



The Statesman



SATURDAY
02 NOVEMBER 2024

Pages 16 | ₹ 5.00 | LC

INDIA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1818

www.thestatesman.com

X.com/thestatesman1875
Fb/thestatesman1875

KOLKATA | NEW DELHI | SILIGURI | BHUBANESWAR

PEOPLE'S PARLIAMENT, ALWAYS IN SESSION



'8,000 NORTH KOREAN TROOPS DEPLOYED IN RUSSIA'S KURSK REGION'

P10



'WAQF AMENDMENTS ARE VITAL'

P9



BUDGET GAMBLE

P8

NZ PULL INDIA BACK WITH QUICK WICKETS

P16



SENSEX 79,724.12 ▲335.06

NIFTY 24,304.35 ▲99.00

₹ vs \$ 84.06

GOLD 81,930.00

SILVER 1,06,000

BRENT CRUDE (IN \$) 73.56 ▲0.75

WEATHER

Generally clear. Cloudy sky may develop late. Maximum and minimum temperatures likely to be around 33°C and 24°C respectively.

RAINFALL: NIL
RELATIVE HUMIDITY
Max. 76% Min. 61%
TEMPERATURE
Max: 33.4°C Min: 24.8°C
SUN RISES 05:41 hrs SUN SETS 16:58 hrs
MOON RISES 06:12 hrs MOON SETS 17:20 hrs
Full Moon on 16 November

THUMBNAILS



Devotees feeding the migratory Siberian Seagulls while taking a boat ride on the waters of river Yamuna, in Prayagraj on Friday. ■ ANI

Rajesh Kumar Singh takes charge as India's new defence secretary: Rajesh Kumar Singh, a 1989-batch IAS officer from the Kerala cadre, assumed the role of Defence Secretary at South Block in New Delhi on Friday. Previously, he served as the Officer on Special Duty (Defence Secretary-designate). In his first act, Singh paid tribute to the fallen heroes by laying a wreath at the National War Memorial in New Delhi.

India and China resume joint patrols in Demchok

Patrols in the Depsang region are also expected to start shortly

On Friday, after verification procedures were completed, joint patrols resumed in Demchok, and similar efforts are planned for Depsang.



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 1 NOVEMBER

After four years of heightened tensions and a deadly clash in the Galwan Valley, which led to a prolonged military standoff between India and China along the Line of Actual Control (LAC), joint patrols resumed in Demchok, eastern Ladakh, on Friday following a mutual disengagement.

Indian defence sources indicate that patrols in the Depsang region are also expected to start shortly.

The renewed patrolling comes on the heels of Diwali, marked by a traditional exchange of sweets between Indian

and Chinese soldiers at multiple LAC locations, including Chushul Maldo and Daulat Beg Oldi, celebrating a step toward normality. This gesture followed a complete troop withdrawal from both sides along the eastern Ladakh border area, an outcome of recent peace talks.

The deadly 2020 clashes in the Galwan and Pangong Tso areas had cost the lives of 20 Indian soldiers and led both countries to mobilise large contingents of troops along the LAC.

Disputes over infrastructure development in the Galwan River Valley, particularly a key road connecting India's strategic Daulat Beg Oldi airbase, triggered the tensions in this historically contested region.

On Friday, after verification procedures were completed, joint patrols resumed in Demchok, and similar efforts are planned for Depsang. Troop activities are being carefully managed, with protocols in place to avoid misunderstandings and prevent future escalations.

Surveillance along the LAC will continue, employing advanced technologies to uphold the disengagement agreement.

While these developments mark a milestone, talks remain ongoing to resolve standoffs in other contested areas, such as Galwan, Gogra Hot Spring, and Pangong Tso.

In addition to troop reductions, ground-level communication at the brigadier level will help maintain order and reduce the likelihood of future tensions.

PM Modi attacks Cong for making 'fake' promises it can't deliver

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 1 NOVEMBER

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday attacked the Congress Party for making "fake" promises which it was not able to deliver and was badly exposed in front of the people.

In a series of posts on social media platform X, he said: "The Congress Party is realising the hard way that making unreal promises is easy but implementing them properly is tough or impossible."

Mr Modi wrote: "Campaign after campaign they promise things to the people, which they also know they will never be able to deliver. Now, they stand badly exposed in front of the people! #FakePromisesOfCongress."

In another post, the Prime Minister said: "Check any state where the Congress has Governments today -- Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka and Telangana -- the developmental trajectory and fiscal health is turning from bad to worse."

"Their so-called Guarant-



tees lie unfulfilled, which is a terrible deceit upon the people of these states. The victims of such politics are the poor, youngsters, farmers and women, who are not only denied the benefits of these promises but also see their existing schemes diluted," the post said.

In Karnataka, the Prime Minister said in another post, "the Congress is busier in intra-party politics and loot instead of even bothering to deliver on development. Not only that, they are also going to roll back existing schemes."

"In Himachal Pradesh, salaries of Government workers is not paid on time. In Telangana, farmers are waiting for the waiver they promised. Previously, in Chhattisgarh

and Rajasthan they promised certain allowances which were never implanted for five years. There are numerous such examples of how the Congress works," he said.

He wrote: "The people of the country will have to be vigilant against the Congress sponsored culture of fake promises! We saw recently how the people of Haryana rejected their lies and preferred a Government that is stable, progress oriented and action driven."

The Prime Minister's posts came in reply to the BJP's official comment on the Congress Party that its party president Mallikarjun Kharge had finally advised the party to make only such promises which it can deliver.

Earlier, Mr Kharge had asked the Congress units headed for elections to announce guarantees on the basis of their budget. Mr Kharge urged for careful consideration and warned that an unplanned approach could lead to financial difficulties and negatively impact future generations

PM-EAC Chairman Dr Bibek Debroy passes away, tributes pour in

RITA SACHDEVA
NEW DELHI, 1 NOVEMBER

Bibek Debroy, Chairman of The Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council and a renowned economist, passed away on Friday. He was 69. Apart from being a learned scholar and author, he was known for translating the Bhagavad Gita, Mahabharata, Ramayana and Puranas into English.

Debroy is survived by his wife Suparna and two sons, settled abroad. He was admitted to the AIIMS emergency around 10 p.m. on Thursday and died at 7 a.m. on Friday. Sources said the cause of death was subacute intestinal obstruction. They further informed that he had a history of diabetes, hypertension and a blockage in the heart for which he had a pacemaker.

President Draupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi condoled Debroy's death. The President said in Debroy's demise, the country



has lost an eminent public intellectual who enriched diverse fields, from policy making to translating India's great scriptures. "His understanding of India's social, cultural and economic landscape was exceptional. For his extraordinary contributions, he was honoured with Padma Shri. I convey my condolences to his family, friends and admirers," she said in her post on the social media platform.

PM Modi said Bibek Debroy was a towering scholar, well-versed in diverse domains like economics, history, culture, politics, spirituality and more. "Through his works, he left an indelible mark on India's

intellectual landscape. Beyond his contributions to public policy, he enjoyed working on our ancient texts, making them accessible to the youth," he said in his post on X.

With a wealth of expertise in macroeconomics, public finance, and infrastructure, Debroy published extensively on various subjects, including economic reforms and governance.

Bibek Debroy's insights into the Indian railways were particularly noteworthy, reflecting his deep understanding of the nation's economic framework.

Condoling Bibek Debroy's demise, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee wrote on X: "Saddened by the news of the sudden demise of Bibek Debroy, noted economist and chairman of PM's Economic Advisory Council. A brilliant son of Bengal and a scholar of repute, he will be remembered by us. Condolences to the bereaved family and friends."

I will strengthen partnership with India and my good friend Modi: Donald Trump

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 1 NOVEMBER

US presidential candidate Donald Trump has said that he would protect 'Hindu Americans' against the anti-religion agenda of the radical Left and strengthen his country's partnership with India and 'my good friend' Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

In a social media post on X on the occasion of Diwali, he said his rival in the election and Vice-President Kamala Harris Kamala Harris would destroy small businesses of Hindu Americans with more regulations and higher taxes. "By contrast, I cut taxes, cut regulations, unleashed American energy, and built the greatest economy in history. We will do it again, bigger and better than ever before -- and we will Make America Great Again," the former president said and wished 'Happy Diwali' to All. "I hope the



Festival of Lights leads to the Victory of Good over Evil!"

Mr Trump also strongly condemned the violence against Hindus, Christians, and other minorities who are getting attacked and looted by mobs in Bangladesh, which, he said, remains in a total state of chaos.

"It would have never happened on my watch. Kamala and (President) Joe (Biden) have ignored Hindus across the world and in America. They have been a disaster from Israel to Ukraine to our own Southern Border, but we will Make America Strong Again and bring back Peace through Strength!" the former president said.

Delhi records warmest October in 73 years, faces severe post-Diwali pollution surge

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 1 NOVEMBER

Delhi experienced its warmest October this year, with temperatures reaching levels not seen in 73 years, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said on Friday.

The average maximum temperature in October 2024 was recorded at 35.1 degrees Celsius, and the average minimum temperature stood at 21.2 degrees Celsius at Safdarjung Observatory, Delhi's premier weather station.

Historically, the maximum temperatures recorded in October were 35.5 degrees Celsius in both 1930 and 1938, 35.8 degrees Celsius in 1941, and 36.2 degrees Celsius in 1951.

Alongside the unseasonably warm temperatures, pollution levels in Delhi



surged, with a smoky haze reappearing on Friday morning after residents flouted the ban on firecrackers during Diwali celebrations. Most areas of the capital recorded an Air Quality Index (AQI) of over 350, raising health concerns.

At the India Gate, where the AQI stood around 317

the pollution is extreme." Around 7 a.m., Anand Vihar recorded an AQI of 395, Aya Nagar stood at 352, Jahangirpuri at 390, and Dwarka reached 376 -- each reporting "very poor" air quality, posing significant health risks.

The pollution problem extended beyond Delhi; several cities across India, including major metros like Chennai and Mumbai, reported similar post-Diwali conditions, with smog and poor air quality impacting large areas.

Data from the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) highlighted the serious impact of pollution, particularly following the Diwali celebrations, raising concerns about air quality and public health nationwide.

(Spike in air, noise pollution in Kolkata: Page 4)

3 in Uluberia killed in fire from bursting crackers

KOLKATA, 1 NOVEMBER

Three persons including a girl and two children died while a teenager was severely injured after a fire broke out in a house from bursting firecrackers at Bazarpara in Uluberia this evening.

The fire quickly spread and engulfed a nearby shop, leaving three dead around 7 p.m. Police and fire brigade rushed to the spot. Locals said a few children were bursting firecrackers in front of the house of Kajal Mistry, in Uluberia's Ward No. 27, when the fire broke out, trapping the family members inside the house. Tania Mistry, Ishan Dhara, and Montaz Khatun died of severe burns. Several others were injured. Some locals said that a large quantity of firecrackers was stored inside the house. sns

Grand Opening

Golden Fibre shapes Golden Future

NATIONAL JUTE BOARD
A GOVERNMENT OF INDIA VENTURE

Sonali

HOUSE OF JUTE DECORATIVES & OTHER FURNITURE ITEMS

सो नाली

You're invited to grand opening of our "SONALI" Showroom on 2nd November, 2024 at 5.00 p.m. at Dakshinapan, Dhakuria, Kolkata

The Showroom will be inaugurated by Shri Moley Chandan Chakraborty Jute Commissioner

Shri Shashi Bhushan Singh Secretary, National Jute Board will grace the occasion as Special Guest

We warmly welcome you to join us on this special occasion

राष्ट्रीय पटसन बोर्ड NATIONAL JUTE BOARD
राष्ट्रीय पटसन बोर्ड, वस्त्र मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार
MINISTRY OF TEXTILES, GOVT OF INDIA

Jute Fancy Bags | Jute Ornaments | Mattings | Gift Articles | Handicrafts | Wall Decoratives | Will be on Display & Sale

THUMBNAILS



Confectioners prepare for Bhai Phonta with specially-designed sweets in Kolkata on Friday. SNS

ICC mourns Bibek Debroy's death: "Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC) deeply mourns the passing away of Shri Bibek Debroy, noted Indian Economist today. He had immensely contributed in his roles as the chairman of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister of India, the chairman of the finance ministry's 'Expert Committee for Infrastructure Classification and Financing Framework for Amrit Kaal' member of Niti Aayog, from its inception in January 2015 till June 2019. He has authored several books and has addressed several of our Chamber programmes in the past. ICC gratefully acknowledges Mr Debroy's contributions to Game theory, Economic theory, income and social inequalities, poverty, law reforms, railway reforms and indology among others. It is uncanny that he could feel his end was near and four days before he passed away he wrote his obituary. Indian Chamber of Commerce stands by his family in this sad moment," said Dr Rajeev Singh, director general, ICC. SNS

Winter session of Assembly to start on 25 November

Likely to be stormy over a couple of issues, including RG Kar rape & murder case

AGENCIES KOLKATA, 1 NOVEMBER

The winter session of the West Bengal Assembly slated to resume on 25 November is likely to be stormy over a couple of issues, including the RG Kar rape and murder case.

According to insiders from the ruling Trinamul Congress, the Treasury Bench during the winter Session will move a resolution condemning the role of the Union government in releasing money to the state government under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) scheme.

Sources in the state unit of BJP said that once the resolution is moved their legislators will counter the argu-



ments of the Treasury Bench and highlight instances of brewing public grievances in different pockets of the state over corruption in the implementation of the housing scheme.

During his recent visit to West Bengal, Union Home Minister Amit Shah had also been vocal against the state government regarding the irregularities in West Bengal

over the implementation of the Centrally-sponsored schemes, especially the PMAY and the 100-day job scheme under MGNREGA.

The Union home minister accused the state government and the ruling party of rendering benefits under such schemes to their party confidants and denying the eligible ones. He also said that if BJP comes to power in

West Bengal after the 2026 West Bengal Assembly elections they will be cleaning up the accounting system under such schemes.

The second issue on which the winter session of the Assembly is expected to be quite stormy is the ghastly rape and murder of a woman junior doctor of R.G. Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata in August.

The point of reference on this issue would be the Aparajita Women & Child Bill, the new bill seeking capital punishment for convicts in rape and murder cases, which though passed on the floor of the House in September this year is still pending clearance from the office of the Indian President Droupadi Murmu.

DECKED UP



Kolkata's streets look dazzling with lights for Diwali and Kali Puja. MOUL MONDAL

601 arrested across city for firecracker violations

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE KOLKATA, 1 NOVEMBER

Amid allegations of bursting of high-decibel firecracker in the city and outskirts, Kolkata Police arrested 601 people for bursting banned firecrackers and disorderly conduct in the last 24 hours.

A senior police officer confirmed the reports, stating that several police teams responded to calls about the illegal use of firecrackers.

The police also seized over 700 kg of banned firecrackers, 79.4 litres of liquor, and prosecuted over 800 people for traffic violations.

Kali Puja and Diwali were celebrated in West Bengal on Thursday. Despite a court

order restricting the use of firecrackers to a two-hour window and allowing only green crackers, many residents reported hearing high-intensity blasts throughout the night.

Kolkata Police arrested 265 people for bursting firecrackers, 328 for disorderly conduct, and eight for gambling. A total of 717.8 kg of banned fireworks were seized. The Kolkata Traffic Police prosecuted 296 bikers, 93 pillion riders, 93 for rash driving, 90 for drunk driving, and 196 others for various traffic violations.

A senior IPS officer stated that such checks and arrests would continue for the next few days.

Residents across the city expressed frustration over the disregard for the court order. They reported hearing firecrackers long before the permitted two-hour window. The noise levels of the firecrackers far exceeded the legal limit of 125 decibels at 4 metres.

Despite initial optimism, the city was soon filled with the sound of high-intensity blasts.

Residents from various neighbourhoods, including Ballygunge, Dum Dum, Kasba, Behala, Baranagar, Jadavpur, Salt Lake, New Town, Rajarhat, and along VIP Road, expressed disappointment over the lack of compliance.

Dacoits planning robbery nabbed

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE BANKURA, 1 NOVEMBER

Four members of a robbery gang that looted a house at gunpoint in the Mejia area a few days back were intercepted at Bankura last night when they were preparing for another operation in Kali Puja night.

At Shyampur village in Mejia PS area, the eight-member gang had intruded by climbing over the wall of the house of businessman Haradhan Bauri on last 27 October midnight hours.

Last night, the same gangsters had assembled for yet another operation in the Kali Puja night in Mejia, when the police intercepted four of them.

A pair of the robbed cell phones, the wallets, and chains were recovered from their possession, the district police said.

TMC Bijoya Sammelani forges link with people

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE KOLKATA, 1 NOVEMBER

Trinamul Congress through the Bijoya Sammelani programmes quietly but very successfully completed its drive to build contacts with people.

The Bijoya Sammelani programmes are being held across the state at all the 294 Assembly constituencies. Local leaders, along with senior leaders and important personalities of the respective areas were invited to attend. This is a unique way to develop mass contact.

The success of the programmes reveal a strong organisational base of the party. In all the programmes the turnout of common people was impressive.

The programmes were held in absence of the national general secretary of the party Abhishek Banerjee, who could not attend the functions on medical grounds.

In Diamond Harbour, which is the constituency of Mr Banerjee, Bijoya Sam-



melani programme was held successfully by the local leaders. Mr Banerjee, before leaving abroad for his eye treatment, had distributed puja gifts among the people of the constituency.

Political experts said Trinamul Congress had used the time between Durga Puja and Kali Puja to build contacts with people.

There will be a by-election in six Assembly seats on 13 November. These seats fell vacant after the MLAs of these seats became MPs in the 2024 Lok Sabha election.

By-elections will be held in Medinipur, Sitai, Madarihat, Haroa, Taldangra and Naihati.

The MLA of Haroa Hazi Nurul Islam had resigned to contest in Lok Sabha election from Basirhat. He defeated Rekha Patra of BJP by over 4

lakhs votes. He died some months ago. By election in Basirhat Lok Sabha seat will be announced later.

Except Madarihat which is under BJP's control, Trinamul Congress had MLAs in the remaining five seats.

Political experts said the BJP has no organisation in the five seats and is likely to be defeated by Trinamul candidates.

The Left's poor state was revealed when it collaborated with CPIML (Liberation) to field candidates in Naihati. RSP and Forward Bloc have fielded candidates in Sitai and Madarihat.

The deposit of the Left Front candidates is likely to be forfeited in the by-election and the party candidates will come as distant third, said experts.

Eastern Railway enhances security measures for the ongoing festive season

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE KOLKATA, 1 NOVEMBER

With a surge in demand during the ongoing festive season, Eastern Railway has stepped up security measures to ensure the safety and smooth movement of passengers across trains and railway stations.

To manage the expected increase in passenger footfall at key locations, the ER has deployed additional RPF personnel at platforms, foot over-bridges, and stations. Commercial and other staff are being engaged to manage crowds and assist passengers. Crowd control measures are in place to prevent stampede-like situations.

The ER is prioritising the safety of vulnerable passengers, especially women and

children, particularly during late hours.

Strict vigil is being maintained to curb pickpocketing, theft, chain-snatching, and drugging incidents.

The railway is also taking precautions against potential threats from extremist elements. Coordination meetings with the GRP, state police, and intelligence agencies have been initiated to enhance security coverage. Trains are being escorted by RPF staff, with a particular focus on mail, express, and special trains. Vulnerable track sections will be reinforced with the assistance of GRP and local police.

Anticipating high passenger density at stations like Howrah, Sealdah, Belur, Bardhaman, Asansol, Dumdum, and others, the ER is taking

special measures. Holding areas are being maintained to accommodate crowds. RPF personnel will also provide security at essential control points. Quick Response Teams (QRT) and disaster management units are on standby for emergencies.

To enhance surveillance, trained personnel are monitoring CCTV systems. Anti-sabotage checks with sniffer dogs are being conducted at crowded areas and trains.

To ensure women's safety, "Meri Saheli" and "Matangini" teams are on high alert, assisting female passengers and ensuring a safe environment in ladies' compartments. Drives to prevent the carriage of firecrackers, illicit liquor, and inflammable items are being conducted throughout the festival period.

Safety protocols followed by loco pilot: Railways

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE ASANSOL, 1 NOVEMBER

The Indian Railways has clarified that in yesterday's incident where the 12337 UP Howrah-Bolpur Shantiniketan Express had come on the same track as a freight train near the Jhapandanga station of Howrah-Burdwan chord line, between Gurup and Jaugram yesterday, that the automatic signaling system of the railways had halted the trains, and all safety protocols were followed.

"On October 31, 2024, an incident involving the train E/23851/Container/MSTB occurred on the Gurup-Jaugram section, a crucial triple line Automatic Block area governed by the General Rules (GR) and Subsidiary Rules (SR) of railway operations. At 10:40 Hrs, E/23851 experienced an engine

failure while en route and came to a stop between the Gurup (GRAE) and Jaugram (JRAE) stations. At this time, automatic signals AC-59 and AC-57 displayed an 'ON' (red) condition, indicating the necessity for trains to halt," an official release read.

"Shortly thereafter, at 10:51 Hrs, the 12337 UP train approached the GRAE station and encountered the AC-57 signal, which was still in the 'ON' position. In strict accordance with the protocols outlined in GR 9.02(1), the Loco Pilot promptly brought the train to a stop behind the signal. This adherence to procedure is critical for maintaining safety in rail operations. Following a mandatory waiting period of one minute during daylight hours, the Loco Pilot assessed the situation. After

confirming that the signal remained at 'ON', he followed the required protocol by sounding the prescribed whistle signal and exchanging communications with the Guard.

"As per Rule, SR 9.02(1), the Loco Pilot proceeded with caution, ensuring that the speed did not exceed 15 km/h. This rule is designed to safeguard against potential obstructions on the track, which can arise from the presence of another train or other unforeseen issues. The Loco Pilot was vigilant, continuously scanning the track for any possible hazards and prepared to stop short of any obstruction, even if the next signal eventually indicated an "OFF" aspect," the release further stated.

Furthermore, the Loco Pilot ensured that a safe distance of at least 150 metres was

maintained between the 12337 UP train and the halted goods train ahead. This practice is essential in preventing collisions and ensuring that adequate stopping distance is preserved, thereby protecting both passengers and freight.

"This incident underscores the importance of adhering to safety protocols and operational rules, which are critical in preventing accidents and ensuring the smooth operation of railway services. The railway authorities have emphasised that there were no violations of safety protocols during this incident. All actions taken by the crew of 12337 UP were compliant with both the General Rules and Subsidiary Rules, reflecting the commitment to maintaining high safety standards in railway operations," the official release concluded.

Post-Diwali pollution in Midnapore sparks health warnings and demand for stricter controls

BISWABRATA GOSWAMI MIDNAPORE, 1 NOVEMBER

Following recent Kali Puja and Diwali celebrations, air pollution levels in Midnapore and surrounding areas have skyrocketed to alarming heights, raising grave health concerns among environmentalists and healthcare professionals.

The drastic spike, attributed primarily to extensive use of firecrackers and fireworks despite restrictions on high-pollution varieties, poses a severe risk to public health, particularly for vulnerable groups such as children and the elderly.

Professor Pravat Kumar Shit and his research team have been actively monitoring Midnapore's air quality throughout the festive season. He expressed urgent concern over the hazardous levels observed, with air quality metrics far exceeding safety thresholds.

"The pollution spike was remarkable, with particulate matter levels that are not only unhealthy but hazardous," Professor Shit stated, stressing the need for immediate intervention to protect public health and prevent further environmental degradation.

Air quality readings collected during the festivities underscore a worrying increase in airborne partic-



ulate matter. In Rabindranagar on Wednesday night, PM2.5 levels were recorded at 87 micrograms per cubic metre, while PM10 levels reached 104 micrograms.

However, by Thursday night, these levels escalated sharply, with PM2.5 concentrations soaring to 348 micrograms and PM10 peaking at a hazardous 480 micrograms per cubic metre.

Comparable trends were observed in Bartalachak, Sepai Bazaar, Kuikota, Rangamati, Burgetown, Saratpalli, Bidhan Nagar, and Dharma, indicating a widespread crisis across Midnapore.

For reference, PM2.5 levels below 30 micrograms per cubic metre are considered safe, with categories from "satisfactory" to "severe" defining escalating levels.

PM10 particles, deemed safe below 50 micrograms per cubic metre, follow a similar risk scale. By these



metrics, the current pollution levels in Midnapore fall under the "severely polluted" category, indicating dangerous air quality and posing immediate health hazards.

Despite a town-wide ban on high-emission firecrackers, numerous reports reveal that residents flouted these restrictions, using crackers known for their intense emissions, such as "Chocolate bombs," "Dodomas," and "Kali Patkas." This disregard for regulations, particularly in residential and commercial areas, has led environmentalists to call for stricter enforcement measures.

Environmental advocates argue that previous regulatory attempts to curb pollution through limited enforcement have had little success. Stricter monitoring and substantial fines for violators may be required to prevent the use of high-emission firecrackers in future celebrations. Local healthcare providers

have voiced serious concerns over the health impacts of prolonged exposure to high pollution levels.

The fine PM2.5 particles, small enough to enter the bloodstream, are particularly dangerous and can lead to respiratory infections, aggravated asthma, and severe cardiovascular and pulmonary conditions. "Children and the elderly are especially at risk, given their weaker immune systems," a healthcare provider warned, advising residents to limit outdoor activities in heavily polluted areas.

The sustained presence of high PM2.5 and PM10 levels may also strain Midnapore's healthcare resources as respiratory illnesses rise. With winter approaching, health professionals fear an increase in respiratory and cardiac conditions, as colder air traps pollutants near the ground, heightening exposure.

Among the proposed measures is a town-wide push to plant trees known for their air-purifying properties, such as neem, mango, black plum, and jackfruit.

"Trees are essential in filtering the air and absorbing pollutants," the research workers emphasised, suggesting that expanded green spaces could serve as a natural solution to the town's pollution problem.

T E N D E R

MORE TENDER ADS ON PAGE 6 & 13

| | |
|---|--|
| <p>GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL e-TENDER NOTICE e-Tender is invited by the Executive Engineer, Hooghly Division, P.H.E. Dte. for NIT No- WBPHE/EE/15/HUG/SECURITY GUARDING/2024-25 related to Security Guard at various PWSs under Hooghly Division P.H.E. Dte. Bid submission Closing Date is 21.11.2024 upto 03:00 P.M. & Opening Date is 23.11.2024 upto 03:00 P.M. For Details, corrigendum/addendum, participating in the tender log on to:- www.wbtenders.gov.in Sd/- Executive Engineer, Hooghly Division, P.H.E. Dte. ICA-119746(3)/2024</p> | <p>GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL e-TENDER NOTICE The Principal cum Superintendent, Burdwan Dental College & Hospital, Purba Bardhaman invites, E-Tender ID-2024_HFW_766316_1, for SCAVENGERS & HOUSEKEEPING SERVICES FOR BURDWAN DENTAL COLLEGE & HOSPITAL, PURBA BARDHAMAN. Last date of submission of E-tender is 26.11.2024 upto 6:00 P.M. Detailed information may be obtained from the website: www.wbhealth.gov.in/ or www.purbabardhaman.gov.in/ from the said office. ICA-119744(3)/2024</p> |
|---|--|

| | |
|---|---|
| <p>GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL PASCHIM BARDHAMAN ZILLA PARISHAD ASANSOL NOTICE INVITING TENDER E Tender Notice No. e-NIT No.-35 of 2024-2025 Memo No. 4493 / e-NIT / PSBZP dated 22-10-2024 Please visit to the website: www.wbtenders.gov.in for details. Intending contractors may also contact Engineering Dept. of this office and office notice board. Sd/- Additional Executive Officer Paschim Bardhaman Zilla Parishad</p> | <p>GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL PASCHIM BARDHAMAN ZILLA PARISHAD ASANSOL NOTICE INVITING TENDER E Tender Notice No. e-NIT No.-38 of 2024-2025 Memo No. 4672 / e-NIT / PSBZP dated 30-10-2024 Please visit to the website: www.wbtenders.gov.in for details. Intending contractors may also contact Engineering Dept. of this office and office notice board. Sd/- Additional Executive Officer Paschim Bardhaman Zilla Parishad</p> |
|---|---|

| | |
|---|---|
| <p>GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL PASCHIM BARDHAMAN ZILLA PARISHAD ASANSOL NOTICE INVITING TENDER E Tender Notice No. e-NIT No.-36 of 2024-2025 Memo No. 4670 / e-NIT / PSBZP dated 30-10-2024 Please visit to the website: www.wbtenders.gov.in for details. Intending contractors may also contact Engineering Dept. of this office and office notice board. Sd/- Additional Executive Officer Paschim Bardhaman Zilla Parishad</p> | <p>GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL PASCHIM BARDHAMAN ZILLA PARISHAD ASANSOL NOTICE INVITING TENDER E Tender Notice No. e-NIT No.-35 of 2024-2025 Memo No. 4493 / e-NIT / PSBZP dated 22-10-2024 Please visit to the website: www.wbtenders.gov.in for details. Intending contractors may also contact Engineering Dept. of this office and office notice board. Sd/- Additional Executive Officer Paschim Bardhaman Zilla Parishad</p> |
|---|---|

Govt launches online central referral system at 5 govt hospitals

Including SSKM Hospital, Medical College Hospital, NRS Hospital, R G Kar Hospital and Calcutta National Medical College hospital

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, 1 NOVEMBER

In a bid to streamline the admission procedures of patients seeking berths in state healthcare facilities, the health department headed by the chief minister Mamata Banerjee on Friday launched online central referral system in five government medical colleges – SSKM Hospital, Medical College Hospital (MCH), NRS Hospital, R G Kar Hospital and Calcutta National Medical College Hospital (CNMC).

According to sources at Swasthya Bhawan, health department headquarters at Salt Lake.

Sources also said that the board would be erected beside the emergency ward of each teaching hospital on Monday so that patients' relatives can get an idea about vacancy of indoor beds there in the five medical colleges in the city.

Besides the prime demands like justice for the brutal rape and murder of post-graduate trainee (PGT) doctor at R G Kar Medical College Hospital and threat culture, the agitating medics under the West Bengal Junior Doctors' Front (WBJDF) have



also been urging the health department to streamline referral system of patients' admissions to government healthcare facilities.

A medical superintendent-cum-vice-principal (MSVP) of the one of the five medical colleges requesting

anonymity said, "A central referral system, monitoring patients' admissions have been launched by Swasthya Bhawan. Five medical colleges in the city have been tagged with the system at the initial stage."

"The central referral

process, under the health management information system (HMIS) will monitor availability of beds in the five teaching hospitals," the MSVP said.

A senior official at Swasthya Bhawan said, "For instance, doctors in a rural hospital

will refer a patient to their counterpart in a concerned district hospital giving health condition details. The district hospital, after considering the health conditions of the patient and availability of beds, can ask the rural hospital to send him/her for admission. In the same way, the district hospital can also refer the patient to a medical college hospital for indoor admission if the adequate treatment facilities are not available in the secondary level healthcare system. The central referral system will track the admission procedure on the basis of vacancy of beds in the five medical colleges."

BJP's outreach move ahead of Madarihat bypolls

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
SILIGURI, 1 NOVEMBER

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is gearing up for a 'public outreach' campaign in the Madarihat Assembly segment, as it seeks to retain the seat in an upcoming by-election.

Under the leadership of Darjeeling MP Raju Bista, BJP leaders have scheduled two political events in Madarihat and Uttar Gayerkata tomorrow, where Leader of Opposition Suwendu Adhikari will address local residents.

Darjeeling MP Raju Bista expressed confidence in the BJP's support in the region.

"The people of Madarihat have consistently voted for the BJP, opposing the Trinamul Congress (TMC). Prime Minister Narendra Modi has introduced numerous welfare schemes, yet the people here have been deprived of their benefits due to TMC's governance. Despite the overwhelming support for BJP in 2021, the region has lagged

behind under TMC's rule and its culture of corruption," Mr Bista said.

He further added, "I am confident that the BJP will come to power in West Bengal in 2026. The party's central leadership is determined to unseat the TMC. This by-election in Madarihat marks the beginning of our journey towards victory in West Bengal." BJP's goal is to "rescue Bengal from TMC's corrupt practices and uplift tea garden communities."

Notably, Mr Bista also remarked on the entry of an independent candidate from the Gorkha community in the by-election, calling it an unfortunate division.

"As an MP from Darjeeling, I serve as the 'chowkidar' of the Gorkha people in north Bengal. I have fought for Gorkha representation and secured a BJP ticket for a Gorkha leader in the Kalchini Assembly segment. After Independence, this was the first time a Gorkha won from Kalchini," Mr Bista noted.

BJP threatens police station siege at Andal

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
ASANSOL, 1 NOVEMBER

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has gheraoed the Andal police station, which is under Asansol Durgapur Police Commissionerate (ADPC) and submitted a memorandum seeking action and protection of the workers allegedly attacked by the opposition party in recent times.

BJP leader Jitendra Tiwari, speaking on the occasion said that in various places in Andal police station area, Bahula, Kajora, Sitalpur, etc., the BJP supporters were beaten after clashes with the ruling party.

Several supporters have suffered injuries.

The BJP supporters chanted slogans and also spoke through the public address system outside the police station.

A large police force was posted outside the Andal PS during the agitation of the BJP today.

Bahula ex-panchayat member Binod Mistry suffered head injuries.

"If BJP workers are going to the police station to lodge an FIR, the opposition parties too are approaching the police with counter FIRs. Police, instead of arresting the culprits, are lodging cases against both the parties," Jitendra Tiwari alleged.

He said that in the last two months, the attacks on youth leaders and even ex-panchayat leaders have been reported by TMC supporters in several areas, under Andal police station.

"Our delegation met the officer in-charge of Andal police station today and submitted a memorandum. We have told the police if the atrocities upon BJP

supporters are not stopped immediately in the coming days, we will stage a dharna outside the police station and organise a bigger movement," added Jitendra Tiwari.

He said that the party will move court against the police inactions in Kajora, Sitalpur, Bahula attacks upon BJP supporters.

TMC district president, Narendra Nath Chakraborty, refuted the allegations against his party supporters in Andal and instead said that the BJP is trying to remain in the news by organising such programmes in the district.

"Since the 2024 Lok Sabha polls, BJP has become almost irrelevant in the West Burdwan district. They have lost both the two Lok Sabha seats of this district," alleged Narendra Nath Chakraborty.

Will talk to Mamata on expanding core committee: Anubrata

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
BIRBHUM, 1 NOVEMBER

Anubrata Mondal, former district president of Trinamul Congress in Birbhum said that he will give a proposal to party chief Mamata Banerjee to expand the core committee and include leaders from all blocks of the district.

Talking to the Media, Anubrata Mondal said that the six-member core committee, set up by Mamata Banerjee has been mostly concentrated in the Bolpur area and he will meet her after the Kali Puja and other Bengali festivals are over and seek expansion of the core committee.

"I have planned to propose Didi to set up a 15-member strong core committee in Birbhum district for better

and efficient functioning with representatives from all the blocks of the district," said Anubrata.

Few days back, Miss Banerjee had called Anubrata Mondal over and directed him to work along with the core committee in Birbhum district.

Chief minister Mamata Banerjee had formed the core committee with two sitting MPs to run the party after the arrest of Anubrata, the then TMC Birbhum district president in the cross-border cattle smuggling case by the CBI and then by the ED. The core committee organised campaigning for two major elections—the three-tier gram panchayat in 2023 and the Lok Sabha in 2024 successfully and fared very well.

In fact, in the absence of Anubrata, both the elections

were peaceful and non-controversial.

Suri MLA and member of the core committee, Bikash Roy Choudhury said that the core committee works according to the CM's instructions. "Anybody can give proposals to our party chairperson Mamata Banerjee and only she can decide about such requests," added Bikash Roy Choudhury.

Anubrata's proposal to expand the core committee has set off discussions in political circles in the district since his return to Birbhum district.

The relationship between Kajal Shiekh, sabhadhipati of Birbhum zilla parishad and Anubrata, former district president has not been normal and both are keeping a distance with each other till date.

Jhargram archery academy students excel in school games

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, 1 NOVEMBER

The Bengal Archery Academy in Jhargram has bagged 18 medals at the 68th State School Games 2024.

Aroop Biswas, state sports minister congratulated the players and assured every possible cooperation.

The students of the academy have bagged 4 gold, 8 silver and 6 bronze medals.

Also, the academy emerged victorious in the overall team championship, men's team championship and women's team championship categories.

The 68th national school games archery competition

was held at Nadiad, Gujarat. The students, including Sion Samant, Md Kamran and Anjali Kumari demonstrated their special skills.

Mr Biswas said the students did well in the school-level championship and hoped that they would do well in the national level as well.

Chief minister Mamata Banerjee set up the academy in Jhargram and local people have a natural inclination in archery. The students are getting coaching from national and international coaches there. Out of 48 participants representing Bengal, 23 were from the Bengal Archery Academy.

POWERED BY
NPCI
NATIONAL PAYMENTS CORPORATION OF INDIA

RuPay
Credit on
UPI
UNIFIED PAYMENTS INTERFACE

**FIND A BHAJ DOOJ GIFT YOUR SIBLING WILL LIKE.
PAY FOR IT WHENEVER YOU LIKE.**

**Link your RuPay Credit Card to UPI
and split your purchase into easy EMIs**

EMI 1

EMI 2

EMI 3

EMI 4

EMI 5

EMI 6

**LINK IT
SPLIT IT
FORGET IT**

Link your RuPay Credit Card to UPI

Scan the merchant UPI QR Code

Tap on 'Convert to EMI'

Pay in EMI

Partner Banks:

Partner Apps:

Pay in EMI for transactions above ₹2000 or ₹2500 with your UPI App

Scan the QR Code to get an instant Virtual RuPay Credit Card.

Scan to get more rewards

*Terms & Conditions Apply. Instant issuance is applicable to pre-qualified or existing customers of banks/issuers only

Significant spike in air, noise pollution in Kolkata

The twin occasion saw people bursting firecrackers since Thursday night

AGENCIES

KOLKATA, 1 NOVEMBER

With the bursting of firecrackers to mark the occasions of Kali Puja and Diwali, Kolkata has recorded high levels of air and noise pollution, said officials here on Friday.

The twin occasion saw people bursting firecrackers since Thursday night.

The air quality index (AQI) in most of the monitoring stations in the city was recorded in the 151 to 200 range, which is per standard comes under the "red" or "unhealthy" category.

In this category, while some members of the general public might experience



health effects, members of sensitive groups may experience more serious health effects.

According to environmental experts, this "red" or "unhealthy" category of AQI is especially hazardous

for elderly citizens, children and people with respiratory problems like asthma and are advised to avoid prolonged outdoor activities as far as possible.

Besides Kolkata, the AQI level was also at this

"unhealthy" level in the Salt Lake area and Howrah town.

At the same time, Kolkata Police's claim to control the menace of sound crackers failed miserably, with the average sound level being 22 decibels higher than the permissible limit on Thursday night.

In Kolkata, the maximum sound level was recorded at the Kasba area in South Kolkata, where the average sound level on Thursday night was recorded at 104.6 decibels, much higher than the permissible limit of 75 decibels.

Even the sound levels at the hospital adjacent areas in the city, where the maximum permissible limits are 50 decibels in the morning hours and 40 decibels

at night, were much higher.

While the sound limit at areas adjacent to state-run S.S.K.M. Medical College and Hospital in South Kolkata at midnight on Thursday was recorded at 58.2 decibels, the same in the area adjacent to R.G. Kar Medical College and Hospital in North Kolkata was recorded at a much higher of 72.7 decibels.

Although Kolkata Police had earlier announced that they would be deploying additional forces in the residential areas and those adjacent to hospitals, to prevent the bursting of banned firecrackers, in reality, its effective implementation could not be felt in most pockets of the city.

Bengal Governor launches self-defence course 'Abhaya Plus' for girls

AGENCIES

KOLKATA, 1 NOVEMBER

West Bengal Governor C.V. Ananda Bose, on Friday, announced the launch of a new scheme 'Abhaya Plus' under which self-defence courses will be organised for the girls in the state.

On the occasion of the completion of two years as the state's Governor, the media cell of Raj Bhavan in Kolkata in the morning issued a statement outlining Bose's plans for the overall development of the state. The statement mentions a nine-point agenda and one of them is 'Abhaya Plus'. Although the statement has not elaborated on why this specific scheme for self-defence for girls will be introduced, Raj Bhavan insiders said that this scheme is the brain-child of the Governor himself in the backdrop of the rape and murder of a woman doctor of the R.G.



Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata. The body of the doctor was found in suspicious circumstances on August 9 morning in the seminar hall of the hospital. Since laws forbid revealing the identity of the victim in sexual assault cases, the deceased doctor was given the name 'Abhaya' by the protesting doctors.

The statement issued by the Governor's office outlines the focus areas of the Governor in the coming days.

"Special stress is to be put on anti-human-trafficking, anti-drug abuse, empowerment of women, safety and security of children, partic-

ipation of youth, cultural and educational initiatives whereby the educated youth can benefit from interaction with experts about their future, and so on. The focus of these initiatives will be on the welfare of the weaker sections of society, which is also a Constitutional obligation that is dear to the Hon'ble Governor's heart," the statement read. At the same time, it has also been claimed that as part of the Governor's fresh mass-connect programme, he will be visiting 250 places spread across all the districts of West Bengal. He will also be visiting various College and school campuses addressing the students and interacting with them. "Hon'ble Governor will visit the tribal areas of the state and visit anybody who calls him, especially those in any kind of distress, destitute and infirm, orphanages and old age Homes," the statement read.

FESTIVE MOOD CONTINUES



Devotees and pandal-hoppers throng Sealdah Amra Sabal Club's Kali Puja on Friday. ■ SNS



Back-to-back attacks on TMC MLAs spark outrage

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

KOLKATA, 1 NOVEMBER

Ahead of the Haroa Assembly by-election in North 24-Parganas, Trinamul Congress (TMC) MLA from Minakhan, Usha Rani Mondal, was attacked in Haroa. In another incident, Sandeshkhali MLA Sukumar Mahato was also assaulted. The BJP and Left Front alleged that the state government's failure to maintain law and order is responsible for these attacks.

Police reported that Ms Mondal and 25 of her supporters were injured in an incident last night while returning from a Kali Puja programme. There were allegations of gunfire, but police denied these claims.

The accused is believed to be a leader from the same party, the TMC. This incident has once again highlighted



the internal factionalism within the ruling party.

On Thursday, Ms Mondal attended a Kali Puja event in Haroa. While returning, a group of miscreants attacked her. It is alleged that TMC leader Khaleq Molla was behind the attack, though he has denied the accusations.

Local sources reported that Ms Mondal, her husband Mrityunjay Mondal, and other supporters were attacked near the Haroa auto stand. Stones were thrown at their car, and the MLA and her husband were allegedly dragged out and beaten. Ms Mondal sus-

tained injuries to her leg.

Ms Mondal filed a complaint at the Haroa police station, naming Khaleq as the accused. She stated, "I was returning from a Kali Puja event when Khaleq Molla and his group attacked us at the Haroa auto stand. I was pulled out of the car and hit with a rod. My party workers were also beaten. Some of them are hospitalised at RG Kar Hospital. I have informed the party leadership."

Mrityunjay Mondal said, "We were invited to the Haroa Police Station for Kali Puja. On our way back, we were attacked by Khaleq Molla and his group. They threw stones and dragged the MLA out, hitting her leg with a baton. Around 10-12 people were injured."

Khaleq denied the allegations, claiming that Ms Mondal and her group had attacked

a local Panchayat and her supporters, and that shots were fired during the incident. He accused Ms Mondal of colluding with the BJP and trying to frame him.

On Thursday night, Sandeshkhali MLA Sukumar Mahato's car was also attacked. He accused Abdul Kader Molla, a deputy head of the Hatgachi Gram Panchayat and an associate of arrested TMC leader Sheikh Shajahan, of the assault.

BJP Rajya Sabha MP Shamik Bhattacharya criticised the unruly behaviour of TMC leaders and supporters, accusing them of engaging in fights to control government properties. CPM central committee member Sujjan Chakraborty alleged that the police, under the direction of the Chief Minister, were turning a blind eye to the violence, leaving TMC MLAs vulnerable to attacks from rival groups.

Operationally ready at all times: Eastern Army Commander

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

KOLKATA, 1 NOVEMBER

Eastern Command of the Indian Army celebrated its 104th Raising Day at its headquarters in Fort William on Wednesday.

On this special day, Lieutenant General Ram Chander Tiwari, GOC-in-C Eastern Command, conveyed his best wishes to all officers, troops and defence civilian employees of Headquarters Eastern Command and assured that the Command is operationally ready at all times and continues to develop its capabilities to face any present or future challenges. Commending the tireless efforts of all personnel of the headquarters on the occasion, he called upon everyone to continue working with dedication and devotion in the true traditions of the Indian Army. Lieutenant General RC Srikanth, head-quarters Eastern Command laid a wreath at Vijay Smarak to pay tribute to brave hearts who made the supreme sacrifice in the service to the nation.

Headquarters Eastern Command was raised on 1 November, 1920. The Command was raised at Lucknow under General Sir H Hudson, with territorial jurisdiction over Delhi, UP, Bengal, Bihar,



Orissa and Assam. Thereafter, owing to the operational commitments, Command Headquarters shifted to Barrackpore, Ranchi and Lucknow before permanently settling down in Fort William, Kolkata in the immediate wake of 1962 Sino-Indian War.

Eastern Command covers the geographical area spread over eight states, overseeing 8350 km of land borders of India. The Command is responsible for guarding borders with five countries, a task it has carried out with distinction. It has also actively participated in all major wars fought by the Country. However, its crowning glory was the 1971 War which led to the creation of a new nation "Bangladesh". Over the years, the "Warriors of the East" have time and

again proved themselves as a formidable professional force capable of safeguarding the territorial integrity of the Nation and leading highly successful counter insurgency operations in the affected regions of North East.

Eastern Command as the guardians of East has been involved at every level to bring in meaningful changes in the lives of the people through Operation Sadbhavana and Operation Samaritan schemes which have left an indelible impact on the lives of the local population. Be it humanitarian assistance, disaster relief operations or restoring law and order, the Command has acquitted itself in an exemplary manner reinforcing the Nation's faith in its Army.

One injured after neighbours clash

ASANSOL, 1 NOVEMBER

Neighbours clashed with each other over drying clothes in front of the houses at Sitalpur under Kulti police station area and two rounds were fired from a revolver with one person being injured.

Sanjib Sharma started beating his neighbour Kalicharan Ram and broke one of his hands with a rod and sticks. Ayush Shome, his son, rushed to save his father from the hands of Sanjib Sharma and his son.

Sharma, who is a priest by profession and locally known as Pandit Ji rushed inside his house and then fired two rounds from his revolver.

Kulti police reached the site after locals informed them and arrested Sanjib Sharma and his son Pintu. Locals alleged that seeing police coming to his house, Sanjib Sharma had thrown his revolver in the adjacent paddy fields.

Kalicharan Shome was admitted at Asansol district hospital. Locals took video of the clash on their cell phones and handed them over to the police. Sanjib Karra, ADCP (West) of Asansol Durgapur Police Commissionerate said that after altercations between two neighbours, two rounds were fired and one person sustained injuries. The police are combing the area to seize the firearm. ■ SNS

Four killed as overspeeding bikes collide with car in Bengal

AGENCIES

KOLKATA, 1 NOVEMBER

At least four people were killed when their overspeeding motorcycles collided with a car on Friday at Kalna in the East Burdwan district of West Bengal.

The four were returning by two motorcycles from Nabadwip in Nadia district to their respective residences at Samudragarh in East Burdwan district in the early morning.

Eyewitnesses said the two bikes were driving at extremely high speeds when they collided with a four-wheeler coming

from the opposite direction in the Gaurangapara area.

The cops of the local Nadanghat police station immediately reached the spot and the injured to the Kalna Specialty Hospital, where the doctors declared them dead.

The four persons killed in the accident have been identified as Arif Sheikh, Abu Mondal, Abu Bakar Siddique Mondal and Abdul Silim Mollah. All were residents of the Samudragarh area. The police have sent their bodies for post-mortem purposes.

A woman, Padma Das, who

was passing by was also hit by one of the two motorcycles which lost balance after the collision. She is under treatment at a local hospital.

The driver of the four-wheeler against which the two motorcycles collided had gone absconding since the time of the accident. The family members of the four deceased persons have already been informed by the cops, said the officials here.

The eyewitnesses, however, complained that despite being informed in time the cops from the local police station

arrived at the accident spot late and by the time they reached the local people had almost completed the initial rescue operations.

The local people also alleged that the spot where the mishap took place had been accident-prone for quite some time without any proper traffic management system or speed-breaking road bumps.

They also alleged that despite being vocal on these issues for quite some time there had been no initiative from the local administration on this count.

Classified

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE

It is hereby notified to all at large that the property comprised within R.S. Dag No. 506, R.S. Khatian No. 1674, L.R. Dag No. 510, L.R. Khatian No. 2339, measuring about 01 cottah 10 chatak 13 sq.ft., of BASTU land with structure, within Mouza Duillya, Gram Panchayet Duillya, under P.S.: Sankrail, Dist.: Howrah, was purchased by KRISHNAPADA BHATTACHARYA, S/o. Late Bholanath Bhattacharya of Duillya, Sankrail, Howrah, from Sri Basudev Das, S/o. Late Sadhan Chandra Das of Duillya, P.S.: Sankrail, Dist.: Howrah, on 13-3-2001, vide a Registered Sale Deed vide Book No.: I, Volume No.: 15, Pages 134 to 140, being No. 910 of 2001, registered at Ranihati SRO. My client CHHOTU BHATTACHARYA, S/o. Late Krishnapada Bhattacharya of Duillya, Sankrail, Howrah, had inherited the said property, but on 09-2-2019 A.D., on his way to Argori, has lost the aforesaid original Title Deed, at about 19-00 hrs., and had diarised the same vide Sankrail P.S. G.D.E. No. 695 dated 14-2-2019. Till date the said Deed has not yet been traced out / recovered, as such my client has recomplained to the Police Commissioner, Howrah City Police, by a Written Complain dated 23-10-2024. It is hereby NOTIFIED that if the said Deed is found to be used for any illegal purpose / unauthorisedly, in that event, my client shall not be responsible / liable in any manner.

Pankaj Kumar Datta, Advocate

CHANGE OF NAME

I, ANKITA Jaiswal, D/o. Sri Pradip Jaiswal, residing at Premises No. 43, Kailash Bose Street, P.O.: Beadon Street, P.S.: Amherst Street, Kolkata-700006, hereby declare that inadvertently my father's name has been recorded as Pradeep Jaiswal in place of Pradip Jaiswal in my marksheet. That Pradeep Jaiswal and Pradip Jaiswal are the same and one identical person. That Pradip Jaiswal is correct name vide Affidavit No.-2475 dated 30-10-24 before the Ld. Judicial Magistrate (1st Class) Calcutta.

All Advertisements are carried Free of cost on our website <https://epaper.thestatesman.com>

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.

The Statesman

CLASSIFIED

TO BOOK AN ADVERTISEMENT PLEASE CALL

98308 74087 / 98303 02169

PM Modi, Prez Murmu, Rahul greet states on formation day

'May the people of Karnataka always be blessed with happiness and success'

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 1 NOVEMBER

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday greeted Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Haryana and Kerala on their foundation days, and wished their residents all happiness and success in future.

Giving his messages on X, he said for the residents of Karnataka the occasion of Kannada Rajyotsava is a special occasion.

He posted, "Kannada Rajyotsava is a very special occasion, recognising the exemplary culture and traditions of Karnataka. This state is blessed with outstanding people, who are powering growth and innovation across sectors. May the people of Karnataka always be blessed with happiness and success."

In his message for residents of Madhya Pradesh, he posted, "Best wishes to all the residents of Madhya Pradesh on the State Foundation Day. I wish that this state, rich in natural wealth and cultural heritage, continues to set new standards of development in every field."

Greeting the residents of



Chhattisgarh on the State Foundation Day, he posted on X, "My heartfelt best wishes to all the people of Chhattisgarh on the state's foundation day. I wish that this state, adorned with a wonderful confluence of glorious folk traditions and tribal culture, continues to progress rapidly on the path of development."

Mr Modi greeted the residents of Haryana writing, "Our Haryana, known for its rich historical heritage, has always contributed significantly to the development of the country. On the foun-

ation day of the state, along with extending my heartfelt greetings to all my brothers and sisters who are partners in the progress of this state, I wish them happiness, prosperity and good health."

In a message to people of Kerala on the occasion of Kerala Piravi, he posted on X: "Kerala Piravi greetings! Kerala state is known for its mesmerizing landscapes, vibrant traditions and hard-working people. People from Kerala have made their mark all over the world, across different fields. May the people

of the state keep progressing in the times to come."

President Droupadi Murmu also greeted residents of various states and Union territories on their formation day.

The states of Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and Lakshadweep came into being on this day in 1956. Punjab and Haryana were formed in 1966, while Chhattisgarh was carved out of Madhya Pradesh in 2000. "I extend my heartfelt greetings to the people of

Haryana, Punjab, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Lakshadweep on their formation day.

"I wish that the people of all these states and Union territories continue to contribute to the country's development journey and that their lives be filled with peace and prosperity. I wish them and all the countrymen a bright future," she said in a post on X.

Congress MP Rahul Gandhi emphasized India's unity in diversity.

In a post on X, he said, "Greetings to the people of Andhra Pradesh, Andaman and Nicobar, Chhattisgarh, Chandigarh, Delhi, Haryana, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Puducherry, Tamil Nadu, and Lakshadweep on their Foundation Day today. These vibrant cultures, diverse languages, rich histories, and enduring traditions are the heart of India's strength."

"Let us celebrate and safeguard this unity, recognising each state's unique contribution to our nation," he added.

Omar, Jitendra attend tearful last rites of Rana

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, 1 NOVEMBER

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh were among hundreds who bid a tearful adieu to veteran political leader Devender Singh Rana on Friday as his last rites were held here.

Rana, a sitting BJP MLA and a prominent voice for Jammu region's Dogra community, passed away on Thursday at a hospital in Faridabad after a prolonged illness. He was 59 and had a wide circle of friends across the country.

Omar Abdullah arrived here from Srinagar to pay tribute to his longtime friend, Rana. He first visited Rana's home and then attended the last rites at the Shastri Nagar cremation ground. Deputy CM Surinder Chaudhary accompanied Omar.

Rana is survived by his wife, two daughters, and a son. Cutting across party lines, political leaders expressed condolences on his passing. Rana was the younger brother of Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh.

Rana was a committed leader and a pillar of the National Conference for decades before he joined the BJP in 2021. He won the recent Assembly election from a BJP ticket Nagrota seat on a BJP ticket



with the highest margin of votes in J&K. Earlier, in 2014, he won the same seat as a National Conference candidate. He also served as a political adviser with the status of a minister to then Chief Minister Omar Abdullah.

Expressing grief on his death, Prime Minister Narendra Modi wrote on X, "Devender Singh Rana Ji's untimely demise is shocking. He was a veteran leader, who worked diligently towards Jammu and Kashmir's progress. He had just won the Assembly polls and had also played a noteworthy role in making the BJP stronger in J&K. In this hour of grief, my thoughts are with his family and supporters."

Home Minister Amit Shah wrote on X, "Devender Rana ji, who was always dedicated to the peace and development of Jammu and Kashmir and the interests of the people, made an invaluable contribution to the progress of the region. His demise is an irreparable loss to the BJP family."

NGOs take up pension issue of 'digitally dead'

This is not about Rajasthan alone as similar problems have been reported from the states of Jharkhand, Andhra Pradesh, Haryana and Telangana, too

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
JAIPUR, 1 NOVEMBER

The Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan and the Pension Parishad will keep on the movement that aimed at resumption of payment of pensions to lakhs of poor elderly or disabled ones who have been declared (digitally dead) following exclusion of their names from the government list of pensioners. The NGOs have been working on this issue for quite some time collecting data and studying individual cases.

Based on this sometime back they raised the issue with Rajasthan Additional Chief Secretary, Social Justice, Empowerment and Rural Development, Kuldeep Raka and also wrote to the state CMO. On Tuesday last, the crusaders had gone to Delhi to raise crucial issue of livelihood of poor masses, the MKSS spokesman Nikhil Dey said on Friday.

He said - "We went to Delhi from Rajasthan to raise before the Centre the issue of digital exclusion of this huge number of pensioners, from pension list of the Rajasthan government. This list marked them as dead. He said in Delhi, they met Justice Madan Lokur, Prashant Bhusan, Dipa Sinha, Usha Ramanathan, Mathew Cherian, Murlidharan, held a press conference to share their findings with the media.

He said they called on Union Rural Development Secretary Shailesh Singh and handed him a memorandum in this regard and now are trying to meet Rajasthan Chief Secretary Sudhanshu Pant to make their presentation and get the record straight in favour of the affected pensioners so that their pension is resumed.

This claim, Nikhil says, is based on evidence from across Rajasthan collated by people's movements. This is not about Rajasthan alone as similar problems have been reported from the states of Jharkhand, Andhra Pradesh, Haryana and Telangana, too. In fact, these are not isolated issues but structural flaws, experts remarked.

Digital transformation of rural India for inclusive growth

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 1 NOVEMBER

In a significant move to bridge the digital divide in rural India and ensure that digital services reach every citizen, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) is launching the Digital India Common Service Centre (DICSC) project, starting with Pilibhit and Gorakhpur.

This initiative will establish one model DICSC centre in nearly all gram panchayats across 10 districts, totaling 4,740 centers nationwide.

Specifically, Pilibhit will see the establishment of 720 DICSC centres, while Gorakhpur (Uttar Pradesh) will have 1,273 of them. Additional locations include Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar (old Aurangabad, Maharashtra) with 870 centres, Chamba (Himachal Pradesh) with 309, Khammam (Telangana) with 589, Gandhinagar (Gujarat) with 288, Mamit (Mizoram) with 100, Jodhpur (Rajasthan)

with 415, Leh (Ladakh) with 95, and Puducherry state with 81 DICSC centres.

The implementation and centralised technical monitoring of these centres will be managed by CSC e-Governance Services India Limited.

With a budget of Rs 31,6088 crore, the project is set to run initially for six months, with the possibility of extending it to nine months. The primary goal is to create an integrated platform that provides essential e-governance services along with financial and commercial services to rural citizens. The CSC centres in Pilibhit will offer a variety of services including Aadhaar registration, banking, financial planning, tele-law, telemedicine, education, and e-commerce support. Each CSC will be equipped with high-speed broadband connectivity and modern infrastructure to function as a multi-functional service centre. This project aims to empower Village Level Entre-

preneurs (VLEs), fostering local economic growth and creating job opportunities. The initiative will also ensure transparent and sustainable service delivery through centralised technical monitoring.

Additionally, GPS-enabled mobile vans will be deployed to promote government schemes and deliver essential services directly to remote areas. This comprehensive approach is expected to significantly enhance digital literacy and improve access to services in both Pilibhit and Gorakhpur.

The DICSC project is set to transform these regions by providing critical digital services that empower local entrepreneurs and promote inclusive growth. By addressing the digital divide and enhancing access to essential services, this initiative aims to uplift the economic conditions of Pilibhit and Gorakhpur, integrating them into the broader digital economy.

Air quality deteriorates in Bihar as firecracker ban flouted

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
PATNA, 1 NOVEMBER

The air quality in Patna and other regions of Bihar deteriorated on Friday following the bursting of firecrackers on a large scale.

Despite the Bihar State Pollution Control Board's ban on firecrackers in four districts, fireworks were still used extensively, resulting in a sharp rise in air pollution. The Air Quality Index (AQI) measurements, with values reaching 270 in Raja Bazar and exceeding 278 in Dak Bungalow, indicate "poor" air quality levels that pose health risks, especially to vulnerable populations like children, the elderly, and those with respiratory issues. The primary pollutant is particulate matter (PM), with dust particles rising well above the standard safety limits. AGENCIES

India, Pakistan border troops exchange Diwali sweets near Jaisalmer

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
JAIPUR, 1 NOVEMBER

Indian and Pakistani troops posted on the border exchanged sweets on the occasion of Diwali near Jaisalmer in Rajasthan, continuing the tradition of greeting each other on the festival and displaying the flag of peace, an official said on Friday.

Border Security Force officials gave sweets to Pakistani Rangers and the Pakistani Ranger also greeted them by saying "Happy Diwali" and offering sweets. The exchange of sweets and greeting took place near the Zero line, said the official.

The BSF jawans posted in the desert area under the Rajasthan Frontier celebrated the festival of lights by giving the message of unity and security to the countrymen and lighted diyas at forward posts of the border and distributing sweets.

Women jawans also made



rangoli, adding to the celebratory Diwali atmosphere on the border.

In 2020, Prime Minister Narendra Modi celebrated Diwali with soldiers here. He flew to Longewala Post in Rajasthan and rode on a tank during his visit.

PM Modi continued his tradition of celebrating Diwali with the Indian armed forces this year as well and spent time with soldiers at Lakkhi Nala in Gujarat's Sir Creek on Thursday.

Extending his wishes, he lauded the commitment and dedication of soldiers sta-

tioned at the challenging border area.

"On this sacred land near Sir Creek, it is my privilege to celebrate Diwali with you. When I celebrate with you, the joy of Diwali multiplies. This Diwali is special as Lord Ram has finally returned to his temple in Ayodhya," he said, noting the symbolism of this year's festival.

PM Modi also expressed his gratitude on behalf of India's 140 crore citizens, recognising the courage of the soldiers defending the nation in extreme conditions.

Cong govt responsible for introducing controversial chapters in school textbooks: Rajasthan Minister

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
JAIPUR, 1 NOVEMBER

After withdrawing books that carried chapters related to the Godhra incident, Rajasthan Education Minister Madan Dilwar said on Friday that the Congress government is responsible for introducing controversial books in the school syllabus of the state and added that spreading animosity in the society is the nature of Congress.

A legal investigation is being conducted into the subject matter published in the book and legal action will be taken, he added.

Speaking on the books that have been withdrawn from the school syllabus, he said, "The present government has no role in the selection of the two controversial



books "Adrishya Log" whose author is Harsh Mander and "Jeevan Ki Bahar" which has been authored by Madhav Gadgil. These books were sent to the libraries of government schools by Samagra Shiksha Rajasthan and they were selected by the previous Congress government," the Minister said.

Minister Dilwar also said, "Only two books have been added during the tenure of the present government. The first is 'Vaccine Ki Gatha' written by Sajjan Singh Yadav and the second is the

Rajasthani language book 'Chidi Ko Moti Ladiyo'. Apart from these two books, 99 books were selected by the previous selection committee on September 29, 2023, whose chairman was the then Education Secretary. At that time a total of 105 books in two groups (63+42) were presented before the then-state Secretary of the government, the chairman of the selection committee, on September 19, 2023. The approval for their selection was issued by the Chairman on September 29, September 30, and October 3 last year. The entire responsibility for the selection of these books lies with the then Congress government, the Administrative Secretary of the Education Department, and the then Education Minister."

Namo Drone Didi scheme guidelines released

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 1 NOVEMBER

The government has approved the Central Sector Scheme 'Namoo Drone Didi' for providing drones to the Women Self Help Groups (SHGs) under DAY-NRLM, with an outlay of Rs 1261 Crore. The scheme aims to provide drones to 14,500 selected Women SHGs during the period from 2024-25 to 2025-2026 for providing rental services to farmers for agriculture purposes (application of liquid fertilizers and pesticides for the present).

The Department of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare has released the Operational Guidelines for this scheme and all the stakeholders have been requested to make

meaningful use of these operational guidelines to ensure prompt roll out and implementation of the 'Namoo Drone Didi' Scheme.

The operational guidelines have some major components. The Scheme will be governed at the Central level by the Empowered Committee of the Secretaries of Department of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, Department of Rural Development, Department of Fertilizers, Ministry of Civil Aviation and Ministry of Women and Child Development.

The Implementation and Monitoring Committee headed by the Additional Secretary, Department of Rural Development and having representation from all other stakeholders, will be responsible for effective planning,



implementation and monitoring of the scheme besides providing overall advice and guidance to all technical matters related to the implementation of the scheme.

Under the scheme, a Central Financial Assistance at the rate of 80 per cent of the cost of drone and accessories/ancillary charges up to a maximum of Rs 8.0 lakhs will be provided to the women SHGs for purchase of drones as a package while the Cluster Level Federations (CLFs) of SHGs/SHGs may raise the

balance amount (total cost of procurement minus subsidy) as loan under National Agriculture Infra Financing Facility (AIF). Interest subvention at 3 per cent on the AIF loan will be provided to the CLFs/SHGs.

The CLFs/SHGs will also have the option to access loans from other sources/programmes/schemes of the Ministry of Rural Development while under the scheme, not only the drones but drones as a package will be supplied. The package consists of a basic drone with spray assembly for spraying liquid fertilizers and pesticides, drone carrying box, standard battery set, downward facing camera, dual-channel fast battery charger, battery charger hub, anemometer, pH meter and

one year onsite warranty on all items.

The package also includes four spare battery sets, one spare propeller set (each set contains 6 propellers), nozzle set, dual channel fast battery charger, battery charger hub, 15 days training for drone pilot and drone assistant, one year comprehensive insurance, 2 years annual maintenance contract and applicable GST. The additional sets of batteries will ensure continuous drone flying which can easily cover 20 acres in a day. This apart, one of the members of the women SHGs will be selected for 15-day training comprising mandatory drone pilot training and additional training for agriculture purpose for nutrient and pesticide application.

BJP slams Cong over 'Shakti scheme', says grand old party just makes announcements, fools the public for sake of votes

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 1 NOVEMBER

Launching a scathing attack on Congress National President Mallikarjun Kharge and Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi over the Shakti scheme, one of several Congress poll guarantees, which provides free bus services to women in Karnataka, the BJP on Friday said the grand old party just makes announcements and fool the public for the sake of votes.

The BJP's reaction follows

advice from Kharge to the Congress units preparing for elections, urging them to announce guarantees aligned with their budgets. The Congress National President's statement had come after the Congress government in Karnataka suggested that it could review the Shakti scheme which ensured free bus transport for women.

Slamming the Congress over the 'Shakti scheme', senior BJP leader Ravi Shankar Prasad demanded an apology from the Congress National

President and the Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha and said that for the first time, Congress has accepted that they have misled the public.

"The Congress National President Mallikarjun Kharge has accepted that we should make an announcement for only those items for which we have budgetary provisions and financial availability...Has the Congress National President Mallikarjun Kharge taught this lesson to Rahul Gandhi? Rahul Gandhi is an expert in making announce-



ments, and he keeps doing it," Prasad said while addressing a press conference at the BJP headquarters here.

"Today, the Congress party has accepted through its President that what they have been doing is an attempt to

deceive the public! Will Kharge Ji apologise for what his party has done to the people? For what's happening in Telangana, Karnataka, and Himachal Pradesh?," the senior BJP leader said.

"Congress President Shri Mallikarjun Kharge has stated that only those guarantees should be announced for which there is a budget. Listening to this, one wonders whether President Kharge has taught the lesson of wise thinking to his leader Rahul Gandhi," Prasad said.

"The BJP would like to ask very clear and categorical questions to the esteemed Congress party President. Rahul Gandhi, time and again, represents the uncertainty surrounding his election promises. Rahul Gandhi is an expert at making announcements, but never intends to fulfill those," the senior BJP leader said.

Prasad talked about Himachal Pradesh and said that state Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu has asked state government

employees not to take their salaries.

"What about these announcements and promises in Himachal Pradesh? However, the CM there has asked state government employees not to take their salaries. They were also planning to impose a tax on toilets as well but had to withdraw the decision following a row over it," he added.

The BJP leader further said that Congress just makes announcements and fool the public for the sake of votes.

TN parties divided on Tamil Nadu Day; DMK for 18 July

It was on this day, 68 years ago, Tamil Nadu was carved out of the erstwhile Madras Presidency

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
CHENNAI, 1 NOVEMBER

While all other linguistically reorganised states celebrate

November 1 as their foundation day, Tamil Nadu is deeply divided on this with the ruling DMK holding it on July 18, when the state was officially rechristened as Tamil Nadu.

It was on this day, 68 years ago, Tamil Nadu was carved out of the erstwhile Madras Presidency which was later christened Madras State. This once again exposes the deep schism between the DMK and its archrival, AIADMK as well as the BJP and Tamil



nationalists.

The DMK government had, in 2022 declared July 18 as Tamil Nadu Day by rescinding an earlier order of the previous AIADMK government making November 1. For, it was on July 18, 1967 the first DMK government of CN Annadurai passed a resolution in the state assembly to rechristen the state as Tamil Nadu which was called Madras State till then. Later, parliament gave its approval for the same.

However, this day could not be abandoned since the opposition AIADMK, Naam Tamil Katchi (NTK) of Seeman, BJP, Pattali Makkal Katchi (PMK) and Tamilaga Vettri

Kazhagam of Vijay have extended greetings.

Chief Minister MK Stalin chose to mark the day to honour the sacrifices of the heroes who had fought for retaining the borders of Tamil Nadu during the linguistic reorganisation of states. "November 1 is the day to honour the struggles of the valiant heroes who fought for retaining the borders of Tamil Nadu in the north and south. I salute them for their sacrifices to get the areas where Tamils lived and where Tamil was spoken united with Tamil Nadu."

The DMK has found support from its ally, the Viduthala Chiruthaigal Katchi (VCK) with its president Thiru-

mavalavan, MP, stated that November 1 was a day when Tamil Nadu lost some of its traditional parts to its neighbours. "Only July 18 is appropriate for celebrating Tamil Nadu day," he said in a statement.

While extending wishes for the State Day, PMK founder S Ramadoss said in a statement, "Rather than gaining, Tamil Nadu has lost geographically to its neighbours which continue to be the root cause for its many problems including sharing of river waters. Because of the outdated Dravidian ideology we are losing our rights and Tamil is deprived of its identity. Let us strive to reclaim our lost rights on this day."

2021 Kodakara hawala case: Kerala government to re-investigate

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,
11 NOVEMBER

The Kerala government has on Friday decided to re-investigate into the 2021 Kodakara hawala case, putting the BJP's state unit in a difficult situation ahead of the byelections in the state. The decision came after a meeting between chief minister Pinarayi Vijayan and the state police chief.

The action follows the proposal of the CPI-M state secretary to re-investigate the case in the light of the revelations of Tirur Sathesh, former office secretary of BJP in Thrissur related to the hawala case. The CPI-M state secretary sought a reinvestigation in the Kodakara hawala case following the revelation of Tirur Sathesh, former office secretary of BJP in Thrissur related to the case.

The CPI-M state secretary has considered the disclosure of Tirur Sathesh the former office secretary of BJP in Thrissur as serious and has urged the government to seek legal avenues for re-investigation. Since the Thrissur Rang DIG-led Special Investigation Team (SIT), formed to probe the case, already submitted the charge sheet to the court, further investigation can only be conducted with the court's permission. Tirur Sathesh's revelation that the money seized in the Kodakara heist was hawala cash and meant for the BJP has kicked up a political storm ahead of the bypolls in Kerala. It is learnt that the government will inform the court of the new developments in the case and seek permission for further probe into the case.

Meanwhile, the CPI-M has decided to make the issue a

political debate in the by-elections. CPI-M state secretary MV Govindan said that a re-investigation is needed in the Kodakara hawala case. Political observers believe that the BJP is on the defensive in the wake of the new revelations in the case. Leader of the Opposition VD Sathesan has said a deal between BJP and the CPI-M, as claimed by the Congress much earlier, has been proved right through the revelations made by former BJP office secretary Tirur Sathesh in connection with the Kodakara moneyheist case. Tirur Sathesh, BJP former office secretary in Thrissur the other day alleged that he met Dharmanjan at the BJP district office earlier and had booked hotel rooms for him and his associates to stay in Thrissur as directed by the BJP treasurer. They left the hotel on April 3 morning.

T E N D E R

Govt. of Bihar
Cabinet Secretariat Department
(Directorate of Civil Aviation)
Patna Airport, Patna - 800014.

TEL. No:- 0612-2225659, 2224423 Fax 0612 2224614 e-mail-cadbihar@bihar.gov.in

Letter. No: CBN(Extt.)-01-47/2023- 1031

SHORT TENDER NOTICE

Sealed Tender are hereby invited by the Govt. of Bihar from NSOP holder operator under DGCA, India, for hiring of one **Twin Engine, VVIP/VIP configured Helicopter of 7+2/8+2 seating capacity on wet lease basis** for a period of 12 Months for operation in Bihar and entire Territory of India.

THE DESIRED SPECIFICATIONS OF THE HELICOPTER ARE AS FOLLOWS:-

- The age of the helicopter should not be more than 10 years from the date of manufacture.
- The helicopter should be twin engine certified vide FAR 29 or CS 29 certification standards with helicopter and Engines duly approved by DGCA for operating (VFR&IFR) by both, Day and Night.
- Maximum AUW below 5700Kg.
- Category A performance capability.
- Dual flight control with Auto Pilot.
- CVR/DFDR, EGPWS, ADSB (Desired) and other essential equipment installed as required by the DGCA vide various Rules/CARs/Guiding Circulars.
- Should be able to fly Minimum Range 300 NM in one refuelling with AUW of 7+2/8+2 seating configuration.
- Should be fully air conditioned.
- Average cruising speed should not be below 130 knots.
- Helicopter should be in VVIP/VIP seating configuration.

Other features:

- At the time of submitting the offer the Helicopter shall be type certified by Directorate General of Civil Aviation, India as per Civil Aviation Requirement (CAR) Section 3 - air transport series 'C' part X.
- The above specifications are indicative. In case any better specification are available, the same may be furnished.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS :-

- The helicopter shall be placed at Patna on 01.12.2024
- One in number Twin Engine helicopter 7+2/8+2 (Passenger + Pilot) seater required for VVIP/VIP operation in Bihar and all airports in India initially for a period of 12 months. It can be extended on same terms and conditions for another 03 months. Average utilization of flying hours will be 25 hrs. per month.
- Bidder has to deposit Bid Bond (Earnest Money) of Rs. 50,000/- (Fifty thousand Rupees) in the form of Bank Draft payable to Bihar Flying Inst. C.A.D, Cabinet Secretariat Department, Patna.
- The successful Bidder shall furnish Performance Guarantee after getting Letter of Intent, for a sum equivalent to 5% initially of the total tender value for a period of 12 months.
- Quoted rate should be fixed and firm for the helicopter i.e.
 - Fixed monthly charge at Rs only per month.
 - Hourly flying charge for hours actually flown at Rs only per flying hours.
- Mobilization and demobilization charge (Lump-sum) for the first induction of the helicopter at state airport, Patna Airport at the beginning of the contract and withdrawal of the helicopter after expiry of the contract at Rs. Nil.
- No other miscellaneous charges should be payable i.e. ground handling, landing Parking and accommodation, transportation of Pilot, engineer etc.
- Interested and qualified agencies are requested to submit their tender along with requisite documents relating to desired specifications of the helicopter through Speed Post/Registered Post/Courier latest by 26.11.2024 at 05:00 PM and sealed and subscribed as "Tender for Hiring of One Twin Engine Helicopter on Wet-Lease". The posts are to be addressed to The Director, Operation, Directorate of Civil Aviation, Patna Airport, Patna (Bihar) 800014.
- However, if the quotation found incomplete, not supported by requisite Bid Bond and/or required documents or deficient of any technical parameters as specified in the Detailed Tender Documents, their Quotation shall not be valid and same will be returned to the bidder.
- The bidder shall be allowed to ground the helicopter for maintenance if required @ 04 days per month during the term of this agreement. In the event of grounding of operating helicopter for scheduled/routine inspection/maintenance or technical snag or whatsoever, for excess days of grounding beyond permissible ground time of 04 days in a month, the bidder will provide backup helicopter for that period of the same type. If the bidder fails to provide backup helicopter of the same type, a penalty of 1/15th of the fixed monthly charge per day shall be imposed and the amount so calculated shall be deducted from the fixed monthly charged bill or hourly flying charged bill of that month.
- The evaluation of Bids will be done on the basis of quoted fixed monthly charge and flying hourly charge for hours actually flown. For the purpose of evaluation only the bid shall be calculated on the basis of monthly fixed charges + flying charges for 25 hours.
In case a higher minimum guaranteed rate is quoted by an operator the flying charges of the higher hour requirement shall be taken for evaluation.
Example- If no minimum hour guaranteed is required then 25 hrs. shall be taken as minimum. If an operator quotes 75 hrs. of minimum requirement then 75 hrs. shall be taken for evaluation.

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| Operator 1- | ₹50,000 (rental) + 25 X (₹2,50,000) flying charges |
| (No minimum) | = ₹50,000 + ₹62,50,000 = ₹63,00,000/- |
| Operator 2- | ₹20,000 (rental) + 75 X (₹1,50,000) flying charges |
| (75 hrs. minimum) | = ₹20,000 + ₹1,12,50,000 = ₹1,12,70,000/- |

L1 shall be operator 1.

- The Successful bidder will have to sign an agreement as per financial rules. Any violation of agreement will be deemed to be a breach of contract and accordingly legal action will be taken.
- For any technical query feel free to contact The Accountant Manager, Directorate of Aviation, Govt. of Bihar (Mobile-9661341494) or on e-mail i.e. cadbihar@bihar.gov.in
- The Additional Chief Secretary, Cabinet Secretariat Department, Govt. of Bihar reserves the right to reject any or all the bids offer without assigning any reasons thereof.
- In case of any dispute, the place of settlement will be within the Jurisdiction of High Court at Patna.
- The detailed information of published quotation notice of hiring of twin engine helicopter can also be seen on website <http://state.bihar.gov.in/csd>
For further details please visit website state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar

PR-011792 (C S D) 2024-25 **Director,**
Directorate of Civil Aviation
नरो की मार, बबाद करे सुखी परियार।

S. E. RAILWAY - TENDER

Tender Notice No.: TRD-KGP-W-2024-25-14, Dated: 30.10.2024. For and on behalf of President of India, the Sr. DEE/TRD, South Eastern Railway, Kharagpur-721301 invites e-Tender for the following work before 15.00 hrs. on the date mentioned against item and will be opened at 15.30 hrs. Description of works: Installation and erection of 126 nos. 25KVA Auxiliary Transformer against auto-signaling work in Kharagpur-Bhadrak section and Preparation & supply of Appendix-'G' of station working rules (SWR), Provision of Sectioning/Schematic Diagram Board and Sigma Board in connection with Kharagpur-Bhadrak Section automatic signaling work. Tender Value: ₹ 2,22,73,734.60. EMD: ₹ 2,61,400. Cost of tender document: Nil. Date of opening: 27.11.2024. Completion Period: 18 (Eighteen) months. Date of submission: Upto 15.00 hrs. of 27.11.2024. Interested tenders may visit website www.ireps.gov.in for full details, description, specification of the tender and submit their bids online. In no case manual tender for this work will be accepted. Note: Prospective bidders may regularly visit www.ireps.gov.in to participate in all tenders. (PR-754)

Sr. DEE(G), South Eastern Railway, Adra for & on behalf of the President of India, invites E-tender for Electrical work, as per details mentioned here under: Tender Notice No.: Elect-G-ADA-2024-31, dtd. 30.10.2024. Description of work: Electrical work for Provision of On Grid roof top solar plant at Residential Building, Station Building and Service Building at various locations of Adra Division. Tender Value: ₹ 23,47,71,448. The closing date and time of e-tenders are on 29.11.2024 at 12.00 hrs. and opening of tenders will be done on 29.11.2024 after 12.30 hrs. Details of the above e-tender may please be seen at website www.ireps.gov.in (PR-757)

E-Tender Notice No.: E-DRM-Engg-ADRA-144-147-24, Dated: 30.10.2024. For and on behalf of the President of India, DRM (Engg)/South Eastern Railway, Adra invites 04 (Four) nos. e-tenders for Works Zonal & Misc. Spl. Works as mentioned hereunder: **Sl.No.-1. Tender No.: E-DRM-Engg-ADRA-144-24. Description of works:** Zonal works i.e. execution of (a) new work additions, alterations to the existing structures, special repair works and supply of building materials subject to costing of each such work not exceeding rupees 5 lakh and (b) all works ordinary repair and maintenance works upto 30.06.2026 for maintenance of Service buildings, Staff quarters and colony under the jurisdiction of SSE(Works)/Anara in Adra Division. Tender Value: ₹ 2,30,99,999.61. **Sl.No.-2. Tender No.: E-DRM-Engg-ADRA-145-24. Description of works:** Zonal works i.e. execution of (a) new work additions, alterations to the existing structures, special repair works and supply of building materials subject to costing of each such work not exceeding rupees 5 lakh and (b) all works ordinary repair and maintenance works upto 30.06.2026 for maintenance of Service buildings, Staff quarters and colony under the jurisdiction of SSE(Works)/Anara in Adra Division. Tender Value: ₹ 1,80,00,000. **Sl.No.-3. Tender No.: E-DRM-Engg-ADRA-146-24. Description of works:** Zonal works i.e. execution of (a) new work additions, alterations to the existing structures, special repair works and supply of building materials subject to costing of each such work not exceeding rupees 5 lakh and (b) all works ordinary repair and maintenance works upto 30.06.2026 for maintenance of Service buildings, Staff quarters and colony under the jurisdiction of SSE(Works)/Anara in Adra Division. Tender Value: ₹ 2,80,00,000. **Sl.No.-4. Tender No.: E-DRM-Engg-ADRA-147-24. Description of works:** New Booking office with attached toilet at Bokra (BOKA), Gaisaranga (GUIR), Benuram (BUGM), Habaspur (HPUR), Gramdadpur (GMDF) and Mustaphachak (MFCK) station of Bankura-Masagram section. Tender Value: ₹ 3,91,49,734.52. The closing date and time of e-tenders are on 25.11.2024 at 15.00 hrs. (for Sl.No. 1 to 4 each). Details of above e-tenders may please be seen at website www.ireps.gov.in. (PR-758)

EASTERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice No.: SG.Tender/DSTE/SDAH/514, dated 29.10.2024. e-tender is invited by Sr. Divisional Signal and Telecommunication Engineer, Sealdah, Eastern Railway, 2nd Floor, Control Building, DRM Office, Kaiser Street, Kolkata-700014 for the following work: **e-Tender No.: SDSTE/Sig/735/24-25/SF. Name of work with its location:** Upgradation and interlocking of Manned Non Interlocked 6 Nos. LC Gates over Sealdah Division. Tender Value: ₹ 4,40,38,166.01. Cost of tender document: Nil. Earnest Money/Bid Security to be deposited: ₹ 3,70,200.00. Completion period of the work: 6 months. Tender Submission Start Date: 11.11.2024. Tender Submission End Date: 25.11.2024 upto 14.00 hrs. Tender Bid Opening Date: 25.11.2024 at 14.30 hrs. Details may be available at www.ireps.gov.in Technical Eligibility Criteria: The tenderer must have successfully completed or substantially completed any one of the following categories of work(s) during last 07 (seven) years, ending last day of month previous to the one in which tender is invited: (i) Three similar works each costing not less than the amount equal to 30% of advertised value of the tender, or (ii) Two similar works each costing not less than the amount equal to 40% of advertised value of the tender, or (iii) One similar work costing not less than the amount equal to 60% of advertised value of the tender. Financial Eligibility Criteria: The tenderer must have minimum average annual contractual turnover of V/N or 'V' whichever is less; where V = Advertised value of the tender in crores of Rupees, N = Number of years prescribed for completion of work for which bids have been invited. The average annual contractual turnover shall be calculated as an average of "total contractual payments" in the previous three financial years, as per the audited balance sheet. However, in case balance sheet of the previous year is yet to be prepared/audited, the audited balance sheet of the four previous year shall be considered for calculating average annual contractual turnover. The tenderers shall submit requisite information as per Annexure-VIB of GCC 2022 (Form-6 of the instant tender document), along with copies of Audited Balance Sheets duly certified by the Chartered Accountant/Certificate from Chartered Accountant duly supported by Audited Balance Sheet. Other document to be submitted: As mentioned in the tender document. Similar nature of work: "Panel Interlocking or Route Relay Interlocking or Electronic Interlocking or IBH or Automatic Signalling or LC Gate Interlocking to be considered as similar nature of work for the instant tender work. Note: The tenderer shall submit along with the tender offer, documents in support of his/her claim to fulfill the eligibility criteria as mentioned in the tender document. Each page of the copy of documents/certificates in support of credentials, submitted by the tenderer, shall be self-attested/digitally signed by the tenderer or authorized representative of the tendering firm. Self-attestation shall include signature, stamp and date (on each page). SDAH-217/2024-25

Tender Notice is also available at websites: www.e.indianrailways.gov.in / www.ireps.gov.in

Follow us at: @EasternRailway @easternrailwayheadquarter

EASTERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice No.: 222-S/1/W-II. Date: 29.10.2024. Following e-Tenders are invited online by Divisional Railway Manager, Eastern Railway, Sealdah, 2nd floor, DRM Building, Kaiser Street, Sealdah, Kolkata-700014 for the following work: **Sl No. 1, Tender No.: TN-164-24-25. Name of the work:** Repairs of badly damaged bituminous road at Dakshin Barasat with all ancillary works under Senior Section Engineer/Works/Sonarpur in the jurisdiction of Assistant Engineer/Baruipur/Sealdah. Tender Value: Rs. 55,54,226/- EMD: Rs. 1,11,100/- **Sl No. 2, Tender No.: TN-165-24-25. Name of the work:** At Banikpara in between Thakurnagar and Chandpara: Construction of Road under Bridge (RUB) including all other ancillary works. Tender Value: Rs. 4,40,30,631/- EMD: Rs. 3,70,200/- **Sl No. 3, Tender No.: TN-166-24-25. Name of the work:** Development of goods shed at Barasat Jn. including improvement of wharf, illumination of goods shed premises and provision of labour and mechanical amenities under Senior Section Engineer/Works/Barasat in the jurisdiction of Assistant Engineer/Barasat. Tender Value: Rs. 1,82,72,236/- EMD: Rs. 2,41,400/- Date and time of closing of tender: 22.11.2024 at 15.00 hrs. for each. Completion period for the work: 06 (Six) months for Sl. No. 1, 12 (Twelve) months for Sl. No. 2 and 09 (Nine) months for Sl. No. 3. Date and time of opening of tender: 22.11.2024 at 15.30 hrs. The Tender documents and other details are at: www.ireps.gov.in The bidding for the tender is to be submitted through e-tendering on above website. Manual offers will be summarily rejected. SDAH-216/2024-25

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

Follow us at: @EasternRailway @easternrailwayheadquarter

EASTERN RAILWAY

Open e-Tender Notice for Tender No. EL-M.LDT-E-Tender-324, dated 29.10.2024. Open e-tender notices are invited by Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (G), Eastern Railway, Maidia Office Building, P.O.-Jhalpalia, District: Maidia, PIN-732102 (West Bengal), from firms/Agencies/Contractors of repute having experienced and financial solvency for the following works: Name of Work: Electrical work in connection with Augmentation of power supply with improvement of illumination at station, Adjoining areas, yard etc. over Maidia Town Division. Tender Value: ₹ 3,45,22,985.27. Earnest Money: ₹ 3,22,600. Cost of tender document: Nil. Date & time for submission of e-tender: From 05.11.2024 to 15.30 hrs. of 19.11.2024. Website particulars and Notice Board: Website www.ireps.gov.in Notice Board: Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (G), Eastern Railway, Maidia Town's office. Tenderers are requested to go through the detailed Tender Notice & documents on the website www.ireps.gov.in No manual offer will be accepted in any circumstances. MLD-130/2024-25

Tender Notice is also available at websites: www.e.indianrailways.gov.in / www.ireps.gov.in

Follow us at: @EasternRailway @easternrailwayheadquarter

EASTERN RAILWAY

Abridged Tender Notice No. ASN/05 of 2024-25 for E-Tendering. Tender Notice for e-tendering is invited by Dy. Chief Engineer/Conv I, Eastern Railway, Asansol, Asansol Division, Station Road, Asansol, Pin-713301 for the following work: Name of work: Earthwork in cutting and filling, blanketing, construction of minor bridges, Retaining wall, side drain, catch water drain, P Way work and other ancillary works of 5th line in between DCOF Durgapur including yard of DCOF Form Ch 171.503 Km from Howrah (Ch 1453.00m from Durgapur) Ch 173.8221 Km from HHW (Ch 582.08m from DCOF West Cabin). Approx. Value: ₹ 11.14 Crore. Mode of Tender: Two packet system. Cost of Tender document: Nil. Bid Security: Rs. 7,07,000/- Completion Period: 12 Months. Tender Closing date & time: 22.11.2024 at 11.00 hrs. Tender document and other details can be obtained from the website www.ireps.gov.in The bidding for the tender is to be submitted through e-tendering on above website. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any manual offer if received shall not be accepted and will be summarily rejected. CON-68/2024-25

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

Follow us at: @EasternRailway @easternrailwayheadquarter

Govt. of Bihar
Bihar Skill Development Mission (BSDM)
Department of Labour Resources, Government of Bihar
A-Wing, 5th Floor, Niyogan Bhawan, Bailey Road, Patna-800001
Phone: 0612-2528455 Fax: 0612-2535004
Email: biharskilldevelopmentmission@gmail.com Website: www.skillmissionbihar.org

Notice Inviting Request for Proposal

RFP No: BSDM/Hording, Banner-RFP-132/2024-01

Secretary, Dept. of Labour Resources, Govt. of Bihar- cum- CEO, Bihar Skill Development Mission (BSDM), invites proposals (Two Bid System) from reputed and experienced (Outdoor promotion) Agencies (hereafter referred as 'Agencies') to undertake hording, banner, pamphlets & standees, vinyl, stickers related activities for Bihar Skill Development Mission (BSDM).

Kindly note that the selection of agency under this RFP will not guarantee allocation of work and BSDM will assume no liability or cost towards it. BSDM makes no commitments, express or implied, that this process will result in a business transaction between anyone.

Document Fee and Tender Processing Fee: All Applicants have to pay a non-refundable Document Fee of Rs. 5,000/- (Rupees Five Thousand only) and Tender Processing Fee of Rs. 590.00 (Five Hundred Ninety only) through e-payment mode (i.e. NEFT/RTGS/Credit Card/Debit Card) on E-Proc Portal.

Earnest Money Deposit (EMD): An EMD of Rs. 1,00,000/- (One Lakh) only, through e-payment mode (i.e. NEFT/RTGS/Credit Card/Debit Card) on E-Proc Portal, well before the last date/time for submission/ uploading of offer/Bid, failing which the bid will be rejected. This EMD will be non-interest bearing and refundable. If the selected bidder fails to submit the requisite performance guarantee or to execute the agreement, this EMD will be forfeited.

The Proposal has to be submitted through online mode on <https://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in> and can be searched by clicking the Tab "Tender" on home page of above website and then going to Latest Tender by searching Department Name as "Labour Resources Department".

The Proposal has to be submitted in online mode containing following cover stage- A) Technical Bid Open Stage and B) Cost Bid Open Stage

The application procedure, eligibility criteria, evaluation methodology, terms and conditions and the scope of work are detailed in this RFP which can be seen or downloaded from the "e-Procurement Portal" <https://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in> and departmental website: <http://www.skillmissionbihar.org>. The RFP will be available to download from the above websites from 04.11.2024. The last date for uploading of proposal/bid will be 11.11.2024 up to 15.00 Hrs. Technical Bid will be opened on or after 11.11.2024 post 16:00 Hrs. The Evaluation of Bids will be under Least Cost System. Please refer RFP document for complete details.

The undersigned reserves the right to issue addendum/corrigendum/ modification or to amend any or all conditions of this RFP Document or to accept or reject any or all proposal(s) or to cancel the whole of this RFP at any stage without assigning any reason thereof and no bidder shall have any cause of action or claim against the undersigned for the same.

For further details please visit website state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar

Mission Director,
Bihar Skill Development Mission,
Department of Labour Resources,
Govt. of Bihar

PR-011876 (L R D) 2024-25
नरो की मार, बबाद करे सुखी परियार।

EASTERN RAILWAY

Tender No.: SDSTE-LHS-RPH-KWAE-24-25, dated 29.10.2024. Divisional Railway Manager, Eastern Railway, Howrah, DRM Building, near Railway Station, Howrah-711011 invites e-Tenders against Tender No. SDSTE-LHS-RPH-KWAE-24-25 for the following work. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids upto closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Name of Work: Schedule A - Construction of LHS in lieu of L.C Gate No. 14/C/E at KM 371/-2 in between Ahmadpur-Katwa Section of Howrah Division. Schedule B - Construction of LHS in lieu of L.C Gate No. 5 at Km. 24/23-25 between Guakra, Pichkurindhal in Khana Jn.- Bolpur Shantiniketan section of Howrah Division. Schedule C - Construction of LHS at L.C Gate No. 29E in between Rampurhat-Adalpari & Km No. 109/7-8 in Rampurhat-Dumka section of Howrah Division. Schedule D - Construction of LHS at L.C Gate No. 30E in between Rampurhat-Adalpari & Km No. 105/7-8 in Rampurhat-Dumka section of Howrah Division. Bidding System: Single Packet. Advertised Value: ₹ 1,17,01,151.21. Earnest Money: ₹ 2,08,500. Tender Document Cost: ₹ 0.00. Period of Completion: 12 months. Validity of Offer: 60 Days. Date and time of uploading Tender: 29.10.2024 at 11.42 hrs. Bidding Start Date: 12.11.2024. Tender Closing Date & Time: 26.11.2024 at 15.00 hrs. The details are available at website www.ireps.gov.in HWH-382/2024-25

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

Follow us at: @EasternRailway @easternrailwayheadquarter

Over 300 fire incidents reported in Delhi on Diwali



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 1 NOVEMBER

The Delhi Fire Services (DFS) received 318 fire related calls on Thursday night to Friday morning on Diwali, however no serious casualties were reported in such incidents. "The figure marks the highest number of Diwali-related fire and emergency incidents in the past 13 years," stated DFS chief Atul Garg. Garg added that from 5 pm on Thursday to midnight, 176

fire related calls were received while from 12 am to 6 am on Friday, 142 such calls were received. According to the data shared by the fire department, the number of fire-related calls received on Diwali over the years has shown fluctuations. In 2023, they received 208 calls, while in 2022, the number stood at 201. The lowest in recent years was in 2021, with only 152 calls. In 2020, the department received 205 calls, and in 2019, the figure was higher at 245. In

2018, there were 271 calls, while in 2017, 204 fire-related incidents were reported. The DFS chief added that in Vikaspuri, two people were reported unconscious due to fire-related incidents. Another fire broke out in Mangolpuri, injuring a woman and two children. Fortunately, no large-scale fires occurred, which the fire department attributes to the increased number of personnel on duty this year.

However, one notable incident was reported at 6:30 PM from Najafgarh in South West Delhi, where a man carrying potassium nitrate (potash) on a transport bus experienced an explosion. It is a key component in firecrackers and is highly flammable. Two people were injured in the blast, and two fire tenders were dispatched to the scene.

HPPSC extends police recruitment application deadline to 12 November

Out of 1,088 posts 380 posts has been specifically allotted for female constables and the remaining 708 positions were open to male candidates

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
SHIMLA, 1 NOVEMBER

Himachal Pradesh Public Service Commission (HPPSC) has extended police recruitment application deadline to 12 November.

A spokesperson of the state government on Friday said that on the directions of Chief Minister Thakur Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, the application deadline for police recruitment has been extended from October 31 to November 12. He said that this extension



was intended to allow more time for youth across the state to apply for the post and this decision would benefit thousands of prospective candidates. He further said that the

Chief Minister was prioritizing more and more employment generation to provide employment opportunities to the youth and during his 20 months tenure has created over 31,000 job opportunities.

As part of these efforts the HPPSC has invited applications for 1,088 constable positions in the state police department also, he added.

He said that to promote gender equity in the state the present state government has reserved 30 percent vacancies for women in police department.

Out of 1,088 posts 380 posts has been specifically allotted for female constables and the remaining 708 positions were open to male candidates, he added.

Apart from this the present state government has given

a one-year relaxation in the maximum age limit for constable recruitment.

He said that with this revised age limit general category applicants aged 18 to 26, SC/ST, OBC, Gorkha and distinguished sports persons aged 18 to 28 and Home Guards aged 20 to 29 would be eligible to apply to these posts.

These initiatives reflect the commitment of state government to inclusive employment opportunities and increase its access for all segments of society, said the spokesperson.

'Centre can't implement UCC unless Muslims taken into confidence'

AGENCIES
GAYA, 1 NOVEMBER

Jan Suraj chief Prashant Kishor said on Friday that the Centre cannot implement the Uniform Civil Code in the country unless the Muslim community is taken into confidence.

He said that in a democracy, before introducing a law, the government must gain the confidence of the people who will be affected by it.

"Whether the Uniform Civil Code should be implemented or not remains to be a big debate. Unless the Muslim population, which is 20% of the country's population, is taken into confidence, you cannot implement this kind of radical law," Kishor told ANI.

"We saw protests all over the country in the case of CAA-NRC. Unless the government takes into confidence the people who will be affected by the law, it cannot be implemented," he added. He pointed out the Centre's revocation of farm laws as an example of what will happen when the stakeholders are not taken into confidence before bring-

ing laws.

"See, for example, the farm laws that did not have any Hindu-Muslim issues. The Central government passed the laws without taking farmers into confidence. So what is the result of it? The government had to repeal the law. So whether it is UCC or another law if you do not take into account the people who are going to be affected by that law, you cannot implement it. It is the strength of the democracy," he said.

During this year's Independence Day speech, Prime Minister Narendra Modi batted for a Uniform Civil Code (UCC) stating that India will now have to move towards a secular civil code to free the country from religion-based discrimination.

PM Modi said, "In our country, the Supreme Court has held discussions regarding the Uniform Civil Code again and again, and it has given orders several times. A large section of the country believes, and it is true, that the civil code that we are living with is actually a communal civil code in a way, a discriminatory civil code..."

Marine fishing prohibition enforced along Odisha coast to ensure safety of Olive turtles

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
BHUBANESWAR, 1 NOVEMBER

The Odisha government on Friday enforced a seven-month-long prohibition on sea fishing activity from 1 November within 20 km of the coast at the river mouths of Dhamara, Devi and Rusikulya as part of annual Olive Ridley turtle conservation programme.

The ban on sea-fishing however, remains enforced round-the-year in Gahirmatha coast, which is widely regarded as the largest habitation corridors of these highly endangered marine species. Besides, Gahirmatha has been accorded the status of marine sanctuary in view of turtles' congregation, said forest officials.

The annual measure of this nature, that would remain effective from 1 November-31 May, goes a long way to ensure the safety of marine animals during their breeding and mating season, said officials adding that the ban has been clamped in accordance with Sections 2, 7 and 4 of Orissa Marine Fishing Regulation Act (OMFRA), 1982 and provisions of Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.

The fishing ban will be imposed from today along a specified coast of the sea



comprising sea turtle congregation area and their buffer zones at the river mouths of Dhamara, Devi and Rusikulya.

The prohibition will be strictly implemented as it is done every year as the turtles perish in larger numbers either by getting entangled in fishing nets or hit by fishing trawler propellers.

It will be a multi-layered patrolling exercise involving the forest, fisheries, and marine police besides the coast guard personnel. To ensure effective patrolling, 61 on-shore camps and five off-shore camps have been set up in the state's four wildlife divisions - Bhradak, Rajnagar, Puri and Berhampur. The armed police constabulary force will flank the forest and fisheries patrolling teams. Five high-speed boats, 13 trawlers and support boats are pressed into service to intercept illegal marine fishing

in prohibited zones, said Sudrashan Gopinath Yadav, Divisional Forest Officer, Rajnagar Mangrove (wildlife) Forest Division.

Around 11,000 fishermen families will be affected following the fishing ban. Therefore to compensate for the loss of income avenues, the state government has decided to extend one-time livelihood assistance of Rs 7,500 to the affected fishermen families.

The female turtles virtually invade the nesting beaches usually at the dead of the night for laying eggs, the phenomenon otherwise described as 'arribada'. After indulgence in instinctive egg-laying, the turtles leave the nesting ground to stride into the deep sea water. Hatchlings emerge from these eggs after 45-60 days. It is a rare natural phenomenon where the babies grow without their mother.

Garud Shakti 24: India, Indonesia enhance Special Forces Cooperation in Jakarta

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 1 NOVEMBER

A 25-member Indian Army contingent has departed for Cijantung, Jakarta, Indonesia, to participate in the 9th edition of the India-Indonesia Joint Special Forces Exercise GARUD SHAKTI, scheduled from November 1 to 12. Representing India, the Parachute Regiment (Special Forces) will engage with the 40-member Indonesian Special Forces unit, Kopassus.

Exercise GARUD SHAKTI 24 aims to build familiarity with each other's tactical approaches, improve interoperability, and strengthen mutual understanding and cooperation between the two armies. Through a range of discussions and tactical drills, the exercise is set to deepen military cooperation and foster a strong bond between the two nations.

The exercise will focus on planning and executing special operations, with training in advanced Special Forces skills, as well as the sharing of innovations in weaponry, equipment, and operational techniques.



GARUD SHAKTI will also include joint jungle operations, simulated strikes on terrorist camps, and a final Validation Exercise, combining basic and advanced skills. Cultural exchanges between the contingents will

further enhance bilateral ties.

This collaborative training offers a platform for both nations to strengthen their military partnership, share best practices, and work toward shared security goals.

UNIVERSITY OF DELHI
Advt. No. R&P/309/2024 Dated: 03-10-2024

Online applications are invited in the prescribed Application Form from eligible candidates for appointment of Professor in the Academic Pay Level 14 of 7th Central Pay Matrix, in the various departments of University of Delhi. The last date for receipt of applications is two weeks from the date of publication of the advertisement in the Employment News. For more details, please visit the University website: www.du.ac.in and click "Jobs and Opportunities" under the Head "Work with DU".

Any addendum / corrigendum shall be posted only on the University website.

CBC-21231/12/0017/2425 **REGISTRAR**

UNIVERSITY OF DELHI
Advt. No. R&P/308/2024 Dated: 03-10-2024

Online applications are invited in the prescribed Application Form from eligible candidates for appointment of Associate Professor in the Academic Pay Level 13A of 7th Central Pay Matrix, in the various departments of University of Delhi. The last date for receipt of applications is two weeks from the date of publication of the advertisement in the Employment News. For more details, please visit the University website www.du.ac.in and click "Jobs and Opportunities" under the Head "Work with DU".

Any addendum / corrigendum shall be posted only on the University website.

CBC 21231/12/0015/2425 **REGISTRAR**

UNIVERSITY OF DELHI
Advt. No. R&P/307/2024 Dated: 03-10-2024

Online applications are invited in the prescribed Application Form from eligible candidates for appointment to the post of Assistant Professor, in the Academic Pay Level 10 of 7th Central Pay Commission Pay Matrix, in the various departments of University of Delhi. The last date for receipt of application is two weeks from the date of publication of the advertisement in the Employment News. For details, please visit the University website: www.du.ac.in and click "Advertisement - Departments" under the Head "Work with DU".

Any addendum / corrigendum shall be posted only on the University website.

CBC 21231/12/0013/2425 **REGISTRAR**

NORTH EASTERN INDIRA GANDHI REGIONAL INSTITUTE OF HEALTH & MEDICAL SCIENCES (NEIGRIHMS) SHILLONG, MEGHALAYA
(An Autonomous Institute under Ministry of Health & Family Welfare Government of India)

Advertisement No. NEIGR-E.II/2/2001/PI-XXXIII dated 10-09-2024

RECRUITMENT NOTICE
ROLLING ADVERTISEMENT FOR RECRUITMENT OF JUNIOR RESIDENT DOCTORS AT NEIGRIHMS, SHILLONG

North Eastern Indira Gandhi Regional Institute of Health & Medical Sciences, Shillong, Govt. of India declares Walk-in interview for recruitment for the post of Junior Resident Doctors under Govt. of India Residency Scheme for 1 (one) year tenure. This being a rolling Advertisement, further vacancies along with the Eligibility Criteria, Selection Procedure, Application Procedure, Terms and Conditions etc. as amended from time to time will be uploaded on our Institute website only and not be published in either Employment News or any Newspapers. The aspiring applicants satisfying the eligibility in all respect can submit their applications in prescribed proforma along with scanned copy of their certificates by e-mail to neigrihms.recruitment@gmail.com The application form will be available on NEIGRIHMS official website.

The 1st cut of date for submission of applications is 21 days from the date of publication of advertisement in Employment News.

A notice for the subsequent cut of dates will be issued on NEIGRIHMS official website only.

NEIGRIHMS, Shillong reserves the right to continue more cycles. Once all positions are filled, no more applications will be considered.

The vacant posts of Junior Resident are given below:

| Sl. No | Reservation | Vacancy |
|--------|--------------|----------------------|
| 1 | UR | 09 |
| 2 | EWS | 02 |
| 3 | OBC | 05 |
| 4 | SC | 01 |
| 5 | ST | 01 |
| | Total | 18 (eighteen) |

2 (two) posts reserved for Persons with Benchmark Disabilities in the non surgical departments as per Government of India policy.

For further details regarding essential qualification, age, pay scale, prescribed application form & general information etc. of the advertisement are available on NEIGRIHMS, Shillong website: <http://neigrihms.gov.in> All applicants are advised to keep visiting NEIGRIHMS website on regular basis for any further updates.

For queries contact Establishment Section at Phone No. (0364) 2538020, 2539215 or 2539215 to 217.

Sd/
Deputy Director (Admn)
NEIGRIHMS

CBC-17119/11/0014/2425

F.No.A.12043/2/2024-Admn.I THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE Baba Gangnath Marg, Munirka, New Delhi-110067

VACANCY NOTICE

The National Institute of Health and Family Welfare, an autonomous institute under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, is an apex technical Institute for promoting health and family welfare programmes in the country through Education and Training, Research and Evaluation, Consultancy, Advisory and Specialized Services.

Applications are invited by the Director, NIHFV from the citizens of India for following regular posts in NIHFV:

| Sl. No. | Name of Post | Pay Matrix Level | No. of post(s) | Category | Method of Recruitment |
|---------|--|--|----------------|----------|--|
| 1. | Professor (Epidemiology) (Medical) | Academic Pay Level - 14 Rs 1,44,200/- to Rs 2,18,200/- + NPA | 01 | UR | Direct recruitment falling which by Deputation |
| 2. | Reader (Community Health Administration) | Academic Pay Level - 12 (Rs 79,800/- to Rs 2,11,500/-) | 01 | UR | Direct |

For Application Form & other details including Hindi version of this advertisement, please visit Institute's website: www.nihfw.ac.in. Last date of receiving of Application is 2 weeks from the date of publication of Advertisement in the Employment News.

CBC-17153/11/0002/2425 **Director, NIHFV**

CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT OF ADVANCED COMPUTING (C-DAC)

JOIN US & FLY HIGH

| | |
|--|---|
| Post - Scientist B | Pay Level in Matrix - Level 10 (56100 - 177500) |
| Continuing Contract posts on Payscale | |
| No. of Posts / Reservation | |
| 22 (UR - 11, ST - 1, OBC (NCL) - 4, EWS - 6) | |

Initial Posting : Bengaluru, Delhi, Pune, Hyderabad

Last date for online application : 30th day starting from the date of publication of advertisement in Employment News.

FOR DETAILED ADVERTISEMENT AND FOR APPLYING VISIT "CAREER" PAGE OF www.cdac.in

CBC-06122/12/0011/2425
ADVT.NO.CORP/GRP.A/04/2024 **CORPORATE HRD**

Advancing Technology for National Development

The Statesman

Incorporating and directly descended from THE FRIEND OF INDIA - Founded 1818

Budget Gamble

In a bold and strategic move, the latest UK budget signals a significant shift in economic policy, opting for increased taxes, higher borrowing, and ambitious spending. This approach sets a clear departure from past economic orthodoxy, and aims to confront a sluggish economy with active government intervention. The government has three overarching goals: to stabilise public finances, drive growth, and affirm Labour's unique approach. This budget is a calculated gamble, promising rewards that depend on close collaboration between government and private industry. The budget's targeted boost to public spending reflects an attempt to tackle immediate and long-standing issues in various sectors. One key area is the construction industry, where increased capital investments could pave the way for substantial infrastructure development. However, with a pressing shortage of skilled workers, contractors may price bids higher, adding new pressures to an industry already struggling to meet demand. This raises questions on whether such spending will result in tangible improvements or if it could spiral into cost overruns that force the government into tough fiscal decisions down the road. For businesses, especially small and medium enterprises, the budget brings mixed prospects. A planned hike in National Insurance contributions could place an additional burden on employers, potentially stifling wage growth and leading to job cuts. This could significantly impact sectors like hospitality and tourism, which are already grappling with high operating costs and may be forced to cut back on hours or reduce staff. While the government argues that tax hikes will help strengthen public finances, there is concern about whether these additional costs might dampen business confidence, deterring the private investment necessary to fuel sustained economic growth.

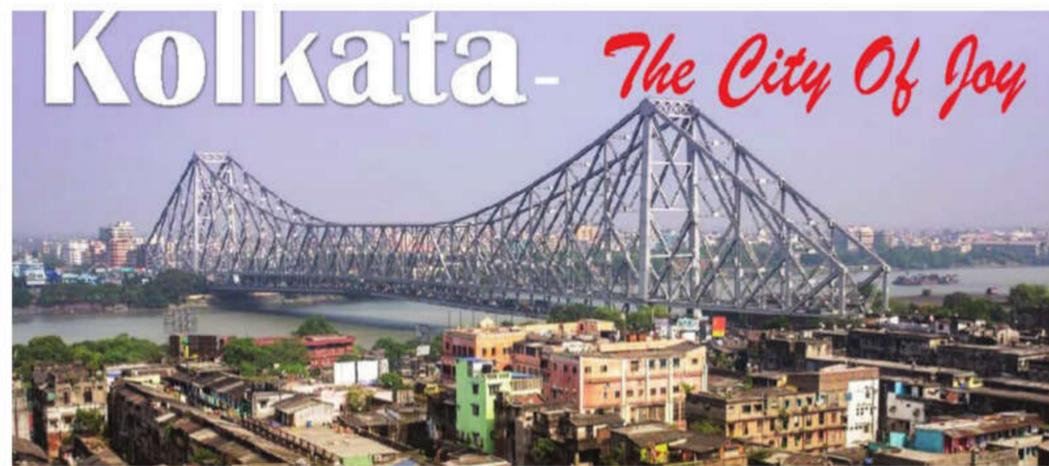
The budget's implications for rural communities present a particular challenge. New inheritance tax policies on farms may disrupt family farming traditions, imposing tax burdens that could discourage generational continuity. This shift highlights a longstanding tension between urban and rural priorities, reflecting how policies designed with metropolitan areas in mind often overlook the unique realities faced by rural populations. This move risks reigniting past frictions with rural communities, where resentment towards urban-centric policymaking has previously affected political dynamics. In Scotland, the increased funding allocation offers both opportunities and constraints. The Scottish government, while welcoming the financial boost, remains wary of its long-term sustainability. With heightened expectations from unions and opposition parties for expanded services and pay raises, the administration must navigate pressures carefully to ensure responsible spending. This budget is undoubtedly a break from the status quo, but it comes with significant risks. Success depends on whether the government's spending can genuinely stimulate economic activity and encourage the private sector to invest in growth. Without this buy-in from businesses, high taxes and borrowing could result in further economic strain, rather than the robust growth envisioned. Ultimately, this budget marks a turning point. While the gamble may yield transformative change, it underscores the importance of fostering a partnership between public and private sectors. If executed well, this budget could redefine the UK's economic landscape.

Protecting Wildlife

The death of eight elephants in Bandhavgarh National Park, Madhya Pradesh, likely due to consuming fungus-infected kodo millet, underscores a profound and growing challenge in India's conservation landscape. As wildlife and agricultural zones increasingly overlap, the unfortunate outcomes highlight the urgent need for robust strategies that ensure the safety of both animals and rural communities. Elephants are highly social animals with complex foraging habits. As habitats shrink, they often wander into nearby farmland in search of food, inadvertently risking encounters with human agriculture. In this case, a toxic fungus found in kodo millet – a crop typically harmless to humans – likely developed after seasonal rains. The high consumption of this millet appears to have led to tragic consequences for the elephants, exposing the overlooked threat posed by agricultural practices near protected areas. In Bandhavgarh's case, the situation demands immediate action on two fronts. First, there is an evident need for more thorough monitoring of potential hazards that could affect wildlife in buffer zones around parks. Current management systems may not fully account for the risks posed by seemingly benign crops that develop toxins under specific conditions. By conducting seasonal inspections of farms bordering reserves, authorities could mitigate such risks, identifying and addressing any crops susceptible to fungal growth or other natural toxins. Engaging farmers in this process is essential; for instance, compensated removal or controlled disposal of risky crops like kodo millet could prevent wildlife exposure to these toxins. Secondly, this incident highlights a larger need for a national framework that guides interactions between agriculture and wildlife. India's rapid population growth and expanding agricultural footprint mean protected areas are increasingly encircled by farmland. To protect wildlife, the government should consider implementing clear policies on permissible crops near conservation areas, particularly during peak wildlife migration and foraging seasons. By encouraging farmers to grow wildlife-safe crops or introducing regulated planting practices in buffer zones, authorities could reduce the risk of fatal encounters between elephants and toxic crops. Such measures are vital not only for elephant conservation but for public safety as well. When food sources like kodo millet are abundant, elephants are more likely to enter human areas, raising the risk of conflict. A strategic approach that educates farmers on wildlife-friendly agricultural practices and offers support for crop modifications could ease the strain on both sides. Collaborations with conservationists and agronomists could yield sustainable solutions to better protect India's endangered species without sacrificing farmers' livelihoods. Ultimately, Bandhavgarh's tragedy reveals a broader issue that demands immediate attention. Protecting India's wildlife cannot stop at the borders of its national parks. It requires comprehensive, adaptive policies that reflect the realities of conservation challenges. By integrating wildlife safety into policy and involving local communities in conservation efforts, India can strive to secure a harmonious coexistence between humans and wildlife. The tragic loss of these elephants should serve as a turning point, pushing policymakers to prioritise wildlife safety in agricultural regions and prevent such disasters.

A Painful Pleasure

Kolkata is a miniature of the whole world. Every race is represented and every culture can be traced here. A walk through its streets is an experience. The city teaches lessons of constant sharing with those poorer than oneself, tolerance towards all beliefs and castes, respect for strangers, true charity for beggars, the deformed, and the lepers



The oxymoron "a painful pleasure" seems to be in effect when Kolkata gets global recognition – the city has ranked 19th by Savills' Growth Hub Index for its rapid development. Is Kolkata burdened with the enigma of despair? Is it a great urban disaster? At least the graffiti on walls would lead one to believe there is no hope. What troubles the lovers of Kolkata most is that the questions could lately be answered spontaneously in the negative. Every discussion about the "city of joy" tends to become a sentimental journey into the past. Inevitably a confrontation with the rot eating into the vitals of the city is like being a victim of one's own hubris.

For a hardcore Kolkata, harshly chastised by the relentless reality around him, the virtuous delights of organizing an unorganized system is a distant dream. He is cocooned in a defunct time-machine that neither takes him forward nor lets him bask contentedly in days of yore. In a way, he is trapped in a city which he loves and is unable to lift the malaise that has robbed it of its vibrancy.

So why is Kolkata so special amidst all its traffic jams, bandhs, michhil, adda, et al? Even an individual being part of the swarm of citizens hurrying towards Sealdah and Howrah stations in the afternoon will proudly proclaim that it is difficult to find another city whose name one can associate with six Nobel Prize winners.

In retrospect, there is something intense about Rudyard Kipling's relationship with Kolkata, where he was born and to which he came back in 1888 to work as a journalist. Characteristically, his first reaction was effusive but deeply proprietorial. As he looked at the large number of ships below the Hooghly Bridge, he exclaimed: "What a divine place to loot!" It seemed not only wrong but a criminal thing to allow natives to have any voice in the control of such a city "adorned, docked, wharfed, fronted and reclaimed by Englishmen, existing only because England lives and is dependent for its life in England." The word "loot", though used in a light-hearted manner, indicates the attitude typical of colonisers. Among Kipling's initial reactions to life in Kolkata was a holistic outburst at what he called the "Big Calcutta Stink". "The reek of Calcutta beats both Banaras and Peshawar... It is faint. It is sickly, and it is indescribable... It resembles the essence of corruption that has rotted..."

More than three hundred years ago, Calcutta was promoted by a band of adventurous British traders with a vision to make it a

competitive business centre. When by an irony of history the traders became rulers of the country, it was Calcutta which remained as the citadel of British imperial power in the Indian subcontinent for well over a century and a half.

But what is often overlooked is the British perception of the city's strategic importance in international trade and commerce. In terms of imperial political management, Calcutta had always played a vital role. In terms of furthering British business interests in the Far East too, it played a big role. Calcutta had been the main centre of Britain's flourishing trade with China and its trade with Japan, Singapore and Hong Kong with the entire eastern region serving as the supply line through excellent manufacturing, mining and agricultural activities. Meanwhile, much water has flowed down the Bhagirathi and the city has changed. Lord Macaulay, who had initiated the Indians into Western culture and education, speaks of the same wilderness that Mrs Kinders Leigh disparaged as the "city of palaces." In 1803, Lord Valencia wrote: "Chowringhee, an entire village of palaces runs a considerable length at right angles with it, and altogether forms the finest view I ever beheld in any country."

When Daniel Moynihan, former US Ambassador to India, described Calcutta as a necropolis, he was criticized. And late Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's reference to Calcutta as a "dying city" was thought to be uncharitable. However, of late Kolkata appears static in a setting where progress is increasingly becoming an obsession. Every decision about the city tends to become a sentimental journey into the past.

However, the crowds hardly suggest that it is a dying city. In spite of its feeble economic structure, Kolkata has been trudging along the path of survival with stoic persistence. Now the city brims with the mystic festive spirit. And soon all will be back home celebrating Christmas and welcoming the new year with joy, fervour and enthusiasm. Whether we call it Kolkata or Calcutta, the city haunts everybody's mind. It remains a collage of multi-hued, multi-textured events, an abode of eminent intellectuals, keeping the Bengali spirit vibrant and ever

enthusiastic and inspiring others to call it the intellectual capital of the country.

It was not without reason that the city remained as the citadel of the British imperial power in the Indian subcontinent for well over a century and a half. Even after 1912, when the capital was shifted to Delhi, Calcutta continued to enjoy a special preferential status from the British Indian government. The development of Calcutta during the British Raj has to be viewed in terms of its strategic role in the imperial management of both politics and economics. To play this role the sustained development and creation of supportive infrastructure facilities was a basic prerequisite, and Calcutta rose to the occasion. At the same time, the 19th century Calcutta, faced with the domination of the West, was looking for a definition of self-identification. The aim of thinkers like Bankimchandra,

Bhudev Mukherjee, Vivekananda and Rabindranath was to rescue their countrymen from a state of mind where they were longing to hear if they were superior, in any way, to the most civilized nations. Bankimchandra identified the crucial difference between European and Indian attitudes to knowledge and action.

While the European believed that Nature could be conquered and lead to a better life on earth, the Indian view was that Nature was unconquerable, and was the source of all misery. Vivekananda strongly believed in the superiority of the Indians to the Europeans in their spiritualism.

Tagore's vision of Indian history led to a rich fulfillment in spite of conflicts, sufferings and even invasion. And, we must not disown Rammohan's letter, dated Calcutta, to Lord Amherst, urging him to brush aside the decision on "a new Sanskrit school in Calcutta" and instead allocate all the money to "instruct the natives of India in mathematics, natural philosophy, chemistry, anatomy and other useful sciences."

We must be all proud of the Bengali Renaissance, or for that matter, the "Politics of Young Bengal", as Pearychand Mitra called it in 1877, started by Henry Derozio, whom Subobhan Sarkar calls the "Calcutta Eurasian of Portuguese Indian ancestry". A whole corpus



A K GHOSH
The writer, a former Associate Professor, Department of English, Gurus College, Kolkata, is presently associated with Rabindra Bharati University

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

editor@thestatesman.com

Farmers' woes

SIR, The Centre's assurance to Punjab farmers on Sunday that "every single grain" of paddy will be procured could not have come at a more critical time. Tensions have been simmering in the state, with mandis overflowing with paddy and farmers facing delays in government procurement at the promised Minimum Support Price (MSP). Union Food Minister Pralhad Joshi's statement on adequate storage capacity and a commitment to timely action signals an effort to quell fears, but the broader issue remains: a chronic mistrust between the Centre and Punjab's agricultural communities.

The farmers' scepticism is

understandable. For over a month, they have borne the brunt of political brinkmanship between the BJP-led Centre and the AAP government in Punjab. Due to the procurement lag, and with the rabi crop sowing season looming, many farmers had no choice but to sell paddy below the MSP, deepening their financial woes. It is high time that the government's pledges go beyond promises to effective, transparent action that can build genuine trust. The farmers deserve better than becoming collateral in an ongoing power play that repeatedly sees their interests sidelined.

Yours, etc., Khokan Das, Kolkata, 29 October.

CONTEMPT FOR NATURE

SIR, With reference to "Extra effort needed for Yamuna" (October 26), in India, where rivers are worshipped, its literate elite has done little to translate this reverence into championing simple plans and committed actions to restore purity to the rivers and water bodies that we so brutally abuse. The Yamuna, 1,378-km from Yamunotri, accumulates 80 per cent of its pollution load in a short stretch of 22 Km through the capital Delhi. The five rivers around Dhaka are all biologically dead and the water is hardly better than sludge. The Buriganga alone is said to receive some 40,000 metric tonnes of harmful tannery discharges every day. According to a World Bank study, 81 per cent of all sewage in the Philippines goes untreated, and experts say about 90 per cent of all wastewater across Asia is disposed of raw. Together, Asia's dead or dying rivers are a huge environmental disaster.



Man's contempt for nature's supreme blessing flowing in our rivers is matched only by his utter disregard for the Earth's eco-systems.

Yours, etc., R.Narayanan, Navi Mumbai, 26 October.

A MEMBER OF THE ANN ASIA NEWS NETWORK

ASIAN VOICES

Federalism insights from local leaders

During recent provincial programmes organised by the Federalism and Localisation Centre, I engaged in discussions with key local government officials, including Nagesh Koirala, Mayor of Biratnagar Metropolitan City; Dhana Raj Acharya, Mayor of Pokhara Metropolitan City; Manoj Kumar Sah and Meena Kumari Lama Mayors of Janakpur and Hetauda Sub-Metropolitan Cities; and Mohan Maya Dhakal, Mayor of Birendranagar Municipality. They provided valuable insights into the state of local governance under federalism. This article captures their perspectives, highlighting the successes and obstacles encountered as local governments adapt to Nepal's evolving federal structure.

Pokhara's mayor Acharya expressed frustration with the perception of local government as mere administrative extensions rather than fully empowered entities. He lamented that local governments have authority over basic services like education and healthcare, yet they face constant resistance from employees unwilling to recognise their jurisdiction. Additionally, the persistence of District Coordination Committees and federal control over resources, such as drinking water and local infrastructure, continues to blur authority and accountability.

For Pokhara, a tourism capital, he envisioned support from both federal and provincial levels to realise its full potential. He also noted that without proper intergovernmental coordination, such

THE KATHMANDU POST

ambitions remain challenging. In a similar vein, Chairperson Krishna Bahadur Thapaliya of Benighat Rorang Rural Municipality, Dhading, voiced concerns over federalism's sustainability.

Reflecting on the sacrifices of the past, Thapaliya remarked, "We fought for this structure, but educated elites seem to distort it through convoluted interpretations." He urged leaders to stay grounded in federalism's original principles to prevent misinterpretations that could weaken the system. Echoing this sentiment, Dan Bahadur Gurung from the Ichchhakamana Rural Municipality of Chitwan underscored the interconnectedness of all three levels of government, stating, "Without empowering local governments, neither the provincial nor federal levels can thrive."

Dambar Bahadur BK, Chairperson of Khajura Rural Municipality in Banke, underscored the need for stable executive provincial governments and called for provincial control over administrative matters like staffing, which currently suffers due to unestablished provincial laws. For many local leaders, decentralisation and fiscal empowerment are central to the federalism debate. Dilip Kumar Rai, Mayor of Pathari Shaniishchare Municipality in Morang, raised concerns about the lack of resources and autonomy despite constitutionally granted powers. He highlighted that as per the constitution, land registration should be handled locally, but this authority remains centralised.

Furthermore, healthcare expansion has been hindered by budgetary constraints and workforce shortages. "In my municipality with 72,000 residents, we are restricted to a 15-bed hospital, whereas smaller local levels in other regions enjoy greater healthcare facilities," Rai noted. He stressed that budgeting should reflect population and need, not rigid allocations set without local input. For Nagesh Koirala, Mayor of Biratnagar, the question of provincial relevance is as critical as environmental conservation in Nepal's Chure region. In response to questions about the viability of federalism, Koirala argued that provinces are integral to governance, likening them to essential ecological systems.

IN MEMORIAM

MANDAL PROF. HEMENDRA KUMAR (2nd July) and MANDAL DR. ARCHANA (2nd November). — Affectionately remembered on their birthdays. — Ranita (daughter) and Rajan (son). (033) 2571-1107.

'Waqf amendments are vital'

The only Muslim face in the Yogi Adityanath ministry in Uttar Pradesh, Danish Azad Ansari is counted among the few BJP leaders working to woo the minorities. Ansari (36) holds the rank of Minister of State and handles the portfolio of the Minority Welfare and Haj department. Representing the Pasmanda Samaj or backward sections in the Muslim community, the BJP leader was associated with the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad during his student days.

He became the minister in the Yogi 2.0 government after replacing another high-profile Muslim face, Mohsin Raza. A native of Ballia district, Ansari has consistently worked for the minority sections, especially the youth, which earned him a berth in Adityanath's cabinet.

In an exclusive interaction with The Statesman's Manoj Bhadra, he talked about the various minority welfare schemes offered by his government.

Q: There has been a special focus on minority upliftment in Yogi 2.0 cabinet. Can you elaborate upon the schemes offered by the Uttar Pradesh government?

A: The Uttar Pradesh government has several welfare schemes for the Muslim community, including scholarships, education programmes, and infrastructure development. Among these is the Poorvadasam Scholarship Scheme, which provides scholarships to students in grades 9-10 from minority communities. Students whose parents' annual income is up to Rs 2,00,000 are eligible.

The government also aims to modernize madrasas and 'mukhtabs' by including maths, science, English, and Hindi in the syllabus. It has been decided to dedicate a fund of about Rs 50 crore to develop health and education infrastructure in districts with large Muslim population. This includes building a medical facility in Suar, Rampur, and 100-bed girls hostels in Bulandshahr and Saharanpur.

Q: Has there been a change in the standard of living of Muslims, particularly the poor, since 2017 when the BJP came to power in Uttar Pradesh?

A: If you go to the ground level, you will see positive changes in Mus-

lim-dominated areas of the state. The double-engine government has built several schools and colleges in the last seven years in the Muslim belt of the state.

Q: Reports say the state minority welfare department is launching a grand programme for Muslim girls and women, particularly the triple talaq victims.

A: Yes, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath will launch the programme to aid Muslim women and triple talaq victims with career counseling and job opportunities. Named the Upliftment Programme for Minority Girls (UPMG), the state government will not just provide career counseling but also provide them employment opportunities to connect them with the mainstream and ultimately make them financially independent.

Under this scheme, seminars will be organised in all 75 districts on November 20. During these seminars, stalls of banks, start-ups and MSMEs will be set up to help the women. We have targeted to attract at least 1,000 women in each district.

Q: Madrasas across the country have been shrouded in controversy with calls for banning them doing the rounds. What should be done to make them on par with other government schools?

A: I have already met chief minister Yogi Adityanath a couple of times to request him for the implementation of schemes related to modernisation of madrasas and educational, economic, physical and mental development of students of minority communities.

Under the leadership of CM Yogi, there is comprehensive improvement in education in the state, which is extremely commendable and inspiring. The Madrasa Modernisation Scheme was very important for bringing students of minority communities into the mainstream and for their overall development. Under this scheme, the honorarium of teachers teaching modern subjects has been borne by the central government and the state government. But at present some difficulties are being faced in the implementation of this scheme, which are being resolved.

Recently, on the 74th birthday of



Prime Minister Naendra Modi, students from around 100 madrasas participated in a programme to wish our PM.

Besides, a three-day state-level sports competition with the objective of encouraging the physical and mental development of students in the madrasas of UP will be organised soon.

Q: Now talking about some controversial issues. There is a general feeling that minorities are not happy in the BJP regime. What do you say about this?

A: Muslims are not only safe here but they are also happy. Our government has worked with full sincerity to integrate the minority Muslim community with continuous development.

Every issue of Muslim society, i.e., education, development, employment and promotion of industry, was addressed. This has created a feeling of development in Muslim society. Sania Mirza of Mirzapur, UP, born into an ordinary Muslim family, whose father was a TV mechanic, got the benefit of government schemes and was encouraged by society. Today she has become India's first Muslim fighter pilot. Nikhat Zareen has won the gold medal in the World Boxing

Championship. Work is done in the government to connect everyone, irrespective of their caste, with development.

Q: There is a conception that even after several efforts, minorities are not inclined towards the BJP and they are adverse to joining the party?

A: It is wrong to think that Muslims are anti-BJP. Now Muslim youths are attracted towards the party and they are joining in big numbers.

Giving an example, the ongoing membership drive of the BJP in UP has attracted more than 6.80 lakh Muslims alone, while the target was just 2.5 lakhs. It means that three times more Muslims have joined the BJP. It is clear that now the Muslims want to connect with the BJP.

Q: You must be campaigning for the November 13 bypolls. What is your prediction for the BJP in these bypolls?

A: Though the party did not perform as per the expectation in the Lok Sabha polls, these by-elections to nine seats will be different.

We will sweep these polls and win all nine seats with a good margin. The opposition parties are nowhere near the BJP and the 2027 assembly polls in the state too will project the BJP as

stronger than ever.

Q: Now the last question and this is about the proposed new Waqf Board (Amendment) Bill, which is being discussed by a Parliament committee. There is confusion among the Muslims about the advantages and disadvantages of this new bill. What do you think about it?

A: This Waqf Board Amendment Bill is the need of the time, country and for the betterment of the poor Muslims. This bill is in national interest and Muslims also benefit from it. PM Narendra Modi is taking decisions for the people standing at the lowest rung of the country.

Waqf properties are for backward Muslims, but in the last 70 years, political parties and some Muslim leaders have done a lot wrong with Waqf.

This bill has been brought to end the suffering of the poor people, so that along with their progress, the country also progresses. I appeal to the Muslims of the country not to look at it in a negative light. Hospitals and colleges should have been built on these lands, which were not built, but now it seems that everything is going to be fine. Earlier, the powers of the Waqf Board had been grossly misused.

OCCASIONAL NOTE

M. LITVINOFF appears to be counting his chickens long before they are hatched. His article on the proposed Anglo-Russian loan would seem to be based on a misapprehension of the qualities even of British Labour financiers. He assures his comrades exultantly that England under the Treaty will satisfy her demands with money from her own pockets, and that Russia will pay nothing. The Soviet "only wanted cash;" they "will only accept cash;" therefore they "insisted upon a loan," which according to M. Litvinoff's ingenuous idea, would be equivalent to a free gift. It is only a day or two ago, however, since Mr. Philip Snowden declared that, if he should still be Chancellor of the Exchequer when the question arises there will be no loan to Russia or to any other foreign State except upon substantial security making default practically impossible. That Mr. Snowden's authority on this question will be decisive in Labour party councils can hardly be doubted. Whomsoever M. Litvinoff may mean by "the real fools," therefore, they are as far away from the British Exchequer as from Russia. His article indicates the existence of some amount of suspicion or opposition in Russia against the treaty, this feeling being strong enough to make it expedient to explain that Russia will get something for nothing.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

ANOTHER COMPLAINT

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "STATESMAN"

SIR,—Why are so many loafers and beggars allowed to take up their abode in the New Market? The following incident is objectionable to write about but actually happened this morning, and a lady and myself accidentally witnessed the filthy display. A beggar seated on some steps was rocking himself to and fro, to the laughter of some men and chokras who were watching him, gesticulating vulgarly while he ignored the sanitary arrangements provided in the market. It was a most nauseating scene, and to think we have to purchase goods from a place so used is too disgraceful.

The smells round some portions of the New Market are horrible and dangerous to the public welfare. Ladies should discontinue dealings within the New Market till the authorities remedy matters.

TWO HOUSEWIVES
Calcutta, Oct. 21

MOSQUITOES ON FERRY STEAMERS

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "STATESMAN"

SIR,—Mosquitoes are now generally known to be carriers of many serious maladies like malaria, filariasis, etc.; and everywhere the sanitary authorities and the public are trying their best to get rid of the pests. But it is strange that most of the steamers of the Port Commissioners' ferry service plying between Burra Bazar and Shibutola are full of mosquitoes and their breeding places. Many people now frequent these steamers to "enjoy the breeze" for the sake of their health. But they are probably not aware that they run the risk of contracting malaria, as the mosquitoes harboured by these steamers mostly come from malarious places (like Shibutola, etc.), where the boats are moored at night, and are sure carriers of malaria poison. Will the authorities kindly inquire into the matter and see that that this source of nuisance and danger to public health is removed at an early date?

MEDICAL OPINION.
Calcutta, Oct. 23.

POT-HUNTING

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "STATESMAN"

SIR,—Obviously by an oversight, your correspondent WANDERER appended his pot-hunting remarks to his Calcutta Swimming Club gala notes. All the members who took part in the show on the 17th will greatly appreciate what he had to say about their efforts, but it appears to me that many readers may associate our members with the pot-hunters to whom he referred. Not a single scratch race has been held by the Calcutta Swimming Club during the four years of my membership. Even the Viceroy's Challenge medal, the only trophy competed for annually by the members, is usually awarded to a swimmer favoured with a big handicap. Our scratch swimmer has competed in every handicap held this season, and he secured first place once only—by reason of his skillful turning. Judging by the handicapping on the 17th instant, he will never win another race unless he breaks world's records. In short, "pot-hunters" do not exist in our Club, whilst the only "pot" of which we boast is competed for by Calcutta business houses, and not by the members of the Club.

A KEEN MEMBER
Calcutta, Oct. 25.

Taiwan can offer a lot to Interpol

BAUSHUAN GER

In a world increasingly inter-linked by shared challenges and common aspirations, cooperation across borders has never been more essential. The threat of transnational crime - a shadow that transcends nations and jurisdictions - calls for swift, unified, and inclusive action. Taiwan, as an advanced society with high-calibre law enforcement and a steadfast commitment to global justice, stands as a valuable partner in the global fight against crime. However, Taiwan's exclusion from the International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol) hinders its ability to effectively participate in combating these growing threats. Taiwan's participation is essential not only for the country's security but also for the safety and prosperity of the global community, including India, as our nations collectively strive to build a more secure international environment.

The fight against transnational crime hinges on the timely sharing of information. Taiwan's law enforcement agencies, well-equipped and experienced, collaborate closely with international partners to combat various cross-border crimes, including human trafficking, cybercrime, and organized crime. However, due to its exclusion from Interpol, Taiwan currently lacks direct access to vital intel-

ligence-sharing systems. This delay in receiving critical information severely restricts Taiwan's crime-fighting capabilities, inadvertently creating loopholes that transnational criminals can exploit. By incorporating Taiwan into Interpol's framework, we can bolster global law enforcement, reduce latency in intelligence sharing, and protect people worldwide from crime.

Article 2 of the Interpol Constitution underscores the importance of mutual assistance among law enforcement authorities across borders, a value Taiwan deeply embodies. As modern crime becomes more complex and global in scope, it is critical that law enforcement agencies worldwide strengthen their collaborative efforts. Interpol President Ahmed Naser Al-Raisi aptly emphasized that only by "openly sharing intelligence, strategies, and resources" can nations confront transnational crime, human trafficking, and terrorism with maximum effectiveness.

This year's Interpol theme of "police integrity, accountability, and oversight" resonates with Taiwan's own law enforcement principles. Taiwan's experience in upholding justice and fostering public trust aligns with Interpol's ideals and goals. Taiwan's inclusion in Interpol would further promote these values, ensuring that international cooperation against



crime is both robust and transparent. The shared commitment to these ideals also reflects Taiwan and India's enduring dedication to global peace and security, affirming our role in building a safer world together.

Globally recognized for its safety and security, Taiwan has consistently ranked among the world's safest countries. According to the Numbeo safety index, Taiwan ranks fourth in global safety, following only Andorra, the UAE, and Qatar. Foreign professionals working in Taiwan have frequently lauded its safety as a major advantage. In 2023, Taiwan was ranked among the top livable countries by InterNations, where it placed second in quality of life and eighth in safety. Taiwan's track record in maintaining public order and security not only benefits its own citizens but also contributes to the international community's fight against crime.

Taiwan's success in safeguarding public security makes it an indispen-

sable partner in the global security network. Criminal syndicates worldwide have illegally exploited Taiwanese passports, posing a significant risk to international security. However, Taiwan's exclusion from Interpol obstructs its capacity to swiftly share or receive intelligence on these cases. Integrating Taiwan into Interpol's system would bridge this gap, enhancing the security of international travel and mitigating risks posed by transnational crime syndicates.

In 2017, a high-profile case involving Australian national Lisa Lines, who fled to Taiwan after allegedly committing a violent crime, highlighted Taiwan's willingness and ability to cooperate with international law enforcement. Taiwan quickly assisted in Lines's arrest and extradition, exemplifying Taiwan's commitment to global justice despite its non-participation in Interpol. Additionally, in 2024, Interpol's Stop Internet Piracy (I-SOP) initiative recognized Taiwan's proactive role in countering digital piracy, inviting Taiwan to share insights gained from investigations into illegal set-top box broadcasting.

These cases demonstrate Taiwan's commitment to collaborative crime-fighting efforts and underscore how Taiwan's participation in Interpol could benefit other nations facing similar challenges. For India, a coun-

try with its own robust law enforcement structure and commitment to international collaboration, Taiwan's inclusion would enhance shared ability to respond to evolving criminal threats in real time.

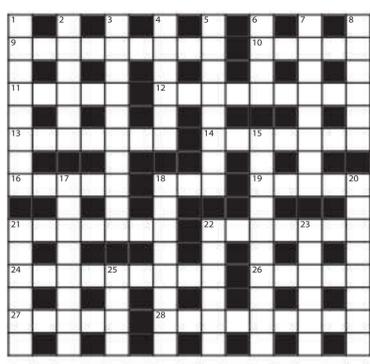
Taiwan's absence from Interpol is a gap in the global security fabric. The Australian Strategic Policy Institute has voiced strong support for Taiwan's inclusion, recognizing Taiwan's pivotal role in addressing international criminal threats. Granting Taiwan observer status at Interpol would facilitate a more comprehensive and effective international security network. We urge all nations to support Taiwan's participation as an observer at Interpol's annual assembly, an effort that would allow Taiwan to share its insights through training sessions, and foster meaningful cooperation with the membership.

As Taiwan's representative in India, I am honoured to witness the steadfast friendship and various collaborations between our two nations. India's security priorities resonate deeply with Taiwan's own aspirations for a safer, more connected world. By supporting Taiwan's inclusion in Interpol, India can play a leading role in promoting international justice and securing a safer future for us all.

(The writer is Taiwan's Representative to India.)

CROSSWORD

NO-292948



YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

CUPFINNAL NEVA
ORRC LLS
KNEHTIGH GOETHE
JDS I E V R
LUCAS ALLTHEWAY
RTTDSNM
MONOCHROME
RRRFVSE
WEGOCENTRIC
ASEUNAG
STOCKPORTITCHY
WOLTSIT
BOUNCY IMPROPER
OEMONE
DUISK JETTITION

ACROSS

- 9 Graduate attired in leather brewed drink (6,3)
- 10/17 Band destroying great many commercial vehicles? (5,3,5)
- 11 North American company importing hot snack (5)
- 12 Under pressure to answer, perhaps immediately? (2,3,4)
- 13 Connected to ground seen within near the dyke (7)
- 14 Check on heartbeat (7)

- 16 Offered labourer's first hammer (5)
- 18/7 Watch display by pioneering German band (3,8)
- 19 Queen once given kiss as appropriate (5)
- 21 Sharp cross from Metatron say in holy books returned (7)
- 22 Poet hired assassin to follow wife (7)
- 24 Plunder so arranged shows radiance (9)
- 26 Backed Irish setter producing big blue shiner (5)

- 27 Hillage finally opening show (5)
 - 28 Rolled second piano through wrong entrance (9)
- DOWN**
- 1 Green 10 husband shoved into cask by composer (8)
 - 2 Fabulous bird with little German getting round shopkeeper (6)
 - 3 Dashing local hero docked in vacated Levantine port (2,8)

- 4 Gloucestershire town where Tudors settled (6)
- 5 Show embarrassment about paintings being traded away? (8)
- 6 Onset unnoticed in non-specific health problem (4)
- 7 See 18 Across
- 8 Claimant legally keeping sleeveless cloak (6)
- 15 Up with mountain sootier on an ascent in lift (10)

- 17 See 10 Across
- 18 Watchers finding nothing acceptable among hooligans (8)
- 20 Times cryptic hotline offers 'rock within rock' (8)
- 21 Flower attached to tail of giant guinea pig (6)
- 22 City wasn't prepared for revolution (6)
- 23 Grub shown in periodical taken (6)
- 25 Line suggesting Stead might become depressed? (4)

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



Rocket fire from Lebanon kills seven in Israel

In northern Gaza, Israeli forces struck one of the last functioning hospitals

ASSOCIATED PRESS
TEL AVIV, 01 NOVEMBER

Rocket barrages from Lebanon into northern Israel killed four foreign workers and three Israelis on Thursday, Israeli medics said, the deadliest cross-border strikes in Israel since it invaded Lebanon. Israel kept up airstrikes it says targeted Hezbollah militants across Lebanon, where health authorities on Thursday reported 24 people killed.

U.S. diplomats were in the region pushing for cease-fires in both Lebanon and Gaza, hoping to wind down the wars in the Middle East as the Biden administration enters its final months. Pressure has been building ahead of the U.S. election next

week. In northern Gaza, Israeli forces struck one of the last functioning hospitals, destroying much-needed supplies that the World Health Organization had delivered to the facility, the U.N. agency said. The strikes set off a fire that affected the dialysis unit, destroyed water tanks, damaged the surgery building and injured four medics trying to extinguish the blaze, said the hospital's director, Dr. Husam Abu Safiya.

The Israeli military did not respond to a request for comment about a strike on the hospital, which it stormed last week after alleging it was harboring Hamas militants. Gaza's Health Ministry on Thursday condemned Israeli attacks on



The hospital and called on the international community to safeguard medical facilities in Gaza.

Projectiles from Lebanon crashed into an agricultural area in Metula, Israel's northernmost town, killing four Thai workers and an Israeli farmer, officials said.

Hours later, the Israeli military reported another volley of some 25 rockets from Lebanon, striking an olive grove in a suburb of the northern Israeli port city of Haifa. That strike killed a 30-year-old man and 60-year-old woman while wounding two others, said

Magen David Adom, Israel's main emergency medical organization.

Both Hezbollah and Hamas are backed by Iran, Israel's regional adversary. Hezbollah did not immediately claim responsibility for Thursday's rocket fire. Israel's military said 90 projectiles were fired from Lebanon on Thursday.

Hezbollah has been firing thousands of rockets, drones and missiles into Israel — and drawing fierce Israeli retaliatory strikes — since Hamas' Oct. 7, 2023, attack out of the Gaza Strip triggered Israel's devastating war in the Palestinian enclave.

The residents of Metula evacuated in October 2023, and only security officials and agricultural workers remain.

8,000 North Korean troops deployed in Russia's Kursk region: Blinken

AGENCIES
WASHINGTON, 1 NOVEMBER

As many as 8,000 North Korean troops have been deployed to Russia's western front-line Kursk region and are expected to enter into combat "in the coming days", US Secretary of State Antony Blinken has said, warning that they would become "legitimate" military targets.

Blinken made the remarks on Thursday during a press conference after he, Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin, South Korean Foreign Minister Cho Tae-yul and Defence Minister Kim Yong-hyun held their "two-plus-two" meeting at the State Department in Washington, Yonhap news agency reported.

The meeting underscored the two countries' close security coordination just a day after North Korea fired what appeared to be a new solid-fuel intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM), ratcheting up tensions just days ahead



of the US presidential election set for Tuesday.

"We now assess that there are some 10,000 North Korean soldiers in total in Russia, and the most recent information indicates that as many as 8,000 of those North Korean forces have been deployed to the Kursk Region," Blinken said.

"We've not yet seen these troops deploy into combat against Ukrainian forces, but we would expect that to happen in the coming days," he added.

The secretary pointed out that Russia has been training North Korean troops in artillery, unmanned aerial vehicles and basic infantry

operations, including trench clearing, indicating that Moscow "fully" intends to use the soldiers in front-line operations.

"Should these troops engage in combat or combat support operations against Ukraine, they would become legitimate military targets," he said.

Austin also warned against North Korean troops' potential entry into combat.

"We are consulting closely with our allies and partners in other countries in the region on these reckless developments and on our response," he said without elaboration.

During the press conference, Kim noted that North Korea has so far sent some 1,000 missiles and "millions of artillery rounds -- a figure close to 10 million" -- to Russia.

Blinken highlighted that a reason why Russia is turning to North Korean troops is that it is "desperate".

Pakistan: Five children among seven killed in deadly Balochistan blast

AGENCIES
MASTUNG, 1 NOVEMBER

At least five children, a passerby and a police official were killed in a deadly blast targeted at a police vehicle in Balochistan's Mastung city, on Friday. The casualties are expected to rise further with more than 30 people critically injured in the explosion.

As per initial reports, an IED (improvised explosive device) attached to a motorcycle was detonated near a police mobile as it neared the Girls High School at the Civil Hospital Chowk, killing at least five school children, one police personnel and a passerby



on the spot.

The injured were rushed to two hospitals, Nawab Ghous Bakhsh Raisani Memorial Hospital and Mastung District Headquarters Hospital. Later, three critically-injured persons were shifted to Quetta's Trauma Centre.

According to DHQ (District Headquarters) Medical Superintendent Nisar Ahmed Baloch, the injured majority include

children. All five children who lost their lives in the tragic incident were aged between 10-13 years.

The blast, which occurred at a place which was crowded with school children, vehicles and shops, completely destroyed the police vehicle.

"Terrorists have now targeted innocent children along with labourers," said Balochistan Chief Minister Sarfaraz Bugti while condemning the blast. He expressed grief over the loss of lives and extended condolences to the relatives and family members of killed policemen and school children.

Voting closes in contest to lead UK Conservative Party as it seeks to rebound from defeat

AGENCIES
LONDON 1 NOVEMBER

Voting closed Thursday in the months-long contest to lead Britain's Conservative Party after its crushing election defeat, with the result due to be announced on Saturday. Tens of thousands of members of the right-of-center party were eligible to vote in the runoff between lawmakers Kemi Badenoch and Robert Jenrick.

In a race that has lasted more than three months, Conservative lawmakers reduced the field from six candidates in a series of votes before

putting the final two to the wider party membership.

Both candidates say they think the contest is close, but no reliable polling is available. The party does not regularly disclose how many members it has, though the figure was about 172,000 in 2022, disproportionately affluent, older white men.

The party is choosing a leader to replace former Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, who in July led the Conservatives to their worst election result since 1832. The Conservatives lost more than 200 seats, taking their tally down to 121.

The winner's daunting task



will be to try to restore the party's reputation after years of division, scandal and economic tumult, hammer Labour Prime Minister Keir Starmer's policies on key issues including the economy and immigration, and return the Conservatives to power at the next election, due by 2029.

Badenoch, 44, was born in London to Nigerian parents and would be the first Black woman to lead a major British political party. A former software engineer, she depicts herself as a disruptor, arguing for a low-tax, free-market economy and pledging to "rewrite, reboot and reprogram" the British state. A critic of multiculturalism and self-proclaimed enemy of wokeness, Badenoch recently said that "not all cultures are equally valid."

Jenrick, 42, is a former moderate who opposed Brexit in Britain's 2016 referendum on European Union mem-

bership but has become more sharply nationalist. He wants to take Britain out of the European Convention on Human Rights, scrap the U.K.'s own Human Rights Act, end mass migration, abolish carbon-emissions targets and "stand for our nation and our culture, our identity and our way of life."

Jenrick and Badenoch both come from the right of the party and say they can win voters back from Reform U.K., the hard-right, anti-immigrant party led by populist politician Nigel Farage that has eaten away at Conservative support.

US Election: Harris says Trump shouldn't be telling women what to do with their bodies

AGENCIES
NEVADA, 1 NOVEMBER

Democratic vice-presidential candidate and US President Kamala Harris took aim at Republican candidate Donald Trump's positions on abortion and women's rights during a rally in Nevada.

Harris emphasised the Democratic Party's commitment to protecting personal freedoms, particularly a woman's right to make decisions about her own body without the government's interference.

"Ours is fighting for future and fight for freedom, like the fundamental freedom of women to make decisions about her own body and not

have her government tell her what to do," Harris stated.

She accused Trump of playing a direct role in the Supreme Court's decision to overturn Roe vs Wade by appointing justices specifically aimed at eliminating abortion protections.

"We all remember how we got here. When Donald Trump was President, he hand-picked three members of the US Supreme Court with the intention that they would do away with the protection of Roe vs Wade; they did as he intended. Now in America, one in three women lives in a state with a Trump Abortion Ban -- many with no exception for rape and



incest, which is immoral," she said.

Harris also referenced Trump's past remarks where he suggested that he would "do what he wants whether women like it or not," arguing this demonstrates his lack of respect for women's autonomy.

"This is the same person who said that women should be punished for their choices.

The courts will handle this, and we will handle November. We know that the man simply does not respect the freedom or the intelligence of women to be able to make decisions about our own lives," Harris continued.

She warned that Trump's potential re-election could bring severe restrictions on reproductive rights, threatening access to birth control and IVF treatments and increasing surveillance of women's pregnancies.

Harris cited 'Project 2025,' a Republican plan she claims could entail nationwide restrictions. "If you don't believe me, just Google 'Project 2025' -- I still can't believe they put it in writing," she

noted. "The government shouldn't be telling her what to do; not the government and not Donald Trump," she added.

Urging voters to support Democrats, Harris said, "To make your right heard and to protect your right to take care of your own healthcare decisions, I would also recommend you vote on Yes on question six and make sure you vote up and down on ballot to truly protect your rights."

She assured supporters, "When Congress passes a bill restoring reproductive freedom nationwide, as the US President, I will proudly sign it into law."

Trump and Vance make anti-transgender attacks central to their campaign's closing argument

AGENCIES
ATLANTA, 1 NOVEMBER

Donald Trump has made his opposition to transgender rights central to his closing argument before Election Day, using demeaning language and misrepresentations to paint an exceedingly narrow slice of the U.S. population as a threat to national identity.

The former president and Republican nominee's campaign and aligned political action committees have spent tens of millions of dollars on advertising that attacks Democratic nominee and Vice President Kamala Harris for



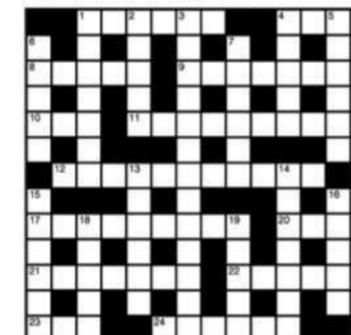
her previous statements supporting transgender rights.

His rally speeches now feature a spoof video mocking trans people and their place in the U.S. military. The montage, interspersed with clips of the Vietnam War movie "Full Metal Jacket," typically draws loud boos at his rallies, as do Trump's false claims about female athletes and his mocking impression of what

he says is a trans woman lifting weights. "We will get... transgender insanity the hell out of our schools, and we will keep men out of women's sports," Trump said at his recent Madison Square Garden rally, drawing an approving roar from the crowd of 20,000-plus. His running mate, JD Vance, alleged Thursday that white teenagers in the "middle class or upper middle class" can identify as transgender to more easily get into elite universities. In doing so, Vance was citing conservative anger about affirmative action and other programs geared toward historically disenfranchised groups.

LEISURE

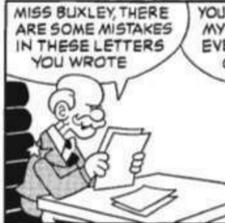
10 MINUTE CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- Stature (6)
 - Beer (3)
 - Quick (5)
 - Idea (7)
 - Practical intelligence (3)
 - Repugnant (9)
 - Theatre seating area (5,6)
 - Quail (9)
 - Circuit (3)
 - Paper-folding art (7)
 - Separate (5)
 - Female sheep (3)
 - Intercession (6)
- DOWN**
- Trendy person (7)
 - Asian country (5)
 - Become very angry (Informal) (3,3,7)
 - Quarrel (5)
 - Housing development (6)
 - Multitude (5)
 - Terror (6)
 - Red wine (6)
 - Cradle song (7)
 - Enforce (6)
 - Sudden flood (5)
 - Take hold of (5)
 - Cereal plant fruits (5)

- SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD**
- ACROSS**
- Play
 - Conker
 - Sing
 - T-shirt
 - Pacing
 - Outshine
 - Gums
 - Mother-to
 - 11 Forestold
 - Ritual
 - Hashtag
 - Miser
 - Tie
 - Peen
 - 7 Cement
- By arrangement with The Independent
Figures in parentheses denote the number of letters in the words required

BEETLE BAILEY/Mort Walker



RED EYE/Bill Yates & Mel Casson



DADDY DAZE/John Kovalski



NEED TO KNOW

- Ambulance**
FD Block Association (Amb) 9830452536, 9830181286
Happy Calcuttans 24400160
City Point Nurses Centre 2567-4113, 9831142623
People's Relief Committee 2280-4943/9444
- 24 hrs Medical Oxygen Delivery**
BOC India Ltd. 9831277777
- Blood Banks**
Ashok Laboratory 24720333
Central Blood Bank 23510619
- Life Care 2284-6940**
Peoples Blood Bank 2455-5164/5557
RK Mission Seva Pratishtan 2475-3636/39
- Police/Fire**
Laibazar (Police Control Room) 22143238
S. P. (North 24-Pgns) 25423005
S. P. (South 24-Pgns) 2479-3333/1311
Bhavani Bhawan 24791761/9, 24791933
Fire Service Station Salt Lake: 2357-5293;
- Howrah 2666-8111; Behala 2497-6285**
- Civic Services**
Kolkata Municipal Corporation: 2286-1000
Water: 2543-1602
- Calcutta Telephones**
Changed Number Announcement 1951,1952,1953
- Taxi Refusal**
SMS 575756: Complaint and registration
- Police Toll Free No. 1073**
Transport Deptt. No. 6451-6718
- CESC Fault Reporting**
1912 and 4403-1912
- Trains**
Howrah Station Old Complex 1331/1332 (Auto Telephone Numbers), 1310, 2638-7412/3542/2581 (manual).
Spalding: 2350-3535/3537
Shalimar Station: 2668-1321, Eastern Railway and South-Eastern Railway: 139.

SCRABBLE

BRAND G R I A M S

PAR SCORE 70-80
by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

SCRABBLE

Directions: Make a 2 to 7 letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. Letter words get 50% bonus. All other words are 100%. All letter words are the same length. Scrabble Players Dictionary (Merriam-Webster) and OWS Official Scrabble Words (Chombers) are the solution source.

1. R M O L N C U
2. D M E U O M G
3. R E L N W A E
4. I B L R L N A

10-25-12

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku
By Dave Green

Difficulty Level ★★★

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

answer to previous puzzle

Experts say N Korea's 'strongest missiles' are too big for war

North Korea boasted Friday that the new intercontinental ballistic missile it just test-launched is 'the world's strongest', a claim seen as pure propaganda

ASSOCIATED PRESS SEOUL, 1 NOVEMBER

North Korea boasted Friday that the new intercontinental ballistic missile it just test-launched is "the world's strongest," a claim seen as pure propaganda after experts assessed it as being too big to be useful in a war situation.



an expression of North Korea's resolve to respond to external threats to North Korea's security.

The color and shape of the exhaust flames seen in North Korean media photos of the launch suggest the missile uses preloaded solid fuel, which makes weapons more agile and harder to detect than liquid propellants that in general must be fueled beforehand.

But experts say the photos show the ICBM and its launch

vehicle are both oversized, raising a serious question about their wartime mobility and survivability.

"When missiles get bigger, what happens? The vehicles get larger, too. As the transporter-erector launchers get bigger, their mobility decreases," Lee Sangmin, an expert at South Korea's Korea Institute for Defense Analyses.

The Hwasong-19 was estimated to be at least 28 meters long (92 feet) while advanced U.S. and Russian ICBMs are

less than 20 meters long (66 feet), said Chang Young-keun, a missile expert at Seoul's Korea Research Institute for National Strategy. He suggested that the missile's size likely helped South Korean intelligence authorities detect the launch plan in advance.

"In the event of a conflict, such an exposure makes the weapon a target of a pre-emptive attack by opponents so there would be a big issue of survivability," Chang said.

Lee Illwoo, an expert with the Korea Defense Network in South Korea, said North Korea may have developed a larger missile to carry bigger and more destructive warheads or multi-warheads. If that's the case, Lee said North Korea could have used liquid fuels that generate higher thrust than solid fuels. He said some advanced liquid propellants can be stored in missiles for a few weeks before liftoffs.

Lee said North Korea may have placed a dummy, empty warhead on the Hwasong-

19 to make it fly higher.

In recent years, North Korea has reported steady advancement in its efforts to obtain nuclear-tipped missiles. Many foreign experts believe North Korea likely has missiles that can deliver nuclear strikes on all of South Korea, but it has yet to possess nuclear missiles that can strike the mainland U.S.

The hurdles it has yet to overcome, according to experts, include ensuring its warheads survive the heat and stress of atmospheric reentry, improving the altitude control and guidance systems for the missiles, and being able to use multiple warheads on a single missile to defeat missile defenses.

"Acquiring reentry technology is currently the most important goal in North Korea's missile development, specifically for ICBMs, but they just keep increasing the ranges instead. This possibly suggests they still lack confidence in their reentry technology," Lee Sangmin said.

Attackers set fire to the HQ of a B'desh party that backed ousted leader Sheikh Hasina

ASSOCIATED PRESS DHAKA, 1 NOVEMBER

Attackers set fire to the headquarters of a Bangladesh party that supported the country's ousted leader Sheikh Hasina on Thursday night, media reports said. There was no information if anyone was injured.

No one immediately claimed responsibility for the attack on the Jatiya Party offices in Bangladesh's capital, Dhaka. TV stations and other media said the attackers stormed the party headquarters in Dhaka's Bijoy Nagar area, clashing with party members who were there and eventually setting the premises on fire.

The extent of the damage was not immediately known. Firefighters rushed to the scene, according to Rashed bin Khaled, an official of the Fire Service and Civil Defense. Bin Khaled, who spoke to The Associated Press by phone, had no other details.

The party is Bangladesh's third largest and was founded by former military dictator



H.M. Ershad in the 1980s.

As the attack was underway, a prominent leader of a student protest movement that led to Hasina's ouster in August said the Jatiya Party should be "destroyed" for its support of her government. Hasnat Abdullah, the student leader, claimed in a Facebook post that the Jatiya party was "a national betrayer."

Abdullah is from the Anti-Discrimination Student Movement, which spearheaded the July protests. He also urged students to gather at the Dhaka University and march toward the Jatiya Party

headquarters.

Mujibul Haque Chinnu, the party's secretary general, blamed the students for the attack. "People are watching what they are doing with us," he said. "It is live in social media... they are doing it publicly, openly." Hasina's Bangladesh Awami League party ruled the country for 15 years, since 2009. Her critics said the Jatiya Party had acted to give Hasina's rule a veneer of democracy as other major political parties did not take part in the elections.

Brazil judge gives two former cops long sentences for the 2018 murder of leftist icon Marielle Franco

ASSOCIATED PRESS RIO DE JANEIRO, 1 NOVEMBER

A judge on Thursday handed down long sentences to two former police officers for the 2018 murder of Rio de Janeiro city councilwoman Marielle Franco, an icon of Brazil's political left whose killing sparked outrage.



the wheelman on the night of the crime.

Lessa and de Queiroz, arrested in 2019, previously signed plea bargains confessing their roles, but the jury had final word on their guilt on homicide and other charges. The verdict, although expected, comes as a measure of solace to the many who saw the martyrdom of the Black, bisexual woman as an attack on democracy, and worried that the crime would go unpunished. The prosecutors had argued each man should be sentenced to the maximum possible 84 years for the three counts — double homicide, attempted homicide and driving a cloned vehicle.

As Judge Lucia Gliocche finished reading the sentence, applause erupted in the room as victims' families began to cry. Marielle's sister, Anielle Franco, Brazil's minister for racial equality, held a long, tearful embrace with her parents and Marielle's daughter, Luyara Franco.

ual woman as an attack on democracy, and worried that the crime would go unpunished. The prosecutors had argued each man should be sentenced to the maximum possible 84 years for the three counts — double homicide, attempted homicide and driving a cloned vehicle.

As Judge Lucia Gliocche finished reading the sentence, applause erupted in the room as victims' families began to cry. Marielle's sister, Anielle Franco, Brazil's minister for racial equality, held a long, tearful embrace with her parents and Marielle's daughter, Luyara Franco.

Spain searches for bodies after unprecedented flooding claims at least 158 lives

ASSOCIATED PRESS BARRIO DE LA TORRE, 1 NOVEMBER

Crews searched for bodies in stranded cars and sodden buildings Thursday as residents salvaged what they could from their ruined homes following monstrous flash floods in Spain that claimed at least 158 lives, with 155 deaths confirmed in the eastern Valencia region alone.

More horrors emerged Thursday from the debris and ubiquitous layers of mud left by the walls of water that produced Spain's deadliest natural disaster in living memory. The damage from

the storm late Tuesday and early Wednesday recalled the aftermath of a tsunami, with survivors left to pick up the pieces as they mourn their loved ones.

Cars were piled on one another like fallen dominoes, uprooted trees, downed power lines and household items all mired in mud that covered streets in dozens of communities in Valencia, a region south of Barcelona on the Mediterranean coast.

"Unfortunately, there are dead people inside some vehicles," Spain's Transport Minister Oscar Puente said

early Thursday before the death toll spiked from 95 on Wednesday night.

Rushing water turned narrow streets into death traps and spawned rivers that tore through homes and businesses, sweeping away cars, people and everything else in its path. The floods demolished bridges and left roads unrecognizable.

Luis Sánchez, a welder, said he saved several people who were trapped in their cars on the flooded V-31 highway south of Valencia city. The road rapidly became a floating graveyard strewn

with hundreds of vehicles.

"I saw bodies floating past. I called out, but nothing," Sánchez said. "The firefighters took the elderly first, when they could get in. I am from nearby so I tried to help and rescue people. People were crying all over, they were trapped."

Regional authorities said late Wednesday that rescuers in helicopters saved some 70 people stranded on rooftops and in cars, but ground crews were far from done.

"We are searching house by house," Ángel Martínez,

one of 1,000 soldiers helping with rescue efforts told Spain's national radio RNE from the town of Utiel, where at least six people died.

An Associated Press journalist saw rescuers remove seven body bags from an underground garage in Barrio de la Torre. "Our priority is to find the victims and the missing so we can help end the suffering of their families," Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez said after meeting with officials and emergency services in Valencia on Thursday, the first of three official days of mourning.

Australian judge rules senator broke race law by telling rival legislator to return to Pak

ASSOCIATED PRESS MELBOURNE, 1 NOVEMBER

An Australian judge ruled Friday that anti-immigration party leader Sen. Pauline Hanson breached a racial anti-discrimination law by crudely telling Pakistan-born Sen. Mehreen Faruqi to return to her homeland.

exchange on the social media platform X, then called Twitter, under a provision of the Racial Discrimination Act that bans publications and statements that offend, insult, humiliate or intimidate people because of their race, color or national or ethnic origin.

After the death of Queen Elizabeth II, Faruqi, deputy leader of the Australian Greens party, posted, "I cannot mourn

the leader of a racist empire built on stolen lands, land and wealth of colonized peoples."

Hanson, the leader of the One Nation party, replied that Faruqi had immigrated to take "advantage" of Australia, and told the Lahore-born Muslim to return to Pakistan, using an expletive. Hanson has been known for her views on race since her first speech to Parliament

in 1996, in which she said Australia was "in danger of being swamped by Asians" because of its non-discriminatory immigration policy. She once wore a burqa in the Senate as part of a campaign to have Islamic face coverings banned.

Faruqi, a trained engineer, moved to Australia with her husband in 1992 as skilled economic migrants.

Asia needs to spend much more to adapt to climate change and limit its damage, bank study says

ASSOCIATED PRESS BANGKOK, 1 NOVEMBER

Countries in Asia will suffer worse damage from the climate crisis than other regions and are falling far behind in spending on improvements to limit the damage and adapt to changing weather patterns and natural disasters, the Asian Development Bank said in a report released Thursday.

The report said financing needs in developing Asian countries to cope with climate change range from \$102 billion to \$431 billion a year. That far exceeds the \$34 billion committed to those purposes in 2021-2022, the Manila, Philippines-based regional development bank said. Developing Asia accounted for nearly half of all global emissions in 2021, the latest year for comprehensive data, with

China accounting for two-thirds of that and South Asia nearly 20%, the report said. That's because even though emissions per person remain far lower than in Europe, Japan and North America, it is the world's most populous region, home to about 70% of all human kind. Most countries in the region have ratified treaties on climate change and presented national plans to cut their carbon emissions.

US, Germany and France urge China to free a human rights lawyer and his wife accused of subversion

ASSOCIATED PRESS BEIJING, 1 NOVEMBER

The United States, Germany and France have called for the release of a Chinese human rights lawyer and his wife who were sentenced to prison this week for alleged subversion.

Yu and Xu should be immediately released and unconditionally released.

The European Union and the German and French foreign ministries also issued statements calling for their release.

Yu had been vocal in defending the rights of other human rights lawyers during a crackdown in 2015, when Chinese authorities started arresting well-known rights defenders.

He wrote an open letter addressed to the top national offices, urging them to investigate the Public Security Ministry and saying that police were "creating an atmosphere of terror in the country, flagrantly violating the criminal law, and conducting acts against humanity."

OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATOR OF DOMKAL MUNICIPALITY Municipal Building P.O. & P.S.: Domkal Murshidabad, Pin-742303 West Bengal E-mail: municipality domkal@gmail.com

NOTICE This is to notify that Domkal Municipality has declared finally as ODF+ Municipality dated on 16-06-2023 at Board of Administrator meeting we have not received any claims & objection towards the notification published on 20-06-2023 in the newspaper "The Statesman (Bengali)" & "Sambad Pratidin (Bengali)" regarding declaring this Municipality as ODF+ hence Domkal Municipality finally adopted the resolution to declare the city as ODF+ (Open Defecation Plus and Open Urination Free) Municipality. All community toilets and public toilets are functional and well maintained. All toilets are connected with safe disposal system. The Municipality will spot fine for open defecation Rs. 50 and for open Urination Rs. 10.

Debt Recovery Tribunal Kolkata (DRT 3) 8th Floor, Jeevan Sursha Building 42-C, Jawahar Lal Nehru Road, Kolkata - 700 071. Case No.: OA / 896 / 2016. Summons under Sub-section (4) of Section 19 of the Act, read with Sub-section (2) of Rule 5 of the Debt Recovery Tribunal (Procedure) Rules, 1993. Exh. No.: 4372 CANARA BANK - VS - SRI TAPAN KUMAR SAHA To, (1) Sri Tapan Kumar Saha, VII - Ichapur, P.O. - Gobardanga - Ichapur, North Twenty Four Parganas, West Bengal - 743 252. SUMMONS WHEREAS, OA / 896 / 2016 was listed before Hon'ble Presiding Officer / Registrar on 27.09.2023. WHEREAS this Hon'ble Tribunal is pleased to issue summons / notice on the said Application under Section 19(4) of the Act, (OA) filed against you for recovery of debts of Rs. 55,83,582.66 (application along with copies of documents etc. annexed). In accordance with Sub-section (4) of Section 19 of the Act, you, the defendants are directed as under: i) to show cause within thirty days of the service of summons as to why relief prayed for should not be granted; ii) to disclose particulars of properties or assets other than properties and assets specified by the applicant under serial number 3A of the original application; iii) you are restrained from dealing with or disposing of secured assets or such other assets and properties disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application, pending hearing and disposal of the application for attachment of properties; iv) you shall not transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise, except in the ordinary course of his business any of the assets over which security interest is created and/or other assets and properties specified or disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application without the prior approval of the Tribunal; v) you shall be liable to account for the sale proceeds realised by sale of secured assets or other assets and properties in the ordinary course of business and deposit such sale proceeds in the account maintained with the bank or financial institutions holding security interest over such assets. You are also directed to file the written statement with a copy thereof furnished to the applicant and to appear before Registrar on 14.11.2024 at 10.30 A.M. failing which the application shall be heard and decided in your absence. Given under my hand and the seal of this Tribunal on this date: 27.09.2024. Sd/- Registrar-in-Charge Kolkata Debt Recovery Tribunal - 3

CANCELLATION OF BANDHAN EXPRESS As per message received from Bangladesh Railways, 13129 Kolkata-Khulna Bandhan Express (JCO 03.11.2024) & 13130 Khulna-Kolkata Bandhan Express (JCO 03.11.2024) will remain cancelled. Chief Passenger Transportation Manager EASTERN RAILWAY Follow us at: @EasternRailway @easternrailwayheadquarter

NATIONAL SPORTS UNIVERSITY, IMPHAL MANIPUR (A Central University) Government of India Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports F.No.23/NSU/Fac-Con/2020 Date: 02-11-2024 ENGAGEMENT FOR THE CONTRACTUAL FACULTY POSTS Advt. No. 11/2024 Applications (through online / physical mode) are invited from eligible candidates for the post of 01 (one) Assistant Professor in Sports Coaching (Shooting) at National Sports University, Imphal. Detailed notification is available on the University website (www.nsu.ac.in). The interview will likely be held on short notice, and the date will be notified later. The last date to submit the filled-in application form is 2nd December, 2024 (4:00 P.M.). Candidates are advised to check the University website regularly for updates. CBC-47116/12/0005/2425 Sd/- Registrar

CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT OF ADVANCED COMPUTING, KOLKATA CDAC A Scientific Society of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, (MeitY), Govt. of India Expression of Interest Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) Kolkata, an R&D organization under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), Govt. of India, Plot-E2/1, Block-GP, Sector-V, Salt Lake Electronics Complex, Bidhan Nagar, Kolkata-700091, invites "Expression of Interest (Eoi)" from interested parties / entrepreneurs for Transfer of Technology (ToT) of "Electronics based Dairy Solution". For details, please visit: www.cdac.in For any query, please contact Phone No.: 033 2357 9846 / 5989 / 4764 / 3581 (Ext.: 3000 / 3020). Last date of Eoi submission: 29-11-2024 by 5:00 P.M. CBC 06147/12/0004/2425

ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES, ANSARI BAGH, NEW DELHI-110029 EXAMINATION SECTION Date for admission in Fellowship Programme, January-2025 session. Date for Online Registration of applications: 23.10.2024 (Wednesday) Registration closes on: 06.11.2024 (Wednesday) Date of Entrance Examination: 30.11.2024 (Saturday) 10:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. Important: For Prospectus, detailed information etc. please visit the website: www.allindiaimscs.ac.in. All applicants are required to visit the website regularly share all outstanding correspondence / attendance / updates will be updated on the website only. Assistant Controller (Exams) CBC-17112/11/0043/2425

Bank of Baroda ZOSARB, Kolkata 21A, Sadananda Road, 2nd Floor, Kolkata - 700 026 Email: armcal@bankofbaroda.com Ph no - 033 24196434 E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES ; "APPENDIX- IV-A [See proviso to Rule 9(1)] 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 9(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s), Mortgagor's and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Bank of Baroda, Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" basis for recovery of below mentioned account(s). The details of Borrower(s) / Mortgagor / Guarantor(s) / Secured Asset(s) / Dues/ Reserve Price/E-Auction date & Time, EMD and Bid Increase Amount are mentioned below:-

| Sr/ Lot No. | Name & address of Borrower's/ Guarantor's/ Mortgagor (s) | Detailed description of the immovable / movable property with known encumbrances, if any | Total Dues | Date & Time of E-auction | Reserve Price, EMD amount, Bid Increase Amount. | Status of Possession (Symbolic/Physical) | Property Inspection date & Time |
|-------------|--|--|--|---|---|--|--------------------------------------|
| 1 | Saundarya Fashion Traders Pvt Ltd. Authorised Officer Mr. Pradosh Kumar Hota Mob: 8658406050 | All that piece and parcel of Commercial spaces on the 1st Floor of the multi storied building comprised of 02 unit, space being no A& B, admeasuring super built up area 2189 Sq. Ft and 1516 Sq Ft respectively, within the local limits of Chandan Nagar Municipal Corporation under Mouza-Chandannagar, sheet no 2, JL No 1 R S Khatian No 297, L R Khatian No 1924, under R S Dag No 529 corresponding LR Dag No 674 measuring an area of 11 Chittaks and 28 Sqft and under R S Dag no 530 corresponding to LR Dag No 673 measuring an area of 6 Cottahs, 12 Chittaks, 3 Sqft totalling an area of 07 cottahs 7 Chittaks and 31 Sqft under PS Chandannagar, in the name of M/s Saundarya Fashion Traders Private Ltd. Encumbrance: Not Known | Rs.8,82,67,121.00 with further interest and cost plus other expenses till date of payment. | 22.11.2024 from 1.00 p.m to 5.00 p.m (With unlimited extension of 10 minutes) | Rs.78,00,000/- Rs.7,80,000/- Rs.10,000/- | Physical | 13.11.2024 from 11.00 AM to 2.00 p.m |
| 2 | M/s Priyanka Wood Industries Pvt. Ltd. Authorised Officer Mr. Samir Prasad Mob: 9712954192 | EMTD of Godown Space on Ground Floor, of AG+III storied Bldg., Priya Apartment, Premises No 103, PC Road, PO Hind Motor, PS Uttarpara, Dist.-Hooghly-712233. Bounded by: East: 25 ft wide PC Road, West: Municipal passage, North: House of Guha, South: House of Niranjan Paul Encumbrance: Not Known | Rs.167.80 Lacs with further interest and cost plus other expenses till date of payment. | 22.11.2024 from 1.00 p.m to 5.00 p.m (With unlimited extension of 10 minutes) | Rs.30,41,000/- Rs.3,04,100/- Rs.10,000/- | Symbolic | 13.11.2024 from 11.00 AM to 2.00 p.m |

Property under Sr No 02 is in the symbolic possession and the same will be handed over to the H1 bidder symbolically. For detail terms and condition of sale of the properties under Symbolic possession and under physical possession and other detail terms and conditions of sale, please refer / visit to the website link https://www.bankofbaroda.in/ e-auction.htm and https://ebkray.in. Date: 02.11.2024 Place : Kolkata For detailed terms and conditions Authorised Officer Bank of Baroda

THUMBNAILS

India clocks robust growth in key mineral production in FY25 first half: The government on Friday said that the production of key minerals in the country has continued to witness strong growth during the first half of the current fiscal (FY25), with iron ore leading the pack. The FY25 growth follows record production levels in the last fiscal (FY24), according to the Ministry of Mines data. "Iron ore accounts for about 70 per cent of the total Mineral Conservation and Development Rules (MCDR) mineral production by value. Production of iron ore was 274 million metric tonnes (MMTs) in FY 2023-24," the data showed. As per provisional data, production of iron ore has increased from 128 MMT in FY 2023-24 (April-September period) to 135 MMT in FY 2024-25 (April-September), showing a healthy 5.5 per cent growth.

Shares brighten during special one-hour Muhurat trading

Sensex closed 0.4 per cent higher at 79,688 points, while Nifty closed 0.4 per cent to end at 24,300 points

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, 1 NOVEMBER

It's a bright start to the Hindu calendar year of Samvat 2081 for Indian stocks.

Sensex closed 0.4 per cent higher at 79,688 points, while Nifty closed 0.4 per cent to end at 24,300 points, rebounding from two days of losses. All sectoral indices opened in green and continued upward during the Muhurat Trading hour, with only Nifty IT closing marginally lower by 0.02 per cent.

Here are the Top 5 gainers and losers during the Muhurat hour:

The benchmark indices soared, marking a positive start for investors during the



one-hour Muhurat trading session on Diwali evening.

The exchange platforms -- Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) and National Stock

Exchange (NSE) -- were open for trading from 6.00 pm to 7.00 pm, marking the beginning of Samvat 2081. The pre-market session began at 5.45

pm.

The Muhurat trading session typically consists of all the market segments, including equity, commodity derivatives, currency derivatives, equity futures and options (F&O), and securities lending and borrowing (SLB), within this single, auspicious hour.

The tradition of Muhurat trading, however, goes back a long time with the belief that investments made during this auspicious time will usher in good returns.

Also, the purchase of precious metals such as gold and silver, real estate, electronic items, and automobiles, among others, is specially timed by many on this auspicious day.

Usually, trading volumes

at exchanges are high because lots of orders are placed all across. Last year, the benchmark stock indices soared substantially to brighten the investors' fortunes during the stipulated one-hour period.

Data showed the number of investors over the past years has also been rising during this one-hour special trade, and also in general.

"Our data analysis over the past 10 years shows that markets have closed in the red only 3 times during the Muhurat trading session. This indicates some likely festive cheer in coming trading sessions," Vikram Kasat, Head - Advisory, PL Capital - Prabhudas Lilladher, had said in the run-up to Diwali.

UPI registers 16.58 billion transactions worth ₹23.5 trillion in October



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 1 NOVEMBER

cent and 37 per cent year-on-year (Y-o-Y).

Immediate Payment Service (IMPS) transactions decreased by 5 per cent yoy in volume to 467 million in October, it displayed a significant month on month increase, up from 430 million in September 2024.

In terms of value, IMPS transactions witnessed a significant increase in October recording Rs 6.29 trillion worth transactions, compared to Rs 5.65 trillion in September.

The numbers recorded a yoy growth of 17 per cent in October, up from 11 per cent in September this year.

FASTag transactions increased by 8 per cent yoy, also recording a significant month on month increase to 345 Mn in volume from 318 million transactions in September.

In terms of value, FASTag transactions rose significantly to Rs 61.15 billion in October, compared to Rs 56.2 billion in September. Year-on-year, FASTag transactions saw a 8 per cent rise in volume and 10 per cent rise in value compared to October 2023.

Aadhaar Enabled Payment System (AePS) transactions witnessed a whopping 26 per cent yoy increase. The transactions volume increased to 126 Mn in October from 100 Mn in September.

In October, the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) registered 16.58 billion transactions worth Rs 23.5 trillion, data from the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) said on Friday.

The transactions in October were the highest numbers for the digital system since it became operational in April 2016.

UPI's previous peak was 15.04 billion in volume terms in September 2024 and Rs 20.64 trillion in value in July.

In terms of volume, October witnessed a 10 per cent spike and 14 per cent in value compared to September. There were 14.96 billion UPI transactions amounting to Rs 20.61 trillion in August.

Data from previous months shows that the growth in transactions is driven by person to merchant transactions (for buying goods or services), which got a festive season push in October. It was the first time that UPI crossed 16 billion in volume and Rs 23 trillion in value.

Daily UPI transactions in October crossed 535 million in volume and Rs 75,801 crore in value. That is compared to 501 million in volume and Rs 68,800 crore in September. In October, UPI volume and value grew 45 per

GST collections climb to six-month peak of ₹1.87 trillion in October

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 1 NOVEMBER

Goods and Services Tax (GST) collections climbed to a six-month peak of Rs 1.87 trillion in October. The collections remained above the Rs 1.7 trillion threshold for the eighth consecutive month.

The collections were up 8.1 per cent from the previous month and saw an 8.9 per cent increase year-on-year.

October 2024 recorded the second-best GST mop-up. The highest ever collection was in April 2024 at over Rs 2.10 lakh crore.

In October, GST from domestic transactions grew 10.6 per cent to Rs 1.42 lakh crore, while revenues from tax on imports rose about 4 per cent to Rs 45,096 crore.

According to government data, the CGST, SGST, IGST, and cess all increased year-on-year in October.

From April to October 2024, gross GST collections



on a year-to-date basis reached Rs 12.74 trillion, marking a 9.4 per cent increase compared to Rs 11.64 trillion during the same period last year.

Net GST revenue, after refunds, amounted to Rs 1.68 trillion for October 2024, reflecting a 7.9 per cent increase from Rs 1.55 trillion in October 2023.

So far in 2024, the total GST collection has been 9.4

per cent higher at Rs 12.74 lakh crore, as against Rs 11.64 lakh crore mopped up in the corresponding period of 2023.

During the financial year 2023-24, the total gross GST collection was recorded at Rs 20.18 lakh crore, with an 11.7 per cent increase compared to the previous fiscal year.

The average monthly collection for the fiscal year, that ended in March 2024 stood

at Rs 1.68 lakh crore, surpassing the previous year's average of Rs 1.5 lakh crore.

Ladakh posted the highest growth rate at 30 per cent, followed by Kerala at 20 per cent and Haryana at 15 per cent.

In contrast, Arunachal Pradesh and the 'Other Territory' category recorded declines of 33 per cent and 37 per cent, respectively.

DFS organises special cleanliness camp, frees up 11 lakh sq ft space

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 1 NOVEMBER

The Department of Financial Services (DFS), Ministry of Finance, and its affiliated organisations successfully completed the one-month-long Special Campaign 4.0 with special focus on minimising pendency, and institutionalising Swachhata from 2nd-31st October 2024.

DFS achieved 100% disposal of all identified Public Grievances, Public Appeals, PMO references and MP References.

As per the information shared by the Ministry of Finance, 11.79 lakh square feet of space has freed and revenue of Rs 4.50 crore has been earned through scrap disposal. The campaign was conducted in more than 38,500 sites across the country. Twelve Public Sector Banks and 43 Regional Rural Banks organised Pension Grievances Weeks.

In the camps, apart from the grievances registered &

redressed, pensioners were also educated regarding submission of online life certificate and door step banking facilities.

In over 52,208 branches across the country approx. 1.45 lakhs pensioners were contacted.

The minister said during the Campaign over 510 Financial Literacy Camps were organised across the country. Number of Dormant Accounts Activated were 79.97 lakh while the Number of Accounts in which Nomination Updated were 29.02 lakh.

Number of Locker Agreements Renewed were 1.10 lakh. LIC of India settled 12.77 lakh unclaimed policies and settled claims of more than 10,742 crore.

It is to be highlighted that the DFS launched the Special Campaign 4.0 with special impetus on better space management, customer centric initiatives, making the environment clean and green, record management and disposal of scrap.

Debasish Mishra takes charge as CGM of SBI



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 1 NOVEMBER

Mr. Debasish Mishra has assumed the charge of Chief General Manager of State Bank of India, New Delhi Circle wef 01.11.2024. He joined SBI as a probationary officer and has worked in Credit, Operations, Forex, IT, HR, MSME etc. He has vast experience in IT with more than 25 years' service in domestic and overseas operations in Maldives, Singapore and UK. Hailing from Odisha, Mr. Mishra has

worked in Madhya Pradesh, Telangana, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra States at various capacities.

He has successfully spearheaded several initiatives viz. 1st Start-Up space at IIT Hyderabad, Entrepreneurship program for Tribal youth officer under Stand-Up India and digital MSME lending models, opening of 2nd Start-Up branch of the country at IIT Madras Research Park in 2023. He was a Board member of Tamil Nadu Technology Mission (TNT). He had been a catalyst in roll out of 3245

business solutions at Bank level during FY 2023-24 when he was the GM of the Business Solutions Department in the immediate past.

Mr. Mishra is a Certified Financial Planner with Post Graduate Diploma in Financial Advising. He has also done a Diploma in Risk Management from International Risk Management Institute, London. He has been awarded the prestigious Chevening Gurukul Scholarship by the Govt. of UK for studying at London School of Economics on Globalisation and Leadership.

Mr. Mishra is an avid reader and writer. He is passionate about quizzing and travelling. His essays have been awarded the best in All India Essay competitions.

New Delhi Circle of SBI comprises 1700+ offices of SBI across New Delhi, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand. It has 9.37 per cent of SBI's overall Business. Shri Mishra's posting has come at a time when SBI is consolidating its market share and poised to match India's decade with SBI decade.

Coal production registers increase of 7.48 per cent in October

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 1 NOVEMBER

The Ministry of Coal has achieved a notable upswing in overall coal production during October 2024, reaching 84.45 million tonnes (MT). The production surpassed the 78.57 MT of the corresponding month last year, registering an increase of 7.48 per cent.

Coal production from captive and other entities also showed substantial growth, rising to 16.59 MT in October 2024 compared to 11.70 MT in the same period last year, reflecting a remarkable growth rate of 41.75 per cent, data released by the Ministry of Coal said.

The cumulative coal production for the fiscal year up to October 2024 reached 537.45 MT, an increase from 506.56 MT during the same period in FY 2023-24, representing growth of 6.10 per cent.

Additionally, coal dispatches witnessed a significant boost in October 2024, reaching an impressive 82.89 MT, showcasing a 4.60 per cent increase over the 79.25 MT recorded in October 2023.

Coal dispatch from captive and other entities also grew to 16.18 MT in October 2024, compared to 11.83 MT in October 2023, representing growth of 36.83 per cent.

Cumulative coal dispatch (up to October 2024) has risen to 571.39 MT in FY 2024-25 as compared to 541.51 MT during the corresponding period in FY 2023-24, reflecting growth of 5.52 per cent.

According to the latest data released by the Ministry of Commerce & Industry, the combined Index of Eight Core Industries (ICI) increased by 2 per cent in September 2024 as compared to the Index in September 2023.

Partha Pratim Sengupta appointed as MD & CEO of Bandhan Bank

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 1 NOVEMBER:

Partha Pratim Sengupta has been appointed as the Managing Director & CEO of Bandhan Bank, effective November 1, 2024.

Sengupta has successfully led large businesses with a proven expertise in various domains including business, credit, and technology.

Speaking on his new role, Partha Pratim Sengupta said, "I am honoured to join the Bandhan Bank family. My focus will be on advancing customer-centric solutions, strengthening the business, and fostering innovation to make financial services inclusive and sustainable." "The team at Bandhan Bank has done a stellar job over the years and I look forward to working with them to drive growth and deliver value for all stakeholders," he added.

Ratan Kumar Kesh, who was presiding as the interim MD & CEO of Bandhan Bank since July 10, 2024, will resume



his role as the Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer, with the joining of Sengupta, the bank said in a statement.

Chairman of Bandhan Bank, Anup Kumar Sinha, said, "We are delighted to welcome Mr. Partha Pratim Sengupta as the Managing Director & CEO of Bandhan Bank. His proven track record in the industry will be instrumental in steering Bandhan Bank into its next phase of growth—Bandhan 2.0. His expertise will guide the Bank in strengthening its market position across the country and truly be a Bank for all."

Partha Pratim Sengupta, a seasoned banking professional with nearly 40 years of experience, has led large-scale operations across diverse geographies.

From 2020 to 2022, he was the MD & CEO of Indian Overseas Bank, where he successfully transformed the business across various verticals. He has spent over three decades in key roles at the State Bank of India, including being the DMD & Chief Credit Officer.

He has also held Non-Executive Director roles with entities like YES Bank, ARCIL, Universal Somp, and Unity Small Finance Bank.

India Inc's key challenge: Strike a balance between revenue growth & profitability

RITWIK MUKHERJEE
KOLKATA, 1 NOVEMBER

The revenue growth of India Inc seems to have slowed down in the last quarter. India Inc is estimated to have clocked a slower revenue growth of 5-7 per cent on-year for the three months ended September, marking the slowest pace in the past 16 quarters. And that's not without reasons. The slowdown in revenue growth can be attributed to stagnant performance in the construction vertical, a decline in the industrial commodities vertical and subdued growth in investment-linked sectors. Mind you that construction vertical accounts for a fifth of India Inc's revenue. Interestingly, the same companies had posted a 8.3 per cent growth in April-June (that is previous) quarter. CRISIL Research recently conducted an analysis on 435 companies and the findings subscribed to the same view.

The good news, however, is that India Inc's profitability is estimated to have improved 70-90 basis points (bps) on-year during the quarter. The overall earnings before interest, tax, depreciation, and amortisation (Ebitda) for 435 companies grew nearly 10 per cent on-year.

Among the top 10 sectors, which account for nearly 75 per cent of revenue, eight saw EBITDA margin expansion, led by export-linked sectors such as IT services



and pharmaceuticals, investment-linked sectors such as

power, and consumer discretionary sectors such as

automotive and telecom services. The two sectors

that faced margin contraction were steel, due to higher iron ore prices, and cement, due to subdued pricing.

For IT companies, EBITDA margin expanded 110-130 bps due to higher employee utilisation and lower attrition rates. In pharma, topline growth and lower raw material costs led to margin expansion of 320-340 bps for formulation players. In the bulk drugs segment, recovery in exports and higher realisations led to 230-250 bps margin expansion. Among investment-linked sectors, a fall in coal e-auction premiums improved margin by 130-150 bps on-year for power generation companies. Among consumer discretionary sectors, telecom serv-

ices' margin expanded 120-140 bps due to lower licence fees, spectrum charges and network operating expenses, along with steady revenue growth. In the steel sector, while coking coal prices dipped on-year, iron ore prices rose on global cues, increased export demand and strong domestic demand, resulting in a margin contraction of 40-60 bps on-year. The cement industry's margin also contracted 110-130 bps due to subdued pricing and despite easing cost pressures.

Revenue of industrial commodities, investment and construction-linked sectors—collectively accounting for close to 38 per cent of CRISIL's sample set—grew

only 1 per cent, weighing down overall performance. The industrial commodities sector, such as coal, saw a 6-7 per cent revenue decline due to lower coal offtake, coal-based power generation and e-auction premiums. In the investment sector, the power segment (nearly 70 per cent revenue contribution), grew just 1 per cent as above-normal monsoon reduced power demand. Among construction-linked sectors, steel revenue fell 2-3 per cent, thanks to price drop led by cheap Chinese imports.

One of the key challenges ahead for India Inc is to strike a balance between revenue growth and profitability.

MVA's pre-poll plea to ECI: Shunt Maharashtra DGP for snooping

Shiv Sena-UBT MP Sanjay Raut has claimed that Shukla is 'still tapping the phones of Opposition politicians'

AGENCIES
MUMBAI, 1 NOVEMBER

The opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) in Maharashtra on Friday again demanded that the Election Commission of India (ECI) should transfer the state Director-General of Police (DGP) Rashmi Shukla to ensure 'free and fair polls' in state on November 20.

Shiv Sena-UBT MP Sanjay Raut has claimed that Shukla is "still tapping the phones of Opposition politicians", while state Congress President Nana F. Patole has shot off three letters to the election authorities -- on September 24, October 4 and yesterday (October) 31 -- and also met the ECI delegation to Mumbai last month with the demand to remove her.

missioners of Police and Superintendents of Police to file cases against the leaders and workers of the MVA opposition parties to harass them. Shukla's record has been controversial even before as she had ordered tapping phones of Opposition leaders," Patole said.

Raut said that "even now, the phones of Opposition leaders are under surveillance", and state or district leaders are being harassed by the police while local workers are being forced to cooperate with the police or being extorted, though neither the ECI nor the DGP reacted.

Under such circumstances, there are doubts if there can be free, impartial and transparent elections in Maharashtra, "and why should the laws be different for Maharashtra and Jharkhand", pointed out both Raut and Patole.



The Patole-Raut duo reiterated that despite her controversial track record, "it was with the blessings of MahaYuti ally Bharatiya Janata Party's Deputy CM Devendra

Fadnavis" that she was brought to the top post -- and later given an extension of tenure.

Responding to the allegations against the DGP, BJP

MLA Nitesh Rane took a jibe saying that "whenever Raut hears the name of Rashmi Shukla, he loses sleep", terming her as an independent and upright officer.

Responding to the allegations against the DGP, BJP MLA Nitesh Rane took a jibe saying that 'whenever Raut hears the name of Rashmi Shukla, he loses sleep', terming her as an independent and upright officer.

"If you are contesting the elections properly, working democratically without flouting rules, then why should you object to her appointment," wondered Rane.

Patole-Raut also recalled how Shukla was accused of tapping phones of the Opposition, an enquiry was held after which she had tendered an apology to the previous MVA regime headed by ex-CM Uddhav Thackeray.

UP bypolls: Azad Samaj Party rakes up Dalit rights



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW, 1 NOVEMBER

The Azad Samaj Party (Kanshi Ram) has intensified its efforts to mobilize the Dalit vote bank in Uttar Pradesh ahead of the 13 November bypolls.

Party president and Nagina MP Chandrashekhar Azad has written a letter to Chief Secretary Manoj Kumar Singh demanding an account of the deployment of Dalit officers on the posts ranging from Additional Chief Secretary to Police Station Officer.

Party sources here on Friday confirmed that Chandrashekhar Azad has also sent a letter to the Appointments Department, Home Department and DGP, asking them to provide information in this regard.

While mentioning the discrimination and injustice being done to the Dalits, he wrote that the officers currently holding these important posts are also being accused of adopting a lax attitude towards the injustice being done to the Dalits. Azad had recently met the family members of a Dalit youth after his death in police custody in Lucknow, whereas no senior BSP leader had gone to meet him.

Chandrashekhar noted that Dalits constitute about 22 percent of the population in the state, with whom caste-based oppression, exploitation and atrocities are taking place. They are chased away from the police station and police behave rudely. Their cases are not filed and when forced, the complaint is changed and weaker sections are imposed.

He also demanded the posting of Dalits on the posts of Chief Secretary, Additional Chief Secretary, Secretaries, Divisional Commissioners, DG, ADGs, JGs, DIGs, DMS, SSPs, SPs, ADMs and SHOs in the state.

BJP, Shiv Sena-UBT engage in war of words over MNS event

AGENCIES
MUMBAI, 1 NOVEMBER

The BJP and Shiv Sena-UBT on Friday engaged in a war of words on social media over the celebration of Deepotsav at the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Park by the Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS).

The trigger was SS-UBT's move to approach the state Chief Electoral Officer on Thursday citing the violation of the model code of conduct by MNS. The party has also demanded that the expenses for the celebration of Deepotsav be included in the poll expenditure incurred by the MNS nominee and the party chief Raj Thackeray's son Amit Thackeray from the Mahim constituency.

The Mumbai BJP headed by Ashish Shelar in its post on X targeted the SS-UBT saying, "Chhatrapati Shivaji Park, a historical place in



The Mumbai BJP headed by Ashish Shelar in its post on X targeted the SS-UBT saying, "Chhatrapati Shivaji Park, a historical place in Mumbai a testimony to the legacy of Swargiya Balasaheb Thackeray's historical speeches on Hindutva."

Thackeray-led Shiv Sena reminded the BJP, "Like you used Ram Mandir also for election. The temple was inaugurated before it was even completed and Lord Ramchandra was taken to the half-built structure. The result was the same, Shriram also showed you your place. Wherever Sri Ram lived, it became BJP-free! Now Maharashtra will be 'BJP free!'"

Mumbai a testimony to the legacy of Swargiya Balasaheb Thackeray's historical speeches on Hindutva. Such a downfall to the legacy being tainted by his own son @OfficeofUT as UBT has gone to Election Commission complaining over Diwali Celebrations at Shivaji Park. Are Hindu Festivals hurting Aurangzeb Fan Club?"

SS-UBT shot back at the BJP in its defence. "Using Hindutva for dirty politics is what you get. It is clear that the opposition is not to 'Diwali' but to its political use. But by continuously telling lies and spreading 'Fake Narrative', even now you have shown your 'Chunnavi Hindutva!'," remarked SS-UBT. Further, the Uddhav

between the BJP and MNS. BJP leader and Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and Mumbai unit chief Ashish Shelar have been arguing that the MahaYuti should support the MNS nominee Amit Thackeray from the Mahim constituency on the ground that the MNS chief Raj Thackeray had extended his support to MahaYuti in the state during the Lok Sabha elections. However, the Shiv Sena nominee Sada Sarvankar, who is a three-term legislator, is reluctant to withdraw his nomination saying that if he withdraws the voters will be transferred to the SS-UBT.

Sarvankar two days ago in his post on X urged Raj Thackeray not to do injustice to him but to support him in the Mahim constituency. Incidentally, Chief Minister and Shiv Sena chief leader Eknath Shinde has left the decision to the Shiv Sainiks from the Mahim constituency.

Congress and SP counter CM Yogi's 'Batoge to Katoge' remark

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW, 1 NOVEMBER

The controversy arising from Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's remark, 'Batoge to Katoge' (divided, will perish), refuses to die down. On Friday, Congress State President Ajay Rai responded to the statement by saying, 'Nobody is dividing the people except the BJP. The Opposition INDIA Alliance and Congress are doing their bit to unite the nation.'



On the other hand, Samaj Party leader and Nagina MP Chandrashekhar Azad said, "Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, who raised the slogan 'Batoge to Katoge'

during election rallies, is himself dividing society into 'Harijan' and 'Non-Harijan' on social, cultural and religious platforms." "Does the use of this word 'Harijan' not put their so-called Hindu status in jeopardy," he asked. Meanwhile, as a counter to the Yogi's slogan, the Samajwadi Party put up a new poster in Lucknow on Friday with the photo of Akhilesh Yadav alongside a text message reading: "If we join, we will win".

Shaina NC slams Sena MP over sexist remark, describes MVA as 'Maha Vinash Aghadi'

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, 1 NOVEMBER

Shiv Sena leader Shaina NC on Friday strongly responded to Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Arvind Sawant's sexist slur in the run-up to Maharashtra Assembly elections and also spotlighted the contrasting approach of Opposition-led INDIA block and Modi government, towards women.

A political furor broke out this morning, as Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Arvind Sawant in a deplorable reference to Shaina NC's foray into electoral arena said that 'foreign maal' was not welcome to the constituency.

Condemning Arvind Sawant's remark, Shaina NC stated, "I am a woman, not



'maal.' She accused the Mahavikas Aghadi Alliance (MVA) for looking down at women and coined a new term for it - 'Maha Vinash Aghadi.'

Further, speaking to IANS, she highlighted MVA and Arvind Sawant's double standards, saying, "In 2014 and 2019 election campaigns, we were 'ladki bahan' when they needed our support,

but now they use disrespectful language towards us." The controversy got ignited over SS (UBT) MP from Mumbai South Arvind Sawant's media interaction, where he was asked about the electoral prospects of the rival SS nominee, Shaina Nana Chudasama, a fashionista, contesting elections from Mumbai Assembly seat, vis-a-vis Congress three-term MLA Amin Patel.

Sawant, when asked about Shaina potentially contesting from the Mumbai constituency, remarked, "Yahan pe imported 'maal' (goods) nahin chahlega... Yahan pe original 'maal' chalta hai, aur wo hai hamare paas, pointing at a smiling Patel. Shaina also showered

praise on Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde for multiple initiatives towards women's empowerment including Ujjwala Yojna, Ladki Bahan Yojna and more.

"We have leaders who respect women. Our president, Droupadi Murmu, is a tribal woman, which is a matter of pride for the nation," she added.

She also questioned the silence of other senior MVA leaders. "When he made this statement, MP Ameen Patel was present and was laughing. Where are leaders like Sharad Pawar, Uddhav Thackeray, and Sanjay Raut? Why are they not condemning these comments?"

Centre designates Darranga as authorised Immigration Check Post

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, 1 NOVEMBER

In a significant development for cross-border travel, the Central government has designated the Darranga land check post in Assam's Tamulpur district as an official Immigration Check Post.

This designation allows for the entry into and exit from India for all classes of passengers with valid travel documents, following sub-rule (B) of rule 3 of the Passport (Entry into India) Rules, 1950. The decision is expected to facilitate smoother immigration processes in the region.

Manipur: More funds sanctioned for projects in hills than in valley, say officials

AGENCIES
IMPHAL, 1 NOVEMBER

Days after the Manipur Chief Minister N. Biren Singh announced that the state government undertook equal efforts for the development of both valley and hill areas, top government officials said on Friday that a higher amount of funds was sanctioned in the hilly areas than in the valley areas.

The Manipur government's response comes after some tribal organisations, tribal leaders and MLAs have been accusing the state government of imbalanced allocation of funding of the Central Road Infrastructure Fund (CRIF) under the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.

Ningombam Subhash, the Chief Engineer of Manipur's Public Works Department, said that between 2020-21 and 2024-25, Rs 2,395.51 crore were sanctioned for different road

and bridge projects in the hill areas of the state while Rs 1,300.21 crore were sanctioned for the valley areas.

He added that Rs 1,374.81 crore and Rs 1,125.97 crore were sanctioned during the 2024-25 fiscal for the hilly and valley areas respectively, for various projects under the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways and North Eastern Council.

According to the Chief Engineer, Rs 8,541.97 crore and Rs 351.8 crore were sanctioned for the hilly and valley areas respectively, for various projects under National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd. between the 2020-21 and 2023-2024 financial years.

Senior tribal leader and BJP MLA Paoliennial Haokip last week claimed that 57 road projects worth around Rs 399.36 crore were recently sanctioned for the valley areas by the Ministry of Road Transport and High-



ways. Terming the allocation of funds as "neglect of hill areas of the state," he said on X: "All 57 road building projects only for valley Manipur districts. This is why Union Territory with a Legislature for the hills is a necessity."

tribes and one seat reserved for the Scheduled Caste community. Jiribam district, a largely plain area adjoining southern Assam beyond the hills, is inhabited by both tribals and non-tribals.

The Manipur Chief Minister last week while addressing an official function said that the state government never worked against any indigenous community in the state.

"We are committed to protecting the current as well as future generations from illegal immigration (from Myanmar) and drug menaces," CM Biren Singh said, adding that none of the 34 communities, that exist in Manipur, are enemies against each other.

Emphasising unity among various communities, the Chief Minister said that no one wants conflicts in Manipur while both hills and valleys are one and part of the state.

in the valley regions comprising six or seven districts while the tribal Nagas and Kukis constitute another 40 per cent of the population and reside in the hill districts, which cover around 90 per cent of the geographical areas of Manipur.

The Valley region has a total of 40 non-tribal Meitei MLAs, while the hills have 19 MLAs divided between the Naga and the Kuki-Zo

TENDER

EASTERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice No. F/MFG/Six Sigma Green Belt RT, Dt. 29.10.2024. Dy. Chief Mechanical Engineer (Mfg.), Eastern Railway, Jamalpur, District- Munger, Bihar-811214 invites E-Tenders against Tender No. F/MFG/Six Sigma Green Belt RT. Bidder will be able to submit their bids upon closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards Earnest Money only through payment modes available on IREPS portal like Net Banking, Debit Card, Credit Card etc. Manual payments through Demand Draft, Banker cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc are not allowed. Name of Work: Lean Six Sigma Green Belt Training Project handling and certification at Jamalpur Workshop. Location of work: Eastern Railway Workshop, Jamalpur, Munger (Bihar), Pin-811214. Advertised Value: ₹ 247,800. Cost of Tender Document: ₹ 00.00. Bid Security: ₹ 5,000. Period of Completion: 03 months. Tender Closing Date & Time: 26.11.2024 at 12.00 hrs. Date & Time for uploading Tender: 30.10.2024 at 15.00 hrs. Validity of Offer: 60 days. Website particulars and notice board location where complete details of tender can be seen: (www.ireps.gov.in) hyperlinked with www.er.indianrailways.gov.in and Dy. CME (Mfg) Office, Eastern Railway, Locomotive Workshop, Jamalpur on any working day. MISC-219/2024-25. SDAH-215/2024-25. Tender Notice is also available at websites: www.er.indianrailways.gov.in and www.ireps.gov.in. Follow us at: @EasternRailway @easternrailwayheadquarter

EASTERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice No.: 222-S/1/W-4I. Date: 28.10.2024. Following e-Tenders are invited online by Divisional Railway Manager, Eastern Railway, Sealdah, 2nd floor, DPM Building, Kaizer Street, Sealdah, Kolkata-700014 for the following work: SI No. 1. Tender No.: TN-167-24-25. Name of the work: Strengthening of bridges including provision for side pathway and other ancillary of Br. No. 2-A, 17-A, 41, 46, 57, 86, S47, C19 etc. in Sealdah Division and fixing of stainless steel chequered plate in Br. No. 17A, 2A, 86, B/7 etc. in Sealdah Division. Tender Value: Rs. 3,16,67,264/- EMD : Rs. 3,08,300/-, SI No. 2, Tender No.: TN-168-24-25. Name of the work : Provision for sand blasting and metalizing of Br. No. 13CCR for span no. 1, 2, 3 and 4. Tender Value: Rs. 5,31,80,165/- EMD : Rs. 4,15,900/-, SI No. 3, Tender No.: TN-169-24-25. Name of the work : Provision for Re-girdering of Bridge No. 80T in Bangaon-Petrapole section of Sealdah Division. Tender Value: Rs. 3,06,07,599/- EMD : Rs. 3,03,000/-, Date and time of closing of tender : 22.11.2024 at 15.00 hrs. for each. Completion period for the work : 12 (Twelve) months for SI. No. 1 & 3 each and 24 (Twenty Four) months for SI. No. 2. Date and time of opening of tender: 22.11.2024 at 15.30 hrs. The Tender documents and other details are at: www.ireps.gov.in. The bidding for the tender is to be submitted through the e-tendering on above website. Manual offers will be summarily rejected. SDAH-215/2024-25. Tender Notices are also available at Website: www.er.indianrailways.gov.in and www.ireps.gov.in. Follow us at: @EasternRailway @easternrailwayheadquarter

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE
OPEN TENDER, Batch No. 42/2024 Dt. 29.10.2024
E-Tender Notice for supply of materials "Participation in through" Web Portal of IREPS- www.ireps.gov.in. Offers are invited for supply of the following material. The closing time for the tender is at 14.00 Hrs. Tender No.: 39235561A, Short Description of item : Supply, Installation, Transportation and commissioning of Block paving by Axle Counter(BPAC) using Block panel and UFSBI for Single line operation as Per RDSO spec. IRSS-105/2012 (Ver.0) with latest ver. and amt. Quantity : 06 Set. Publishing Date & Time : 28 Oct. 2024, 17:13 Hrs. Tender Closing Date & Time : 21 Nov. 2024, 14:00 Hrs. Participants are required to submit their offer only on-line through the web Portal of IREPS- www.ireps.gov.in before the closing date and time. Other details regarding Consignee and detailed description of stores are available in tender document in tender notice on the above portal. SR. DMM/ECR/Dhanbad PR/01428/DHN/Store/T/24-25/36

MORE TENDER ADS ON PAGE 6

www.ireps.gov.in

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, SUNABEDA

No. _____ Date: _____

O-510 e-Procurement Notice for Building works

1. Name of the work : 1) Construction of Building Works - 05 Nos. 2) Construction of compound wall around the Land Allotted for Construction of Court Building at Khandak in the District of Malangal - 01 No.

2. Class of contractor : 'B' Class & 'A' Class of (Odisha PWD) or relevant class of other licensing authority.

3. Estimated Cost : Various from Rs.102.87 Lakhs to Rs.117.53 Lakhs (Approximately).

4. Details projects as per Annexure attached.

| Procurement Officer | Bid Identification No. | Availability of Tender for bidding | | Last Date & Time of online tender clarification | Date & Time of opening of tender | |
|---|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------|---|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| | | From | To | | Technical Bid | Financial Bid |
| Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Sunabeda | CCRCWCSO - Odisha - 130204-05 | 05.11.2024 at 11.00 A.M. | 20.11.2024 at 5.00 P.M. | 18.11.2024 at 1.00 P.M. | 21.11.2024 at 11.00 A.M. | To be intimated separately. |

5. The details of works can be seen from the web site <https://www.tendersodisha.gov.in>

6. Any Congregants/Attendees will be displayed in the above e-tender web site. Sd/ Additional Chief Engineer Rural Works Circle, Sunabeda

OIPR-25182/11/0017/2425

WESTERN RAILWAY
Material Management Department
VARIOUS MATERIALS SUPPLY
E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE No. S/62/2024 Date 29.10.2024

| S.N. | Short Description of Item | Quantity | T.O.D. |
|------|--|----------|-----------|
| 711 | Supply and installation of Waterless Urinals | 80 Nos | 25-Nov-24 |
| 712 | Gold Plated Silver Medal | 2887 Nos | 26-Nov-24 |
| 713 | 4" Air Flow Indicator for 3 phase Locomotive | 194 Nos | 26-Nov-24 |
| 714 | SMPS Based IPS System | 4 Nos | 28-Nov-24 |
| 715 | Set of labyrinth and bearing | 176 Set | 02-Dec-24 |

MISC-221/2024-25
Regarding detailed notice EMD, Purchase restrictions and detailed tender conditions, please visit website www.ireps.gov.in and www.indianrailways.gov.in
Like us on: Facebook.com/WesternRly | Follow us on: X.com/WesternRly

Backbreaking beauty: The Substance rips into Hollywood's youth obsession

ANWESHA SANTRA

Glamour, youthful allure and sculpted bodies—that's the trifecta that keeps the cash registers ringing in the entertainment industry. And to cling to them, people will do just about anything—even if it means unleashing a 'new and improved' version of themselves that literally tears its way out through their own spine.

Welcome to the twisted world of Coralie Fargeat's latest body-horror flick, *The Substance*, a chilling take on Hollywood's obsession with eternal youth. This sharp and gory meditation on the curse of ageing in Tinseltown didn't just shock audiences—it snagged the Best Screenplay Award at the 77th Cannes Film Festival, proving that even nightmares can have a cinematic

silver lining.

In *The Substance*, Demi Moore delivers her most daring, no-holds-barred performance as Elisabeth Sparkle, a movie star turned TV fitness guru who knows the entertainment industry will forgive anything—except ageing. At her 50th birthday lunch with her boss, Harvey (Dennis Quaid), Elisabeth gets more than just awkward small talk. While Harvey demolishes a plate of shrimp with horrifying crunches and slurps (sound cranked to nightmare levels), he casually fires her. With irrelevance looming large, Elisabeth becomes the perfect candidate for 'The Substance'—an underground drug that promises a brand-new, wrinkle-free version of yourself, literally 'birthed' from your genetic material in the most grotesque way possible.

Enter Sue (Margaret Qualley),

Elisabeth's flawless, fresh-off-the-production-line clone, ready to slide into her old fitness show—and metallic leotard—with disturbing ease.

But there's a catch: the original and the replica must swap places every seven days to maintain a delicate symbiosis, with daily stabilisations to keep things in check. What follows is a darkly comedic, body-horror twist on the classic Faustian bargain—bordering on Dorian Gray-ish, with a heavy dose of existential awkwardness.

Every frame of *The Substance* could hang in a gallery—it's art with a sinister edge. Every cut, every sound, is meticulously crafted to make your skin crawl. Ordinary noises blast through like reverse ASMR, while the camera refuses to sit still, favouring swoops, low angles and invasive close-ups over anything

remotely restful. The cinematography is equally striking, with solid backgrounds and stark black-and-white tiles framing the bodies like visual puzzles. Demi Moore and Margaret Qualley, playing two sides of a self split by the titular drug, dive headfirst into raw, unsexual nudity and physically demanding performances, proving they're both firing on all cylinders—emotionally and artistically.

Let's be clear—if you're looking for realism, *The Substance* isn't your film. Coralie Fargeat breezes past existential puzzles like whether Elisabeth and Sue share a unified consciousness. After all, who needs metaphysical answers when you have a flashcard manual that vaguely warns, "Remember you are one"? Easier said than done.

Unsurprisingly, the two versions of Elisabeth soon find themselves

Beauty is a pain Literally

With ageing the ultimate nemesis and beauty a fleeting illusion, The Substance serves up a darkly comedic feast of body horror that makes viewers ponder the price of perfection.

locked in a vicious tug-of-war over their dwindling shared resources. It's the kind of fight with no winners—just two perfect bodies clawing toward inevitable ruin. But isn't that the tragic irony for every woman under the public's unforgiving gaze? The fiercest battle she'll ever face isn't with rivals or critics—it's with the younger, fresher version of herself.

And spoiler: that's one war no amount of Botox, fitness plans, or miracle serums can help you win.

Meiyazhagan on Netflix underlines male bonding without usual melodrama

Gautaman Bhaskaran

Once Alfred Hitchcock, the master of the macabre, famously said that a movie should be only as long as one can hold one's bladder. True enough, his works kept to this length or just about, and they said everything that needed to be in those minutes. But Indian writers and directors have often stepped beyond this point, stretching their films beyond this mark. C Prem Kumar, who gave us that captivating 96 with Vijay Sethupathi and Trisha, has now dropped his latest, a pre-Diwali release, *Meiyazhagan*, now on Netflix.

While his 2018 96 was about unrequited love in the typically Romeo and Juliet fashion (I have been wondering why the director has not planned a sequel to that), his latest movie is about male bonding with Arvind Swamy (who shot to fame with Roja) and Karthi. Swamy's Arulmozhi returns to Thanjavur after 22 years to attend his cousin Bhuvaneshwari's (Swathi) wedding. For him, it was a trip filled with nostalgia. The city holds bittersweet memories of his first love that ended with his family having to leave the city to relocate to Chennai. But the story is not about this couple, but the friendship that springs between Arulmozhi and Karthi's Meiyazhagan. Despite feeling irritated with Meiyazhagan's intrusive quality, the two men settle down to a fine bonding, which reminded me of Ang

Lee's 2005 *Brokeback Mountain* with Heath Ledger and Jake Gyllenhaal. Although there is no homosexual relationship between Meiyazhagan and Arulmozhi (like in *Brokeback Mountain*), the bond is strong here as well.

Prem Kumar keeps his film away from the usual melodramatic mishmash, and the narrative is sweetly poignant. But where he errs is the length. The movie need not have been 178 minutes long for a story that could have been narrated in just about 100 minutes and with far greater impact.

However, what keeps the movie moving is the humour hyphenated with sorrow of lost love and the angst that comes with displacement. And the cinematography is great, capturing the comforts of a small town where the Big Temple forms the centre of just about everything. Indeed, once temples provided the ideal place for lovers to meet and families to get together. They also served as a hotbed of gossip.

Finally, if one were to ask me which of the two I liked better—96 or *Meiyazhagan*—I would readily root for the first. There was something undeniably sweet and strong about it. Vijay Sethupathi's brilliant piece of performance and Trisha's ability to sink into the character enriched the work.

I really hope we will get to see what happens to them after they part at the airport. A sequel to 96 may be a great idea.

The writer is a senior movie critic

Problematising fidelity, desire and marriage: 25 Years of Stanley Kubrick's Eyes Wide Shut

PRADIPTA MUKHERJEE

Identified initially as an erotic thriller, Stanley Kubrick's *Eyes Wide Shut* (1999), foregrounds marriage and infidelity as central motifs to explore the fragile nature of trust, desire and psychological barriers within relationships. Gradually the film garnered enough critical acclaim to emerge as something much more profound than a simple erotic, psychosexual thriller. The film follows Dr Bill Harford (Tom Cruise) and his wife, Alice (Nicole Kidman), as they grapple with feelings of jealousy, temptation and the unmet expectations that sometimes accompany long-term commitment.

The concept of infidelity—both real and imagined—plays a pivotal role in their marriage. When Alice confesses to having had fantasies about a naval officer, Bill is forced to confront his own assumptions about fidelity and the stability of their relationship. Alice's confession stirs intense feelings of insecurity and jealousy within Bill, strongly challenging his perception of their marriage as an unshakable foundation. It is this confession on the part of Alice, more than any actual betrayal, that drives Bill to explore the boundaries of his own desires, sending him on a surreal journey that tests the strength of Bill's commitment to Alice. It sets him on a journey of transgression, both real and imagined.

Kubrick treats infidelity in the film as something more complex than a mere physical act. Instead, he shows how even the thought of betrayal can be destabilising and corrosive. Bill's encounters with various women during his Ulysses-like nocturnal odyssey reflect his conflicted emotions. However, the fact that Bill contemplates it so deeply, reveals the impact that a partner's (here his wife Alice's) fantasies—or the sheer acknowledgement that desire may exist outside the marriage—poses a challenge or rather a threat to the perceived sanctity of a marital relationship.

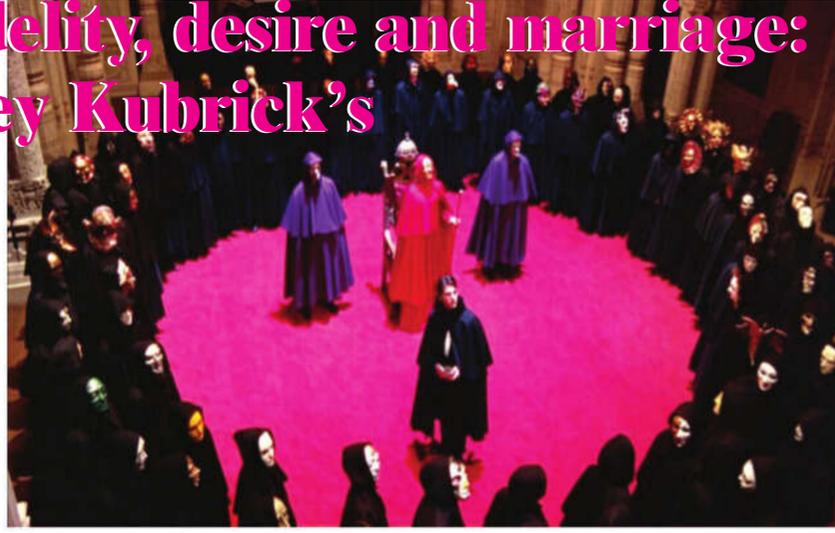
Kubrick also examines the constructed roles and expectations

within marriage, especially around the ideas of loyalty, control and possession. Towards the beginning, Bill seems to view his marriage as secure and straightforward, while Alice's fantasy shatters this notion, exposing an underlying need for honesty and an acknowledgement of personal desires. Interestingly enough, it is Alice's confession that begins the self-exploratory journey for Bill. The film's ending hints that, while their marriage has been profoundly shaken, it is not necessarily broken; instead, they reach a fragile but honest understanding of the complexities of desire and the importance of trust, and forgiveness as they continue to accept issues of marital infidelity.

The film blurs the line between fantasy and reality, transgression real and imagined, emphasising that even the mere thought of infidelity or sexual experimentation can have a profound impact on the human psyche. Alice's fantasies are never acted upon, yet they are powerful enough to destabilise Bill's perception of their marriage. They are powerful enough to destabilise the deeper recesses of the human mind. In response, Bill becomes almost obsessed with exploring his own subconscious desires, as if to validate or equalise the imbalance he feels.

Bill's journey through the nighttime streets of New York and, eventually, to the surreal orgy scene represents a dangerous, life-threatening descent into his own subconscious. He encounters a strange and enigmatic orgy in a mysterious password-protected mansion. Masks in the orgy scene symbolise the facades people wear to conceal their true selves, a theme that extends to marriage and personal identity. The encounters he has, accompanied by haunting music—tempting but ultimately unfulfilled—mirror his inner struggle between the thrill of the unknown and his sense of moral duty. The orgy scene is a world of sexual freedom and anonymity that is opposed to the expectations of monogamous marriage.

The allure of forbidden romance



in *Eyes Wide Shut* is depicted as both enticing and dangerous; it exposes Bill to aspects of himself he never fully acknowledged and his adventures force him to grapple with his own vulnerabilities, desires and sexual jealousies. In the orgy, sexual desire is presented as something primal and unrestrained, existing outside societal norms. The masked participants of high society engage in bizarre rituals that strip away individuality and personal connection, suggesting that in this hidden world, sexual desire is untamed and devoid of the emotional bonds typically associated with intimacy. This setting becomes both alluring and frightening. In a different style altogether, like Kubrick's *A Clockwork Orange*, *Eyes Wide Shut* reveals how the allure of the forbidden can draw individuals into dangerous territories where desire is unfettered and devoid of moral constraints.

Kubrick uses lighting, set design, costume, décor and music to heighten the sensual and mysterious atmosphere. The mise-en-scene creates an immersive, dream-like state that reflects the characters' internal conflicts, suggesting that desire and fantasy often lie beneath the surface, ever-present and influential, even if unexpressed. In the end, *Eyes Wide Shut* suggests that desire, while natural and often unavoidable, is complex and fraught with both pleasure and peril. It raises questions about the nature of commitment and the boundaries between fantasy and fidelity, urging the audience to consider what lies beneath the

desires that go unspoken in our own lives.

Music in Kubrick's style is never just a background; it drives the narrative and mood, with pieces like Ligeti's *Musica Ricercata II* underscoring the repetitive, obsessive quality of Bill's thoughts, and Pook's choral score heightening the mysterious allure of the orgy sequence. This atmospheric layering of music and sound design creates a haunting, immersive experience that conveys the themes of repression, temptation, and fear in a way that dialogue alone cannot.

Kubrick's style in *Eyes Wide Shut* combines technical mastery with psychological nuance, creating a film that feels as haunting as it is enigmatic. His meticulous approach to pacing, composition, music, and symbolism weaves a surreal, immersive experience that invites viewers to confront the dark, unspoken aspects of human nature. This stylistic cohesion is what gives *Eyes Wide Shut* its distinctive tone, making it both a compelling exploration of desire and fidelity and a powerful visual and emotional experience.

Kubrick's framing is carefully controlled, and nearly every shot is composed with a symmetrical, almost clinical precision. He uses a wide-angle lens for many interior shots, capturing the environments around the characters in an all-encompassing way as if exposing every hidden corner of their lives. This detached, controlled framing also serves to highlight Bill's isolation, portraying him as insignificant and

vulnerable against the vastness of his surroundings, whether he is in his apartment, on New York's streets, or inside the mansion at the orgy. Kubrick's geometric compositions lend an eerie beauty to the scenes, as if the spaces themselves hold secrets waiting to be uncovered.

Kubrick's exploration of desire—its repression, allure, and moral implications—reveals the tensions between societal expectations and personal impulses. Through the lens of Bill and Alice's marriage, the film critiques the limitations imposed by conventional norms and highlights how unacknowledged desires can disrupt even the most seemingly secure relationships. Ultimately, Kubrick invites viewers to confront the darker aspects of human desire, illustrating that the pursuit of intimacy is fraught with challenges, contradictions, and complexities that lie beneath the surface of everyday life.

Eyes Wide Shut paints marriage not as a perfect union but as a delicate balance between intimacy and individuality, with infidelity and fantasy acting as forces that either destabilise or deepen a relationship. After 25 years, as we revisit the legendary filmmaker's last masterpiece, we see how his nuanced exploration of marital infidelity suggests that maintaining a marriage requires confronting the hidden aspects of oneself and one's partner, embracing both the beauty and the difficulty that come with commitment.

The writer is a film critic, and associate professor, department of English, Vidyasagar College for Women, Kolkata



A mother-child Halloween gala event

Celebrations become worthwhile when moments and memories are shared with friends and family. Embracing this sentiment, Five and Dime hosted an exciting 'Mother-Child Halloween' gala event on 26 October, transforming the evening into a fun-filled wonderland.

Families gathered to celebrate their excitement, with delicious food, games, and themed activities adding to the festive atmosphere. The occasion was greeted by the special guest, principal Jessica Gomes, along with entrepreneur Sonika Dey and DJ Akash, therefore making it a memorable night for all.

Children and their mothers arrived in creative costumes, ready to take part in the contest for the best outfit. The evening was filled with joy and laughter as families enjoyed a range of games and activities. The tasty Halloween-themed treats satisfied everyone's cravings, while the games kept everyone entertained throughout the night.

Apeksha Lahiri, the owner of The Yellow Turtle and Five and Dime, shared her vision behind the event and her desire to create a special experience for families: "We wanted to create a space where families could come together and enjoy the magic of Halloween in a fun and safe environment. It's always wonderful to see the smiles and excitement on the faces of both children and their parents."

SNS

Premier League: Liverpool take on Brighton with eye on top spot

Former English champions aim to dislodge defending champions Manchester City from top spot

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 1 NOVEMBER

Liverpool FC will aim to grab the top spot in the Premier League points table when they take on Brighton and Hove Albion FC in front of their home crowd at the Merseyside on Saturday.

The Reds are currently placed second with 22 points, just one behind league leaders Manchester City.

Liverpool's last contest against Brighton - a League Cup 4th round tie at the American Express Stadium in Brighton - saw the former English champions scrape through with a narrow, hard-fought 2-3 away win. However, Saturday's contest is expected to see both teams field changed line-ups and the fight is expected to be even more fierce.

Brighton are facing problems due to injuries with Adam Webster, Matthew O'Riley, Solomon March and former Liverpool star James Milner ruled out of Saturday's game while the availability of Yankuba Minteh, Lewis Dunk, Joao Pedro and Jack Hinshelwood is still uncertain and subject to late fitness tests.

Brighton had a disappointing 2-2 draw at home



in their last Premier League game against struggling Wolverhampton Wanderers. That result followed a 0-1 away win against Newcastle United and a stunning 3-2 home win against Tottenham Hotspur. The Seagulls are currently soaring on the

league table with a well-earned sixth place, having earned 16 points from nine matches.

For Liverpool, Harvey Elliott remains sidelined as he continues his rehabilitation from a fractured foot, while Federico Chiesa is also out

for an undetermined period. Alisson Becker, who sustained a hamstring injury against Crystal Palace, is also expected to be out until early December even as Diogo Jota is sidelined until after the next international break.

Ahead of the 2-2 draw at Arsenal in their last Premier League game, Liverpool had a successful Champions League outing in Germany where they overcame a strong RB Leipzig.

That had followed an impressive 2-1 victory at home against formidable Chelsea in the Premier League. However, Liverpool will have to be far more focused in their defensive third than against Arsenal last week if they need to come away with a victory against tricky Brighton.

Liverpool manager Arne Slot was asked about the fitness of Alisson Becker, Federico Chiesa and Diogo Jota during his pre-match press conference ahead of Saturday's Premier League meeting with Brighton and Hove Albion.

"I think I said it already a few times that it is always difficult to tell you exactly when they are ready because especially the last phase of the recovery can always be a few days extra or less. The fact is that they are not there before the international break and let's see if they can join us after. Chiesa is not back before the international break, but there is only a week to go. We are hoping he can do things again during the inter-

national break and that he can join us afterwards," said Slot.

Liverpool participated in a hard-fought 2-2 draw against Arsenal last week, which saw them drop to second in the points table, behind Manchester City.

The team then won their Carabao Cup game 3-2 against Brighton, the team they face in the League on Saturday.

When asked if playing the same team twice in a matter of days was strange, the Dutch head coach said, "In the older Champions League or Europa League world, if it went to (knockouts) you faced a team after a week again. So, in football we are used to playing the same team after a few days. So, it's not weird, especially because both teams didn't start with the team they will start with on Saturday."

"I think for both managers it's a positive thing because you know even more about the opponent. Although, players make the game and it is, of course, a difference if a different player plays. The playing style might be the same but the quality of the players make nine out of 10 times the difference. That changes the game on Saturday compared to the one on Wednesday," he added.

Ruben Amorim appointed Man U manager till June 2027



AGENCIES
MANCHESTER, 1 NOVEMBER

Manchester United have announced the appointment of highly sought after manager, Ruben Amorim as the club's new head coach on a two and a half year contract which has tied him at Old Trafford till June 2027.

"Manchester United is delighted to announce the appointment of Ruben Amorim as Head Coach of the men's first team, subject to work visa requirements.

"He will join until June 2027 with a club option of an additional year, once he has fulfilled his obligations to his current club. He will join Manchester United on Monday 11 November," read the statement by Manchester United.

Ruben will be replacing the current interim manager Van Nistelrooy, who was appointed after the sacking of Erik Ten Hag, after the November international break on 11 November. "Ruben is one of the most exciting and highly rated young coaches in European football. Highly decorated as both a player and coach, his titles include winning the Primeira Liga twice in Portugal with Sporting CP; the first of which was the club's first title in 19 years. Ruud van Nistelrooy will continue to take charge of the team until Ruben joins," the statement added.

Manchester United have reportedly spent up to 11 million euros for buying out the remainder of Amorim's contract with the Portuguese club, Sporting CP.

Paris Masters: Zverev, Tsitsipas, Dimitrov among stars in action as power-packed quarterfinals line-up emerges

AGENCIES
PARIS, 1 NOVEMBER

The quarterfinal matches for the ongoing Paris Masters tournament are set, with Alexander Zverev, Stefanos Tsitsipas, last year's runners-up Grigor Dimitrov and Alex de Minaur among the players in action.

In the first quarterfinals, Zverev will take on Tsitsipas. Zverev clinched his QF spot following a win over local favourite Arthur Fils in the round of 16 by 6-4, 3-6, 6-3. The world number three's challenge, Tsitsipas, the 10th seed, defeated Francisco Cerundolo by 6-7(1), 6-4, 6-2 to reach the final eight.

The second QF will be between Holger Rune and Minaur. Rune triumphed over Arthur Cazaux of France by 3-6, 6-3, 6-4 in the round of 16 while the Australia Minaur secured a win over Britain's Jack Draper by 5-7, 6-2, 6-3. The third quarterfinal will witness Australia's Jordan Thompson lock horns with France's Ugo Humbert. Thompson made it to the QFs by beating France's Adrian Mannarino by 7-5, 7-6 (7-5). On the other hand, Humbert delivered a shocking result against Spanish sensation Carlos Alcaraz, beating him by 6-1, 3-6, 7-5.

The final quarterfinal will witness last year's runners-



up Dimitrov against Karen Khachanov. While Dimitrov defeated Arthur Rinderknech of France by 6-2, 4-6, 7-6 (7-5). On the other hand, Khachanov defeated Australia's Alexei Popyrin by 7-6 (7-5), 6-4 in two sets.

The tournament is the final men's ATP Masters 1000

and the last chance for players to secure some valuable points to rise up in ATP Live to Turin rankings. From the ATP Finals point of view, this tournament is really important. Three of eight direct qualification spots are still open and the tournament

will start on November 10 in Turin, Italy.

On Thursday, Ugo Humbert staged a stunning third-round upset of Carlos Alcaraz. The home favourite prevailed 6-1, 3-6, 7-5 in a richly entertaining encounter to book a quarterfinal spot at his home ATP Masters 1000.

ITTF unveil 16 teams for Mixed Team World Cup

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, 1 NOVEMBER

With one month to go for Mixed Team World Cup 2024, the International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) unveiled the 16 qualified teams that will battle for the Guoliang-Sorling Trophy from December 1-8 in Chengdu, China.

The elite lineup features Australia, Canada, China, Chinese Taipei, Egypt, France, Germany, India, Japan, South Korea, Poland, Romania, Singapore, Sweden, the United States, and Hong Kong, representing five continents.

Defending champions China will face stern competition on home soil as they aim to retain their crown from the inaugural 2023 edition. The tournament also features an innovative three-stage format, which will see a total of 52 matches across all stages (24 in Stage 1, 24 in Stage 2, and 4 in Stage 3). In Stage 1, the 16 teams will be divided into four groups of four, where the highest-ranked teams are placed in different groups (1st in Group 1, 2nd in Group 2, 3rd in Group 3, and 4th in Group 4), with the remaining teams drawn two at a time in seeding order.

Bengaluru Bulls geared up for 'toughest' Pro Kabaddi season



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD, 1 NOVEMBER

The Bengaluru Bulls, led by Pardeep Narwal and coached by the experienced Randhir Singh Sehrawat, secured their first win in a close contest against Dabang Delhi KC in their fifth match of Pro Kabaddi League (PKL) Season 11.

Recently, the Bengaluru Bulls staged a memorable comeback, defeating Dabang Delhi KC in grand style at the GMCB Indoor Stadium in Gachibowli, Hyderabad. The Bulls clinched a thrilling victory with a score of 34-33.

"The win against Dabang Delhi KC has lifted the team's morale, bringing a new energy as we played cohesively. As a coach, I want to see my team perform like this every day, and Pardeep has been outstanding as captain," said Randhir Singh Sehrawat in a PKL press release.

"At first, our defence wasn't clicking, but after a few successful tackles, the team's morale improved significantly. My advice to the team is always to fight hard, give their all in the game, and push right till the end," he added.

Reflecting on the win,

skipper Pardeep Narwal commented, "Since we hadn't won, the team was feeling low, but this victory has lifted spirits in the camp."

Ahead of their upcoming match against the Telugu Titans on Saturday, the coach remarked, "All the teams in PKL Season 11 are balanced and strong. This season promises to be one of the toughest yet, with no team dominating in a winning streak."

"Our preparations for the next game are underway, and I'm confident the Bengaluru Bulls will play well and give it their all," he concluded.

FC Goa aim to end home drought against unbeaten Bengaluru FC

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
FATORDA, 1 NOVEMBER

Bengaluru FC and FC Goa, two teams who have shared an animating rivalry over the years, are all set to rekindle the duel as they face each other at the Fatorda Stadium in what is expected to be an exciting Indian Super League (ISL) clash on Saturday.

Both teams have been ISL champions in the past, with Bengaluru FC winning the title in 2018-19 and the Gaurs clinching the League Shield the following season. They are on a mission to reclaim that glory in the current campaign, and whilst their forms have been at the opposite ends of the spectrum thus far, the incredible quality of players in their ranks assures spectators of an engaging encounter with a significant lot to play for. Playing in their backyard is usually supposed to produce positive results for teams, but such hasn't been the case for FC Goa in recent times. They



have now gone four games without a victory at home, their longest such streak in the ISL, and the quicker they snap this - the better it will be to fuel their efforts of getting their fans to rally behind them this season. One factor that can help the Gaurs turn around their form is head coach Manolo Marquez's commendable record against Bengaluru FC. The coach's teams have not lost

a game against the Blues in his eight face-offs against them. Bengaluru FC are one of the two teams along with East Bengal FC that he has faced at least thrice but never lost against in the ISL. Can his lucky charm against the Blues propel the Gaurs to success tomorrow?

With 16 points from six games, this is Bengaluru FC's second-best start to an ISL season - only behind the

2018-19 campaign when they went on to finish atop the table. They seem to be on similar momentum this time around, winning five encounters, drawing once, scoring 11 goals and conceding merely once thus far. Bengaluru FC have completed 82.1 percent of passes, which is the highest in the league. They have evidently been patient in their build-up, asserting pressure on the opposition's backline,

taking the game to them, and creating opportunities that their efficient frontline has been able to convert at ease. The Blues also scored thrice in their last away match, which was a 3-1 win against Kerala Blasters FC and the last time they netted multiple strikes on consecutive games at the opposition's home was a sequence of three games between January-February 2023.

Women's ACT: India star Salima looking forward to thrilling hockey

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
RAJGIR, 1 NOVEMBER

With just 10 days left until the start of the Bihar Women's Asian Champions Trophy Rajgir 2024, the Indian Women's Hockey Captain Salima Tete shared insights into the preparations for the tournament and said she is looking forward to some thrilling days of hockey in Bihar.

The continental tournament is scheduled to take place from November 11 to 20 at Rajgir Hockey Stadium. Top Asian teams, including Paris 2024 silver medalist China, along with Japan, Korea, Malaysia, and Thailand, are set to assemble in the historic town of Rajgir.

"The anticipation and excitement for the Women's Asian Champions Trophy is in equal measure as we will be playing at a new venue in a beautiful town Rajgir. We



played an exhibition match here in August and received a great response from the crowd. We're looking forward to returning to Rajgir and playing our best hockey," said Salima.

Vice captain Navneet Kaur added, "We were in Rajgir in August and received a warm reception from the crowd.

Now, they'll have the opportunity to witness top Asian teams play right in their town. Bihar is also the birthplace of our Chief Coach, Harendra Sir, so this makes even more special occasion. We're looking forward to putting on a great show for the people of Rajgir and Bihar."

As India enters the tournament as defending champions, expectations are high for the team. Salima said, "Last year, we had a memorable outing in Ranchi, where we clinched the Women's Asian Champions Trophy title. We know our fans have even higher expectations this time, and we're ready to take on the challenge to defend the title."

"We have had intense training sessions at the SAI Centre in Bengaluru. We are prepared for the tournament and are looking forward to some thrilling days of hockey in Bihar," she added.



SARFARAZ WARNED BY UMPIRES FOR EXCESSIVE SLEDGING

Indian fielder Sarfaraz Khan was on Friday warned by the umpires in the presence of skipper Rohit Sharma for chirping even when the ball was in play, during New Zealand's first innings in the third and final Test of the 2024 series at the Wankhede Stadium. Umpire Richard Illingworth called up Sarfaraz and Rohit and the three had a long animated discussion before the 32nd over of the innings. The umpires were apparently unhappy as Sarfaraz, fielding close to the bat, was engaging in verbals even when the ball became alive. Virat Kohli also joined in the discussion.

For more updates www.thestatesman.com

THUMBNAILS

Four senior guys led Mumbai Indians discussions, says Jayawardene: Mumbai Indians head coach Mahela Jayawardene has revealed the senior quartet of Rohit Sharma, Jasprit Bumrah, Hardik Pandya, and Suryakumar Yadav took the leading role in discussions about how the five-time champions can move forward in future. On Thursday, which was IPL 2025 retentions day, MI announced retaining their core quartet of Bumrah, Suryakumar, captain Pandya and Rohit along with young left-handed batter Tilak Varma. "We had extensive discussions. I think the four senior guys led those discussions. Obviously, what happened last season, as well as how we collectively move forward. I think that was crucial for us to align in that right direction. So coaching staff, owners, management, and these four guys, the direction came from them, what needs to be done, how it needs to go about. So, but that's the leadership as well. I know Hardik's being appointed captain. We had that conversation with them. And obviously, Rohit led the retention part and everyone agreed that Boom's being the best bowler in the world, he's been very consistent."

Kiwis pull India back with quick wickets after Jadeja heroics

Ravindra Jadeja takes five-wicket haul as India dismiss visitors for 235 before losing quick wickets

TRIDIB BAPARNASH
MUMBAI, 1 NOVEMBER

India threw away the advantage that Ravindra Jadeja provided with his 14th Test five-wicket haul by bowling New Zealand out for 235, with the home side losing three wickets in the last two overs of the opening day to end at 86 for 4, at the Wankhede Stadium here on Friday.

With India playing for pride and avoid their first-ever whitewash at home and also vital World Test Championship points, Ravindra Jadeja (5/65) and Washington Sundar (4/81) put the home side on the right paddle before the quick fall of wickets towards the fag end of the day, left the day balanced.

India were cruising towards stumps at 78/1 with Yashasvi Jaiswal (30) and Shubman Gill (31 not out) dominating the proceedings before being undone off an audacious reverse sweep from Jaiswal off Ajaz Patel. Jaiswal's wicket opened the floodgates for the tourists over the next 10 minutes with nightwatchman Mohammed Siraj departing



first ball after burning a review. Virat Kohli then perished in an attempt to steal a risky single with a drive to mid-on, only for Matt Henry to inflict further damage with a direct hit at the bowler's end. The three wickets broke the momentum that India had in the day even after losing skipper Rohit Sharma for a run-a-ball 18.

Earlier in the day, Jadeja braved excessive heat and

humid conditions to bowl 22 unchanged overs and run through New Zealand's middle and lower order. The left-arm spinner was complemented well by off-spinner Washington Sundar, who turned on the heat in the morning session after the Kiwis opted to bat after winning the toss. Ravichandran Ashwin had an off day and returned wicketless as he struggled to create an impact.

The visitors lost their last seven wickets for just 76 runs as Jadeja and Sundar ran through the batting line-up. The left-arm spinner was at his lethal best as he went past Zaheer Khan and Ishant Sharma to break into the top-five wicket-takers for India in Tests. Daryl Mitchell (82) and Will Young (71) architected New Zealand's first innings total of 235, with a partnership of 87 runs. The

partnership helped the tourists rebuild the ship after Sundar struck twice in quick succession with the wickets of Tom Latham and Rachin Ravindra. Latham scored 28 off 44 before being bowled by Sundar. In the next couple of overs, the tweaker hit the off stump of Ravindra with a near identical delivery to leave New Zealand delicately poised at 72-3. However, Mitchell and Young survived the nervous half an hour before the lunch break as both their edges were threatened regularly. Post lunch, though, the pitch settled down for an hour and a bit, but with the Mercury rising to 37 degrees, the conditions were demanding for the ones on the field. Young and Mitchell, though, looked at ease, and employed the sweeps and reverse-sweeps to good effect, before Young danced down the wicket to bring up his first fifty of the series. With Jadeja going on from one end consistently, he finally managed to extract a turn off even at high pace — something which triggered the New Zealand collapse from a comfortable 159 for 3 to 235 all out.

Jadeja still hoping for victory after Team India slump to 86/4



AGENCIES
MUMBAI, 1 NOVEMBER

Though India squandered the advantage after bowling out New Zealand for 235 on the first day of the third Test by slumping to 86/4, Ravindra Jadeja, who claimed his 14th five-wicket haul for the hosts, said all is not lost and they can still make a comeback.

India looked to be in a strong position as Yashasvi Jaiswal and Shubman Gill added fifty runs for the second wicket to take the score to 79/1. With 3-4 overs to go for the day, Jaiswal had a brain fade and played a reverse sweep against Ajaz Patel and got bowled for 30.

The Indian team management sent Mohd Siraj as a nightwatchman and he departed for a golden ball duck, making it two wickets in two balls for Patel. Virat Kohli then ran himself out as India lost three quick wickets and were struggling at 86/4 at the end of the first day. But Jadeja said all is not lost. "We still have a chance

in this match and it is not that we are out of the match. Hopefully, we will bat well tomorrow something is happening with the wicket, something or the other is happening, so if we bowl well in the second innings, then it will be good," he said in the post-match press conference.

Jadeja said bowling in the scorching hot and humid conditions at Wankhede Stadium was challenging as at times gripping the ball was difficult because of excessive sweating. "It was very challenging. There was a time when I was not even able to grip the ball. But all these things count at the international level. You have to prepare for these conditions as well. When you come to practice in such conditions you get an idea of what will happen in the match. We were mentally ready for this would happen, so no excuses can be given. It was important to keep the ball and the hands dry as far as possible but sometimes it was difficult to grip," he said.

Ponting decodes IPL retentions; expresses surprise over move to omit 'exciting' Rishabh Pant, KL Rahul

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 1 NOVEMBER

Ricky Ponting, who recently took over as the head coach of the Punjab Kings franchise has revealed the strategies his side used during the recent Indian Premier League (IPL) retention period and how he plans to make his mark at the upcoming auction.

Each franchise announced their respective retention lists on Thursday, with Ponting and Punjab deciding to hold on to just two uncapped players in Prabhsimran Singh and Shashank Singh and enter the auction well equipped with funds and ready to build a new squad.

It's a bold strategy from the Australian legend, with international stars like South Africa quick Kagiso Rabada, England all-rounder Sam Curran and India pacer Arshdeep Singh among the players that Punjab decided not to retain ahead of next year's edition of the IPL.

Revealing his strategy, Ponting said he was looking forward to building a squad from scratch with Punjab.

"I'm most excited about



a new, fresh start. It starts to come together today, with the retention list. It's well documented as to what I've done with Punjab. We're only going in with two uncapped players and we're going into the auction with the biggest purse by a long way. So, we've got the ability to put a whole squad of players together," Ponting said. He went on to discuss how he wanted Punjab Kings, who have failed to make the IPL playoffs since 2014, to play a completely new brand of cricket. "A

couple of new coaching staff came in as well (for Punjab Kings). The main and most important thing for me is making this whole franchise different. Making it different from outside, making the results on-field look different," Ponting noted in the ICC Review. "I want us to be the most dynamic and most entertaining franchise and group of players in the IPL."

A number of India regulars such as KL Rahul, Rishabh Pant and Shreyas Iyer were let go by their respective

franchises and Ponting expressed surprise at the development.

"There are a lot of exciting players. So many. I'm a bit surprised with some of the non-Indian retentions if you like, with both Shreyas Iyer and Rishabh Pant being available in the auctions," Ponting said.

"It was a bit surprising, even KL Rahul to a certain degree. It seems like individuals or franchises are busy looking to move in different directions to some of their

players."

The development, however, means that teams will have to strategise better with respect to their team composition.

"This is where it gets exciting. You've got to understand who your number one target is and how much money you are willing to pay for them. That's such a big part of it (IPL), of getting the auction right strategy-wise. And then handing it over to us, as a group of coaches," he said.

Among those retained is former India skipper MS Dhoni, who at 43 years of age continues to remain with Chennai. When asked if Dhoni's role would evolve for Chennai Super Kings, Ponting stated that he didn't expect a different approach from the franchise.

"Two seasons back, he had his worst season, but then last year he bounced back to really have some impact on the game. MS Dhoni evolved. I think it might be the same, though they might not look at getting him through the season, maybe resting him for a game or two," Ponting suggested.

Anish becomes youngest FIDE-rated chess player: Anish Sarkar became the youngest-ever FIDE-rated player, after an impressive Elo rating of 1555 on Friday. At just three years, eight months, and 19 days old, he has claimed the title of the youngest FIDE-rated chess player. Anish debuted at the 1st All Bengal Rapid Rating Open 2024, where he scored an impressive 5 points from 11 games. Just weeks later, Anish had the opportunity to play against Grandmaster Arjun Erigaisi, India's top player. AGENCIES

Simple cricketing sense does not come through high fives and huddles

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, 1 NOVEMBER

India went into the final Test match in a sombre mood, having already lost the series against New Zealand 0-2. It did come as a shocking result, especially as India has the record of the most series wins, 18 at home. This in itself is a huge achievement and one to be admired. The loss did come as a surprise; however, the uncertainty of the great game of cricket had other ideas. Nothing is taken for granted, as one says in cricket. None of the top Test teams can be taken lightly. Therefore, a defeat against New Zealand is not the end of the world. India is still very much in the fray to qualify for the World Test championship and still lead the ICC rankings. Test cricket requires a completely different approach and New Zealand have managed to outsmart India in their own backyard. Their 0-2 Test series loss



against Sri Lanka earlier did make one presume that India will just steamroll over New Zealand with ease. The present Indian side is an outstanding outfit. They have all areas of the game covered and even the balance of a side that has experience along with youth. The problem that India faces is plenty of talent and each

one trying to outperform the other and lack of basic cricketing sense. Cricket in the past has taught us that a World XI team filled with superstars still cannot ensure success. It is how they gel as a team, supporting each other and playing roles necessary for the team's success, rather than individual brilliance

that counts.

Cricketers in India, have now become the face for corporate advertising and their image in the tinsel world plays a major part in their approach to the game. They need to be flamboyant and suave. This may be great to watch for spectators; however, Test cricket requires patience and concentration and somehow one can see these traits are missing from the present lot. These qualities are what made Sunil Gavaskar, Rahul Dravid, and from the present lot in Cheteshwar Pujara and Ajinkya Rahane the walls to rely on for Indian cricket. They stood tall to grind the bowlers, which made batting much easier for their teammates at the other end. The most frustrating sight for a bowler is to come pounding down delivery after delivery to find a defensive bat at the end. Unfortunately, the Indian team today have some exceptionally good stroke players; however, they lack the ability

to play an innings of the calibre required for Test cricket. This is necessary, especially when a side needs to get back on track after losing wickets or to save a game. The problem that India also faces is of their new generation of fans and followers. Brought up in the atmosphere of the limited overs version, the strike rate, glamorous shots, and aggressive stroke play is what they admire. A batter who does not conform to it is either booed or looked upon as one as a plodder. The IPL selection of players is a good example of the repercussions that a good Test batter faces when one is up for auction. An unknown and untested player supersedes an established Test player. One fails to understand why. A successful Test batter may not have the ability to hit plenty of sixes in an over. But with precise placement and controlled aggression, one can be equally effective.

The Statesman
স্টেটসম্যান

The Statesman is looking for the most beautiful and best-dressed women in Indian and Western attire. And you could be the lucky one to win the coveted prize!

Best Face Best Dress

The Statesman is organising a competition and those who wish to participate, can send in their picture in Indian or Indo-western dress.

You can post your pics between 9th October and 2nd November, 2024 at puja@thestatesmangroup.com along with your name, address, phone number and email. The minimum age for participation is 18 years.

The lucky ones will get attractive prizes and their photos and names will be published in the newspaper.*

FOR MORE INFORMATION
9830874087/8420298752

*Terms & Conditions apply

Co-Sponsor: **SURVYA KUMAR MODAK**
Babaheer, G. T. Road, Hooghly, Chandernagore

Gift Partner: **Blossom Keekhar** aroma magic, **The yellow turtle**

Food Partner: **ভাঙা**