emphasizing its zero-tolerance policy towards atrocities on women. He noted that the CM and his ministers were out of Bhubaneswar when the incident occurred and that upon their return, they immediately ordered the judicial inquiry. He criticized the Opposition for politicizing the sensitive issue.

Navy to launch expedition to circumnavigate globe

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 23 SEPTEMBER

The Indian Navy is all set to embark on the extraordinary mission of circumnavigating the globe with the second edition of Navika Sagar Parikrama expedition.

Indian Naval Sailing Vessel Tarini would sail on this challenging expedition with two women officers - Lt Cdr Dilna K and Lt Cdr Roopa A on 2 October. The historic voyage will be flagged off from Naval Ocean Sailing Node, INS Mandovi, Goa. Over a period of eight months, the duo will navigate over 21,600 nautical miles (about 40,000 km) without any external assistance, relying solely on wind power.

The circumnavigation highlights the exceptional

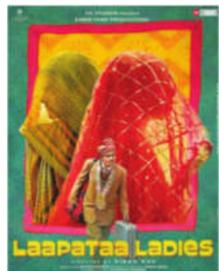
Indian Naval Sailing Vessel Tarini would sail on this challenging expedition with two women officers - Lt Cdr Dilna K and Lt Cdr Roopa A on 2 October.

valour, courage and perseverance of the officers, who will face rigours of high seas, extreme weather conditions, pushing the limits of human endurance. The route will take them through some of the most treacherous waters including the perilous passage around the three great Capes - Cape Leeuwin, Cape Horn and the Cape of Good Hope. The voyage is not just a testament to their personal bravery and skill, but also a celebration of the Indian Navy's

commitment to Nari Shakti showcasing their indomitable spirit and determination.

The expedition was conceived by the Indian Navy with the inaugural Navika Sagar Parikrama, the first ever Indian circumnavigation of the globe by an all women crew of six officers in 2017. However, the second edition of the expedition will be an exceptional one as they will become the first from India to accomplish such a feat in double handed mode. Earlier, Capt Dilip Dondre (Retd.) was the first Indian to circumnavigate the globe in 2009-10. Subsequently, Cdr Abhilash Tomy (Retd.) was the first Asian skipper to participate in two circumnavigations and accomplished the rare feat of completing the Golden Globe Race in 2022.

'Laapataa Ladies' is India's official entry for Oscars 2025



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 23 SEPTEMBER

Film producer and screenwriter's Kiran Rao's 'Laapataa Ladies', has been chosen as India's official entry for the Oscars 2025, the Film Federation of India (FFI), announced on Monday.

India has officially selected 'Laapataa Ladies' as its entry for the Best Foreign Film category at the 97th Academy Awards.

Produced by Aamir Khan in collaboration with Kiran Rao and Jyoti Deshpande, 'Laapataa Ladies' has garnered widespread acclaim since its release. The film was released in theaters on March 1 this year.

The film, which features a talented cast including Nitanishi Goel, Pratibha Ranta, Sparsh Shrivastava, and actor and politician Ravi Kishan, presents a comedic tale of two young brides who find themselves lost during a train journey, leading to a series of humorous misunderstandings.

The Film Federation of India (FFI), made the announcement recognising the film's unique storytelling and its appeal to both audiences and critics.

Storing, watching of child porn is an offence under POCSO Act: SC

PARMOD KUMAR
NEW DELHI, 23 SEPTEMBER

Suggesting the Parliament to "seriously consider" amending POCSO Act for substituting the word 'child pornography' with "child sexual exploitative and abuse material" (CSEAM) so that it could reflect more accurately on the reality of such offences, the Supreme Court on Monday ruled that watching and storage of child pornography material on the digital devices can be an offence under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 (POCSO Act) if the person concerned had the intention to make some gain or advantage from the same.

Urging the parliament to "seriously consider" amending the POCSO Act, a bench of Chief Justice D.Y. Chandrachud and Justice J.B. Pardiwala, in

a judgment today, said that in the meantime, the Central government may "consider to bring about the suggested amendment to the POCSO by way of an ordinance."

Having flagged the necessity and immediacy of amending the POCSO Act and bringing an ordinance in the meantime, the top court today forbade all the courts across the country from using the term "child pornography" and instead, use "child sexual exploitative and abuse material" (CSEAM).

"We further forbid the courts from using the term 'child pornography' and instead the term 'child sexual exploitative and abuse material' (CSEAM) should be used in judicial orders and judgements of all courts across the country", the judgment said in a direction having far-reaching effect. "We put the courts to notice



that the term "child pornography" shall not be used in any judicial order or judgment, and instead the term "child sexual exploitative and abuse material" (CSEAM) should be endorsed", said one of the directions issued today. Speaking for the bench, Justice Pardiwala said, "One must also be mindful of the fact that the term "child

pornography" is a misnomer that fails to capture the full extent of the crime. It is important to recognize that each case of what is traditionally termed "child pornography" involves the actual abuse of a child." Further stating that the use of the term "child pornography" can "lead to a trivialization of the crime, as pornography

is often seen as a consensual act between adults", Justice Pardiwala, pronouncing the judgment, said "The term "child sexual exploitative and abuse material" (CSEAM) rightly places the emphasis on the exploitation and abuse of the child, highlighting the criminal nature of the act and the need for a serious and robust response."

In a series of suggestions to both the parliament and the Central government, the apex court, in its judgment today favoured imparting "comprehensive sex education programmes that include information about the legal and ethical ramifications of child pornography can help deter potential offenders" and suggested "constituting an Expert Committee tasked with devising a comprehensive programme or mechanism for health and

sex education, as well as raising awareness about the POCSO among children across the country from an early age, for ensuring a robust and well-informed approach to child protection, education, and sexual well-being."

It said that the schools can also play a crucial role in early identification and intervention. Implementing school-based programmes that educate students about healthy relationships, consent, and appropriate behaviour can help prevent problematic sexual behaviours (PSB). The top court judgment came on the petitions by NGOs Just Rights for Children Alliance and the Bachpan Bachao Andolan who had challenged the January 11, 2024, Madras High Court judgment holding that the mere possession or storage of any pornographic material is not an offence

under the POCSO. The High Court had further held that mere watching or downloading of child pornography in private domain is not punishable under the same. The Just Rights for Children Alliance - a coalition comprising five different NGOs - work in unison against child trafficking, sexual exploitation and other allied causes. The Bachpan Bachao Andolan is a child rights organization working towards protecting children from exploitation.

The bone of contention was the question whether, mere viewing, possessing or storing of any child pornographic material is punishable under the POCSO? The other issues were the scope of Section 15 of the POCSO Act, and the true scope of Section 67B of the Information Technology Act.

RG Kar suo moto case: Supreme Court lists hearing on 30 September

The matter was earlier listed on 27 September and a date led by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud changed the date to 30 September on request of West Bengal Government counsel

AGENCIES NEW DELHI, 23 SEPTEMBER

The Supreme Court on Monday listed for September 30 the hearing on a suo motu petition on the rape and murder of a doctor in the state-run RG Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata, West Bengal.

The matter was earlier listed on September 27 and a bench led by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud changed the date to September 30 on request of West Bengal Government counsel.

In the last hearing on September 17, Kapil Sibal, senior

counsel appearing on behalf of the State of West Bengal informed the court that an assurance to that effect was held out by the Chief Minister to the West Bengal Junior Doctors' Front that no adverse or punitive action shall be taken against the doctors who return to work.

On September 17, the top court has also said that it was distributed by reading the report given by the Central Bureau of Investigation in the RG Kar Medical College incident.

A benched by Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud and also comprising justice JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra



is hearing the matter and had said that they are also disturbed by what they have read in the status report.

Supreme Court was hearing suo motu petition on the

rape and murder of a doctor in state-run RG Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata, West Bengal.

The court has also said that they are concerned about

what CBI has flagged for them. The court remark came when a lawyer raised issues like discrepancies in the seizure list, among others.

The top court has said that it is not going to share any details, as any disclosure may jeopardise the probe being conducted by the CBI. The top court had denied stopping live streaming of the proceedings, saying that it is a matter of public interest.

Senior Advocate Kapil Sibal had raised concern about live streaming, saying that it is having huge implications and clarifying that he is not representing the

accused but representing the state of West Bengal.

He highlighted that as soon as the court makes any comments, their reputation is being damaged. He also said that he has a reputed career of 50 years in the profession. Sibal had also said lawyers in his chamber are getting threats on social media.

Sibal pointed out that women working in his chamber are getting threats and being told that acid will be thrown at them and raped, etc. The top court said that it would step in if there were any threats to lawyers and others.

Cattle smuggling case: Prime suspect Enamul Haque gets bail

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE BIRBHUM, 23 SEPTEMBER



Enamul Haque, the alleged kingpin of the cross-border cattle smuggling racket has secured bail from the Supreme Court in connection with the Enforcement Department (ED) case.

He has already secured bail in the CBI case in cross-border cattle smuggling case. On 19 February 2022, Enamul Haque was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate.

On 11 December 2020, Enamul Haque had surrendered before the Special CBI Court in Asansol and later was arrested by the CBI.

The ED has submitted three charge sheets in this case against 13 people, including Enamul Haque, BSF commandant Satish Kumar, Anubrata Mondal, his daughter Sukanya Mondal, TMC leader Binoy Mishra, his

brother Bikash Mishra etc. So far, Binoy Mishra, who has left the country and is absconding since then has not been arrested.

Anubrata Mondal has also secured bail already in the ED case.

After receiving bail in both the CBI and the ED cases, now Enamul Haque, who is lodged at Tihar jail is expected to be released soon.

Only the body guard of Anubrata Mondal, Sehgal Hussein is now lodged in Tihar Jail and is waiting to get bail.

HC directs Bengal govt to file an affidavit on CAG report on Durga Puja donations

AGENCIES KOLKATA, 23 SEPTEMBER

A division bench headed by Calcutta High Court Chief Justice T.S. Sivagnanam, on Monday, directed the West Bengal government to file an affidavit on the CAG report on its annual donation to different community Durga Puja committees.

The court was hearing a public interest litigation (PIL) on the annual puja donations, which this year has been Rs 85,000 to each puja committee. The Chief Justice during the hearing made an observation that the donation is negligible amount of the total expenditure by each puja committee at least in Kolkata. He also observed that the money could probably be utilized for the members of the clubs concerned.

According to him, he had moved around in different

pandals on the puja days during the last two years and it seemed to him that the amount of Rs 85,000 was a meagre percentage of the total expenditure.

The Chief Justice also observed that if the state government could spend Rs 85,000 as a donation to each puja committee, it could consider adequate spending for people suffering for different reasons. The state government should think about the interest of everyone, the Chief Justice observed.

The state government has faced criticisms on the issue since the time the Mamata Banerjee-led government introduced the system for annual donations to the local clubs. There had been questions behind the justification of such expenditure from the state exchequer, especially, when the state government employees are denied dearness

allowances at par with the Central government employees and the arrears accrued on it. This year, several puja committees announced their refusal to accept the state government donation as a token protest against the ghastly rape and murder of a junior doctor of state-run R.G. Kar Medical College & Hospital last month.

The Chief Minister has announced that the money allotted to clubs refusing the donation will be given to the new applicants.

The CAG does a review of the expenditure of the state government under various heads and also makes observations on such expenses. As per the Calcutta High Court order, the state government will have to file the affidavit on CAG's review and observation on the expenditure of the money paid as a donation by the state government.

TRA launches climate-smart tea seeds to combat rising temperatures

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE SILIGURI, 23 SEPTEMBER

As the tea industry in Bengal and Assam grapples with a production crisis due to climate change, the Tea Research Association (TRA) has introduced the first climate-smart tea seed stock, TSS-2, to combat the adverse effects of rising temperatures.

According to TRA officials, the new 'climate-smart' tea seed can withstand high temperatures while continuing to produce high-quality teas, providing much-needed resilience to the industry.

At the 60th Annual General Meeting (AGM) held recently in Kolkata, TRA chairperson Nayantara Palchoudhuri emphasised the organisation's dedication to advancing tea research and innovation.

"This past year has been challenging, with reduced funding and the impact of climate change, but we remain steadfast in our commitment



to the betterment of the global tea industry," Palchoudhuri stated.

In addition to launching TSS-2, TRA also released a special bulletin outlining measures for tea estates to adopt in response to adverse weather conditions. The bulletin noted that August 2024 experienced higher maximum temperatures and lower rainfall than the same period in 2023. Specifically, the first half of August 2024 recorded a maximum temperature of 32.45°C, which was 0.75°C higher than the previous year.

In the second half of August, the temperature surged by 3.56°C compared to 2023,

exacerbating the challenges for tea production.

"The high temperatures and reduced rainfall over the past 10-12 days have significantly impacted production, leading to leaf scorching. Both short-term and long-term measures have been recommended to mitigate these effects, with long-term solutions designed to address future droughts," the bulletin stated.

TRA, which operates from its 114-year-old Tocklai facility in Assam, the world's oldest and largest tea research institute, is also sharing its wealth of knowledge with the global tea community. At the AGM,

TRA launched the first integrated global tea learning platform, developed from over a century of expertise. The platform offers courses on various aspects of tea cultivation, accessible through video lectures and course materials from anywhere in the world, with certification from TRA.

Dr Dhriti Banerjee, Director of the Zoological Survey of India, served as the Chief Guest at the event, highlighting the importance of restoring biodiversity in India's tea gardens.

The Tocklai Experimental Station, established in 1911, plays a crucial role in research and development for the Indian tea industry, with a focus on enhancing productivity and quality.

TRA secretary Joydeep Phukan explained, "The online tea courses are intended to share Tocklai's knowledge with the Indian and global tea industries while generating

revenue."

A senior official noted that TRA's technology transfer to its member estates is facilitated through an advisory network, which spans 1,076 tea estates covering 341,049 hectares across regions such as South Bank, North Bank, Upper Assam, Cachar, Tripura, Dooars, Darjeeling, and Terai. TRA also operates a regional R&D Centre in Nagrakata, West Bengal.

In another key development at the AGM, TRA Director Dr. A. Babu announced the release of microbial formulations developed in collaboration with Varsha Biotech under the BIRAC project. These formulations, designed to reduce excessive pesticide use, were approved by the Central Insecticides Board in July 2024. This marks the first time such microbial formulations will be included in the Plant Protection Code (PPC), an essential milestone for the industry.

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL PWD TENDER NOTICE The Executive Engineer-II, Kolkata South Health Electrical Division, PWDt.e. invites e-NIT for "SIT of Air-Conditioning machine and allied Electrical Installation work at Faculty rooms of the Department of G and O of Chittaranjan Seva Sadan College of Obstetrics, Gynaecology and Child Health, Kolkata" vide Tender ID: 2024_WBPWD_754159.1. Last date of submission - 01/10/2024 upto 12:00 Noon. All documents can be seen / obtained from the websites: https://wbenders.gov.in / www.pwdwb.in and office Notice Board. Sd/- Executive Engineer-II, Kolkata South Health Electrical Division, PW.Dt.e. ICA-117482(2)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER Executive Engineer, PW.Dt.e., Kolkata North Health Division, online e-Tender are follow / follows. NIT No. ID & Last DE. WBPWD/EE/KHND/NT-426/24-25 Sl.1 & 2, 2024. WBPWD/754698.1 & 2, 30-09-2024 at 11:00 AM. Detail information will be obtained from the website: http://wbenders.gov.in Sd/- Executive Engineer, PW.Dt.e., Kolkata North Health Division, ICA-117463(2)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL Jhargram Electrical Division, PW.Dt.e. Notice Inviting Quotations Tender ID: 2024_WBPWD_754108.1. 2 0 2 4. W B P W D. 7 5 4 1 0 9. 1. WBPWD/EE/JED/ENIQ21/2024-25 & WBPWD/EE/JED/ENIQ22/2024-25. Bid submission Start Date: 24/09/2024. Bid submission Last Date: 01/10/2024. For details, visit concerned office or http://wbenders.gov.in Sd/- Executive Engineer, PW. Dte., Jhargram Electrical Division. ICA-117482(2)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL PWD TENDER NOTICE EE, PWD, Cob. 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THUMBNAILS



North Kolkata BJP members on mission to clean KP's DC north office in Kolkata. BISWAJIT GHOSHAL

Stress on normal veg supply, price check after floods: With widespread floods putting a question mark on adequate supply of vegetables and other food items and a scare of price rise, sources at Nabanna claimed that steps had been initiated to put the supply lines on track in order to arrest the price spiral of vegetables affecting the common people and also give relief to the farmers. DMs had been advised to further augment the bulk purchase directly from farmers through procurement centers for sale in Kolkata and districts at Sufal Bangla outlets. There are 626 Sufal Bangla outlets. SNS

CM Banerjee thanks US Prez Biden for proposed project in Kolkata

The United States has proposed to set up a global capability centre in the semiconductor sector

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE KOLKATA, 23 SEPTEMBER

Chief minister Mamata Banerjee has welcomed the historic announcement of international investment by the United States of America President Joe Biden in presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in America yesterday.

The United States has proposed to set up a global capability centre in the semiconductor sector by the Global Foundries as the anchor industry in West Bengal.

Miss Banerjee in social media wrote: "I am fortunate enough to share with you all the contribution of our West Bengal government in the historic international investment decision for Kolkata, as kindly announced by Hon'ble President of the USA with our Hon'ble PM Modi yesterday. The background story of our long and arduous exercise which lie behind the



great news about a major American investment in our state in the semiconductor sector is truly worth sharing."

Yesterday's declaration by the Hon'ble President and the Hon'ble PM regarding imminent setting up of a Global Capability Centre in semiconductor sector by Global Foundries as the anchor industry in West Bengal has a history of relentless promotion by the West Bengal Govt.

Since early last year, the

State IT Dept. and our PSU Webel approached leading semiconductor industries as many chip-designing & packaging Startups had relocated to various Webel IT Parks after the Covid pandemic.

Global Foundries, Synopsys, Micron and a few other leading international semiconductor companies held a number of technology-symposiums in West Bengal. They visited our units and offices to discuss emerging technologies & investment potential.



This year, the State Govt.-sponsored Global VLSI Conference 2024, held in Kolkata, witnessed participation of all leading giants from the Semiconductor industries.

Hence, continuous deliberations coupled with successful promotion of the State's capacity have thus led to Global Foundries' recent proposal to set up a Global Capability Centre in Kolkata.

I assure all support to the emerging investment in this frontier sector. Let West

Bengal be the true destination for knowledge-based Industries.

This year, the West Bengal government sponsored the Global VLSI conference 2024 in the city. It witnessed participation of all leading giants from the semiconductor industries. Hence, continuous deliberation coupled with successful promotion of the state's capacity have thus led to Global Foundries' recent proposal to set up a Global Capability Centre in Kolkata.

Abhishek showers gifts before Puja in Diamond Harbour

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE KOLKATA, 23 SEPTEMBER

Trinamul Congress national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee sent puja gifts to the people of Diamond Harbour, his Lok Sabha constituency.

Trinamul Congress workers have taken gifts and delivered them to every household.

Over the years, because of tireless work of Mr Banerjee, Diamond Harbour has come out as one of the finest Lok Sabha constituencies in the country.

The residents of the seven Assembly segments that fall under Diamond Harbour constituency received the puja gifts.

Mr Banerjee keeps a tab of his constituency and has created a band of dedicated workers, who give information to him. During Covid, he delivered food to the people.

The gifts were sent to people without political colour. Mr Banerjee's work round the year has earned popularity and in the 2024 Lok Sabha election he had won by more than 7 lakh votes.



Trinamul Congress in its X handle wrote: "Shri@ abhishekaitc's tokens of appreciation are being delivered door-to-door by our local leaders, spreading joy and festive cheer. Puja is a celebration for all, and this thoughtful gesture ensures that everyone shares the happiness."

Mr Banerjee has said over and over again about the Diamond Harbour model. By model, he means round the year support for the people of his constituency. In times of need, Trinamul workers are there beside the people of the area.

Sukanta Majumdar terms flood situation in state alarming

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE SILIGURI, 23, SEPTEMBER

Union minister of state for education, Dr Sukanta Majumdar, today accused chief minister Mamata Banerjee of attempting to turn West Bengal into a separate entity within India.

Speaking to reporters at New Jalpaiguri railway station, Dr Majumdar commented on the recent developments surrounding the Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC).

"Mamata Banerjee is trying to create a separate country out of West Bengal," Dr Majumdar claimed. "The DVC was established long before the Bharatiya Janata Party existed, and according to its guidelines and memorandum of understanding (MoU), there should be two representatives from West Bengal. However, the chief minister's political interference in removing two IAS



officers from the DVC is 'unconstitutional.' There is no precedent for such an act in the country," Dr Majumdar added.

He further alleged, "In fact, Mamata Banerjee is trying to turn West Bengal into another Bangladesh. But the BJP, its workers, and the 2.33 crore voters will never let this happen. West Bengal will remain a part of India."

Dr Majumdar, who also serves as the BJP's state president, expressed concerns over the flood situation in the state, describing it as "alarming."

He stated that his party has been actively distributing relief materials, including

10,000 tarpaulin sheets, to the affected areas. "Unfortunately, Mamata Banerjee is attempting to divert public attention from the 'Justice for R G Kar' movement by highlighting the flood situation in her own way," he said.

When questioned about the ongoing investigation into the R G Kar Medical College tragedy, Dr Majumdar expressed doubts about the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) probe.

"We are deeply concerned about the fate of the CBI investigation. Key documents and evidence have been deliberately destroyed. Even critical forensic samples, like semen, were not preserved properly. Without valid evidence, how can the investigation proceed effectively? Only god knows what really happened there," he lamented, adding, "We fear the true culprits may never be identified."

Dr Majumdar also criti-

cised certain doctors, particularly Dr Sushanta Roy, for their involvement in what he called the 'threat culture' prevalent in medical colleges across the state, including North Bengal Medical College and Hospital (NBMCH).

"Dr Sushanta Roy, a Trinamul loyalist, has tarnished the reputation of North Bengal and its pride, the NBMCH," he added. He did not hold back when speaking about Anubrata Mondal, a Trinamul leader currently embroiled in legal battles.

"He may have secured bail, but he hasn't been acquitted. If convicted of economic offences, he could face up to seven years in prison. It's no surprise that someone like Anubrata is still working with Mamata Banerjee, as many accused individuals continue to be associated with her," Dr Majumdar said.

Experts deliberate over state quitting DVC

KANCHAN SIDDIQUI DURGAPUR, 23 SEPTEMBER

Can the Bengal government absolutely dissociate itself from Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC) before any fresh amendment of the act that in 1948 had formulated the autonomous body's emergence mainly for flood control?

The Bengal chief minister's firm stance and charge of "man-made flood" against DVC prompted two senior state officials to quit the board, but a section of officials from both the autonomous body and the Bengal government has raised doubts.

The state depends heavily on DVC for irrigation and industrial power.

Annually, DVC supplies 10.7 lakh acre-feet irrigation water for 8.6 lakh acres of farmlands and power against 1744 MVA (mega volt ampere)

contract load. State irrigation department officials have expressed hope for an amicable settlement of the issue.

Sanjoy Majumdar, executive engineer of Damodar Headworks of the irrigation department said, "We've a DVC cell in our headquarters, who are handling such matters." "DVC was created through a Parliamentary Act in 1948 and Bengal can never end it's part without an amendment in DVC Act. It's an autonomous body, where Bengal, Jharkhand and the central government are integral parts," said Satyabrata Banerjee, just retired chief engineer of DVC. First, a DVC amendment Bill is to be placed and passed by both the Houses of the Parliament where both Bengal and Jharkhand need to give consent."

The Act was formulated for establishment and regu-

lation of a Corporation for development of Damodar Valley in Bengal and Jharkhand (then Bihar), where functions and powers of the Corporation were mentioned and in Part-III of the Act, the provisions for flood control, irrigation and water supply for industrial and domestic purposes and the rates of supply were specified. In part-V of the Act, provisions to resolve the disputes between the Corporation and the governments were also mentioned.

In part-IV of the Act, (finance, accounts & audit) says that Centre's expenditures for DVC establishment should be adjusted between the participating governments in accordance with the provisions of Sections 30 to 36 of the Act.

Also, it stated, the participating governments should share capital expenditures

for any project erection.

About flood control (point 36, part-IV), the Act stated: "The total amount of capital up to Rs 14 crore allocated to flood control shall be shared equally between Centre and West Bengal government and any amount in excess thereof shall be the liability of the West Bengal government."

"If the Bengal government really quits DVC and the Damodar Valley River Regulation Committee (DVRRC), it's going to be unpleasant for both Bengal and DVC. The separation would cost Bengal dear too as it would have to buy water for irrigation, industrial and domestic use, besides power purchase," said Shashi Rakesh, member secretary, DVRRC. The DVC's executive director (civil), Anjali Kumar Dubey only said, "It's never an welcome decision on our part."

UCO bank's Project Parivartan



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE KOLKATA, 23 SEPTEMBER

Ashwani Kumar, MD & CEO, UCO Bank launched "Project Parivartan", a major transformation initiative in the existing digital banking facilities offered by the Bank.

"We are witnessing an unprecedented shift in the financial services industry, Project Parivartan is our strategic response to these changing times. We are committed for positioning UCO Bank as a digital-first institution. "Project Parivartan" is not just about technology—it's about re-imagining the way we serve our customers and grow as an organization. This transformation will make UCO Bank more agile, customer-centric, and ready for the future," said Ashwani Kumar.

Key points of Project Parivartan include close collaboration with Fintechs and technology providers, customer engagement through personalization, analytics-driven campaigns, and the enhancement of digital journeys for both asset as well as liability products. The project underscores the Bank's commitment to embracing the future of Banking through cutting-edge digital solutions.

With the launch of Project Parivartan, Bank introduced several new end to end digital lending products.

Apart from above, In Bank's continuous endeavor to enhance customer experience Bank has also launched UPI Circle & UPI Lite Auto Top-Up in issuer mode along with several new enhancements to existing mobile banking & internet banking services.

With rising water levels in Ganga ER cancels 28 train

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE KOLKATA, 23 SEPTEMBER

With rising water levels in the River Ganges, the Eastern Railway has decided to cancel 28 train services tomorrow.

As the water level reached 25 mm above girder bottom surface of Bridge number 195, the ER has suspended train services in the up and down lines between Ratanpur and Bariyarpur in Jamalpur - Bhagalpur section.

According to the ER, the suspension of services in the stretch has been done for both passenger and goods trains from 11.45 pm on 21 September.

Some of the trains that have been cancelled tomorrow include 13419 Bhagalpur - Muzaffarpur Express, 13401 Bhagalpur - Danapur Intercity Express, 13402 Danapur - Bhagalpur Intercity Express, 15553 Bhagalpur - Jaynagar Express, 13015 Howrah - Jamalpur Kavirguru Express, 13235 Sahibganj - Danapur



Intercity Express 13236 Danapur - Sahibganj Intercity Express, 05573 Saraygarh - Deoghar Special 05574 Deoghar - Saraygarh Special and others.

Apart from cancellations, around 22 trains are to be diverted and seven are to be short terminated or short originated by the zonal railway.

Meanwhile, the ER operated special train services for the passengers.

According to the ER, one pair passenger special between Banka and Bhagalpur, one pair passenger special between Sahibganj and Bhagalpur, one pair passenger special between Sahibganj and Sultanganj and one pair passenger special between Jamalpur and Kiul were run by the ER today.

CM visits south Bengal districts, DVC releases 39k cusecs of water

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE ASANSOL, 23 SEPTEMBER

A day after the resignation of two state government representatives from the DVRRC committee and DVC board, Damodar valley Corporation (DVC) has released 39,000 cusecs of combined water discharge from its Maithon and Panchet dams today.

Today chief minister Mamata Banerjee visited flood-affected districts of south Bengal, East Burdwan, Bankura and Birbhum on Tuesday.

The DVC terms a release between 25,000 cusecs to 50,000 cusecs as green flood alert. The water will reach Durgapur barrage. Since yesterday, DVC is continuously decreasing its water release slowly from its dams.

The state chief minister blamed both Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC) and Hemant Soren's Jharkhand government for the huge water releases in the past one week as 'man-made

Today chief minister Mamata Banerjee < visited flood-affected districts

flood', and has written two letters to PM Narendra Modi in the last few days.

She has even announced severe relationships with DVC and first blocked the Bengal-Jharkhand border and then two senior bureaucrats resigning ultimately yesterday.

In 2015, the then DVC chairman, AWK Langstiehl had held a high-level meeting after complaints from CM Mamata Banerjee to relook into the functioning of the five member DVRRC committee and try to fine tune it, but it seems the differences have not been solved.

Meanwhile, as the blame game continues, the Union power minister has blamed the Jharkhand government for the huge water release from Teughat without informing DVC.

Flood plays havoc in Arambagh sub-division



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE HOOGHLY, 23 SEPTEMBER

The incessant rain accompanied by uncontrolled release of water from the DVC played havoc in Arambagh sub-division. Loss of life, property and livestock were reported from Arambagh, Pursura, Khanakul and Goghat. Large sections of people have been put up in shelter homes and relief camps.

Even though flood waters are receding and life may also return to normal, the source of income has been badly affected.

Durga Puja is round the corner. For the artisans, the story is quite pathetic. The flood waters have spoiled

the Durga idols, which were waiting for the finishing touches. The artisans have taken loans and are bound to deliver the idols to the organizers, who have already made a partial advance payment.

The artisans now need to put a challenging effort to re-mould the badly affected idols, give them a fresh coat of colours and then give them a few days time to dry up. The extra expenses come heavily on the artists from the sub-division.

The artisans also remarked, that this year less orders were placed, many puja organisers did not accept the state government financial assistance, which also affected them.

Village associated with SC Chatterjee's masterpiece Devdas set to get tourist attractions

DEBAJYOTI CHAKRABORTY ASANSOL, 23 SEPTEMBER

West Bengal animal resources development minister Swapan Debnath has said that to boost tourism in Hatipota village, under Nandai gram panchayat of Kalna No. 1 block in East Burdwan, a number of projects have been undertaken.

Hatipota village is associated with the famous novel Devdas of Sarat Chandra Chatterjee.

Talking to The Statesman, Swapan Debnath said every year Pather Dabi, an NGO, organises a programme on the birth anniversary of Sarat

Chandra Chatterjee in the village and this year too he was present at the function a few days ago along with school children.

"I have planned to set up a museum and library at Hatipota so that the posterity remembers this masterpiece from the great novelist even after the next 100 years from my MLA local area development fund. Work will begin after the Durga Puja," he added.

He further said that the Nandai gram panchayat has been developing a park in the memory of Devdas and his lady love Paro and work has already started. Besides

Kalna No. 1 panchayat samity is setting up two homestays.

"Debdas, who was sick and undergoing treatment at Varanasi, wanted to see for the last time his lady love Parbati alias Paro. He came to Pandua station in Hooghly by train and then on a bullock cart to Hatipota village, the in-laws' house of Parbati. But he died under a banyan tree, which was there at the site for more than 200 years.

Locals informed the zamindar Bhuvan Choudhury and Paro rushed to see him for the last time but was not allowed. A club Debdas Smriti Sangha has been set up by the locals and every year, on



15 January, a Debdas Smriti Mela is organised," Swapan Debnath added.

He said that many pho-

tographs of the building of the zamindar family, teeth of elephants found in Hatipota and other articles related to

Debdas will be kept for display at the museum.

"I will also write to Kalna police station and SP of East

Burdwan to retrieve the details of the post-mortem report of Devdas in Hatipota from its archives, which will also be kept there," he said.

Swapan Debnath has written letters to Sanjay Leela Bansali and actor Shah Rukh Khan and late Soumitra Chatterjee seeking their support to develop Hatipota.

"I have even met Madhuri Dixit in Burdwan town and told her about Hatipota and urged her to visit here once. Tapas Pal, who also played a role in Bengali movie Devdas and later agreed to inaugurate the statue of Sarat Chandra Chatterjee in Hatipota," he said.

"In nearby Palitpur of Samudragarh, freedom fighter Sarat Chandra Chatterjee had been living in hiding and we have set up a memorial there. Sarat Chandra Chatterjee had visited the area and I have learnt that Devdas is based on a true story," added Swapan Debnath.

The road to the village has also been concretised by the state government. Rejaul Mollah, who has secured his doctorate degree on the works of CM Mamata Banerjee and hails from Hatipota, said that on 15 January, next year all the projects, park, museum, library and homestays will be inaugurated.

Hasty cremation of R G Kar case victim: CBI interrogates TMC MLA

As per the court's order, the CBI is investigating the case and recording the MLA's statement

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, 23 SEPTEMBER

The CBI today questioned Nirmal Ghosh for close to seven hours, the Trinamul MLA from Panihati and chief government whip of Assembly in connection with the hasty cremation of female PGT doctor at R G Kar Hospital.



on that day.

As per the court's order, the CBI is investigating the case and recording the MLA's statement.

Upon arriving at the CGO Complex on Monday, when questioned by the media, Nirmal said, "This incident happened in my area. I have some belongings to submit, so I have come." On the day

of the incident, Nirmal had told the media at R G Kar, "Our goal is to catch the main culprit. Everyone is trying for that. Senior police officials, including the CP, have arrived. Administrative officials are also present. A heinous crime has occurred. A doctor on duty was brutally murdered. We are doing everything possible to ensure justice. Every-

thing is happening in front of the cameras."

Today he denied that he had no role for hurried processing to burn the victim's body. "Do you believe that I have such power to burn the body hurriedly?"

However, Leader of Opposition in Bengal Assembly Suwendu Adhikari has today accused Panihati MLA Nirmal Ghosh and his close associates of orchestrating the hurried cremation of the body.

According to Adhikari, the cremation was rushed in a bid to prevent a further post-mortem that could reveal crucial evidence.

During his address to the media, Adhikari referred to explosive statements made by Dr Apurba Biswas, a forensic expert and part of the team that conducted the initial post-mortem.

After being questioned by the CBI, Dr Biswas revealed that a man claiming to be

the victim's uncle threatened that if the post-mortem was not completed by the end of the day, there would be "bloodbath".

"This man has been identified as Sanjib Mukherjee, a former CPM councillor of Panihati Municipality, who later joined the TMC and became a close ally of Nirmal Ghosh," Adhikari said.

Adhikari highlighted that Mukherjee's involvement in the cremation process raises serious questions. Despite not being a family member, "Mukherjee's signature appeared on the victim's cremation certificate," further suggesting his role in hurrying the process.

"Everyone knows that the victim was cremated in haste. Police were overseeing the operations at the crematorium, and there was an extraordinary urgency to dispose of the body," Adhikari stated.

Dr Avik De absent from duties from 8 August: IPGMER dean

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, 23 SEPTEMBER

Dr Avik De, one of the prime suspects facing CBI interrogations in connections with the gruesome rape and murder of the 31-year-old woman postgraduate trainee doctor, has been absent from duties in the SSKM Hospital since 8 August, a day before the incident.

Prof (Dr) Avijit Hazra, dean of students' affairs at the Institute of Post Graduate Medical Education & Research (IPGMER) as well as SSKM Hospital, prime government hospital for PG medical education and research in the eastern India, has revealed Dr De's prolonged unauthorized absence from duties in his letter written to the director of medical education (DME) and director of health services (DHS) at Swasthya Bhaban, state health department headquarters at Salt Lake.

Dr De is a PGT student in the general surgery department at SSKM Hospital and

Dr De is a PGT student in the general surgery department at SSKM Hospital and allegedly one of the close associates of Sandip Ghosh, former principal of the R G Kar Medical Hospital, who has already been arrested by the CBI in connection with the incident of rape and murder at the teaching hospital.

allegedly one of the close associates of Sandip Ghosh, former principal of the R G Kar Medical Hospital, who has already been arrested by the CBI in connection with the incident of rape and murder at the teaching hospital.

"Bring this matter to your notice. I would also like to inform you that Dr Avik De, though he has taken admission in our institute in 20 February, has till date." Prof Hazra stated in his letter citing the following points.

1. No completed registration formalities, as MS General Surgery Trainee, with the

West Bengal University of Health Sciences.

2. Has not submitted a synopsis for thesis till date.

3. Has not registered in the Aadhaar Enabled Biometric Attendance System (AEBAS) mandated by the National Medical Commission, which has to be complied with by all faculty and residents. Therefore, his AEBAS attendance, till date, is zero.

4. Not collected PGT Identity Card from the Dean office.

The letter also stated, "We have not faced a similar situation earlier. Kindly, guide us regarding our course of action in this regard."

On Saturday and Sunday, CBI already grilled both Dr

De and Dr Birupakshma Biswas, two influential young doctors belonging to 'north Bengal lobby' that allegedly used to dominate government medical colleges across the country unleashing 'threat culture' in transfers and postings of government doctors and other medical staff, MBBS examination process.

RG Kar case: IMA office-bearer resigns in protest

AGENCIES
KOLKATA, 23 SEPTEMBER

The vice-president of the Kolkata branch of Indian Medical Association (IMA) Dr Kaushik Biswas has resigned from the chair accusing the authorities of remaining inactive in the case of ghastly rape and murder of a junior doctor of R.G. Kar Medical College & Hospital last month.



of the Indian Medical Association," the communique read.

In the letter, it has also been mentioned that the West Bengal branch of IMA and certain other associations of doctors have demanded action against Ghosh citing "the nature of disrepute" brought by him to the profession on the whole.

In the communique, it has also been mentioned that the parents of the victim junior doctor too have expressed their grievances about Ghosh to the IMA delegation to West Bengal earlier in the month.

Ghosh is currently in CBI custody in connection with the rape and murder case. He is being currently probed by the central agencies both in connection with the rape and murder case as well as in the case of financial irregularities at R.G. Kar.

There are serious charges against him for misleading the investigation and tampering with evidence.

pending Ghosh, instead of waiting for the association's central leadership to do that.

The central leadership of IMA announced Ghosh's suspension on August 28 and on the same day, a communication was sent to Ghosh informing him about the decision of the disciplinary committee to suspend him.

"The disciplinary committee of IMA HQs has unanimously decided to suspend you forthwith from the membership

RG Kar financial scam: Sandip Ghosh, three others sent to judicial custody till 7 October

AGENCIES
KOLKATA, 23 SEPTEMBER

A special court in Kolkata on Monday sent R.G. Kar Medical College & Hospital's former Principal and three others to judicial custody till October 7 in connection with the financial irregularities case.

The other three persons, who have been sent to judicial custody till October are Afsar Ali, Suman Hazra, and Biplob Sinha.

While Ali is the personal bodyguard of Ghosh, the other two are owners of business entities supplying medicines and medical equipment to R.G. Kar.

On Monday, the Central Bureau of Investigation's (CBI) counsel informed the special court that the process of digital cloning of 18 digital gadgets seized during the investigation, which include mobile phones, laptops, hard discs and memory cards,



among others, has been completed. The investigating officials are currently examining those and believe that more important clues in the matter relating to the financial irregularities are expected to surface following the examination process, he submitted.

Ghosh and three others were arrested by the CBI in the financial irregularities case on August 19. Later Ghosh was also shown as "arrested" by CBI in the ghastly rape and murder

case of a junior doctor of R.G. Kar last month.

Besides the CBI, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) has also started an investigation into the matter after filing an Enforcement Case Information Report (ECIR). While CBI's investigation in the matter is court-directed and court-monitored, ED had made a suo motu entry into the matter. Already, the officials of both the central agencies have claimed to have collected incriminating documents in the case, conducted raids at multiple locations, and questioned several people.

The main charges against Ghosh are manipulating the tendering process at R.G. Kar to make room for ineligible suppliers or contractors, bypassing the norms for giving infrastructure-related work orders, smuggling biomedical wastes and organs of unidentified bodies coming at the hospital morgue.

Birbhum killings: 13 given life imprisonment after 44 years

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
BIRBHUM, 23 SEPTEMBER

Suri District Court has pronounced life imprisonment to 13 persons today in connection with the massacre of nine people, who have been burnt and hacked to death in Kotgram village in Mayureswar in Birbhum district after 44 years of the incident.

The district court pronounced them guilty a few days ago but has not announced the quantum of punishment. Somenath Mukherjee, the advocate who appeared for the accused has said that they will move to higher court, challenging this Suri District Court judgement. On 8 August 1981, six members of a family and three others accomplices were chased by the villagers of Kotgram in Mayureswar after a dispute during a cultural function in the village.

The nine villagers rushed to take shelter in one house

as tension mounted. The villagers sprayed chilli powder in their eyes, hacked them and poured kerosene and burnt them to ensure that they are dead.

The dastardly act rocked the nation at that time and Birbhum police started investigations. An FIR was lodged against 72 people, out of which, 52 are still alive.

Out of these 52 people, 13 are found guilty, the court is yet to pronounce its decision on the 39 other accused persons. Moloy Mukherjee, the government pleader in this case said that at last the victims of this massacre case have got some justice from the court after so many decades. He said that some of the victims have died over the years; some went to the high court and the investigating officer also was not present on many occasions during the trial of the case, leading to such delay in giving judgement in the district court.

State to run special puja parikrama bus services

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, 23 SEPTEMBER

Puja revellers in Kolkata, and districts this year would now be able to pandal hop in special buses run by the state government.

The department today has decided to run special bus and ferry services named Puja Parikrama during Durga Puja. The department has decided to run additional services for people heading for shopping, with swelling crowds at city's shopping destinations, the department is to run more services to provide ease of travel to commuters while returning.

Like the previous years, the state transport department is to run special services 'Puja Parikrama 2024' during the



festival days. Continuing with the trend, the department would operate special bus and ferry services.

The Puja Parikrama services include packages for 'bonedi' Puja, of Kolkata and its adjoining areas. The route covers Durga Puja of Badan Chandra Roy and several other bonedi barir puja of the city. Revellers

availing the service would have to carry their identity proofs compulsorily.

The department has also announced special packages for seeing the eminent pujas in rural Bengal or the 'Gram Bangla Puja,' Jayrambatir Puja, the fare of which has been declared as Rs 2,000, including lunch.

This service is to be run

on Saptami, Ashtami and Navami days.

The city's iconic trams that were a part of the Puja Parikrama services, however, have been withdrawn by the department this year.

According to the state transport minister Snehasis Chakraborty, the decision to withdraw the puja special tram has been taken following objections from the city traffic police.

The state transport department is also to deploy 'jatrishayak' in all the special buses and ferry services to be operated by it during the upcoming festival of Durga Puja.

Apart from this, special ferry services connecting the north and south parts of the city would also be operated during the festive period.

Classified

CHANGE OF NAME	CHANGE OF NAME	TENDERS	PUBLIC NOTICE
<p>I, DULAL Chandra Nayak, S/o. Panchanan Nayak, residing at Vill.: Barangabazar, P.O.: Pratappur, P.S.: Panskura, Dist.: Purba Medinipur have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as henceforth be known as Abhijit Malik. After Sannyasa Designation Magistrate Tamruk Court, Purba Medinipur vide Affidavit No. 9894 Dated 13-9-24 Dulal Nayak and Dulal Chandra Nayak both are same and one identical person.</p>	<p>I, SWAMI Ramananda Puri, R/o. Sree Sree Maa Sarada Sevashram, Baranilpur Bazar, Natunpara, Sripally, Purba Bardhaman-713103. That before my Sannyasa Designation my Aadhaar Card name as Abhijit Malik. After Sannyasa Designation my name has been change to Swami Ramananda Puri vide affidavit before the Executive Magistrate at Purba Bardhaman on 22-02-24. Above person are same and one identical person.</p>	<p>TENDER No.: SPL-202409-0044 - Saraswati Press Ltd. invites sealed offer through e-tender to ascertain the rate per MT for procurement of 45 GSM 69 cm & 72 cm Newsprint paper in reel. For details/any amendment, please visit website: wbtenders.gov.in & www.saraswatypress.org.in</p>	<p>SUBJECT- POWER OF ATTORNEY NOTIFICATION It is being informed that I have been appointed Attorney by Samita Sadhukhan, Nabakumar Sadhukhan, Malika Sadhukhan, Champa Sadhukhan, Padmabati Sadhukhan, Soumen Sadhukhan, Raj Kumar Sadhukhan, Mithu Sadhukhan all are legal heirs of Makhtarum Sadhukhan, owner of the RS Plot No.-2213, LR Plot -2338 under LR Khastian -2158, Total Area -11.8357 Decimal in Mallickbagan Mouza vide registered Power of Attorney Being Number 05030536 dated 20/09/2023 registered at the office of ADSR Ranihat,Howrah. Later I have sold the said property to Krishnav Realpro LLP vide deed no 050306531 dated 28/11/2023 registered at the office of ADSR Ranihat,Howrah which is under mutation in the BL & LRO, Panchla, Howrah. If anyone has any kind of objection kindly contact BL & LRO, Panchla, Howrah. Thanking You ALOK KUMAR BAJORIA</p>
<p>I, SIKENDAR Rabidas, S/o. Mohan Rabidas / Sabitri Rabidas, residing at 6, Bagdi Para Lane, Shibpur, Howrah-711102 shall henceforth be known as Sikendar Rabidas as declared before that 1st Court at Executive Magistrate, Howrah Court vide Affidavit No. 10038/24 (30-08-2024) Sikandar Rabidas and Sikendar Rabidas both are same and one identical person.</p>	<p>TENDERS e-TENDER The Chairman, Board of Councillors, Katwa Municipality has invited e-Tender against N.I.E.T. No.: WBMAD 24 (DEV / 15th F.C. (TIED) / KM) 2024-2025 Tender Id No.: 2024_MAD_755718_1 N.I.E.T. No.: WBMAD 25 (DEV / TPC / KM) 2024-2025 (Tender Id No.: 2024_MAD_755719_2) N.I.E.T. No.: WBMAD 26 (DEV / TAX ON VEHICLES / KM) 2024-2025 Tender Id No.: 2024_MAD_755724_1 N.I.E.T. No.: WBMAD 26 (DEV / TAX ON VEHICLES / KM) 2024-2025 Tender Id No.: 2024_MAD_755724_2 N.I.E.T. No.: WBMAD 26 (DEV / TAX ON VEHICLES / KM) 2024-2025 Tender Id No.: 2024_MAD_755724_3 N.I.E.T. No.: WBMAD 26 (DEV / TAX ON VEHICLES / KM) 2024-2025 Tender Id No.: 2024_MAD_755724_4 Intending bidders are requested to visit the website: https://wbtenders.gov.in & www.katwamunicipality.info Chairman Katwa Municipality</p>	<p>LOST & FOUND I, Sri Soumjit Chattopadhyay, residing at 7, Biplobi Pulin Das Street, Kolkata-700009. I have lost my Deed No. 402 of 1945, Book No.-I, Volume No.-21, Pages-137 to 141, being No.-402 of 1945 at Registrar of Assurance, Kolkata. I lodged a G.D. at Amherst Street Police Station, bearing G.D. No.2354 of 27-02-2023. If anyone found this Deed, please contact at 9831070253.</p>	<p>COURT NOTICE OFFICE OF THE CITY CIVIL COURT CALCUTTA 2 & 3, Kiran Sankar Roy Road Kolkata-700001 Notice All the candidates, who applied online for the posts of Stenographer and Peon (Group-D) in terms of employment notification No. 01-2024 dated 18-06-2024, published by this Judgship, are hereby requested to download their admit card from the following link: (https://myapplionline.in.net/ccc) The examination for the post of Stenographer will held on 28-09-2024 & for the post of Peon (Group-D) on 29-09-2024. By Order Chief Judge-cum-Chairman Recruitment Committee City Civil Court, Calcutta</p>
<p>I, NO. 1075712A Rank NK Name Swapan Kumar, resident of Vill.: Margaria, P.O.: Nowpara, Dist.: Purba Bardhaman (WB), Pin-713515 have change my name from Swapan Kumar to Swapan Konar, vide affidavit dated 20-09-24 before the court of Executive Magistrate, Purba Bardhaman (WB).</p>			<p>The Statesman Readers are requested to make appropriate enquiries and seek appropriate advice before sending money, incurring any expenses, acting on medical recommendations or entering into any commitment in relation to any advertisement published in this publication. The Statesman Group doesn't vouch any claim made by the advertisers of products and services. The printer, publisher, Editor and owners of The Statesman Group publications shall not be held liable for any consequences, in the event such claims are not honoured by the advertisers. For any loss incurred, the onus lies entirely with advertisers and not with the publication.</p>
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India's role will be crucial in accelerating global growth, promoting global peace

India is emerging as a new catalyst on the global stage, and its influence will be felt across all sector: PM Modi

NIKHIL VYAS
NEW DELHI, 23 SEPTEMBER

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has asserted that India's role will be crucial in accelerating global growth, promoting global peace, advancing climate action, closing the global skills gap, driving innovation, and stabilising the global supply chain.

"Bharat (India) is emerging as a new catalyst on the global stage, and its influence will be felt across all sectors," Modi said while addressing the Indian Diaspora in New York.

Touching upon India's foreign policy, the Prime Minister said today, India's partnerships are expanding globally adding that previously, India followed a policy of Equal Distance, "but now it embraces a policy of Equal Proximity".

"We are also becoming a strong voice for the Global South. You may have noticed that, due to Bharat's initiative,

the African Union was granted permanent membership at the G20 Summit. Today, when Bharat speaks on the global stage, the world listens. Not long ago, when I said, "This is not the era of war," the gravity of the statement was understood worldwide," he said.

Modi stressed that India's priority is not to impose its dominance but to enhance its influence.

"We are not like fire that burns; we are like the sun's rays that provide light. We do not seek to dominate the world but to contribute to its prosperity. Whether it's promoting yoga, advocating for superfood millets, or championing the Mission LIFE vision (Lifestyle for the Environment), Bharat is prioritizing human-centric growth alongside GDP-centric growth. I urge you all to promote Mission LIFE as much as possible here. Small changes in our lifestyle can have a significant positive impact on the environment,"



the Prime Minister said.

Noting that India is one of the first countries to respond whenever there is a crisis anywhere in the world, Modi said, "During the COVID-19 pandemic, we sent vaccines and medicines to over 150 countries. Whether it was an earthquake, a cyclone, or a civil war, we were among the first to offer assistance. This is a reflection of the values and teachings passed down

by our ancestors."

Hailing the Indian Diaspora, the Prime Minister called them as 'Rashtrdoot' (nation's emissaries) who have connected the US to India and India to the US.

"I've always recognized the strength of the Indian diaspora. Even when I held no official post, I understood it, and I understand it today. You have always been Bharat's strongest brand ambassadors

for me. That's why I call you the 'Rashtrdoot' (nation's emissaries). You've connected America to Bharat and Bharat to America," Modi said.

"Your skills, talent, and commitment are unparalleled. Though you've crossed seven seas, no ocean is deep enough to separate you from the Bharat that resides in your hearts. What Maa Bharti has taught us, we can never forget. Wherever we go, we treat everyone like family. Embracing diversity, living it, and integrating it into our lives—these are our values, embedded in our very being," he said.

"For the world, AI means artificial intelligence, but I believe AI stands for America-India. This America-India spirit is the AI power of the new world, elevating Bharat-America relations. I salute all of you, the Indian diaspora," the Prime Minister said.

Expressing gratitude towards US President Joe Biden for inviting him to his home in Delaware, Modi said,

"This honour is for 140 crore Indians, for your hard work, for the millions of Indians living here."

During the event, PM Modi announced that India has decided to open two new consulates in Boston and Los Angeles.

He said the partnership between India and the United States is growing stronger by the day.

"Our collaboration is for the benefit of the world. We are enhancing cooperation across all sectors, and your convenience has been taken into account as well. Last year, I announced that our government would open a new Consulate in Seattle, which has now become operational. I had also sought your suggestions for the opening of two more consulates, and I am pleased to inform you that, based on your feedback, Bharat has decided to open two new consulates in Boston and Los Angeles," Modi said.

Samastipur bridge row: The collapse of a section of the under-construction bridge connecting Bakhtiyarpur in Patna district to Tajpur in Samastipur district has sparked a political row in Bihar. Opposition leaders are criticising the Bihar government over the incident, questioning the quality of construction and seeking accountability. AGENCIES

REQUIRED
Approx 250 Bighas of land are required on lease for bamboo cultivation for 30 years.
INTERESTED PERSON PLEASE CONTACT
SURENDRA SHARMA
94255 03284
98264 34900

Modi meets Nepal PM, Kuwait Crown Prince in New York

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 23 SEPTEMBER

Prime Minister Narendra Modi met his Nepalese counterpart K P Sharma Oli on the sidelines of the 79th session of the UN General Assembly Sunday.

The two leaders reviewed the unique and close bilateral relationship between India and Nepal, and expressed satisfaction at the progress made in diverse sectors including development partnership, hydropower cooperation, people-to-people ties, and enhancing connectivity—physical, digital and in the domain of energy.

The PM congratulated Nepal on becoming the 101st country to join the International Solar Alliance (ISA) as a full member, and underlined the importance of a regional response to the challenge of climate change.

Nepal is a priority partner of India under its Neighbourhood First Policy. This meeting continues the tradition of regular high-level exchanges between India and Nepal in furtherance of India's Neighbourhood First policy, the Ministry of External Affairs said.

The PM also met Kuwait's Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khalid Al-Hamad Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah. This was the first meeting between



them. Mr Modi conveyed to him that India attaches utmost importance to its bilateral relations with Kuwait. Both leaders recalled the strong historical ties and people-to-people linkages between the two countries.

They noted with satisfaction that the two countries were supporting each other with energy and food security requirements. They expressed their firm commitment to deepen and diversify bilateral ties for the mutual benefit of both countries. The PM thanked the Crown Prince for ensuring the well-being of the Indian community in Kuwait, which is the largest diaspora group in the country.

The meeting between the leadership of the two countries is expected to impart a fresh momentum to bilateral ties between India and Kuwait, the MEA added.

'BJP-RSS spreading hate, violence across country', says Rahul Gandhi in J&K

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, 23 SEPTEMBER

Accusing the BJP and RSS of spreading hatred and violence across the country, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Monday said they are now doing the same thing in the poll bound Jammu and Kashmir but their attempts will fail here.

Rahul was addressing poll rallies in Srinagar and the Surankot town of the Poonch district. National Conference chief Dr. Farooq Abdullah was present with him in Surankot where he campaigned for the Congress

candidate Shah Nawaz Chaudhary. In Srinagar, Rahul addressed a rally in favour of the PCC chief Tariq Hameed Karra.

Rahul said that BJP-RSS were "spreading hate and violence across the country", but we are moving forward taking everyone together.

"Our fight is against the 24x7 hatred being spread by BJP-RSS. They want to form a government by making people fight among themselves. Congress and National Conference have formed an alliance to defeat such forces of hatred", Rahul said.

"They pit brothers against

each other and their politics is based on hatred that can be countered with love. On one side, they are spreading hate and on the other side we are opening mohabbat ki dukan as you know that hatred cannot be eradicated by replying in hate," he said.

Rahul said "They are spreading hate not only in J&K, but also in Bihar, UP, Manipur and other parts of the country".

He said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi delivers lengthy lectures on his 'Mann ki Baat' but he never speaks about unemployment, rising prices and other issues con-



fronting the youth and the common people. Unemployment among the educated youth is Modi's gift to the youth.

Only a handful of billionaires are benefitting out of the policies of the Modi government that waived off their debt of Rs.16 lakh crore. On

the other hand the small traders were destroyed due to demonetisation and wrongly implemented GST. As a result of this, jobs are not being created anywhere in the country.

Decisions are imposed on the people of Jammu and Kashmir by outsiders, including the Lt. Governor, he said.

"We have broken the psychology of PM Modi. His facial expressions have changed, his mood has changed and this is because of the INDIA alliance, Congress and people of the country. The confidence that he earlier had, has been broken", Rahul

Former TTD chairman detained in Tirupati

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD, 23 SEPTEMBER

Former TTD chairman and YSRCP leader Bhumana Karunakar Reddy was detained by police today as he tried to take a vow at the Tirumala temple over the ongoing controversy over alleged animal fat in the adulterated ghee used to make the laddus for the prasadam.

A former MLA of Tirupati, Bhumana Karunakar Reddy was the TTD chairman when the tenders for the adulterated ghee was approved.

While chief minister N Chandrababu Naidu has formed a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to probe into the incident of adulteration of ghee which he implied was used to make the laddu prasadam the YSRCP leaders have denied saying the ingredient was never used to make the laddus and the entire batch from the supplier was turned away.

The matter has now reached the Supreme Court with another former chairman of TTD YV Subba Reddy and B JP leader Subramaniam Swamy requesting an independent probe by a retired

judge on the issue.

Bhumana Karunakar Reddy today took a dip in the pushkarini (pond) in the Tirumala premises and made way to the Akhilanda for taking his vow when he was stopped by police.

He tried to take the vow while performing the arti when the police intervened and tried to drag him away. He told them he was not taking part in any political activities and merely taking a vow.

He said, "If I have done wrong my family and I would be destroyed" as part of his oath.

The YSRCP posed a challenge for chief minister N Chandrababu Naidu and Nara Lokesh on social media asking them to "take similar oath" over Laddu prasadam.

Meanwhile, priests performed a 'maha shani homam' as a part of the temple purification rituals after the controversy over the laddu hit the headlines.

Deputy chief minister Pawan Kalyan also began his 11 day long Deeksha to atone the sins while blaming the previous YSRCP regime for the use of adulterated ghee in the laddus.

Sainik schools creating a strong future generation: Rajnath

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 23 SEPTEMBER

Terming education as the most fundamental element in the development of the nation, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh Monday highlighted the efforts being made by Sainik Schools towards ensuring the physical, mental and social development of children, thereby creating a stronger future generation.

He was formally inaugurating the Sainik School in Jaipur in line with the government's vision to establish 100 new Sainik Schools pan-India in partnership mode. Of the 100 schools, the Ministry of Defence has approved 45 in collaboration with state governments, NGOs and private schools. Forty of these schools have started operations, and the Sainik School, Jaipur is among them.

Mr Singh exuded confidence that the school will prove to be a boon for the patriotic youth of the state as proper guidance and necessary infrastructure will be provided to them to join the Armed Forces and serve the nation. "Rajasthan is a land of brave hearts like Maharana



Pratap, Prithviraj Chauhan, Maharaja Surajmal and Sawai Jai Singh. These heroes are a motivation to the younger generation to join the military. This new Sainik school will provide a direction to them to serve their motherland," he said.

He stated that the PPP-model is generally considered as 'Public-Private-Partnership', but the collaboration is now moving away from its standard definition, and is now being seen as 'Private-Public-Partnership'. "The private sector is now in the driver's seat of the country's economy, contributing significantly in agriculture, manufacturing and service sectors. Through these new Sainik schools, the private and public sectors will come together and provide the best education to

our future generations," he added.

He underlined that Sainik schools not only impart academic knowledge, but also inculcate the values of discipline, patriotism and courage. The all-round development of the personality of students inspires them to take the nation forward, he added.

He said the students of Sainik Schools can choose any career and not the Army alone and serve the nation in their own way. He urged the students to never give up and continue working hard to achieve their desired goals.

The 100 new Sainik Schools in partnership mode are apart from the existing 33 Sainik Schools already functioning under the erstwhile pattern. These new schools, besides their affiliation to respective education boards, will function under the aegis of Sainik Schools Society and follow its Rules and Regulations. In addition to their regular affiliated board curriculum, they will impart education of Academic Plus Curriculum to the students of Sainik School pattern.

Archbishop hails India's diversity, lauds PM's concern for all, including minorities

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, 23 SEPTEMBER

Cardinal Oswald Gracias, the Archbishop of Bombay on Monday heaped praise on Prime Minister Narendra Modi for pursuing inclusivity in all spheres of his governance and said that his concern for everyone instils a feeling of confidence even among the minorities.

Speaking to media persons after the 'Ek Ped Make Naam' programme in Mumbai, Archbishop Gracias said, "PM Modi is concerned about everyone including minority communities. I am confident that he has the interests of every minority, including the Christian community, in mind in all his plans and progress."

He also hailed India's diversity and termed it as a key pillar of the country's greatness.

"Our greatness lies in our diversity - people, cultures, languages, and religions. I believe no other country has the richness that we have," he said.

Sharing his views on celebration of 'Sewa Pakhwada' to mark PM Modi's birthday,



Cardinal Gracias said, "Today was a very significant event as a part of the Sewa Pakhwada 2024. We had a programme to encourage our youth and everybody else also to make sure Earth's resources are very wisely used."

"The sapling plantation today was a symbol of our continuous commitment to care for the Earth and nature for future generations. We hope a movement begins from here in the whole country and the world. I am happy that the government of India has taken an initiative for this and I am thankful to the Prime Minister for having encouraged this movement (tree plantations)."

A 'Sewa Pakhwada' was organised by the Christian community of Maharashtra on Monday to celebrate PM Modi's 74th birthday with a 'prayer for peace'.

Bihar's land survey hits linguistic barrier, state to hire experts from neighbour UP

PATNA, 23 SEPTEMBER

The Bihar government's land survey, which began on August 20, had been facing criticism over its lack of planning and now encountered a new hurdle - deciphering the old registry records written in a script that has long fallen out of use, leading to the entire exercise being put off for three months.

The old records are in Kaithi, an old script used primarily in Bihar and parts of eastern Uttar Pradesh for official documents, including land records, but now long in decline due to the rise of Devanagari and other newer scripts. As many of Bihar's old land registry documents are in Kaithi, state government officials are facing a challenge in accurately deciphering these records, which are crucial for ongoing land surveys and legal processes. However, there is a marked shortage of officials skilled in this script who can understand the old script. Though the state government launched training programmes, these had limited success, as the complexity and ancient nature of the script make it difficult for people to master it quickly.

The letter concluded with an appeal to the Gujarat government to take swift action and ensure that the GPSC rectifies the situation, safeguarding the rights of all affected candidates.

JP Nadda announces implementation of 100 days initiatives by Dept of Health Research

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, 23 SEPTEMBER

Union Health Minister JP Nadda has announced the successful implementation of 100 Days Program of the Union Health Ministry's Department of Health Research (DHR).

He said "these initiatives represent transformative steps in healthcare innovation, pandemic preparedness, and the development of indigenous medical solutions, contributing to a healthier, more resilient and Atmanirbhar Bharat."

Among the key achievements and initiatives undertaken by the Department of Health Research in the last 100 days include Med-Tech



Mitra, a joint initiative by Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO).

Over 250 innovators, startups, and industry partners

have been engaged through this platform helping them overcome challenges in the process of developing regulation compliant products, their clinical validation, and scaling-up.

National One Health Mission (NOHM) for Pandemic Preparedness: The NOHM is an integrated approach to tackling diseases at the intersection of human, animal, and environmental health. This mission is a crucial step toward building India's capacity to manage zoonotic diseases and pandemics. This initiative is instrumental in India's long-term health security by creating a safe and healthy environment for all. Different activities have been undertaken under the 'one health' approach under this mission in first 100 days of Government, that are enlisted below: National Network of BSL-3 Laboratories has been established wherein over 20 labs across different ministries

have networked. Trainings were conducted in National Institute of Virology (NIV) Pune and ICAR-National Institute of High Security Animal Diseases (NIHSAD), Bhopal.

Strengthening the nation's preparedness for future pandemics, a mock drill of H5N1 "Vishanu Yudh Abhyas" was successfully conducted with multiple stakeholders from 27th to 31st August in Ajmer District of Rajasthan. A national joint outbreak response team has been notified by Department of Health and Family Welfare (DoHFW). This will strengthen detection of the emerging hotspots of infections and conduct timely investigation for prevention and control.

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Cong says 'discrepancies' in CCE preliminary exam results, urges Gujarat CM to address

AGENCIES
AHMEDABAD, 23 SEPTEMBER

The Gujarat Congress has raised concerns over discrepancies in the recently declared results of the Competitive Civil Exam (CCE) Preliminary Examination and has written a letter to Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel, urging immediate corrective action.

The results, announced by the Gujarat Public Service Commission (GPSC) on September 19 have reportedly led to dissatisfaction among candidates, particularly those from reserved categories, the Congress leaders alleged.

According to the Congress,

many deserving candidates from Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST), Other Backward Classes (OBC), and even the general (OPEN) category have been unable to qualify for the CCE Main Exam due to issues related to cutoff marks and merit list errors.

The party pointed out that GPSC had previously offered category-wise relaxations for similar exams, such as Class 1/2 and Class 3 level exams. However, many candidates were deprived of these relaxations this time, causing significant distress.

In the letter to the Chief Minister, the Congress party

emphasized that the newly applied standards had led to unfair treatment of backward category candidates. The party expressed concern over the systemic oversight and demanded a review of the merit list and cutoffs to ensure fairness in the selection process.

The Congress further stated that this issue has created unnecessary challenges for candidates from disadvantaged backgrounds.

The letter concluded with an appeal to the Gujarat government to take swift action and ensure that the GPSC rectifies the situation, safeguarding the rights of all affected candidates.



Cong insults Dalit leaders like Selja, says Amit Shah

The Minister said this at a public meeting in Tohana town in Haryana's Fatehabad

AGENCIES CHANDIGARH, 23 SEPTEMBER

Union Home Minister Amit Shah has said the Congress has always disrespected Dalit leaders, be it Ashok Tanwar or Kumari Selja, and even did not give Dr B.R. Ambedkar Bharat Ratna when it was in power.



Sonepat, Jind and Hisar are known as the state's Jat heartland although the community also has a formidable presence in Jhajjar, Bhiwani, Sirsa and Fatehabad. Jats, who constitute about 25 per cent of the state's electorate, have traditionally dominated politics in the state.

government, (property) dealers have much say, the son-in-law has a say and the corrupts have a say. The BJP has ended the government of the dealer and son-in-law. Hooda Saheb has promised to give two lakhs jobs. It's in the manifesto of the Congress and I want to ask the leaders of the Congress party that these two lakh jobs will be given on the 'kharchiparchi' (corruption-favouritism) system.

RSS, BJP silent on ex-Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal's questions: AAP's Sanjay Singh

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, 23 SEPTEMBER



Senior Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader Sanjay Singh on Monday said the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) and the BJP are silent on former Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal's questions posed to Sangh chief Mohan Bhagwat.

Singh said, "RSS claims to uphold moral values. It was the responsibility of the RSS to oversee the BJP and ensure that it does not stray from its values, and if it does, to restrain it. Did Mohan Bhagwat ever attempt to curb the BJP's corruption and such actions? Does he agree or disagree with these actions?"

'Legislative bodies have role in inclusive governance'

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, 23 SEPTEMBER

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Monday said legislative institutions can help achieve sustainable development and inclusive governance by ensuring accountability and transparency of the Executive, making governance responsible and efficient.

No way victim shaming was done nor intended, says FM Sitharaman

AGENCIES NEW DELHI, 23 SEPTEMBER

Union Finance Minister Nirjala Sitharaman clarified after Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Priyanka Chaturvedi's 'victim shaming' allegation over her remarks on the death of a 26-year-old woman Chartered Accountant, Anna Sebastian Perayil, who died due to alleged extreme work pressure at Ernst & Young (EY).

at a deemed university on the outskirts of Chennai. Had specifically mentioned that after clearing a demanding and rigorous examination such as CA, the stress on her was unbearable. No names were taken, neither of the lady nor of the firm. The University has set up a Meditation Hall and a place of worship for all its students and faculty.

Will soon decide remission pleas of convicts as new CM in place, Delhi govt assures SC

AGENCIES NEW DELHI, 23 SEPTEMBER

The Delhi government on Friday assured the Supreme Court that remission pleas of convicts lodged in prisons in the national capital will be processed soon since

Aam Aadmi Party leader Atishi has taken charge as the Chief Minister. A bench, headed by Justice Abhay S. Oka, was apprised that the early release applications of convicts lodged in Delhi prisons, which were stalled due to

the lack of Chief Minister's signature, will be decided soon. The top court, in a hearing on September 6, flagged the delay in processing remission pleas of convicts lodged in Delhi prisons when Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal

himself was in jail in the excise policy scam and could not have signed official files from Tihar Jail. It had asked the Delhi government to clarify if there was any restraint order against Kejriwal in dealing with files pertaining to the

premature release of convicts when he himself remained behind bars in a corruption case. Remission files could not be forwarded to the Lt Governor's (L-G) office due to the lack of the signature of the then Chief Minister.

Abridge Copy of e-Tender being invited by the Executive Engineer, WBSRDA, Alipurduar Division vide eNIT & eNIQ No.- 07 / APD / WBSRDA / PATHASHREE-III / 2024-25, Dated: 23-09-2024, 03 / APD / WBSRDA / POSTDLP-MAINTENANCE / 2024-25, Dated: 03-09-2024, and 06 / APD / WBSRDA / DPR / DPTRC / 2024-25, Dated: 23-09-2024 Details may be seen in the State Govt. portal: https://wbtdenders.gov.in / www.wbprdnic.in & office notice board.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER ROAD CONSTRUCTION DEPARTMENT ROAD DIVISION, DUMKA. Very-Short Time 3rd Call PR 332011 Road (24-25)_D E-Procurement Notice. Re Tender Reference No.- RCD/DUMKA/1605 Date - 23.09.2024

GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT INVITATION FOR TENDERS Website http://mahatenders.gov.in Email jawhar.ee@mahapwd.gov.in E-TENDER NOTICE No.47 For 2024-25. Table with 7 columns: Sr. No., Name of Work, Work Portion (Rs. Lakhs), Earnest money (Rs), Class of Contractor, Tender form Fee, Time limit in (Calendar), Remark.

বিজ্ঞপ্তি রায়গঞ্জ পৌর এলাকার অন্তর্ভুক্ত করোনেশন উচ্চ বিদ্যালয় সংকলনস্থ ছাত্র নিবাসে বিভিন্ন পুর্বে কর্মী নিয়োগের জন্য এজেন্সি হিসেবে নির্ভর ক্ষমতা নির্বাচনের উদ্দেশ্যে আবেদন পত্র গ্রহণ করা হবে ২৩/০৯/২০২৪ থেকে ০৪/১০/২০২৪।

e-TENDER NOTICE e-Tenders are invited by this office from the bona fide Contractor vide NIT No. 02 / BDO / KHB / TDD / 2024-25, Dated: 23-09-2024.

Dynasty Dilemmas

The upcoming assembly elections in Haryana are set to be one of the most intense in recent memory, driven by fierce competition within and between three of the state's most powerful political families - the clans of Devi Lal, Bansi Lal, and Bhajan Lal. These families, often referred to as the 'Lals', have been central figures in Haryana's politics for more than five decades, with their legacies deeply intertwined with the state's political and social structure. The October 2024 elections, however, will see these legacies challenged not only by external forces but also by internal familial rivalries. Haryana's political landscape has historically been dominated by dynastic politics. The descendants of the three Lals have continued to wield considerable influence, often serving as a bridge between the traditional rural vote banks and the evolving urban electorate. What makes this election significant is the direct contest between members of the same clans, a departure from the more united fronts they had presented in the past.

This shift speaks to both the growing complexity of Haryana's politics and the urgent need for these political dynasties to remain relevant in an increasingly fragmented political environment. The presence of multiple candidates from the same family, often representing different political parties, underscores the struggle for both power and legacy. For instance, members of Devi Lal's family, one of the most prominent in Haryana, are in direct competition in several constituencies. This internal rivalry, while indicative of personal ambition, also reflects a broader trend in Indian politics where family ties are increasingly strained by political aspirations. The division within the family could potentially dilute their influence, as votes are split among relatives rather than consolidated under a single candidate or party banner.

The emergence of these familial contests coincides with the rise of national parties like the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which seeks to expand its foothold in Haryana. By aligning with certain members of the Lal families, the BJP is aiming to strengthen its position among traditional Jat voters, while also appealing to non-Jat communities. This strategy of courting both Jat and non-Jat constituencies speaks to the party's ambition to broaden its base and consolidate power in a state where caste dynamics have historically played a critical role in electoral outcomes.

Yet, while the Lals continue to dominate headlines, their political clout is no longer as absolute as it once was. The newer generation of voters may be less inclined to vote based solely on legacy and more interested in candidates who can address contemporary issues like employment, rural development, and infrastructure. This presents both a challenge and an opportunity for the dynastic candidates - they must prove their relevance beyond their surnames. As national parties assert their influence and family feuds come to the fore, these elections may well redefine the future of Haryana's politics, determining whether legacy can still triumph over modern electoral realities.

Lanka's Challenge

Sri Lanka's Presidential election marks a pivotal moment as Anura Kumara Disanayake, a Marxist-leaning leader, gets set to assume the presidency after a victory that reflects the public's growing demand for systemic change. His ascent to power comes in the aftermath of the 2022 economic crisis, which left Sri Lanka's financial system on the edge of collapse, leading to severe foreign exchange shortages, skyrocketing inflation, and widespread public protests. The people's faith in traditional political elites, long dominated by family dynasties, has eroded, and the election of Mr Disanayake, a non-dynast, underscores this shift. At the heart of his campaign was a clear message: economic recovery must be paired with structural reforms that prioritise the welfare of the people over entrenched political interests. His promises to combat corruption and implement policies that aid the impoverished resonate with a public still reeling from austerity measures tied to the IMF bailout. Sri Lanka's fragile economic situation, despite showing signs of recovery, remains precarious for millions of citizens mired in poverty.

Inflation may have dropped from its crisis peak, but the cost of living is still unmanageable for many, leaving voters desperate for leadership that prioritises their struggles. Mr Disanayake's victory is also a referendum on outgoing President Ranil Wickremesinghe, who steered the nation through some of its darkest days. While his handling of the IMF programme brought a semblance of stability, the economic pain caused by austerity measures alienated large swathes of the population. Many viewed Mr Wickremesinghe as a caretaker leader, competent in crisis management but disconnected from the plight of ordinary citizens. His defeat underscores the public's desire for a different path, one that addresses the root causes of Sri Lanka's economic dysfunction rather than managing its symptoms.

However, Mr Disanayake's challenge is formidable. His pledges to slash taxes and increase public welfare may be popular, but they also risk derailing the IMF's fiscal targets, which are critical to ensuring long-term recovery. Any deviation from these targets could jeopardise Sri Lanka's progress in restructuring its \$25 billion debt and restoring investor confidence. The new President will need to strike a delicate balance between his campaign promises and the economic realities of governing a nation still heavily reliant on external support. One of the key takeaways from this election is the overwhelming demand for systemic change, reflected in Mr Disanayake's surge in popularity.

Despite his party's small presence in Parliament, his victory shows that Sri Lankans are ready to embrace new political practices and institutions. This moment offers a rare opportunity to build a more equitable and transparent political system, one that addresses the grievances of a populace weary of corruption and mismanagement. Ultimately, Mr Disanayake's success will hinge on his ability to navigate the complex web of economic recovery, debt obligations, and social welfare demands. He has been handed not just a position of power, but a heavy responsibility to deliver on his promises while ensuring Sri Lanka's stability in the years to come.

Distressed Soil ~ II

Trace soil minerals are a critical determinant of both crop productivity and the mineral concentration of crops, therefore potentially impacting the nutritional status of human populations relying on those crops. Both macro and micro nutrients are transferred via roots from the soil to the plants and then to human beings via food. Plants provide minerals and other nutrients such as proteins, carbohydrates, fats, vitamins which are synthesised by plants for human body growth and development. The relationship between soil health and human health could be well established once roles played by some micronutrients present in soil are appreciated.

A national database on land degradation prepared by the Indian Space Research Organisation in 2016 showed that 36.7 per cent of India's total arable and non-arable land suffers from various forms of degradation, water erosion being the chief contributor (68.4 per cent).

Micronutrient deficiency in Indian soils has increased at a rapid scale in recent years. Initially, the country's soil was more deficient in nitrogen and phosphorus. Now our soils are greatly deficient in Zn and other micronutrients.

Scientists from Indian Institute of Soil Science, All India Institute of Medical Sciences (Bhopal) and ICAR (Delhi) conducted a study under the All India Coordinated Research Project on Micro- and Secondary Nutrients and Pollutant Elements in Soils and Plants (AICRP-MSPE) in April, 2018.

They analysed 0.2 million soil samples collected from 28 states and territories. Their findings published in Indian Journal of Fertilisers, 2018 (shown alongside) reveal that Indian soil truly is in distress.

It appears from the state-wise assessment that Rajasthan's soils have some of the highest deficiencies in all micronutrients, excluding Boron.

Other states with highest deficiencies in almost all micronutrients are Tamil Nadu, Punjab, Haryana, Odisha and Goa.

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Dismal status of micronutrients in Indian soil (Deficiency has been shown in percentage)

State	Zinc (Zn) (%)	Iron (Fe) (%)	Copper (Cu) (%)	Manganese (Mn) (%)	Boron (B) (%)
Andhra Pradesh	22.02	17.24	1.33	1.63	4.08
Assam	4.63	1.44	1.80	3.51	39.18
Bihar	28.11	0.50	2.80	0.51	32.78
Chhattisgarh	45.25	12.00	1.19	6.77	39.29
Goa	25.29	7.06	1.22	14.77	20.58
Haryana	55.29	12.21	1.09	16.91	12.94
Himachal Pradesh	36.56	25.87	0.39	0.40	18.72
Jharkhand	15.42	21.72	1.12	0.16	3.27
Karnataka	9.62	0.51	1.43	0.68	27.02
Kerala	10.91	0.41	0.24	4.60	42.03
Madhya Pradesh	17.47	0.06	0.79	0.26	10.00
Madhya Pradesh	30.70	7.66	2.28	0.12	36.79
Madhya Pradesh	18.34	1.23	0.43	0.39	31.21
Madhya Pradesh	57.05	8.34	0.47	2.25	4.30
Madhya Pradesh	39.60	23.12	0.14	1.50	20.89
Madhya Pradesh	11.30	2.13	2.86	0.06	37.17
Madhya Pradesh	3.94	1.33	1.03	2.55	47.93
Madhya Pradesh	1.96	0.49	0.99	1.22	32.74
Madhya Pradesh	4.62	2.00	0.53	0.59	54.31
Madhya Pradesh	32.12	6.42	7.11	2.1	51.88
Madhya Pradesh	19.24	13.04	4.57	20.20	16.99
Madhya Pradesh	36.51	34.38	0.13	20.20	2.99
Madhya Pradesh	62.80	12.62	12.01	7.37	20.80
Madhya Pradesh	26.77	16.53	1.26	3.34	16.49
Madhya Pradesh	5.51	1.57	2.26	0.80	23.62
Madhya Pradesh	27.27	15.56	2.84	15.82	29.61
Madhya Pradesh	9.59	1.26	1.51	4.62	13.44
Madhya Pradesh	14.42	0.51	1.79	0.99	37.00
All India average	36.90	12.8	4.20	7.10	23.4

Source: 'Micronutrients in soil, plants, animals and humans', Indian Journal of Fertiliser, April 2018

development.

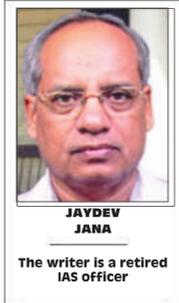
The relationship between soil health and human health could be well established once roles played by some micronutrients present in soil are appreciated.

Functions of Zn and Fe have already been mentioned. Cu is essential for collagen production, neurotransmitter synthesis, myelination and neural connection, it supports immune cell formation and also acts as an antioxidant.

Mn is necessary for bone formation, wound healing. It supports neurotransmitters and also acts as an antioxidant. Boron plays an important

role in osteogenesis and its deficiency has been shown to adversely impact bone development and regeneration. Health experts opine that micronutrient deficiencies are never singular. Deficiency in one micronutrient indicates a high likelihood of poor levels in others as well.

However, it has been established that plants show deficiency symptoms or enter into hidden hunger conditions when the concentration of micronutrients falls below their respective critical concentrations. Rice and wheat are the foundation of food and nutritional



JAYDEV JANA
The writer is a retired IAS officer

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

editor@thestatesman.com

Troubling questions

SIR, Please refer to today's report on the Tirupati laddu row. For decades, the laddu served as prasad at the iconic Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam presented devotees with only one problem - that it was rich in ghee and high in sugar.

In the last two days, other aspects of the laddu have assumed dangerous proportions that threaten to disrupt communal peace and order in the country. Reports emerged that a testing lab had found the presence of beef tallow, pig fat, and fish oil in the ghee used to prepare the laddus. Andhra Pradesh chief minister Chandrababu Naidu alleged that contaminated ghee had been used to make the laddu during his predecessor Jagan Mohan Reddy's tenure but there is lack of clarity on what Mr Reddy's role was in the alleged contamination.

Expectedly, a massive row has erupted not only in AP or among the devotees of Lord Balaji but

across the country as Hindu groups called for "hanging the guilty" and union health minister JP Nadda sought a full report on the issue.

Given the context, the politico-religious connection was inescapable; Mr Naidu was cornering his arch rival Mr Reddy who happens to be a Christian.

All said, this has become a convenient issue for the Hindu right wing to whip up communal passions and divert public discourse from a number of other pressing issues.

However, there are uncomfortable questions such as why a laboratory in Gujarat ran the tests when Hyderabad has venerated centres. Was this regular testing or did someone complain, who complained and why?

If the ghee used to prepare the prasad was, indeed, contaminated with animal fat then it is a grave matter for the temple management to address.

The government's responsibility

is to maintain peace and order. Yours, etc., Khokan Das, Kolkata, 21 September.

FAT OUT OF THE BAG

SIR, "Animal fat in Tirupati laddu" is the front page news of all newspapers today (Sept.21). It has sent shockwaves across devout Hindus who offer only vegetarian stuff as "prasad" to the Almighty.

The contamination of the famous Tirupati "laddu" is not contamination as ordinarily understood. It is not a case of sub-standard items that went into the preparation of the "prasad", but items that are taboo, and hurt the religious sentiments of the Hindus - like fish oil and even animal fat.

That such a blunder should take place in one of India's richest and most revered shrines defeats logic. Not surprisingly enough, there has been a sharp decline in the number of footfalls to the holy shrine since the news of the "contaminated laddoos" broke out.

It is now for the FSSAI to get to the bottom of the "desecration" and assuage the hurt caused to



security for India and other parts of the world.

A study conducted under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has for the first time found alternations in grain nutrient density of rice and wheat cultivars bred.

It is also observed that crops are losing their ability to take up nutrients like calcium, iron, phosphorus, zinc and copper from the soil along with nickel and silicon.

A more worrisome finding of the study published in the Journal Scientific Reports in November 2023 is that with the downward trend in nutritional quality there is an upward trend in taking up of toxic elements like arsenic and aluminium.

Fortification of food with mineral micronutrient as also micronutrient supplementation are widely adopted keeping in view the urgency to fight hidden hunger.

But focus has now been intensified on agronomic biofortification. It is the means to increase the concentration of a target mineral to food crops and improve human mineral dietary intake.

It is a time-tested, cost-effective and sustainable process. There are several techniques like nutrient priming, foliar application, soilless activation and mechanised applications.

Soil health is proportionally linked to our health. It is aptly said that "We are only 15 cm away from our annihilation", this 15 cm being our top soil (storehouse of micronutrients).

Soil is in distress because of alarming degradation. Land resources are finite and therefore their conservation, development and management have played a determining role in sustaining life and civilisation.

Mahatma Gandhi had very poignantly said in 1946, "To forget how to dig the earth and tend the soil is to forget ourselves."

(Concluded)

ASIAN VOICES

Civil Liability Act in motion through suit in Phuentsholing accident

The tragic accident in Phuentsholing, which claimed the lives of a 32-year-old woman and her three-year-old daughter, has set in motion a legal process that may prove pivotal in protecting vulnerable groups and establishing accountability beyond individual employees. This case shines a spotlight on the often-overlooked realm of employer liability, particularly when the failure stems from systemic shortcomings within the organisation. By potentially holding the construction company accountable under the Civil Liability Act, this case could mark a watershed moment in setting the Civil Liability Act into motion, filling a crucial gap in the legal framework that has remained largely unaddressed until now.

The circumstances surrounding this incident align squarely with the provisions of civil liability under negligence. The driver was operating a wheeled excavator without a proper licence where the employer knowingly allowed him to operate heavy machinery, demonstrates a clear breach of duty of care.

The construction company's decision to permit this arrangement due to a shortage of operators exemplifies the kind of systemic failure that the Civil Liability Act aims to address. Section 79 of the Act defines an employer as one who has the power to give orders or instructions to employees in relation to the performance of their functions. In this case, the construction company, by assigning the suspect to operate machinery despite his lack of qualifications, clearly falls within this definition. Furthermore, Sec-

tion 80 stipulates that an employer is strictly liable for harm caused by their employee. This provision is particularly relevant here, as it establishes a direct link between the company's actions and the tragic outcome.

The potential damages in this case are multifaceted and significant. Firstly, general damages should be considered to compensate for the loss of life and the economic impact on the surviving family members. Given that the deceased woman ran a canteen, and her husband was recently offered a regular job, the court should carefully assess the long-term financial implications of this loss. Section 124 of the Act provides guidance, suggesting that if precise calculation of income is not possible, the court may award an amount equal to at least ten years' minimum wage, up to a maximum of fifteen years' minimum wage.

Non-economic damages for the surviving husband and six-year-old son warrant careful consideration. Section 133 recognises the profound emotional trauma of their loss as compensable non-economic damage.

STOP, PLEASE

SIR, Israel's onslaught on Gaza was triggered almost a year ago by a terrorist attack by the Hamas. But over the past one year, Tel Aviv's excesses in the region have reached alarming proportions. Houses and buildings have been reduced to rubble. Essential services have been disrupted.

There is no let-up in the deaths and devastation. The recent attack on a school building is condemnable. It only adds to the human suffering. It is time for Israel to stop this massacre of innocent civilians in Gaza and work towards a peaceful resolution of the conflict.

Yours, etc., Shovanlal Chakraborty, Kolkata, 23 September.

the religious sentiments of millions of Hindus.

Yours, etc., Avinash Godbole, Dewas, 21 September.

CAUTION

SIR, I refers to "Strategic shift", published today. In the first rate cut since March 20, the Fed has surprised many.

Though this rate cut is aimed at boosting the US economy it has a far reaching impact across all markets of the world.

The rate cut makes investing in equities market beneficial for large investors. Having said that, many investors will still be wary of investing in Indian equities as the market has shot up in the last 2-3 years and has become expensive.

So it would be keenly watched whether FIIs invest into Indian stock markets in hordes or stay cautious for a while and wait until the US Presidential elections. Till that time interest in Gold and Silver will remain buoyant.

Yours, etc., Bal Govind, Noida, 20 September.

SLOW POST

SIR, Apropos "Postal Woes" published in these columns on 21 September, I would like to add to my recent experience about delivery of an important mail from Kolkata, West Bengal to Bilaspur, Chattisgarh.

On the 6th, I mailed some doc-

uments through "Speed Post" from Sech Bhawan SO (700091). Immediately thereafter on tracking the location of the mail I found it moving at a snail's pace. Ultimately the letter was delivered to the addressee on 17 September.

I would request the Chief Post Master General, West Bengal Circle to take appropriate action to ensure 'Speed Post' does not become 'Slow Post'.

Yours, etc., Samares Bandyopadhyay, Kolkata, 22 September.

WITHDRAW IT

SIR, Apropos the news report "Irr. docs to end sit-in, partially resume work" (September 20), I would like to comment that when the chief secretary of the state, Manoj Pant, had categorically issued directions to the health secretary for ensuring safety, security and efficient functioning of healthcare professionals, there seems no logic for agitating doctors to lift their strike partially. It should have been withdrawn to facilitate further discussions.

When doctors are enjoying mass support for their just cause, the state government shall surely be unable to muster the courage to play with their sentiments.

It is time to end the strike while keeping a watch on how the government addresses the burning issues.

Yours, etc., Arun Gupta, Kolkata, 20 September.

India in the role of a global negotiator

HARSHA KAKAR

Prime Minister Modi discussed the outcome of his visits to Kyiv and Moscow with President Biden when they met over the weekend in Wilmington, Delaware on the sidelines of the Quad summit. He would have highlighted differences in perception of both sides on a possible solution to the conflict. It is not just the US which is interested in India being involved in stopping the war and negotiating peace but even the participants.

After his address to the Russian Eastern Economic Forum in Vladivostok in early Sept, Russian President Vladimir Putin was asked which countries could potentially offer to negotiate between Moscow and Kyiv. He responded without hesitation, "China, Brazil, India." It is believed that Putin has given his pre-conditions for negotiations to PM Modi. The Ukrainian perspective was shared with him when the Indian NSA met him. PM Modi would be holding a summit with Putin on the sidelines of the BRICS+ conclave next month in Russia. He could discuss options offered by the US.

The Italian PM, Giorgia Meloni, also recently mentioned, "China and India have a role to play in resolving the conflict." The Ukrainian Ambassador to India, Oleksandr Polishchuk, mentioned in an interview in Delhi, that in case India seeks a permanent seat in the UNSC it should negotiate between the two sides.

Ukrainian president Zelenskyy is hoping India will host the next peace summit around November this year. India is hesitating as without the presence of Russia, a peace summit has little value. Russia has refused to participate in any 'peace summit' aware that nothing would be achieved. India

on its part has been mentioning that both sides have to negotiate. As External Affairs minister Jaishankar mentioned, "If they want advice, we are always willing to give it."

PM Modi is the only global leader who has visited and been heard in both Moscow and Kyiv. He has refused to bend to Western demands of stopping oil procurements from Russia while providing humanitarian aid to Ukraine. India has also refused to be cowed down by Western pressures. A recent example has been India turning down the US request to ban and block the Russian state media network RT, formerly known as Russia Today. The Indian government mentioned that the matter 'does not pertain' to it while insisting that New Delhi does not adhere to unilateral sanctions, not approved by the UN.

India, on its part, has cautioned Russian media networks, RT and Sputnik, for falsely citing Bangladesh as an example of a 'US regime change operation,' a report which garnered immense discussion within India. It had also pulled them up for falsely mentioning Indian intelligence concerns on US diplomatic staff meeting opposition leaders. Evidently, Russian media has been working to distance India from the US.

In fact, India is being requested to negotiate in other global trouble spots too. The Israeli Ambassador to New Delhi, Reuven Azar, mentioned in a recent interview that it is up to India to decide the extent to which it wants to be involved in 'resolving' the Gaza war. He stated, "There is an increasing role of India in West Asia in general, because India can bring a lot to the stability and prosperity in our region." India has always been a proponent of a 'two-state solution' between Israel and Palestine.



The Palestinian PM, Muhammad Mustafa, congratulating PM Modi on his re-election wrote, "as a global leader and a nation that values human rights and peace, India holds a significant role in bringing an end to the genocide in Gaza. It is imperative for India to utilize all diplomatic channels to call for an immediate ceasefire." The Palestinian ambassador to India reiterated this in a media interaction. PM Modi in his telephonic conversations with the Israeli PM, Benjamin Netanyahu, in August urged for de-escalation as also for implementing a ceasefire.

The latest request for Indian participation in resolving ongoing conflicts flowed from Elisabeth Braw, a Senior Associate Fellow, European Leadership Network and a columnist with Politico Europe and Foreign Policy. Writing on the Red Sea crisis where Yemen based Houthis are targeting global shipping, she mentions that the war impacts India as it has over 113,000 individuals in global shipping companies.

She writes, "PM Modi is a man keen on conducting foreign policy

independent of global alliances." She adds that India's growing economic power "lends weight to Modi's foreign policy, and makes him perfectly positioned to read the Houthis the riot act." She ends by mentioning, "If you can help stop the attacks on shipping in the Red Sea, the whole world will be grateful."

Why is India a nation that the world looks up to for resolving global crises? The reasons are that India has always stood for peace and dialogue. Its foreign policy has been sans influence from major powers, despite its alliances, and has displayed over the years that it will not be cowed down. It has always been the first to support nations facing crisis and humanitarian suffering, which is evident when nations face natural calamities as also during Covid, when Indian manufactured vaccines were distributed globally. India's voice is globally respected.

When India speaks, it is not for itself but its voice represents billions from the Global South, who are indirectly impacted by wars being fought in distant lands. Their concerns are equally important; however, they lack

a platform, which India provides. At the same time, most global conflicts are complicated, involving more than just the warring nations.

There are nations that treat those involved in the conflict as proxies keeping their own national interests foremost in mind. Conflicts are also beneficial for global defence suppliers, who fund political parties, as also a testing ground for new equipment and operational concepts. Hence, dialogue will invariably also involve those supporting the conflict from the background. This makes the process slow and tedious. Ultimately, while great powers and leaders exploit the conflict for their own advantage, it is innocents who suffer. It is this suffering which India seeks to end.

Resolution to conflicts between conflicting states is slow and tedious. However, the first step is imposing a ceasefire. It is this that India would seek, but for this it would need backing of multiple nations, which is not easy, given their own interests.

(The writer is a retired Major-General of the Indian Army.)

100 YEARS AGO OCCASIONAL NOTE

In a communication too long for publication, Colonel Gidney explains a little personal incident which occurred during the discussion in the Assembly on the Lee Report, when with some vigour he criticized the ideas of Sir Charles Burchaell on the Medical Services, and was answered with equal animation by Mr. Burdon, who defended Sir Charles in his absence. Colonel Gidney made it perfectly clear at the time that his criticisms were not directed against Sir Charles personally, and he offered an amende honorable to clear away any misunderstanding. There is no need to revive the subject. True. Colonel Gidney in the heat of oratory, according to the verbatim report of his speech, spoke of "a man named Sir Charles Burchaell," but we may take it that neither this distinguished officer nor Colonel Gidney himself is so thinned as to be seriously offended by the cut-and-thrust of debate, to the tedium of which an encounter of wits offers a welcome relief.

NEWS ITEMS

NAPHTHALINE MOTORS

FUEL COST : ONE FARTHING AN HOUR

A QUARTER of a century ago naphthalene or "camphine" lamps were used. In these the naphthalene was melted in a reservoir and thence fed to a burner. To-day, the same principle is being revived in France and crude naphthalene is being applied as a motor fuel.

The engine having been started on petrol, the exhaust heat is used to liquefy and vaporize the naphthalene which is then allowed to flow to a hot jacketed carburettor of the usual type. The mixture of air and naphthalene vapour functions well, giving an easy somewhat slow explosion.

THE ROYAL BABY

MASTER LASCELLES OF GOLDSBOROUGH HALL

"Master Lascelles jun., Goldsbrough Hall," was the address on a small registered parcel which arrived at the hall from London.

This was the first communication received by post for the Royal baby.

The new arrival at Goldsbrough Hall has given great joy not only to Princess Mary but to Lord Lascelles, who strongly disapproves of the one-child nursery.

The nurseries at Goldsbrough have been enlarged, and an additional night nursery has been furnished for the new arrival, who, however, has his brother's cot and is to wear some of his most precious robes.

Princess Mary, like many a mother, has a great number of her firstborn's little garments literally laid up in lavender plucked from the wonderful lavender walk at Goldsbrough.

The old adage about birthdays runs as follows in Yorkshire: "Thursday's child has far to go," and it is probable that it will be fulfilled in the case of Princess Mary's boy. She said before his arrival that if she had more than one son one should certainly be a sailor for Her Royal Highness has an enthusiastic love of the sea.

Names for the new arrival are now being discussed. It is very probable that David will be chosen, this being the pet name of the Prince of Wales in the royal circle. Only two names will be given.

COTTON MARKET

EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT'S INTERVENTION

THERE seems to be some misunderstanding with regard to the exact terms of the reply of the Minister of Agriculture to the deputation which urged Government intervention in the cotton market owing to declining values.

While the Government is prepared, if necessary, to buy up to two million kantars, it is hardly likely this will be found essential. Indeed, prices have already stiffened considerably on the mere announcement of the Government's intention.

While the Minister has not definitely undertaken to intervene, a small committee has been appointed to examine the best methods of applying Government intervention.

Bureaucracy must embrace AI processes

ANDREW SHENG

There is a lot of hype about artificial intelligence (AI) and technology sparking off a revival of growth globally. As Nobel Laureate economist Robert Solow said in 1987 about the productivity puzzle: "You can see the computer age everywhere but the productivity statistics". In recent years, growth everywhere has slowed down due to productivity declines, in spite of the internet and computer revolution.

From 1996 to 2005, US labour productivity growth averaged 2.62 per cent, but slowed to 1 per cent from 2006 to 2017. This trend cuts across different countries and has different inter-locking reasons, such as financial crises, capital deepening, trade and mismanagement factors.

When AI arrived with a ChatGPT bang, everyone thought this was the biggest productivity innovation since the internet, as we could now write research thesis in poems in seconds. In a recent essay on the macroeconomics of AI, Stanford economists Erik Brynjolfsson and Gabriel Unger argued that AI could develop in three different forks (good or bad), namely through productivity growth, income inequality and industrial concentration. Without a proper set of policies and regulations, we may end up with the worst of three worlds - low productivity, worse income inequality and huge power concentration.

On the other hand, with the right set of policies, an emerging and

developing market economy (EMDE) could end up with higher productivity, more inclusivity and less market concentration.

It takes a lot of market size and talents to achieve leadership in AI and technology. The Australian Strategic Policy Institute (ASPI) has recently published a paper tracking 64 core technologies using cited research papers, which showed that the leading position of United States and China have reversed in the last five years (2019-2023), with India in third place, although Europe as a group is third, followed by the United Kingdom, Japan and South Korea. India is coming on strong because she has one of the largest cohorts of STEM graduates coming into her work force.

Although the ASPI study is basically a desk-top study of cited and published academic papers, the mainstream view is that China is undisputedly in the lead in the core manufacturing area, but the United States and her Western allies remain better in the cutting edge technology areas. However, China's ability to catch up on the latest 5 nanometer semiconductor chips may be as short as three years behind TSMC technology. Clearly, attempts to constrain China through technology sanctions and restrictions to access cutting edge technology only spur her to invest even more heavily to develop domestic technology. Government efforts to drive productivity increases has an impact when everyone feels a common threat.

Indeed, for the Great Powers, cost seems to be less of a concern where national security is concerned. It is estimated that the cost of building a top of the line semiconductor fabrication plant has soared from \$400 million for a 65 nm chip in 2006 to \$5.4 billion by 2020. McKinsey has shown that the top 10 in the semiconductor field account for the bulk of revenue and investments, demonstrating that technology (including AI) is highly concentrated and indeed generates income inequality.

Most would agree that governments should do as much as possible to narrow the digital divide by introducing mass digital and re-skilling education. Indeed, one of the fields where AI can excel is to help students learn to learn much faster, using an AI bot as teaching assistant.

However, for any policy to be implemented, the first set of persons to be trained in using and applying AI should be civil servants, because government processes lie at the heart of almost all business and social transactions. The private sector can innovate all it wants but its productivity will stop at the first bureaucratic red-tape. Hence, system productivity cannot be increased without first increasing government productivity and therefore the incentives for civil servants to take the initiative to use AI tools and digital services to improve overall system efficiency and resilience matter.

Professor Brynjolfsson has argued that getting to the better forks for the future of higher productivity,

more social equality and less power concentration is good policy, which would include creative policy experiments, a set of positive goals for what society wants from AI, and understanding that technology brings uncertainties as to outcomes, so flexibility in implementation is critical.

Herein lies the common pattern to why productivity cannot progress in more complex societies. As business grows more sophisticated, laws and regulations rise in number and complexity, with often patchy enforcement, so that only the large or rich can afford the lawyers to manoeuvre around the bureaucratic swamp. Corruption is encouraged where laws proliferate with little transparency as to enforcement or outcomes.

In less sophisticated communities which live close to each other, everyone shares and cooperates to build social well-being, such as digging wells, maintaining the commons, and solving problems through consensus. Using Nobel Laureate Edmund Phelps' expression, mass flourishing requires mass grass-root cooperation for the common good. You cannot delegate this just to civil servants.

Just as teaching children digital skills requires teaching the teachers first, we must deal with the problems of social and planetary injustices (human and natural disasters) through teaching the civil servants first by working with them jointly to solve our mutual problems. This is not about getting consultants to teach the civil servants, but getting



the private sector to work with the civil servants in real, live cases of how to improve state-market processes, such as licensing, review of compliance issues and actual policy outcomes relative to the objectives.

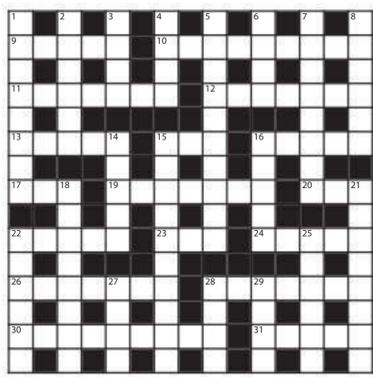
All too often, in a world of delegation to experts or specialists, policies, rules and regulations have been passed and forgotten as to their original intention or objectives. The result is many laws exist that few understand and are often obsolete through time. AI could identify cases of artificial stupidity (often unintended) that actually create waste and frustrations. I often wonder whether traffic lights that are mechanically operated can be easily replaced by smart CCTV cameras that can calibrate traffic and avoid huge waste of fuel and time in massive traffic jams.

We need to work together to solve our mutual problems. Working together using AI may be a good start.

(The writer, a former Central banker, writes on Asian affairs from a global perspective.) Special to ANN.

CROSSWORD

NO-292911



YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

PAUPER TROLL
LIL LAC CORK SCREW
YACHT CLUB MEDIA
RECEDED BULWARK
AWL
WORKSHY ENDORSE
IRATE ROCK OPERA
GARRA RATS
HAPHAZARD BATHS
ADM GATES
BLOOP HEATER

ACROSS

- 9 Subject of article about space (5)
- 10 Drunk Democrat leaves Republican tradesperson (9)
- 11 Lesson I arranged for Leo's mate (7)
- 12 A smuggler hides cut drug in small glass vessel (7)
- 13 American president's undergarment (5)
- 15 Jam lover's one way of working with damsons originally (3)
- 16 Representative sample of collagen treatment (5)
- 17 Time Henry omitted beginning of the Lord's prayer (3)
- 19 Very ill person in short top and a cape (7)
- 20 Special soul music from Jamaica (3)
- 22 Loose goods stored in alcove (5)
- 23 Single drink (3)
- 24 Heath Robinson checks pulse (5)
- 26 New toot designed for sound of car horn? (3-4)

DOWN

- 1 Knife literally raised in fight (8)
- 2 Greater than governor over North Dakota (6)
- 3 Heard successors give up (4)
- 4 Magnificent piece of old Manx cat (4)
- 5 Everywhere stormy dawned Fair (3,3,4)
- 6 Reared animals for stage (4)
- 7 Steals pants in America (8)
- 8 Check artist's standing with the others (6)
- 14 Sentimental endearment director expressed after end of play (5)
- 15 Possibly aim to enter with Lady Penelope? (10)
- 16 A way to welcome company in Berkshire town (5)
- 18 Local Iron Age construction's closer to hill (8)
- 21 Attacked tired Welsh politician first (8)
- 22 Extremely cold drink (6)
- 25 Melancholy way of the French footloose rich (6)
- 27 State Cook discovered circumnavigating Hawaii (4)
- 28 Old Asian honeyed wine is mentioned (4)
- 29 A head of department initially returned capital (4)

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



'Disunity led us to wait for 500 years for Ram temple'

CM Yogi also remarked on the global respect PM Modi commands, noting how he is welcomed warmly in every country he visits because all his actions are dedicated to the nation

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE MIRZAPUR, 23 SEPTEMBER

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said, "Ayodhya Dham is now flourishing. While the grand temple of Lord Ram Lalla has been built, we must ask why we had to wait 500 years for this moment."



said the double-engine government is committed to standing by the common people through every joy and sorrow, working diligently to improve the present and create a brighter future.

More than 1,500 youths were given smartphones and tablets under the Swami Vivekananda Yuva Sashaktikaran Yojana at the event. He also presented a cheque of approximately Rs 4 crores as the first instalment for the establishment of a fish feed

plant. He also honoured beneficiaries of various schemes and launched the Vidya Shakti portal with the press of a button.

Yogi Adityanath said, "Before 2017, the mafia operated like a parallel government, dominating sectors like mining, cattle trade, organized crime, and land grabbing. When their convoys passed, public representatives were filled with fear, and the administration yielded to them. Nobody dared to con-

front the mafia. He noted, "Today, the same criminals are pleading for mercy and are willing to make an honest living by setting up small stalls. They no longer instill fear in anyone. Now, no one dares to threaten the safety of our daughters, exploit traders, or seize farmers' land or demolish the homes of the poor."

Taking a jab at the opposition, the CM said, "Those who shamelessly played the caste card, used to grovel before the mafia, dangerous criminals, and rioters. Now, as the state makes rapid strides in development, these same people seek to act as obstacles again. By doing so, they are not only endangering the present but also jeopardizing the future of coming generations. We must not allow the mafia to rise again."

The CM remarked that ten years ago, Mirzapur district

suffered from poor connectivity, and the underprivileged were deprived of government schemes. "The condition of the sacred Maa Vindhyavasi Dham and the famous Shaktipeeths, known as the triangle of power, was dismal. The roads were in a sorry state, and the reign of gangsters and mafias was well-known", he pointed out.

The CM emphasized that in the past decade, especially in the last seven-and-a-half years, people have witnessed the transformation of India, Uttar Pradesh, and Mirzapur. "Today, Mirzapur will no longer need to beg for recognition, as the sacred home of Maa Vindhyavasi has taken on a magnificent and divine presence. In the past, benefits were distributed unfairly, but we have ensured that people are not divided by caste or faction", he stated.

Security forces seize large cache of arms and explosives in intensified operations across Manipur

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE IMPHAL, 23 SEPTEMBER

In a series of intensified search and area domination operations, joint security forces, including the Manipur Police, Indian Army, Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), and Assam Rifles (AR), have made significant recoveries of arms, ammunition, and explosives in various districts of Manipur.

These coordinated efforts, aimed at neutralising insurgency threats in the region, underscore the ongoing battle to restore peace and security in the state's vulnerable hill and valley areas.

One of the major operations saw the Manipur Police and Army uncover a substantial cache of weapons and explosives.

Among the seized items were two 9mm SMG carbines with magazines, a 12-bore single-barrel gun, a 9 mm pistol, and a .32 caliber pistol. The forces also recovered five HE-36 hand grenades, four arming rings, two tubelaunch-



ers, and live rounds of ammunition.

In addition, various protective gear, including a bulletproof iron plate and jacket, as well as a tear smoke grenade, stun shells, and a Baofeng walkie-talkie radio set, were seized, further bolstering the security forces' efforts to disarm hostile groups.

Operations in Churachandpur district also yielded significant results. In Moavom village, security personnel recovered two large country-made rockets, one measuring 5.5 feet and the other 3 feet, along with a collection of mortars, including a large and medium-

sized country-made mortar and four mortar bombs.

Pistols with magazines, live rounds of ammunition, and a single-barrel rifle were also seized. Explosive-grade materials weighing 6.3 kg, as well as 17 meters of Cortex and 9 meters of fuse, were part of the confiscation.

In Moljol village, security forces, including teams from the ITBP and Assam Rifles, discovered four improvised heavy mortars (known locally as Pumpi), three 12-bore RDS, and three improvised mortar bombs. The findings further highlighted the region's ongoing threats and the importance of continued surveillance and counter-insurgency operations.

In another significant development, the Manipur Police conducted a search in the Khongnangpokpi hill range of Imphal West district, where they recovered two MP5-A3 machine pistols with magazines, an INSAS Excalibur rifle, and 37 live rounds of ammunition.

TENDER

UNIVERSITY OF CALCUTTA invites the e-tender vide Ref. No. (E-Tender No.: E-tender / Eng / CQ-228 / 24-25 & Tender ID: 2024_CU_753859_1), Dt. 19-09-2024. For details please visit: wbtenders.gov.in

EASTERN RAILWAY Tender Notice No. ENGG-03/24-25 (Open), dated 19.09.2024. E-tenders are invited by the Chief Works Manager, Eastern Railway, Kanchrapara Workshop, North 24 Parganas, P.O. - Kanchrapara, Pin-743145 (WB) through website www.ireps.gov.in

Govt. of West Bengal Tender Notice e-Tender is invited for Niet No. 02/POSTDLP/BALANCE WORK/WBSRDA/MALDA/2024-25 [1st Call] OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, HPIU, WBSRDA, MALDA DIVISION

S. E. RAILWAY - TENDER Tender No. ADEEG-RewiringQtr-24-2R, dt. 21.09.2024. For and on behalf of the President of India, the Assistant Divisional Electrical Engineer (G), South Eastern Railway, Garden Reach invites e-Tender for the following work before 15:00 hrs. on 15.10.2024.

EOI Notice (ISR/SMA/2024/EOI) & (SR/ OFC interfacing SSNNL Dam/2024/EOI) INSTITUTE OF SEISMOLOGICAL RESEARCH Knowledge Corridor, Gandhinagar, Gujarat, India 382426 www.isr.gujarat.gov.in Phone: 079-66739009

E-AUCTION NOTICE FOR PRADHAN MANTRI BHARTIYA JANAUSHADHI KENDRA (PMBJK) OUTLET CONTRACT AT SHALIMAR RAILWAY STATION E-Auction Notice No: COM/G.18/NFR/PMBJK/SHM/24/1 Dated: 20.09.2024

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय पथ निर्माण विभाग, पथ प्रमण्डल, गोड्डा ई-प्रोक्वोरमेंट सूचना RCD/GODDA/1154/2024-25 (2nd Call) दिनांक -21.09.2024 Old PR No. 333859 Road(24-25)#D

EASTERN RAILWAY Open Tender Notice No. 37SDSTE-ASN-2024-25, dated 20.09.2024. E-tenders are invited by the Sr. Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer, Eastern Railway, Asansol, Station Road, Asansol, Pin-713301

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

Kamarhati Municipality 1, M.M. Feeder Road, Rathhala, Kolkata-56 Date : 23.09.2024 E-TENDER NOTICE E-Tenders are invited by the Chairman, Kamarhati Municipality, North 24 Parganas for different works within Municipal area under 5th SFC, 14th FC, RR & ULB Fund.

EASTERN RAILWAY E-Tender Notice No. ELS-ASN-TRAPCHAM-24, dated 20.09.2024. E-Tender on open tender basis is invited by the Sr. DEE/TRS, Asansol, Pin-713301 for the following work from reputed tenderers having proven experience and capable to complete the following work financially :

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER BALANGIR (R&B) CIRCLE, BALANGIR Mail ID: sepwdbalangir@gmail.com e-Procurement Notice BID IDENTIFICATION NO.: CCE(R&B) BGR/01/2024-25 Letter No. 2554, Dtd.: 19-09-2024

KOLKATA MUNICIPAL CORPORATION - e-TENDER ABRIDGED NIT The Controlling Officer (I.T.), KMC invites e-tender for the following work: NIT No.: KMC/IT/10/2024-2025

TENDER NOTICE The undersigned is inviting sealed tender from experienced & resourceful bona fide bidders for 03 Nos. work, which NIT Memo No.: 221/BGP/24 Dated: 20-09-24. For further details contact with Prodan, Bhagabanpur Gram Panchayat.

VIDYASAGAR UNIVERSITY MIDNAPUR-721102, PASCHIM MEDINIPUR Phone: (03222) 276554 / 555 / 557 / 558 Fax No.: (03222) 275329 Web: www.vidyasagar.ac.in

DELHI JAL BOARD; GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI "STOP CORONA; WEAR MASK, FOLLOW PHYSICAL DISTANCING, MAINTAIN HAND HYGIENE" NIT No. 17/EECDM-7 (2024-25) Press Notice Tender

The Director General (Parks & Squares), KMC invites e-Tender online percentage rate two bid system for the following works: (1) NIT No.: KMC/DG_PS/IV/27/3/24-25 (1st Call)

The Director General (Bustee), KMC invites e-tender online percentage rate two bid system for the following work: NIT No.: KMC/DG(Bustee)/BR-VIII/090/11/2024-2025/R

झारखण्ड सरकार कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय, ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमण्डल, रामगढ़ ई-अति अल्पकालीन निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना ई-निविदा सं -RE-01/RDSD/RAMGARH/04/2024-25

THUMBNAILS

GAIL organises CBG workshop for stakeholders under aegis of MoPNG: Under the aegis of Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG), GAIL (India) Limited successfully organised a workshop here. The event attracted a diverse group of stakeholders, including entrepreneurs, oil and gas public sector undertakings (PSUs), City Gas Distribution (CGD) entities, technology providers, financial institutions and various Ministries and Department representatives. The CBG workshop was graced by Shri Asheesh Joshi, Joint Secretary (GP), MoPNG, where he emphasized on various schemes of the Government of India like SATAT Scheme, CBG-CGD Synchronization Scheme, Biomass Aggregation Machinery (BAM) Scheme and Direct Pipeline Injection (DPI) Scheme.

Bandhan Bank's high interest on FD: Bandhan Bank today announced that it is offering up to 8.55 per cent interest rate on Fixed Deposit (FD) for the tenure of 1 year, which is one of the best FD interest rates in the banking industry. The Bank offers the highest interest rate of 8.55 per cent to the senior citizen customers. On the same FD tenure, the other customers will earn 8.05 per cent.

ICRA estimates increase in agriculture GVA based on surplus monsoon, kharif sowing: Above-normal monsoon rains that helped farmers sow more crops this Kharif season bode well for agriculture, and are likely to improve gross value addition (GVA) in the sector. Rating agency ICRA in its latest report 'Southwest Monsoon 2024 - Update', asserted that the GVA growth of agriculture, forestry, and fishing will improve to 3.2 per cent in the current financial year 2024-25 from 1.4 per cent in 2023-24. However, rural demand, ICRA said, is likely to witness a meaningful recovery in the second half of 2024-25 due to visibility around the Kharif.

Market gains for third straight session

Sensex hit its fresh record high of 84,980.53, while the Nifty 50 made a fresh peak of 25,956 during the session

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 23 SEPTEMBER

Market extended gains on the third straight session on Monday to hit fresh record highs. Nifty crossed 25,956 amid buying across the sectors barring Information Technology stocks. Sensex hit its fresh record high of 84,980.53, while the Nifty 50 made a fresh peak of 25,956 during the session. Sensex closed 384 points, or 0.45 per cent, higher at 84,928.61, while the Nifty 50

ended 148 points, or 0.57 per cent, up at 25,939.05. Mahindra and Mahindra, SBI, Bharti Airtel, Kotak Mahindra Bank, HUL and UltraTech Cement ended as the top gainers in the Sensex while ICICI Bank, IndusInd Bank, Asian Paints, Tech Mahindra, HCL Tech and Infosys ended as the top losers. On Nifty, the top gainers were M&M, ONGC, Bajaj Auto, SBI Life Insurance, Hero Moto-Corp, while losers were Eicher Motors, Divis Labs, ICICI Bank, Tech Mahindra and IndusInd Bank.



Among the sectoral indices, all ended higher barring Nifty IT down by 0.51 per cent. Nifty PSU Bank was up 3.41 per cent, Realty by 2.23 per cent, Oil & Gas by 1.89 per cent, Auto by 1.56 per cent and Consumer Durables by 1.18 per cent. The Nifty Bank index rose 0.58 per cent, while the Private Bank index climbed 0.22 per cent.

BSE midcap index and smallcap indices were up 0.7 per cent each. The mid and smallcap indices on the BSE also saw significant gains, rising by 0.73 per cent each. The across-the-board buying shot up the cumulative market capitalisation of the firms listed on the BSE to Rs 476 lakh crore from nearly Rs 472 lakh crore in the previous session. Notably, around 350 stocks touched their 52-high on the BSE. These included Aditya Birla Fashion, Amber Enter-

prises, Apollo Hospitals, Asahi India, Bajaj Auto, Bajaj Finserv, Bharti Airtel, Bikaji Foods, Blue Star, Divis Labs, Hero MotoCorp, HUL, Kalyan Jeweller, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Lloyds Metals, M&M, Mankind Pharma, Max Financial, Shyam Metalics, Sun Pharma, Suvon Pharma, United Spirits, V-Mart Retail, among others. Adani Total Gas shares surged over 5 per cent after the company successfully secured a financing package of \$375 million from global lenders.

Shares of SpiceJet zoomed over 5 per cent after the airline raised Rs 3,000 crore by selling shares to qualified institutional buyers (QIBs). Fusion MicroFinance shares crashed over 10 per cent after Investec downgraded the stock to sell from hold and slashed the target price to Rs 300 piece from Rs 500. Shares of Vodafone Idea soared 4 per cent after the telecom operator inked a mega \$3.6 billion deal with Nokia, Ericsson, and Samsung for the supply network equipment over three years.

EPFO records highest-ever payroll addition in July with 19.94 lakh net members

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 23 SEPTEMBER

Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) added 19.94 lakh net members in July 2024, marking the highest recorded increase since payroll data tracking began in April 2018, government data said on Monday.

Union Minister of Labour & Employment released the provisional payroll data, and mentioned that EPFO has added 19.94 lakh net members in the month of July, marking the highest recorded increase since payroll data tracking began in April 2018.

EPFO added 10.52 lakh new members in July, representing a 2.66 per cent increase over June and a 2.43 per cent increase compared to July 2023, the data said.

This surge in new memberships can be attributed to growing employment opportunities, increased awareness of employee benefits, and EPFO's successful outreach programs. Ministry data said that approximately 14.65 lakh members who had exited the system rejoined EPFO in July. This figure represents a 15.25 per cent year-over-year increase.

These members opted to transfer their provident fund accumulations rather than withdraw them, thus maintaining their long-term financial security.

The highest growth was observed in the 18-25 age group, with 8.77 lakh net additions in July. This marks the largest increase for this demographic since records began and reflects the continued trend of young people, mostly first-time job seekers, entering the organized workforce.

This age group represents 59.41 per cent of all new members added during the month.

Around 3.05 lakh new female members joined EPFO in July, reflecting a year-over-year growth of 10.94 per cent.

In total, 4.41 lakh net female members were added, marking the highest monthly addition for women since payroll tracking began, with a 14.41 per cent increase compared to July 2023.

Significant membership growth was seen in sectors such as manufacturing, computer services, construction, engineering, banking (non-nationalized), and private sector electronic media. Notably, 38.91 per cent of net additions came from expert services, including manpower suppliers, contractors, and security services, among others.

The states of Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Haryana, and Gujarat accounted for 59.27 per cent of the total net member additions in July, collectively adding 11.82 lakh members.

3 per cent individual F&O traders made losses, spike in young traders: SEBI Survey

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 23 SEPTEMBER

Nine out of 10 individual traders in the equity futures and options (F&O) segment incurred significant losses with the aggregate losses pegged at over Rs 1.8 lakh crore over the three-year period between FY22 and FY24, Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) said on Monday.

The latest SEBI study revealed that 93 per cent of over 1 crore individual F&O traders incurred losses on an average of around Rs 2 lakh per trader, inclusive of transaction costs, during the three years from FY22 to FY24.

SEBI said the proportion of young traders (below 30 years) in the F&O segment rose from 31 per cent in FY23 to 43 per cent in FY24.

Individuals from Beyond Top 30 (B30) cities made up over 72 per cent of the total F&O trader base, a higher proportion compared to mutual fund investors where in 62 per cent are from B30 cities, it added.

The study also revealed that in terms of the income profiles of traders, over 75 per cent of individual F&O traders in FY24 had declared an annual income of less than Rs 5 lakh.

In terms of trading behaviour and persistence, the SEBI study found that despite consecutive years of losses, more than 75 per cent of the loss-making traders con-



tinued trading in F&O. "With increased participation of individual investors in equity and equity derivatives markets, the current study was undertaken to analyse profit and loss patterns for individual traders in F&O during the three years FY22 to FY24, and for all the categories," the report said.

The top 3.5 per cent of loss-makers (approx 4 lakh traders) faced an average loss of Rs 28 lakh per person over the same period, inclusive of transaction costs. Only 1 per cent of the individual traders managed to earn profits exceeding Rs 1 lakh, after adjusting for transaction costs.

This assumes significance as an earlier study published in January 2023 by the capital market watchdog had shown that 89 per cent of individual equity F&O traders lost money in FY22.

The study found that in sharp contrast, proprietary traders and foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) as a category

booked gross trading profits of Rs 33,000 crore and Rs 28,000 crore, respectively, in FY24 (before accounting for transaction costs). Individuals and others incurred a loss of over Rs 61,000 crore in FY24 (before accounting for transaction costs).

Most of the profits were generated by larger entities that used trading algorithms, with 97 per cent of FPI profits and 96 per cent of proprietary trader profits coming from algorithmic trading.

While most individual traders did not make money in the F&O segment, they ended up spending on an average an amount of Rs 26,000 per person on F&O transaction costs in FY24.

The data released by the SEBI said that over the three-year period from FY22 to FY24, individuals collectively spent about Rs 50,000 crore on transaction costs, with 51 per cent of these costs being brokerage fees and 20 per cent being exchange fees.

India identified among top 3 in setting, reducing carbon emission targets

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 23 SEPTEMBER

India has been identified as one of the top three countries in reporting, setting targets, and reducing carbon emissions. The country ranked behind only China and Brazil. However, despite this achievement, overall global progress remains slow.

A global survey by the Boston Consulting Group (BCG) and sustainability management platform CO2 AI has released the data. The report, titled 'Boosting Your Bottom Line Through Decarbonisation', highlights that 12 per cent of Indian companies are reporting their emissions, compared to a global average of 9 per cent.

Furthermore, while 16 per cent of companies worldwide have set emission reduction targets, India surpasses this with 24 per cent. In line with the Paris Agreement's goal of limiting global temperature increases to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, 15 per cent of Indian companies are actively reducing emissions, exceeding the global average of 11 per cent. It reveals that global figures for carbon emissions reporting, target-setting, and reduction have fallen compared to 2023.

This comes against the backdrop of 2024 being officially recorded as the hottest year in history, with this sum-



mer surpassing last year's heat levels.

It shows that companies are financially benefiting from decarbonization efforts. At least 25 per cent of businesses reported gaining annual decarbonization benefits exceeding 7 per cent of their revenues, translating to an average net benefit of \$200 million per year. The study found that companies leveraging AI for emission reduction are 4.5 times more likely to succeed.

As per the survey, AI enhances sustainability efforts by automating routine tasks, enabling teams to concentrate on strategic initiatives like reducing emissions and creating value.

It gathered insights from 1,864 executives overseeing their companies' efforts in measuring, reporting, and reducing emissions. The participating companies spanned 16 major industries, with annual revenues ranging from \$100 million to over \$20 billion, collectively responsible for around 45 per cent of global greenhouse gas emissions covering 26 countries.

Indian real estate market set to reach \$10 trillion by 2047: Report

AGENCIES
SYDNEY, 23 SEPTEMBER

The real estate market is expected to play a pivotal role in the economic growth trajectory of India. It will potentially be a \$10 trillion market by 2047, accounting for a 14-20 per cent share in the country's GDP, according to a report on Monday.

The interplay between real estate and India's economic growth journey over the next few decades is explored in the latest report by Colliers in collaboration with the Confederation of Real Estate Developers' Associations of India (CREDAI) and released at the CREDAI NATCON event in Sydney.

The report noted that along the accelerated journey till 2047, various real estate segments will evolve and continue to proliferate, growing and maturing by varying degrees.

Core assets such as office and residential real estate are likely to mature further and alternative assets such as data centres and senior living will embark upon strong growth trajectories.

Market consolidation, fair pricing, and institutionalisation will become more pervasive across asset classes, especially in the industrial and warehousing segment.

With shifting demographic patterns in India, the median age is likely to increase from about 30 years to approximately 40 years by 2050.

Further, half of the Indian population is projected to live in urban agglomerations by 2050. With rapid urbanisation and supporting factors



like infrastructure growth and employment opportunities, real estate traction is likely to expand beyond tier-1 cities and create dispersed growth centres in smaller towns and cities.

Peripheral areas of established cities and tier II and III cities of the country will particularly witness accelerated real estate development across asset classes, the report said.

"India has set its sights on becoming a \$10 trillion real estate market, driven by the sector's ability to adapt and innovate. Landmark initiatives such as RERA and REIT regulations have enhanced transparency, improved investor confidence, and streamlined operations across the sector. These reforms, alongside critical programmes like PMAY and Gati Shakti, are creating a conducive environment for sustained real estate devel-

opment," said Manoj Gaur, Chairman, CREDAI National.

Furthermore, flagship programmes such as the Golden Quadrilateral Project, 'Make in India' Programme and National Infrastructure Pipeline have positively impacted multiple real estate segments across the country, particularly the industrial and warehousing segment.

With high-volume freight movement along industrial corridors, we can anticipate amplified requirements for warehouses, logistics hubs, and manufacturing units across multiple smaller locations in the country.

Over the years, driven by strong domestic growth prospects, improvements in ease of doing business, and continual FDI relaxations, foreign capital inflow has also grown significantly across diverse sectors. Institutional investments

in the real estate sector in the last decade have crossed \$60 billion, with the majority being funded by foreign players.

In the upcoming years, the Indian real estate sector will also increasingly embrace digitalisation across aspects ranging from planning, design, and construction to property and facilities management. PropTech and Metaverse are likely to mature and elevate Indian real estate to global standards of operational efficiency, transparency, and accountability.

Advanced technologies will also play a major role in decarbonising the real estate sector. With a focus on built spaces, developers will incorporate sustainable elements at every stage of construction. Green certifications in the office market will particularly become a hygiene factor and green adoption levels are likely to increase from about 60-70 per cent to almost 100 per cent over the next few years.

"Favourable demographics and urbanisation trends are likely to accentuate the emergence of over hundred -million plus cities by 2047," said Badal Yagnik, Chief Executive Officer, Colliers India.

"This in turn presents a case for the emergence of multiple real estate hotspots dispersed across the country. Residential, office, and retail segments, particularly, are expected to mature significantly in the next few decades, creating substantial opportunities for investors, developers, and occupiers," he added.

Investors prefer regular hefty returns, tax benefits post Covid

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, 23 SEPTEMBER

Degree of returns, regularity of returns, and tax benefits are the significant factors influencing post-Covid investment decisions, according to a report on Monday.

The report, jointly made by the PHD Research Bureau, PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and Jagan Institute of Management Studies (JIMS), Rohini, aims to analyse the factors influencing individual investments across various financial instruments and to compare the investor behaviours towards selected financial instruments in pre and post-Covid years.

"India's capital market has witnessed a robust performance during the post-Covid years supported by the strong regulatory environment, high growth of the economy, and investors' confidence in India's growth story," said Sanjeev Agrawal, President, PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

"Going ahead, our capital market is seen with outstanding performance in the coming years, as India is going to be the third largest economy soon and have a size of \$7 trillion by 2030," Agrawal added.

The period considered for the analysis includes two years of pre-pandemic (FY 2018-2020) and two years of post-pandemic (FY 2021-23).

Retail credit growth moderates in June quarter



AGENCIES
MUMBAI, 23 SEPTEMBER

India's retail credit growth moderated in the June quarter as financial institutions tightened the supply of credit, particularly on consumption-led products like credit cards, consumer durable loans, and personal loans, a report said on Monday.

A TransUnion CIBIL Credit Market Indicator (CMI) report said that there was a "continued decline in new-to-credit (NTC) volumes, especially when younger consumers are entering the credit marketplace for the first time".

The share of originations for NTC consumers has declined consistently over the past five years. The share of NTC consumers in originations dropped from 16 per cent in the quarter ending June 2023 to 12 per cent in the June quarter. The report showed overall originations continued to grow at a moderate rate, home loan originations dropped by 9 per cent in volume, while credit card originations declined by 30 per cent YoY. Two-wheeler loans were the only credit product that had double-digit growth in volume

and value originations. Credit performance continued to improve across most products, except for credit cards.

However, growth moderated across all credit products, particularly on small-ticket loans.

Rajesh Kumar, MD and CEO of TransUnion CIBIL said that with "timely regulatory guidance and given the relatively high credit-deposit ratio, we are witnessing a moderation in retail credit growth".

"Sustainable credit growth can be achieved by identifying and providing access to credit for these New-to-Credit consumers using information analytics and technology-based solutions. Emerging pockets of deserving consumers exist across India's socio-economic categories and geographies and will be the channels of profitable growth and financial inclusion," he added.

The CMI for June 2024 was 101, which was the same as that in June 2023. The indicator has remained consistently above 100 since June 2022, highlighting healthy retail lending trends in India, the report said.

Flash PMI declines to 59.3 pc in Sept, lowest in 2024

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 23 SEPTEMBER

A survey by HSBC on Monday showed that a slowdown in business activity of both the manufacturing and services sector pulled down the expansion of India's private sector economy in September.

The headline flash composite Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) figure declined to 59.3 in September, lowest in 2024, from an upward revised figure of 60.7 in August.

The survey carried out by the global banker said, "[The survey] signalled ongoing strong growth across the Indian private sector during September, although both output and new orders rose at the slowest rates in 2024 so far. Meanwhile, employment continued to rise solidly amid improved business confidence."

Although, the index, which measures the month-on-month change in the combined output of India's manufacturing and service sectors, was above the neutral 50-mark that separates contraction from expansion for the 38th straight month.

Speaking on the numbers, Pranjal Bhandari, chief India economist, HSBC, said that the flash composite PMI in India rose at a slightly slower pace in September, marking the slowest growth observed in 2024, as both the manufacturing and service sectors exhibited similar trends during the month.

Israeli army says it struck 300 targets in Lebanon

It was the first warning of its kind in nearly a year of steadily escalating conflict and came after a particularly heavy exchange of fire

AGENCIES JERUSALEM, 23 SEPTEMBER

The Israeli military said it struck 300 targets Monday in Lebanon in one of the most intense barrages of airstrikes in nearly a year of fighting against the Hezbollah militant group.

The Lebanese Health Ministry said 50 people were killed and 300 wounded, making this past week the deadliest in Lebanon since the conflict started in October. In the last seven days, around 150 people have been killed, many of them civilians.

Before the escalation beginning with the wave of pager explosions last Tuesday, around 600 people had been killed in Lebanon since October, mostly fighters, but also more than 100 civilians.

The Israeli army announced the action on social media, posting a photo of what it said was the military



chief, Lt. Gen. Herzi Halevi, approving additional attacks from military headquarters in Tel Aviv.

Halevi and other Israeli leaders have promised tougher action against

Hezbollah in the coming days.

Hezbollah said in a statement that it fired dozens of rockets at an Israeli military post in Galilee. It also targeted for a second day the facilities

of the Rafael defense firm, headquartered in Haifa.

As Israel carried out the attacks, Israeli authorities reported a series of air-raid sirens in northern Israel warning of incoming rocket fire from Lebanon.

As the military was carrying out the attacks, Israeli authorities reported a series of air-raid sirens in northern Israel warning of incoming rocket fire from Lebanon.

Earlier Monday, Israel urged residents of southern Lebanon to evacuate from homes and other buildings where it claimed Hezbollah has stored weapons, saying the military would conduct "extensive strikes" against the militant group.

It was the first warning of its kind in nearly a year of steadily escalating conflict and came after a particularly heavy exchange of fire on Sunday. Hezbollah launched around 150 rockets, missiles and drones into northern

Israel in retaliation for strikes that killed a top commander and dozens of fighters.

There was no sign of an immediate exodus from the villages of southern Lebanon, and the warning left open the possibility that some residents could live in or near targeted structures without knowing that they are risk.

The increasing strikes and counterstrikes have raised fears of an all-out war, even as Israel is still battling Hamas in Gaza and trying to return scores of hostages taken in Hamas' Oct. 7 attack. Hezbollah has vowed to continue its strikes in solidarity with the Palestinians and Hamas, a fellow Iran-backed militant group. Israel says it is committed to returning calm to its northern border.

Associated Press journalists in southern Lebanon reported heavy airstrikes targeting many areas Monday morning, including some far from the border.

Ukraine's Zelenskyy visits Pennsylvania ammunition plant to thank workers and ask for more

AGENCIES SCRANTON, 23 SEPTEMBER

Under tight security, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on Sunday visited a Pennsylvania ammunition factory to thank the workers who are producing one of the most critically needed munitions for his country's fight to fend off Russian ground forces.

Rep. Matt Cartwright, a Democrat who was among those who met with Zelenskyy at the Scranton Army Ammunition Plant, said the president had a simple message: "Thank you. And we need more."

The Scranton plant is one of the few facilities in the country to manufacture 155 mm artillery shells and has increased production over the past year. Ukraine has already received more than 3 million of them from the U.S.

Zelenskyy said he expressed his gratitude to all the employees at the plant.

"It is in places like this where you can truly feel that the democratic world can prevail," he wrote on X.



"Thanks to people like these — in Ukraine, in America, and in all partner countries — who work tirelessly to ensure that life is protected."

Zelenskyy's visit kicked off a busy week in the United States. He will speak at the U.N. General Assembly annual gathering in New York on Tuesday and Wednesday and then travel to Washington for talks on Thursday with President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris, as he seeks to shore up support for Ukraine.

The area around the ammunition plant had been sealed off since Sunday morning, with municipal garbage trucks positioned across several roadblocks and a very heavy presence of city, regional and

state police, including troopers on horseback.

As Zelenskyy's large motorcade made its way to the ammunition plant in the afternoon, a small contingent of supporters waving Ukrainian flags assembled nearby to show their appreciation for his visit.

"It's unfortunate that we need a plant like this, but it's here, and it's here to protect the world," said Vera Kowal Krewson, a first-generation Ukrainian American who was among those who greeted Zelenskyy's motorcade. "And I strongly feel that way."

She said many of her friends' parents have worked in the ammunition plant, and she called Zelenskyy's visit "a wonderful thing."

Laryssa Salak, 60, whose parents also immigrated from Ukraine, said she was pleased Zelenskyy came to thank the workers. She said it upsets her that funding for Ukraine's defense has divided Americans and that even some of her friends oppose the support, saying the money should go to help Americans instead.

Case of Mexico's 43 missing students persists among tens of thousands of disappearances

AGENCIES MEXICO CITY, 23 SEPTEMBER

All countries have crimes that resonate. In Mexico, one of the modern day ones is the disappearance of 43 students from a rural teacher's college in 2014.

Ten years later, it's still not clear where the students from the Rural Normal School at Ayotzinapa are. Authorities believe they were killed, but have only turned up small bone fragments from three of them.

The families, with the support of the school known for its radical activism, continue to demand justice. They maintain a lack of political will is



responsible for not finding the truth. If it was a "state crime" as the current administration says, the government must know what happened and who is hiding information. In a country with more than 115,000 registered disappearances, this case continues to hold the public's attention because it combined cartel violence and corrupt

authorities and remains stubbornly unresolved.

It's considered an emblematic case and another example of abuses that occurred decades ago in Mexico's dirty war and were never corrected. During the administration of Enrique Peña Nieto (2012-2018), authorities said the students had gone to Iguala, Guerrero to protest at an event — the mayor, now jailed, was linked to local gang Guerreros Unidos. They were allegedly mistaken for members of a rival gang.

The Peña Nieto administration said that Guerreros Unidos had abducted and killed the students, burned their bodies in a huge fire and tossed their ashes into a river.

Spending deal averts a possible federal shutdown and funds the government into December

AGENCIES WASHINGTON, 23 SEPTEMBER

Congressional leaders announced an agreement Sunday on a short-term spending bill that will fund federal agencies for about three months, averting a possible partial government shutdown when the new budget year begins Oct. 1 and pushing final decisions until after the November election.

Temporary spending bills currently fund agencies at general levels, but an additional \$231 million was included to bolster the Secret Service after the two assassination attempts

against Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump, and additional money was added to aid with the presidential transition, among other things.

Lawmakers have struggled to get to this point as the current budget year winds to a close at month's end. At the urging of the most conservative members of his conference, House Speaker Mike Johnson, R-La., had linked temporary funding with a mandate that would have compelled states to require proof of citizenship when people register to vote.

But Johnson abandoned that approach to reach an agreement, even as Trump



insisted there should not be a stop-gap measure without the voting requirement.

Bipartisan negotiations began in earnest shortly after that, with leadership agreeing to extend funding into mid-December. That gives the current Congress the ability to fashion a full-year spending

bill after the Nov. 5 election, rather than push that responsibility to the next Congress and president. In a letter to Republican colleagues, Johnson said the budget measure would be "very narrow, bare-bones" and include "only the extensions that are absolutely necessary."

"While this is not the solution of us prefer, it is the most prudent path forward under the present circumstances," Johnson wrote. "As history has taught and current polling affirms, shutting the government down less than 40 days from a fateful election would be an act of political malpractice." House Democratic leader Hakeem Jeffries said Democrats would evaluate the bill in its entirety before this week's vote, but with the agreement, "Congress is now on a bipartisan path to avoid a government shutdown that would hurt everyday Americans."

JUI-F chief demands 'transparent polls' as political turbulence grips Pakistan

AGENCIES ISLAMABAD, 23 SEPTEMBER

Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI-F) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman has expressed concern over the political turbulence in Pakistan and warned that the nation was heading on the brink of disaster. The Express Tribune reported.

He demanded transparent polls, asserting that the last polls were tainted due to rigging and accused the estab-

lishment of assembling a flawed parliament.

He said, "The current assembly is not a true representation of the people, especially in Balochistan, where the masses are not being fairly represented."

Elections were held in Pakistan amid allegations of rigging and the shutdown of cellular and internet services.

While addressing the business community on Sunday, he said Pakistan is in a pre-

carious situation where neither its constitution nor its institutions like parliament and the judiciary are safe from interference.

Rehman stated, "The world is hesitant to engage with us economically, and our friendly nations are deeply worried about how to save Pakistan's economy."

The JUI-F chief stressed that each institution was meddling in the affairs of others to secure their interests. The

Express Tribune reported.

He said, "If every institution works within its boundaries and strengthens its role, we can find solutions."

JUI-F's head warned that the continued erosion of constitutional values would cause further instability.

He further said, "The permanent solution to these problems is transparent elections, and the supremacy of the Constitution must be upheld at all costs."

Despite Russian opposition, UN adopts 'Pact of Future' that aims to transform global governance

AGENCIES NEW YORK, 23 SEPTEMBER

The United Nations General Assembly adopted a "Pact for the Future" on Sunday, designed to address 21st century challenges including climate change, conflict, and human rights.

World leaders at the UN headquarters in New York adopted the Pact for the Future by consensus - with a small group of seven countries led by Russia holding out, having

failed to pass a last-minute amendment.

"The Pact for the Future has been adopted by member countries by consensus at UN Headquarters in New York. The adoption will help pave the way for greater international cooperation for our common future," the UN official account posted on social media platform X.

The Pact covers a broad range of themes including peace and security, sustainable development, climate change,

digital cooperation, human rights, gender, youth and future generations, and the transformation of global governance.

Two annexes of the pact, the Global Digital Compact and the Declaration on Future Generations were also adopted by the UN members.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres who organised the 'Summit of the Future' described the pact as a landmark agreement that is a "step-change towards more

effective, inclusive, networked multilateralism."

"We are here to bring multilateralism back from the brink," Guterres said.

In his address, Guterres said he called for the Summit of Future "because 21st-century challenges require 21st-century solutions" and "we need tough decisions to get back on track."

Stating that the world is going through a time of turbulence and transition, Guterres said: "We cannot wait for perfect conditions."

LEISURE

10 MINUTE CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- Snooker stick (3)
- Part of a large building (4)
- Partiality (3-9)
- Fruit (5)
- Source of difficulty (7)
- Emphasis (6)
- Small mammal (6)
- Dignified (7)
- Urbane (5)
- State administration branch (5,7)
- Charges (4)
- Long thin scarf (3)

DOWN

- Plant such as ivy (7)
- Privileged minority (5)
- Sweetly charming (7)
- Relating to the nose (4)
- Sugar syrup (8)
- Lure (5)
- Seasickness (French) (3,2,3)
- Taxonomic group (7)
- Staying power (7)
- Romany (5)
- Nimble (5)
- Woody plant (5)

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

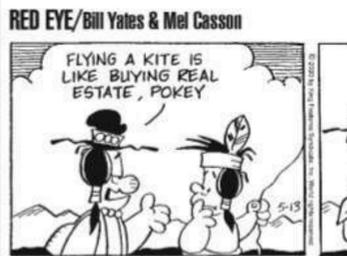
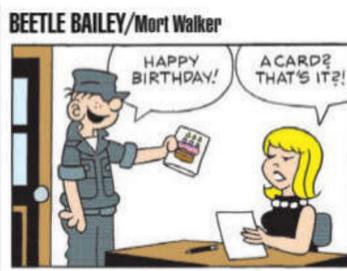
ACROSS

- Neph,
- Kid (Naked),
- Barbarian,
- Goggles,
- Pony,
- Draw the line,
- Pattern,
- Implement,
- Fox,
- 24 Oiled.

DOWN

- Nonage,
- Integer,
- Hub, 4 Knife,
- Dank,
- Grass-
- 11 Lavender,
- Needful,
- Intend,
- 17 imply,
- 19 Rib,
- 21 Two.

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



NEED TO KNOW

HOSPITALS

- AHMS 26588500, 26588900
- Moolchand Medcity (formerly Hospital) 42000000 & 24-hour Chemist Shop 42000447
- VidyaSagar Institute for Mental Health and Neuro-Sciences 26924300, 26924304
- Batra Hospital & Medical Research Centre 29051280, 29958747
- Deen Dayal Upadhyay 25496320, 25494403
- Guru Tegh Bahadur 22586262, 22585007

RAILWAY INQUIRY

- General Inquiry 139
- Toll Free Nos. 1800112511
- SMS Inquiry Nos. 57886, 54959, 5676747

ROADWAYS INQUIRY

- ISBT (General Inquiry): 23868836, 23865181
- Haryana Roadways 23861262
- Himachal Roadways 23717473, 23325320

FLIGHT INQUIRY

- AIR INDIA Flight Inquiry and Reservation 18001801407
- INDIGO AIRLINES New Delhi City Office 43513185, Call Centre 0991038383, 18001803838, Reservation 43513186, Indigo Airlines Air- port 011-25671580; Terminal I- 8 25671576, Palam Road 25671579, 18001803838
- JET AIRWAYS Flight Inquiry and Reservation 39841111
- EMIRATES Flight Inquiry and Reservation 33773377
- Air Canada Flight Inquiry 25656421/25656431 Reservation 41528181
- Air France Flight Inquiry and Reservation 23466262 (City) 25652294 (Airport)
- Kuwait Airways Flight Inquiry and Reservation 23354373

SCRABBLE (G R A M S)

Directions: Make a 2 to 7 letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. Blank used as any letter in the Official Scrabble Players Dictionary (Merriam-Webster) and OWS Official Scrabble Words (Chambers). Judd's Solution tomorrow, 10-25-12.

PAR SCORE 140-150 by JUDD

PACK 1: 62
 PACK 2: 67
 PACK 3: 83
 PACK 4: 10
 JUDG TOTAL: 222

FOUR RACK TOTAL TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

answer to previous puzzle

SUDOKU Concepts Sudoku By Dave Green

Difficulty Level ★

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

Answer to previous puzzle: 3 5 4 6 9 2 7 8 1; 8 2 7 1 9 6 1 9 3 4; 1 6 9 7 4 3 8 6 2 5; 6 7 8 6 2 1 8 9 3 5; 2 9 3 5 7 4 8 1 6 5; 6 8 1 3 8 9 2 7 5; 0 1 3 4 6 9 3 2 7; 7 8 2 9 9 5 1 4 4 4; 4 3 6 7 1 7 8 6 9

Lebanese doctor races to save the eyes of those hurt by exploding tech devices

ASSOCIATED PRESS BEIRUT, 23 SEPTEMBER

For almost a week, ophthalmologist Elias Jaradeh has worked around the clock, trying to keep up with the flood of patients whose eyes were injured when pagers and walkie-talkies exploded en masse across Lebanon.

He has lost track of how many eye operations he has performed in multiple hospitals, surviving on two hours of sleep before starting on the next operation. He has managed to save some patients' sight, but many will never see again.

"There is no doubt that what happened was extremely tragic, when you see this overwhelming number of people with eye injuries arriving at the same time to the hospital, most of them young men, but also children and young women," he told The Associated Press at a Beirut hospital this past week, struggling to hold back tears.

Lebanese hospitals and



medics were inundated after thousands of hand-held devices belonging to the Hezbollah militant group detonated simultaneously on Tuesday and Wednesday last week, killing at least 39 people. Around 3,000 more were wounded, some with life-altering disabilities. Israel is widely believed to have been behind the attack, although it has neither confirmed nor denied its involvement.

Although the explosions appear to have targeted Hezbollah fighters, many of the victims were civilians. And many of those hurt in the attack suffered injuries to their hands, face and eyes

because the devices received messages just before they detonated, so they were looking at the devices as they exploded. Authorities have not said how many people lost their eyes.

Veteran and hardened Lebanese eye doctors who have dealt with the aftermath of multiple wars, civil unrest and explosions, said they have never seen anything like it.

Jaradeh, who is also a lawmaker representing south Lebanon as a reformist, said most of the patients sent to his hospital, which specializes in ophthalmology, were young people who had significant damage to one or both eyes.

Alabama shooting: Search underway for suspects

By the early hours of Sunday, victims began showing up at hospitals and police subsequently identified 17 people with injuries, some of them life threatening

ASSOCIATED PRESS BIRMINGHAM, 23 SEPTEMBER

Authorities have reported no arrests after a weekend mass shooting killed four people and left 17 others injured in what police described as a targeted "hit" by multiple shooters who opened fire outside a popular Alabama nightclub.

The shooting late Saturday in the popular Five Points South entertainment district of Birmingham rocked an area of restaurants and bars that is often bustling on weekend nights. The mass shooting, one of several this year in the city, unnerved residents and left officials at home and beyond pleading for help to both solve the crime and address the broader problem of gun violence.

"The priority is to find these shooters and get them off our streets," Birmingham Mayor Randall Woodfin said

a day after the shooting.

The mayor planned a morning news conference Monday to provide updates on the case.

The shooting occurred on the sidewalk and street outside Hush, a lounge in the entertainment district, where blood stains were still visible on the sidewalk outside the venue on Sunday morning.

Birmingham Police Chief Scott Thurmond said authorities believe the shooting targeted one of the people who was killed, possibly in a murder-for-hire. A vehicle pulled up and "multiple shooters" got out and began firing, then fled the scene, he said. "We believe that there was a 'hit,' if you will, on that particular person," Thurmond said.

Police said about 100 shell casings were recovered. Thurmond said law enforcement was working to determine what weapons were used,



but they believe some of the gunfire was "fully automatic." Investigators also were trying to determine whether anyone fired back, creating a cross-fire.

In a statement late Sunday, police said the shooters are believed to have used "machine gun conversion devices" that make semiautomatic weapons fire more rapidly.

Officers found two men and a woman on a sidewalk with gunshot wounds and they were pronounced dead there. An additional male gunshot victim was pronounced dead at a hospital, according to police.

Police identified the three victims found on the sidewalk as Anitra Holloman, 21, of the Birmingham suburb of Bessemer, Tahj Booker, 27, of Birmingham, and Carlos McCain, 27, of Birmingham. The fourth victim pronounced dead at the hospital was pending identification.

By the early hours of Sunday, victims began showing up at hospitals and police subsequently identified 17 people with injuries, some of them life-threatening. Four of the surviving victims, in conditions ranging from good to critical, were being treated at the University of Alabama at Birmingham Hospital on Sunday afternoon, according to Alicia Rohan, a hospital spokeswoman.

The area of Birmingham where the gunfire erupted is popular with young adults because of its proximity to the University of Alabama at Birmingham and the plethora of nearby restaurants and bars.

A Soyuz capsule with two Russians and one American from the International Space Station returns to Earth



ASSOCIATED PRESS MOSCOW, 23 SEPTEMBER

A Soyuz capsule carrying two Russians and one American from the International Space Station landed Monday in Kazakhstan, ending a record-breaking stay for the Russian pair.

The capsule landed on the Kazakh steppe about 3 1/2 hours after undocking from the ISS in an apparently trouble-free descent. In the last stage of the landing, it descended under a red-and-white parachute at about 7.2 meters per second (16 mph), with small rockets fired in the final seconds to cushion the touchdown. The astronauts were to be extracted from the capsule and placed in nearby chairs to help them adjust to gravity, then given medical examinations in a nearby tent. Oleg Kononenko and Nikolai Chub returned after 374 days aboard the space station; on Friday they broke the record for the longest continuous stay there. Also in the capsule was American Tracy Dyson, who was in the space station for six months. Eight astronauts remain in the space station, including Americans Butch Wilmore and Suni Williams, who have remained long past their scheduled return to Earth.

Mali's President pledges to curb terrorism

AGENCIES BAMAKO, 23 SEPTEMBER

Mali's President Assimi Goita pledged to intensify the fight against terrorism, reaffirming his determination to pursue peace, security, and development in the country.

Goita on Sunday made the remarks after a military



parade marking the 64th anniversary of the country's independence, Xinhua news agency reported.

"We will pursue these armed groups day and night until our country is completely free from this threat," he said.

While praising the commitment of the Malian people

who, "despite the challenges," continue to actively support the Malian Armed Forces in their mission to defend the nation, Goita emphasised the need for a "sacred union" around the Defence and Security Forces, noting that victory in this fight requires constant support from citizens and partners.

"We are open to all our partners in a spirit of mutual respect and win-win cooperation," he said, adding that Mali, together with its partners in the Confederation of the Alliance of Sahel States, will make every effort to eradicate the terrorist threat.

The President confirmed on Sunday.

Office of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India. National Essay Writing Competition 2024. 9, Deen Dayal Upadhyay Marg, New Delhi. The Comptroller and Auditor General of India is conducting the National Essay Writing Competition 2024 on 4th October, 2024, as part of Audit Diwas celebrations.

NOTICE. Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission, Baruiapur, 24-Pgs.(S). Execution Application No. - 96/2023, Complain Case No. 26/2021. Lokenath Ghosh, Son of Bijay Krishna Ghosh, smt. Meena Ghosh, w/o. Loknath Ghosh, both of 303, Pancha Rana Apartment, South Park, P.O. Bistupur, Kalimati, Jamshedpur, Jharkhand - 831001.....Complainant.

BUREAU OF POLICE RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT. Ministry of Home Affairs. NH-48, Mahipalpur, New Delhi-110037. File No. 32/33/2021-RD (E-11118). SOLICITING RESEARCH PROPOSALS. BPR&D invites research proposals on the subject related to Police and Correctional Administration.

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA EXTRA-ORDINARY APPELLATE JURISDICTION. Special Leave Petition (C) Diary No. 14978 OF 2021. WITH PRAYER FOR INTERIM RELIEF WITH 63969/2024-APPLICATION FOR CONDONATION OF DELAY IN REFILING/ CURING THE DEFECTS.

No. 353/17/2023 - New Technology Government of India Ministry of New & Renewable Energy Atal Akshay Urja Bhawan Opp. CGO Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi - 110003. The Government of India has approved the constitution of a Mission Secretariat under the National Green Hydrogen Mission (NGHM). Accordingly, applications are invited for various posts (Pay Level 10-13A) from Indian nationals willing to contribute towards development of a Green Hydrogen ecosystem, to join the Government on Contract Basis.

APPENDIX IV-A Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Property. E-Auction Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(i) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described Immovable Property mortgaged to Sammaan Capital Limited (formerly known as Indiabulls Housing Finance Ltd.) [CIN : L65922DL2005PLC136029] ("Secured Creditor"), the constructive possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "as is where is", "as is what is" and "whatever there is" basis on 28.10.2024 from 04.00 P.M. to 05.00 P.M., for recovery of Rs. 15,84,350/- (Rupees Fifteen Lakh Eighty Four Thousand Three Hundred Fifty only) pending towards Loan Account No. HHKOL09131013, by way of outstanding principal, arrears (including accrued late charges) and interest till 17.09.2024 with applicable future interest in terms of the Loan Agreement and other related loan document(s) w.e.f. 18.09.2024 along with legal expenses and other charges due to the Secured Creditor from SHEIKH NASRAT ALI & SAKNARAT ALI AND ASMINA BEGUM. The Reserve Price of the Immovable Property will be Rs. 18,25,000/- (Rupees Eighteen Lakh Twenty Five Thousand only) and the Earnest Money Deposit ("EMD") will be Rs. 1,82,500/- (Rupees One Lakh Eighty Two Thousand Five Hundred only) i.e. equivalent to 10% of the Reserve Price.

MAHESHTALA MUNICIPALITY. P.O.-Maheshtala, Dist.- South 24 Parganas, PIN-700141. Phone : (033) 2490 2280, 2490 1651, 2490 3389. Fax : 2490 9296, Email : maheshtalamunicipality@gmail.com. বিজ্ঞপ্তি. বিধি নং : ৭২০/৪৫/এমএম/২৪ তারিখ : ২৩/০৯/২০২৪. ম্যাদ্যুদ্যম স্বত্বাভোগের ও অধাস্বত্বের ল্যাটিন কে কেসের সমীক্ষারি চুক্তি তালিকা প্রকাশ।

AIRPORTS ECONOMIC REGULATORY AUTHORITY OF INDIA. 3rd Floor, Udaan Bhawan, Safdarjung Airport New Delhi-110003. Request for Proposal for engagement of Consultant for Formulation of Performance Standards of Airports relating to Quality, Continuity and Reliability of service and Associated Activities. Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India (AERA) requests for proposals from agencies for engagement as Consultant for formulation of Performance Standards of Airports relating to Quality, Continuity and Reliability of service and Associated Activities.

Young professionals are struggling to socially adapt in the workplace -Can educators help?



LEE ANN RAWLINS WILLIAMS

Despite ongoing worries about how artificial intelligence will affect jobs, research shows that employers increasingly value something that only human workers can provide – soft skills. These include knowing how to communicate with co-workers, put others at ease and navigate conflict. However, these essential skills are often neglected in traditional higher education. Colleges and universities' primary focus is to teach students how to become experts in their fields, but they often fall short in preparing students for the social and emotional demands of the workplace. This disconnect is not a minor oversight. It's a fundamental flaw in how colleges and universities equip young professionals for success. At best, it creates a communication gap between younger and older workers. At worst, it impacts young workers' job performance as well as their mental health as they struggle to prove themselves.

A case study

Let me introduce you to a young woman whom I taught. Let's call her Emily to protect her privacy. She represents the qualities and challenges that many employers have

observed in their new young hires.

Emily graduated at the top of her class at a public university, eager to make an impact in her new role at a dynamic startup. However, she soon encountered unexpected challenges.

She came to my office often after she graduated and told me she found it difficult to connect with colleagues and articulate her ideas in team meetings. This disconnect was compounded by a lack of understanding of workplace culture, including knowing how the chain of command works and how to communicate with her colleagues and bosses. She misinterpreted feedback as criticism rather than advice and struggled to communicate her thoughts clearly and precisely. She also struggled with managing conflict in the office.

As weeks passed, Emily's anxiety mounted. She felt the pressure to prove

herself. Meanwhile, her attempts to contribute innovative ideas were often met with confusion or resistance, further complicating her integration into the team.

Her bosses grew increasingly frustrated with what they perceived as Emily's inability to communicate effectively.

Accustomed to clear and direct communication, they found Emily's approach unengaged. Emily vented her frustrations in online chats and apps, like Snapchat, and even made a TikTok video about it rather than approach her boss for a one-on-one conversation. This only widened the divide between her and her employer.

A growing challenge in the workplace

Emily's experience is far from unique. It represents a growing challenge faced by young professionals transitioning from the structured environment of

education into the unpredictable terrain of the workforce. This period of transition can overwhelm new graduates who find themselves unprepared for the realities of professional life despite their academic achievements.

The transition from student to employee often triggers anxiety, stress and frustration. High expectations placed on young workers to quickly adapt and perform, often without sufficient support, exacerbate these feelings.

In Emily's case, her feelings of isolation grew, and she began to believe she was falling short of her potential. Lacking strong coping mechanisms, she became increasingly stressed, further impairing her ability to perform and communicate effectively.

Young professionals' struggles to find their footing in their jobs also have an impact on the workplace as a whole.

One of Emily's key challenges was navigating workplace communication, where the generational gap between

young professionals and their more experienced colleagues often led to differing communication styles and expectations.

While older generations may favour direct, in-person communication, younger workers like Emily are more accustomed to digital communication. They may rely on social media platforms, like X and Snapchat, for feedback and support.

This generational divide can lead to misunderstandings and frustrations on both sides. In Emily's case, her inclination to seek online feedback was perceived by her employer as unprofessional. Such misalignments highlight the need for better preparation and understanding of workplace dynamics, starting in college.

A path forward

While teaching social and emotional skills is a well-established practice in schools, it hasn't gained the same traction in higher education. Research shows that while social and emotional learning in schools can be effective, kids are still suffering from high levels of anxiety and stress, especially since the pandemic. Colleges and universities could – and should – pick up where K-12 schools leave off and continue preparing students to manage their stress and the pressures they will face on the job.

Educational programs that offer applied experiences, such as internships, provide valuable opportunities for students to utilise their skills professionally and develop essential interpersonal skills. But educators can also help

develop these skills right in the classroom.

1. Prepare students for the real world by using role-playing simulations. For example, students could act as members of a startup or a corporate team, where they must navigate not only business tasks but also manage interpersonal conflicts, negotiations and decision-making.

2. Create 'feedback loops' where students practise giving and receiving constructive feedback with their peers. This helps students develop communication skills, emotional resilience and the ability to navigate criticism gracefully – a key workplace skill.

3. Teach leadership courses that focus on emotional intelligence. These courses would teach students how to lead effectively under pressure, balancing task completion with team well-being and emphasising empathy and adaptability.

4. Incorporate mental health education and resilience training into the curriculum. This will equip students with the tools to manage stress and maintain well-being on the job.

The transition from education to the workforce is complex and challenging. By cultivating emotional intelligence, communication skills and adaptability, educators can help prepare students for the realities of professional life and bridge the gap into the modern workforce.

The writer is a clinical assistant professor of education, health and behaviour studies at the University of North Dakota. This article was published on www.theconversation.com.



ANDREW COX

Modern organisations are increasingly recognising that data, information and knowledge are among their most crucial assets, and particularly in these days of big data and artificial intelligence, information management is the

heart of any organisation.

Modern organisations simply could not function without well-organised, up-to-date and accurate information. Resources like capital and people are, of course, vital, but modern organisations grow by exploiting information effectively, imaginatively and

safely. Indeed, in the context of digital transformation, information is a key strategic asset, be it data about customer behaviour and social media use, business intelligence, information about competitors, or the knowledge of expert staff.

As a result, the skills of the information manager have never been more in demand.

It is essential in every organisation that timely, accurate and complete data and information are available for decision-making. The information manager makes this possible. The core of information management is durable skills in organising information to ensure that decision-makers get the information they need, e.g. through well-designed intranet search and retrieval. They also define how organisations manage information use and compliance through information and data governance.

Another important foundation is knowledge management which is about managing human expertise in the organisation. Knowledge management often involves the promotion of information sharing within an organisation

to break down silos of knowledge and preserve 'organisational memory'. It is also about understanding how to create communities of practice to encourage your experts to share the 'tacit' knowledge that they have gained from experience but struggle even to put into words.

Of course, IT is central to data and information today, but information management is as much about the human side of digital technology design and use. For example, it is about understanding how customers search for information and how colleagues can be encouraged to share knowledge quickly and safely.

Organisations are increasingly grasping that artificial intelligence is only as good as the data it is trained on. It's not just about algorithms, it's about organisations curating and stewarding their data so that AI models are trustworthy. Data quality becomes even more of a vital organisational priority in this context.

The successful information manager has technical skills, but also strong leadership, collaboration and negotiation skills. They will spend as much time with people as

with technology. So, if you want to achieve that balance, information management is the perfect position for you. If you come from a computing background, information management balances your strong digital skills with a management focus. Or if you have more of a management background it gives you that fundamental grasp of technologies that is so vital for the digital side of any business.

The exciting thing about information management as a study subject is that the principles apply to every sector of work and to any size of organisation. What information governance looks like in a health organisation, with all the sensitive and confidential information about patients it holds, could be quite different from a Fortune 500 company, but in both cases, information management must be a priority. Governments and charities need information management as much as private companies.

Information management is also the foundation for many specialisms, such as developing and managing databases; records management; UX design; business

intelligence or data visualisation; and project management. Each of these can be a career in their own right. Or in a small enterprise, one might be more of a 'jack of all trades' across many of these roles.

An MSc in information management gives students a rounded introduction to all that it offers. The course will balance theory and the very practical hands-on skills that every organisation is crying out for, like building an accessible, usable website or preparing a professional presentation.

The degree equips students with the skills required to thrive in the dynamic and rapidly changing field of information management. Upon completing the course, students will be well-prepared for a career in either industry, the public sector or research. Graduates can pursue a range of roles that draw upon their expertise in data, technology, and business. Examples of such roles include information or knowledge manager, data / information governance specialist, data privacy analyst, and more.

The writer is a senior lecturer, Information School, The University of Sheffield, UK.

Students' Space

VIVACIOUS VOCABULARY

EMPATHETIC

Adjective
Pronunciation: Em- puh- theh- tuhk
Meaning: Being able to imagine how the other is feeling
Example: He found an empathetic friend in her
Synonym: Compassionate, sympathetic, humane

FACETIOUS

Adjective
Pronunciation: Fuh- see- shuhs
Meaning: Treating a serious issue with inappropriate remark
Example: He made a facetious remark at the event
Synonym: Flippant, whimsical, jesting

GALORE

Adjective
Pronunciation: Ga- lore
Meaning: Present in abundance
Example: This restaurant has desserts galore
Synonym: Aplenty, in great quantities

HACKNEYED

Adjective
Pronunciation: Hak- need
Meaning: Repeated often
Example: The plot of the series is just a hackneyed hero-villain story
Synonym: Overused, overworked, overdone

- Compiled by Priyanjali Das

Shadows

I was sweating, I was shaking, trembling, out of fear. My throat felt constricted, and my breath came out at a shuddering pace, skin clumping up with goosebumps littered all over. The only sound I could hear at that time was the erratic thumping of my heart. And somewhere, the harsh ticking of the clock, and occasional rustling. The veins in my head and also...maybe my breath pulsed due to my pressure which had risen high due to fear. Someone is inside my house, someone...SOMEONE...is inside.

And that person was not a guest with good intentions. The rough dragging of heavy boots could be heard as it proceeded to enter the kitchen, the place I had at that moment taken refuge in. My heart dropped, he was here. I was hiding under the table, he could easily find me now- "Come out girl, I'll make sure not to harm you, or maybe...make it a little less painful." The gruff voice said, followed by a cruel, guttural laugh. I squeezed my eyes shut, clutching the only thing I could grab at that moment for my safety, a click pen. I had been studying hard, studying for my future. Suddenly, the doorbell rang up, breaking my focus. I thought it must have been a parcel, but instead, as soon as I opened the door, I was pushed down harshly on the cold, hard floor, with a decrepit, dilapidated-looking man hovering over me with a wide, cruel grin.

I did what I could at that moment, I ran. I fled inside,

heart racing, but he too followed inside. And that moment I realised, I should have at least tried to force close the door.

A harsh thump was heard, and an influx of rotten odour. "Found you" he grinned, the predator had found his prey.

Unable to control my intense drive for safety, I screamed, jabbing the pen inside his left eye. He too shrieked, giving me an opening for me to run. I ran, but his heavy footsteps followed behind just as fast.

I ran through the dark hall, my skin shivering for a completely different reason. Were the shadows always this dense? This dark? I remember my mom saying "Embrace the shadows that live here" I never understood her metaphor, or what I thought to be one.

The man in front of me was engulfed in shadows, screaming and yelling in pain. The shadows crawled all over his face, in vague shapes which resembled insects. In a fleeting glance, I got to see his wild, fearful eyes stared back before it too was gone. It was as if no such man had ever been standing there in front of me. As if it were all a messed-up dream.

It was a painful truth that I realised at that moment, that I found safety in shadows, in the darkness, which usually is used as an aid to explain or visualise evil deeds; instead, as the saying goes "The most feared thing in this world is Man" and honestly? Turns out it is true.

MOHOR DEB,
Class XI



If you are a school or college student who has a poem, essay or other fiction or nonfiction pieces which you would like to share with The Statesman's readers please write in with your submission to readers@thestatesmangroup.com.

Don't forget to mention your name, the name of your school, your class and your phone number.

Please write "C&C" in the subject field.

Publication is at the discretion of the editors.



La Liga: Barcelona thrash Villarreal 5-1, Ter Stegen sustains knee injury

Catalan giants strengthen position atop league table with big win



AGENCIES
MADRID, 23 SEPTEMBER

FC Barcelona remain on top of La Liga with an impressive 5-1 win away to Villarreal to make it six wins from six games, but have paid a heavy cost as goalkeeper Ter Stegen suffered what could be a season-ending knee injury.

Robert Lewandowski had put Barca ahead, and Ayoze Perez pulled one back for the home side. Pablo Torre added Barca's third just before the hour, with Raphinha adding two more in the 74th and 83rd minutes.

Atletico Madrid dropped points with a 1-1 draw away to Rayo Vallecano in which they again punched below their summer spending. Isi Palazon put Rayo ahead with an excellent goal with Conor Gallagher leveling for Atletico after the break to further increase his status at the club.

Atletico Bilbao move up to third with a 3-1 win at home to Celta, which gives them their third triumph in a week.

Gorka Guruzeta's fourth-minute flick put Athletic ahead, but Iago Aspas leveled from the penalty spot in the 25th minute.

Guruzeta's second of the game put Athletic back ahead after 39 minutes before Alvaro Djaló's first goal for the club sealed the win 10 minutes from time.

Haaland scores 100th goal as Man City hold Arsenal



AGENCIES
MANCHESTER, 23 SEPTEMBER

Erling Haaland has become the 19th player to score 100 goals for Manchester City, taking just 105 matches to hit the landmark. The Norwegian striker reached triple figures with his ninth minute strike against Arsenal in Sunday's Premier League clash.

Manchester, Sep 22 (IANS) Erling Haaland has become the 19th player to score 100 goals for Manchester City, taking just 105 matches to hit the landmark. The Norwegian striker reached triple figures with his ninth minute strike against Arsenal in Sunday's Premier League clash.

China clinches four titles at China Open



AGENCIES
CHANGZHOU, 23 SEPTEMBER

Hosts China secured four of the five titles at the badminton China Open here on Sunday after the men's doubles pair was outscored in the final following a waist injury to Ren Xiangyu during the first set.

"Considering how hard it was to reach the finals, I decided to push through. We won the first set by a large margin, so I thought we could adjust a bit in the second and fight again in the third."

Alcaraz leads the charge as Team Europe beat Team World to Laver Cup title

AGENCIES
BERLIN, 23 SEPTEMBER

Carlos Alcaraz delivered a pair of stunning performances in Berlin to help Team Europe complete a thrilling comeback behind 13-11 victory to lift the Laver Cup title.



Team Europe, which started the day at a 4-8 deficit, mounted an impressive comeback led by Alcaraz and Casper Ruud, who triumphed in the day's opening doubles match over Ben Shelton and Frances Tiafoe to thrust their side into contention.

Though Daniil Medvedev lost a tough battle, decided by a Laver Breaker, against Shelton, local hero Alexander Zverev kept Team Europe's hopes alive by eking out a win over Tiafoe in another Laver breaker.

"We did it for you," Alcaraz said while hugging Borg after first being encircled by his ecstatic teammates who

know, but Sascha (Zverev) came with really good tennis, and give me the chance to win the Laver Cup so I think we are really, really happy with everything," said the Spaniard.

Popovic named Australia football team head coach

AGENCIES
MELBOURNE, 23 SEPTEMBER

Football Australia on Monday announced the appointment of Tony Popovic as the new head coach of the men's national team. He will assume the responsibility with immediate effect.

Racer Diana Pundole, mother of two, gunning for international glory

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, 23 SEPTEMBER



She confessed that winning the FMSCI Indian Car Racing Championship 2024 in the Saloon category has been a roller-coaster of emotions. Diana Pundole may be thrilled to be the first-ever woman to win a mixed-category championship in a Saloon car on a National Level.

And that is when it struck me that I had made history. I had been so focused on the season's races that all my energies and concentration were devoted to the top spot of the podium. I did not think about the championship at all, I just wanted to win as many races as I could.

For someone, who has always been fascinated with being behind the wheel ever since her parents drove in the quiet lanes in Pune, where she grew up, Diana loved going karting as a child, but never thought of it as anything more than a hobby.

This of course, was exacerbated by the environment I was exposed to, which was extremely conducive to the spirit of competition in racing.

My late father religiously watched F1 races every Sunday and we were glued to the screen with him. His excitement rubbed off on us

SAFF U17 football: India plan big for final Group A clash against tricky Maldives

AGENCIES
THIMPU, 23 SEPTEMBER

Having already booked their spot in the semi-finals, India will eye top spot in Group A when they take on Maldives in the SAFF U17 Championship here at Changlimithang Stadium on Tuesday.



There are a few niggles as well. We want to win this match and top the group," he said.

Maldives, which was dominated by the former as they took the lead early in the second half.





'FIRE INSIDE ME MADE IT HAPPEN'

India star wicketkeeper-batter Rishabh Pant revealed he felt nervous during his comeback Test ton in Chennai in the first match against Bangladesh on Sunday. However, Pant pressed that the fire inside him allowed him to score the record-equalling sixth Test century. Pant's return to Test cricket has been nothing short of spectacular following a life-threatening car accident in December 2022. He made his much-anticipated comeback in Chennai. His 109-run innings in the second innings was filled with attacking strokes, coupled with well-timed defense, taking the Bangladesh bowlers by surprise.

For more updates www.thestatesman.com

Doubts remain over Shakib injury ahead of Kanpur Test

Hit on gloves during opening Test, former Bangla skipper struggling ahead of 2nd 5-day clash

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 23 SEPTEMBER

Former skipper Shakib Al Hasan's availability for the second Test against India, starting September 27 is under a cloud after the star all-rounder suffered an injury to his finger while batting in the opening Test against India in Chennai. Shakib got hit by a Jasprit Bumrah delivery and needed some treatment after the tourists lost by a mammoth 280-run margin. The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) said on Monday that they will take a call on Shakib's availability following a medical assessment. "We are heading to Kanpur tomorrow (Tuesday) and today is a day off. We will have two sessions afterwards and we will judge after that and we don't want to make a decision yet. These two days, the physio has kept him under observation. When we get back to the ground, we will get the physio's feedback. We have to think before picking Shakib for the next match and there is time before the next match. We will see what condition he



is in," Hannan Sarkar, member of the BCB's selection panel, told reporters in Chennai on Monday. Resuming the fourth day with Bangladesh needing

another 357 runs with six wickets in hand, Shakib and skipper Najmul Hossain Shanto defied the testing spell from the Indian pace attack, adding another 36

runs to their overnight total of 158/4 in the first hour of play on Sunday. Thereafter, the team lost the remaining six wickets in approximately 50 minutes of play, with

Ravichandran Ashwin leading India's charge with figures of 6/88 and Ravindra Jadeja chipping in with three wickets to help India to a 1-0 lead in the two-match Test series.



Jayasuriya spins Sri Lanka to victory over NZ in Galle Test

AGENCIES
GALLE, 23 SEPTEMBER

Prabath Jayasuriya's 5-68 in the second innings and match total to 9-204 helped Sri Lanka take the final two New Zealand wickets and secure a commanding 63-run victory, here at Galle International Stadium on Monday. Sri Lanka wasted no time on the final morning of the first Test in Galle, needing just 15 minutes to skittle out New Zealand and took a 1-0 lead in the two-match series.

up the previous day. Ravindra, who had fought valiantly with a well-crafted 92 off 168 balls, lasted just eight deliveries on the fifth morning. Jayasuriya's arm ball trapped him in front of the stumps, with the batter misjudging the line. A review could not save him, and with Ravindra's departure, New Zealand's slim hopes of a dramatic comeback faded. Jayasuriya quickly followed up by dismissing Will O'Rourke, who had impressed with the ball earlier in the match, for a duck.

The win lifted Sri Lanka to third place in the World Test Championship (WTC) standings, leapfrogging New Zealand. By securing the 12 WTC points from this match, Sri Lanka keeping their hopes of a place in the WTC final alive, though they still face a tough road ahead. Jayasuriya's eighth five-wicket haul — and his seventh in Galle — earned him the Player-of-the-Match award. His spin bowling on the final day dismantled the resistance that Rachin Ravindra and the Kiwi lower order had put

The second Test begins on Thursday, in Galle. With momentum firmly in Sri Lanka's favor, New Zealand will need a swift response if they are to level the series and keep their WTC ambitions alive.

Buoyed by series win, Afghans spice up CT challenge for Proteas



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 23 SEPTEMBER

Afghanistan proved they are no pushovers in the shortest format when they landed in the semifinals of this year's T20 World Cup in the Americas before their spirited campaign was ended by the South Africans. The Afghans sweetly

avenged that heartbreak in the 50-over format, by recording their first ever series win against a top-five ICC-ranked side — Proteas — in the UAE recently, and in a way, have put the cricket world on notice that they are a serious force to reckon with in white-ball formats as teams gear up for the ICC Champions Trophy early next year. Inter-

estingly, all eyes will now be on Afghanistan's next meeting with South Africa as the two sides find themselves in the same group alongside Australia and England in the ICC Champions Trophy. The Blue Tigers claimed the first two matches convincingly to take the bragging rights, winning by six wickets and 177 runs respectively.

IPL 2025 auction likely to take place in November

TRIDIB BAPARNASH
NEW DELHI, 23 SEPTEMBER

The much-anticipated Indian Premier League (IPL) mega-auction is most likely to take place in the later half of November, or the third week of December and is once again set to be an overseas affair. The auction could take place in the UAE like last year, according to close sources.

The mini-auction last year was held in Dubai, and if sources are to be believed, there is every possibility that the upcoming auction could be hosted in one of the Gulf cities, Abu Dhabi, Muscat, Doha or Dubai. While there is no clarity on the venue yet, the BCCI has unofficially indicated to the IPL franchises about a couple of potential windows when the auction could be held.

The auction could either take place in the second or third week of November or may be stretched to the later half of December. Given the fact that BCCI secretary Jay Shah will assume office as ICC chairman on December 1, there is a high chance of the auction being held in November itself.

Meanwhile, the BCCI is yet to reveal the retention rules ahead of the mega auction, which has left some of the IPL franchises concerned about whether they will have adequate room to prepare. The retention rules are likely to be revealed by the cricket board by this month's end, which could potentially leave the franchises with a couple of months' time to prepare for the auction. The BCCI had earlier assured the IPL franchises to share the retention rules by the second week of August in the meeting held with franchise owners in July. In the last mega auction held in 2022, the IPL teams were permitted to retain up to four players. With the end of the three-year cycle approaching, there are differing opinions among franchises about the optimal number of retained players. While some teams argue for a larger retention cap, possibly up to eight players, others are comfortable with the existing limit of four or five. Like the 2022 auction in February and the 2023 and 2024 auctions, the upcoming IPL mega auction may be a two-day affair.

Chhange urges fans to stand by Indian football: Indian football fans have not had much to cheer for the team after the side's untimely exit from the FIFA World Cup Qualifiers earlier this year. The team went on to finish last in the Intercontinental Cup and scored only one goal from open play in 2024. In an exclusive conversation with IANS, Lalilanzuala Chhange has promised the Indian fans that the team will "play their hearts out" and urged the countrymen to support the side in such times. AGENCIES

India, Sri Lanka strengthen claim for WTC final after dominant victories

AGENCIES
DUBAI, 23 SEPTEMBER

India tightened their grip on the top spot of the World Test Championship (WTC) 2025 cycle with a comprehensive 280-run victory over Bangladesh in Chennai, while Sri Lanka boosted their chances of making the final by outclassing New Zealand in Galle.

Both teams secured crucial points, adding intrigue to the race for the final two spots in next year's WTC finale at Lord's.

India's latest triumph extended their lead at the top of the table, reaching a percentage of 71.67%. Ravichandran Ashwin led the charge, claiming Player of the Match honours for his all-round brilliance; a century in the first innings and a six-wicket haul in the second. His efforts helped India bowl out Bangladesh for 234, sealing the match on the fourth day. Starting the day at 158/4



and chasing a mammoth target of 515, Bangladesh's hopes rested on captain Najmul Hossain Shanto and all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan. However, India's spin duo of Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja quickly dismantled the lower

order, securing 12 crucial WTC points. Bangladesh's defeat pushed them down to sixth in the standings, holding a percentage of 39.29%, trailing behind Sri Lanka and England. Sri Lanka, meanwhile,

capitalised on their victory over New Zealand in Galle to leapfrog into third place in the WTC standings. Dhananjaya de Silva's side now boasts a 50% win rate, putting them in a strong position to challenge the top

teams for a place in the final. Sri Lanka's 63-run victory over the BlackCaps came in a thrilling five days, with Prabath Jayasuriya emerging as the hero, finishing with match figures of 9-204 and securing the Player of the Match award.

The Statesman Festival 2024

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