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PEOPLE'S PARLIAMENT, ALWAYS IN SESSION



Beware of impersonation/parcel scams!



Beware of audio/video calls from **CYBERCRIMINALS** posing as officials from RBI/Banks/ Government Agencies/Courier Companies **THREATENING** with Legal Action or **Asking for Immediate Transfer of Money** or **Freezing or Blocking** your bank accounts or debit/credit cards.



DON'Ts

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WEATHER

Generally cloudy sky with possibility of light rain in some areas. Maximum and Minimum Temperature most likely to be around 25 °C and 19 °C respectively.

RAINFALL: 1.0 mm

RELATIVE HUMIDITY

Max. 89 % Min. 62 %

TEMPERATURE

Max: 22.0 °C (+6.9) Min: 21.2 °C (+3.7)

SUN RISES


06:00 hrs 16:51 hrs

MOON RISES

05:57 hrs 16:53 hrs

New Moon on 1 December

THUMBNAILS



Army personnel block the road with barbed wires as they try to stop protesters marching towards the Leimakhong Army station demanding the release of a man who has been allegedly missing from the army camp, in Kangpokpi, Manipur, on Saturday. © ANI

Every attack makes us stronger, says Gautam Adani on US allegations: Adani Group Chairman Gautam Adani said on Saturday that the allegations being levelled against the conglomerate in the US was another attack on the group from which it would emerge stronger and more resilient. Speaking at an event in Jaipur, he said his indictment by the US Department of Justice was one of 'three attacks' that had taken place against the Adani Group recently.

PCB likely to accept hybrid mode for CT25

The Pakistan board has, however, put forward several riders, including that the Pakistan team will play at neutral venues in any ICC tourney hosted by India

TRIDIB BAPARNASH
NEW DELHI, 30 NOVEMBER

Under fire from the all-powerful ICC board after Friday's virtual meeting failed to achieve consensus over the hosting of the upcoming Champions Trophy, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) is reported to have agreed to a hybrid hosting model for the tournament, scheduled to run between February and March next year. According to multiple sources, PCB chairman Mohsin Naqvi, who is currently in the UAE, lobbying for Pakistan's cause, has put forward a list of conditions, in a bid for Pakistan to retain the hosting rights of the marquee tournament. The current predicament arose as India remained unwilling to travel to Pakistan for security reasons, and the PCB refused to budge on the BCCI's requests for a hybrid model. To end the impasse that has already derailed the ICC's plans of announcing the schedule 100 days ahead of the tournament, the global

In the hybrid model, all matches involving India in the tournament, including the group matches, semi-finals, and the final (if they qualify), would be played in Dubai

body on Friday called an emergency meeting attended by 12 full ICC members, three associate members, and the ICC Chair but that also failed to break the ice. Following the meeting, it has been learnt that the ICC communicated to the PCB on accepting the hybrid model as the only viable solution or to be prepared to be ousted from the event. Amidst all these, PCB chairman Mohsin Naqvi met Emirates Cricket Board head Mubashir Usmani in Dubai, signalling his agreement to the hybrid model. According to a PCB state-

comes with a set of riders: All matches involving India, including group stages, semi-finals, and the final (if they qualify), will be played in Dubai due to India's refusal to send its team to Pakistan. If India fails to progress beyond the group stages, Pakistan has secured the right to host the semi-finals and final in Lahore. And finally, if India gets hosting rights of future ICC tournaments, Pakistan's matches will be played at neutral venues. Bilateral cricket between the two countries have been affected due to frosty political relations. The two arch-rivals last played a bilateral series in 2012-13 in India, comprising white-ball matches. After that, India and Pakistan have primarily faced each other in ICC tournaments and Asia Cups. Last year, when Pakistan were granted the hosting rights of the Asia Cup, India refused to travel to the country, and eventually played their matches in Sri Lanka, including the final, under a hybrid model. Pakistan, however, travelled to India during the 2023 ICC 50-over World Cup.

Shinde down with 'Saturday night fever' as Maharashtra CM suspense continues

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, 30 NOVEMBER

Wild speculation and suspense continued because of the Maharashtra CM's name not being announced even on Saturday evening, a week after the thumping victory of the BJP-backed Mahayuti alliance. However, BJP state President Chandrashekhar Bawankule on Saturday said that the oath-taking ceremony of the Mahayuti government will be held on 5 December. The swearing-in ceremony will be held at around 5 p.m. on Thursday at Azad Maidan in Mumbai, he announced on social media, adding that Prime Minister Narendra Modi will attend. On Saturday, a team of doctors visited Maharashtra caretaker chief minister Eknath Shinde at his Dare village residence in Satara district of Maharashtra, to put him on saline, after he complained of high fever. Mr Shinde's party's sources said that he did not leave his residence since Friday because of fever and is reported to be resting based on the advice of his doctors. However, this has mere-

ly served to give a huge boost to political speculation with Mr Shinde's fever being attributed to some inexplicable and strange "political" reasons. These speculations are centred around Mr Shinde's meeting with a senior Sharad Pawar-led NCP leader, Jitendra Awhad, in Mumbai on Friday, just before he left for Satara. The other source of political speculation is based on Eknath Shinde's supposedly "fallen face" in a photograph of his Delhi meeting with Union Minister Amit Shah on Thursday, after it went viral. According to political gossip doing the rounds, in the purported photograph of the Delhi meeting with Amit Shah, Devendra Fadnis and Ajit Pawar were seen "smiling", while

Shinde's face was "fallen", indicating that he was upset with what transpired at the meeting. Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) chief Ajit Pawar, meanwhile, said that it has been decided in Thursday's meeting with Amit Shah that the CM will be from the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the remaining two parties will have Deputy Chief Ministers. Speaking to the media, Mr Pawar said: "During the meeting (Delhi meeting of Mahayuti leader) it was decided that Mahayuti will form the government with CM from BJP and the remaining two parties will have DCMs." "That is not the first time there has been a delay... If you remember, in 1999, one month was taken for government formation," he added.

Man tries to throw liquid on Arvind Kejriwal during Padyatra, detained

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, 30 NOVEMBER

A man was apprehended by Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) national convener Arvind Kejriwal's security staff on Saturday when he attempted to throw some liquid, likely water, at Mr Kejriwal during his padyatra ('foot journey'). The incident occurred while Mr Kejriwal was on his padyatra in Delhi's Greater Kailash area. The individual was reportedly beaten by Mr Kejriwal's security personnel. Speaking on the incident, Delhi Minister Saurabh Bharadwaj alleged that there are continuous attacks on Mr Kejriwal. "BJP leaders carry our rallies in all states, they are never attacked... There are continuous attacks on Arvind Kejriwal... BJP attacked him in Nangloi. He was attacked in Chhatrapur...

The law and order in Delhi have collapsed and the central government and the Home Minister are not doing anything," he said. In October, the AAP had claimed that Mr Kejriwal, was attacked during a rally in the national capital, alleging that the Bharatiya Janata Party orchestrated the attack. Meanwhile, the AAP has

intensified its efforts ahead of the upcoming assembly elections, with the party's national convener and senior leaders focusing on voter engagement and strengthening grassroots support. The party's broader strategy includes a combination of padyatras, committee formations, and an upcoming convention to consolidate its ground-level

support and ensure a strong presence in the elections. Earlier today, Mr Kejriwal and Mr Bharadwaj visited the family of a man who was stabbed to death in their home in the Panchsheel Park area. Speaking to the media, Mr Kejriwal said the victim's family is in deep shock as the motive behind the incident remains unclear.

Poll panel assures Congress it will address its concerns on polling data in Maharashtra polls

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 30 NOVEMBER

A day after the Congress alleged serious and grave inconsistencies in the data relating to the polling and counting processes for the recently concluded Assembly elections in Maharashtra, the Election Commission of India (ECI) on Saturday assured the party that it would address all its "legitimate" concerns. The poll panel has also invited a Congress delegation at 5 p.m. on 3 December to raise these issues in detail. In its response to the party memorandum submitted to it on Friday alleging arbitrary deletion of voters and subsequent additions, and inexplicable increase in voting percentages in Maharashtra Assembly polls, the EC said: "At the outset, the Commission is thankful to the Congress for bringing to its notice the

party's concerns about these issues." The poll panel said it has always accorded the highest attention, to the political parties, in particular, the national and state recognised parties, which it considers as the most vital stakeholders of the electoral democracy in India. The Commission assured the Congress that it will make all efforts to address all the party's legitimate concerns. "As regards the first allegation regarding addition

and deletion of voters in Maharashtra, as the Congress is aware, electoral rolls are always prepared and finalised with close involvement of all political parties including yourselves. The copies of draft electoral roll published is given to political parties and the verification process involves political parties at every stage of the process," it said. The EC said it would get the issues raised by Congress examined and keep them informed of the outcome. On voting percentage data, the poll panel said: "You are already aware, total votes polled at each polling booth was given by Presiding Officer, before leaving the polling station, to the authorized agents of candidates (Form 17 C Part I) at the end of polling on 20th November, the day of polling in Maharashtra and Jharkhand."

"The presiding officer near the completion of polling at polling station performs multiple statutory responsibilities like filling up of various statutory forms, record keeping of activities in PO's diary, sealing of the machines, etc. before winding up the polling at polling station. The data feeding from all polling stations into voter turnout app, at this stage, thus takes time," the EC said. Stating that this cannot be changed, it said this number aggregates to final voter turnout which all political parties and candidates can verify. The poll panel said it will convey its detailed reply to the issues raised by the Congress at the earliest possible. A Congress delegation is welcome to the Commission at 5 p.m. on 3 December to raise these issues in detail, it added.

Downpour lashes Chennai: Cyclone Fengal's landfall near Puducherry early Sunday

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
CHENNAI, 30 NOVEMBER

Ahead of Cyclone Fengal (pronounced 'fenjal') making landfall early on Sunday near the Puducherry coast, Chennai and surrounding districts are pounded by heavy downpour accompanied by gusty winds without any respite. While the sea is rough with high tides lashing the shores, the Marina beach, the second longest in the world, is covered by a blanket of water. According to the Meteorological office, heavy rains would continue for the next 48 hours. The public has been asked to remain indoors by both the Tamil Nadu and Puducherry governments. Many low-lying areas of Chennai, particularly Korattur and Royapuram in north Chennai, as well as in Ambattur

and Avadi, are surrounded by floodwaters. The Chennai Corporation is taking steps to pump out water from waterlogged areas. The Chennai airport has been closed till 7 p.m. in the evening since the runway and the taxi are under water due to the heavy rains. Arrival

and departure of flights have been cancelled due to the inclement weather as a precautionary measure. With the Regional Meteorological Office having issued a red alert for Chennai and seven other districts, the Tamil Nadu and Puducherry governments have taken adequate

precautionary measures. The cyclone, lying 120 km south-east of Chennai, is moving at a pace of 13 kmph, and is expected to hit the Coromandel coast on Sunday morning between Karaikal and the heritage town of Mamallapuram. However, under its impact,

extreme heavy rains have been predicted for Chennai, Tiruvallur, Kancheepuram, Chengalpattu, Ranipet, Cuddalore, Villupuram and Mayiladuthurai districts, besides Puducherry and Karaikal. A few more interior districts in Tamil Nadu would also receive isolated moderate to heavy rains, the Meteorological office said in a bulletin. Fishermen have been advised not to venture out to sea till further notice. Fishing boats and mechanised vessels have been remaining idle for the last 10 days. Cyclone warning signals have been hoisted at all ports on the east coast. Besides NDRF teams, SDRF teams have been deployed in all the districts which would be affected by the cyclone and rain. Besides relief camps/shelters, emergency medical teams are also on standby.


MoD signs ₹1207.5 cr contract for refit of INS Vikramaditya


STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 30 NOVEMBER


The Ministry of Defence signed a Rs 1207.5 crore contract with Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL) today for the Short Refit and Dry Docking (SRDD) of the Indian Navy's aircraft carrier INS Vikramaditya. Commissioned in November 2013, INS Vikramaditya is a vital component of India's naval strength. Once the refit is completed, the carrier will rejoin the active fleet with upgraded combat capabilities, further enhancing the Navy's operational readiness. A statement from the ministry stated that the project represents a significant milestone in the development of Cochin Shipyard Limited as a Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul (MRO) hub, supporting India's industrial ecosystem. It involves the participation of nearly 50


MSMEs and is expected to generate employment for over 3,500 personnel, contributing significantly to the local economy. This initiative aligns with the Government of India's Atmanirbhar Bharat and Make in India vision, emphasising self-reliance in defense capabilities. The project underscores India's com-


mitment to developing indigenous infrastructure and expertise for supporting its defense forces. The completion of the SRDD will not only enhance the operational life of INS Vikramaditya but also reaffirm India's push towards greater self-sufficiency in defense manufacturing and maintenance.











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THUMBNAILS

Adoption Meet: The state Social Welfare department arranged the district's first adoption meet in Burdwan town on Saturday, where couples with their adopted children joined. Out of 55 aspirants, 30 couples were allowed adoption of children from different government homes and agencies in the district, said district's child protection officer Sudeshna Mukherjee. She said, "November is regarded as the month for adoption. Couples shared the do's & don'ts while grooming the adopted children. We warned people to stay away from illegal practices of buying parenthood by unholly means."

Robotic surgery for heart operations: Robotic technology surgery is set to be introduced in Kolkata for the most complex and critical heart operations work within a very short period of time. Dr Ratan Kumar Das, director of cardiothoracic and vascular surgery at BM Birla Heart Hospital, has stated that with the help of robotic technology, even the most critical heart patients can recover within just two days and resume activities like heavy lifting, driving, and exercising. Using just a single keyhole incision, surgeries such as bypass surgery, CABG (Coronary Artery Bypass Grafts), valve surgery, intracardiac repair, and pericardial/extracardiac repair can be performed.

ATK Kalim Group launches luxury residences: ATK Kalim Group announced on Saturday the launch of The Burj, a premium integrated residential complex. Located in the prime area of the Park Circus-EM Bypass connector, The Burj is a luxurious residential complex that promises to redefine luxury living in Kolkata. It has both 3 BHK and 4 BHK apartments in the heart of the city.

CPI voices concern over communal violence against Hindus in Bangladesh

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, 30 NOVEMBER

Terming the attacks as violations of secular principles, equality, and justice, the CPI warned that such actions pose a significant threat to the communal harmony that underpins Bangladesh's diverse society. Rajya Sabha MP and CPI national executive member P Sandosh Kumar condemned the violence, urging the Bangladesh interim government to act swiftly. Amid the controversy over the arrest of Chinmoy Krishna Das, a former ISKCON priest and recent attacks on Hindu temples, the National Council of India (CPI) has expressed deep concern over communal violence targeting Hindus and other minority communities in Bangladesh. Terming the attacks as violations of secular principles, equality, and justice, the CPI warned that such actions pose a significant threat to the

Centre releases ₹1,400 crore fund to West Bengal under PMAY

LoP Suwendu Adhikari claimed that Trinamul's panchayat chief at Beldanga in Murshidabad district was allotted 17 houses under the scheme

AGENCIES
KOLKATA, 30 NOVEMBER

The Union government has released Rs 1,400 crore to West Bengal under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) scheme, a day after the Trinamul Congress-government alleged Centre's apathy, sources said. The information surfaced just a day after the treasury Bench moved a motion on the floor of the state Assembly on Friday accusing the Union government of denying Central funds under various centrally sponsored schemes on the fifth day of the ongoing winter



session of the House.

Sources in the state government said that the last time central funds under the PMAY scheme were released was in 2022. There have been several allegations of irregu-

larities in the allotment of houses under the scheme in West Bengal and during the last few months, there have been several instances of protests in different pockets in the state on this issue.

Even on Friday, the Leader of Opposition in the West Bengal Assembly Suwendu Adhikari accused the state government and the ruling Trinamul Congress of indulging in massive irregularities in house allotment under PMAY. Suwendu Adhikari also claimed that Trinamul's panchayat chief at Beldanga in Murshidabad district was allotted 17 houses under the scheme. As per protocol, while the Union government bears 60 per cent of the expenditure under the PMAY scheme, the remaining 40 per cent has to be borne by the state gov-

ernment. In October this year, Union home minister Amit Shah, during the inauguration of the new passenger terminal building and Maitri Duar at Land Port at Petrapole in North 24 Parganas district of West Bengal, also alleged massive financial irregularities in the implementation of different central schemes. The Union home minister alleged that the funds provided under different centrally-sponsored schemes like MGN-REGA and PMAY do not reach genuine beneficiaries. "Only those associated with Trinamul Congress are benefited out of those funds," he said.

Jute mill in Raniganj to open after 13 years

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
RANIGANJ, 30 NOVEMBER

Come tomorrow and the Mangalpur Jute Mill in Raniganj will reopen after a gap of almost thirteen years. It is big news for the state government before the next upcoming Bengal Global Business Summit (BGBS). This is the only jute mill in West Burdwan district till today. District secretary of CITU in West Burdwan and also former Asansol MP, state minister and chairman of ADDA, Bansa Gopal Choudhury has thanked chief minister Mamata Banerjee for taking such a positive move. "In the last tripartite meeting also everybody, including CITU had agreed in unison to reopen the closed jute mill in Managalpur. Since the first meeting I have witnessed a very much positive outlook

of CM Mamata Banerjee for reopening this closed jute mill and now after a gap of almost 13 years the mill will reopen tomorrow," added Bansa Gopal Choudhury. Labour minister Moley Ghatak said that on 13 November this year the owner of the private jute mill has sent him a letter stating that the mill will reopen after 13 years, on 1 December. In the past 13 years, the employees of the closed jute mill used to get Rs 1,500 from the state government as a monthly grant. At present about 1,100 workers get the benefits. When the jute mill was closed there were 1,500 permanent workers and 400 contract workers. Bansa Gopal Choudhury, who was the chairman of ADDA and had played a key role in setting up the district's first jute mill in Raniganj during the left front regime. But it was closed in 2011.

Potato traders threaten strike

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, 30 NOVEMBER

Under pressure from the state government potato traders today threatened to go on an indefinite strike from Monday if the state government does not withdraw the freeze imposed on potato exports and initiate an immediate meeting to resolve the crisis. As a result of the strike threat, the prices of potatoes are likely to skyrocket and drill holes in common peoples' pockets. Following Miss Banerjee's diktat to the chief secretary and agriculture marketing minister Becharam Manna to look into the issue of alleged export of potatoes to other states without fulfilling the demands of the people of the state, the state government launched a crackdown on the traders trying to smuggle potatoes out of the state.

BSF officials seek shifting zero-line villages as HM Amit Shah calls for increased vigilance

AGENCIES
KOLKATA, 30 NOVEMBER

A day after Home Minister Amit Shah called for increased vigilance along the country's eastern border to prevent infiltration, a section of senior Border Security Force (BSF) officials said that unfenced portions of the border with Bangladesh and zero-line villages are a major hindrance in effective border management. There has been lack of initiative on the part of the government of West Bengal in relocating zero-line villages, despite offers of compensation from the Centre. "West Bengal has a lion's share of the Indo-Bangladesh Border (IBB). Of the total length of 4,096.7 km, West Bengal's share is 2,216.7 km. Of this, only about 81 per cent has been fenced.

While it is difficult to fence the riverine portions of the border, the existence of zero-line villages is hindering fencing in most places. In West Bengal, there are nearly 360 zero-line villages with a population of over 70,000 people. Most of these villages are in the districts of Malda, Murshidabad and Cooch Behar," one of the officials said. Under a 1975 agreement with Bangladesh, fencing is allowed 150 yards behind the zero-line (the actual border). While some smaller Indian villages were fenced off and left in the 150 yards patch, the fence could not run through larger settlements. These are the villages that have now turned into a major problem as adequate troops have to be deployed on the zero-line to prevent cross-border movement, particularly after dark.

Bangladeshi man with fake papers nabbed in city

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, 30 NOVEMBER



The Kolkata Police (KP) arrested a Bangladeshi national and former leader of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) on Friday night who had been staying in a hotel on Marquis Street for the past two years. Police have seized fake documents like Aadhaar card and a passport from him. He was produced before the Bankshall court on Saturday afternoon and remanded to police custody. The arrest of Matabbar was made in Kolkata at a time when the bilateral relations between India and Bangladesh have plummeted after a Hindu monk Chinmoy Krishna Das was nabbed by Bangladeshi police at Dhaka airport. Acting on tip-off, a team from Park Street police station raided the hotel in Marquis Street and nabbed the man who identified himself as Rabi Sharma, police officials said. To corroborate his identity, Sharma produced a photocopy of what he claimed was his Aadhaar card as well as a passport. A senior police

official said, "Even after that, we felt something was amiss and questioned him further." During interrogations, Sharma confessed to the investigating police officials that that his original name was Selim Matabbar and that he was hailed from Madaripur in Bangladesh, sources said. He fled from Bangladesh two years ago following a political dispute with the then ruling party Awami League and since then was living in Kolkata. Since arriving in Kolkata, he had been working at the hotel on Marquis Street. After his confession, Park Street police arrested the accused. According to police sources, Matabbar's name came up during an investigation conducted by a team of Karnataka Police that had arrested six Bangladeshi nationals from Chitradurga.

Four dead, 20 injured as bus plunges into gorge



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
SILIGURI, 30 NOVEMBER

At least four people were killed and 20 others injured when a passenger bus traveling from Siliguri to Gangtok veered off course and plunged into a gorge near Rangpo on Saturday afternoon. The accident occurred around 3.30 pm near the Atal Bridge. According to Kalimpong police, the death toll may rise as several injured pas-

sengers remain in critical condition. Rescue teams swiftly evacuated the injured and transported them to Rangpo Hospital for immediate medical attention. Local sources suggest the bus lost control before falling into the gorge. So far, four fatalities have been confirmed, and around 20 passengers have sustained injuries. Disaster response teams are actively working at the site to assist with rescue and recovery efforts.

TMC MLA replies to notice

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, 30 NOVEMBER

The rebel Trinamul Congress MLA Humayun Kabir on Friday replied to the show-cause letter served to him by the disciplinary committee of the party on Wednesday evening. His reply was a little soft in tone but full of grievances against the party leadership. The MLA of Bharatpur in Murshidabad district sub-

mitted his four-page reply to Sobhandeb Chattopadhyay, veteran minister and head of the five-member disciplinary committee, at the Assembly on Friday though the show-cause issued to him was of only one page. Abhishek Banerjee, party's national general secretary today commented on the reply, "It's his personal comments. I have made it clear in the past that I want to work in organisation."

Wind from Jharkhand responsible for pollution in Durgapur: IIT, WBPCB

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
DURGAPUR, 30 NOVEMBER

Trans-boundary movement of pollutants from Jharkhand, carried forward by the northern winds since mid of October is held responsible for causing persistent air pollution in Durgapur and its suburbs. This was revealed by the IIT, Delhi, the top environment officials of Bengal government stated today. Bengal, as a strategic plan, has set to introduce a three-layer bio-seal with planting high-rise trees in the bordering stretch to arrest the Jharkhand pollutants, the environment officials said. IIT Delhi was assigned by the West Bengal Pollution Control Board (WBPCB) to determine the 'culprit' factors responsible behind the soaring air quality index (AQI) of Durgapur industrial zone that harbours cluster of polluting industries like iron & steel, cement and three thermal power generation units. IIT Delhi aimed to detect the origin of pollution and take enhanced measures to neutralise the targeted pollutants in 10 locations of the city. The IIT experts also exercised on the chemical specification of PM10 & PM2.5 (the key polluting particulate matters), besides identifying the source of emissions and source of receptors (CM 38) and dispersion models to



assess the contribution from various sources, future projection, besides the evaluation of various control measures. The AQI of Durgapur in the past two days hit above 400 points, surpassing the hazardous Delhi level. Typically dry, cold winds blowing from the north are held responsible for this pollution. "The IIT detected that the poor thermal immersion in the ground level caused by the slower movement of northern wind invited the current crisis," said Subrata Ghosh, OSD, WBPCB after an assessment meeting on growing pollution levels in Durgapur and Asansol today. He said: "IIT has held northern winds from Jharkhand as the major cause for Durgapur pollution in winter." Besides the local polluting iron & steel units, the thermal power

units were cautioned heavily. The wind vector at 10 metres and above ground that highly depends on local topography and instantaneous wind speed, direction has been termed as the villain for scaled up current Durgapur pollution. In Durgapur, the windier part of the year lasts for 4.3 months, as the Anemometer data gathered by the WBPCB's regional authorities claimed. The calmer wind vector of the year lasts for 7.7 months from 4 September to 26 April and the October, November months are identified as the calmest months with average wind speed of 7.89 kmph and wind gushes in mostly from North for 4.4 months between October and February. Slow wind can cause air pollution by trapping pollutants and reducing their dis-

persal. Cold and denser air, as explained by Dr Kalyan Adhikari, a National Institute of Technology professor working with pollution: "Moves slowly than warmer air, so it traps pollutants instead of moving them away." Lighter wind, Dr Adhikari said: "Results in poor dispersion as wind in stable meteorological conditions limits vertical air movement." Also, fog prevents sunlight from warming up the ground and breaking inversions which promotes the formation of secondary pollutants high pressure. Sourav Chatterjee, SDM, Durgapur, said that in the regional office of WBPCB a high-level meeting to combat the growing air pollution in the region has been held. From this meeting all the factories of Durgapur have been made aware about the growing air pollution.

Classified

CHANGE OF NAME

I AM RATNA Sikdar. I have changed my name from Ratna Sengupta to Ratna Sikdar both name are the same person vide affidavit dt. 29-10-2024 before the Ld. JM 1st Class at Sealdah.

PROPERTY

DARJEELING tea garden at higher elevation, quality tea with resort, zero liability for sale. Mail: icpoobong@gmail.com

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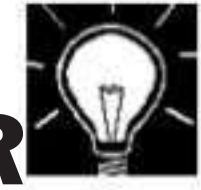
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Ajmer dargah survey demand: PUCL to move Supreme Court

The Places of Worship Act, 1991, prohibits altering the religious character of any place of worship

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
JAIPUR, 30 NOVEMBER

The People's Union for Civil Liberties (PUCL) has decided to move the Supreme Court against the rising demand for a survey by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) at monumental or ancient religious places. The move is being contemplated following a petition in court demanding an ASI survey at the premises of Sufi Sant Khwaja Moinuddin Chisti's dargah in Ajmer to determine whether structures or remnants of a Shiv Mandir exist beneath the buildings at the site.

"We want to approach the apex court to safeguard peace and mitigate the effects of arbitrary statements made by leaders of different parties and outfits, without any regard for the centuries-old communal harmony in the city, PUCL national president Kavita Srivastava said here on Saturday.



The Ajmer Dargah Sharif is a symbol of faith for all, and the statements being made by various public figures after the filing of the case are feared to disturb communal harmony, especially following the listing of the petition for hearing by the Civil and Judicial Magistrate, Srivastava said. "We will file a petition before the SC to ensure adherence to the Places of

Worship Act, 1991, and discourage the tendency of frequently raised demands for ASI surveys at such monumental sites," she said. "PUCL will also urge the Supreme Court to direct lower courts not to entertain claims that contravene the provisions of the 1991 Act, which prohibits altering the religious character of any place of worship," she said. The submission of a peti-

tion by an outsider in the court of Civil and Judicial Magistrate (Ajmer West) Manmohan Chandel earlier this week evoked strong reactions from several political and public personalities, including Education Minister Madan Dilawar.

Annoyed by the reactions, the PUCL chief said, "We condemn the misleading claims and propaganda against the Ajmer Dargah and call for adherence to the laws governing religious places.

She said Ajmer is a city of communal harmony, home to globally significant religious sites such as the dargah of Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti, the Brahma Temple in Pushkar, Jain pilgrimage centres, churches, and Parsi temples.

The dargah has existed for 800 years of the city's 1,200-year history and has long been a place of faith for people of all religions, attracting millions of devotees over the centuries. Its

development owes contributions not only to Muslim rulers but also to Hindu kings.

It is unfortunate that a person, unfamiliar with Ajmer's history, traditions, and harmony, is attempting to gain cheap popularity by claiming that a temple exists beneath the dargah, she added.

"This baseless claim has sadly been entertained by the judiciary. No such claims have ever been made in Ajmer. The dargah exemplifies communal harmony, with Jain processions, Jhulelal processions, and even RSS path marches receiving flower showers as they pass by the site," Srivastava said.

The Places of Worship Act, 1991, clearly prohibits altering the religious character of any place of worship. Section 4 of the Act mandates that "the religious character of a place of worship as it existed on August 15, 1947, shall be maintained, the PUCL chief said.

SP delegation stopped from visiting violence-hit Sambhal; party claims state chief placed under house arrest

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
SAMBHAL, 30 NOVEMBER



The Uttar Pradesh Police on Saturday stopped a Samajwadi Party (SP) delegation from visiting violence-hit Sambhal after the District Magistrate served a notice to Leader of Opposition Mata Prasad Pandey, asking him to refrain from visiting the district given the law and order situation.

A delegation of the Samajwadi Party, led by Pandey, was scheduled to visit Sambhal today to assess the situation and meet the families of five people who were killed during the violence.

The administration's action has sparked sharp criticism from the SP, which accused the Yogi Adityanath government of stifling opposition voices and undermining democracy.

"The BJP government is murdering the Constitution and democracy! At the behest of the ruling power, the police prevented Leader of Opposition Shri Mata Prasad Pandey Ji from going to Sambhal. Highly con-

demnable!" the SP said.

Earlier, the Samajwadi Party claimed that the police has placed its state unit president, Shyam Lal Pal, under house arrest.

"Yogi government is scared of the SP delegation. At the behest of the ruling power, the police stopped Honorable State President Shri Shyam Lal Pal Ji from going to Sambhal and placed him under house arrest. The BJP government is shredding the Constitution and democracy to pieces," the party said, terming the police action "highly condemnable."

Meanwhile, the Congress, an INDIA alliance partner of the Samajwadi Party, has

also questioned the state government's actions and demanded that the delegation be allowed to visit Sambhal.

"What is the district administration hiding? Why does the state government not want the opposition to visit Sambhal? They should allow the delegation to visit Sambhal," senior Congress leader Pramod Tiwari said.

The SP delegation's planned visit to Sambhal comes amid heightened tensions in the area, where the situation remains sensitive following last week's violence during a court-ordered survey of the Mughal-era Shahi Jama Masjid.

Nadda to lead World AIDS Day commemoration today

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 30 NOVEMBER

Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Jagat Prakash Nadda will inaugurate the World AIDS Day on Sunday as the chief guest, along with the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, Dr. Mohan Yadav, who will grace the occasion as the guest of honour at the Devi Ahilya Vishwavidyalaya in Indore. Madhya Pradesh will take centre stage in India's efforts against HIV/AIDS as it gears up to commemorate the observance of World AIDS Day

2024 event on December 1. Aligned with the theme of the United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), 'Take the Rights Path', this World AIDS Day will emphasize awareness, and rights-based approaches to treatment and eliminate discrimination against those affected by HIV/AIDS.

The National AIDS Control Organization (NACO), under the Union Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW) has been observing World AIDS Day annually on December 1 since 1992. Bringing together communities, youth, benefi-

ciaries, and various organizations, these observances have been fostering collaboration to address the challenges and advancements aiming at the global goal of ending HIV/AIDS by 2030. This year the programme will feature impactful activities, such as an innovative exhibition showcasing key programmatic components like the digital ecosystem adopted by NACO, community engagement, achievements made through the campaign-based approach, and a variety of hand-crafted items made by the beneficiaries.

Jharkhand cabinet expansion: JMM suggests five-on-one formula for ministry distribution

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
RANCHI, 30 NOVEMBER

Amid ongoing discussions about the much-anticipated cabinet expansion in Jharkhand, the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM), the largest constituent of the ruling Mahagathbandhan in the state, has proposed a "five-on-one" formula for distributing ministries among alliance partners.

The proposed formula

suggests one minister for every five MLAs, resulting in a total of 11 ministers for the 56 MLAs in the alliance. However, the final decision on the cabinet composition is expected to be made by Chief Minister Hemant Soren in consultation with alliance partners. "There has been a discussion on the five-on-one formula, that is, one minister for five MLAs. In such a situation, the number of our ministers will increase. One

cabinet will increase. We have 34 MLAs. In total, there are 56 MLAs. If we multiply 11 ministers, the count comes to 55 MLAs. This would be an ideal way to finalise the cabinet," JMM leader Manoj Pandey said on Saturday.

Pandey further clarified that the formula aligns with proportional representation and balances the coalition's demands. "This is the decision of high-level officials... I am just sharing the conversation

that took place among us party workers. The final decision will be taken by Hemant Soren and the leaders of the INDIA Alliance," he added.

The Congress, a key ally in the coalition, has reportedly adopted a "balanced and restrained" stance, according to Pandey. "The Congress is also very balanced and restrained. Whatever conclusion will be reached, it will be unanimous," he stated.



गृह मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF
HOME AFFAIRS



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Kerala to crack down on govt staff availing welfare pensions

Finance department will take action to recover the full amount distributed to the ineligible people

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,
30 NOVEMBER

The Kerala government has on Saturday decided to take strict action against the government employees, who illegally received social welfare pension. A meeting chaired by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan took a decision in this regard.

As per the decision, the finance department will take action to recover the full amount distributed to the ineligible people so far. The interest of the disbursed amount will also be levied from them. Disciplinary action will be taken at the departmental level against those received the pension illegally.



Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan has said that strict action will be taken against the government employees who have taken welfare pension illegally.

Finance Minister KN Balagopal, Chief Secretary Sharada Muralidharan, Additional

Chief Secretary Finance Department Dr. A Jayathilak, Chief Principal Secretary to Chief Minister KM Abraham, Principal Director of Local Self-Government Department V Sambasivarao, IKM Executive Director Dr. Santosh Babu and others participated.

Earlier on Saturday, Finance Minister KN Balagopal said that the respective departments will decide what action should be taken in the case of government employees who have received social security pension illegally. The minister said that instructions were given to the departments to take appropriate action against the wrong doers. After the investigation, a criminal case will be filed, if necessary, he said. The minister informed that further inspection will be conducted to find whether more ineligible persons are receiving pension.

The Finance department has identified 1,458 government employees, including gazetted officers, assistant professors, and higher secondary teachers, who were drawing social security pension

illegally. In light of the revelation, state Finance Minister K N Balagopal has ordered strict disciplinary action against these employees. The government has decided to recover the money from them with interest.

The two assistant professors in the list working in government colleges in Thiruvananthapuram and Palakkad. Three illegal beneficiaries are higher secondary teachers. With 373 numbers, the Health department had the highest number of illegal beneficiaries.

The Information Kerala Mission identified the illegal beneficiaries on the Finance department's instructions. The department said the checks would continue to ascertain whether there are more ineligible beneficiaries.

Accept higher compensation, allow industrial park: Telangana CM Revanth

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD, 30 NOVEMBER

Blaming the BRS for deceiving the locals in his constituency, Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy today tried to convince the farmers to part with their land for the sake of development and urged them to accept a higher amount of compensation for the industrial park coming up at Kodangal.

The CM today addressed a farmers' meeting in his home district of Mahabubnagar on the occasion of the completion of a year of his government and launched a blistering attack on former chief minister K Chandrasekhar Rao. Speaking on the Lagacherla incident, Reddy said innocent tribal people had gone to jail by believing the lies of the BRS. He said he was determined to bring the industrial park and Kodangal lift irrigation project to his constituency. "Don't fall

Telangana chief minister A Revanth Reddy said innocent tribal people had gone to jail by believing the lies of the BRS

into the traps of BRS and go to jail. Instead, take more compensation. A generation will change if there are more jobs," said Reddy who promised the industrial park will lead to employment for 25,000 people. "KCR alone has a farmhouse of 1000 acres in Gajwel. Shouldn't we have 1300 acres for an industrial estate?" he asked.

Yesterday, the Congress government withdrew the notification for land acquisition for the Pharma village in the area. Today, it has again issued a notification for land acquisition for the multi purpose industrial park in Kodangal.

He pointed out, "If officials had been attacked then would projects like Nagarjuna Sagar have been completed. For development to happen some people have to suffer. The government will provide them with the necessary compensation," and even wondered "will industries come to our area?" when officials were being attacked. He argued there would not have been projects like Nagarjuna Sagar, Srisailem Project or Jurla if officials had been attacked.

He claimed that Congress governments of the past had introduced loan waivers, free electricity to farmers and brought insurance for farmers. It was Congress which gave bonus of Rs 500 for paddy harvest. Farmer's welfare was patented by the Congress, he thundered. He challenged both KCR and Prime Minister Narendra Modi for a debate on achievements of respective governments.

239 trainees, including 29 women, graduate from Naval Academy

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 30 NOVEMBER

The Indian Naval Academy (INA), Ezhimala, hosted its Passing Out Parade (POP) today, marking the culmination of rigorous training for 239 trainees, including Midshipmen from the 107th Indian Naval Academy Course and cadets from various Naval Orientation Courses. Among the graduates were 29 women trainees and eight international cadets from four countries, showcasing the academy's global outreach and inclusive training programs. The ceremonial parade

was reviewed by Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi, Chief of the Naval Staff (CNS), who awarded medals to meritorious trainees. He was accompanied by Shashi Tripathi, President of the Naval Welfare & Wellness Association (NWWA). Other dignitaries included Vice Admiral V Srinivas, Flag Officer Command-in-Chief, Southern Naval Command, and Vice Admiral CR Praveen Nair, Commandant, INA. The President's Gold Medal for the B.Tech course was awarded to Midshipman Ayush Kumar Singh, while Midshipman Karan Singh and Midshipman Kar-

tikey V Vernekar received the CNS Silver and FOC-in-C South Bronze Medals, respectively. Women trainees were prominently recognized, with SLT Isha Shah receiving the CNS Gold Medal for the 39th Naval Orientation Course (Regular), while SLT Mathi Nesiga T earned the Commandant INA Silver Medal and the Zamorin Trophy for best all-round woman cadet. In his address, Admiral Tripathi highlighted the integration of international trainees as a testament to the INA's world-class facilities and its role in strengthening foreign cooperation.

Ready to start work for people of Wayanad: Priyanka Gandhi

AGENCIES
KOZHIKODE, 30 NOVEMBER

AICC General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi, who on Thursday took oath as the Wayanad MP, reached here on Saturday.

It is her first visit to the constituency after registering a smashing victory in the November 13 bye-election.

Accompanied by her brother and Lok Sabha Leader of Opposition, Rahul Gandhi, she told the media at the Kozhikode airport that she was happy to be back.

"I am really happy to be back and am ready to start work for the people of Wayanad to help them to have a better life," said Priyan-

ka Gandhi.

The Congress MP has a hectic programme for the day with public meetings to be held at Makkam in the Thiruvambadi Assembly constituency of Kozhikode district, followed by receptions at Karulai in Nilambur, Wandoor, and Edavanna in Erand by 2.15 P.M., 3.30 P.M. and 4.30 P.M. respectively.

Priyanka Gandhi clinched her electoral victory in the Wayanad Lok Sabha bypoll with a commanding margin of 4,10,931 votes.

Incidentally, she bettered the victory margin of 3.60 lakh votes of her brother Rahul Gandhi, which he got in the April Lok Sabha polls, but fell short of his margin

of 4.30 lakh votes which he won in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections.

The by-poll was necessitated after LoP Rahul Gandhi vacated the seat earlier this year.

During the campaign, the primary question revolved around whether Priyanka Gandhi could surpass her brother's record-breaking margin.

Priyanka Gandhi's victory marks a significant moment in her political journey, coming nearly 20 years after she first campaigned for her mother, Sonia Gandhi, in Raebareilly and her brother in Amethi during the 2004 Lok Sabha elections.

Her debut as an elected



representative is seen as a pivotal step in solidifying the Congress' presence in

Kerala and revitalising the party's fortunes at the national level.

Bipin C. Babu, CPI-M leader from Alappuzha, joins Kerala BJP

AGENCIES
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,
30 NOVEMBER

Bipin C. Babu, a senior CPI-M leader from Kerala's Alappuzha district, joined the BJP on Saturday, hailing Prime Minister Narendra Modi's good work and hitting out at the Left for losing its secular outlook.

The exit of Babu, a member of the Alappuzha district panchayat, comes at a time when the outfit in the district has been hit by alleged factionalism, resulting in frequent outbursts of party members.

Addressing the media after



joining the BJP, Babu said he decided to leave the CPI-M as it had lost its secular outlook and was being run by one group.

"I am happy to join the BJP, especially seeing the work of Prime Minister Narendra Modi," he said, predicting

an exodus from the CPI-M over the next few months.

"Just see the development of national highways and the railways in Kerala," said Babu, adding that he will soon resign as a member of the district panchayat that he won on a CPI-M ticket.

Hitting out at the alleged factionalism in CPI-M, he said, "The CPI-M was routed at the Lok Sabha polls and it suffered very badly in the Alappuzha Lok Sabha constituency. The CPI-M doesn't have much of a future."

"Senior CPI-M leaders, like two-time former state minister G. Sudhakaran, have

been sidelined by the group which runs the affairs of the party in Alappuzha," he said.

Babu, a former youth wing leader of the CPI-M, claimed soon after the party's state conference gets over in a few months, there will be an exodus of party members.

Welcoming Babu, Kerala BJP president K. Surendran claimed that many CPI-M workers are getting ready to leave the party. The state BJP got a rude jolt when just before the November 20 Palakkad Assembly bye-election, its popular youth face Sandeep Warrior joined the Congress.

Karnataka Congress expels Gurappa Naidu over sexual harassment charges

AGENCIES
BENGALURU, 30 NOVEMBER

The Congress party in Karnataka expelled State General Secretary Gurappa Naidu on Saturday following the charges of sexual harassment surfacing against him.

The Disciplinary Committee Chairman of the Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) K. Rahman Khan issued an order to expel Gurappa Naidu from the party.

"In the backdrop of flooding of sexual harassment case



against State General Secretary Gurappa Naidu, he has been expelled from the primary membership of the party for six years," the order stated.

Karnataka police had slapped an FIR against the

State Congress office bearer over alleged charges of sexually harassing a teacher at a school run by him in Bengaluru on Thursday. The complaint is registered with Chennamanakere Achukattu police station against Gurappa Naidu, the state Congress General Secretary and also the Chairman of the BGS Bloom School.

The police had registered a case under IPC Sections 354 (a) (sexual harassment), 354 (assault or criminal force against a woman with the intent to outrage her modesty),

506 (criminal intimidation), 504 (intentional insults that provoke a breach of the peace) and 509 (acts, words, or gestures that insult a woman's modesty). These incidents are said to have occurred between 2021 and 2023.

In her statement to the police, the victim stated, "Accused Gurappa Naidu sexually exploited gullible women staffers at his school. He has been using them and also raping them. He is video-recording these acts and blackmailing them."

T E N D E R

**MAHATRANSCO**
Maharashtra State Electricity Transmission Co. Ltd.

NOTICE INVITING TENDER CPD/114-2024-25

Tenders are invited through e-Tendering in SRM system from the registered vendors for Supply of following:

Tender No. & Description of Material	Estimated Amount (in Rs. Lakhs) Tender Fee (in Rs.)	Due Date & Time (Hrs.) for Submission & Opening of Tender
SP/T-0833/1124 [RFX No.5000001325] [3rd Call] (Two Bid System) Procurement of 400 KV, 220 KV & 132 KV (N) & (AF) type Porcelain long rod insulators for various Zones of MSETCL on VARIABLE PRICE basis.	1640.79 Lakh	12.12.2024 12.12.2024 Up to 17.00 Hrs. At 17:30Hrs.
	25,000.00	

Contact Person: Office of the Executive Engineer (Gr.P&C)
Tel. No. : 022-69852717/08329909813
Email: secpa@mahatransco.in, eepc@mahatransco.in, eegrp8@mahatransco.in,
For further details visit our website <http://www.srmctender.mahatransco.in>
Any further amendments will be published on the MSETCL website www.mahatransco.in.
So bidders are requested to check the website.

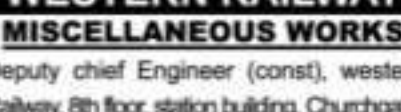
Sd/-
Executive Engineer (P&C)

**EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY**

TENDER NOTICE

E-TENDER NOTICE FOR DIFFERENT ELECTRICAL WORKS OPEN TENDER FOR ELECTRICAL (TRD)

DRM (Electrical) TRD/ECR/ Dhanbad for and behalf of the President of India invites e-tender for execution of the work indicated as under. **E-Tender No. : TRD-OT-9-JACKETMAST-24-25. SI. No. (1) Name of work with location and completion of work : Jacketing for protection of Masts/ Portals erected on siding loading platform/ goods Wharf for safety of OHE assets in TRD Dhanbad division. Completion period (03) (Three Months) (2) Approx. cost of the work : Rs. 88.56,332.40 (Cost of e-tender form - Nil) (3) Bid Security to be deposited : Rs.177,200/- (4) Date & Time for submission of closing and opening of E-Tender - Closing of E-Tender: On 19.12.2024 at 11.00 Hrs. Opening of E-Tender: On 19.12.2024 at 11.30 Hrs. (5) Website particulars - Website : www.ireps.gov.in. Manual tender offer not accepted under e-tender. Divt. Railway Manager (Elect./TRD, Dhanbad PR/1613/DHN/ETRD/T/24-25/32**

**WESTERN RAILWAY**

MISCELLANEOUS WORKS

Deputy Chief Engineer (const), western Railway, 6th floor, station building, Churchgate, Mumbai- 400 020 invites E-tender Notice No: Dy/CE/CYCGG/349 dated 28.11.2024. Name of work: Dismantling of existing Service Building, Construction of New Service Buildings, Construction/Extension of Platforms with covered and other miscellaneous works between Goregaon to Borivali Stations in connection with Extension of Harbour Line between Goregaon to Borivali (MUTP-3A). **NIT Cost: ₹ 61,89,73,000.92 Bid Security: ₹ 32,34,900/- Bidding Start Date: 11.12.2024. Bid Submission Closing on: 25.12.2024, 15:00 Hrs. Tender Document opening on: 25.12.2024, 15:30 Hrs. For further details please visit our website www.ireps.gov.in. 0782** Like us on [facebook.com/WesternRly](https://www.facebook.com/WesternRly)

**MAHATRANSCO**
Maharashtra State Electricity Transmission Co. Ltd.

NOTICE INVITING TENDER CPD/115-2024-25

Tenders are invited through e-Tendering in SRM system from the registered vendors for Supply of following:

Tender No. & Description of Material	Estimated Amount (in Rs. Lakhs) Tender Fee (in Rs.)	Due Date & Time (Hrs.) for Submission & Opening of Tender
SP/P&C-T/06/1124 [RFX No.5000001331] [3rd Call] (Two Bid System) Procurement of Van Mounted Ground EHV Cable Fault Locator System	1647 Lakhs	09.12.2024 09.12.2024 Up to 17:00 Hrs. At 17:15 Hrs.
	25,000.00	

Contact Person: Office of the Executive Engineer (Gr.P&C)
Tel. No. : 022-69852717/08329909813
Email: secpa@mahatransco.in, eepc@mahatransco.in, eegrp7@mahatransco.in,
For further details visit our website <http://www.srmctender.mahatransco.in>
Any further amendments will be published on the MSETCL website www.mahatransco.in. So bidders are requested to check the website.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer (P&C)

**MAHATRANSCO**
Maharashtra State Electricity Transmission Co. Ltd.

NOTICE INVITING TENDER CPD/111-2024-25

Tenders are invited through e-Tendering in SRM system from the registered vendors for Supply of following:

Tender No. & Description of Material	Estimated Amount (in Rs. Lakhs) Tender Fee (in Rs.)	Due Date & Time (Hrs.) for Submission & Opening of Tender
SP/T-0533/1124[RFX No.5000001323] (Two Bid System) [4th Call] Procurement of 3x500MVA, 765/400/33kV, 1-φ ICT along with Virgin High Grade Inhibited Insulating Oil conforming to IEC 60296 for 765kV R.S. Ektuni under Augmentation Scheme at Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar Zone.	6450.69 Lakhs	17.12.2024 17.12.2024 Up to 16.00 Hrs. At 16:15Hrs.
	25,000.00	

Contact Person: Office of the Executive Engineer (Gr.P&C)
Tel. No. : 022-69852717/08329909813
Email: secpa@mahatransco.in, eepc@mahatransco.in, eegrp5@mahatransco.in,
For further details visit our website <http://www.srmctender.mahatransco.in>
Any further amendments will be published on the MSETCL website www.mahatransco.in.
So bidders are requested to check the website.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer (P&C)

**MAHATRANSCO**
Maharashtra State Electricity Transmission Co. Ltd.

NOTICE INVITING TENDER CPD/113-2024-25

Tenders are invited through e-Tendering in SRM system from the registered vendors for Supply of following:

Tender No. & Description of Material	Estimated Amount (in Rs.) Tender Fee (in Rs.)	Due Date & Time (Hrs.) for Submission & Opening of Tender
SP/T-0723/1124 [RFX No.5000001253] [2nd Call] (Two Bid System) Procurement of Emergency Restoration Systems (ERS) comprising of 10 Towers each (Suspension Towers- 6Nos. & Angle Towers - 4 Nos.) for various EHV PCC O&M Zones of MSETCL.	176.29 Crores	18.12.2024 18.12.2024 Up to 17:00 Hrs. at 17:30 Hrs.
	25,000.00	

Contact Person: Office of the Executive Engineer (Gr.P&C) Tel. No. : 022-69852717/08329909813
Email: secpa@mahatransco.in, eepc@mahatransco.in, eegrp7@mahatransco.in,
For further details visit our website <http://www.srmctender.mahatransco.in>
Any further amendments will be published on the MSETCL website www.mahatransco.in. So bidders are requested to check the website.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer (P&C)

**NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY**

E-Tender Notice No.: Sr.DE/RS/EL/CNB/2024-25/ET-12 Date: 28.11.2024

E-Tender Notice

Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer/RS/N.C. Rly./Kanpur, for and on behalf of the President of India, invite the following open E-Tender for the following work up to Tender Opening Date & Time. The details of the tenders are as under:-

Tender No.: ELS-CNB-2024-25-ET-12. **Name of work:** Repair, reconditioning, rehabilitation, testing and supply of loco transformer for 3-phase loco (transformer capacity 7775KVA/6531 KVA) for ELS/CNB.

Approximate Value (IN₹): ₹ 1,37,92,113.57 (Rs. One Crore Thirty-Seven Lakh Ninety-Two Thousand One Hundred Thirteen and Fifty-Seven Paise Only).

Bid Security (IN₹): ₹ 2,19,000.00 (Rs. Two Lakh Nineteen Thousand and Only).

Completion period of Work: 24 Months **Tender Document Cost (IN₹):** Nil

Tender Opening Date & Time : 23.12.2024 & 15:30 hrs.

Note:- (1) The complete information along with tender document of above e-Tenders is available on website www.ireps.gov.in up to due date & time of tender opening. (2) Bids, other than in the form of E-Bids, shall not be accepted against above Tenders. For this purpose, vendors are required to get themselves registered with IREPS website along with Digital Signature Certificates issued by CCA under IT Act-2000. (3) Offer rates quoted in the form of e-tender schedule & duly signed digitally shall be final. No other documents related to offer rates shall be entertained. Tenderers are advised not to attach any document related to offer rates (except undertaking(s) asked). These documents, shall be treated as NULL and void and shall not be considered for evaluation of offer. (4) Documents being attached should be signed by the tenderer on its body. (5) This tender notice has also been uploaded on www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in. (6) In case of any difficulty helpdesk available on the website of IREPS may be approached. 2061/24 (MG)

www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in @ CPNCR

Union minister reviews Central schemes in Meghalaya

During her tour, Annapurna Devi visited villages in the district, engaging with families at the Transit Home and interacting with pregnant mothers at the Primary Health Centre in Byrnihat

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 30 NOVEMBER

Union Minister of Women and Child Development, Annapurna Devi, visited Ri Bhoi district, Meghalaya, today to review the progress of key initiatives aimed at improving the welfare of women and children. Her visit included an evaluation of various Centrally Sponsored Schemes and discussions with officials on the district's performance under the Aspirational Districts Programme (ADP).

During her tour, the Minister visited villages in the district, engaging with families at the Transit Home and interacting with pregnant mothers at the Primary Health Centre in Byrnihat. She also inspected the Anganwadi Centre in Saldien Village, where she spoke with caretakers and children involved in preschool services and Supplemental Nutrition Pro-



gramme (SNP) activities. Later, Devi held a review meeting at the DC Conference Hall with officials from multiple departments and the district administration. Discussions covered the implementation of Central Sector and Centrally Sponsored

Schemes, addressing challenges, achievements, and annual performance targets. The Minister emphasized the need for efficient fund allocation and utilization, supported by NITI Aayog and the North Eastern Council (NEC).

She commended the state's initiatives, particularly the Early Childhood Development Mission and the Chief Minister's Safe Motherhood Scheme (CM-SMS), praising these as exemplary practices. "This initiative is one of the best practices,

and we will explore how it can be replicated in other aspirational districts across the country to improve maternal and child health," she stated.

Highlighting the district's achievements, the Minister noted, "Ri Bhoi's Aspirational District indicators are very promising, with the district ranking among the top in several key metrics for women and children." She also assured the Centre's support in addressing existing gaps and challenges.

The review meeting was attended by several officials, including Sampath Kumar, Principal Secretary, Health & Family Welfare, and Pravin Bakshi, Commissioner & Secretary, Social Welfare Department, among others. The Minister expressed satisfaction with the district's progress and reaffirmed the government's commitment to further advancing the well-being of women and children in the region.

Punjab CM inaugurates subdivisional complex constructed in record time

AGENCIES
SANGRUR, 30 NOVEMBER

Setting a new benchmark in public service delivery, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Saturday dedicated an ultra-modern multi-storey subdivisional complex constructed in a record time of 18 months at a cost of Rs 10.45 crore.

Dedicating the building, the Chief Minister said he had laid the foundation stone of this project in May 2023 and it has been completed in a record time span. He said the project, spread over nine acres, will benefit the masses by delivering them citizen-centric services in a time-bound manner.

CM Mann said such modern tehsil complexes were being built across the state to facilitate the people, adding that the earlier governments had never paid any heed to such initiatives to serve the people in a better manner.

"Previously the rein of the state was in the wrong hands



due to which the state had suffered adversely," he claimed.

However, Mann said ever since assuming the charge of the Chief Minister's office, his government has been according top priority to works of immense public importance.

Announcing that such buildings were being constructed while keeping in view the future needs of people, he said the government saved Rs 1.5 crore while constructing this building against the estimated cost.

CM Mann said in the same

manner, the Subdivisional complex in Cheeme was under construction and would be dedicated to the people soon.

He said it is a matter of pride and satisfaction for him that so far 49,427 government jobs have been provided to youth and 700 more will be given at a programme in Patiala on December 3.

He said when he assumed the charge, only 21 per cent of canal water was being used in the state. However, today 84 per cent of the canal water is being used for irrigation purposes.

Capacity building programme on public policy for foreign civil servants ends

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 30 NOVEMBER

The National Centre for Good Governance (NCGG) successfully concluded its 1st Capacity Building Programme on Public Policy and Administration for civil servants from Southeast Asia and the Indian Ocean Region.

The two-week programme, held from 18th to 29th November, was conducted in Mussoorie and New Delhi. It brought together 30 senior officers representing key ministries from Sri Lanka, Oman, Tanzania, Kenya, Seychelles, Malaysia, Cambodia, Maldives, and Myanmar.

The programme provided participants with a platform to exchange ideas, share best practices, and discuss innovative

approaches to governance and administration.

The programme focused on critical areas such as e-governance, sustainable development, transparency, and inclusivity, reflecting NCGG's commitment to fostering excellence in governance.

During the valedictory session, Dr. Surendrakumar Bagde, Director General, NCGG, interacted with the participants and highlighted India's exemplary strides in e-governance. He underscored the importance of the government's philosophy of "minimum government, maximum governance," which has led to significant improvements in transparency, efficiency, and public service delivery.



Dr. Bagde also stressed the need to address pressing issues like waste management, emphasizing that effective mechanisms in this area can have far-reaching positive environmental impacts.

It featured country-specific presentations where participants showcased their governance frameworks and developmental strategies.

Oman highlighted its Vision 2040, focusing on e-governance and digital transformation. Sri Lanka shared its grassroots-driven Samurahi Program for poverty alleviation.

Maldives discussed environmental governance initiatives, while Kenya emphasized transparency through e-governance. Cambodia presented decentralization reforms and inclusive growth strategies. Tanzania showcased Vision 2025 and its involvement in the Open Government Partnership. Seychelles highlighted its Blue Economy Governance Model, Myanmar discussed its Sustainable Development Plan, and Malaysia detailed Vision 2020 and National Transformation 2050.

NIA carries out searches in Jammu & Kashmir's Handwara, police raid various places in Srinagar

AGENCIES
SRINAGAR, 30 NOVEMBER

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Saturday carried out searches in J&K's Handwara town in connection with a major drug case while the police raided various in Srinagar city under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA).

Sleuths of NIA, accompanied by the police and the CRPF, carried out searches in Handwara town in connection with a high-profile, multi-million drug racket case being investigated by the agency. J&K Police carried out searches at different places in the Batmaloo locality and



in the HMT area of Srinagar in connection with a UAPA case. A police statement said that the searches were in connection with the ongoing investigation against some persons, who are engaged in a criminal conspiracy with others to orchestrate false and malicious narratives through the dissemination of fabricated information to provoke people

to resort to violence. Police obtained search warrants from the designated court and conducted searches in the houses of Obais Riyaz Dar, son of Riyaz Ahmad Dar, resident of Bonpora Batmaloo, and Sahil Ahmad Bhat, son of Noor Mohammad, resident of HMT, Zainakot. The statement said electronic devices and incriminating material

were seized during searches at these places, adding that more houses belonging to suspects engaged in seditious propaganda are on the police radar for similar action in the near future. Police have again cautioned people to exercise restraint while using social media to ensure that they don't get involved in anything connected with the sharing and dissemination of false propaganda to create an anti-national narrative at the behest of the enemy. It needs to be mentioned that the terrorists have started increasing their activities in J&K after they failed to disrupt the Lok Sabha and Assembly polls, which were peaceful.

Punjab Police bust arms smuggling network, eight pistols seized

AGENCIES
CHANDIGARH, 30 NOVEMBER

In a major blow to arms smuggling networks amidst the ongoing drive to make the state safe and secure, Punjab Police's Counter Intelligence (CI) Amritsar apprehended two people when they were waiting for another operative to hand over the weapon consignment smuggled from Pakistan, said Director General of Police (DGP) Gaurav Yadav here on Saturday.

Those arrested have been identified as Jagjit Singh, alias Nikku, and Gurwinder Singh, alias Gandhi -- both residents of Kaulowal village in Amritsar.

Police teams have also recovered a consignment of eight sophisticated pistols, including four Glock pistols (Austria-made), two Turkey



9mm pistols and two X-Shot Zigana .30 bore pistols, along with 10 cartridges from their possession.

DGP Yadav said that in an intelligence-led operation, teams from CI Amritsar got to know that some people have indulged in the smuggling of heavy consignments of weapons from Pakistan into India.

Acting swiftly, police teams laid a trap and arrested accused Jagjit, alias Nikku, and Gurwinder, alias Gandhi, from Narpur Padhri near Gharinda in Amritsar when they were

waiting for someone to deliver the consignment, he said.

The DGP said that CI Amritsar has also identified the main kingpin of this module and several teams have been constituted to apprehend him.

Preliminary investigations have revealed that the kingpin of this module was in contact with Pakistan-based weapon smugglers via encrypted apps, he said, while adding that further investigations are on to establish backward and forward linkages.

A case was registered under Section 25 of the Arms Act and Section 61(2) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) at the Police Station State Special Operations Cell (SSOC) in Amritsar. The accused will be presented before the local court to seek police remand.

Chamathang hot springs in Ladakh being developed as eco-tourism destination

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, 30 NOVEMBER

The Chamathang hot spring in Ladakh is being developed as an attractive eco-tourism destination, said the Advisor to the Lieutenant Governor UT Ladakh, Dr. Pawan Kotwal on Saturday.

Dr. Kotwal chaired a meeting regarding the development of hot spring at Chumathang. The concerned architect provided a comprehensive PowerPoint presentation on the development of Chamathang hot spring, with development area of approximately 12.5 acres of land and highlighted its salient features of the project, estimated cost, future plans, bottlenecks which impede the progress of the project.

The Advisor instructed the concerned officials to ensure the finest quality of the project, which will increase tourists' footfall towards the region. Praising the collabora-



tive endeavours of the officials involved in the project, the Advisor was informed of the establishment of key facilities of the project such as, food courts, pools, and Hydro therapy centres.

The prime objective of the project is to promote eco-tourism alongside hydrotherapy facilities, which include hydrotherapy centres, local Amchi stations, and a

Sowa-Rigpa satellite therapy centre.

The plan also includes provisions for tourist hospitality, a shopping centre with a kiosk market for public gathering spaces, and rehabilitation centres. The project will emphasize sustainable architecture and a Net metering plan as its core focus.

The Chumathang Hot Spring is a hot sulphur spring

situated in a small hamlet along the Indus River called Chumathang about 138 km from Leh. The spring originates quite close to the river itself and is believed to have medicinal properties.

The meeting was attended by the Administrative Secretary of Tourism Department UT Ladakh; Principal Chief Conservator of Forest; and other concerned officials.

HP college to be renamed after former CM Virbhadra Singh

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
SHIMLA, 30 NOVEMBER

Seema College Rohru in Shimla district of Himachal Pradesh will be named after former six-time Chief Minister late Virbhadra Singh. This announcement was made by Chief Minister Thakur Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, during the annual function of Government College Seema, Rohru on Saturday. He also announced the starting of B.Ed. course in the College from the next academic session and assured to provide liberal financial assistance for the construction of the hostel and stated that the construction of a multipurpose building in the college would be started soon.

He dedicated projects worth Rs. 100.95 crore to the people of the Rohru assembly segment, in district Shimla.



This includes Rs. 29.22 crore Ultra Modern Grading, State-of-Art Cold Atmosphere (CA) Store having the capacity to

store 2031 metric tonne from the existing 700 MT, which will benefit the horticulturalists of the region immensely. The

CM also inaugurated the Government Ayurvedic Hospital constructed with an outlay of Rs. 2.79 crore, the

newly completed Chunjar-Katlah, Shalan, Melthi-Kupri water supply scheme completed at a cost of Rs. 3.92 crore and the drinking water scheme constructed for the Rohru rural area completed with an outlay of Rs. 5.03 crore.

He also performed the foundation stone laying ceremony of various road projects worth Rs. 51.74 crore for the area, which include the work of strengthening Podhar-Mandi yori-Karasa road, Seema Ratnari road, Samoli-Parsa road, Rohru-Arhal-Bashla road and Mehandli Ganasidhar road. He also laid the foundation stone of the hostel to be constructed in Seema College Rohru at a cost of Rs. 8.25 crore.

Sukhu alleged that the level of education continuously declined during the tenure of the previous BJP

government as they opened 900 educational and health institutions without budgetary provision just for electoral gains. The state government is taking tough decisions in the public interest the positive results of which will be visible in near future soon. He said that new vocational courses would be started to ensure good education and better employment opportunities to the students. The state government is making efforts to prepare the youth for future challenges. Education Minister Rohit Thakur said that the state government was making dedicated efforts to strengthen the education sector. As many as 15 thousand posts of various categories has been approved in the education department to provide quality education. He said that road projects worth Rs. 1134 crore were also cleared

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to all that my clients have intended to purchase undivided 5/6th share of Premises No. 8A, Northern Avenue (previously 190/2C, Paikpara Raja Manindra Road), Kolkata - 700037 within P.S. Chitpur from its present owners/successors in interests/legal heirs/successors/legal representatives/assigns of Late Chintaharan Saha, Late Tarak Chandra Saha, Late Kanai Lal Saha, Late Nirprender Chandra Saha and Late Narendra Chandra Saha (all sons of Late Kali Charan Saha & Late Hari Priya Saha). Therefore any person having any objection or claim in respect of above referred property by way of sale, mortgage, lease, exchange, charge, lien, license, maintenance, inheritance, gift, hypothecation or transfer of title, possession or encumbrance or beneficial interest under any trust right of prescription or pre-emptor under any agreement or other disposition or under any decree, order or award otherwise claiming howsoever, are hereby requested to make the same known in writing along with all supporting documents to the undersigned within 07 (seven) days from the date of publication hereof, failing which the claim of such person shall be deemed to have been waived or abandoned and my client shall be entitled to purchase the aforementioned property in accordance with law and the claims if any of such person shall not be binding on them.

KUNTAL MUKHERJEE, ADVOCATE
HIGH COURT AT CALCUTTA
Chamber : 8, Raj Kumar Chatterjee Road
Kolkata - 700037
Cont. No. 9830699424/8250761455

Sd/- Registrar-in-Charge
Debts Recovery Tribunal-3, Kolkata

Human rights begin at home

SANTHOSH MATHEW

Once, human rights were understood as the simple principle that one person's rights should never extend beyond the tip of another's nose - unless invited. On December 10 each year, the world comes together to observe International Human Rights Day, a day that underscores the inherent dignity and the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family.

First recognized in 1950 under the guidance of the United Nations, this day has evolved into a global call to action for the protection and promotion of human rights worldwide. Yet, despite decades of progress, violations persist across the globe, reminding us that the fight for human rights is far from over.

The debate on human rights dates back centuries, and two of the most prominent figures in this discourse - Edmund Burke and Thomas Paine - left a lasting legacy that continues to resonate today. Burke, a supporter of the monarchy, saw the preservation of tradition and hierarchy as essential to societal stability, while Paine, a revolutionary thinker, championed liberty, equality, and the rights of individuals.

One of Paine's most famous lines, "We pity the plumage, but forget the dying bird," directly addressed the hypocrisy of focusing on superficial issues while ignoring the deeper, more urgent concerns. In modern times, these words still carry weight, highlighting how we often address surface-level concerns while systemic injustices persist, unnoticed or unchallenged.

The observance of Human Rights Day invites us to reflect on the progress made and the work still to be done. It is a reminder that the principles outlined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 10 December 1948, remain crucial in shaping a more just and equitable world. However, despite the ground-breaking achievements of the UDHR, widespread violations continue, and the fight for human dignity remains on-going.

Throughout history, the struggle for human rights has been a journey

fraught with obstacles. One notable turning point in this struggle occurred in the United States during the 19th century. The abolition of slavery, a monumental achievement, came about through the tireless efforts of leaders like Abraham Lincoln, who, in 1863, led the nation to abolish the institution through the 13th Amendment to the Constitution. This was a transformative moment in the history of human rights. Despite the victory, however, African-Americans continued to face systemic discrimination and segregation for many years after.

The 1954 landmark decision in *Brown v. Board of Education*, where the US Supreme Court declared racial segregation in public schools unconstitutional, was another significant victory for human rights in America. But even after this, African-Americans had to fight for basic rights like access to education, the vote, and an end to discriminatory laws. It was only in 1965, after decades of struggle and advocacy by civil rights leaders like Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., that African-Americans were granted the right to vote under the Voting Rights Act. These achievements were monumental, but they were hard-won, demonstrating the lengths to which marginalized communities had to go in order to claim their human rights.

Internationally, the story of human rights has also been one of continuous struggle and progress. The United Nations' adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948 was a defining moment. It set out, for the first time, a global standard for human rights, affirming the rights of individuals to life, liberty, and security, among other freedoms. The UDHR became the foundation upon which many countries would base their own human rights frameworks. But the road to realising these rights in full has not been easy.

Over the decades, the UDHR has been supplemented by two essential covenants - the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights - passed in 1966 to reinforce and clarify the rights outlined in the UDHR. One of the key figures behind the development of the UDHR was Eleanor Roosevelt, who, as the chairperson of the UN Human Rights



Commission, played a pivotal role in its creation. Known as the "mother of modern human rights," Roosevelt's vision for a world where all people were treated equally and with dignity shaped the discourse on human rights for generations.

Unfortunately, she did not live to see the full impact of the UDHR, passing away in 1962, but her legacy lives on. Since 1998, the Eleanor Roosevelt Award for Human Rights has been awarded annually to individuals who have made significant contributions to the protection of human rights.

As we reflect on the history of human rights, we must also acknowledge the many challenges that remain today. In the United States, for example, despite significant progress, debates about gun control and mass shootings continue to spark deep divisions. The United Nations and various human rights organizations have called for greater restrictions on firearms, but powerful interest groups like the National Rifle Association (NRA) continue to push back against any form of regulation. The on-going violence in schools and public places is a stark reminder that the struggle for human rights continues, and that the protection of human life and safety is an essential component of human rights.

In India, human rights protections are enshrined in the Constitution, which guarantees the right to life,

liberty, and equality. However, even in a country with such a strong legal framework, violations of human rights are not uncommon. Discrimination based on caste, religion, gender, and disability continues to affect millions of people across the country. While the Constitution guarantees equal rights for all, the reality often falls short. The National Human Rights Commission, which works to address these issues, plays an important role, but there is still much work to be done.

The issue of discrimination remains one of the most pervasive challenges to human rights. Gender-based violence, including domestic abuse, sexual assault, and trafficking, continues to devastate the lives of women and girls around the world. In many countries, LGBTQ+ individuals face violence, discrimination, and the denial of basic rights. Refugees and migrants, fleeing war, persecution, and poverty, are often subjected to inhumane conditions and denied their rights to safety and protection.

The most vulnerable members of society, including those who are stateless, face some of the most extreme forms of discrimination, and the international community must do more to protect them. On a global scale, poverty and inequality are also significant barriers to realizing human rights. Despite progress in some areas, the gap between the rich and the poor continues to

widen. Economic inequalities, along with the challenges posed by climate change, pose major threats to the realization of human rights for millions of people around the world.

The struggle for human rights is far from over. While progress has been made, there are still millions of people around the world who are denied their basic rights and dignity. The world must come together to address the root causes of discrimination, inequality, and violence. Human rights are not just abstract concepts; they are the foundation of a just and peaceful world. As we observe International Human Rights Day later this month, we must renew our commitment to these principles and work to ensure that they are upheld for all people, everywhere.

The fight for human rights is not just the responsibility of governments or international organizations. It is a responsibility shared by all of us, whether through advocacy, education, or simply standing up for justice. We must remember the words of Eleanor Roosevelt: "Where, after all, do universal human rights begin? In small places, close to home." It is in our homes, our communities, and our everyday actions that the future of human rights will be determined.

(The writer is Associate Professor, Centre for South Asian Studies, Pondicherry Central University.)

POLITICAL DIARY KALYANI SHANKAR

Lessons for Opposition in poll results

Every political party makes mistakes, but the smart ones learn from them and move forward. The growth and success of any party must reflect on past mistakes and use them as stepping stones for progress.

The Congress could not maintain momentum after the 2024 Lok Sabha elections six months ago when it doubled its seats.

What caused the decline in its performance? Did the Congress party, the oldest in India, fail to seize opportunities for learning and adaptation? Did the NCP and the Uddhav faction of the Shiv Sena misinterpret the signals? Did the BJP make errors in Jharkhand? The recent results from the Maharashtra and Jharkhand Assembly elections reveal missed growth opportunities.

Two things stand out in the Maharashtra and Jharkhand polls. The first is the size of the BJP-led NDA win in Maharashtra, defeating the NCP and Uddhav Shiv Sena, both of which had ruled Maharashtra earlier, and the ease with which Hemant Soren retained Jharkhand. Both were ruling their respective states.

The alliance could have performed better if Congress had learned from past experiences and made necessary adjustments. Unlike the Pachmarhi or Shimla conclaves, there has been a lack of post-election analysis.

Congress must address this lack of introspection. It could not have been due to a generational change, as change is constant. The succeeding generations must work to take the party forward. The Grand Old Party is entirely under the control of Rahul Gandhi, the Leader of the Opposition, and his chosen associates. Rahul worked hard and campaigned, but the party must still get voters to the polling booths. The results suggest they have not learnt from mistakes of the recent Haryana Assembly elections, such as relying heavily on one leader, ignoring the others, and the wrong distribution of tickets, despite being in a winning position.

The most crucial aspect the Congress Party, NCP and the Uddhav faction of Shiv Sena must address is the narrative. For the Congress, the focus on caste issues, defending the Constitution, and making personal attacks on the Prime Minister has not resonated with the voters. This disconnect is a clear sign that the party needs to reevaluate its strategy and focus on issues that truly matter to the electorate, such as the bread and butter problems. It is a pressing concern that needs alignment.

Even within the INDIA alliance, there are frictions now. After the recent results, partners in the INDIA bloc like AAP and the Trinamool Congress are pursuing their own agendas and show

little interest in joint action for the current winter session of Parliament.

Even earlier, Rahul Gandhi's attack on Savarkar did not garner any support for Congress; instead, it created friction between the Shiv Sena, which idolised Savarkar, and Congress. These parties also did not realise the political impact of the BJP's parent organisation, RSS, which worked for the party's success.

The INDIA bloc did not specify the issues as they did during the Lok Sabha elections, focusing solely on defeating the BJP and its allies. This strategy influenced the Lok Sabha results, forcing the BJP to form a government with the support of two regional parties, the JD(U) and the Telugu Desam Party. The

Maratha strongman Sharad Pawar must feel disheartened after losing his party and the election to his nephew, Ajit Pawar, whom he groomed. The warning signs became clear when Ajit joined the BJP, betraying his uncle to help form the government.

The situation worsened when the Election Commission recognised Ajit's faction as the real NCP, despite Sharad Pawar having founded and led the party to power multiple times. This decision severely undermined Pawar.

The same applies to Uddhav Thackeray, son of Sena founder Bal Thackeray, who succeeded his father, lost the party and the elections to rebel



Eknath Shinde, who helped BJP form the government in Maharashtra in a coalition. Both must introspect about what led to their loss of popularity.

On the other hand, JMM, a partner in the INDIA bloc, has demonstrated how to win despite numerous challenges. JMM Chief Minister Hemant Soren and his wife, Kalpana, faced several hardships, including a jail sentence for Soren.

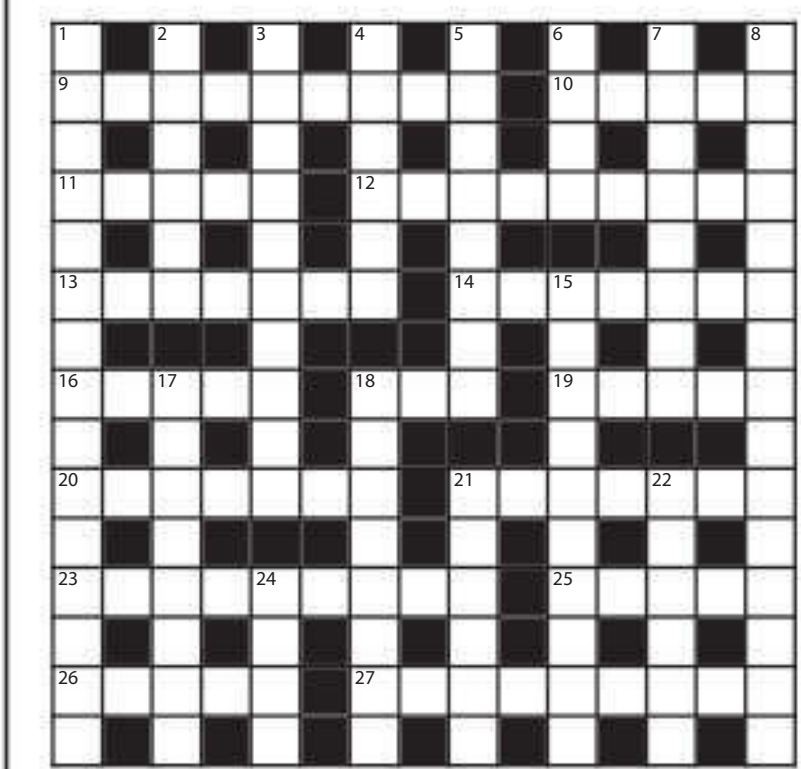
In India, elections occur almost continuously in one state or the other. So, the election season has not ended. The immediate test will be the Rajya Sabha elections for six seats on December 20. The NDA is expected to

win five of the six seats, while the Trinamool Congress will likely secure one. This might result in NDA getting the majority in the Upper House, which could further weaken the Congress Party's position in the Parliament. There are eight vacancies - four in the nomination category and four in Jammu and Kashmir.

Ultimately, wins and losses in elections are seen all over the world. Every election reveals the mistakes and successes of the players. But the real winner is the one who rectifies his mistakes without losing time. Winners must not become complacent, while losers need to stay motivated.

CROSSWORD

NO-292970



ACROSS

- 9 See two newspapers coming round for church feature (5,4)
10 Longer and shorter periods reversed in final letter (5)
11 Excellent daughters returned to home land (5)
12 Designer makes Catholic dose with ecstasy during play (9)
13 Artist seen in every echo? Listener's smart! (7)
14 Recline to consume honeyed drink and quencher (7)

- 16 Fine beer to be sent round for beast (5)
18 See 20
19 Correlation shown where moon follows rodent (5)
20/18 It needs treatment, rough, for backing protocol row (7,3)
21 By it one develops feeling for character (7)
23 Hearings in case due to be rescheduled (9)
25 Money short, then endlessly given in tax (5)
26 Fish served with duck's tongue (5)

DOWN

- 1 Busy work mounting bugs famed oil worker (6,9)
2 Aura surrounding old tribe in Moroccan location (6)
3 Lark circling sailor caught — a bleak prospect? (10)
4 Gypsy turning up with beer and spirits (6)
5 Large adhesive label covers disciplinarian (8)

- 6 Here camels roaming spit on one (4)
7 Material about eastern Mediterranean region (8)
8 Reproduction Stonehenge assembled in capital (15)
15 Tees upset about hypocrisy concerning trade (10)
17 Notice six-footer eating cake that's rich (8)
18 Deeply impressed after heartless 18 Across, but

- miserable (8)
21 Split in religious group that goes both ways? (6)
22 Reprieves ram trapped among the French (3-3)
24 Poet's black book one that's devious keeps (4)
NOTE: Due to technical reasons, we are unable to publish the solution to yesterday's crossword. We apologise to our readers.

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

NOW AND AGAIN

CASHLESS TRANSACTIONS

SUNIPA BASU

I am not a great fan of cashless transactions though I am slowly beginning to appreciate the benefits. I no longer have to stock up small change for small purchases or wait for days for a cheque to be credited because of intervening bank holidays. Amitabh Bachchan in his popular game show "Kaun Banega Crorepati" is forever showing how UPI credits your bank account instantaneously. I however must confess that I am still thrilled to get a 10 rupee coin which I can pop into my piggy bank.

It is also to be noted that his game show is peppered with RBI warnings on online frauds with the slogan "Jankar Baniye Satakar Rahiye" that inhibits people like us. Sociologists are yet to fully research the impact that cashless transactions are having on the human mind and society: whether people are more generous or stingy, cautious or reckless, practical or impractical, planned or un-planned, trusting or suspicious and whether society has become a safer place or plagued by unseen dangers in cyber space.

Just the other day, I was a witness to a novel cashless transaction closer home that provided answers to some of these questions.

Urmila, the lady fishmonger, has been a common figure in our neighbourhood. She carries a big aluminum vessel on her head, full of fish. Over the years she has built up a fixed clientele that reduces her labour and very often on festive days or home celebrations fetches her extra orders. Getting on in years, she developed knee pain that prevented her from climbing stairs.

This is where our caregiver Gita, her old friend, stepped in. Every morning she accompanied Urmila on her rounds chit-chatting on the way, helping her in loading and unloading the vessel on her head, most importantly carrying it up the stairs on her behalf. Urmila gave her the fish left over at the end of the day.

Just a few days back, Gita came in the evening with a delectable dish of Sarse (mustard) Chingri (Prawns). It so happened that Urmila got a big order of Golda Chingri (Golden Prawn) for a home occasion in our complex. Gita had helped in carrying the fish to the third floor and Urmila had saved some pieces for her friend. We were lucky to share the delicacy that Gita had cooked with loving care - two pieces for her family and two for our family. This was a cashless transaction bridging the era of the barter system before money was invented to the current one through a human relationship that is invaluable and hence cashless.

100 YEARS AGO

WORK FOR THE VILLAGES

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "STATESMAN."

SIR,—In his two interesting letters on the subject of the water-hyacinth pest in Bengal Dr. Brühl has sounded a timely warning, and now is the time for the Government and the people of Bengal to take note and move.

I remember having read in the papers of some experiments being made by Sir J. C. Bose in regard to the water-hyacinth, and I think a committee was formed to report on the matter. I do not know what has been the fate of the committee's labours.

Dr. Brühl in his second letter notes that the "older members of the community are often apathetic and unwilling to exert themselves or even to allow others to do the work" of clearing tanks and *khals*, which is occasionally undertaken by the younger men. I happen to be associated with a small organization named the "Kodali Brigade." The activities of this society are similar to those suggested by Dr. Bruhl. The Brigade is composed of a number of young men who generally spend their Sundays in visiting villages in the interior and cleansing jungles, tanks and drains. In their operations these boys have met with queer instances of opposition from the older people. On one occasion the boys were not allowed to work in a filthy drain for the simple reason of their being mostly dressed in khaki. This the gentleman owner of the drain apprehended to be a sign of enhanced taxes payable to the municipality. It is needless to say that the young men had as much to do with the municipality as with the man in the moon!

On another occasion a rather big tree which was hanging over a little *doba*, and thereby polluting the water, was not allowed to be cut down. When a member of the Brigade asked why that useless tree could not be cut down, the owner replied with all seriousness that the tree was believed to shelter a "spirit" and if the tree was hewed down the wrath of the spirit would fall upon the family. The youth came back disappointed—but wiser!

Yours, etc.,
ANADI MUKHERJI,
3, Ultadanga Junction Road,
Calcutta



Syrian troops battle rebel offensive in Aleppo

The lightning push into Aleppo followed weeks of simmering low-level violence

AGENCIES
BEIRUT, 30 NOVEMBER

Thousands of Syrian insurgents fanned out inside Aleppo in vehicles with improvised armor and pickups, deploying to landmarks such as the old citadel on Saturday, a day after they entered Syria's largest city facing little resistance from government troops, according to residents and fighters.

Witnesses said two airstrikes on the city's edge late Friday targeted insurgent reinforcements and hit near residential areas. A war monitor said 20 fighters were killed.

Syria's armed forces said in a statement Saturday that to absorb the large attack on Aleppo and save lives, it has redeployed and is preparing for a counterattack. The state-

ment acknowledged that insurgents entered large parts of the city but said they have not established bases or checkpoints.

Insurgents were filmed outside police headquarters, in the city center, and outside the Aleppo citadel. They tore down posters of Syrian President Bashar Assad, stepping on some and burning others.

The surprise takeover is a huge embarrassment for Assad, who managed to regain total control of the city in 2016, after expelling insurgents and thousands of civilians from its eastern neighborhoods following a grueling military campaign in which his forces were backed by Russia, Iran and its allied groups.

Aleppo has not been attacked by opposition forces since then. The 2016 battle



for Aleppo was a turning point in the war between Syrian government forces and rebel fighters after 2011 protests against Assad's rule turned into an all-out war.

The push into Aleppo followed weeks of simmering low-level violence, including government attacks on opposition-held areas. Turkey, which has backed Syrian opposition groups, failed in

its diplomatic efforts to prevent the Syrian government attacks, which were seen as a violation of a 2019 agreement sponsored by Russia, Turkey and Iran to freeze the line of the conflict.

The offensive came as Iran-linked groups, primarily Lebanon's Hezbollah, which has backed Syrian government forces since 2015, have been preoccupied with their own

battles at home. A ceasefire in Hezbollah's two-month war with Israel took effect Wednesday, the day the Syrian opposition factions announced their offensive. Israel has also escalated its attacks against Hezbollah and Iran-linked targets in Syria during the last 70 days.

A witness in Aleppo said government troops remained in the city's airport and at a military academy but most of the forces have already fled out of the city from the south. Syrian Kurdish forces remained in two neighborhoods.

The redeployment "is a temporary measure and (the military central command and armed forces) will work to guarantee the security and peace of all our people in Aleppo," the military statement said.

Bangladesh: Three Hindu temples vandalised in Chattogram

AGENCIES
DHAKA, 30 NOVEMBER

In a disturbing incident three Hindu temples in Chattogram, Bangladesh, were vandalised by a mob shouting slogans, amid ongoing protests and violence in the region.

The attack occurred at around 2.30 P.M. on Friday in the Harish Chandra Munsef Lane area, targeting the Santaneshwar Matri Temple, the Shoni Temple, and the Shantaneshwari Kalibari Temple.

According to reports from BDNews24.com, a group of several hundred individuals, after attending the Friday prayers, descended upon the temples, throwing brickbats and causing damage to the Shoni Temple and the gates of the other two temples.

The temple authorities confirmed the extent of the damage, which included broken gates and other vandalised structures.



Kotwali Police Station chief Abdul Karim confirmed the attack and stated that the assailants made deliberate attempts to damage the temples.

Tapan Das, a permanent member of the Santaneshwar Matri Temple management committee, recounted the harrowing events, stating that the attackers began chanting anti-Hindu and anti-ISKCON slogans as they arrived in large numbers.

The violence has been brewing in Chattogram since the arrest of Chinmoy Krishna Das, a former member of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness

(ISKCON), who was detained on charges of disrespecting the Bangladesh national flag. The protests and unrest surrounding his arrest have escalated tensions in the region.

Tapan Das further revealed that the temple authorities did not engage with the attackers during the assault, and instead, they called for military assistance as the situation worsened.

The Army responded promptly and helped restore order. By the time the mob arrived, the temple gates had been secured, but the damage to the structures had already been done. According to reports, the attack appeared to be unprovoked, and no significant resistance was made by the temple staff.

The incident has raised serious concerns about the safety of religious minorities in Bangladesh including Hindus, Christians and Buddhists.

Iran denies allegation of violating Chemical Weapons Convention



AGENCIES
TEHRAN, 30 NOVEMBER

Iran's permanent mission to the UN in New York has firmly rebutted claims suggesting that the nation had breached the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC),

the official news agency IRNA reported.

The Institute for the Study of War, a policy research organisation on US national security, alleged that Iran had been focussing on how to produce and deliver pharmaceutical-based chemical

agents for military use, citing a November 26 report by the US Institute for Science and International Security, Xinhua news agency reported.

In response to the allegation, the Iranian diplomatic mission wrote on Thursday on social media platform X that Iran stands as a responsible signatory to the CWC, which strictly forbids the development, production, and stockpiling of chemical weapons, asserting that "over the past several decades, not a single instance of Iranian violation has been recorded."

It called the allegation "unfounded" and "merely an outgrowth of psychological warfare propagated by the Zionist regime (Israel) in the wake of its recent defeat on the Lebanese front."

China sentences journalist detained at meal with Japanese diplomat to 7 years for espionage

AGENCIES
BANGKOK, 30 NOVEMBER

A court in Beijing on Friday sentenced a prominent Chinese journalist to seven years in prison for espionage, his family said.

Dong Yuyu, a commentator and editor, was taken away by police while meeting a Japanese diplomat at a restaurant in February 2022. He has been in police custody since then.

The Beijing Number 2 Intermediate People's Court read the verdict but did not share a copy with Dong's lawyers or family. No announcement was available on the court's website or its Weibo account.

The verdict named then-Japanese ambassador Hideo Tarumi and Shanghai-based

chief diplomat Masaru Okada as agents belonging to an espionage organization, according to the family's statement.

Dong had served as the deputy head of the editorial department at Guangming Daily, one of the five major state-owned papers in China. The paper was once considered more liberal than other state-backed papers. Dong also contributed to the Chinese edition of the New York Times.

In his published writings, including essays as well as opinion articles, Dong had voiced his support for constitutional democracy and political reform, which later were considered to be against the stance of the Communist Party.

He had contacts with for-



eign diplomats, scholars and other journalists as part of his decades-long career and counted Tarumi, the ambassador, as a friend.

Still, his family said he knew he was always watched by state security, and therefore sought to be as open as possible while meeting his Japan-

The Beijing Number 2 Intermediate People's Court read the verdict but did not share a copy with Dong's lawyers or family. No announcement was available on the court's website or its Weibo account.

onage organizations," said the family in a statement. "Every sensible Chinese citizen should be appalled by this reasoning."

The U.S. Ambassador to China, Nicholas Burns, condemned Dong's conviction. "Punishing Dong for exercising his freedom of speech and the press, guaranteed by the PRC's constitution for all its citizens, is unjust."

Stealth destroyer to be home for 1st hypersonic weapon on a US warship

AGENCIES
WASHINGTON, 30 NOVEMBER

The U.S. Navy is transforming a costly flub into a potent weapon with the first shipborne hypersonic weapon, which is being retrofitted aboard the first of its three stealthy destroyers.

The *USS Zumwalt* is at a Mississippi shipyard where workers have installed missile tubes that replace twin turrets from a gun system that was never activated because it was too expensive. Once the system is complete, the *Zumwalt* will provide a platform for conducting fast, precision strikes from greater distances, adding to the use-

fulness of the warship.

"It was a costly blunder but the Navy could take victory from the jaws of defeat here, and get some utility out of them by making them into a hypersonic platform," said Bryan Clark, a defense analyst at the Hudson Institute.

The U.S. has had several types of hypersonic weapons in development for the past two decades, but recent tests by both Russia and China have added pressure to the U.S. military to hasten their production.

Hypersonic weapons travel beyond Mach 5, five times the speed of sound, with added maneuverability making them harder to shoot down.



Last year, *The Washington Post* reported that among the documents leaked by former Massachusetts Air National Guard member Jack Teixeira was a defense department briefing that confirmed China had recently tested an intermediate-range hypersonic weapon called the DF-27. While the Pentagon had pre-

viously acknowledged the weapon's development, it had not recognized its testing.

One of the U.S. programs in development and planned for the *Zumwalt* is "Conventional Prompt Strike." It would launch like a ballistic missile and then release a hypersonic glide vehicle that would travel at speeds seven to eight times faster than the speed of sound before hitting the target. The weapon system is being developed jointly by the Navy and Army. Each of the *Zumwalt*-class destroyers would be equipped with four missile tubes, each with three of the missiles for a total of 12 hypersonic weapons per ship.

Iceland votes for a new parliament amid disagreements on immigration, energy policy and the economy

AGENCIES
REYKJAVIK, 30 NOVEMBER

Icelanders are electing a new parliament Saturday after disagreements over immigration, energy policy and the economy forced Prime Minister Bjarni Benediktsson to pull the plug on his coalition government and call an early election.

This is Iceland's sixth general election since the 2008 financial crisis devastated the economy of the North Atlantic island nation and ushered in a new era of political instability.

Opinion polls suggest the country may be in for another upheaval, with support for the three governing parties plunging. Benediktsson, who was named prime minister

in April following the resignation of his predecessor, struggled to hold together the unlikely coalition of his conservative Independence Party with the centrist Progressive Party and the Left-Green Movement.

Iceland, a nation of about 400,000 people, is proud of its democratic traditions, describing itself as arguably the world's oldest parliamentary democracy. The island's parliament, the Althingi, was founded in 930 by the Norsemen who settled the country. Fierce weather in the sub-Arctic nation threatened to hamper some voters getting to polling stations on Saturday, with heavy snow blocking roads in many areas. The weather could also delay the



delivery of ballot boxes to counting centers after polls close at 10 p.m. (2200GMT).

Voters will choose 63 members of the Althingi in an election that will allocate seats both by regional constituencies and proportional representation. Parties need at least 5% of the vote to win seats in parliament. Eight parties were represented in the outgoing parliament, and 10 parties are contesting this election.

Turnout is traditionally high by international standards, with 80% of registered voters casting ballots in the 2021 parliamentary election.

A windswept island near the Arctic Circle, Iceland normally holds elections during the warmer months of the year. But on Oct. 13 Benediktsson decided his coalition couldn't last any longer, and he asked President Halla Tómasdóttir to dissolve the Althingi.

"The weakness of this society is that we have no very strong party and we have no very strong leader of any party," said Vilhjálmur Bjarnson, a former member of parliament. "We have no charming person with a vision ... That is very difficult for us."

Millions of Americans facing frigid temperatures, snow

AGENCIES
NEW YORK, 30 NOVEMBER

A blast of Arctic air was set to unleash bone-chilling temperatures into the weekend across much of the central and eastern United States, said various weather reports.

The core of the Arctic air will be concentrated in the northern Plains and upper Midwest of the country into early next week, with highs in the single digits, 10s and 20s, according to AccuWeather, Xinhua news agency reported.

The US National Weather Service warned the region, some of which has already begun to experience heavy, lake-effect snow, to brace for "dangerously cold wind chills."

Over the long holiday weekend, the cold air will push south and east, plunging temperatures to near freezing from central Texas to northern Florida and up



to New York, according to a USA Today report.

Even for areas familiar with Arctic air, the looming

front will drop temperatures 10 to 20 degrees below historical averages for the end of November and early

December, AccuWeather said.

By Saturday morning, about 196 million Americans

Over the long holiday weekend, the cold air will push south and east, plunging temperatures to near freezing from central Texas to northern Florida and up to New York, according to a USA Today report.

will be waking up to below-freezing temperatures, and for the millions in states along the Interstate 95 corridor, "this will be the coldest start to meteorological winter in years," the report said.

"Winter storm warnings and advisories were in place from northern Wisconsin to Michigan and western New York, where some communities could see up to 4 feet of snow by the end of the weekend. As the most intense bands pass, snow could fall at rates as high as 5 inches per hour," said USA Today about the situation.

US retailers use Trump tariff threats to urge shoppers to buy more: Report

AGENCIES
NEW YORK, 30 NOVEMBER

Many US businesses are urging customers to buy now before President-elect Donald Trump's proposed tariffs potentially raise costs and prices, local media reported

Throughout his campaign, Trump promised to impose tariffs of 60 per cent on all Chinese goods and across-the-board tariffs of 10 per cent to 20 per cent on goods from other countries. On Monday, he laid out plans to levy tariffs of 25 per cent on imports from Mexico and Canada, and an additional 10 per cent on goods coming from China, reported Xinhua news agency, citing The Wall Street Journal (WSJ) on Friday.

"It is unclear what tariffs will be levied and how much



they will affect prices," said the report. "Companies are pouncing at a moment when fear and uncertainty are on the rise and consumer spending is showing signs of weakness."

Most large corporations have yet to incorporate warnings about possible tariffs into their marketing campaigns, and they might not explicitly do so at all. But several have pointed out that they might need to pass on higher costs, said the report.

Hike in LPG prices in Pakistan: The Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA) on Saturday announced the increase in the price of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) throughout Pakistan for the December.

NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY

E-Tender Notice

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

S. No.- 1., E-Tender Notice No. & Name of the work:- Tender No.- "14-GKP-MWS-2024-25" "Shifting, installation and commissioning & Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract of Servo Hydraulic Shock Absorber Testing Machine Cap. 50 KN. Make HEICO (M/c SI.No. - H-2020-043) (Asset No. ABS-27) and Shock Absorber Testing Machine Make-Amar Engineers & Fabricator (Asset No. ABS-22) for 03 Years (36 Months)". Estimated cost (in Rs.): 3695996.00. Earnest Money (in Rs.): 73900.00. Last date of tender submission:- Upto 11.00, Date: 20.12.2024. Cost of the Tender forms:- Zero. Period of Contract:- 36 Months. The details of above tenders are also available on Indian Railway website "http://www.irps.gov.in".

Dy. CME/Repair Mechanical Workshop CPRO/Mech-85 Gorakhpur

Do Not Smoke Bidi/Cigarette in train

THUMBNAILS

BHEL secures order at Khavda and Nagpur: Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL), in partnership with Hitachi Energy India Limited, has secured a landmark order through competitive bidding from Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POWERGRID) on behalf of its Project SPV Company for setting up a + 800kV, 6000 MW HVDC Link between the Khavda KP52 (Gujarat) and Nagpur (Maharashtra). The HVDC link, expected to be established by 2029, will significantly contribute towards the national mission to achieve 500 GW of power from Renewable Energy by the year 2030.

8th Foundation Day ICAI (IIPI) organised: Justice Dipak Misra, Former Chief Justice of India (CJI) has said that the success of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) depends on the collective roles and coordinated actions of its stakeholders. He was speaking as the Chief Guest on the 8th Foundation Day of Indian Institute of Insolvency Professionals of ICAI (IIPI) organized on the theme "Improving Engagement Across Stakeholders" on 26th November 2024 at India International Centre, New Delhi. "The engagement between CAs and RPs is essential for the effective and efficient implementation of the IBC. Given their complimentary skill sets, collaboration between these two professions can streamline the insolvency process and maximise value for all stakeholders," he said.

Delivery to unlock the future of D2C growth at Kolkata summit: Delivery to unlock the future of D2C growth at Kolkata summit: Delivery, one of the largest logistics and supply chain services providers, is set to host its next Growth Summit in Kolkata. This event focuses on fostering the future of direct-to-consumer (D2C) growth in Tier-2 and 3 markets, underlying Delivery's dedication to empowering emerging businesses and advancing e-commerce expansion across the country. Bringing together close to 200 D2C founders, entrepreneurs, and eCommerce brands, the summit will explore transformative logistics solutions and technologies. Key topics include leveraging AI-driven logistics, optimising delivery networks, and scaling sustainably in high-growth regions.

Ola Electric: Ola Electric, one of the largest pure-play EV companies in India, has announced the launch of its Gig and S1 Z scooter range, designed to unlock the full potential of electric mobility for the masses. The new range of scooters offers durable, reliable, affordable, and flexible solutions, including removable batteries, fulfilling the personal and commercial use cases of rural, semi-urban, and urban customers.

Healara forays into Indian market: Healara, a skincare line from South Korea, was launched in New Delhi. This innovative brand results from a collaboration between Microalgae Ask Us, South Korea, and Amorisha Empires LLP, India. Healara Revolutionizes Skincare with Ocean's Power Healara is a revolutionary skincare line that harnesses the ocean's power to heal the skin. With a focus on vegan, animal cruelty-free products, Healara is committed to providing safe, effective skincare solutions for all skin types.

FIMC 2024 explores AI, business models, and future of work: FORE School of Management announced the conclusion of the FORE International Management Conference (FIMC) 2024, held from 28-30 November, at its campus in New Delhi. Themed "AI, Business Models, and Future of Work," the conference gathered a diverse group of global thought leaders, academics, industry practitioners, and policymakers to delve into the transformative impact of Artificial Intelligence (AI) on business practices and the workforce. Founded in 1981, FSM has been a pioneer in shaping future leaders through a holistic approach to learning. With a strong focus on industry relevance and academic excellence.

Blum India opens Studio Ethos: Blum India launched its first Blum Inspiration Centre, Studio Ethos in New Delhi on 29 November. On the occasion, Blum India Managing Director-Nadeem Patni said, "We want to assure interior designers, architects, and anyone interested in home design that this flagship store breaks new ground. We have rolled out of new kitchen design concept called the "KitchenTestDrive" that gives customers a hands-on opportunity to test multiple kitchen layouts right in the store to find the one that meets their needs. The centre unveils a new interactive space to experience our innovative furniture fittings within spiring design ideas that are essential to elevate the quality of living."

Workindia highlights growth in IT sector jobs amid market slowdown: Workindia, one of the leading tech-enabled blue-collar hiring platforms, has released its IT hiring data report, providing a comprehensive analysis of the evolving job market. The data highlights a 10 per cent overall decrease in IT job postings from 2023 to 2024, with notable variations across cities, job categories, and candidate preferences. IT job postings have witnessed a 10 per cent decline in 2024 compared to the previous year. This decline spans across various city groups, except for the top-tier (T1) cities, which have shown positive growth in IT hiring. Among the different city groups, T1 cities have bucked the overall trend with a 7 per cent increase in IT job opportunities from 2023 to 2024.

'Kauthig' Food Festival: Delhiites witnessing the Uttarakhand Food Festival, Kauthig from November 29 November to 8 December at Saket South Delhi. The festival showcases the rich flavours and traditional recipes of Garhwal and Kumaon, offering a true taste of the region's lost recipes and mountain-inspired dishes, specially-curated by Chef Prateek Agrawal at Hilton Garden Inn.

Central Board of Direct Taxes extends deadline for taxpayers with international transactions

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, 30 NOVEMBER

The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) on Saturday extended the due date for filing the return of income tax for tax payers with international transactions who are required to submit informations under section 92E.

The CBDT has given the relaxation for the Assessment Year 2024-25, as per an official statement.

As per the statement the new



deadline for the filing the return has been extended by 15 days, from November 30 to December 15 in the current year.

The due date for furnishing the return of Income u/s 139 (1) of the Income-tax Act, 1961 (the Act) in the case of an assessee

who is required to furnish a report referred to in section 92E, is the 3th day of November of the assessment year i.e 30.11.2024 for the AY 2024-25," the the official document added.

CBDT, on November 24, advised all taxpayers to carefully

review their foreign income and assets and report them accurately in their Income Tax Returns (ITRs).

Income Tax department in its special edition of 'Samvad' raised awareness on proper disclosure of foreign assets and income by taxpayers. The session aimed to raise awareness among taxpayers about the need to accurately report their foreign income and assets in their Income Tax Returns (ITR).

During the session, Shashi Bhushan Shukla, Commissioner (Investigation), CBDT explained

that all Indian residents are required to declare their foreign assets, which can include real estate, bank accounts, shares, debentures, insurance policies, or any other financial assets where they are the beneficial owner.

He said that Income Tax Department has provided a detailed step-by-step guide in the ITR form, specifically in the "Foreign Assets and Income" schedule, where taxpayers can report their foreign income and assets. He emphasised that this rule applies specifically to resident taxpayers, as defined under Section 6 of the

Income Tax Act.

Talking about the returning Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) who had foreign assets when they were living abroad, he said that even if these individuals return to India and become residents, they must disclose their foreign assets and income for the years they qualify as residents.

The same rule applies to any foreign citizen who becomes a resident in India, as per Shukla. The requirement to disclose foreign assets applies to both residents and those who transition into residency status.

NEWSFEED

SAIL AND JCIL SIGN MOU



Steel Authority of India Limited signed a Memorandum of Understanding with John Cockerill India Limited (JCIL), the Indian arm of the global John Cockerill Group, on 28 November in Mumbai. Anil Kumar Tulsiani, Director (Finance), SAIL and Michael Kotas, Managing Director-Metals Division, John Cockerill India Limited signed the MoU.

NHPC partners with GGGI to drive clean energy innovations



NHPC signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Global Green Growth Institute at its Corporate Office, Faridabad on 28 November. The MoU was signed by VR Shrivastava, Executive irector (REGH), NHPC and Soumya Prasad Garnak, Country Head of GGGI in the presence of Uttam Lal, director (personnel), NHPC and Dr DK Khare, advisor, GGGI.

AHMEDABAD INTERNATIONAL BOOK FESTIVAL



Ahead of the launch of the first edition of the Ahmedabad International Book Festival, the National Book Trust, India (NBT-India) held a press conference which was graced by Pratibhaben Jain, Mayor of Ahmedabad and others. The nine-day festival started from 30 November.

MANOHAR LAL FLAGS OFF NTPC'S GREEN HYDROGEN BUSES AT LEH



Manohar Lal, Minister of Power and Housing & Urban Affairs flagged-off the fleet of green hydrogen buses of NTPC at Leh in the presence of senior officials of Ministry of Power, Leh Administration and NTPC on 23 November. After the flag-off, Minister travelled 12 km in one of the H2 buses from the H2 filling station to the Leh airport.

GAIL signs contract with 'K' LINE for LNG ship Vessel

Looking to expand its fleet of LNG carriers, GAIL (India) Limited signed a long-term time charter contract with Kawasaki Kisen Kaisha, Ltd. ("K" LINE) through the ship-owning company established in Singapore for a new-built LNG ship.

"K" LINE has expertise of 40 years in LNG transportation.

The contract was signed in the presence of RK Jain, GAIL Director (Finance), Sanjay Kumar, GAIL Director (Marketing) and R K Singhal, GAIL Director (Business Development) by S Bairagi, GAIL Executive Director (Mktg.-Shipping & Intl. LNG) and Satoshi Kanamori, Managing Executive Officer (LNG, Carbon Solution Business), "K" LINE.

LIC CEO inaugurates All India LIC Games in Jaipur

Siddhartha Mohanty, CEO and MD, LIC of India, inaugurated the All India LIC Games, 2024 at the Sawai Man Singh Stadium in Jaipur on November 26. This annual sports festival of Life Insurance Corporation of India, which will run for four days, will be conducted in six disciplines - carrom, chess, table tennis, badminton, volleyball and athletics. Also present on the occasion were Salil Vishwanath, executive director (HRD), Aditya Gupta, executive director (Corporate Communications), LIC Northern Zone Zonal Manager JPS Bajaj and Senior Divisional Managers, Jaipur Division

HPCL amerges as leader at FIPI Oil and Gas Awards 2023

Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL), a Maharatna Oil & Gas PSU, has emerged as a leader in the Oil and Gas industry, bagging three prestigious awards Sustainably Growing Corporate of the Year , Innovator of the Year (Team): Women Executive of the Year at the FIPI Oil and Gas Awards 2023. These awards are a testament to HPCL's unwavering commitment to innovation, sustainability, and leadership.

The objective of the FIPI Oil & Gas Awards is to celebrate the industry's most outstanding achievements. The awards were presented



by Union Minister, Petroleum and Natural Gas, Hardeep Singh Puri, in the distinguished presence of MoS, Petroleum & Natural Gas and Tourism, Suresh Gopi, Secretary MoPNG, Pankaj Jain, and esteemed leaders from the Oil & Gas industry.

Eastern Railway enhances safety in AC coaches

At Eastern Railway, passenger safety is not just a responsibility but a commitment that drives every innovation and decision. To ensure a secure journey for all, advanced Fire and Smoke Detection Systems (FSDS) and Fire Detection cum Brake Application (FDBA) systems have been implemented in air-conditioned coaches. These systems are designed

to detect potential fire hazards early, giving timely alerts and enabling immediate action to protect passengers and minimize risks.

The introduction of Fire and Smoke Detection Systems (FSDS) and Fire Detection cum Brake Application (FDBA) systems in AC coaches marks a transformative step in ensuring passenger safety. As Eastern

GAIL re-engages process licensor for revival of PTA manufacturing plant in Mangalore

GAIL (India) Limited, through its wholly owned subsidiary GAIL Mangalore Petrochemicals Limited (GMPL), has re-engaged with Process Licensor INEOS to support the plant's revitalisation, formalizing this renewed collaboration through an Amendment Agreement signed.

This marks a significant step towards the revival of GMPL's 1.25 MMTPA Purified Terephthalic Acid (PTA) manufacturing plant located in the Special Economic Zone (SEZ), Mangalore.

GAIL receives 'initiatives in promoting hydrogen company of the year' Award



GAIL (India) Limited has received the "Initiatives in Promoting Hydrogen Company of the Year" Award in the prestigious FIPI Oil & Gas Awards 2023.

Hardeep S . Puri, Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas presented the award to Shri Sandeep Kumar Gupta, CMD GAIL.

RK Jain, Director (Finance),

Deepak Gupta, Director (Projects) and Ayush Gupta, Director (HR), GAIL were present at the event.

The award recognizes GAIL's significant contributions to the advancements in the field of Hydrogen and for initiatives in the field of Hydrogen through substantial capex investments and advancements in R & D .

Bank of Baroda Kolkata Zone organises mega Kisan Melas



Bank of Baroda, one of India's leading public sector banks, organised Mega Kisan Mela at Konkalitala in Birbhum District of West Bengal on Monday, 18 November, as a part of the 7th Edition of the Baroda Kisan Pakhwada, which is Bank's annual, fortnight long engagement programme focused on the Indian agrarian economy. Baroda Kisan-Pakhwada 2024 took place between November 11, and November 22 with the Baroda Kisan Diwas celebrations. The Bank reached approximately 20,000 farmers in Kolkata

Zone during the course of the Baroda Kisan Pakhwada through number of outreach events. The Mega Kisan Mela was inaugurated by Shri Bal-aSubramaniam Elango, Chief General Manager Compliance, Bank of Baroda, Sanjay Kr. Tiwary, General Manager & Zonal Head, Kolkata Zone, Sanjay Chaudhary, DGM (Business Development), Kolkata Zone, Rajesh Das, AGM & Regional Head, Burdwan Region, ADM (LA) Birbhum District, BDO Birbhum District, etc. among other dignitaries.

BHEL ORGANISES SAMVAAD 4.0

Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) organised BHEL SAM-VAAD 4.0 - the fourth edition of its dialogue with domestic business partners, industry associations, academia, research institutes, government organisations, other ministries like DoE, DPIIT, MoP, MoSteel, Mety, Railways, etc. and CPSEs like NTPC, SAIL, MIDHANI, HAL, BPLCL, IOCL, ONGC, institutions like CEA, NCI-IPIL, ICAT, etc. at Bharat Mandapam. The theme of the event, organised under the aegis of the Ministry of Heavy Industries (MHI), was 'Strengthening self-reliance through innovation & collaboration'.

WESTERN RAILWAY OBSERVES 75TH CONSTITUTION DAY

On 26th November, 2024, the 75th Constitution Day of our nation was observed with great enthusiasm over Western Railway. The day commemorates the auspicious occasion when the Constitution of India was adopted on 26 November, 1949 by the Constituent Assembly. Ashok Kumar Misra, General Manager of Western Railway, administered the Preamble to railway officers and staff at WR HQs office, Churchgate. According to a press release issued by Vineet Abhishek, Chief Public Relations Officer of Western Railway, the Constitution Day was celebrated with great fervor across all Divisions of WR including stations, Training Institutes and Railway Schools. The Preamble was also read by officers, staff, trainees and students.

DELHI TOURISM PARTICIPATED IN 55TH IFF IN GOA

Delhi Tourism participated in the Film Bazaar at 55th International Film Festival, organised by NFDC, Ministry of Information and broadcasting, at Goa from 20-24 November, to promote Delhi Film Policy 2022. The delegation of Delhi Tourism comprised of Niharika Rai, Managing Director & CEO, SM Ali, General Manager, Sanjeev Chugh, Chief Manager and Maniksha Bakshi, Manager Films, and promoted incredible shooting locales of Delhi with eFilm Clearance portal for ease of doing film business in Delhi

THDC INDIA LTD COMMEMORATES CONSTITUTION DAY

THDC India Limited (THDCIL), a leading PSU in the power generation sector, celebrated Constitution Day with great zeal across its Corporate Office, Project Sites, and Unit offices. The occasion marks the historic presentation of the Constitution by the Drafting Committee, led by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, and its adoption on November 26, 1949. RK Vishnoi, CMD, THDCIL, emphasized the significance of the Indian Constitution, calling it the foundation of the country's democracy. He stated, "The Indian Constitution is a beacon of our nation's principles—equality, justice, liberty, and fraternity. It guides us in building a stronger and more inclusive society. Observing Constitution Day reminds us of our collective responsibility to uphold and propagate these values in every aspect of our lives."



Politicos slam EVMs at venue of Baba Adhav's protest fast

For now, Adhav has given up his fast, but he said that his agitation against EVMs will continue

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, 30 NOVEMBER

Even as the BJP failed to make any official announcement about who will be Maharashtra's Chief Minister for the eighth day on Saturday, senior Maharashtra politicians met Dr Baba Adhav, an old respected political activist and physician, who had been on a protest fast against the use of electronic voting machines (EVMs), demanding a return to paper ballot voting.

Interestingly, NCP leader and Deputy CM Ajit Pawar, who is a part of the winning BJP-backed Mahayuti was at the venue at Bhide Wada locality in Pune, requesting Baba Adhav to call off his three-day old fast "to save democracy and the Constitution".

Uddhav Thackeray who leads the Shiv Sena (UBT) and Jayant Patil of the Sharad Pawar-led NCP also met Adhav and requested him



to give him his fast.

At least for now, Adhav has given up his fast, but he said that his agitation against EVMs will continue.

Earlier on Saturday, Sharad Pawar himself who is 83, met the medico Baba Adhav who is 96 years old, who was on a protest fast against EVMs since November 28. Significantly, Sharad Pawar expressed full support to

Baba Adhav's anti-EVM protest.

Shortly after Baba Adhav broke his fast, politicians lost no time in using the venue to target the BJP-backed Mahayuti.

Uddhav Thackeray said that "a big movement" will be organised against EVMs to "save democracy".

"Today is a day to remember, Baba is always an inspi-

ration and inspiration never grows old. Even the losers and the winners of this assembly election do not believe in this result. A spark is enough to ignite a wildfire. At this moment, Baba Adhaav is that spark. The rulers purchased Maharashtra through various schemes. EVM is a big issue because the people must understand where their votes have gone," Uddhav said.

Uddhav questioned why 76 lakh votes increased during the last one hour of voting. He also made it a point to target Maharashtra caretaker CM Eknath Shinde without openly naming him.

"Why is there no happiness in Maharashtra despite Mahayuti getting such a monstrous majority? Why are these people going to worship in the fields instead of going to Raj Bhavan (Maharashtra Governor's official residence) with their majority," Uddhav asked, targeting Eknath Shinde indirectly. Uddhav Thackeray said

that the Maha Vikas Aghadi comprising the Shiv Sena (UBT), the Congress and the Sharad Pawar-led NCP will take the anti-EVM protest movement forward. Thackeray said that Baba Adhav should withdraw his agitation for now, but such anti-EVM agitations will continue to take place all over Maharashtra.

"This is another fight for freedom. Don't let Adani come here," Uddhav-led Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Raut said, taking on Gautam Adani.

Also at the venue of Adhav's fast was social activist Medha Patkar who said that several countries had abandoned EVMs.

"Nobody knows if something is being done by somebody who is sitting at the EVM control room. If there is a relationship between the political party in power and the Election Commission, and if votes are purchased when the code of conduct is in effect, there is a problem," Medha Patkar said.

Cong trying to cover up failure by blaming ECI, EVMs: Rajeev Chandrasekhar

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, 30 NOVEMBER

Senior BJP leader Rajeev Chandrasekhar on Saturday lashed out at "fraudulent" Congress for blaming the Election Commission of India and EVMs and for its electoral losses in Maharashtra and said that it was nothing but an attempt to cover up its failure.

Talking to a news agency, the former NDA minister said that Congress, instead of working on its ideology, was blaming the judiciary, Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) and poll panel for its defeat.

"They (Congress leaders) know EVMs were far better than ballot papers as earlier booth fixing and ballot grabbing used to occur," he said.

He also pointed to the 'divide within the party' over Congress leaders' demand for the restoration of ballot papers and stated that their contrasting voices are coming to fore because many of them do not want to speak



lie.

He said that the Congress party harbours a policy of 'divide and rule' and advised it to accept the truth rather than blaming the constitutional agencies for their defeat.

"Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge, during the Congress Working Committee (CWC) meeting on Friday, said people were

rejecting party high command and therefore a new strategy was required," he said.

Notably, during the recent CWC meeting, Kharge hinted that "harsh decisions" should be taken in the wake of "unexpected" results in the Maharashtra and Haryana Assembly elections. He also called for correcting party's weaknesses and shortcomings at the organisational level. The CWC adopted a resolution expressing concern over the alleged compromise of the integrity of the electoral process. The resolution stated that the party would soon launch a movement in response against 'abuse' of electoral machinery. Underscoring the need for unity, he said, "The most important thing that I keep saying is that lack of unity and statements against each other harm us a lot. Unless we fight elections unitedly and stop making statements against each other, our unity will be ruined."

Mumbai Police invoke MCOCA in Baba Siddique murder case

AGENCIES
MUMBAI, 30 NOVEMBER

Mumbai Police on Saturday invoked the Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act (MCOCA) in the murder of Bab Siddique murder case.

Baba Siddique was an NCP leader who was shot dead by three assailants near his son, MLA Zeeshan Siddique's, office in Mumbai's Nirmal Nagar on October 12.

So far, the police have arrested 26 accused, while 3 more people are wanted by the authorities.

The Lawrence Bishnoi gang has claimed responsibility for the NCP leader's murder.

Mumbai Police investigation into the Baba Siddique



murder case has revealed that prime suspect Akashdeep Gill, arrested in Punjab, used a labourer's mobile hotspot to communicate with key conspirators, including mas- termind Anmol Bishnoi, police said.

Gill was identified as the logistics coordinator in the murder plot orchestrated by notorious gangster Anmol Bishnoi.

"In a significant develop- ment in the Baba Siddique

murder case, Akashdeep Gill, arrested from Fazilka, Punjab, disclosed during interrogation how he communicated with key conspirators using a labourer's mobile hotspot. This method was employed to evade police detection," the Mumbai Crime Branch said.

"Gill admitted to using the hotspot of a labourer named Balwinder, allowing him to appear offline and avoid tracking. The Crime Branch is currently searching for Gill's mobile phone, which may hold vital evidence related to the case. Gill has been identified as a crucial logistical coordinator for the murder plot orchestrated by gangster Anmol Bishnoi," they said.

On November 12, a local court in Mumbai sent Shiva

Kumar, one of the accused and shooter in the Baba Siddique murder case, along with four other accused, to police custody.

Shiva Kumar and four other accused were arrested by a joint team of Uttar Pradesh Special Task Force (STF) and the Mumbai Crime Branch from the Nanpara area of Uttar Pradesh's Bagraich on November 10.

NCP leader Baba Siddique was shot dead by three assailants near his son, MLA Zeeshan Siddique's, office in Mumbai's Nirmal Nagar on October 12.

Police have also arrested Salman Vohra and Akashdeep Singh in connection with the murder. Vohra has been accused of financing the murder.

Bodo Council chief meets Defence Minister, proposes special army regiment for region



AGENCIES
GUWAHATI, 30 NOVEMBER

Assam's Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC) Chief Pramod Boro called on Defence Minister Rajnath Singh in New Delhi.

During the meeting held

submitted a memorandum to the Defence Minister, proposing the creation of a special regiment named the "Territorial Army Home and Hearth Battalion" for BTR. He stated that this initiative would offer a dedicated platform for the region's youth to join the defence forces and contribute to the nation's security.

"The proposal aims to inspire greater participation while fostering a deep sense of patriotism and national pride among the youth of BTR," Pramod Boro said.

The Defence Minister appreciated the commitment of the BTR government to encouraging the region's youth and assured due consideration of the proposal.

The meeting marks a significant step toward fostering the region's integration with national defence initiatives.

Further, the BTC Chief

Manipur CM accuses Mizoram counterpart of fan- ning division': Tensions have escalated between the governments of Manipur and Mizoram, with Manipur Chief Minister Biren Singh criticizing his Mizoram counterpart Lalduhoma for allegedly fueling "hatred and division" through his comments on the ongoing crisis in Manipur. In a strongly-worded statement released yesterday, the Manipur government accused Lalduhoma of promoting a "secessionist agenda" and opposing initiatives like border fencing along the Indo-Myanmar boundary, which aims to curb illegal immigration, arms trafficking, and drug smuggling. The statement alleged that a "greater agenda" was at play to create a Kuki-Chin Christian nation spanning parts of Myanmar, India, and Bangladesh through illegal immigration, land acquisitions, and the establishment of autonomous councils. SNS

CM Himanta Biswa Sarma inaugurates IISF at IIT-Guwahati, calls science the engine of growth

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
GUWAHATI, 30 NOVEMBER

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Satirday inaugurated the India International Science Festival (IISF) at the Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati (IIT-G).

Addressing a gathering of young scholars, scientists, and innovators, CM Sarma emphasized the critical role of technology in shaping the future of nations.

In his keynote speech, the Chief Minister outlined the transformative potential of science, stating, "In today's world, a nation's prosperity is tied to the integration of technology, resources, and capital. Among these, technology stands out as the most



transformative force. By harnessing the disciplined pursuit of science, a nation can overcome resource limitations and reduce its dependence on external capital."

He further underscored how advancements in science and technology can drive social equity, alleviate poverty, and improve living standards across diverse sectors like agriculture, healthcare, environmental conservation, power generation, and trans-

portation.

Highlighting India's contributions to global knowledge, CM Sarma remarked, "India has always been a beacon of technological innovation, with a rich legacy in mathematics, astronomy, medicine, and philosophy. From ancient centers like Takshila and Nalanda to luminaries such as Aryabhata and Sushruta, our nation's contributions have inspired the world."

The Chief Minister encouraged young minds to continue their pursuit of innovation, describing science as a powerful engine driving human progress.

The India International Science Festival (IISF), an annual event organized by the Ministry of Science & Technology in collaboration

with other government bodies, aims to foster scientific temper and promote innovation among the youth. This year's edition at IIT-Guwahati focuses on aligning scientific advancements with India's developmental goals, particularly in the North-East region. IISF serves as a platform for students, researchers, and industry leaders to exchange ideas, showcase innovations, and explore collaborative opportunities. The festival reflects India's commitment to harnessing science and technology for sustainable development. This year, the event features exhibitions, panel discussions, and workshops aimed at inspiring young talent to tackle real-world challenges through scientific solutions.

Apex Meitei body's women wing threatens stir if missing person not rescued

AGENCIES
IMPHAL, 30 NOVEMBER

The women's wing of the Coordinating Committee on Manipur Integrity (COCOMI), the apex body of the majority Meitei community, threatened to launch a series of agitations if the army failed to locate and rescue the 56-year-old

man of the community who has been missing since November 25 from Kangpokpi district.

COCOMI women's wing convenor Leirik Leima said that if the army were found to be biased, the people, particularly the mothers of Manipur, would not tolerate such actions. If the authorities fail to ensure the safe return

of Laishram Kamalbabu Singh, the people of Manipur would no longer allow the army to remain in Leimakhong in Kangpokpi, she said. "The people of Manipur had placed their trust in the Army, which had been stationed in Leimakhong for a long time," Leirik Leima told the media. Kamalbabu Singh, a resident

of Gossaipur under Cachar district in southern Assam and now staying at Loitang Khunou village in Imphal West district, left his residence on 25 November to go to the Leimakhong military station, where he was working as a supervisor for a contractor working with Military Engineering Services (MES).

TENDER

MORE TENDER ADS ON PAGE 2 & 5

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE

Deputy Chief Engineer-II (GSU), N.C. Railway, Gwalior for and on behalf of the President of India invites Open Online e-Tenders (Single packet System) for the following work:

E-Tender No.: DYCEGSUGWL0324

Description of work: "VGLJ-CNB Section: Feasibility study survey and preparation of DPR for construction of ROB/RUB in lieu of 25 Nos. level crossing."

Approx. Cost : 1.43 Crore	Date of closing Tender : 23.12.2024
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Date of completion/period from issue acceptance letter : 06 Months

• Tender can be submitted online up to 11:00 hrs on 23.12.2024.

• For full details and submission of bid please see the Indian Railways website www.irps.gov.in 2050/24(AS)

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

Office of the Executive Engineer
Road Construction Department, Road Division,
Chaibasa
eeecdchaibasa-jhr@nic.in

Very Short E-Procurement Notice
30.11.2024

1.	Name of Work	New Construction/Renovation of Inspection Bungalow under Road Division, Chaibasa for the year 2024-25.
2.	Estimated Cost (Rs.)	₹ 2,00,00,000.00 (Two Crore) Only.
3.	Time of Completion	06 (Six) Months
4.	Date of Publication of Tender On Website	16.12.2024 at 11.30 AM
5.	Last date/Time for receipt of bids.	23.12.2024 Up to 3.00 P.M.
6.	Date of Opening of Bid	24.12.2024 at 11.30 A.M.
7.	Name & address of office Inviting tender	Office of the Executive Engineer, RCD, Road Division, Chaibasa
8.	Contact no. of Procurement Officer	7781899686
9.	Authority to Open the Bid	E-Procurement Officer/office of the Chief Engineer(Com) RCD, Jharkhand.
10.	Helpline number of e-Procurement cell	0651-3510880

* Quoted rate above Schedule rate will be Outright Rejected.
* Estimated value me be increase or decrease.
* Further details can be seen on website <http://jhrkhandtender.gov.in>

Executive Engineer
PR 340896 East Singhbhum(24-25)D RCD, Road Division, Chaibasa.

e-TENDER NOTICE

KADOMBOGACHI GRAM PANCHAYAT
NIT No: 007/KGP/15TH FC (UNTIED)/ 2024-25. Tender ID: 2024_ZPHD_774277_1 to 3. Last date of Bid submission: 07/12/2024 (2 PM). Estimated value: 683828.00 Details on : <https://wbtdenders.gov.in>.

Mob: 8617210059
Sd/- Prodhan
Kadombogachi Gram Panchayat, Barasat-I Block, North 24 Parganas.

e-TENDER NOTICE

Office of the BDO
Banarhat Block, Jalpaiguri

Notice Inviting e-Tender by the undersigned for different works vide NIT No. e-NIT NO.: BANARHAT / EO / NIT-005 / 2024-25. Last date of online bid submission: 09-12-24, 6-00 P.M. respectively. For further details you may visit: <https://wbtdenders.gov.in>

Sd/- BDO, Banarhat Block

MAHATRANSCO

NOTICE INVITING TENDER CPD/112-2024-25

Tenders are invited through e-Tendering in SRM system from the registered vendors for Supply of following:

Tender No. & Description of Material	Estimated Amount (in Rs Lakhs.) Tender Fee (in Rs.)	Due Date & Time (Hrs.) for Submission & Opening of Tender
SP/T-0532/1124 [RFX No.5000001332] [1st Call] (Two Bid System) Procurement of 200MVA, 220/132kV ICT (02 Nos.); 100MVA, 220/132kV ICT (01 No.); 50MVA, 220/33kV (01 No.); 50MVA, 132/33kV (10 Nos.); 50MVA, 132-110/33kV (03 Nos.) and 25MVA, 220/33kV (01 No.) Transformer along with New Uninhibited Naphthenic Based High Grade Mineral Insulating Oil required for Augmentation Schemes under Amravati; Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar; Karad; Nagpur & Nashik Zone.	8943.84 Lakhs 25,000.00	27.12.2024 27.12.2024 Up to 16.00 Hrs. At 16:15 Hrs.

Contact Person: Office of the Executive Engineer (Gr.P&C)
Tel. No. : 022-69852717/08329909813
Email: secpa@mahatransco.in, eepr5@mahatransco.in,
For further details visit our website <http://www.srmetender.mahatransco.in>
Any further amendments will be published on the MSETCL website www.mahatransco.in.
So bidders are requested to check the website.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer (P&C)

MAHATRANSCO

INVITATION FOR BID (IFB) (LOCAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING)

SRM e-Tender No. T-2478/MSETCL/CO/ Projects /Pre-Tender (RFX No. 6000001256)

MSETCL invites offers by SRM e-tendering in TWO bid system (Techno-Commercial Bid and Price Bid) from the eligible registered bidders for the following work as detailed below.
"Conversion of 110kV DCDC to 132kV DCDC line from Mayani Tap to Dighanchi Substation (Route Length-48.86 km) under Karad Zone, MSETCL."

Interested bidders may obtain further information available on the website. <https://srmetender.mahatransco.in>
The date of downloading of Bid documents available on the website is from 25.11.2024.

Sd/-
Chief Engineer (Projects), MSETCL

WEST CENTRAL RAILWAY

No. JBP/C/170/E-Auction/Misc/24 Date: 29.11.2024

The Bids are invited from registered entities on IREPS by Sr. DCM/JBP (ACO) through e-Auction for the commercial/NFR contracts of Earning & Leasing of SLRs. The Catalogues have already been published on IREPS website www.ireps.gov.in. The details of upcoming e-Auction of Jabalpur division are as under:-

Cate gory	Catalog ue No.	Asset Details	Auction Start	Auction End
Parcel leasing	JBP-C- PARCEL- 47	Leasing of SLR compartment of train no. 12192 (JBP-NZM), 12160 (JBP-AMI), 11651 (JBP-SGR), 13248 (REWA-BSP), 22938 (REWA-RJT), 12187 (JBP-CSMT), 22190 (REWA-JBP), 12186 (REWA-RKMP), 22186 (ADTL-RKMP), 22182 (DND-BPL), 12062 (JBP-RKMP), 20906 (REWA-EKAR), 22189 (JBP-REWA), 11706 (REWA-JBP), 11751 (REWA-CHRM), 19014 (KTE-BSL), 11447 (JBP-JWH), 12121 (JBP-NZM), 20627 (JBP-SRC)	12.12.2024 10:30 hrs.	12.12.2024 14:00 hrs.
		Parking Lot for Two wheelers & Four wheeler at Bargawan Station for Three years	09.12.2024 12:00 hrs.	09.12.2024 12:30 hrs.
	JBP-C- PAR- 24-10	Parking Lot for Two wheelers & Four wheeler at Sagour Station for Five years	09.12.2024 12:00 hrs.	09.12.2024 12:40 hrs.
		Parking Lot for Two wheelers & Four wheeler at KTE Up side Station for Three years	09.12.2024 12:00 hrs.	09.12.2024 12:50 hrs.
	JBP-C- PAR11- 24	Parking Lot for Two wheelers & Four wheeler at KTE Down side Station for Three years	13.12.2024 12:00 hrs.	13.12.2024 12:30 hrs.

1. Bidder are advised to visit website www.ireps.gov.in for more information related to above e-Auction. 2. The bid has been invited through e-Auction Leasing module of IREPS website. 3. All the e-Auction related information as eligibility, scope of work, contract period, terms & conditions of contract etc., are available on IREPS. 4. Bidders can participate in e-Auction only as per the date & timing as indicated in IREPS. 5. All the prospective bidders are requested to visit website www.ireps.gov.in regularly for any corrigendum related to above e-auction

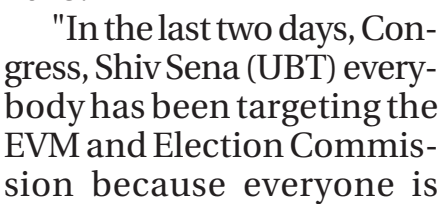
Divisional Railway Manager (Commercial)
West Central Railway, Jabalpur

सख भारत अधिवान एक कदम स्वच्छता की ओर



Jagtap refused to apologise over his objectionable 'kutta' remark for the Election Commission

Talking to the news agency, Somaiya said, "I have written to the Election Commission and also filed a complaint with the Mumbai Police Commissioner. Such a kind of insult, the humiliation of the Election Commission which is a constitutional body can't be tolerated. Action should be in-



mission amid the row over the usage of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMS) and said that the country's democracy has been "disreputed" because of ECI's "syco-

He further said that Congress brought the EVM technology because it was being used in France, and the US, but after 2009, doubts started arising over its use.

The RSS urged both the Bangladesh government and the international community

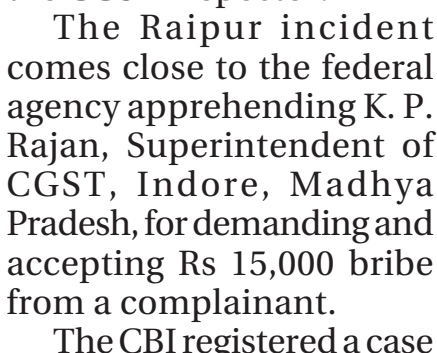
A group of several hundred individuals, after attending the Friday prayers, descended upon the temples, throwing brickbats causing damage to the Shoni Temple and the gates of the other two temples, the report said.

Earlier, during a press conference, Sachdeva alleged that Balyan was directly

"Earlier, BJP accused Naresh Balyan of collusion with Kapil Sangwan. Sangwan is a Najafgarh resident and has been accused in the murder case of INLD leader

"He should focus on answering for his governance failures rather than making irrelevant statements. The people of Delhi deserve accountability," Sachdeva added.

The accused allegedly told Verma that if he agreed to pay the bribe, no show cause notice would be issued, otherwise he would have to pay the entire amount of Rs 1.73.000 to the govern-



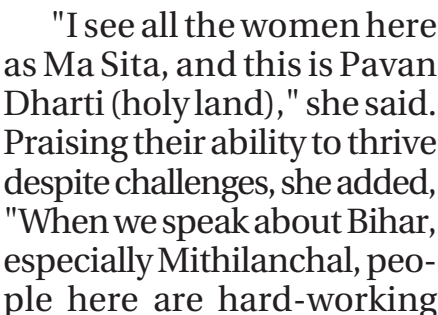
Searches were launched soon after at the residential and official premises of the accused.

uate, and PhD were conferred during the event and talented students excelling

Congratulating the graduating students, Minister Goel said that Indians hold prestigious positions in top global companies, making India the center of global attention. He urged students to uphold the values imparted by their parents and teachers and to always stay connected to Indian culture, wherever they go.

Bihar Minister and state BJP President Dilip Jaiswal on Saturday criticised RJD chief Lalu Prasad Yadav and his son and party leader Tejashwari Yadav over the reservation issue, saying that their statements on the subject lack substance. Dilip Jaiswal argued that the credit for implementing reservation policies in Bihar goes to Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and not the RJD leaders. "Tejashwari Yadav always claims credit for providing reservation to the people of Bihar, but the fact is that he has not done anything. It was Nitish Kumar who implemented reservations. I challenge Tejashwari Yadav to ask his father, Lalu Prasad, how much reservation was given during his tenure as CM," Jaiswal stated. Increasing the reservation percentage of OBC, SC/ST to 65 per cent has emerged as a contentious issue during the winter session of the Bihar Assembly.

In her address, she highlighted the resilience and industrious spirit of the people of Bihar, particularly the



and do not give up even in tough situations. They pick strong representatives. The biggest challenge for Bihar remains the floods caused by the Koshi River. Many projects, such as the Vishnu Pad Mandir Corridor, have been introduced, alongside

The Finance Minister lauded the success of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) in Bihar, an initiative led by Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, and assured continued support from banks to strengthen these groups.

The 13th edition of the bilateral military exercise AGNI WARRIOR (XAW-2024) between the Indian Army and Singapore Armed Forces concluded at the Field Firing Ranges in Devlali, Maharashtra, today. The three days exercise involved 182 personnel from the Singapore Artillery and

114 personnel from the Indian Army's Regiment of Artillery. The primary objective of XAW 2024 was to enhance mutual understanding of operations, drills and procedures to foster joint operations under the United Nations Charter. The exercise showcased joint fire power planning, execution and the use of next-generation artillery equipment by both armies. The event was attended

Best FIFA Football Awards: Mbappe, Vinicius Jr, Carvajal among nominees

Top global talent in focus as FIFA reveals nominees list for best men's player award for 2024

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, 30 NOVEMBER

The nominations for the FIFA best men's player award for 2024 have been announced, featuring top football talents such as Vinicius Jr., Dani Carvajal, Jude Bellingham, Kylian Mbappe, Fede Valverde, and Toni Kroos. Barcelona's Aitana Bonmati leads the nominees for the women's award, further highlighting the diverse and impressive talent in women's football.

Voting for the best players, coaches, and goalkeepers will involve an equal distribution of votes among fans, current national team captains, and media representatives.

The date for the awards ceremony has not yet been announced.

Vinicius Jr. and his Real Madrid teammates, who boycotted the Ballon d'Or ceremony in Paris after learning that Rodri would win ahead of the Brazilian star, are now poised for another showdown. Rodri, who was instrumental in Manchester City's historic fourth consecutive Premier League title and Spain's Euro 2024 victory, where he was named the tournament's best player, is a strong favourite.

Vinicius Jr. is a significant



rival for Rodri, having scored 24 goals and provided 11 assists across all competitions last season.

His performance was pivotal in Real Madrid's LaLiga triumph and their Champions

League final win against Borussia Dortmund, where he scored the second goal.

Real Madrid's presence is strong on the shortlist, with six players nominated, including the recently retired

Toni Kroos and summer signing Kylian Mbappe. Manchester City's Erling Haaland and Inter Miami's Lionel Messi, last year's winner, are also among the contenders. Messi, who captained Argenti-

na to victory at the 2024 Copa America, continues to be a formidable presence in the football world.

Notably absent from the FIFA Best Men's selection is Cristiano Ronaldo, who

recently surpassed 900 career goals. Despite his record-breaking 35 goals for Al Nassr in the Saudi Pro League last season, Ronaldo has only made the shortlist for the best attacker.

Nistelrooy 'excited' on joining Leicester City as manager



AGENCIES
LEICESTER, 30 NOVEMBER

Ruud van Nistelrooy has expressed his excitement on joining Leicester City as manager and said he will give his best at the job.

The 48-year-old Dutchman, who has a wealth of experience at the highest level of the game, both as a player and a coach, has agreed terms on a contract to June 2027.

He will arrive in the UK in time to be in attendance for Leicester's Premier League trip to Brentford on Saturday, before assuming full first team responsibilities from Sunday.

The side will be led at the Gtech Community Stadium by first team coach Ben Dawson, supported by coaches Danny Alcock and Andy Hughes. Regarded as one of the Premier League's best-ever strikers as a player, the former Netherlands inter-

national has since built a growing reputation as a talented manager and coach with the likes of PSV Eindhoven, Manchester United and the Dutch national team.

"I'm proud, I'm excited. Everybody that I speak to about Leicester City Football Club is enthusiastic. They have great stories about the quality of the people working at the Club, the supporters and, of course, the recent history of the Club is impressive. I'm excited to start and to get to know everyone and give everything I can for the Football Club," Nistelrooy said in a statement.

Nistelrooy enjoyed a stellar playing career with PSV Eindhoven, Manchester United, and Real Madrid, scoring 349 club goals and 35 goals in 70 international matches for the Netherlands. Known for his clinical finishing, technical skill, and leadership, he transitioned these traits into coaching.

ISL: In-form Bengaluru FC take on tricky Odisha FC

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
BHUBANESWAR, 30 NOVEMBER

Former champions Bengaluru FC will aim to hold on to their spot at the top of the points table when they take on Odisha FC in an Indian Super League (ISL) clash at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar on Sunday.

Odisha FC come into this game on the back of an impressive 6-0 win over Hyderabad FC, having climbed to sixth in the ISL table with three wins and draws each this season. Bengaluru FC, meanwhile, sit at the top, boasting six victories and a couple of draws. The Blues recently defeated Mohammedan SC 2-1 in their last away outing.

Odisha FC have gradually begun finding their feet after an indifferent start to the season, whereas Bengaluru FC have been rolling seamlessly ever since the campaign got going. Both these sides have momentum swaying in their favour and they should try to make the most out of it, in their march forward this season.

Odisha FC have won each of their two previous ISL games against Bengaluru FC



at the Kalinga Stadium. A win here would make the Blues the fourth team that Odisha maintain a 100%-win record against at this venue (minimum two games), joining East Bengal FC, Hyderabad

FC, and NorthEast United FC. The rousing crowd support they command in Bhubaneswar can propel the Juggernauts to scale this feat.

The Juggernauts are unbeaten in their last two

encounters with Bengaluru FC in the ISL. A win or a draw would mark their longest-ever unbeaten streak against the Blues.

The Blues have won two of their four away matches

this season, and it's only the second time in their history they have achieved this tally in the first four away games. The entire team has been functioning like a well-drilled unit and they are hence gradually taking the home-away factor out of consideration this year, succeeding across venues.

Bengaluru FC have netted multiple goals in each of their last two ISL matches. The last time they achieved a longer streak was a five-game run between January and February 2023. Their frontline has been boosted by the presence of Sunil Chhetri, who came off the bench to bag a brace against Mohammedan SC in the last game.

Odisha FC head coach Sergio Lobera stressed the need to get on to a positive rhythm and secure wins that can help them seal their fate towards the end of the campaign.

"The first step is the next game. For sure, we know we have six points in play in the coming couple of matches. Getting points is important to get in a good position, which will help us in the final leg of the competition," Lobera said.

World Chess Championship: Gukesh holds China's Liren to exciting draw



AJEYO BASU
NEW DELHI, 30 NOVEMBER

Defending champion Ding Liren of China was left frustrated on Saturday as he was held to a hard-fought draw by Indian star D Gukesh in the fifth game at the World Chess Championship being held in Singapore.

It was the second draw in a row for Gukesh, who was

playing with white pieces. Saturday's result saw both players notch up an identical tally of 2.5 points each. Both Gukesh and the Chinese star need 5 more points in order to win the title.

The 18-year-old Gukesh - the youngest ever challenger for the world title - was in superb form as he matched the reigning world champion move for move. With the

contest locked in a bitter stalemate, the two players decided to agree on a draw after 40 moves. It was the third draw of the match.

Gukesh had emerged winner in the third game on Wednesday. Liren had clinched the first game against Gukesh before the Indian managed to hold his illustrious opponent in the second and fourth games.

ISL: Mumbai City FC ride Mehtab strike against Hyderabad FC

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, 30 NOVEMBER

Mumbai City FC rode a Mehtab Singh strike to defeat Hyderabad FC 1-0 at the Mumbai Football Arena and rise to the sixth spot in the Indian Super League (ISL) table on Saturday.

The Islanders returned to winning ways at home courtesy of a solitary goal from Mehtab Singh as Petr Kratky's men put the preceding defeat against Punjab FC behind by securing their third win of the ongoing season. With his assist, Chhangte became Mumbai City FC's outright highest goal contributor in ISL, leaving the veteran Bipin Singh behind.

The hosts started the game with extra motivation, troubling the Hyderabad FC penalty area with crosses and penetrations. The game's first chance fell to Lallianzuala Chhangte, who dropped his shoulder and lost his marker Parag Shrivastava in the box before testing Lalbiakhlua Jongte with a vicious left-footed effort. However, the Hyderabad FC goalkeeper was alert to the danger as he parried the effort to safety.

The Islanders finally broke



the deadlock in the 29th minute when Mehtab Singh, who is ever dangerous from set-pieces made an exceptional movement to head home a corner delivered by Chhangte. Mehtab lost his marker brilliantly with his intricate movement and came

up with a powerful header to beat Jongte in goal.

Mumbai City FC's celebrations were short-lived as their midfield maestro Toral limped off the field making way for Brandon Fernandes. The Spaniard was struggling with an ankle injury and

despite his best efforts to play through the pain, Toral simply couldn't continue. Therefore Petr Kratky decided to deploy Brandon in the absence of Yoell Van Nieff and Jeremy Manzorro on the bench.

Ramhlunchhunga looked

like the player who could get on the scoresheet for the visitors. The youngster with his darting runs troubled the Mumbai City FC defenders. He also unleashed a vicious long-range effort, forcing Lachenpa to be at his best to deny him the goal.

वस्त्र मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF TEXTILES

राष्ट्रीय परीक्षा एजेंसी
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HEAD COACH JAYAWARDENE REFLECTS ON MI SQUAD

Mumbai Indians head coach Mahela Jayawardene reflected on adding Mitchell Santner and Allah Ghazanfar to the squad ahead of the 2025 season of the Indian Premier League. New Zealand's Mitchell Santner joined the Mumbai-based franchise during the IPL 2025 mega-auction. Coming in at the base price of Rs 2 crore, MI started the bidding for NZ's premier white-ball spinner. No other franchise showed interest, which confirmed his switch to Wankhede. Afghanistan spinner Allah Ghazanfar was picked up by Mumbai Indians for Rs 4.80 crore.

For more updates www.thestatesman.com

THUMBNAILS

Day 1 of India's two-day tour game washed out: The first day of the two-day pink ball game between India and the Australian Prime Minister's XI was washed out due to persistent rain. A steady drizzle bedding in from almost 10am right through to about 5.30pm ensured there was no chance of play during the day at the Manuka Oval in Canberra. The covers stayed firmly on throughout the period, and the Indian team came to the ground for a while but left as the showers refused to relent. Later in the day, there was a period when the rain stopped briefly, and the grounds-men peeled off the covers, with support staff of both teams being briefed by the umpires, but by around 7pm Australian time, a heavy downpour ensured no action was possible thereafter. The match is expected to resume at 2.40 pm on Sunday, and the tickets for Saturday's play will be refunded. The tour game was the only chance of getting any game time with the pink ball under lights, especially for the likes of Rohit Sharma, who missed the Perth Test due to the birth of his second child, and is set to lead the team in the second Test. The match could also be Shubman Gill's first outing in the ongoing tour, after a thumb injury forced him out of the Perth Test that India convincingly won by 295 runs.

Australia not panicking after Perth Test loss to India: Boland

Pacer Scott Boland said the Australians are raring to win the Adelaide Test and turn the series around

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 30 NOVEMBER

A head of the Pink-Ball Test starting next week, Australia pacer Scott Boland said the hosts are raring to have a go in Adelaide. Boland believes despite the scoreline of the defeat in the first Test against India, Australia didn't do much wrong on the field in Perth.

The 35-year-old pacer, who has featured in 10 Tests so far, averages an excellent 20.3 and has 35 wickets to his name in Australian whites said that the Aussie dressing room atmosphere is still on the up. "There's definitely no panic stations in our change rooms," Boland said on Saturday. "There's obviously going to be some chats around individual performances and everyone wants to perform really well every game they play. But yeah, it's like, we've lost one game. It's not toys out of the cot, I don't think."

Boland reckoned that it was the strong 201-run opening stand between Yashasvi Jaiswal and KL Rahul in the second innings that shifted the momentum in the visiting side's favour. "We've spoken as a team about our plans for all the different Indian batters. I won't tell you those, but we've got pretty set plans. They might have a little



bit of a tweak after the guys have seen them again from Perth, because obviously (Yashasvi) Jaiswal batted really well there. KL Rahul batted well in the second dig as well and really dug in. So we'll probably have a chat over the next week and our plans might slightly change, but I'm pretty confident what we did in the first game was good," he said.

Boland made his Test debut at the age of 32, believes the Adelaide Oval as a venue is an ideal pick for a Day-Night Test. "Usually there can be two different games in the one game," he said.

"You can bowl during the day when the sun's out and it doesn't do a whole lot, and then you get to the night session and the ball starts moving around a bit," he said. "I think it's been a couple of instances where the ball hasn't dominated the bat. I think maybe last year at the Gabba we took the new ball and didn't get as many wickets as what we would have hoped in that night session. But now back to Adelaide, I think they produce a really good cricket wicket that really suits the pink ball and helps it last a bit longer because it does

get a little bit softer after 30, 40 overs compared to a red ball."

Hazlewood to miss Adelaide Test

Australia fast bowler Josh Hazlewood has been ruled out of the second Test with a 'low grade left side injury.' Uncapped pacers Sean Abbott and Brendan Doggett have been added to the squad as cover and Australia already have right-arm pacer Boland in the squad.

Boland, who missed out on making the cut for the playing XI in Perth, is now among the frontrunners to replace Hazlewood, and

could feature in his first Test since the early part of the Ashes in July 2023.

"Obviously I haven't played a heap of cricket in the start of this season, but I feel like I've played enough cricket to feel like I'm in a really good spot," he said on Saturday afternoon.

"My body's feeling really good now. I had a couple of niggles that were a little bit sore, but my knee and foot are feeling really good and I'm confident that the ball's coming out. Our last net session in Perth was for me and Josh Inglis, we went pink ball for quite a few overs."

U19 Asia Cup: Pakistan ride Shahzaib ton to beat India



AGENCIES
DUBAI, 30 NOVEMBER

Ascintillating 159-run innings by Shahzaib Khan powered Pakistan to a 43-run victory over India in a Group-A clash of the ACC Men's U19 Asia Cup at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium on Saturday. Shahzaib's 147-ball onslaught, adorned with five boundaries and 10 towering sixes and anchored Pakistan's innings to a competitive 281 for seven in their. The Mansehra-born opener forged a 160-run stand with Usman Khan, who contributed a composed 60 off 94 balls. This partnership set the tone for Pakistan's innings, with Shahzaib adding another vital 71 runs for the third wicket alongside Muhammad Riazullah (27).

India's bowling effort was led by Samarth Nagaraj, who claimed 3 for 45 was supported by Ayush Mhatre's economical 2 for 30.

In reply, India's chase

began on a shaky note, slipping to 81 for four inside 15 overs. Ali Raza was the pick of the bowlers, dismantling the top order with figures of 3 for 36 in nine overs. The highly talked about Vaibhav Suryavanshi, who at 13-years of age was bought by Rajasthan Royals for a price tag of Rs 1.10 crore at the 2025 IPL mega auctions, was dismissed for one run. A fighting 67 off 77 balls by Nikhil Kumar provided some resistance, with support from Harvansh Pangalia (26) and Kiran Chormale (20). However, the target proved insurmountable as India were bowled out for 238 in 47.1 overs. Abdul Subhan and Faham-ul-Haq chipped in with two wickets each. Shahzaib's remarkable innings earned him the Player of the Match award. Pakistan will next face the UAE on 2 December, aiming to secure a semi-final berth. India will take on Japan on the same day in hopes of turning their loss around.

Ricky Ponting advises struggling Smith and Labuschagne to trust their game like Kohli

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 30 NOVEMBER

Former Australia captain Ricky Ponting advised struggling batters Marnus Labuschagne and Steve Smith to trust their game like India's star batter Virat Kohli to turn their fortunes around in the remainder of the Border-Gavaskar Trophy.

Continuing a prolonged batting slump, Labuschagne failed to negotiate the Indian attack led by Jasprit Bumrah in the opening Test at Perth, which the Aussies lost by a whopping 295-run margin, making a 52-ball 2 and 3. Smith looked equally out of sorts while making a first-ball duck and 60-ball 17 before succumbing to Bumrah and Mohammed Siraj in the first and second innings respectively.



"Marnus looked the most tentative out of all the batters in Perth. Yes, it was high quality bowling on a difficult wicket, but he needs to find a way to turn it around," Ponting was quoted as saying by the ICC Review.

Ponting urged the two Australian batters to find their own way like Kohli, who managed to break the

shackles at Perth with his 30th Test ton, and seventh overall on Australian soil. After falling for five in the first innings, the prolific right-hander made an unbeaten 100 in the second innings that helped India set a massive 534-run target.

"Virat went back to trusting his game and he looked like a different player in the second

innings than he did in the first innings," Ponting said.

"He (Kohli) got away from trying to combat the opposition and focused on his strengths. That's what Marnus and (Steve) Smith need to do - find their own way and show great intent," said Ponting.

Ponting, who has 13378 runs from 168 Tests with 41 hundreds, asked the Australian batters to take more risk and apply pressure on the Indian bowlers.

"You have to find a way to take risks and put it back on those guys because you know the Bumrahs of the world they're not going to give you too many easy scoring opportunities. When they do, you've got to be ready to pounce on it and put it away and try and put some pressure back on them," he explained.

BGT: Indian fast bowlers share insights on pink ball ahead of second Test in Adelaide

AGENCIES
CANBERRA, 30 NOVEMBER

As the Indian cricket team prepares for the upcoming pink-ball Test in Adelaide starting 6 December, fast bowlers Akash Deep and Yash Dayal have shared their experiences and observations about the challenges and nuances of bowling with the pink ball.

Reflecting on his experience, Akash Deep highlighted the unique characteristics of the pink ball compared to the traditional red ball.

"It's skidding, it's difficult for the batters, it has got more bounce," Akash explained in a video posted by BCCI on their official website.

"The main thing about this ball is that it remains new for a long time. Generally, what we see with the red ball is that it starts getting old after 5-6 overs," he said.

Yash Dayal, who has been bowling to Indian batting stalwarts in the nets, shared his



observations on the pink ball's behaviour. "What I felt bowling this ball in nets to Rohit (Sharma) bhaiyya and Virat (Kohli) bhaiyya is that it's not swinging much," Yash noted.

"You have to keep their seam position straight. If you pitch the ball in the right areas, then it might change directions," he added.

The Indian team heads

into this Test with renewed confidence, having secured a victory against Australia in the first Test in Perth. The memory of being bowled out for 36 in their last pink-ball Test against Australia will undoubtedly linger, but the team's recent success adds a layer of optimism. The insights from Akash Deep and Yash Dayal provide a glimpse into

the team's preparation and strategic considerations as they aim to tackle the pink-ball challenge and continue their winning momentum in the series.

In the first Test of the Border-Gavaskar Trophy, India won the toss and elected to bat but managed only 150 runs. Nitish Kumar Reddy (41 off 59 balls, six fours, one six) and Rishabh Pant (37 off 78 balls, three fours, one six) added a crucial 48-run partnership for the sixth wicket. Josh Hazlewood (4/29) was Australia's standout bowler, while Pat Cummins, Mitchell Marsh, and Mitchell Starc claimed two wickets each.

Australia's response was dismal, collapsing to 79/9 before a late partnership between Mitchell Starc (26) and Alex Carey (21) took them to 104, conceding a 46-run lead. Jasprit Bumrah led India's bowling with 5/30, while debutant Harshit Rana impressed with 3/48.

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In Funday Fiction:
Touch of mind

Tackling climate change a game of global finance

JOYDEEP GUPTA

A prolonged heatwave followed by a monsoon when it rained heavily or not at all—leading to a vicious cycle of droughts, floods, landslides, storms—that was climate-changed India 2024. The situation has been getting worse for around three decades, as the global average temperature has climbed to 1.2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. With business as usual, it is projected to rise by at least 2.7 degrees by the end of the century.

India finds itself in a peculiar position. It is the world's third largest emitter of greenhouse gases—mainly carbon dioxide—that are warming up the atmosphere. Only China and the US emit more. But India's per capita emission is among the world's lowest, though it is projected to go up as more people use more electricity. At the same time India is among the world's ten-worst impacted countries, with around Rs 13.35 lakh crore spent on climate adaptation in 2021-22, just over 5.5% of its GDP, according to the government. It expects to spend another Rs 57 lakh crore for the same purpose by 2029. This does not include the money being spent on renewable energy—the main way to control greenhouse gas emissions—by central and state governments, private firms and individuals.

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) has coordinated global efforts to combat this menace since 1995, when its first conference of parties (COP) was held. Since then, India has argued that developed countries—with 20% of the world's population—have placed 80% of the greenhouse gases in the atmosphere since the start of the Industrial Age, so developed countries must pay developing countries to deal with the problem.

This has led to protracted and ongoing debates at the annual COPs, with developed countries saying China and India now emit more and that rich countries are already paying as much as they can. India has stuck to its guns. At the 2023 COP in Dubai, it asked rich countries to provide at least \$1 trillion per year to developing countries from 2025, primarily through grants and concessional finance rather than commercial loans.

UNFCCC reported this September that developing countries will need between \$5.01 and \$6.85 trillion by 2030 to support the activities they have pledged to deal with climate change.

A study by New Delhi-based International Forum for Environment, Sustainability and Technology (iFOREST) has estimated that India itself will need more than \$1 trillion (Rs 84 lakh crore) by 2050 just to move away from coal mining and thermal power plants.

The 2024 COP in Baku—the capital of Azerbaijan—started with this backdrop of large finance requirements. The main aim was to finalise the "New Collective Quantified Goal" (NCQG) of climate finance.

Mukhtar Babayev, Azerbaijan's Minister for Ecology and Natural Resources and the President-designate for this year's COP, pointed out that between December 023 and May 2024, extreme weather caused damage worth \$41 billion. More recent was Hurricane Helene, which alone is estimated to have caused damage worth \$250 billion in the US. There is really no option but to control greenhouse gas emissions, and to find the money to move towards cleaner energy sources. Babayev said, "We need to work together to deliver fair and ambitious climate finance first and foremost."

UNFCCC Executive Secretary Simon Stiell said before the COP, "Over a trillion dollars was invested in climate action last

year globally. Up from a few hundred billion a decade ago...But relative to where we need to be—this is nowhere near enough. This year we've seen hundreds of billions of dollars of damage to countries rich and poor. So, we know trillions more are needed. Doing so is a crucial investment to protect the global economy, and will be a fraction of the costs every nation will pay if we allow the climate crisis to keep running rampant, devastating more and more lives and livelihoods every year."

Many developing countries—including India—hold that climate justice demands payment from rich nations in the form of grants and soft loans. Developed countries have made it clear that they cannot afford anywhere near such amounts. So, where is the money to come from? It is now agreed by many countries that most of the money will have to come from private investors, while grants and soft loans from governments and organisations like the World Bank can play the crucial role of standing guarantor for the loans. The big tussle now is on four counts. First, how much will rich nations pay? Second, should large developing countries like China and India pay as well? Third, how low can the interest rates for private loans be? Fourth, which developing countries will have a preference over getting the money?

Stiell said in October, "Just this week the World Bank announced more concessional lending for climate. And the IMF is looking at ways to incorporate climate action and risks right across their work. This is good news. But incremental increases won't lead to an exponential surge of investment and green growth. On climate finance, we have a need for speed, and without much larger scale, all economies will fail. So many countries are facing debt crises that amount to fiscal straight-jackets, making it near-impossible to invest in climate action."

"At COP29 in Baku all governments must agree a new goal for international climate finance that truly responds to the needs of developing countries," the UNFCCC chief added. "It's not my job to prejudge what the new goal will look like. But it's clear public finance must be at the core. As much of this finance as possible needs to be grant or concessional, and must be made more accessible to those who need it most...It's also important we put in place mechanisms to track and ensure that the promised funds are delivered."

Right now, that is the core problem. There are lots of climate funds—the Green Climate Fund under UNFCCC, the Climate Investment Fund of the World Bank, the Adaptation Fund, the Loss and Damage Fund, the LDC Fund and so on. The trouble is these funds have nowhere near the amount they need or have been promised by rich countries. Pledges have been made with fanfare, and then routinely unmet.

This is especially true for the money needed to adapt to climate change impacts. Most of the money goes into mitigation, in the form of solar and wind projects. But even there, "The world is at risk of missing the target of tripling renewable energy capacity by 2030," according to Francesco La Camera, Director General of International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA). A few weeks before the 2024 COP, he said in Baku, "The world is projected to deliver only half of the required growth in renewable power by 2030." IRENA estimated that to reach the goal, investment in renewables needs to triple to an annual \$1.5 trillion between now and 2030.

India has arguably the world's largest renewable energy addition target in this decade, 500 gigawatts (GW) of installed capacity by 2030. It had crossed 154 GW by the end of this September. But to reach the 500 GW target, annual investments in the sector must be tripled from the \$11.4 billion invested in 2023-24. Vibhuti Garg, Energy Economist and Lead India of the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis, wrote in 2022 that investments would have to be \$30-40 billion annually.

India started a green bonds scheme, and has participated in other programmes to raise money for renewables. Today, there are dozens, if not hundreds of solar and wind energy entrepreneurs all over India. They still have a problem—getting paid by the government-run distribution companies for the electricity they generate—but getting a loan for the project at a reasonable rate of interest is relatively easy. The bigger problem is finding money for adaptation and to pay for the losses and damages being constantly worsened by climate change. This money has to come from the government.

Realistically, India can expect little public money from rich countries, especially since the government likes to call itself an emerging rather than a developing country. To that contrary, India is under considerable pressure to contribute more to the various funds meant mainly for smaller developing economies. The structure of the NCQG is not going to solve that problem, but it can help catalyse much-needed funding from international private sources such as investment funds.

The writer is India Manager, Earth Journalism Network

Editorial Note: "This exclusive report by the subject expert was written for The Statesman prior to India's decision yesterday to oppose the COP29 finance deal"

Love of land and language

DOLA MITRA

Bangladesh is a country I visited at different times. I went there as a child with my parents and sisters and recall the sheer joy of travelling through the rural areas which were dotted with ponds, each of a different colour.

Green during the day when its deep, cool waters, reflected the trees around it. Blue and silver at dawn when it mirrored the sky above. Golden when the sun went down in the horizon. It was delightful to jump into these lakes, swim or simply splash around. The countryside was also streaked with rivers of varying sizes. There were gurgling streams which we waded through on foot. There were wide, wild rivers, which we crossed on boats. The surrounding scenery seemed surreal. There were orchards of mangoes and jackfruits on the banks. The fruits dazzled like gigantic gems in the sun. It was fairytale like. Floating down those rivers on our cozy boats was no less enchanting than the simulated rivulet in Disneyland which I visited many times with my family as a child. I still recall the song, "This is a small world after all."

It is. Bangladeshi ponds and rivers are no different than Indian ones. British drew an artificial border through it. The Radcliffe Line. The utterly ugly, invisible, imaginary partition which divided us. Otherwise we are the same people with the same land, same landscape.

In childhood, it did not occur to me that we are different. I had as much fun, floating my paper boat in a village puddle during Monsoon in Bangladesh as I did in a rustic town in India, where a relative lived.

The differences, political, personal grew glaring when I visited and lived in Bangladesh's capital city Dhaka for a while when my husband got a job there. I was told that as journalist I could not work.

Yet, even then, a decade or two earlier, it was still friendly. There was mutual love between the Bangladeshi Bengalis and the Bengalis of India's West Bengal. We shared the same language, with a few differences in dialects. We shared the same culture. We shared Rabindranath Tagore as the creator of our respective national anthems.

Today's turn of events is disturbing. Religious fanatics have taken over. They are fanning flames of hatred. They have forgotten the fight from which stemmed the very idea of Bangladesh. The idea that Bengali is our common language, our common culture, our common identity.

The freedom fighters of Bangladesh, when it was East Pakistan, gave up their lives to extricate the land and the language of the Bengalis from the tyrannical and oppressive rulers of West Pakistan. Today these martyrs' images are being attacked, their statues are being defaced. Their names are being sullied. Their reputation is being tarnished.

Since violence broke out in Bangladesh in August, I visited the border at Bongaon. It was telling that a wall image of Mujibur Rahman, thus far considered a founding father of Bangladesh, had been whitewashed. Elsewhere images of his visage had been blackened.

I also went to Taki, through which runs the riverine border between India and Bangladesh. I took a boat ride on the Ichhamati River, on one bank of which lies Bangladesh and on the other, India. There is an imaginary line that runs through the river. It is the border. Boats on the Indian side does not cross over to the other side. Boats from the Bangladeshi side do not cross over into this side.

Our boatman told us the tales of the camaraderie that existed between people of the two sides. "Our love for each other is really visible during the Festival of Durga Puja," he said cheerfully. "See that enclosure there?" He asked, pointing towards a canopied area on the Bangladeshi side. "That is where the Durga pratimas (clay idols) would be gathered before the immersion procession started." His face fell when he narrated the next bit. "This year there was no immersion from their side. They did not celebrate. They have completely stopped Durga Puja." Our boatman said it was a time of year he and other boatmen as well as all the locals cherished. It was a time to meet mid-stream and smile together, laugh together. Our boatman took us to the mid-point. "We do not have permission to go further."

I looked down at the deep. There was no line. There was no difference. A leaf floated in the river. It was dawn and the water was clear, blue and silver. It was a golden, fallen leaf. I did not know whether it was from a Bangladeshi tree or an Indian one. One side of it fell on the Bangladeshi side and the other on the Indian side.



Sun shines over India and Bangladesh without discrimination



Photo from the Indian side at Taki. On the other side is Bangladesh. The river flows in between.



Before trouble began in August, a wall mural of the country's founding leader Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was displayed at the Bangladesh border at Bongaon. It has since been whitewashed.

The writer is Editor of Feature, The Statesman. Photos are by the writer.



Reading Lolita in Tehran is an evocative example of woman power

GAUTAMAN BHASKARAN

Russian-American author Vladimir Nobokov's novel, Lolita, created a huge controversy with its plot point of hebephilia. And since this sat uneasily with the political powers in the US and UK, it was first published in France by Olympia Press.

In India, the copies of the book were detained at the Bombay port by the Customs for two months before Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru read the novel and decided to let the consignment come in. He said in a note: The book is certainly not pornographic in the normal sense of the word. It is, as I have said, a serious book, seriously written. If there had been no fuss about it, no question need have arisen at all of banning it or preventing its entry. It is this fuss that sometimes makes a difference because people are attracted especially to reading books which are talked about in this way."

He was absolutely right. I was at school then and overwhelmed by curiosity, somehow managed to lay my hands on a copy. Of course, I could not understand much of what was written, but the thrill of reading a book that had created such a furore excited me. Moreover, there was this talk of a ban.

The story of Lolita is simple. It describes the protagonist, a French literature professor, living in New England (US) writing under the pseudonym of Humbert Humbert, kidnapping and sexually abusing a 12-year-old girl.

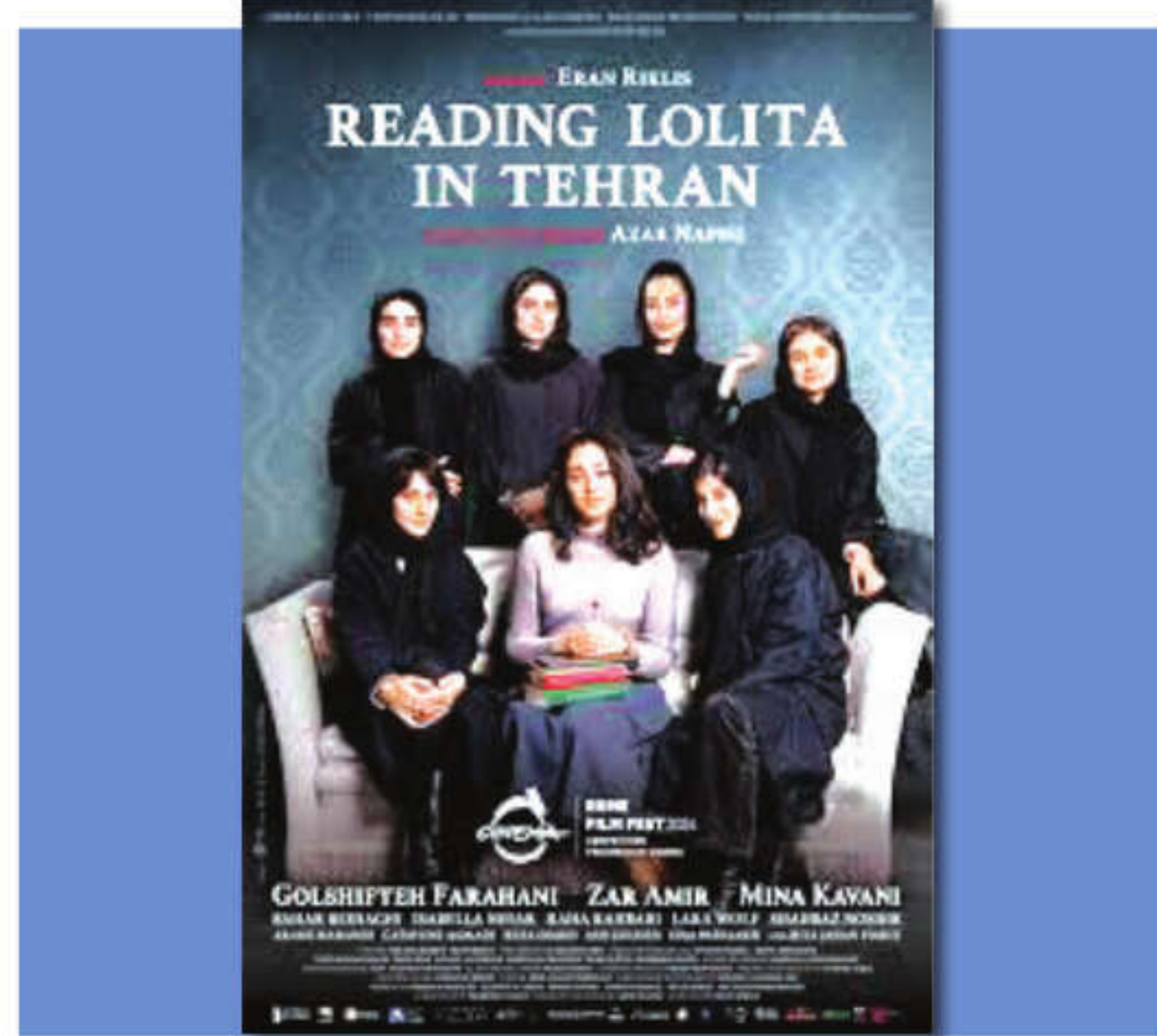
In the film, Reading Lolita in Tehran, by Israel's Eran Riklis, which has been making the festival rounds, we first see university students in a class taken by professor Azar Nafisi (a wonderfully expressive Golshifteh Farahani), who is discussing literary texts like The Great Gatsby, Daisy and Lolita, all of which were opposed by the regime.

The women students soon realise that they are the Lolitas who have been denied the right to make independent choices or express themselves freely.

Adapted from the memoirs of the Iranian-American author, Prof. Nafisi, the movie captures the angst of post-revolution Iran where people's initial hopes are dashed to the ground. The atrocities by the ruling clergy are horrendous, and we can hear men and women on the streets screaming "They lied to us!"

The work – from a screenplay by Marjorie David – spans across 24 years beginning in 1979 when a young academic, Nafisi, settles down in Tehran with her husband just as Iran witnesses the revolution. It looked like the time of hope with many Iranians returning home, only to realise that they had been fed on false promises. This is apparent even as Nafisi is at the airport; she is shocked to see a rude guy at the passport control desk and an equally unfriendly officer at Customs, who shows utter disdain for the books she has brought along. One of them is Lolita, but of course, he has no clue about the controversy surrounding the book.

As the revolution takes a suffocating hold over the country, we see how conservatism begins spreading. Women who walked on the streets without a hijab soon began to cover their heads with scarves. Men in Nafisi's class talk about how the hijab will become compulsory. "One day, it will be the law," a male student hisses. When a male security guard blocks Nafisi's way at the door because she has left her hair uncovered, she says – in one of the strongest scenes -- "My grandmother was the most devout Muslim I knew. She never missed a prayer. But she wore her scarf because she was devout, not because it was a symbol (of male dominance)". She was a



great example of a woman who lived a life independent of men.

Such freedom finds expression inside Nafisi's house where in the comfort of her liberal thoughts, seven women students let their hair down. They listen with rapt attention to lectures on literature by Nafisi, who has by then quit her university job instead preferring to take classes at home. They are held in utter secrecy though, but the excitement of debating books with their bold sexual themes

overwhelms the students to such an extent that the fear of being caught by Iran's secret police no longer matters. The women sing and dance, and freely talk about even taboo subjects.

Reading Lolita in Tehran may not be a great piece of cinema, but the point it tries to drive home is extremely powerful. Women need not live as mere shadows of men.

The writer is a senior movie critic and author



Touch of mind

SOMNATH MAJUMDER

A procession belonging to a political party was seen at College Street. This was a lengthy procession and its trail extended up to Shyambazar's five-point crossing. Processions are very common on different agendas in College Street. Pradipto stood near the Harrison Road College Street crossing after finishing a cup of liquor tea. He lit up a cigarette. Suchandra likes to meet Pradipto in the afternoon at around 2.30 PM. Both got to know each other via Facebook and their intimacy grew deeper via Messenger and lastly through WhatsApp.

Pradipto has been working as a proofreader in a medium size publication house and Suchandra is in a jewellery manufacturing house as an accountant. After passing B. Com Suchandra got admitted for cost accountancy, knowing very well the job market. After passing cost accountancy she got the job from a newspaper appointment column. Pradipto also understood the present job situation which was gloomy, to say the least. Working hours in the publishing house were extremely long and holidays were very few, one wasn't even allowed to take half-day leave instantly.

Suchandra told him she would reach by 2.30 PM; however, it was 3 PM now and the procession was still going on. This area was almost filled with students. Students belonging to schools, colleges, engineering, and medical colleges were present. Pradipto was in awe of the place. He used to visit this place during tiffin hours and even after Saturday half day and went to the Coffee House which he liked most. The ambience was good with different types of intellectuals and students flocking to the place. Different types of people could spend a long time here with just a cup of coffee. He also saw a few luminaries associated with a number of accomplishments. Few contemporary writers and artists used to visit the place as well.

He stood there for a long time. Suddenly he noticed that September was going to end and there was a beautiful autumn cloud forming in the western horizon. At times one could feel the bright rays of the sun while soothe congested College Street would get

covered in a shadow. Autumn light denoted that Durga puja was not far away and within a short time the festive season would arrive. He also noticed puja pandal constructions going on at full scale in some places. Pradipto felt pain in his feet due to standing for a long time. He saw it was quarter past four. He tried to contact Suchandra over mobile. But there was no reply. Strange, Pradipto thought. Is it a case of deception? He snubbed himself. He should be careful before making friends. Now there are incidents of fake Facebook identity using artificial intelligence and machine learning. It might happen that there is no actual Suchandra. This incident happens frequently and is quite common on various social networking sites. He was quite disappointed. Suddenly his mobile started ringing. He saw it was Suchandra calling him. Disgusted Pradipto said 'Is this your commitment towards time? Why are you misguiding me? I am going back.'

"Please listen to my words. I can't explain the actual situation. I am in distress. Please don't mind. I have almost reached the destination. I shall explain everything after reaching the place," said Suchandra.

Pradipto noticed Suchandra crossing Harrison Road hurriedly. She wore an olive green sari and a white blouse. She was getting closer to Pradipto. With an ardent eye, she said, "Are you angry with me? I know your situation. It's quite possible that you might be angry with me." Suchandra looked exhausted. There was a symbol of tiredness in her face and her body. But there was an expectation in her eyes. Pradipto had observed it.

"I am suffering from so many issues right now. My father has been suffering from acute Pneumonia. I admitted him to a nursing home this morning. My brother was also hit by a car. There are multiple fractures in his hip and left leg. I have admitted him to N.R.S Medical College and Hospital. He had to undergo a CT Scan. It is by God's grace that there was no injury to his brain. In fact, the concerned doctor told me to wait until the CT scan report was available. It is our good luck that there was no internal haemorrhage. There is no



manpower. I now have to do everything single-handedly. That's why I couldn't pick up your phone as I was in an emergency," said Suchandra.

After listening to all of this, Pradipto actually felt sorry and conveyed as much.

"Actually I promised to meet with you and that's why I am here. I am tired. Utterly tired. We have so many issues going on. Mainly the financial problem. My father is a retired jute mill employee. His pension amount is very small. A big portion is spent on his own medicine. My brother is studying at Polytechnic College. The job situation for a diploma engineer is grim. He must opt for some higher study like an MBA and that involves high educational expenses."

"How is your mother?" asked Pradipto. "Mother is mentally strong and hard working. She often says that lower-middle-class people have to suffer a lot. They are the worst sufferers in our society. It is the beauty of life. Struggle to survive."

"We need not walk," said Pradipto and hired an OLA cab. The cab passed through M.G.

Road. Most of the shops and establishments started closing the shutter and the roads looked deserted. On Sundays, this area might feel haunted. The cab stops at Millennium Park, which is situated on the bank of the Ganga and is highly decorative. Beautiful flowers of different varieties added attraction. There were café and fast food stalls nearby. Majestic Ganga made the place extremely pleasant. One could observe launches while country boats caught fish in the Ganga. Suchandra looked excited and delighted. Pradipto observed her and in turn, felt excited as well.

Pradipto looked at the western horizon. Autumn clouds assembled upon Howrah and smoke was coming out from the factory chimney. There were different factories surrounding the Ramkrishnapur ghat area. Pradipto bought an ice cream from a local ice cream parlour and Suchandra was delighted, behaving like a child. She held his hand. Her hair waved in the gusty wind blowing over Ganga.

Suddenly her mobile started ringing. She picked up the phone with utter annoyance. It was Mr Ashis Chatterjee who had called

her, the HR manager of her company. While on the call, she heard Mr Chatterjee saying, "Good evening Miss Suchandra Nandi. Congratulations! There is good news for you. On the basis of your dedication, and sincerity and also as a recognition of your successful completion of ACMA (Cost Accountancy) both Intermediate and Final conducted by the Institute of Cost Accountant of India, National Jewelry Private Limited promoted to the post of Dy Manager (Finance) with effect from first April. Your salary will be increased by Rs. 15,000. You got an arrear amount of Rs. 90,000 which will be transferred to your bank account shortly. I wish you all-out success in your life."

Suchandra was shaking in joy after cutting off the call.

She can't believe it. It is like a dream for her. With excitement, she held Pradipto's hand and informed him everything about the telephonic conversation. Pradipto gently touched her shoulder, depicting his own happiness.

Suchandra thought with a smile, "Our good days are coming"

The Memento

DHRUBA BASU

Shelly is an excellent craftswoman. Her beautiful, lyrically wavy embroideries are in high demand in the handicraft markets. Celebrities place their orders to her for exquisitely designed wrappers, t-shirts, sarees, trousseau, etc. Shelly grew up in the school of hard knocks. After her father Raghunath's death, she and her mother took shelter in the latter's sons' houses where Shelly had to work as a domestic help. She was attacked by tuberculosis which stopped her education. Now she does not keep in touch with her real brothers because of that agonising past and because her brothers have deprived her of her share of the property Raghunath had left. She however keeps in touch with a cousin brother named Aniket whom she calls her real brother.

Shelly has an embroidery workshop where around 20 women carry out their work with their needles and threads. Shelly does not fetch much profit from this business. Still, she runs it for the sake of those marginal girls whose livelihood depends on it. She has even married off some of them on her own money. She is childless and lives with her husband who is a black sheep of his mishpacha.

A few days back, Shelly got a felicitation at the famous Gandhi Bhavan of Kolkata. The felicitation was organised by the Bhavan's non-official management committee on International Women's Day who run the public events of the historic monument with the aims and objective of disseminating Gandhian ideals. The felicitation was a recognition of her contribution to women's empowerment through the Gandhian path.

Gandhi Bhavan of Kolkata is famous nationwide because Mahatma Gandhi had stayed in this building on the day India attained Independence observing a daylong fast. He later on successfully thwarted Hindu-Muslim riots here. Lord Mountbatten, the then Viceroy of independent India, has written, ".....In Punjab, we have 55 thousand soldiers and large-scale rioting on our hands. In Bengal, our forces consist of one man and there is no rioting. As a serving officer, as well as an administrator, may I pay tribute to the One Man Boundary Force.."

Therefore, getting honoured in this historic building has been an occasion of ace-high prestige for Shelly. Some broadsheet dailies covered the programme also with photographs. And in this grandiose event, it is Aniket who played the pivotal role from behind the curtain in all this and selected Shelly for the award. Aniket is a key person in the Gandhi Bhavan committee by virtue of him being a high-ranking government official.

But that felicitation did not bode well for Shelly in her own family. Her sister-in-law stopped talking to her for no apparent reason. Her husband, a government officer, began to yap at her occasionally. She was forced to cut off relations with Aniket and stop working from her workshop. She was not even allowed to hang her citation in her room. "We had enough of it. Now leave all these bogus things and your so-called brother and pay heed to household chores," Shelly's husband said to her. Shelly wept and wept in the darkness of solitude and there was nobody under the sun to give her solace.

A world in harmony

RADHE GOPAL PRADHAN

Gardens everywhere, no poverty in sight
A world where billionaires donate, and all is made right
One percent of their wealth, a small price to pay
To end the suffering, and bring a brighter day

Zero garbage, zero pollution, a world so serene
Spiritual meals shared, with love and kindness unseen
Women cook once a week, men once a day
Five days of spiritual meals, to nourish body and soul on the way

No child should cry, in Africa or anywhere
No woman should be tortured, no one should live in fear
Let us strive for peace, and non-violence too
A world where love and kindness, forever shine through

PM Modi, Amartya Sen, Malala, Dalai Lama, and Donald Trump
Let us appeal to world leaders, to make this vision a reality to bump
No more poverty, no more pain
A world in harmony, where love and kindness reign.

The writer is a PhD scholar from JNU

In the dark

CHANDRANI MUKHERJEE

Only 28 tiny diyas flickeredIn the dark.
The Goddess stood adorned in plastic ceremony.
A few months old lamb bleated plaintive
Awaiting torturous, sacrificial , agonizing death, nearby.

Yet tradition demanded villagers be treated
To half cooked bhog.

The Goddess of strength
Had diminished in stature....

Her followers in number....

Only a few dogs celebrated her lonely homecoming
In an abandoned building
Where even the priest
Checked out his wages
Before chanting.

The patron sat far away-
Immersed in planning
His next trip to the abode of the Gods!



The writer is a poet and a teacher

POETRY



Warm river

CHANDRANI MUKHERJEE

The moment stilled
Like a pause
Between the notes.
The woman
With a missing hand
Stopped adorning herself
With stone amulets.

The hall that had once echoed with laughter
And tears
Enveloped you
Like the warm river.

Your words, stayed behind
Etched in the air
As silence hung around.

The writer is a poet and a teacher



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Panthers of the ‘Pink City’

BORNINI ROY SARKAR

Jaipur, the flamboyant pink city of India, is known for its art, architecture, palaces, forts, exquisite cuisine and royal life. But just on the outskirts of the city with its huge buildings, cacophonous crowds and deafening sounds lies a small, happy, peaceful refuge where nature rules. During our recent trip to Jaipur, we visited the Jhalana Leopard Reserve, the only reserve forest in India exclusively dedicated to leopards. We did not know much about Jhalana until we visited the forest, and in the course of our safari, we got acquainted with the fascinating facts of the place.

Spread over an area of 23 square kilometres, this reserve, located on the slopes and foothills of the Aravalli ranges, is home to a wide variety of flora and fauna. However, its most famous denizens are its leopards. The reserve is home to 30–35 leopards, out of which 6–7 have their territory in the tourism area of the park. The otherwise shy cat is the apex predator here and does not have much competition for survival, which makes them confident and sightings easier.

We took a morning safari to explore the park, and the safari began exactly at 6:30 a.m. At the entrance of the gate, all plastic bottles and other items made of plastic were confiscated by the forest department officials. As we entered the forest, the crisp morning air and the soft light of the sun invigorated our senses. The sun was hiding behind the Aravalli Ranges, and our safari vehicle steered along the undulating jungle tracks. We encountered a Nilgai peacefully feasting on the grassland. But this peaceful picture was suddenly jolted by a foul smell. Just a few moments later we saw the corpse of another Nilgai that had been killed by a predator. Our guide-driver suggested that we waited at the spot as there was a chance of the animal returning to its kill. After waiting for some time, we proceeded towards a waterhole. We saw a number of peacocks gleefully engaged in the act of drinking water. Our guide explained that since Jhalana is in close proximity to a populated city, efforts have been taken to encourage sustainable, ethical tourism so as not to disturb the habitat of the predator. Leopards are extremely shy cats, and if disturbed, they are prone to venturing outside their territory, which can ultimately result in human-animal conflict. The forest department has regulated the number of vehicles going inside the park. Drivers have been given training, cameras have been installed for monitoring, water holes have been constructed, and efforts have been taken to keep a healthy prey base.

Our vehicle now left the plain terrain and started ascending the slopes of the Aravalli. After a rough ride, we came to a place where a lot of vehicles were huddled together. We could immediately sense that there was some sighting. Our guide pointed towards the slope of the hill, and amidst the thick foliage, we could only discern the vague shape of the spotted cat. The jungle here was so dense that clear sighting was impossible. We waited for some time in the hope that there would be movement, but lady luck was not in our favour.

Historically, Jhalana had been a hunting ground of the royals, and after the last tiger was shot in 1948, leopards became the apex predator, and the area remained a forest land on the fringes of a city. It was in 2016 that the forest department initiated official safaris, and since then there has been a steady influx of tourists.

Our vehicle once again started moving; we descended the slopes and were in the grassland terrain. We now spotted a herd of deer blissfully playing in the grassland. From our guide we got to know that the deer population was declining and that was a matter of concern. The sun had now fully come up and had bathed the forest in its golden hue. The chirping of birds, the morning breeze, and the blossoming flowers seemed to present a vision of a surrealist painter. We had just crossed a waterhole when we were alerted by the shrill call of the peacock. Immediately we returned to the waterhole, and to our astonishment we could now see the tawny beast drinking water with utmost alertness. The entire place was kind of animated by the appearance of the apex predator. Just in front of us, at a distance of about 50 metres, was Gazal, the female leopard, and on one side of the waterbody was Rana, the most photographed leopard of Jhalana. We have taken safaris in quite a number of forests in India, but this was the first time we witnessed a pair of predators drinking water so peacefully. As other vehicles started arriving, the pair got alerted and slowly disappeared into the midst of the jungle, leaving us awestruck with wonder and amazement.

Jhalana's story is a shining example of how collaboration between the government, locals, and tourists has transformed a nondescript forestland into a thriving and sought-after nature reserve.

Facts about Jhalana Leopard Reserve
Distance from Jaipur – 13 km
Safari timings:
Morning: 6.30 a.m. to 9 a.m.
Evening: 3.15 p.m. to 5.45 p.m.



With a song in my heart

(A week spent at Windamere Heritage Hotel in Darjeeling)

NAVAMALATI NEOG CHAKRABORTY

At times when life and work fog the brain and life seem to be a huge chore, a brief break works wonders. It was thus that the travel agents chalked out a Darjeeling trip for us and chose the Windamere Heritage Hotel in Darjeeling, famed for their ‘colonial legacy’, for us to nestle in for a week. Like other brief holidays indulged in earlier, I was prepared for a good time but was not really prepared to find this the best. In fact, the fact that due to low pressure, the weather had decided to pout and grouse for some two days showed us the other wondrous side of this place, so soothing, with memories of the British Raj legacy up there amidst the neighbourhood of the Himalayas. Seated before a glowing coal fire in the huge dining hall, with soft, gentle music pouring in from the more than a hundred-year-old piano from Daisy's Music Room, we felt cuddled with a gentle feel of warmth and a mellow feel of happiness. The Colonial Dining Hall (in fact, there are two big halls) is as legendary for the aura it holds. English food is as much here as is the service of the Indian dishes for the culinary tastes of the Orient. Everyone is special, and they are served likewise a full five-course meal: orthodox tea and wine, pink gins, spirits and the single malts.

The way I always do, I had carried with me my father's poetry collection, Musafirkhana, to translate if time and opportunity afforded. Such snatches of creativity have always helped me to advance with my work and not waste a minute. However, I found the staff at Windamere so warm and polite, hospitable with a brimful of smiles about them, and welcoming too. It was such that the Mirik trip, which we had to forego due to bad weather, didn't upset us in the least. The rooms here were big and airy, and the look of the outside world from

each window was green and held nature's wonderful beauty. How Wordsworth would have loved staying here! Room service was nice and prompt. The aura, elegance, feel and presence were telling of care and conscious effort of warmth.

This place, which goes by the name of Windamere, was right at the onset known as Ada Villa in 1841 and was then, at that point in time, an English boarding house. Mrs Gertrude Bearpark had her suite there as she ran the place with a steadfast determination for order and assiduity. It became the Windamere Hotel only in the year 1939. Thus, the place has their separate houses, each apart, and yet together, bonded by that colonial feel that exists everywhere as well as snatches of the local people's touching feel...in the woven tea cosy, the tray-cloth, the smiles and the photo hangings. And indeed, I was very lucky to have Shiva Limbu, a prized staff member of the place, approach us so very courteously on one of our mornings after breakfast, eager to know how we were feeling about the place. It was he who, to my good luck, agreed to show me around the place. He took me to the very first house, Ada Villa, as it was just happenstance that I had asked him a few curious questions. Mr Limbu was so pleased to take me up that small hillock and show me around each room. Each door had a special name (The Begum Aga Khan, Yvette Labrousse, Princess of Sian, Chogyal of Sikkim, Prince Peter of Greece and Denmark, Alexander David Neel, Viscount Knebworth 1931, etc.), which again merited looking into a past history. Years have passed since colonial times, and yet the place stands with its abundance of love and care...and romance! The touch of British times, with European furnishings, floral hangings, furniture, exclusive sanitary wares (dated), the texture of time, letters, pictures, wispy from time and a serene feel...holding on to the silence of the nineteenth century...that filled the yawning space of centuries and silence! It was here in this particular house that time slept in every nook and corner, preserving the heritage and yet playing at hide and seek. My eyes and mind remained riv-

eted back to that ancient period of time, not hopscotching back. There's the anteroom, a wondrous living room, a right royal lady's dressing room (not one which we nowadays share with the family), and a marvellous toilet space. One has to see it to believe it. With not a word, our colonial history awaits in these royal suites. Then there's Annandale House, Betty Tumilty, The Snuggery (the area bought from the Maharajah of Cooch Behar in 1950), Tinkerbell's Cottage, Miss Twentymen (that have rooms dwelling wondrously on the months of the year as they face the direction of the natural world that best brings out their attributes). That was a real wonder, to have a room to stay in that dwells on a particular month.

The Windamere Heritage Hotel up there in the Himalayas has the footprints of the times. The names on the doors again need one to know the story behind each separate tag. There was a huge room where the Governor of Bengal and other dignitaries stayed. The letters of famous personages are framed on the wall, pictures of the toy train, and yes, you will be so happy to know that Rabindranath Tagore, our genius of a poet and writer, too, has his letter framed and put up there on the wall, with so much love and reverence!

I will not dwell on the surrounding trees and plants and romantic bamboo groves that space the place with ivies and moon-drop creepers. There are rhododendrons, musandas and marigolds jostling all over the place. Let's pace ahead to that sip of connoisseurs delight with its unique flavour. Yeah, a cup of orange pekoe tea, Earl Grey or Darjeeling tea! We all know the history behind that cup of tea we have every morning and through the day. And yet the special feel is reserved for one who understands what flavour and the aroma of a cup of tea stand for. Tea plants that were the priority of the Chinese arrived at the portals of India and turned to a special cup, all appealing with every sip! It not only drains out the common man's fatigue and brings an energetic frame of mind, but here in Darjeeling the very service afforded by the staff brought a special appeal. And Assam too will be glad, for they have not left out their very own Maniram Dewan in that context. Mr Limbu sent up a special tray of tea as we sat watching not just a video or pics, but past times all recorded. Yes, it was all about Windamere, where people gathered about the ascent of Mount Everest; about the Baldwin Locomotive Works; the British Expedition to reach the highest mountain peak within 40 miles of Mount Everest; about the supply of materials for the expedition over the Darjeeling Himalayan Railway way back in time; about the locomotive built then under

individual specifications of the Railway Company to withstand the severest of strains...like tents, rucksacks, climbing boots, magazine rifles, light-weight tents, Barr and Stroud binoculars, climbing boots, etc. There were videos of Teddy Young, the British tea planter's contribution to the improvement of the local people; about tea gardens, and even about the unique ways of the Lama's lifestyle; about the monasteries, the advancement of dances, masks, and banners. Then there was the Ghoom Monastery, the Jalapahar, where St Paul's School is. (My son had studied there.) There was Janey Anita Carter, and Captain Yongda (who ran an academy where the ambience of prayers, learning, and training in the arts was advanced); there was also Evelyn Shah. The efforts of the government to advance tourism were also seen at that early date from Toronto, Canada, as a very necessary first step. So much attention!

Darjeeling is a wonderful holiday point. Here, the local people are very nice and energetic. All around you, you will find the tall, stately pines; the sublime, nude beauty of a waterfall or a cataract; the riddle spelt out by the mists sitting aloft the treetops; and the delicate embrace of the moss! The Toy Train (DHR Club) is zooming past! It is a testament to Windamere's MD, who helped in the preservation of the little toy train from extinction. From the late 1990s, the little train is now on the UNESCO World Heritage list.

I am so full of the merit of my time spent at Windamere that the rhythm goes frog marching like an ancient poem within me. Sitting for breakfast, how I had looked up at those hills and the sky that came down to touch the Himalayas! There was a wondrous mystery all around: the Lama's chants, that Buddhist cave, and the boisterous schoolchildren with scrubbed, shining faces walking past. Yes...there's beauty, knowledge and listening...there are also the whispers of love for the majestic



ranges of the Himalayas, as they stand looking down at your face since time and eternity joined hands. Which face is wonderstruck? Visit the place to be moonstruck, and remember, you must have eyes to see!

The writer is an academic, poet, editor, translator, author and reviewer based in Kolkata

A step towards empowering content creators

ASHOK CHATTERJEE AND PRIYANJALI DAS

In an evening of learning, interacting and associating, Dish TV's OTT Platform Watcho launched the Watcho Storytellers Conclave, with an aim to empower filmmakers and content creators. The evening witnessed insightful masterclasses and interactive sessions which can be credited for creating and opening up new avenues for both emerging and established talents allowing them to share their unique narratives and freely showcase their artistic expressions.

Watcho held its inaugural launch of the conclave in Kolkata, featuring eminent filmmakers and creators such as Prosenjit Chatterjee, Aniruddha Roy Chowdhury, Prasun Chatterjee, and Indranil Roy Chowdhury, among others. This platform will foster an environment that encourages creativity and innovation helping emerging talents overcome traditional barriers to success and enhancing the overall entertainment landscape.

The organisers claimed the effort will revolutionise content creation with Watcho, Dish TV's popular OTT aggregation platform. This event is part of a series, with the next editions planned for Hyderabad and Mumbai.

Manoj Dobhal, CEO and executive director of Dish TV India, in a chat with The Statesman,

shared, "We have been known to take ground-breaking ideas. We have been creating and showing content for years. We want to change the perception now and tell the world that content creators can generate content and share with us. We want to come across as someone who can amplify content and enable the growth of good content."

The CEO said that India is buzzing with talent in the fields of art, literature, storytelling, short and long-form content. "Everyone is vying for a platform. This platform allows them to have complete freedom and ownership. To reach a larger audience, without compromising on their creativity or diluting their thought process, this kind of platform is unique," said Mr Dobhal.

The platform only insists upon consumable content, which is not vulgar or objectionable. We are not constraining your imagination. We will move to the south and west with Watcho. In Mumbai, we will have a confluence of national and regional content, informed Mr Dobhal.

With a vast audience combining 10 million+ households, this platform's diversely curated content will enhance audiences' visual experience with fresh, hand-picked programmes.

The launch of the visionary platform was graced by eminent filmmakers, actors and creators with the first session hosting Prosenjit Chatterjee as a panelist engaging in a discourse on 'Masterclass on Crafting Local Stories for Global Audiences'. Prosenjit Chatterjee shared his insights, stating, "DishTV Watcho is a game-changer for emerging filmmakers and creators. It levels the playing field, making it easier than ever to share your vision with the world."

The second session featured Indian film-makers

Aniruddha Roy Chowdhury, a National Award-winning director as well as Prasun Chatterjee, Filmfare award-winning director, Romi Maitei, National award-winning director, contributing their insights in the session 'Beyond Box Office and OTTs: Emerging Filmmakers Breaking Barriers'. While talking to The Statesman, Prasun Chatterjee shared, "The initiative that has been taken by Watcho is not just appreciative but an effective one. For films and emerging filmmakers for whom huge-scale film budgets or star casts are unfeasible, but come with exceptional storytelling and narrative content, this platform is an ideal one to showcase such talents and work."

This platform would not only initiate meaningful conversations within the film community but would help emerging filmmakers and creators better understand the journey towards traversing and overcoming the challenges associated, fostering an environment where creativity can easily thrive. Sharing the experience with The Statesman, Tanmoy Dey, an aspiring documentary filmmaker, whose work has travelled across 50+ film festivals, winning him several awards and accolades, states, "The masterclasses and sessions with such visionary personalities were extremely insightful, while the evening also paved a way for connecting and interacting with several other fellow emerging filmmakers, creators and several others."



'The support she extended was definitely praiseworthy'

DILIP KUMAR SENGUPTA

Given today's circumstances where often marriage appears to be fragile and fleeting, we are proud to have achieved nearly 40 years of togetherness. This December, we will touch another milestone.

I was born and brought up in Kolkata and got married to my beloved wife, in December 1984. Shikha Roy Choudhury, who subsequently became known as Shikha Sengupta, is whom I got married to. She belonged to my neighbouring area and had a background of a middle-class, educated, decent family. The renowned scientist, Acharya Prafulla Chandra Ray, was one of her great-grandfathers.

I was working as an office accountant for the central government in West Bengal, while Shikha was working in the Canara Bank. During the early years of our life, not a single day passed without exchanging words on trifling matters, but it never soured our deeper relationship. Quarrels and love went on following each other. But the situation took a serious turn when our son was born in October 1986 as we both were service holders. The maternity leave as per the rule available proved inadequate to bring up the child. My wife once decided to resign from the job, but I told her to refrain from doing so. She then took a year-long leave in phases to tackle the emergent situation. The ultimate result was that the office



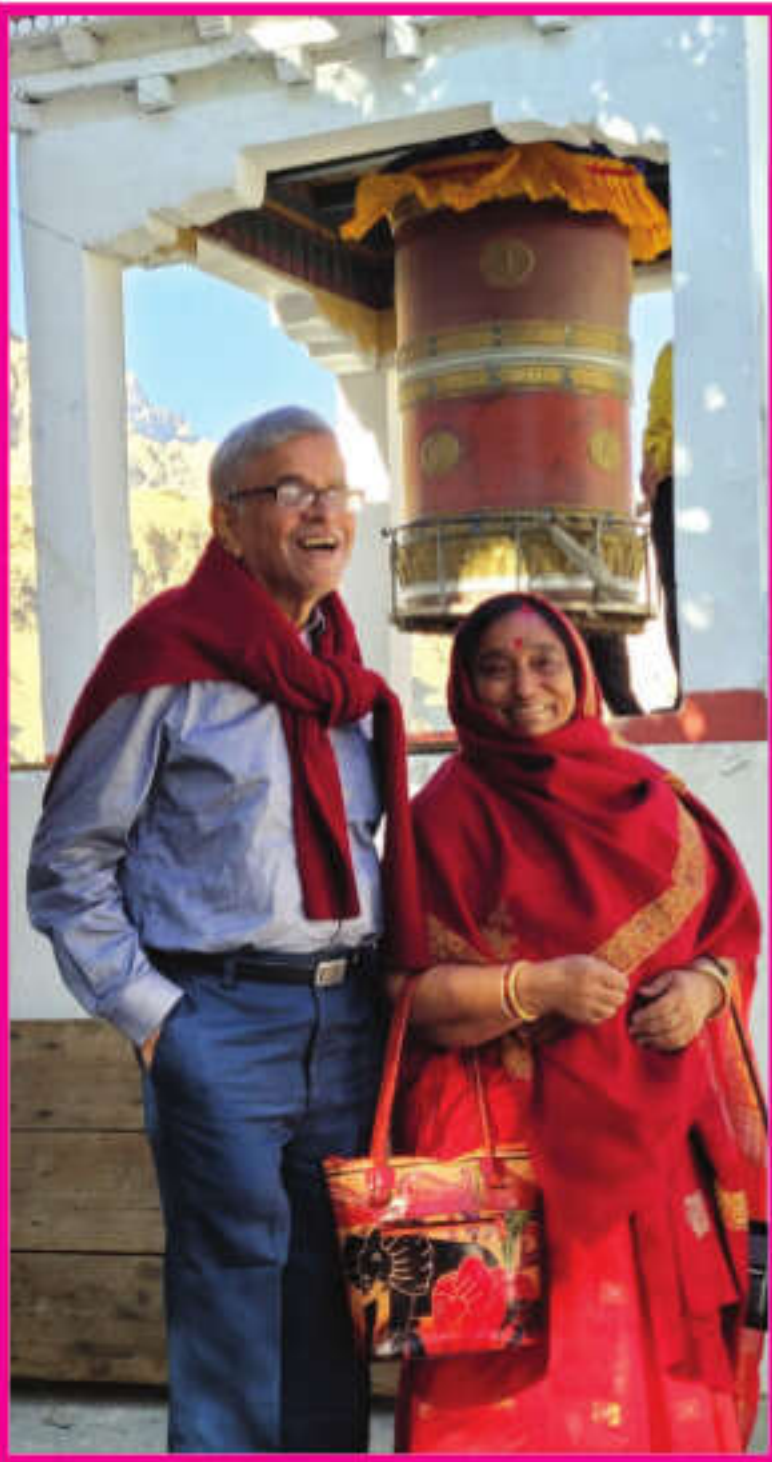
management sent an adverse report, and although her service was not terminated, promotional benefits eluded her throughout her career despite having all the requisite qualifications.

Our physical health never troubled us until 2010, when I suffered a serious heart stroke, and from the local municipal hospital, I was shifted to an eminent research centre for treatment. I was diagnosed with severe blockages in two arteries and had to undergo stenosis. It took a week there, after which I was released. Although my entire expenses were financed by my office, everything required for my treatment was managed by my wife single-handedly. The support she extended was definitely praiseworthy. She even took a 15-day special leave to look after me at home.

Danger hardly comes alone. My wife also underwent a pacemaker transplant in 2014. Tensions added up from late 2023 to early 2024 when she developed a serious respiratory problem. Despite being transferred between hospitals, her condition deteriorated. Her problem remained totally unmitigated. One cardiologist diagnosed her as suffering from left ventricular ejection factor (LVEF). The pumping rate of blood dropped menacingly low, which caused severe breathing trouble. After planting a triple-chamber pacemaker, she was released from the hospital with prescribed medicinal support to continue. I suffered a lot, both physically and mentally, when shouldering the entire responsibility of her treatment in the twilight of my life. Our hearts suffered a setback, but our feelings for each other are a continuous process that will never be impeded. Love, trust and devotion are indeed essential for a happy married life.



If you have a story of success to share about your marriage, you may write to us at the email id given in the **Comments Corner** mentioning your name and phone number, and we will contact you



THE STATESMAN'S LEGACY OF HOSTING ICONIC EVENTS

The column "Desktop Doodles" dated 24 November presented an account of the "Best Face, Best Dress" award programme organised by The Statesman and the Dainik Statesman on 21 November in Kolkata. The contest launched 2 years ago is the newest addition to The Statesman's legacy of hosting events like the iconic Vintage Car Rally and the prestigious Rural Reporting Awards. While the classic car rally draws enthusiasts to its decades-old annual show of antique automobiles like Rolls Royce, Stude Baker and Morris Minor on Kolkata's streets, the annual rural reporting competition is a post-emergency initiative of 1979 to commemorate the courage of rural reporters who dared to publish truths of emergency excesses defying embargos.

The 'Best Face, Best Dress' contest is a deliberate and novel move by The Statesman Group to redefine beauty and elegance breaking the false dichotomy between intellect and beauty. The diversity of faces, young and old, traditional and contemporary and the union of mind, spirit and persona with suitable attire, the warmth of a smile, grace in demeanour and thoughtfulness in words attribute the true essence of beauty. An individual's intellect and appearance are not mutually exclusive but reflective of one another, as nicely narrated by Vineet Gupta, the director of The Statesman Group, who adjectified the convergence of these qualities with the term 'esoteric'. So the brain is aesthetically ordered and coherently associated with beauty.

Sukhendu Bhattacharjee
Sheoraphuli, 25 November

FEAST FOR THE EYES

The uniqueness of The Statesman lies in conceiving some events that serve as a feast for the eyes of the public, and the latest event 'Best Face, Best Dress' is a case in point. The whole credit goes to the marketing team of your esteemed daily, who have offered us beauty with brains, meticulously discovered from among many contestants.

Arun Gupta
Kolkata, 25 November



The lighting of the inaugural lamp at the "Best Face, Best Dress" event.