









# Jagannath temple at Digha will open on 30 April next year: Mamata

During her visit, the chief minister said that she will pull the rath at Digha during the Uttarath festival

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
KOLKATA, 11 DECEMBER

The Jagannath temple at Digha will be inaugurated on 30 April, 2025 on the holy day of Akshay Tritiya, announced chief minister Mamata Banerjee today.

She said she would pull the rath (chariot) at Digha, next year. As she will not be in the city on the day of Ratha Yatra next year she will pull the rope of the rath organised by the ISKCON next year on the day of Uttarath. Miss Banerjee pulls the rath of ISKCON Kolkata every year to mark the beginning of the festival.

She said she would come to Digha a day before the Rath Yatra to oversee the last minute arrangements. A huge rath has been built and kept at the temple complex.

Miss Banerjee along with chief secretary Manoj Pant and senior officers of Housing and Infrastructure Development Corporation (HIDCO) visited the temple complex to see the ongoing construction. The director general of police Rajeev Kumar and other senior officers of East Midnapore district administration, including the district magistrate accompanied Miss Banerjee.

The temple complex has come up on 20 acres of land and the estimated cost of Rs 128 crore. Miss Banerjee had announced construction of the temple at the administrative review meeting of East Midnapore in 2018. The construction work was badly hit due to the Covid pandemic in 2020. HIDCO was assigned to do the construction.

Miss Banerjee said a build-

ing of the East Midnapore zilla parishad, situated close to the temple complex, will be taken over and quarters of the priests will be set up there. There will be a police station too.

The idols of Jagannath, Balaram and Subhadra are made of marble but the images of the trio made of neem wood will be worshipped daily. A gate will be set up at the entrance and named after Chaitanya Dev. A statue of Chaitanya Dev will be installed near the gate.

There will be rooms to cook the bhog, the food that is offered to the deity. There will be a store room and rooms for the guests. Like the Jagannath temple in Puri, a dwaja (flag) will be installed at the top of the temple. There will be an earmarked area from where the devotees

will be able to purchase flowers and other items which will be offered to the trio. Different types of wares made by the members of self-help groups will be sold at the temple complex.

Miss Banerjee instructed the district administration to ensure that all the last minute touches are completed within the next three months. Senior state government officers said the tourist attraction of Digha will go up due to the temple. Digha has become a major tourist attraction ever since Mamata Banerjee government came to power in 2011.

It was Dr BC Roy, who developed Digha in the early 1960s. During the Left Front regime no major development took place. Now, the coastal town is in the tourist map of India and on weekends it is difficult to get a place to stay.



## Special Metro services for SET aspirants on Sunday



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
KOLKATA, 11 DECEMBER

The Kolkata Metro Railway has decided to operate special Metro services on 15 December for the aspirants of State Eligibility Test (SET) to be conducted by West Bengal College Service Commission.

On that day, four special services, two each in the up and down directions, would be operated on Blue Line in the morning. As learnt from the city Metro office, two special services are to leave Kavi Subhash station for Dakshineswar in the UP direction at 8 am and 8.30 am. Another special service would run from Dum Dum for Kavi Subhash in the down direction at 8 am while one more special down service would be operated from Dakshineswar for Kavi Sub-

hash at 8.15 am. According to the city Metro office, the service would be available from Dum Dum at 8.30 am. As informed by the city Metro office, Sunday services on Blue Line would start at 9 am as usual on that day while normal services would be available on Green Line-2 (Howrah Maidan - Esplanade) on that day. No services would be run by the Kolkata Metro Railway on Green Line-1, Purple Line and Orange Line.

Meanwhile, the Kolkata Metro Railway has decided to withdraw its decision to charge surcharge on tickets for night special services. The city Metro would not charge any additional amount as surcharge from commuters for special night services from Kavi Subhash (New Garia) to Dum Dum and vice-versa.

## New GM of CLW



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
KOLKATA, 11 DECEMBER

Vijay Kumar has taken over as the new general manager of Chittaranjan Locomotive Works (CLW).

Vijay Kumar, a senior officer of the Indian Railways Service of Mechanical Engineer (IRSME) of 1988 batch has officially taken over as the general manager of Chittaranjan Locomotive Works (CLW) on Tuesday.

Prior to his posting as general manager, CLW he was working as principal chief mechanical engineer (PCME) at North Western

Railway/Jaipur.

Mr Kumar has done his B.Tech in mechanical engineering from Punjab Engineering College/Chandigarh.

Throughout his illustrious career spanning over 30 years, he has held several crucial positions over the Indian Railways and has made significant contributions on Northern Railway, RDSO, Railway Board and Northern Western Railways. He has immensely contributed during his tenure as Director/Rolling Stock/ /Delhi in National High Speed Rail Corporation Limited (NHSRCL).

## Gita Jayanti celebration at Mayapur ISKCON

RAJIB CHAKRABORTY  
MAYAPUR, 11 DECEMBER

ISKCON's headquarters in Mayapur has become a testament to the unwavering enthusiasm of devotees and tourists, undeterred by the barbaric attacks by fundamentalists on minorities and ISKCON in Bangladesh. The four-day Gita Jayanti Mahotsav in 2024 saw a massive gathering of thousands of devotees and tourists, which political and spiritual leaders see as a strong reply to the fear-mongering tactics of Bangladeshi fundamentalists.

From 7-11 December the overwhelming crowd kept the administration busy managing the influx. According to ISKCON's public relations officer, Rasik Gauranga Das, over 5,000 delegates from various states participated, while ordinary devotees and tourists swelled the gathering to unprecedented levels. Arrangements were made to serve prasadam to 15,000 people, yet several hundred thousand pilgrims visited



during the four days. BJP MP from Purulia and MP Jyotirmay Singh Mahato stated, "The fundamentalists in Bangladesh are trying to incite fear and panic in Bengal through constant provocations against ISKCON, but it holds no significance for India. The massive turnout at ISKCON Mayapur proves this point. ISKCON has taken the ideals of Hinduism from India to the world, just as

Swami Vivekananda did many years ago." He added, "After the arrest of Maharaj Swami Chinmayananda in Bangladesh, millions of Hindus have protested on the streets in India, Bangladesh, and worldwide. This fundamentalism will soon collapse."

Mahant Swami Paramatananda of the Panchayati Mahanirvani Akhara and Bengal head of the All India

Sant Samaj noted, "Some jihadis attempted to disrupt Durga Puja in this state, but the silent response of the people can be seen in the thriving Hindu pilgrimage sites. I wholeheartedly welcome ISKCON's Gita Jayanti celebrations." Swami Pradipatananda alias Karthik Maharaj, the head of the Bharat Sevashram Sangha in Murshidabad's Beldanga, stated, "Let the caretaker government in Bangladesh come to its senses; otherwise, it will face severe consequences."

According to ISKCON's Rasik Gauranga Das, Bhagavad Gita's appearance in the world is a monumental and unforgettable event, marking a new dawn in the lives of the distressed. He remarked, "Like the moonlight shimmering on the ocean, the Bhagavad Gita brought a wave of renewal and hope. It is a song of victory for this awakening. The Bhagavad Gita is unparalleled and widely celebrated in global literature, offering profound inspiration for humanity's ultimate welfare."

## KIFF comes to a close after screening 175 films



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
KOLKATA, 11 DECEMBER

After a week of cinema that saw 175 entertaining films screened, curtains for the 30th Kolkata International Film Festival came down today with the movie, *Tarika* bagging two crucial awards in the Innovation In Moving Images' in international competition category.

The 30th edition of the KIFF had a new section for the first time. Named as the International Federation of Film Critics (FIPRESCI) Award in International competition on 'Innovation In Moving Images' for the best film, the section had eminent film personalities as jury members. The Bulgarian movie competing with 13 other films from various corners of the world received the International Competition on innovation in Moving Images, International Federation of Film Critics (FIPRESCI) Award.

The directorial by filmmaker Milko Lazarov also got the Golden Royal Bengal Tiger Award for the best film in international competition category along with a cash prize of Rs 51 lakh.

The closing ceremony with a special dance performance by the troupe of Dona Ganguly, at Rabindra Sadan this evening witnessed a star-studded event. The jury, including eminent film personalities from various corners of the world, also chose *Ana Endara* from Panama as 'The Best Director' for the Golden Royal Bengal Tiger Award', under the category of 'Innovation In Moving Images' in international competition. The third award in the category for 'Special Jury Mention' was announced for the film *Dead Man's Switch* by director, Alejandro Gerber Bicecci.

The award for the best film in another important category, called the Asian



Select-NETPAC section, was given to the Indian film, *Putulnam* by director Ranajit Ray. The film narrates the plight of the artists involved in the puppetry show, an art form which is on the verge of being lost.

category was given to the movie *Dhruvor Aschorjo Jibon* by Abhijit Chowdhury.

Likewise, the other category of awards named as the award for the best short film under 'Competition on Indian Short Films' with a prize

prise guest over the phone when chief minister Mamata Banerjee congratulated the participants. Conveying her good wishes for Christmas, she thanked the participants and foreign filmmakers urging them to come back again.

## BJP plans Ram temple after TMC MLA's Babari Masjid proposal



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
KOLKATA, 11 DECEMBER

In response to Trinamul Congress (TMC) MLA Humayun Kabir's recent proposal to construct a Babari Masjid-like mosque in Beldanga, Murshidabad, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has announced plans today to build a Ram temple in the district's Berhampore area. BJP's Berhampore organisational district president, Shakharav Sarkar, revealed that land has been identified for the temple, with construction slated to commence on 22 January, 2025, exactly one year after the inauguration of the Ram temple in Ayodhya. The project is estimated to cost Rs 10 crore.

This development follows MLA Kabir's statement about erecting a mosque reminiscent of the Babari Masjid, aiming to honour the sentiments of the region's substantial Muslim population. His remarks have ignited political debate, with opposition parties accusing him of attempting to polarise communities for political gain. The BJP's counterproposal to establish a Ram temple in Murshidabad is perceived as a strategic move to assert its presence and appeal to the Hindu community in a district where Muslims constitute approximately 75 per cent of the population.

## Vigilance week concludes at CIL

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
KOLKATA, 11 DECEMBER

The closing ceremony of Vigilance Awareness Week (VAW) 2024 and the three-month campaign on preventive vigilance was held at CIL corporate office in Kolkata.

CIL Chairman, P M Prasad, director (finance), Mukesh Agrawal, chief vigilance officer (CVO), Brajesh Kumar Tripathy and director, central vigilance commission (CVC), Ravinder Kumar, felicitated the winners of various competitions, departments and individuals, for their outstanding contribution to the success of vigilance initiatives organised during the period of these events.

CIL chairman, speaking on the occasion stated that participation in vigilance programmes reflects a commitment to fostering vigilance. He emphasized that with ethical conduct, transparency, and dedication, Coal India can make incremental progress towards excellence. CIL director (finance), Mukesh Agrawal stated that



as Coal India expands and diversifies its activities, ethical behaviour will serve as the foundation for reaching new heights.

In his welcome address, CVO, Brajesh Kumar Tripathy, provided a comprehensive overview of the activities conducted during these events. He highlighted innovative initiatives such as a blood donation and a kavi sammelan.

Ravinder Kumar, director, CVC, shared his insights on ethical values, decision-making, and the adoption of IT initiatives from a vigilance perspective. He underlined that integrity is directly linked to the nation's prosperity.



# Surveillance tightened at Bengal's maritime boundary with crisis-hit Bangladesh to stop illegal immigration

The two most sensitive bordering districts on this count as identified by the Intelligence agencies are Malda and Murshidabad, both being minority-dominated

**AGENCIES**  
KOLKATA, 11 DECEMBER

Security agencies, both central and state, have beefed up surveillance at the International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL) with Bangladesh in West Bengal, apprehending illegal crossover of Bangladeshi citizens including member of underground outfits who had become active again amid the ongoing crisis there.

Sources said that the decision to beef up surveillance has been taken following two recent developments, the

first being two Bangladeshi marine vessels being nabbed for crossing the IMBL and entering the Indian waters illegally.

Intelligence inputs are that besides the porous land borders with Bangladesh in certain pockets of West Bengal, there might be attempts of illegal crossover using the maritime borders and subsequently spreading across to different parts in the state.

The second development, sources added, is the Intelligence input that of late some members of the terrorist organisation Hizb-ut-Tahrir



(HuT) are trying to become active in the bordering districts of West Bengal with Bangladesh and making



attempts to set up sleeper cells there. The two most sensitive bordering districts on this

count as identified by the Intelligence agencies are Malda and Murshidabad, both being minority-dominated.

Also under surveillance is another border district of Nadia, which has already been identified by the security agencies as the hub for creating fake Indian identity documents for Bangladeshi citizens illegally crossing over to the Indian territory.

Intelligence agencies, sources added, have also got specific information that two active HuT associates recently came to West Bengal with

valid Bangladeshi passports posing as students and had meetings with some local youths in Malda and Murshidabad districts.

These two HuT activists, as per Intelligence inputs, initially held conversations with the local youths in these two districts over religious issues and thereafter carried on the conversation to the level of opening sleeper cells in the bordering districts.

These two Bangladeshi citizens interacting with the local youth have been identified as Ridwan Maruf and Sabbir Amir.

## Patients complain over lack of Haemophilia life-saving injections

**STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE**  
BURDWAN, 11 DECEMBER

Haemophilia patients led a deputation to the medical superintendent of the Burdwan Medical College and Hospital today as they were failing to get life saving injections of Factor-VIII & Factor-IX, which are highly essential for their sustenance.

The patients complained that the dearth of supply of F-VIII, F-IX intravenous injections caused the death of three patients in recent times. Shamir Sheikh, a patient, said, "Supplies have been suspended for the last three months, which left us helplessly."

The BMCH authorities also pleaded helplessness in the



current scenario. Dr Tapas Ghosh, medical superintendent of the hospital said: "We've

also forwarded requisitions several times during the period but no positive response has

come as yet." Headed, "The State government doesn't supply this. It's entirely provided by the Centre."

The Bengal government formed State Blood Cell in 2017 that has two wings - blood storage units and blood disorders under the Haemoglobinopathy Control Programme to privilege thalassemia, sickle cell anemia and haemophilia patients.

The state control unit reported, Kolkata has 817 haemophilia patients, the highest number of patients in Bengal followed by 103 in East Burdwan. Kalimpong has just 4, the state's lowest. Of them, East Burdwan has 85 Factor-VIII dependent patients and 15 Factor-IX dependent patients.

## Body of ECL employee found hanging

**STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE**  
ASANSOL, 11 DECEMBER

Andal Police has recovered the body of Meghnad Harijan (58), an employee of Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL) from Pure Jambad number six pit area of West Burdwan district. Banbahal police outpost under Andal police station has sent the body for post-mortem. His son, Vimsen Harijan has alleged that Meghnad Harijan did not return to his house after work yesterday and today his body was recovered hanging in the wee hours. Ravindra Kumar, a neighbor, said that it is still not clear whether he committed suicide or there is any foul play behind his death and only police investigations can reveal the truth.

Banbahal police station has lodged an unnatural death case and has started investigations. Police will question his family members and office colleagues, sources said.

## New centre to treat liver diseases at Sonarpur



**STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE**  
SONARPUR, 11 DECEMBER

With steady spike in number of live diseases across the country, J C Martin Centre for Liver Research and Innovations (JCMLRI) located on the campus of Indian Institute of Liver Diseases and Digestive Sciences (IILDS) at Sonarpur in South 24 Parganas district, is all set to cater modern diagnosis, treatment and research for thousands of patients suffering liver ailments across the eastern region.

The Liver Foundation, West Bengal, a non-profit has developed both IILDS

and JCMLRI.

On Wednesday, the academic building of JCMLRI, named after the US-based prominent scientist philanthropist John C Martin, was inaugurated for carrying out basic and translational research on liver diseases and allied health sciences using state-of-the-art technologies and innovative strategies, said Malay Kumar De, former chief secretary and chairman, governing board of the centre.

"There has been a rapid spurt in fatty liver diseases across the country but we don't have adequate infra-

structure for proper diagnosis, treatment and innovative research works. Our new centre JCMLRI is equipped with well-known medicines, researchers and technocrats associated with prominent institutes," said Prof (Dr) Abhijit Chowdhury of IILDS as well as JCMLRI and former head of hepatology department at SSKM Hospital.

Lillian L Lou, head of the John C Martin Foundation, while addressing the programme said, "The new centre will also perform well in future with innovative research work for development liver diseases' treatment."

## Classified

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

My client, Ramani Mohan Mondal, Son of Rangeshwar Mondal, of Ananda Pally, P.O.- Purba Putiary, P.S. Regent Park, Kolkata-700093, had purchased a land, schedule stated below the Principal/owner of the land is Lila Chakraborty, name of her Attorney is Rupali Moitra, Power of Attorney was duly registered in the office of the A.D.S.R. Alipore, recorded in Book No. IV, Vol. 17, Page no. 28 to 33 being no. 696, for the year 2001.

If anybody has any objection on mutation of said land, please inform office of BLRO Kolkata, KMC building Room No. 328, S.N.Banerjee Road, Kolkata 700013, in writing or over email [blroatm@gmail.com](mailto:blroatm@gmail.com), within one month from the date of this advertisement. Land Schedule: Land area : 02 Katha 00 Chattik, Mouza- Bansdroni, J.L. No. 45, R.S. and L.R. Plot No. 1078, Khatian No. 627/1, Police Station: Regent Park, District: 24PGS(S).

**JOY KUMAR HALDER**  
(Advocate)  
Enrollment No.-WB/1315/2012  
High Court, Calcutta  
Kol-700001

**PUBLIC NOTICES**

**Notice**  
My client Rita Ganguly wife of Shyamal Kumar Ganguly residing at 21/1 Nabalia Para Road, Ward no. 123 has purchased 7 chataks of land under Muradpur Mouza, Khatian no. 687 JL no. 13, Dag no. 213 from Power of Attorney holder Somnath Ghosh and others. If there's any complaint about this matter contact BLRO office Room no. 328, 5 S.N. Banerjee Road, Kolkata or e-mail to [blroam@gmail.com](mailto:blroam@gmail.com).

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**CHANGE OF NAME**

**I, RAMA** Mukherjee W/o Kanai Mukherjee Residing at 128, Gokulpur, P.D.- Kataganj, Nadia, Pin-741250. vide an affidavit no. 97AB 724620 dated 03/09/2024 sworn before the 1st class J.M at Kalyani court I Rama Mukherjee Roy and Rama Mukherjee is the same and one identical person.

**I, NIMAI** Biswas S/o. Late Haripada Biswas, Residing at Vill - Ulasi Paschim Para, P.O. Ulasi, P.S. - Hanskhali, Dist- Nadia. vide an Affidavit before the Judicial Magistrate Court (1st Class) at Ranaghat on 10/12/24. That I Nimai Biswas and Nemai Biswas is the Same and on identical person.

**I, KRISHNA** Ganguly, W/o. Bilash Kumar Ganguli, R/o. 162, MM Ghosh Road, Motijheel, South Dum Dum, North 24 Parganas-700074. My husband's pension payment order reflects my name as Krishna Ganguli, shall henceforth be known as Krishna Ganguly as declared before the 1st class Metropolitan Magistrate at Calcutta

**CHANGE OF NAME**

Court, West Bengal vide affidavit No. 984 dated 05/12/2024. Krishna Ganguly and Krishna Ganguli both are same and identical person.

**I, SRI SOURAJYOTI** Gupta, son of Sri. Ashit Gupta, aged about 29 years, Hindu by religion, service by occupation, and resident of Sreema Apartment, Baghajatin Road opposite Child Welfare Society, Siliguri, P.O.- Siliguri, P.S.- Siliguri, Dist- Darjeeling, State- West Bengal, 734001, hereby declare that on 5th December, 2024, before the Ld. Executive Magistrate at Siliguri, I officially changed my name from Sourajyoti Gupta to Rajveer Gupta. From this day onwards, I shall be known as Rajveer Gupta.

**I, PRADIP** Sarma is legal father of Sagnik, resident of A/27/2396 Taherpur, Nadia, W.B have changed my son's Name from Sagnik to Sagnik Sarma vide affidavit dated 07/12/2024 at 5th Court Barrackpore, North 24 Parganas.

**EASTERN RAILWAY**

**NOTICE INVITING E-AUCTION**  
E-Auction is invited by Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Eastern Railway, Howrah, 4th floor, Yatri Niwas, near Howrah Station, Howrah-711101 for the following work: **Name of work:** Awarding contract Operation of parking lots at various stations over Howrah Division for a period of 03 years. For more details and participation in E-Auction kindly visit the website [www.irops.gov.in](http://www.irops.gov.in) through E-Auction Leasing Module.

**Catalogue No. PARK-HWH-DEC-8**  
**Sl. No., Lot No. & Name of the Station:** (1) PARKING-HWH-DKAE-TW-265-24-1 (Parking - Two Wheeler), Dankuni. (2) PARKING-HWH-KWAE-TW-107-24-1 (Parking-Two Wheeler), Katwa. (3) PARKING-HWH-JRAE-TW-124-23-1 (Parking-Two Wheeler), Jaugram (4) PARKING-HWH-JOX-TW-264-24-1 (Parking-Two Wheeler), Janai Road (5) PARKING-HWH-RSLR-TW-111-24-1 (Parking-Two Wheeler), Rasulpur (6) PARKING-HWH-HWH-TW-255-24-1 (Parking-Two Wheeler), Howrah (7) PARKING-HWH-BHR-TW-248-24-2 (Parking-Two Wheeler), Bhadreswar (8) PARKING-HWH-AMBG-TW-180-24-2 (Parking-Two Wheeler), Arambag. **Auction start date and time:** 23.12.2024 at 12.00 hrs. **HWH-475/2024-25**  
Tender Notices are also available at websites : [www.ar.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.ar.indianrailways.gov.in) through [www.irops.gov.in](http://www.irops.gov.in)

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**EASTERN RAILWAY**

The following E-tenders are invited by the Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/ (General), Eastern Railway, Sealdah, 2nd Floor, Remote Control Building, Eastern Railway, Kolkata-700014 in connection with the following works:- **Sl. No., Tender No., Particulars of the work, Tender Value, Earnest Money** are as follows: (1) **ELEG-OT-1034-2023-24**, At BARN: Raising of DN/Platform with replacement of R.C.C precast slab inside filling 110m length out of 202m with providing R.C.C pile and wall, Rs. 22,47,828/-, Rs. 45,000/- (2) **ELEG-OT- 1096-2024-25-R1**, Annual Maintenance Contract of 7.5 TR x 2 units Air conditioning package unit in modular OT of B.R. Singh Hospital/Sealdah for three (03) years, Rs. 2,88,502/-, Rs. 5,800/- (3) **ELEG-OT- 1170-2024-25**, At Sealdah -Narkeldanga & Mogalbagan colony - Improvement, strengthening of Jack-arch roof, cantilever verandah and chajias, Sanitary & plumbing works and changing of damaged doors and windows with FRP etc. including all other ancillary works NKG (Type-II) Building, No. 182, 181, 180, 162, 159, 160, 161, 188, 196, 165, L7, L6, L11, L12, L13, MGB (Type-II) Building, No. 123, 124, 101, 134, NKG (Type-II) Building, No. 122, 163, 189, 207, NKG (Type-Iv) Building, No. L71, L4, , Rs. 10,41,853/-, Rs. 20,800/- (4) **ELEG-OT- 1171-2024-25**, At Sealdah: Improvement, strengthening of Jack-arch roof, and RCC roof cantilever verandah and chajias and other ancillary works to block No.165,144, 158, 225, 224, 226 (Type-II) at N.S. Road (42 Units) & block No. 242 & 243 (Type-II) at Guard colony (16 Units) including changing damaged doors & windows, sanitary, plumbing works & road works etc, Rs. 20,94,761/-, Rs. 41,900/- (5) **ELEG-OT-1172-2024-25**, Provision of RPF barrack (20 Bed) at Gede, Rs. 11,73,060/-, Rs. 23,500/- (6) **ELEG-OT- 1173-2024-25**, Provision of Combined RPF barrack at Kanchrapara (50 Beds), Rs. 17,11,122/-, Rs. 34,200/- (7) **ELEG-OT-1174-2024-25**, New Ladies RPF Barrack at Sealdah, Rs. 8,78,722/-, Rs. 17,600/- **Cost of Tender Document:** Rs. 0.00 (For each). **Completion period:** 12 months (For Sl. No. 1, 3 & 4), 36 months (For Sl. No. 2), 18 months (For Sl. No. 5, 6 & 7). **Tender Bidding Start Date:** 06.12.2024. **Tender Closing Date & Time:** 03.01.2025 at 14.00 hrs. **Tender Bid Opening Date & Time:** 03.01.2025 at 14.00 hrs. **Tender Bidding Start Date:** 06.12.2024. Details of Tender Notice and corrigendum issued from time to time are available at website [www.irops.gov.in](http://www.irops.gov.in). **SDAH-271/2024-25**  
Tender Notices are also available at websites : [www.ar.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.ar.indianrailways.gov.in) through [www.irops.gov.in](http://www.irops.gov.in)

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**EASTERN RAILWAY**

**Tender Notice No. : 222-S/1/W-II, dated 10.12.2024.** Following E-tenders are invited online by Divisional Engineer/HQ, Eastern Railway, Sealdah, 2nd Floor, Control Building, DRM Building, Kaizer Street, Kolkata - 700 014 for the following works: **Tender No.: TN-207-24-25, Name of the Work:** At the work of Belvedere Park Officers' Enclave-Rebuilding of old damaged roof by RCC with extension of wooden stair case, provision of water supply etc. under SSE/Works/BLVD under the jurisdiction of AEN/W/III/ Sealdah. **Tender value:** Rs. 1,93,11,067.53. **EMD:** Rs. 2,46,600/- **Completion period for the work:** 18 months. **Date & Time of Closing of Tender:** 06.01.2025 at 15.00 hrs. **Date & Time of Opening of Tender:** 06.01.2025 at 15.00 hrs. The Tender Documents and other details are available at website [www.irops.gov.in](http://www.irops.gov.in). The bidding for the tender is to be submitted through the e-tendering on above website. Manual offers will be summarily rejected.

**SDAH-272/2024-25**  
Tender Notices are also available at Website [www.ar.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.ar.indianrailways.gov.in) through [www.irops.gov.in](http://www.irops.gov.in)

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**EASTERN RAILWAY**

**E-TENDER NOTICE**  
**E-TENDER NOTICE FOR MECHANICAL WORK YEAR 2024-25, Date : 10.12.2024, NIT No.: 35/2024-25 (C&W JU).** Name of work, location & Period: Design, Supply, installation & Commissioning of Water Recycling Plant of cap 150 KLD at Barmer Laundry with maintenance and operation including consumables during warranty period of one year and Annual maintenance and operation for 4 years with consumables. **Approx. cost of the work : ₹ 3,27,06,965/-** **Earnest money to be deposited: ₹ 3,13,500/-** **Date and time for submission of tender and opening of tender:** On 03.01.2025 till 15.00 hrs through E-tendering online submission on IREPS. Tender will be opened soon after website particular and notice board location where complete details of tender can be seen etc.: [www.irops.gov.in](http://www.irops.gov.in) Sr Section Engineer (C&W) NWR, Jodhpur notice board. **NOTE:** The offer can only be accepted through E-tendering on the website of [www.irops.gov.in](http://www.irops.gov.in). Offer in any other form will not be accepted. The tenderer/bidders must have Class-III Digital Signature Certificate & must be register on IREPS portal. Only registered tenderer/ bidders can participate on e-Tendering. All relevant paper must be uploaded at the time of participating in e-Tendering. **1419-AR24**  
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**NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY**

**Tender No.: SDSTE-ETN-CCTV-GOODS-P-1, dated 10.12.2024.** Divisional Railway Manager, Eastern Railway, Howrah, DRM Building near Railway Station, Howrah-711101, invites Open e-Tenders against Tender No. SDSTE-ETN-CCTV-GOODS-P-1 for the following work. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids upto closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. **Name of Work:** Schedule A-Upgrade and modernisation of Bally goods shed under Sr. DEN (1)/Howrah. Schedule B-Upgrade and modernisation of Shrirampur goods shed under Sr. DEN (1)/Howrah. Schedule C-Upgrade and modernisation of Bhadreswar ghat goods shed under Sr. DEN (1)/Howrah. Schedule D-Upgrade and modernisation of Bandel goods shed under Sr. DEN (1)/Howrah. Schedule E-Upgrade and modernisation of Magra goods shed under Sr. DEN (1)/Howrah. Schedule F-Upgrade and modernisation of Tarakeswar goods shed under Sr. DEN (1)/Howrah. **Bidding System:** Single Packet, **Advertised Value:** Rs. 9,62,86,625.13. **Earnest Money:** Rs. 6,31,400/-, **Cost of Tender Document:** Rs. 0.00, **Period of Completion:** 12 months, **Validity of Offer:** 60 Days. **Date and Time of uploading Tender:** 10.12.2024 at 16.57 hrs., **Bidding Start Date:** 19.12.2024. **Tender Closing Date & Time:** 02.01.2025 at 15.00 hrs. The details are available at website [www.irops.gov.in](http://www.irops.gov.in)

**HWH-478/2024-25**  
Tender Notices are also available at Website [www.ar.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.ar.indianrailways.gov.in) through [www.irops.gov.in](http://www.irops.gov.in)

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**Govt. of Bihar**

**Revenue and Land Reforms Department**  
**Expression of Interest**  
Expression of Interest for developing AI tool for OCR of handwritten documents in Kaithi (𑂍𑂶𑂟𑂲) Script and translation into Hindi/Devnagari Lipi.

The Department of Revenue and Land Reforms, Government of Bihar, intends to get a tool developed using AI/ Large Language model, which can be used for optical character recognition of old revenue documents, which are largely hand written in kaithi script. The tool should be able to convert the document into Devanagari Lipi and/or translate into Hindi language, once the document is scanned.

All organisation/persons, which possess or have the capability to develop such a model within a short period of 3-6 months, may send their expression of interest, by hand or by post to the following address:-  
**The Additional Chief Secretary,**  
**Department of Revenue and Land Reforms**  
**Government of Bihar, old Secretariat, Patna-800015**  
**Ph. No. 91-612-2215259**

**The expression of interest should contain the following -**

(i) Brief profile of person/organization filling the EoI (in not more than two pages)  
(ii) Experience of Similar project (in not more than 10 pages including credentials as proof)  
(iii) Summary of action plan to develop the intended tool (In not more two pages)

The proposal should reach latest by 7th January 2025 by 05:00PM. The department shall not be liable for delay in delivery by post/ courier.

The short listed proposals may be invited for presentation of proof of concept at a notice of not more than one week.

for details about the department, following websites may be referred to-  
<https://biharbhumi.bihar.gov.in/BiharBhumi/>  
<https://state.bihar.gov.in/lrc/citizenHome.html>  
<https://dlrs.bihar.gov.in/>

This information is available on [state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar](http://state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar) also  
**PR-14631 ( Revenue ) 2024-25**  
(Dipak Kumar Singh)  
Additional Chief Secretary.

**EASTERN RAILWAY**

**Tender No.: SDSTE-ETN-CCTV-GOODS-P-1, dated 10.12.2024.** Divisional Railway Manager, Eastern Railway, Howrah, DRM Building near Railway Station, Howrah-711101, invites Open e-Tenders against Tender No. SDSTE-ETN-CCTV-GOODS-P-1 for the following work. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids upto closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. **Name of Work:** Schedule A-Upgrade and modernisation of Bally goods shed under Sr. DEN (1)/Howrah. Schedule B-Upgrade and modernisation of Shrirampur goods shed under Sr. DEN (1)/Howrah. Schedule C-Upgrade and modernisation of Bhadreswar ghat goods shed under Sr. DEN (1)/Howrah. Schedule D-Upgrade and modernisation of Bandel goods shed under Sr. DEN (1)/Howrah. Schedule E-Upgrade and modernisation of Magra goods shed under Sr. DEN (1)/Howrah. Schedule F-Upgrade and modernisation of Tarakeswar goods shed under Sr. DEN (1)/Howrah. **Bidding System:** Single Packet, **Advertised Value:** Rs. 9,62,86,625.13. **Earnest Money:** Rs. 6,31,400/-, **Cost of Tender Document:** Rs. 0.00, **Period of Completion:** 12 months, **Validity of Offer:** 60 Days. **Date and Time of uploading Tender:** 10.12.2024 at 16.57 hrs., **Bidding Start Date:** 19.12.2024. **Tender Closing Date & Time:** 02.01.2025 at 15.00 hrs. The details are available at website [www.irops.gov.in](http://www.irops.gov.in)

**HWH-478/2024-25**  
Tender Notices are also available at Website [www.ar.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.ar.indianrailways.gov.in) through [www.irops.gov.in](http://www.irops.gov.in)

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## THUMBNAILS

Freedom fighter and Raj centenarian MLA dead: The centenarian freedom fighter and former Rajasthan MLA Rammal Singh Dorwal passed away at his native place in Sikar district Wednesday morning. An active functionary of erstwhile Praja Mandal, Dorwal (102) was born in a farmer family of Katarathal village in Sikar district. He breathed his last at his native village this morning. In pre-independence era, Dorwal remained active in the freedom movement as a member of the Jaipur unit of Prajamandal. In post-independence period, he held the post of sarpanch of his native village Katarathal for almost two decades and remained Pradhan of the Piprali Panchayat Samiti for 15 years. He was elected to Rajasthan State Assembly in 1977 on a Congress ticket, despite a strong Janta Party wave. During a visit to Sikar, Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar had called on him about three months back. The sitting Lok Sabha member from Nagaur Hanuman Beniwal has condoled the veteran leader's demise.

# Opposition wants House to function, affirms Rahul

He made the statement after meeting Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, 11 DECEMBER

Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, on Wednesday, categorically stated that the aim of the Opposition is that the House should function and there should be discussion. They can say whatever they want about me, but we want discussion in the House. "It was decided to debate on the Constitution on 13th December. The debate should take place," he added.

Addressing the media on the premises of Parliament,

Mr Gandhi said: "I met the Speaker and told him that the derogatory comments made against me should be removed. The Speaker said he would look into it."

Referring to the ongoing Parliament logjam, he said: "Our aim is that the House should function and there should be discussion. They can say whatever they want about me, but we want discussion in the House." "It was decided to debate on the Constitution on 13th December. The debate should take place," he added.

Attacking the BJP-led gov-

ernment at the Centre on the issue related to billionaire businessman Gautam Adani, he said: "The Modi government does not want discussion on Adani. They want to divert the issue, but we will continue to raise the issue."

Notably, Mr Gandhi had accused the BJP-led NDA government of protecting Adani and demanded a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) probe into the matter.

Earlier in the day, in a unique form of protest, Congress MPs staged a demonstration on the Parliament premises and distributed roses and tricolour among the ruling party members. They were demanding a debate on various issues, including the Adani row. The Leader of the Opposition in the Lower House took the lead and gave a rose and a tiranga to Defence Minister Rajnath Singh. It may be mentioned here that Mr Adani was indicted by the US Department of Justice (DoJ) and the US Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) for alleged bribery. The Adani Group has denied the allegations made by the US DoJ and the US SEC and said all possible legal recourse will be sought.

## RS adjourned amid uproar over no-trust move against VP

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, 11 DECEMBER

The Rajya Sabha was adjourned for the day amid uproar over the no-confidence motion moved by the Opposition against Chairman Jagdeep Dhankar while the Lok Sabha functioned as usual after almost two weeks of the commencement of the winter session, taking up important legislative business.

In the upper house of Parliament, Leader of the House and Health Minister P Nadda, and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju slammed the Opposition for a motion against Vice President Jagdeep Dhankar even as the Opposition members agitated on the Adani issue.

Parliamentary proceedings started on a stormy note in the Rajya Sabha, a day after Opposition INDIA bloc MPs gave a notice to bring a no-confidence motion against the vice-president, accusing

him of "partisan" conduct in the House.

After a series of adjournments, when the House reassembled, the Union minister for parliamentary affairs attacked Congress over the impeachment notice while dismissing the allegations against the Chair as baseless.

Stating that Dhankar, son of a farmer, has been a protector of the dignity of the House, he said the treasury benches would defend any move to attack the honour and dignity of the Chair. "We will not allow this," he asserted. "...A farmer's son has become the VP. Since the beginning, we have seen that they do not consider the Constitution... We have promised that we will protect the sovereignty of the nation. If you attack the pride of the VP, we will not let that happen. Sonia Gandhi's link with Soros is emerging. You should be ashamed. You are allied to anti-nationals."

## CM Fadnavis in Delhi to meet PM after talks on Maha portfolio allocation

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
MUMBAI, 11 DECEMBER

Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis left for his Delhi visit on Wednesday after he was sworn in, to meet President Droupadi Murmu, Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in what has been described as "a courtesy call", according to sources.

The CM's visit to Delhi today is believed to be significant, since it comes close on the heels of a Tuesday night meeting attended by Fadnavis and his Deputy CMs Eknath Shinde and Ajit Pawar to discuss cabinet expansion and ministerial portfolio allocations. The meeting was held at the additional bungalow 'Meghdoot', located next to the CMs present official residence at 'Sagar' bungalow, off Narayan Dabholkar Marg in South Mumbai, sources said.

According to sources, efforts are being made to allot ministerial portfolios by December 14, before the winter session of the Maharashtra assembly begins at Nagpur, which is the winter capital of the state.

There are also indications that the Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena is unlikely to get the home ministry or the re-

venue ministry. Instead, the Eknath Shinde-led Sena may be allotted ministerial portfolios like urban development and the public works department, it is learnt.

It is also learnt that leaders who could be excluded from the Maharashtra cabinet are Deputy CM Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena's Sanjay Rathod, Abdul Sattar and Tanaji Sawant. Deputy CM Ajit Pawar-led NCP's Dilip Walse Patil and Hasan Mushrif are unlikely to be ministers this time. Also likely to be kept out of the cabinet are the BJP's Suresh Khade and Vijay Kumar Gavit, it is learnt.

The names of 15 BJP leaders who could become ministers are Fadnavis confidante Girish Mahajan, Chandrashekhar Bawankule, Sudhir Mungantiwar, Pankaja Munde, Ashish Shelar, Mangal Prabhat Lodha, Shivendra Raje Bhosale, Chandrakant Patil, Ravindra Chavan, Atul Save, Madhuri Misal, Devyani Farande, Sanjay Kute and Ganesh Naik.

The names of the Deputy CM Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena leaders who could become ministers are Uday Samant, Shamburaj Desai, Dada Bhuse, Gulabrao Patil, Sanjay Shirsat, Pratap Sarnaik, Bharat Gogawale, Ashish Jaiswal, Rajesh Khirsagar and Arjun Khotkar.

## UP Assembly Winter session from 16 Dec

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
LUCKNOW, 11 DECEMBER

A brief five days winter session of the Uttar Pradesh legislature has been convened from December 16. During the session, the Yogi Adityanath

government will table the second supplementary budget on December 17. The size of the supplementary budget focused on Maha Kumbh is likely to be between Rs 12,000 to Rs 15,000 crore. The session may be a stormy one with

the Opposition Samajwadi Party and ruling BJP members possible clash on different issues including Sambhal violence, irregularities in the by-elections and privatisation of the power sector.

Lashing out at Congress and the INDIA bloc for approaching the Supreme Court with a "fake narrative" of discrepancies in EVMs and allegations and allegations against the Election Commission, the BJP accused them of having

a "disregard" for the Constitution.

The saffron party condemned the Opposition alliance's notice for a no-confidence motion against Jagdeep Dhankar as a disrespect towards the Rajya Sabha Chairman and Vice President of India.

Addressing a press con-

ference at the party headquarters here, BJP MP and party's national spokesperson Sambit Patra said the political discourse has been disrupted. "While India's Parliament is making progress in discussions on the Constitution, it is evident that the intentions and actions of Congress are not aligned with the principles

of the Constitution. There is no respect for the Constitution of India, either in their functioning or in their words."

"Since this morning," he said, "we have seen two prominent news items in the media. Firstly, Congress and some constituents of the INDIA alliance plan to file a PIL in the Supreme Court regarding

EVMs and the Election Commission. Secondly, a notice for the no-confidence motion has been given against the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha and Vice President of the country, Jagdeep Dhankhar. Both these developments are disturbing and appear to be aimed at undermining the Constitution of India."

# T E N D E R

**GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL**  
**e-TENDER NOTICE**  
On behalf of the Governor of West Bengal, E-Tender is invited by the Chief Medical Officer of Health, Diamond Harbour Health District, South 24 Parganas, Pin-743331 for supply of "Canteen at Chemaguri for GSM-25 under H & PW Department" from resourceful, eligible agency having experience in Govt. Sectors. Technical & Financial Bid Submission Closing Date: For e-Tender 17/12/2024 at 12:00 P.M. For e-Tender 17/12/2024 at 12:00 P.M. For Detail, Please visit the website: [www.wbtenders.gov.in](http://www.wbtenders.gov.in) or [www.wbhealth.gov.in](http://www.wbhealth.gov.in) or the Office of the Undersigned. Sd/- CMOH, DHD. ICA- T22692(2)/2024

**GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL**  
**e-TENDER NOTICE**  
On behalf of the Governor of West Bengal, E-Tender is invited by the CMOH, Dakshin Dinajpur for following e-tender: 1. Tender No. DHFW/NPCB/3573 dated 09.12.2024 for Selection of Agency for distribution of free spectacles. 2. Bid Submission Closing Date: 03.01.2025 at 05:00 P.M. For Detail (e-tender), Please visit the website: [www.wbtenders.gov.in](http://www.wbtenders.gov.in) and Office of the Undersigned. Sd/- CMOH, D/Dinajpur. ICA- T22653(4)/2024

**GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL**  
**HALDIA DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**  
City Centre, P.O. Debbhog, Haldia Dist. Purba Medinipur, Pin-721657  
Toll Free No. 1800-345-3224  
**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**  
NIT No. 11/HDA/EC/MECH/2024-2025  
Online (E-Tender) tender in a two bid system is hereby invited for "SELECTION OF INDEPENDENT ENGINEER, FOR MONITORING AND REPORTING OF REPAIR, UP-GRADATION, OPERATION, MAINTENANCE AND MANAGEMENT OF THE WATER SUPPLY PROJECT IN PPP MODE AT HALDIA, PURBA MEDINIPUR." Monthly remuneration/ fee to be paid to Independent Engineer: monthly rate to be quoted by the bidder. Document downloading dates: 12/12/2024 to 25/12/2024, 1:00 p.m. Online bid submission dates: 19/12/2024 to 25/12/2024, 1:30 p.m. Information in details is available in the office and in the website of HDA, [www.hda.gov.in](http://www.hda.gov.in). E-Tender can be submitted through: [www.wbtenders.gov.in](http://www.wbtenders.gov.in) Sd/- Chief Executive Officer, HDA. ICA- T22673(2)/2024

**GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL**  
**KMDA TENDER NOTICE**  
e-NIT No. KMDA/EE/EC/INT-12/2024-25  
Online quotation is invited by the Executive Engineer, Electrical Division-II, EM Sector, KMDA, Block-D, 2nd floor, Unnayan Bhavan, Salt Lake City, Kolkata-700091, from eligible agencies, for the work, Name of Works, Estimated Value of Work, Earnest Money Deposit, Time of Completion, Decoration by temporary lighting system including hiring of DG Set, including providing adequate manpower for attending & operating of all temporary installations & DG for 48th International Kolkata Book Fair - 2025 at Bui Meia Prangan, Salt Lake. Rate to be quoted, Rs.54,188/- (Initial), 14 days from the date of firm order. Last date & time of online quotation submission: 27.12.2024 up to 14:00 hours, for details contact the above office or visit both websites. [www.kmda.wb.gov.in](http://www.kmda.wb.gov.in) (KMDA-844) [www.wbtenders.gov.in](http://www.wbtenders.gov.in) ICA- T22655(2)/2024

**GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL**  
**PWD TENDER NOTICE**  
EE, Kalimpong Division, PWD invites online e-Tender for the work: "Construction of New District Collectorate Building at Kalimpong in the District of Kalimpong. Consultancy work for preparation of detailed project report (DPR) for installation of Fire Hydrant and Fire Sprinkler system including supervision." e-NIT No. 05 of 2024-25 of EE, Kalimpong Division, Tender ID: 2024\_WBPWD\_780255\_1. Bid submission start date (online): 09.12.2024 from 11:00 A.M. Bid submission closing date (online): 17.12.2024 up to 12:00 P.M. Corrigendum if any will be published in website only. Details of N.I.T and Tender documents may be downloaded from: <https://wbtenders.gov.in> Sd/- EE, PWD, Kalimpong Division ICA- T22731(3)/2024

**GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL**  
**PWD TENDER NOTICE**  
Superintending Engineer, Southern Highway Circle, Block-I, 2nd floor, WRITERS BUILDINGS, Kolkata-700001  
e-NIT No. 10 of 2024-25 (SI-01 & 02) of SE/SHC, PWD invites online e-Tender for the work of 1. Dhalagari Dohur via Begri Road from 2.60 km to 6.341 km, Restoration work of PHE Cutting for laying pipe line under Howrah Highway Division in the District of Howrah. Estimated cost Rs. 1,96,31,578.00. Tender ID : 2024\_SH\_781375\_1. 2. Dohur Andul Road from 0.00 km to 4.129 km, Restoration work of PHE Cutting for laying pipe line under Howrah Highway Division in the District of Howrah. Estimated cost Rs. 2,02,62,814.00. Tender ID : 2024\_SH\_781375\_2. Bid submission start date (online) 12.12.2024 from 3.00 p.m. Bid submission end date (online) 03.01.2025 upto 2:00 p.m. Corrigendum if any will be published in the website. Details of NIT and tender documents may be downloaded from : <https://wbtenders.gov.in> & Office Notice Board. Sd/- SE/SHC, PW/Roads) Dte. ICA- T22713(3)/2024

**THE DURGAPUR PROJECTS LIMITED**  
(A Govt. of West Bengal Enterprise)  
CIN No. U40102WB19615G025250  
**NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT)**  
NIT No. (1)WBODP/PP/7/2016(18)/11/2024/CHP/E/236 dated, 07.12.2024  
Tender ID : 2024\_DPL\_780633\_1 for Repair of Stairs and Platforms at CHP. Bid submission end date: 18.12.2024 Bid Opening date : 21.12.2024. (2)WBODP/PP/7/GM/PP-12021(12)/21/2024/EMOPH/E/235 dated, 06.12.2024 Tender ID : 2024\_DPL\_780454\_1 for Overhauling of 6.6kV HT Vertical Type Motors of Unit-7 & 8. Bid submission end date : 21.12.2024 Bid Opening date : 26.12.2024. Visit : <https://wbtenders.gov.in> / [www.dpl.net.in](http://www.dpl.net.in) ICA- T22642(2)/2024

**GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL**  
**KMDA TENDER NOTICE**  
e-NIT No. KMDA/EE/EC/INT-12/2024-25  
Online quotation is invited by the Executive Engineer, Electrical Division-II, EM Sector, KMDA, Block-D, 2nd floor, Unnayan Bhavan, Salt Lake City, Kolkata-700091, from eligible agencies, for the work, Name of Works, Estimated Value of Work, Earnest Money Deposit, Time of Completion, Decoration by temporary lighting system including hiring of DG Set, including providing adequate manpower for attending & operating of all temporary installations & DG for 48th International Kolkata Book Fair - 2025 at Bui Meia Prangan, Salt Lake. Rate to be quoted, Rs.54,188/- (Initial), 14 days from the date of firm order. Last date & time of online quotation submission: 27.12.2024 up to 14:00 hours, for details contact the above office or visit both websites. [www.kmda.wb.gov.in](http://www.kmda.wb.gov.in) (KMDA-844) [www.wbtenders.gov.in](http://www.wbtenders.gov.in) ICA- T22655(2)/2024

**GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL**  
**ABRIDGED TENDER NOTICE**  
Tender No. 1. WBZA/04/Deer Translocation / GZP of 24-25. 2. WBZA/05/Nylone Net/ GZP of 2024-25  
The undersigned invites e-Tenders for various Supply & Installation work at Garchumuk Zoological Park, Ulughata under Howrah Division. Details also can be seen at <http://wbtenders.gov.in> & [www.westbengalforest.gov.in](http://www.westbengalforest.gov.in). Last date of submission: 20.12.2024 Sd/- Ex-officio Director, Garchumuk Zoological Park & Divisional Forest Officer, Howrah Division ICA- T22676(2)/2024

**GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL**  
**HALDIA DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**  
City Centre, P.O. Debbhog, Haldia Dist. Purba Medinipur, Pin-721657  
Toll Free No. 1800-345-3224  
**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**  
NIT No. 11/HDA/EC/MECH/2024-2025  
Online (E-Tender) tender in a two bid system is hereby invited for "SELECTION OF INDEPENDENT ENGINEER, FOR MONITORING AND REPORTING OF REPAIR, UP-GRADATION, OPERATION, MAINTENANCE AND MANAGEMENT OF THE WATER SUPPLY PROJECT IN PPP MODE AT HALDIA, PURBA MEDINIPUR." Monthly remuneration/ fee to be paid to Independent Engineer: monthly rate to be quoted by the bidder. Document downloading dates: 12/12/2024 to 25/12/2024, 1:00 p.m. Online bid submission dates: 19/12/2024 to 25/12/2024, 1:30 p.m. Information in details is available in the office and in the website of HDA, [www.hda.gov.in](http://www.hda.gov.in). E-Tender can be submitted through: [www.wbtenders.gov.in](http://www.wbtenders.gov.in) Sd/- Chief Executive Officer, HDA. ICA- T22673(2)/2024

**GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL**  
**KMDA TENDER NOTICE**  
e-NIT No. KMDA/EE/EC/INT-12/2024-25  
Online quotation is invited by the Executive Engineer, Electrical Division-II, EM Sector, KMDA, Block-D, 2nd floor, Unnayan Bhavan, Salt Lake City, Kolkata-700091, from eligible agencies, for the work, Name of Works, Estimated Value of Work, Earnest Money Deposit, Time of Completion, Road the clock operation, cleaning including daily/periodic maintenance, attending, repairing etc. of different electro-mechanical equipment's, pumps, Lifts (generators), 11KV substation, (Generators), stage lighting arrangement, sound system etc. at Unnayan Bhavan for a period of 14 (Fourteen) months, Rs.98,22,251/-, Rs.1,96,445/-, 14 months from the date of firm order. Last date & time of online Tender submission: 03.01.2025 upto 14:00 Hrs., for details contact the above office or visit both websites. [www.kmda.wb.gov.in](http://www.kmda.wb.gov.in) (KMDA-847) [www.wbtenders.gov.in](http://www.wbtenders.gov.in) ICA- T22658(3)/2024

**GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL**  
**WRIGDD, e-NIT**  
Sealed Tender/e-NIT 24/NCR/2024-25/ADMP/BIR/EE, Tender ID: 2024\_WROD\_782473\_1 has been invited by the Executive Engineer DPMU, Birbhum, from Bonafied agency for Construction of PUMP DUG WELL in Birbhum District under DPMU Birbhum, WBADM Project. Last date & time of submission of application for above work is 13.01.2025 upto 12:00 PM. Other details may also be seen from office notice board/website. Corrigendum if any will be published in website only. Sd/- Executive Engineer DPMU, Birbhum. ICA- T22739(3)/2024

**GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL**  
**Tender Notice of I & CA Deptt**  
Memo No. of NIT 4655 - ICA(N) dt 11/12/2024 and Tender ID 2024\_ICAD\_783049\_1, Memo No. of NIT 4656 - ICA(N) dt 11/12/2024 and Tender ID 2024\_ICAD\_783117\_1, Memo No. of NIT 4657 - ICA(N) dt 11/12/2024 and Tender ID 2024\_ICAD\_783142\_1, Memo No. of NIT 4658 - ICA(N) dt 11/12/2024 and Tender ID 2024\_ICAD\_783166\_1 and Memo No. of NIT 4659 - ICA(N) dt 11/12/2024 and Tender ID 2024\_ICAD\_783207\_1. e-Tenders are hereby invited from works related to Bangla Sangeet Mela 2024. Bid submission closing date: 18/12/2024 at 12:30 pm. Other details may be seen from the website: <https://wbtenders.gov.in> and office notice board. Sd/- Director of Culture, Information & Cultural Affairs Deptt., Govt. of West Bengal ICA- T22746(3)/2024

**GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL**  
**PWD TENDER NOTICE**  
EE/IGM, Divn/PWD, e-Notice invites tender No. 17/07 of 2024-25 (2nd Call) for the work: 1) Restoration work for laying PHE pipelines along the road side of Lodhasuli-Dahjuri - Kuppandari Road from 5.60 km to 5.96 km (L/S) and 5.70 km to 6.00 km (R/S) under Jhargram Division, PWD in the district of Jhargram during the year 2024-25. (2nd Call), Estt. Amt.: Rs. 6,95,275/-, Tender ID : 2024\_WBPWD\_781365\_1. 2) Emergent restoration of Jhargram-Bandhagra Road, in connection with laying of underground water supply line in the district of Jhargram during the year 2024-25. (2nd Call), Estt. Amt.: Rs. 26,03,117/-, Tender ID : 2024\_WBPWD\_781365\_2. 3) Emergent restoration of Lodhasuli-Dahjuri-Kuppandari Road (SH-5), in connection with laying of underground water supply line by PHE Dte. in-between 19.50 km to 21.40 km under Jhargram Division, PWD in the district of Jhargram during the year 2024-25. (2nd Call), Estt. Amt.: Rs. 73,23,909/-, Tender ID : 2024\_WBPWD\_781365\_3. 4) Restoration work for laying PHE pipelines along the road side of Keshiary - Kulbura Road (MDR) from 0.00KMP to 1.72 km under Jhargram Division, PWD in the district of Paschim Medinipur during the year 2024-25. (2nd Call), Estt. Amt.: Rs. 20,32,481/-, Tender ID : 2024\_WBPWD\_781365\_4. 5) Restoration work for laying PHE pipelines along the road side of Keshiary - Nayagram Road from 0.00KMP to 2.31 km under Jhargram Division, PWD in the district of Paschim Medinipur during the year 2024-25. (2nd Call), Estt. Amt.: Rs. 26,41,775/-, Tender ID : 2024\_WBPWD\_781365\_5. 6) Emergent repair & surfacing of Jhargram Road (MDR) from 0.00KMP to 1.72 km under Jhargram Division, PWD in the district of Paschim Medinipur during the year 2024-25. (2nd Call), Estt. Amt.: Rs. 5,37,514/-, Tender ID : 2024\_WBPWD\_781365\_6. 7) Construction of new Boundary Wall surrounding the academic building attached to GNM Training School of Jhargram Government Medical College & Hospital, Jhargram. (2nd Call), Estt. Amt.: Rs. 11,27,306/-, Tender ID : 2024\_WBPWD\_781365\_7. Bid Submission End Date is 23.12.2024 at 16:00 Hours. For SI. No. 1 & 6 and 30.12.2024 at 16:00 Hours. For SI. No. 2, 3, 4, 5 & 7 Any Corrigendum/Addendum related to this e-NIT, if published, will be available in the e-portal only. For details, visit the website : <http://wbtenders.gov.in> Sd/- EE/PWD/IGM, Divn. ICA- T22720(3)/2024

**GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL**  
**KMDA TENDER NOTICE**  
e-NIT No. EE-INT-12 of 2024-25  
e-Tender is invited by the Executive Engineer, Division-DCSWTP, W&S Sector, KMDA, Chowdhury Para Lane, Serampore, Hooghly, from eligible and resourceful contractors for the work, Name of Work, Estimated Amount, Earnest Money, Time of Completion, Regulation/orientation of different diameter Valves at various locations to supply treated surface water through 6 Nos. of ESR under Hooghly-Chinsurah municipal area under Banberia Surface water supply scheme for a period of 06(Six) months i.e. from 01.01.2025 to 30.06.2025, Rs.6,40,676/-, Rs.12,813/-, 06 months, Last date & time of Online Bid submission: 20.12.2024 upto 16:00 hrs, for details contact the above office or visit both websites. (KMDA-841) [www.kmda.wb.gov.in](http://www.kmda.wb.gov.in) [www.wbtenders.gov.in](http://www.wbtenders.gov.in) ICA- T22654(2)/2024

**GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL**  
**NOTICE INVITING e-QUOTATION**  
Online NIG is invited by the EE, BNPWD, PW.Dte., Govt. of W.B., vide e-Quotation Tender No. WBPWD/EE/BNWD/NIGC-12e/2024-25 for the work of "Daily Sweeping of Bijan Bhavan (all floors including roof, open space, common space and compound) with washing (all flats including toilets, open space, common space and compound) during the year 2024-2025." (T/ID: 2024\_WBPWD\_781372\_1). Bid proposal submission start date & time (Online): 17/12/2024 from 06:55 P.M. Bid proposal submission end date & time (Online): 06/01/2025 upto 02:00 P.M. Intending bidders are requested to visit the website <http://tender.wb.nic.in> and this Office notice board. Sd/- EE, PWD, BNWD ICA- T22733(2)/2024

**GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL**  
**ABRIDGED TENDER NOTICE**  
Online NIG is invited by the EE, BNPWD, PW.Dte., Govt. of W.B., vide e-Quotation Tender No. WBPWD/EE/BNWD/NIGC-12e/2024-25 for the work of "Daily Sweeping of Bijan Bhavan (all floors including roof, open space, common space and compound) during the year 2024-2025." (T/ID: 2024\_WBPWD\_781372\_1). Bid proposal submission start date & time (Online): 17/12/2024 from 06:55 P.M. Bid proposal submission end date & time (Online): 06/01/2025 upto 02:00 P.M. Intending bidders are requested to visit the website <http://tender.wb.nic.in> and this Office notice board. Sd/- EE, PWD, BNWD ICA- T22733(2)/2024

**GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL**  
**NOTICE INVITING e-QUOTATION**  
No. - WBPWD/SE/SWEC/NIGS/2024-25, Tender ID: 2024\_WBPWD\_765004\_1 Last date of submission of bid :- 24.12.2024 up to 14.30 Hrs. Name Of Work: Construction of proposed new ITI at Gangajaghathi Block in the district of Bankura --- External Electrification works & Notice Inviting e-Quotation No.WBPWD/SE/SWEC/NIGS/2024-25, Tender ID: 2024\_WBPWD\_765013\_1 Last date of submission of bid :- 24.12.2024 up to 14.30 Hrs. Name Of Work: Construction of proposed new ITI at Gangajaghathi Block in the district of Bankura ---SITC of Fire Detection System & Notice Inviting e-Quotation No. WBPWD/SE/SWEC/NIGS/2024-25, Tender ID: 2024\_WBPWD\_765015\_1 Last date of submission of bid :- 24.12.2024 up to 14.30 Hrs. Name Of Work: Construction of proposed new ITI at Gangajaghathi Block in the district of Bankura ---SITC of Fire Detection System & Notice Inviting e-Quotation No. WBPWD/SE/SWEC/NIGS/2024-25, Tender ID: 2024\_WBPWD\_765015\_1 Last date of submission of bid :- 24.12.2024 up to 14.30 Hrs. Name Of Work: Construction of proposed new ITI at Gangajaghathi Block in the district of Bankura ---SITC of Fire Detection System & Notice Inviting e-Quotation No. WBPWD/SE/SWEC/NIGS/2024-25, Tender ID: 2024\_WBPWD\_765015\_1 Last date of submission of bid :- 24.12.2024 up to 14.30 Hrs. Name Of Work: Construction of proposed new ITI at Gangajaghathi Block in the district of Bankura ---SITC of Fire Detection System & Notice Inviting e-Quotation No. WBPWD/SE/SWEC/NIGS/2024-25, Tender ID: 2024\_WBPWD\_765015\_1 Last date of submission of bid :- 24.12.2024 up to 14.30 Hrs. Name Of Work: Construction of proposed new ITI at Gangajaghathi Block in the district of Bankura ---SITC of Fire Detection System & Notice Inviting e-Quotation No. WBPWD/SE/SWEC/NIGS/2024-25, Tender ID: 2024\_WBPWD\_765015\_1 Last date of submission of bid :- 24.12.2024 up to 14.30 Hrs. Name Of Work: Construction of proposed new ITI at Gangajaghathi Block in the district of Bankura ---SITC of Fire Detection System & Notice Inviting e-Quotation No. WBPWD/SE/SWEC/NIGS/2024-25, Tender ID: 2024\_WBPWD\_765015\_1 Last date of submission of bid :- 24.12.2024 up to 14.30 Hrs. Name Of Work: Construction of proposed new ITI at Gangajaghathi Block in the district of Bankura ---SITC of Fire Detection System & Notice Inviting e-Quotation No. WBPWD/SE/SWEC/NIGS/2024-25, Tender ID: 2024\_WBPWD\_765015\_1 Last date of submission of bid :- 24.12.2024 up to 14.30 Hrs. Name Of Work: Construction of proposed new ITI at Gangajaghathi Block in the district of Bankura ---SITC of Fire Detection System & Notice Inviting e-Quotation No. WBPWD/SE/SWEC/NIGS/2024-25, Tender ID: 2024\_WBPWD\_765015\_1 Last date of submission of bid :- 24.12.2024 up to 14.30 Hrs. Name Of Work: Construction of proposed new ITI at Gangajaghathi Block in the district of Bankura ---SITC of Fire Detection System & Notice Inviting e-Quotation No. WBPWD/SE/SWEC/NIGS/2024-25, Tender ID: 2024\_WBPWD\_765015\_1 Last date of submission of bid :- 24.12.2024 up to 14.30 Hrs. Name Of Work: Construction of proposed new ITI at Gangajaghathi Block in the district of Bankura ---SITC of Fire Detection System & Notice Inviting e-Quotation No. WBPWD/SE/SWEC/NIGS/2024-25, Tender ID: 2024\_WBPWD\_765015\_1 Last date of submission of bid :- 24.12.2024 up to 14.30 Hrs. Name Of Work: Construction of proposed new ITI at Gangajaghathi Block in the district of Bankura ---SITC of Fire Detection System & Notice Inviting e-Quotation No. WBPWD/SE/SWEC/NIGS/2024-25, Tender ID: 2024\_WBPWD\_765015\_1 Last date of submission of bid :- 24.12.2024 up to 14.30 Hrs. Name Of Work: Construction of proposed new ITI at Gangajaghathi Block in the district of Bankura ---SITC of Fire Detection System & Notice Inviting e-Quotation No. WBPWD/SE/SWEC/NIGS/2024-25, Tender ID: 2024\_WBPWD\_765015\_1 Last date of submission of bid :- 24.12.2024 up to 14.30 Hrs. Name Of Work: Construction of proposed new ITI at Gangajaghathi Block in the district of Bankura ---SITC of Fire Detection System & Notice Inviting e-Quotation No. WBPWD/SE/SWEC/NIGS/2024-25, Tender ID: 2024\_WBPWD\_765015\_1 Last date of submission of bid :- 24.12.2024 up to 14.30 Hrs. Name Of Work: Construction of proposed new ITI at Gangajaghathi Block in the district of Bankura ---SITC of Fire Detection System & Notice Inviting e-Quotation No. WBPWD/SE/SWEC/NIGS/2024-25, Tender ID: 2024\_WBPWD\_765015\_1 Last date of submission of bid :- 24.12.2024 up to 14.30 Hrs. Name Of Work: Construction of proposed new ITI at Gangajaghathi Block in the district of Bankura ---SITC of Fire Detection System & Notice Inviting e-Quotation No. WBPWD/SE/SWEC/NIGS/2024-25, Tender ID: 2024\_WBPWD\_765015\_1 Last date of submission of bid :- 24.12.2024 up to 14.30 Hrs. Name Of Work: Construction of proposed new ITI at Gangajaghathi Block in the district of Bankura ---SITC of Fire Detection System & Notice Inviting e-Quotation No. WBPWD/SE/SWEC/NIGS/2024-25, Tender ID: 2024\_WBPWD\_765015\_1 Last date of submission of bid :- 24.12.2024 up to 14.30 Hrs. Name Of Work: Construction of proposed new ITI at Gangajaghathi Block in the district of Bankura ---SITC of Fire Detection System & Notice Inviting e-Quotation No. WBPWD/SE/SWEC/NIGS/2024-25, Tender ID: 2024\_WBPWD\_7



THUMBNAILS

Four girls on education trip drown in sea: A shocking incident has been reported from Murudeshwar coastal town in Karwar district of Karnataka, where four girl students on an educational trip drowned in the sea. The state government announced a compensation of Rs 5 lakh for the family of each deceased girl on Wednesday. The girls were swept away by strong currents while playing at Murudeshwar beach on Tuesday evening. Authorities managed to rescue four girls initially, and a search is underway for others. The deceased have been identified as 15-year-old Deeksha, Lavanya, Vandana, and Shravanthi. Deeksha, Lavanya, and Vandana's bodies were found on Wednesday morning. Shravanthi was rescued immediately after the incident on Tuesday but later succumbed to her condition. Two other students were successfully rescued by the authorities, and rescue operations continued to locate the remaining students. The deceased were students of Morarji Desai Residential School in Kottur village near Mulbagal town in Kolar district. Including teachers, a total of 57 people were on the academic tour.

# SC expresses concern over misuse of Sec 498A

Court said that the Section became a tool for unleashing personal vendetta

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, 11 DECEMBER

The Supreme Court has expressed concern over the growing tendency to misuse Section 498A of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), which penalises cruelty by husbands and their relatives against married women.

While quashing a Section 498A IPC case against a husband and his parents, a bench of Justices BV Nagarathna and N Kotiswar Singh said that the Section became a tool for unleashing personal vendetta against the husband and his family by a wife.

"The inclusion of Section 498A of the IPC by way of an amendment was intended to curb cruelty inflicted on a woman by her husband and his family, ensuring swift intervention by the State. However, in recent years, as there has been a notable rise in matrimonial disputes across the country, accompanied by growing discord and tension within the institution of marriage, consequently, there has been a growing tendency to misuse provisions like Section 498A of the IPC as a tool for



unleashing personal vendetta against the husband and his family by a wife," stated a judgement came on Tuesday.

It added, "Making vague and generalised allegations during matrimonial conflicts, if not scrutinised, will lead to the misuse of legal processes and encouragement for use of arm twisting tactics by a wife and/or her family. Sometimes, recourse is taken to invoke Section 498A of the IPC against the husband and his family in order to seek compliance with the unreasonable demands of a wife. Consequently, this

Court has, time and again, cautioned against prosecuting the husband and his family in the absence of a clear prima facie case against them."

The verdict came in a criminal appeal filed by the husband and his family against the Telangana High Court's decision refusing to quash the domestic cruelty case registered by the wife against them.

The wife had registered a domestic cruelty case against her husband and in-laws after he filed a petition seeking the dissolution of the marriage. The apex court

said that the cases filed by the wife were to settle personal scores and grudges and the wife was misusing the provisions meant originally to protect her.

"We are not, for a moment, stating that any woman who has suffered cruelty in terms of what has been contemplated under Section 498A of the IPC should remain silent and forbear herself from making a complaint or initiating any criminal proceeding. That is not the intention of our aforesaid observations but we should not encourage a case like the present one, whereas a counterblast to the petition for dissolution of marriage sought by the first appellant-husband of the second respondent herein, a complaint under Section 498A of the IPC is lodged by the latter," said the bench.

"In fact, the insertion of the said provision is meant mainly for the protection of a woman who is subjected to cruelty in the matrimonial home primarily due to an unlawful demand for any property or valuable security in the form of dowry. However, sometimes it is misused as in the present case," it added.

# After B'luru man kills self over ₹3 cr divorce settlement demand, body for harassed men to move SC

AGENCIES  
BENGALURU, 11 DECEMBER

Following the death of an automobile company executive from Uttar Pradesh in Bengaluru allegedly over the demand of Rs 3 crore for a divorce settlement, the Ekam Nyay Foundation, fighting for the rights of women, is preparing to approach the Supreme Court.

Atul Subhash (34), ended his life in his apartment in Marathahalli police station limits in the wee hours of Tuesday, leaving behind a 90-minute video and a 40-page-long death note, explaining how the harassment by his wife and her family was compelling him to end his life.

The development has sparked outrage and debate across the country about rights of men and how the law views them in cases of divorce and child custody.

Deepika Narayan Bharadwaj, the founder of the Ekam Nyay Foundation, speaking to IANS on Wednesday stated that considering the serious allegations made by the deceased against the judiciary and the family court judge over alleged demand of bribes, the organisation will approach the Supreme Court.

"We will submit this to the

Chief Justice of India and Chief Justice of Karnataka High Court," she stated.

"Succour is needed for people who are killing themselves due to biased laws," Ms Bharadwaj stated.

Bikas Kumar, the brother of the deceased Atul, stated: "The family of Atul's wife was demanding Rs 3 crore for a settlement. The unreasonable demand of Rs 3 crore was acute mental harassment."

"The wife made demands for money in front of the judge and told Atul that if he was not able to give the money, why doesn't he end his life? The judge was laughing in the court over this statement. Is this not torture? Is this not mental harassment?" Bikas Kumar asked.

"My brother has sacrificed his life. He had written everywhere 'Justice is Due'. I want justice at any cost. My brother had sent email messages to the President of India, the Supreme Court of India. I expect them to change the law so that men will get some rights," he said.

"Not all men are culprits. Let them also get some legal immunity to present their case and prove that they are right," Bikas stated.

Commenting on his brother's suicide, he said: "We didn't

know that he would do something like this. When I spoke to him, he did not give any clue about what he was up to. He also did not give hints to our parents. I spoke to him last Sunday and everything was normal. Later he also spoke to parents and it was fine. That was his last call."

"On Monday at 2 a.m, he sent a message but I was asleep. Later, on Tuesday I got a call from an unknown number asking me about the death note. When I checked my phone, I saw messages on my mobile," he said.

In his video, Atul Subhash had stated that he got married in 2019 and his wife allegedly demanded Rs 3 crore alimony after they filed for divorce.

She allegedly didn't let him even see the face of his child after she filed for divorce. He stated in the video that the Family Court Judge demanded Rs 5 lakh to settle the case.

Atul stated that his father-in-law died of a disease soon after his marriage but his wife got an FIR registered under sections of murder against his family claiming he died of shock because of a demand for dowry.

Atul said in the video that he faced extreme harassment as he had to attend 120 case dates in the last two years.

## HC grants bail to actor Balachandra Menon

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
KOCHI, 11 DECEMBER

The Kerala High Court on Wednesday granted anticipatory bail to Malayalam actor-filmmaker Balachandra

Menon in a sexual assault case filed against him with 17-year delay after publication of the Justice Hema Committee report.

The single bench of Justice P V Kunhikrishnan, while

granting anticipatory bail to Balachandra Menon, observed that men also have the right to dignity, not just women. "Remember that right and dignity is not only to women, but to men also," HC said.

## Congress-led UDF wins big in Kerala local body by-polls

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, 11 DECEMBER

The Congress-led United Democratic Front (UDF) registered a huge victory in the

local body by-election to 31 wards held on Tuesday.

Of the 31 contested seats, the UDF won 17, the ruling CPI-M-led Left Democratic Front (LDF) won 11, and the BJP secured three seats. Before

the by-elections, the LDF held 15 wards, the UDF had 13 seats, and the BJP had three. While the LDF lost four wards to the UDF in the by-election, the BJP's tally remained the same.

With the fresh results, the UDF wrested three gram panchayats from the LDF: Natikka in the Thrissur district, Thachampara in the Palakkad district, and Karimannoor in the Idukki district.

In Thrissur district, P Vinu, former gram panchayat president, won by a margin of 115 votes in Natikka, a ward previously secured by the LDF with a majority of 260 votes.

**EASTERN RAILWAY**  
**NOTICE INVITING AUCTION**  
E-Auction is invited by Divisional Railway Manager (Commercial), Eastern Railway, Howrah, 4th floor, Yatri Niwas, near Howrah Station, Howrah-71101 for 02 nos. of Multi Purpose Stall (MPs) at 'B' category stations, 63 nos. of Multi Purpose Stall (MPs) at 'C' category stations and 01 nos. of Multi Purpose Stall (MPs) at 'D' category stations over Howrah Division for a period of 05 years. For more information visit [www.irps.gov.in](http://www.irps.gov.in) through E-Auction Leasing module. **Auction Catalogue No.: MPS-DEC26-24. Category: MPS - Multi Purpose Stalls. Seq. No., Lot No. & Close Date/Time** are as follows: **AA/1**, MPS-HWH-JOX- MPS-14-23-1 (Reserved), 26.12.2024 at 11:30 hrs. **AA/2**, MPS-HWH-CDAE- MPS-26-23-1 (Unreserved-Open to all), 26.12.2024 at 11:40 hrs. **AA/3**, MPS-HWH-LOK- MPS-37-23-1 (Unreserved-Open to all), 26.12.2024 at 11:50 hrs. **AA/4**, MPS-HWH-PSAE- MPS-44-23-1 (Unreserved-Open to all), 26.12.2024 at 12:00 hrs. **AA/5**, MPS-HWH-RSLR- MPS-45-23-1 (Unreserved-Open to all), 26.12.2024 at 12:10 hrs. **AA/6**, MPS-HWH-BCGM- MPS-57-23-1 (Reserved), 26.12.2024 at 12:20 hrs. **AA/7**, MPS-HWH-PKR- MPS-63-24-1 (Unreserved-Open to all), 26.12.2024 at 12:30 hrs. **AA/8**, MPS-HWH-PKR- MPS-84-24-1 (Reserved), 26.12.2024 at 12:40 hrs. **AA/9**, MPS-HWH-BGF- MPS-20-23-1 (Unreserved-Open to all), 26.12.2024 at 12:50 hrs. **AA/10**, MPS-HWH-BRPA- MPS-23-23-1 (Unreserved-Open to all), 26.12.2024 at 13:00 hrs. **AA/11**, MPS-HWH-GRP- MPS-28-23-1 (Unreserved-Open to all), 26.12.2024 at 13:10 hrs. **AA/12**, MPS-HWH-LKX- MPS-62-23-1 (Reserved), 26.12.2024 at 13:20 hrs. **AA/13**, MPS-HWH-SMAE- MPS-67-23-1 (Reserved), 26.12.2024 at 13:30 hrs. **AA/14**, MPS-HWH-KQU- MPS-76-24-2 (Reserved), 26.12.2024 at 13:40 hrs. **AA/15**, MPS-HWH-BSAE- MPS-7-23-1 (Reserved), 26.12.2024 at 13:50 hrs. **AA/16**, MPS-HWH-BHLA- MPS-9-23-1 (Reserved), 26.12.2024 at 14:00 hrs. **AA/17**, MPS-HWH-GBRA- MPS-12-23-1 (Reserved), 26.12.2024 at 14:10 hrs. **AA/18**, MPS-HWH-MUG- MPS-17-23-1 (Reserved), 26.12.2024 at 14:20 hrs. **AA/19**, MPS-HWH-DBP- MPS-58-23-1 (Reserved), 26.12.2024 at 14:30 hrs. **AA/20**, MPS-HWH-SHBC- MPS-68-23-1 (Reserved), 26.12.2024 at 14:40 hrs. **AA/21**, MPS-HWH-HIH- MPS-13-23-1 (Reserved), 26.12.2024 at 14:50 hrs. **AA/22**, MPS-HWH-BMAE- MPS-25-23-1 (Unreserved-Open to all), 26.12.2024 at 15:00 hrs. **AA/23**, MPS-HWH-HYG- MPS-31-23-1 (Unreserved-Open to all), 26.12.2024 at 15:10 hrs. **AA/24**, MPS-HWH-KMAE- MPS-36-23-1 (Unreserved-Open to all), 26.12.2024 at 15:20 hrs. **AA/25**, MPS-HWH-MAYP- MPS-39-23-1 (Unreserved-Open to all), 26.12.2024 at 15:30 hrs. **AA/26**, MPS-HWH-PRAE- MPS-42-23-1 (Unreserved-Open to all), 26.12.2024 at 15:40 hrs. **AA/27**, MPS-HWH-DEA- MPS-59-23-1 (Reserved), 26.12.2024 at 15:50 hrs. **AA/28**, MPS-HWH-SHBC- MPS-9-23-1 (Reserved), 26.12.2024 at 16:00 hrs. **AA/29**, MPS-HWH-PLAE- MPS-18-23-1 (Reserved), 26.12.2024 at 16:10 hrs. **AA/30**, MPS-HWH-BMAE- MPS-34-23-1 (Unreserved-Open to all), 26.12.2024 at 16:20 hrs. **AA/31**, MPS-HWH-KHN- MPS-69-23-1 (Unreserved-Open to all), 26.12.2024 at 16:30 hrs. **AA/32**, MPS-HWH-KJU- MPS-61-23-1 (Reserved), 26.12.2024 at 16:40 hrs. **AA/33**, MPS-HWH-NKL- MPS-64-23-1 (Reserved), 26.12.2024 at 16:50 hrs. **AA/34**, MPS-HWH-BQV- MPS-10-23-1 (Reserved), 26.12.2024 at 17:00 hrs. **AA/35**, MPS-HWH-BOI- MPS-21-23-1 (Unreserved-Open to all), 26.12.2024 at 17:10 hrs. **AA/36**, MPS-HWH-JIT- MPS-35-23-1 (Unreserved-Open to all), 26.12.2024 at 17:20 hrs. **AA/37**, MPS-HWH-MBE- MPS-40-23-1 (Unreserved-Open to all), 26.12.2024 at 17:30 hrs. **AA/38**, MPS-HWH-SKG- MPS-55-23-1 (Reserved), 26.12.2024 at 17:40 hrs. **AA/39**, MPS-HWH-AMBG- MPS-72-24-3 (Reserved), 26.12.2024 at 17:50 hrs. **AA/40**, MPS-HWH-BLAE- MPS-5-23-1 (Reserved), 26.12.2024 at 18:00 hrs. **AA/41**, MPS-HWH-KKAE- MPS-15-23-1 (Reserved), 27.12.2024 at 10:30 hrs. **AA/42**, MPS-HWH-DMLE- MPS-27-23-1 (Unreserved-Open to all), 27.12.2024 at 10:40 hrs. **AA/43**, MPS-HWH-SLG- MPS-46-23-1 (Unreserved-Open to all), 27.12.2024 at 10:50 hrs. **AA/44**, MPS-HWH-TBAE- MPS-48-23-1 (Unreserved-Open to all), 27.12.2024 at 11:00 hrs. **AA/45**, MPS-HWH-BFZ- MPS-50-23-1 (Reserved), 27.12.2024 at 11:10 hrs. **AA/46**, MPS-HWH-IPQ- MPS-52-23-1 (Reserved), 27.12.2024 at 11:20 hrs. **AA/47**, MPS-HWH-SOAE- MPS-56-23-1 (Reserved), 27.12.2024 at 11:30 hrs. **AA/48**, MPS-HWH-MDSE- MPS-63-23-1 (Reserved), 27.12.2024 at 11:40 hrs. **AA/49**, MPS-HWH-PBZ- MPS-66-23-1 (Reserved), 27.12.2024 at 11:50 hrs. **AA/50**, MPS-HWH-TAK- MPS-74-24-1 (Reserved), 27.12.2024 at 12:00 hrs. **AA/51**, MPS-HWH-ADST- MPS-2-23-1 (Reserved), 27.12.2024 at 12:10 hrs. **AA/52**, MPS-HWH-BGAE- MPS-4-23-1 (Reserved), 27.12.2024 at 12:20 hrs. **AA/53**, MPS-HWH-BGNA- MPS-6-23-1 (Reserved), 27.12.2024 at 12:30 hrs. **AA/54**, MPS-HWH-BQV- MPS-11-23-1 (Reserved), 27.12.2024 at 12:40 hrs. **AA/55**, MPS-HWH-AGAE- MPS-19-23-1 (Unreserved-Open to all), 27.12.2024 at 12:50 hrs. **AA/56**, MPS-HWH-BZL- MPS-24-23-1 (Unreserved-Open to all), 27.12.2024 at 13:00 hrs. **AA/57**, MPS-HWH-GPAE- MPS-29-23-1 (Unreserved-Open to all), 27.12.2024 at 13:10 hrs. **AA/58**, MPS-HWH-DTAE- MPS-32-23-1 (Unreserved-Open to all), 27.12.2024 at 13:20 hrs. **AA/59**, MPS-HWH-NBAE- MPS-41-23-1 (Unreserved-Open to all), 27.12.2024 at 13:30 hrs. **AA/60**, MPS-HWH-PTAE- MPS-43-23-1 (Unreserved-Open to all), 27.12.2024 at 13:40 hrs. **AA/61**, MPS-HWH-TLO- MPS-49-23-1 (Unreserved-Open to all), 27.12.2024 at 13:50 hrs. **AA/62**, MPS-HWH-DHAE- MPS-51-23-1 (Reserved), 27.12.2024 at 14:00 hrs. **AA/63**, MPS-HWH-BGRA- MPS-53-23-1 (Reserved), 27.12.2024 at 14:10 hrs. **AA/64**, MPS-HWH-GRAE- MPS-60-23-1 (Reserved), 27.12.2024 at 14:20 hrs. **AA/65**, MPS-HWH-SNT- MPS-79-24-1 (Unreserved-Open to all), 27.12.2024 at 14:30 hrs. **AA/66**, MPS-HWH-BPAE- MPS-8-23-1 (Reserved), 27.12.2024 at 14:40 hrs. **Rate Unit:** Annual Licensing Fee [For each]. **Trips/Days:** 1826 [For each]. **Min. Incr (%)**: 0.2 [For each]. **EMD (%)**: 5 [For each]. **Turnover Required:** Nil [For each].  
HWH-473/2024-25  
Tender Notices are also available at websites : [www.er.indianrailways.gov.in/www.irps.gov.in](http://www.er.indianrailways.gov.in/www.irps.gov.in)  
Follow us at: [@EasternRailway](https://www.facebook.com/EasternRailway) [@easternrailwayheadquarter](https://www.facebook.com/easternrailwayheadquarter)

**GORKHALAND TERRITORIAL ADMINISTRATION**  
**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER**  
**MIRIK ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING DIVISION**  
**(MIRIK, KRISINANAGAR)**  
e-mail id: [meedqta2022@gmail.com](mailto:meedqta2022@gmail.com)  
**NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER**  
On behalf of the Principal Secretary, Gorkhaland Territorial Administration, Darjeeling; tenders are invited by The Executive Engineer, Power Department, Mirik Electrical Engineering Division, for the work through e-tendering (details can be sought at [www.wbtenders.gov.in](http://www.wbtenders.gov.in)) from eligible and resourceful bonafide contractor.  
**Memo No. 195 / EE / MEED / GTA / 2024-25 Dt: 11-12-2024**  
**Tender Reference No.:**  
1) GTA/ EE / MEED / Nit-13 / e-Tender / 2024-25 (Electrical Works) Dt: 11-12-2024  
Date of Publishing of Tender on website: 11-12-2024 at 05-00 hrs.  
Last Date for Submission of Bid Online: 17-12-2024 up to 03-00 hrs.  
2) GTA/ EE / MEED / NIT-1 / 2023-24 (Electrical Works) Dt: 11-12-2024  
Date of Publishing of Tender on website: 11-12-2024 at 05-00 hrs.  
Last Date for Submission of Bid Online: 17-12-2024 up to 03-00 hrs.  
Sd/- Executive Engineer (Power)  
Mirik Electrical Engineering Division  
Gorkhaland Territorial Administration, Mirik

**EASTERN RAILWAY**  
**NOTICE INVITING AUCTION**  
E-Auction is invited by Divisional Railway Manager (Commercial), Eastern Railway, Howrah, 4th floor, Yatri Niwas, near Howrah Station, Howrah-71101 for Provision of Catering Services through 12 nos. of General Minor Units (GMUs) at D, E & F category stations and 30 nos. of Special Minor Unit (SMUs) at B, C, E & F category stations over Howrah Division for a period of 05 years. For more information visit [www.irps.gov.in](http://www.irps.gov.in) through E-Auction Leasing module. **Auction Catalogue No.: CATG-DEC23-24. Category: Catering - General Minor Unit (GMU) for Seq. No. from AA/1 to AA/12 and Catering - Special Minor Unit (SMU) for Seq. No. from AB/1 to AB/30. Seq. No., Lot No. & Close Date/Time:** **AA/1**, Catg-HWH-TIT-GMU-8-22-1, (Reserved), 23.12.2024 at 11:30 hrs. **AA/2**, Catg-HWH-KLP-GMU-46-22-2, (Reserved), 23.12.2024 at 11:40 hrs. **AA/3**, Catg-HWH-CWLE-GMU-9-22-1, (Unreserved-Open to all), 23.12.2024 at 11:50 hrs. **AA/4**, Catg-HWH-TBB-GMU-47-22-1, (Reserved), 23.12.2024 at 12:00 hrs. **AA/5**, Catg-HWH-GHLE-GMU-10-22-1, (Unreserved-Open to all), 23.12.2024 at 12:10 hrs. **AA/6**, Catg-HWH-LCAE-GMU-52-22-1, (Reserved), 23.12.2024 at 12:20 hrs. **AA/7**, Catg-HWH-VSPR-GMU-84-24-1, (Unreserved-Open to all), 23.12.2024 at 12:30 hrs. **AA/8**, Catg-HWH-RJG-GMU-80-24-1, (Unreserved-Open to all), 23.12.2024 at 12:40 hrs. **AA/9**, Catg-HWH-MRR-GMU-4-22-1, (Unreserved-Open to all), 23.12.2024 at 12:50 hrs. **AA/10**, Catg-HWH-NHT-GMU-76-24-1, (Reserved), 23.12.2024 at 13:00 hrs. **AA/11**, Catg-HWH-KGLE-GMU-73-24-1, (Unreserved-Open to all), 23.12.2024 at 13:10 hrs. **AA/12**, Catg-HWH-MLV-GMU-2-22-1, (Reserved), 23.12.2024 at 13:20 hrs. **AB/1**, Catg-HWH-GGLE-SMU-22-22-1, (Reserved), 23.12.2024 at 13:30 hrs. **AB/2**, Catg-HWH-SHBC-SMU-51-22-1, (Reserved), 23.12.2024 at 13:40 hrs. **AB/3**, Catg-HWH-BQV-SMU-45-22-1, (Reserved), 23.12.2024 at 13:50 hrs. **AB/4**, Catg-HWH-JHBN-SMU-15-22-1, (Reserved), 23.12.2024 at 14:00 hrs. **AB/5**, Catg-HWH-CGR-SMU-79-24-1, (Reserved), 23.12.2024 at 14:10 hrs. **AB/6**, Catg-HWH-BPS-SMU-13-22-1, (Reserved), 23.12.2024 at 14:20 hrs. **AB/7**, Catg-HWH-GRP-SMU-34-22-1, (Reserved), 23.12.2024 at 14:30 hrs. **AB/8**, Catg-HWH-TLO-SMU-37-22-1, (Reserved), 23.12.2024 at 14:40 hrs. **AB/9**, Catg-HWH-BPAE-SMU-49-22-1, (Reserved), 23.12.2024 at 14:50 hrs. **AB/10**, Catg-HWH-PKR-SMU-48-22-1, (Reserved), 23.12.2024 at 15:00 hrs. **AB/11**, Catg-HWH-KNSN-SMU-23-22-1, (Reserved), 23.12.2024 at 15:10 hrs. **AB/12**, Catg-HWH-BDN-SMU-20-22-1, (Reserved), 23.12.2024 at 15:20 hrs. **AB/13**, Catg-HWH-KQU-SMU-53-22-1, (Reserved), 23.12.2024 at 15:30 hrs. **AB/14**, Catg-HWH-BQV-SMU-42-22-1, (Reserved), 23.12.2024 at 15:40 hrs. **AB/15**, Catg-HWH-DBP-SMU-33-22-1, (Reserved), 23.12.2024 at 15:50 hrs. **AB/16**, Catg-HWH-CTR-SMU-21-22-1, (Reserved), 23.12.2024 at 16:00 hrs. **AB/17**, Catg-HWH-LAP-SMU-27-22-1, (Reserved), 23.12.2024 at 16:10 hrs. **AB/18**, Catg-HWH-TYAE-SMU-25-22-1, (Reserved), 23.12.2024 at 16:20 hrs. **AB/19**, Catg-HWH-BOI-SMU-43-22-1, (Reserved), 23.12.2024 at 16:30 hrs. **AB/20**, Catg-HWH-BGRA-SMU-39-22-1, (Reserved), 23.12.2024 at 16:40 hrs. **AB/21**, Catg-HWH-KGLE-SMU-36-22-1, (Reserved), 23.12.2024 at 16:50 hrs. **AB/22**, Catg-HWH-ACLE-SMU-24-22-1, (Reserved), 23.12.2024 at 17:00 hrs. **AB/23**, Catg-HWH-KPLE-SMU-19-22-1, (Reserved), 23.12.2024 at 17:10 hrs. **AB/24**, Catg-HWH-RCD-SMU-26-22-1, (Reserved), 23.12.2024 at 17:20 hrs. **AB/25**, Catg-HWH-BZLE-SMU-17-22-1, (Reserved), 23.12.2024 at 17:30 hrs. **AB/26**, Catg-HWH-BQV-SMU-40-22-1, (Reserved), 23.12.2024 at 17:40 hrs. **AB/27**, Catg-HWH-BBAE-SMU-40-22-1, (Reserved), 23.12.2024 at 17:50 hrs. **AB/28**, Catg-HWH-BGF-SMU-38-22-1, (Reserved), 23.12.2024 at 18:00 hrs. **AB/29**, Catg-HWH-GMAE-SMU-18-22-1, (Reserved), 24.12.2024 at 10:30 hrs. **Rate Unit:** Annual Licensing Fee. [For each]. **Trips/Days:** 1826 [For each]. **Min. Incr (%)**: 0.2 [For each]. **EMD (%)**: 5 [For each]. **Turnover Required:** 0. [For each].  
HWH-472/2024-25  
Tender Notices are also available at websites : [www.er.indianrailways.gov.in/www.irps.gov.in](http://www.er.indianrailways.gov.in/www.irps.gov.in)  
Follow us at: [@EasternRailway](https://www.facebook.com/EasternRailway) [@easternrailwayheadquarter](https://www.facebook.com/easternrailwayheadquarter)

**E-TENDER NOTICE**  
Sealed online tender are invited for NIT No. 10 / RIDF-XXX / APD / 24-25, Dated: 12.12.2024. Construction of Additional infrastructure of 16 No's of school under Alipurduar District. Last Date & Time of Submission of Bid: 27.12.2024, Time 18.00 hours. The details are available at website : [www.wbtenders.gov.in](http://www.wbtenders.gov.in)  
Sd/- District Education Officer, SSM, Alipurduar

**EASTERN RAILWAY**  
**Tender Notice No.: O-AC-T-164 to 169-24-25 (Open), Dated: 09.12.2024.**  
E-Tenders (Open) are invited by Divisional Railway Manager, Eastern Railway, Asansol Division, Station Road, Asansol, Pin-713301 for the following works: **Sl. No., Case No., Name of the Work, Value of Tender, & Earnest Money** are as follows: (1), **O-AC-T-164-24-25**, Open tender for replacement of damaged tanks with RCC OH tanks with pipeline, ancillary works in circulating area at Asansol, Andal, Tapasi, etc. under Asansol Division, Rs. 5,66,89,725.56, Rs. 4,33,500/- (2), **O-AC-T-165-24-25**, Open tender for Through repair and maintenance of CCL siding, Giridih along with provision of drain in cutting under AEN/Madhapur Rs. 2,09,21,027.04, Rs.2,54,600/- (3), **O-AC-T-166-24-25**, Open tender for Replacement of damaged tanks with RCC OH tanks along with pipeline, ancillary works in the Platform at Barakar, Sitarampur, Mugma, Kumardih etc. under Sr. DEN/1/Asansol, Rs.6,14,93,214.04, Rs.4,57,500/- (4), **O-AC-T-167-24-25**, Open tender for balance quantity of: (1) Civil Engineering work at Madhapur: Replacement along with strengthening of OH Line from Power House to different places (Like Station, DTC, West Cabin, Filter House, etc. and other places) (2) Civil Engineering work of improvement of station approach road beside Tril Colony with other ancillary work at Jamtara under AEN/Madhapur. (3) Civil Engineering work of construction of new booking office cum waiting hall at Rajla Hall. (4) Civil Engineering work of construction of new booking office cum waiting hall at Narganjo Hall under Sr.DEN/2/Asansol, Rs. 39,79,859.59, Rs. 79,600/- (5), **O-AC-T-168-24-25**, Open tender for Repair and maintenance of track in the section of SSE/P.Way/DUMKA under AEN/Jasidih, Rs. 1,06,79,456.65, Rs. 2,03,400/- (6), **O-AC-T-169-24-25**, Open Tender for Augmentation of water supply system with provision of new OH tank structure along with other ancillary works at Vidyasagar station under AEN/Madhapur, Rs.1,23,52,887.11, Rs. 2,11,800/- **Completion period of the Work:** 09 months [For Sl. No. 4], 12 months [For Sl. No. 2, 5 & 6], 18 months [For Sl. No. 1 & 3]. **Date and Time of Closing:** 03.01.2025 at 12.00 hrs. Complete details can be seen in the Railways Website [www.irps.gov.in](http://www.irps.gov.in).  
ASN-261/2024-25  
Tender Notices are also available at websites : [www.er.indianrailways.gov.in/www.irps.gov.in](http://www.er.indianrailways.gov.in/www.irps.gov.in)  
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**WESTERN RAILWAY - RAJKOT DIVISION**  
**VARIOUS ENGINEERING WORK**  
E-Tender Notice No. 31 of 2024-25 date 04/12/2024 (01) e-Tender No. : DRM-RJT-2024-25-E-69 **Name of Work :** Rajkot Division Providing Track mounted automatic Gauge Face Lubricators. **Approximate NIT Cost :** ₹16,82,13,416.40 **Earnest Money :** ₹9,91,100.00 (02) e-Tender No. : DRM-RJT-2024-25-E-70 **Name of Work :** Rajkot Division: Improvement to the Drainage System for Rain Water (Storm Water) at Khambhaliya Colony under Divisional Engineer (West) Rajkot's Jurisdiction. **Approximate NIT Cost :** ₹77,25,142.90 **Earnest Money :** ₹1,54,500.00 (03) e-Tender No. : DRM-RJT-2024-25-E-71 **Name of Work :** Rajkot Division: Improvement of cess under Divisional Engineer (West) Rajkot's jurisdiction. **Approximate NIT Cost :** ₹4,65,31,629.66 **Earnest Money :** ₹3,82,700.



# Students are drivers of Viksit Bharat: Dharmendra Pradhan

Pradhan expressed his gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for inspiring the vision of SIH

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, 11 DECEMBER-

Students are the drivers of Viksit Bharat and their innovation and zeal can find solutions to the challenges of the world, said Union Minister for Education Dharmendra Pradhan while virtually inaugurating the grand finale of the Smart India Hackathon (SIH) 2024 today.

He highlighted that the talent, vision, hard work, leadership and innovation of the youth of the country would pave the way for India to emerge as a 21st-century knowledge economy, a development model for emerging economies, as well as the growth engine of the world.

During his address at the event, Pradhan expressed his gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for inspiring the vision of SIH, which, he

said, had become a hotspot of innovation and creativity where students from across the country put their minds to find solutions to contemporary challenges.

Union Minister of State for Education and Development of the North Eastern Region Dr. Sukanta Majumdar was present at the inauguration as were the Secretary, Ministry of Education, Sanjay Kumar, Chairperson NETF, Prof. Anil Sahasrabudhe; Vice Chairman, AICTE, Dr. Abhay Jere, among other officials.

Chairman, AICTE, Prof. T.G Sitharam and other academicians, students and mentors joined virtually from various centres spread across the country. The Hackathon is taking place in 51 such centres concurrently.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Majumdar emphasised how SIH transformed challenges into opportunities,



paving the way for young minds to contribute to nation-building. Highlighting the growing participation of women in the hackathon, he noted that this marks a significant step toward inclusivity, with each team consisting of at least one female member.

He remarked that the contribution of women serves as a reminder that gender equality is not merely a goal

but a necessity for sustainable progress. He also commended the ministry's Innovation Cell for fostering an ecosystem for innovators. He stated that it is empowering students to transform ideas into impactful realities, promoting entrepreneurship, and advancing a culture of self-reliance.

Sanjay Kumar emphasised how the concept of innovation has firmly taken root in our minds and the culture of

educational institutions. He also highlighted that SIH provides an opportunity to transcend individual brilliance and harness the power of collectivism, as students collaboratively and creatively develop solutions to problems. Reiterating Mr Modi's vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat, he underscored that the idea also encompasses self-reliance in thought.

In line with the prime minister's vision of youth-led development, the SIH is a nationwide initiative to provide students with a platform to solve the pressing problems of Ministries and Departments of the Government, industries and other organizations. Launched in 2017, it has gained massive popularity among young innovators. In the last six editions, innovative solutions have emerged in different domains and stand out as established startups.

## SARTHIE 1.0 drive for awareness on welfare schemes



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, 11 DECEMBER

SARTHIE 1.0 campaign is a joint initiative of the Union Department of Social Justice and Empowerment (DoSJE) and the National Legal Services Authority, India (NALSA).

It is to empower marginalized and vulnerable individuals of the society including Scheduled Castes (SCs), Other Backward Classes (OBCs), Transgender Persons, senior citizens, Economically Weaker Sections (EWS), sanitation workers, waste pickers, victims of substance abuse, and persons engaged in the act of

begging, through a combination of awareness programs and legal assistance, to avail benefits and entitlements guaranteed by social welfare legislations and other enactments as well as administrative programmes of the Government. It aims to empower individuals by raising awareness on, and providing legal assistance for availing, their rights, benefits and entitlements. The initiative seeks to bridge the awareness gap among these groups regarding their legal rights, welfare entitlements, and government schemes. The initiative is designed to 'empower' indi-

viduals through 'awareness' and 'assistance', in order to achieve a dynamic balance of social, educational and economic empowerment of the vulnerable, disadvantaged and marginalized sections of society. The activities undertaken under this campaign shall act as a platform for disseminating vital information on social welfare schemes and policies, assisting individuals in accessing benefits and entitlements and exchanging good practices, in both urban and rural populations.

NALSA's existing nationwide network in States, districts and talukas, will facilitate the organising of awareness camps and seminars for the marginalised and vulnerable sections of society and providing legal assistance for availing their rights, benefits and entitlements. This information was provided by Union Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment, Ramdas Athavale in a written reply to a question in Rajya Sabha on Wednesday.

## MoU signed to strengthen research and innovation in disaster management

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, 11 DECEMBER

In a significant step towards bolstering India's disaster management capabilities, the Centre for Joint Warfare Studies (CENJOWS), the only tri-services think tank in the Ministry of Defence, signed a memorandum of understanding with the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA).

The MoU was signed by Lt Gen Syed Ata Hasnain (Retd), Member, NDMA and Major General (Dr) Ashok Kumar (Retd), Director General of CENJOWS. The signing ceremony marked the beginning of a strategic partnership to address critical challenges in disaster mitigation, preparedness, and response to develop the 'whole of the nation' approach. The MoU outlines a framework for joint initiatives, including:

**The MoU was signed by Lt Gen Syed Ata Hasnain (Retd), Member, NDMA and Major General (Dr) Ashok Kumar (Retd), Director General of CENJOWS.**

Collaborative Research: Undertaking studies on disaster management, HADR operations, and disaster diplomacy to provide policy inputs to the Government of India;

Capacity Building: Organizing seminars, workshops, and training programs for stakeholders, including armed forces personnel, NDMA officials, and other key agencies;

Awareness Campaigns: Promoting disaster preparedness and risk mitigation through nationwide awareness initiatives.

## UNHCR team meets Rohingya settlers in Jammu amid political slugfest

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, 11 DECEMBER

Amid political slugfest on the issue of Rohingya settlers in Jammu and Kashmir, a two-member team of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) on Wednesday met the refugees at a slum here to inquire about their living conditions. However, their request to meet the local police officers to discuss the issue was turned down, reports said.

The team has come here following reports of the administration snapping water and electric supply to a settlement of Rohingyas.

Senior Protection Officer, Tomoko Fukumura, along with Protection Associate Ragini Zutushi, met the Rohingya and some local residents in the Kiryani Talab area of Narwal, an official



said.

The UNHCR is a United Nations agency mandated to aid and protect refugees, forcibly displaced communities, and stateless people, and to assist in their voluntary repatriation, local integration or resettlement to a third country. It is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland, and has 20,305 staff working in 136 countries.

An official said the head of the team would return

to Delhi this evening as their efforts to meet some police officials have failed.

On 7 December, Jammu and Kashmir Jal Shakti Minister Javed Ahmed Rana said the water supply won't be snapped to the slums housing the immigrants, pending a call from the Centre on their deportation.

His statement came after the Rohingya living on three plots of land in the Narwal area of Jammu claimed that

their power and water supply was snapped recently despite them being registered with the UNHCR.

Two days later, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said the Centre should decide the fate of the Rohingya population settled in Jammu, asserting that they could not be allowed to die of starvation or cold. "It is a humanitarian issue. The Central government should decide about them (Rohingya). If they are to be sent back, do that. If you can, send them back. If you cannot send them back, we cannot starve them to death. They cannot be allowed to die of cold," Omar told reporters.

"The Government of India should tell us what we have to do with them. As long as they are here, we need to take care of them," he added.

## Bhat panel submits report on reservation to residents along ALC in Ladakh

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

Jammu, 11 December. The final report on identification of areas adjoining the Actual Line of Control (ALC) in Ladakh for the purpose of granting reservation for government jobs was on Wednesday submitted to the Lt. Governor Brigadier (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd) by the one-man commission headed by Justice Bansilal Bhat.

Justice Bhat, who is a former judge of the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir & Ladakh, called on the Lt. Governor and submitted the report to him. The main objective of the Commission was to examine the overall question of providing reservations to the residents of Area Adjoining Actual Line of Control, or not, for recruitment to various posts under the Administration of Union Territory of Ladakh consistent with the need of

**Justice Bhat, who is a former judge of the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir & Ladakh, called on the Lt. Governor and submitted the report to him.**

ensuring the efficiency in administration and minimum standards for job recruitments. The Commission also aimed to determine the criteria to be adopted in considering any area of UT Ladakh as Area Adjoining Actual Line of Control and using the criteria to examine the inclusion of villages of UT Ladakh in the list of Areas Adjoining Actual Line of Control. Justice Bhat apprised the LG of the findings of the Commission.

The LG commended Justice Bhat for his hard work and sincerity in submitting the final report within the stipulated time frame.

**Punjab government announces new policy for play schools, focus on health and safety of children:** The Minister of Social Security, Women and Child Development (WCD), Baljeet Kaur, on Wednesday announced a new set of standards that will ensure the health, safety, and well-being of children between the ages of three and six who attend private play schools and nurseries. The Department of WCD will compel all such schools to register in accordance with these rules, which will be put into effect over the course of the next six months.

**No one is complete without gratitude for their mother and motherland:** Yogi Adityanath: Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Wednesday said this land is sacred as it is the birthplace of Lord Ram, who taught that no matter how great or wealthy a person becomes, they remain incomplete without expressing gratitude to their mother and motherland. ■ SNS

**Lost & Found**  
We, Mr. Sudarshan Maity and Mrs. Ananya Maity would like to inform the general public that I have lost my Original Deed of Conveyance vide Book No. I, Deed No. 6572 year 2010 being on the North West corner of the 2nd Floor measuring about 800 sq.ft. super built up area more or less said building lying and situated at 16/77B, Sirimani Para Lane, P.S. Baranagar, Kol-36. If found please kindly contact me on 9830194002 within 15 days from date of issue of this advertisement.

**NOTICE**  
That my client **Arup Sarkar**, Son of Sailendra Nath Sarkar, residing at 38, Harihar Nagar Colony, South Dum Dum (M), Kolkata - 700056, North 24 Parganas have lost Original Registered Deed Being No. 150610829 for the year 2019 which was duly registered in the Office of A.D.S.R. Cossipore, Dum Dum and also lodged a General Diary in Nagerbazar Police Station dated 09.12.2024 vide G.D. Entry No. 545. Any person having any claim, share, right, title, interest, concerning the matter or any objection whatsoever must notify the same to the undersigned with supporting documentary evidence, within 15 days from this date where after the claim if any shall be deemed to be waived and no further claim shall be entertained.

Pallavi Karmakar  
Advocate  
Ph.no. 9007824957



**CENTRAL UNIVERSITY OF KERALA**  
(Established under the Central Universities Act, 2009)  
Tejaswini Hills, Periyar P.O., KASARAGOD-671320

No. CUK / RC / FO / 2023 14.11.2024

**EMPLOYMENT NOTIFICATION (NON-TEACHING)**

Online applications are invited from the eligible Indian nationals for filling up the post of **Finance Officer** on direct basis.

The notification containing full particulars such as number of posts, notification no., category, essential qualifications, experience, pay, details of submission of online application etc are available at the University website: [www.cukerala.ac.in](http://www.cukerala.ac.in).

The last date for receipt of online application is **31.12.2024, 5.00 P.M.**

CBC 21353/12/0001/2425 **REGISTRAR**



**HDFC Bank Limited**  
Branch: 4, Mangoe Lane, 5th Floor, Surendra Mohan Ghosh Sarani, Kolkata- 700001.  
Tel: (033)- 6608-6234 CIN L65920MH1994PLC080618 Website: [www.hdfcbank.com](http://www.hdfcbank.com)

**POSSESSION NOTICE**  
(For Immovable Property)

Whereas the Authorised Officer of **HDFC Bank Limited** (erstwhile HDFC Limited having amalgamated with HDFC Bank Limited by virtue of a Scheme of Amalgamation approved by Hon'ble NCLT-Mumbai vide order dated 17th March 2023) (**HDFC**), under the Securitisation And Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 ("said Act") and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (2) of the said Act, calling upon the following borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) and Legal Representative(s) to pay the amounts mentioned against their respective names together with interest thereon at the applicable rates as mentioned in the said notices, within 60 days from the date of the said Notice/s, incidental expenses, costs, charges etc till the date of payment and / or realisation.

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower (s) / Legal Heir(s) and Legal Representative(s)	Outstanding Dues	Date of Demand Notice	Date of Possession	Description of Immovable Property (ies) / Secured Asset (s)
1.	<b>Borrower:</b> Mr. Ramen Das	Rs.18,10,443/- as on 30.06.2024	23.09.2024	09.12.2024 (Symbolic Possession)	The property being Flat No. : B, admeasuring 737 sq. ft. (68.49 sq. mtrs) approx. (sbu), on the Eastern side of the 2nd Floor, together with one covered car parking space admeasuring 120 sq. ft. (11.15 sq. mtrs) approx., on the Ground Floor of the G+3 storied building constructed upon land admeasuring 03 cottahs 04 chittaks more or less, situated at Mouza : Nayabad, JL No.: 25, Touzi No. : 56, RS No.: 3, Khatian No. : 145, RS Dag No.: 195, within the limits of Ward No.: 109 of Kolkata Municipal Corporation, Premises No. : 3079, Nayabad, P.O. : Mukundapur, P.S. : Panchasayar (earlier P.S: Jadavpur), Dist. : South 24 Parganas, Kolkata : 700099, alongwith the undivided proportionate share of the land and construction thereon present and in future (the said property). The premises is butted and bounded as follows : On the North: Plot No. : 33, On the South: Plot No.: 31, On the East : Vacant Land, On the West : 20 feet wide road.
2.	<b>Borrower:</b> Mr. Siddhartha Biswas  <b>Co- Borrower:</b> Mrs. Poujami Halder	Rs.26,11,594/- as on 30.06.2024	17.09.2024	10.12.2024 (Symbolic Possession)	The property being a flat admeasuring 740 sq. ft. (68.77 sq. mtrs) approx., on the North – West – South portion of the 1st Floor of the building constructed upon land admeasuring 03 cottahs 08 chittaks more or less, situated at Mouza : Sarsuna, Pargana : Magura, JL No.: 17, RS No. : 486, Touzi No. : 159, 206, 210, CS Khatian No. : 1850, CS Dag No. : 1954, within the limits of Ward No. : 126 of Kolkata Municipal Corporation (S. S. Unit), Premises No. : 518, Jadav Ghosh Road, P.S.: Sarsuna (earlier P.S. : Thakurpukur), Dist. : South 24 Parganas, alongwith the undivided proportionate share of the land and construction thereon present and in future (the said property). The premises is butted and bounded as follows: On the North : Plot No. : 1. On the South: Property of Chittaranjan Saha, On the East: Part of Dag No. : 1598 (property of Nirarjan Maity), On the West : 12 feet wide common passage.
3.	<b>Borrower:</b> Mr. Bidyut Chattopadhyay  <b>Co- Borrower:</b> Mrs. Madhumita Chattopadhyay	Rs.13,57,314/- as on 30.06.2024	17.09.2024	10.12.2024 (Symbolic Possession)	The property being a plot of land admeasuring 03 sataks (1336 sq. ft.) (124.35 sq. mtrs) approx., situated at Mouza : Garbhukanandampur, JL No.: 8, Touzi No. : 353, Pargana : Ballia, RS No. : 33, Khatian No.: 1900, 1107, Dag Nos. : 698, 1698, 890, Premises No.: 4/1/S/S, S. K. Bose Road, within the limits of Ward No. : 12 of Budge Budge Municipality, P.S.: Budge Budge, Kolkata: 700137, Dist.: South 24 Parganas, together with the right to use the 6 feet wide common passage and the construction thereon present and in future (the said property). The said property is butted and bounded as follows: On the North : Property of Mrs. Sadhan Chandra Mondal, On the South: Property of Mrs. Anjana Mullick, On the East: Property of Mr. Prakash Das, On the West: 6 feet wide common passage.

\*with further interest as applicable, incidental expenses, costs, charges etc incurred till the date of payment and / or realisation.

However, since the borrower/s / Legal Heir(s) and Legal Representative(s) mentioned hereinabove have failed to repay the amounts due, notice is hereby given to the borrower/s / Legal Heir(s) and Legal Representative(s) mentioned hereinabove in particular and to the public in general that the Authorised Officer/s of HDFC have taken symbolic possession of the immovable property (ies) / secured asset(s) described herein above in exercise of powers conferred on him/them under Section 13 (4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules on the dates mentioned above. The borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) and Legal Representative(s) mentioned hereinabove in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the aforesaid Immovable Property(ies) / Secured Asset(s) and any dealings with the said Immovable Property (ies) / Secured Asset(s) will be subject to the mortgage of HDFC. Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) attention is/are invited to the provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets/s. Copies of the Panchanama drawn and inventory made are available with the undersigned, and the said Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) is / are requested to collect the respective copy from the undersigned on any working day during normal office hours.

For **HDFC Bank Limited**  
Sd/- Sandipan Bhattacharya / Nizamuddin  
Authorised Officers

Place : Kolkata  
Date : 12.12.2024

Regd. Office: HDFC Bank House, Senapati Bapat Marg, Lower Parel (West), Mumbai - 400013

**RECRUITMENT NOTICE**

Applications are invited for the post of Zoo Supervisor, Rasikbeel Mini Zoo from experienced Retired Range Officers within 10 days. For details Contact DFO, Cooch Behar. E-mail:-cobdivn@gmail.com

Ex-Officio Director, Rasikbeel Mini Zoo and DFO, Cooch Behar Division

Form No. 3  
[See Regulation - 15(1)(a)] / 16(3)

**Debts Recovery Tribunal Kolkata (DRT 3)**  
8th Floor, Jeevan Sudha Building  
42-C, Jawahar Lal Nehru Road, Kolkata - 700 071.  
Case No. : OA / 646 / 2017

Summons under Sub-section (4) of Section 19 of the Act, read with Sub-rule (2A) of Rule 5 of the Debt Recovery Tribunal (Procedure) Rules, 1993.

Exh. No. : 4678

**PUNJAB NATIONAL BANK**  
- VS -  
**MR. MAHADEB MITTHIA**

To,

(1) **Mr. Mahadeb Mitthia**, Jagannathpur, Saharshat, Falta, South Twenty Four Parganas, West Bengal - 743 504.

**SUMMONS**

WHEREAS, OA / 646 / 2017 was listed before Hon'ble Presiding Officer / Registrar on 01.08.2024.

WHEREAS this Hon'ble Tribunal is pleased to issue summons / notice on the said Application under Section 19(4) of the Act, (OA) fled against you for recovery of debts of Rs. 19,29,448.28 (application along with copies of documents etc. annexed).

In accordance with Sub-section (4) of Section 19 of the Act, you, the defendants are directed as under :

i) to show cause within thirty days of the service of summons / notice on the said Application why should not be granted;

ii) to disclose particulars of properties or assets other than properties and assets specified by the applicant under serial number 3A of the original application;

iii) you are restrained from dealing with or disposing of secured assets or such other assets and properties disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application, pending hearing and disposal of the application for attachment of properties;

iv) you shall not transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise, except in the ordinary course of his business any of the assets over which security interest is created and/or other assets and properties specified or disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application without the prior approval of the Tribunal.

v) you shall be liable to account for the sale proceeds realised by sale of secured assets or other assets and properties in the ordinary course of business and deposit such sale proceeds in the account maintained with the bank or financial institutions holding security interest over such assets.

You are also directed to file the written statement with a copy thereof furnished to the applicant and to appear before Registrar on 08.01.2025 at 10.30 A.M. failing which the application shall be heard and decided in your absence.

Given under my hand and the seal of this Tribunal on this date : 05.11.2024.

Sd/- Registrar-In-Charge  
Kolkata Debts Recovery Tribunal - 3

Form No. 3  
[See Regulation - 15(1)(a)] / 16(3)

**Debts Recovery Tribunal Kolkata (DRT 3)**  
8th Floor, Jeevan Sudha Building  
42-C, Jawahar Lal Nehru Road, Kolkata - 700 071.  
Case No. : OA / 234 / 2016

Summons under Sub-section (4) of Section 19 of the Act, read with Sub-rule (2A) of Rule 5 of the Debt Recovery Tribunal (Procedure) Rules, 1993.

Exh. No. : 4679

**PUNJAB NATIONAL BANK**  
- VS -  
**MR. SANKAR DAS**

To,

(1) **Mr. Sankar Das**, Vill - Dakshin Sargaria, P.O.- Chiberia, P.S. - Falta, South Twenty Four Parganas, West Bengal - 743 505.

**SUMMONS**

WHEREAS, OA / 234 / 2016 was listed before Hon'ble Presiding Officer / Registrar on 01.08.2024.

WHEREAS this Hon'ble Tribunal is pleased to issue summons / notice on the said Application under Section 19(4) of the Act, (OA) fled against you for recovery of debts of Rs. 29,83,241.03 (application along with copies of documents etc. annexed).

In accordance with Sub-section (4) of Section 19 of the Act, you, the defendants are directed as under :

i) to show cause within thirty days of the service of summons as to why relief prayed for should not be granted;

ii) to disclose particulars of properties or assets other than properties and assets specified by the applicant under serial number 3A of the original application;

iii) you are restrained from dealing with or disposing of secured assets or such other assets and properties disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application, pending hearing and disposal of the application for attachment of properties;

iv) you shall not transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise, except in the ordinary course of his business any of the assets over which security interest is created and/or other assets and properties specified or disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application without the prior approval of the Tribunal.

v) you shall be liable to account for the sale proceeds realised by sale of secured assets or other assets and properties in the ordinary course of business and deposit such sale proceeds in the account maintained with the bank or financial institutions holding security interest over such assets.

You are also directed to file the written statement with a copy thereof furnished to the applicant and to appear before Registrar on 08.01.2025 at 10.30 A.M. failing which the application shall be heard and decided in your absence.

Given under my hand and the seal of this Tribunal on this date : 05.11.2024.

Sd/- Registrar-In-Charge  
Kolkata Debts Recovery Tribunal - 3



Solo Run

Am Aadmi Party leader Arvind Kejriwal’s decision to shun an alliance with the Congress for the upcoming Delhi assembly elections marks a significant turning point in the political landscape of the capital. While the move underscores AAP’s confidence in its political dominance, it also highlights the broader challenges faced by opposition forces in forging a united front against the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). AAP’s rise in Delhi has been nothing short of transformative, systematically dismantling the Congress’s long-standing dominance. With two consecutive landslide victories in the 2015 and 2020 assembly elections, the party had cemented itself as the preferred choice for the capital’s electorate. By deciding to contest the 2025 assembly polls independently, Mr Kejriwal is signaling his belief in AAP’s ability to stand on its own, bolstered by its belief that its brand of governance will carry the day. This decision also appears to be a calculated response to the Congress’s stance in other states, particularly Haryana, where it denied AAP any seat-sharing arrangement in recent elections. Mr Kejriwal’s rejection of a tie-up in Delhi is both a demonstration of political reciprocity and a statement of AAP’s ambition to remain a dominant player in the INDIA bloc alliance at least as far as the national capital is concerned. For the Congress, this development underscores its existential crisis in Delhi. Reduced to irrelevance over the past decade, the party had hoped that an alliance with AAP would provide it with a lifeline. However, its inability to reclaim voter confidence or build a compelling narrative against the BJP and AAP has left it struggling to maintain relevance. The recent padyatras aimed at reviving grassroots support may raise visibility but are unlikely to translate into significant electoral gains.

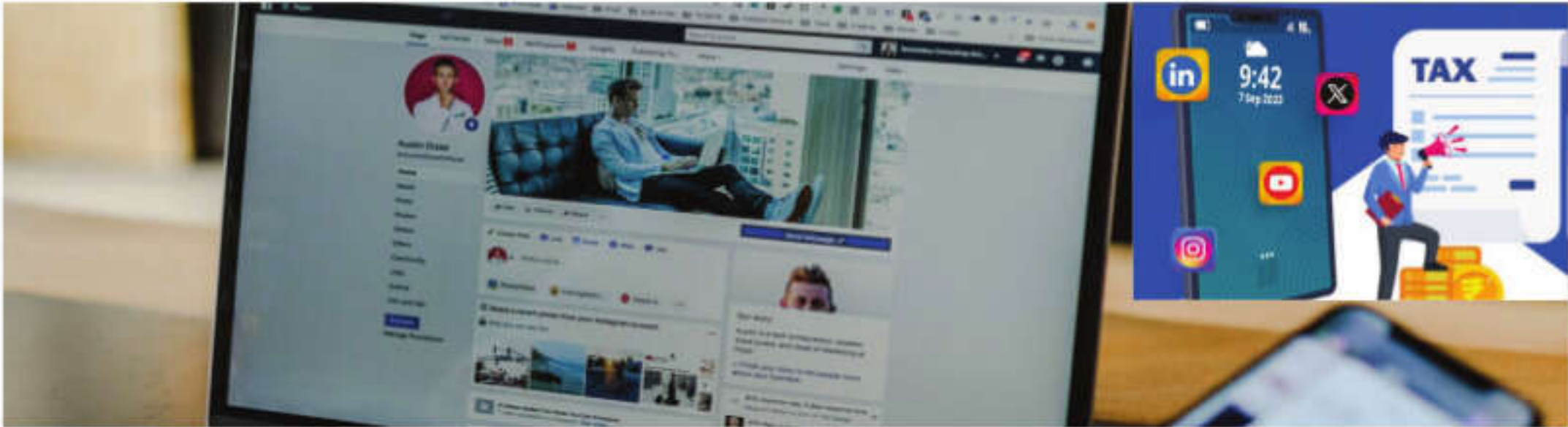
Mr Kejriwal’s decision has implications beyond AAP and Congress dynamics. By rejecting an alliance, AAP risks fragmenting the opposition vote, a scenario that could benefit the BJP. In constituencies where Congress still retains a modest voter base, a three-way contest may provide the BJP with an advantage. For AAP, this gamble places added pressure to consolidate its base while countering growing criticism over governance and controversies such as the excise policy case. Strategically, this move positions AAP as a self-reliant force that is unafraid to challenge traditional political players. However, the absence of a united opposition in Delhi underscores a broader issue within the INDIA bloc: the difficulty of managing egos and balancing ambitions among its members. While the BJP enjoys the advantage of a centralised leadership and organisational discipline, the opposition’s inability to present a cohesive front remains a glaring weakness. Ultimately, Mr Kejriwal’s solo run in Delhi reflects both confidence and caution. It is a high-stakes gamble that may pay off only if AAP successfully navigates the challenges ahead. However, the fractured opposition landscape could leave the BJP as the ultimate beneficiary, reshaping the capital’s political narrative once again.

Digital Dilemma

Australia’s decision to ban children under 16 from social media is a bold attempt to address growing concerns over the harmful effects of the digital world on young minds. By setting the minimum age higher than any other country, the legislation underscores the urgent need to shield children from exposure to online risks like cyberbullying, harmful content, and addictive algorithms. While this step aims to protect childhood and alleviate parental concerns, it is a complex and contentious measure fraught with challenges. The intent behind the law is clear: to reclaim the innocence of childhood and give parents the assurance that their children are shielded from the darker corners of the digital landscape. However, the implementation of such a sweeping ban raises practical and ethical concerns. Social media has evolved into more than a source of entertainment; it is a platform for socialising, learning, and self-expression. Cutting off access may inadvertently isolate children, depriving them of valuable opportunities to connect and engage in positive ways. Enforcing the ban presents its own set of complications. The government has proposed age-verification technology as the primary tool to ensure compliance, but such measures come with risks. Privacy advocates warn of potential data misuse, particularly when sensitive biometric or identity information is involved. Moreover, tech-savvy teenagers could easily bypass restrictions using tools like VPNs, undermining the effectiveness of the ban. Past attempts in other countries to impose similar restrictions have shown that digital loopholes are difficult to close. The lack of exemptions for existing users or parental consent adds to the rigidity of the law, raising questions about its fairness. While a uniform rule simplifies enforcement, it disregards the nuanced realities of family dynamics. Parents may feel disempowered, unable to make decisions based on their children’s maturity and specific circumstances. The ambiguity surrounding which platforms are covered by the ban further complicates its rollout, potentially creating confusion for users and compliance challenges for tech companies. Globally, Australia’s move has drawn attention as a pioneering attempt to address an issue that many nations are grappling with. If successful, it could set a precedent for digital governance. However, success will depend on addressing the gaps in the current approach. Complementary measures, such as digital literacy programmes, parental controls, and enhanced content moderation, are essential to creating a safer online environment. While this law is a step towards tackling an urgent problem, it is a blunt instrument that may not fully address the complexities of the digital age. Protecting children online requires more than restrictive legislation. It demands a collaborative effort from governments, technology companies, and society to foster an inclusive and secure digital space that balances safety, privacy, and access. Australia’s initiative is a bold experiment, but its real test lies in its ability to adapt and evolve. Governments around the world will be watching closely.

Taxing gatekeepers ~ II

Apart from addressing the evils that social media today are unleashing on people, like addiction to digital contents and games, fuelling mental health issue and fomenting hatred, anger and extremism online, a sufficiently high digital ad tax rate would also stimulate innovation by encouraging new business models that allow good ideas to scale up, something that the behemoths today are ruthlessly suppressing



Unlike conventional advertising, digital advertising increases impact by individualising ads while also reducing businesses’ advertising costs. Nobel Laureates Acemoglu and Johnson are not the first to suggest a tax on revenues from digital ads. In 2021, Paul Romer had proposed a progressive tax on such revenue. Progressivity offsets the increasing returns on investments that give bigger firms an advantage over their smaller rivals. Revenue is a better base than income for taxing transnationals because unlike income, sources of revenue cannot be shifted to low-tax jurisdictions. Thus, taxing revenue from digital advertising is the best way to encourage companies to switch to the less dangerous and more acceptable way to shift to a subscription-based model where users pay only for the services they provide. Romer wanted it to target monopolies like Facebook or Google which have the power to influence our policy decisions.

Of course, a sufficiently aggressive tax can always drive firms to engage in tax avoidance, which is counterproductive if the objective is to raise revenue. But the objective of a tax on digital ad revenue is only to encourage such avoidance by disincentivizing the firms to expand their stranglehold of digital ads. Such avoidance can happen in two ways ~ bigger firms may split themselves into smaller ones but they will now be open to more competition from other similar sized firms, or they shift to a the usual business model where price depends on the value provided by the seller ~ in short, a model based on subscriptions, like that used by Microsoft, Netflix or Duolingo. Such firms have no need to track all online activities of their users, or, as Romer said, “to turbocharge animosity as a way to get people to spend more using their services.”

Google already offers several subscription-based services like a premium subscription for access to YouTube. A tax on digital advertising can be so designed as to make the subscription-based model more attractive than the ad-based model, hence the tax has to be sufficiently aggressive. Romer suggested a tax system that starts with a 5 per cent marginal tax rate (tax on the highest sab of income) for revenues between \$5-\$10 billion that progressively increases to 72.5 per cent for advertising revenue exceeding \$60 billion a year, which means only the tech-titans ~ Google, Facebook, Amazon and Microsoft ~ will attract a marginal tax rate above 60 per cent, with an average tax rate of 30-40 per cent.

Acemoglu and Johnson, however, proposed a much lower threshold of \$500 million

of annual revenue from digital ads and they proposed a flat 50 per cent tax. It is low but not too low to discourage digital innovation from new entrants. The objective again is not to generate revenue “but to fundamentally alter the business model of online platforms”. Apart from addressing the evils that social media today are unleashing on people, like addiction to digital contents and games, fuelling mental health issue and fomenting hatred, anger and extremism online, a sufficiently high digital ad tax rate would also stimulate innovation by encouraging new business models that allow good ideas to scale up, something that the behemoths today are ruthlessly suppressing using their money power through acquisition or other methods, attacking and eliminating anything that doesn’t fit into their business model.

For getting the best value from technology, technology must be freed from its gatekeepers, i.e. the rulers of today’s tech world, and those bought or mesmerized by their influence and power, to ensure that algorithms are working for and not against people. “Whether digital technologies should be used for automating work and empowering large companies and non-democratic governments must not be the sole decision of a handful of entrepreneurs and engineers.” As AI permeates our economy and society, we need a ‘diverse set of responses’ from multiple stakeholders to inform us about the direction of technological “progress” and the future of society to be forged by these technologies. Allowing a few companies to control that future will be extremely perilous.

In general, and for too long, taxing MNCs, especially digital MNCs like Google, Facebook etc., have always been problematic even for the most advanced countries, because these companies can always shift profits across border to tax havens, depriving governments of populous third world countries where they generate most of their profits. Even rich G7 or OECD nations have equally struggled in vain for decades to make the MNCs operating within their jurisdictions pay taxes to them.

Using a tax avoidance strategy called Base Erosion and Profit Shifting, MNCs have been artificially ‘shifting’ their profits year after year from higher-tax jurisdictions to tax-havens where they pay little or no tax, thus ‘eroding’ the ‘tax-bases’ of the former. Countries like Ireland, Luxembourg and Cyprus, Caribbean countries like British

Virgin Islands, Bahamas or Cayman Islands, and Central American countries like Panama have used their tax rate arbitrage to attract the MNCs ~ about 40 per cent of MNCs’ overseas profits are estimated to be shifted to low-tax countries in this way. The tax losses are stupendous ~ estimated to be \$50 billion for the USA and over \$10 billion for India. Globally, MNCs are estimated to avoid \$240 billion in fiscal revenues every year by this strategy, and the Global South is disproportionately affected because of their limited revenue sources.

In a globalised and digital economy, MNCs operate through centrally managed business models, with their global profits coming from their global subsidiaries. But the current international tax rules, developed nearly a century ago, treat these subsidiaries as legally independent entities which trade between each other using “arm’s lengths” prices to transfer goods and services, prices which are easy to manipulate to hide the actual income by inflating costs. MNCs then exploit this system by shifting their profits to jurisdictions with low or zero tax rates, enticing them with investments and employment. An IMF study in 2019 found that such “phantom” investments by MNCs had pushed Luxembourg’s stock of FDI to \$4 trillion, “an impossibly one-tenth of the global total”. Many small countries like Ireland, Cyprus, Hong Kong and Singapore have also benefited in this manner. These tax loopholes cannot be plugged without concerted action by all governments.

In 2021, as a first step towards a fair and just tax system, the G7 agreed to plug the cross-border tax loopholes used by the MNCs to evade taxes by reforming the global tax system based on two pillars: first, to distribute the profits equitably among countries where these are generated, enabling them to tax such profits, and second, adoption of a corporate global minimum tax (GMT) rate of at least 15 per cent. A global common rate would preclude countries from undercutting each other, while still giving Governments the sovereign power to set their own higher corporate tax rates but not below the floor rate of 15 per cent; if the MNCs still continue to shift their profits to a country with a lower tax rate, their home governments can ‘top-up’ their taxes to the minimum rate to eliminate the benefits from shifting profits.

Currently, more than 140

countries have committed to implement the GMT domestically and 90 per cent of the large MNCs are expected to be brought under the scope of GMT by the end of 2025. Companies with earnings above \$800 million are now subject to the new 15 per cent rate. GMT is estimated to reduce under-taxed profits by 80 per cent as it applies across geographies, national income boundaries and tax haven structures. As a result, shifted profits will fall by around 50 per cent resulting in tax base gains in the corresponding jurisdictions.

These taxes are of course on profits and not on revenue. But as Governments globally struggle with the challenge of taxing the digital economy, digital advertising revenue is emerging as a key target and countries are exploring ways to tax such revenues from tech giants that operate with minimal local tax obligations despite generating huge profits in their markets. The idea is to establish a level playing field between digital and non-digital businesses and bring tech companies under the tax net.

While implementing such taxes presents significant challenges in terms of assessing revenue generated within a tax jurisdiction, some governments have already taken steps towards this. In 2020, UK introduced a Digital Services Tax to tax revenues generated by search engines, social media platforms and online marketplaces that includes digital advertising within its scope from their domestic users; in 2019, France had also enacted its Digital Services Tax on large tech firms based on their domestic revenues, including those that provide digital advertising services.

Maryland was the first US state to levy Digital Advertising Tax in 2021 on companies with global annual gross revenues over \$100 million which derive at least \$1 million in annual advertising revenue from targeted digital advertising within Maryland. It is a progressive tax with rates ranging from 2.5 to 10 per cent. California also introduced a digital services tax in 2021 on companies that provide digital services, including online advertising at a rate of 2 per cent on net income, with a threshold of \$500,000 in California revenues. Since then, quite a few US states have either imposed or are contemplating to impose such a tax.

With the help of machine intelligence, digital technologies can immensely augment human capabilities and build new platforms to bring people together. But to harvest their potential for humanity’s good, we must make the tech companies limit unethical practices that fuel their ever-insatiable greed for more profits. One practical way to do it is a steep tax on their digital ad revenues.

(Concluded)



GOVIND BHATTACHARJEE  
The writer is a commentator, author and academic. Opinions expressed are personal

Opportunity for seeds of peace to be planted

Until quite recently, a negotiated end to the Russia-Ukraine conflict seemed to be a non-option for either Ukraine or the NATO countries which promised to have its back. Negotiating with Russia, as opposed to defeating it, was apparently off-limits for both Kyiv and its NATO supporters. Anything short of Ukraine reclaiming territory lost to Russia since 2022, even 2014, appeared to be unacceptable.

There has been a subtle change in the rhetoric of Ukraine’s Western allies, however, that may have significant implications for the way the conflict, which has lasted nearly three years, unfolds, or even potentially ends. While the latest discussions about NATO’s support for Ukraine remain focused on sustaining, if not significantly boosting, the flow of aid to it, that might not be simply business as usual. In a news conference on Tuesday, NATO Secretary-General Mark Rutte urged allies to increase military aid to strengthen Kyiv’s position should it enter negotiations with Moscow. Likewise, while warning that a Russian victory would threaten Europe’s security, stability and prosperity, United Kingdom Prime Minister Keir Starmer for the first time mentioned the prospect of the war ending in a negotiated settlement.

Even the letter Ukraine’s Foreign Ministry sent to the NATO foreign ministers’ meeting in session now in Brus-



sels effectively opened the door to a negotiated solution, although the precondition of NATO membership is likely to be a stumbling block. How things actually play out, however, probably hinges on how the incoming US administration approaches the situation.

While mystery surrounds the US president-elect’s claim that he will be able to end the conflict in “24 hours” after his inauguration, with much speculation about what, if anything, he has up his sleeve, the fact that maneuvering a negotiated end to the conflict has become a common topic itself brings hope that there is a general consensus building that the hostilities have dragged on for long enough.

Despite some obvious foot-dragging at times, the NATO allies have generally followed the Joe Biden administration’s lead on Ukraine. A lead that has been characterized by its consistent pugnacious animosity.

While the Biden administration is fast-tracking military aid to Ukraine in its last days in office, it is probably not with the intention of giving Kyiv leverage in negotiations with Moscow, but rather with the aim of convincing it that it can prevail by force of arms. Having finally given the green light to Ukraine to use US-supplied long-range missiles against targets inside Russia, the Biden administration on Monday announced a new package of weapons for Ukraine worth \$725 million.

The challenge now for the international community is how to seize the window of opportunity that has opened to get the two belligerents to sit down for actual negotiations and make the necessary compromises to secure a deal.

Since Kyiv’s demand for NATO membership would seem to preclude the possibility of any face-to-face talks with Moscow, a way must be found to provide the two conflicting parties with credible security guarantees as a prelude to meaningful talks aimed at a political solution.



ANNUAL Public Meeting of Calcutta Y.M.C.A. will be held today at the Baptist Missionary Society Hall, 44, A.J.C. Bose Road, Kolkata-700017 at 4-00 p.m. Mr. Anirban Dutta, Hony. Secretary, The Indian Football Association, West Bengal (I.F.A.) will deliver the Anniversary address as the Chief Guest.

government bodies, and NGOs must unite in creating a safe work environment. Beyond compliance, this calls for a cultural shift within organizations, where prevention, rather than reaction, becomes the norm. Regular employee training, sensitization programs, and robust grievance redressal systems are indispensable. District officers, as facilitators of compliance and awareness, must adopt a proactive approach, ensuring the directives translate into tangible action at the grassroots level.

Yours, etc., Amarjeet Kumar, Hazaribagh, 8 December.



editor@thestatesman.com

Safety of women

SIR, The recent Supreme Court judgment directing stringent compliance with the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition, and Redressal) Act, 2013, marks a decisive step towards bridging the gap between legislation and its implementation. For over a decade, the Act languished due to systemic neglect and weak enforcement. The Court’s firm stance ~ imposing deadlines for compliance ~ highlights its

resolve to make workplaces safer for women. This judgment is not merely about implementing the law but about challenging societal and institutional inertia that has perpetuated harassment. It underscores the importance of protecting women’s fundamental rights and dignity in professional environments.

One of the most glaring failures of the Act has been institutional apathy. Despite being mandated by law, countless

organizations, including sports federations, have failed to establish Internal Complaints Committees (ICCs), a vital mechanism for addressing grievances. This neglect exposes victims to a hostile environment where their concerns are either dismissed or



ignored. The Supreme Court’s directives to establish ICCs and Local Complaints Committees (LCCs) by early 2025 represent a watershed moment. These deadlines, coupled with mandated audits, signify a shift from passive acknowledgment to active enforcement. The onus now lies on institutions to treat workplace safety as a priority rather than a bureaucratic formality.

The Act’s success hinges on collaboration between various stakeholders. The Supreme Court rightly underscores the shared responsibility of state and non-state actors. Private corporations,



# Ecological integrity vital to human rights debate

GOURI SANKAR NAC

This year marks the 76th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), a pivotal document that symbolizes humanity's enduring commitment to fundamental rights and freedoms. However, as we commemorate this milestone, it is crucial to engage in a critical introspection and stock-taking of its implications and effectiveness in addressing contemporary challenges - ongoing war, geopolitical tension-led destruction and displacement, supply chain disruption posing severe challenges to energy and food security, not to speak of tremendous strain on an already under-resourced health system coupled with newer shockwaves under the guise of minority bashing, retreat of secular democracy and political instability around the world. Also, what is crystal clear is the pervasive disappointment with the recently concluded COP29 outcomes that flaunt ambitious rhetoric while exposing shortfalls in addressing the spectre of an impending apocalypse.

In this connection, the distinction between weak and strong versions of human rights becomes increasingly pertinent, particularly when considering how these rights are interpreted and implemented across different contexts. While the UDHR sets forth cogent universal principles, the practical realities are conspicuous by the absence of any level playing field - especially in developing nations - that reveals a stark contrast between ideals and lived experiences. This dissonance raises significant surmises about the adequacy of the current framework regarding state capacity for protecting human dignity amidst escalating crises.

This, however, does not mean the current crisis of human rights is confined to the developing world, which undoubtedly faces the brunt of structural exploitation, resource scarcity, and crippling debt exacerbated by neoliberal globalization. Rather, the

prevailing situation highlights a ubiquitous need to re-evaluate our understanding of human rights on a broader scale. The dilemma, however, emanates from the fact that the notion of visualising a level playing field among nations has become increasingly elusive. Despite the formal end of colonial conquests, which formally paved the way for equality among states, the prevailing legal frameworks-what can be termed the "Nomos of the earth"-continue to favour powerful nations, a straitjacket of offensive realism resonating over and above an alternative constructivist vision. This systemic imbalance suggests that rather than moving towards a Kantian ideal of perpetual peace and cooperation, humanity remains trapped in an intensified vicious cycle of conflict and struggle. The implications are profound: they challenge us to reconsider not only how human rights are defined but also who gets to define them and therein lies the danger of bias and attenuation.

The glimmer of hope, however, lies with the protracted struggle that underscores the necessity for a more inclusive and grounded dialogue about human rights with diversity of voices that transcends geographical peripheries and economic boundaries. The traditional frameworks often reflect the interests of hegemonic powers, leaving marginalized voices unheard and perpetuating inequalities.

As we confront these realities, it becomes evident that reimagining human rights as a monolithic category has become an extremely difficult project in the currently diverse perspectives and sort of self-centric subjectivity save and except a veneer of a "certain dominant anthropology" or ideology. It is a function of highly sophisticated power structures with their tentacles of governmentality plus modern life's increasing integration with the system at the global scale that inhibit true equality both within and without. That's why, the concept of human rights received traction with the narrative requirement to put human



beings at the centre of the story when in the guise of technology, politics or techno-politics has emerged as a fierce domain of muscle flexing to imperil the human condition.

As Hannah Arendt in the preface to her major reflective work "The Origins of Totalitarianism" noted, "We can no longer afford to take that which was good in the past and simply call it our heritage, to discard the bad and simply think of it as a dead load which by itself will bury in oblivion." Similarly, today, it seems that the notion of benign humanity is passé; we, much like robots, are senselessly moving towards an overly human-centric future that breeds overconfidence in our ability to manage and tame the lurking signs of environmental disaster.

This trajectory fosters a dangerous illusion of resilience as if humanity can ensure smooth sailing through the tumultuous waters of the ecological crisis. In this context, we find ourselves ensnared in a web of spurious optimism, believing that technological breakthroughs and human ingenuity alone can vouchsafe our existence. Yet, even the insights offered

by Michel Foucault in his theoretical formulation of biopolitics do not adequately measure up to address the larger existential question concerning the survival of our species.

As Professor Dipesh Chakrabarty aptly articulated, "Humans are not central to the problem of habitability, but habitability is central to human existence." This perspective challenges us to reconsider our place within a differently oriented genre of ecological framework and recognize that our survival is intricately linked to the health of the planet itself. Rather than viewing ourselves as masters of nature, we must acknowledge that our fate is intertwined with the very system we often take for granted. The urgency for a paradigm shift in how we perceive our relationship with the environment has never been more critical.

This situation appraises us of a new stage of "unhappy consciousness" that humanity must reckon with, as it highlights a profound dilemma at the intersection of human rights and environmental sustainability. At the centre of this dilemma lies the realization that while human

rights, in their maximalist sense, advocate for an omnibus nature of entitlements and freedoms, they simultaneously pose significant threats to vital ecosystems such as forests and water bodies.

This occurs under the guise of unbalanced growth, where unscrupulous pursuit of individual rights often overshadows collective and deeply empathetic responsibilities towards our planet. Therefore, it is not sufficient merely to cultivate "an ability to discern the vitality of the matter"; rather, it necessitates a theoretical maturity that transcends the presentism inherent in the vice of indulgent consumerism.

Humanity must embrace a more holistic planetary perspective that prioritizes the sentient wisdom for course correction over short-term gains. This shift requires a prodigious acknowledgement that true progress cannot be measured solely by economic rights or personal freedoms but must also account for ecological integrity and intergenerational equity.

(The writer is Professor, Department of Political Science, Sidho-Kanho-Birsha University, Purulia, West Bengal.)

## OCCASIONAL NOTE

THE fact that British reinforcements continue to be sent to Egypt at a time when the situation is said to be much easier owing to the Cabinet having accepted the demands made by Lord Allenby, is explained by the other fact that little is yet known about the temper of the Egyptian soldiery who have been transferred from the Soudan. The reinforcements were originally meant for Khartoum, but they are no longer required there while they may be required in Alexandria and Cairo. Lord Allenby has not insisted on the Egyptian troops which are now in excess of local requirements being disbanded, but before a final settlement can be arrived at some arrangements may have to be made regarding the maximum strength of the Egyptian army. We cannot keep a large mobilised force permanently locked up in Egypt, and yet it would be unsafe to deflect or recall any of the regiments now on route till it is definitely established that the normal garrison is sufficiently strong to maintain law and order and protect the foreign interests and residents in the Delta and on the Canal.

## NEWS ITEMS

## FASCISMO'S FUTURE

## MUSSOLINI'S APPEAL TO HIS FOLLOWERS

(TIMES' SPECIAL SERVICE.)

"I CAN see no cause for alarm in the recent change of public opinion, and I am convinced that it will be possible quickly to recover the lost ground."

This is an extract from a long circular which Signor Mussolini has addressed to officials of the Fascists party throughout Italy. The Italian Premier declares that the party must be purified of its impure element and that all violence must be rigorously suppressed. Public demonstrations must be strictly limited to the recognized commemorative festivals of the party, and black shirts must only be worn on these occasions.

Signor Mussolini concludes: "If Fascists will only work hard, maintain perfect discipline, and refrain from personal or collective arrogance, there is no doubt that the present hour will pass and that the morrow of Fascismo will be a triumphant day of sunshine and light."

## MOTIONS OF ADJOURNMENT

AFTER a good deal of discussion today the Council finally passed an amendment to the Standing Order relating to debates on motions of adjournment, providing that such motions, if agreed to by the House, should be taken up for discussion at 2-30 p.m., on the day the motion is made or at the same time on the next day at the discretion of the President.

The Hon. Mr. Ramswami Iyer moved for the third reading of the Irrigation Bill. Several verbal amendments were moved and passed on the motion of the Advocate-General and the Revenue Secretary. The House adjourned until tomorrow.

## CABLE NEWS IN BRIEF

THE latest messages from London include the following— Nobel Peace Prize. A CHRISTIANIA message states that the Nobel Committee of Storting has decided that the peace prize should not be awarded this year.

## LORD BIRKENHEAD

## PROBLEM OF HINDU AGITATION

Lord Birkenhead begins a new career by taking political office in a position of momentous responsibility as Secretary for India, says the Observer. Lord Birkenhead was a great Lord Chancellor, and would, of course, have preferred to resume. Yet it is probable that fortune deals better with him, and that his earlier instinct was sound when he thought that political office was greater in itself and his own truer direction.

As a statesman he has all the powers of exposition and debate; he is steel for dangerous emergency; and with his absolute clarity of judicial intellect, his receptive temper can warm to generous sympathies. The India Office in this crisis is worthy of any man that ever lived. Order must be kept.

Without assured co-operation the stipulated condition of reform is wanting, and there can be no further progress. But Moslems and Sikhs alike can be conciliated, and then the larger problem of Hindu agitation must be faced. After the hurry and fever of the departure we made after 1917, Dyarchy must be re-examined as dispassionately as if it had never been. The whole structure and foundations of reform must be considered anew. Lord Birkenhead has the fibre and intellect to undertake that work in council, and the woollack may yet seem a small thing by comparison with his achievement.

# Syria's euphoria may be premature

MAHIR ALI

It turned out that there were no speed bumps in the fast lane on the road to Damascus. The incredibly swift demise of the Assad regime appears to have astonished everyone, including the rebel force that led the unexpected change.

The subsequent explosion of relief and joy across much of Syria is hardly a surprise, even though it is tempered with understandable anxiety about what might follow. After all, the regional precedents — from Tunisia, Libya and Egypt to Yemen and Iraq — are hardly reassuring.

Bashar al-Assad was the odd one out when the winds of change ushered in the so-called Arab Spring of 2011, and long-standing dominoes tumbled. As a popular uprising rattled the regime, provoking a deadly state response, it was assumed he would share the fate of Ben Ali, Hosni Mubarak, Muammar Qadhafi or Saddam Hussein. As Robert Fisk recalled, any foreign correspondent who dared to accurately predict that the Syrian dictator might not immediately be toppled was dubbed an Assad apologist.

While Fisk never hesitated to describe in detail the ruthless excesses of the Baathist regime, often targeting unarmed protesters or other civilians, he also had the temerity to point out that the state did not enjoy

a monopoly on violence. He noted the frustrations of Al Jazeera correspondents, whose visual evidence of attacks on government forces, and of armed insurgents entering Syria from Lebanon, was rejected by their employer.

Qatar, after all, was among the Arab brothers backing jihadist rebel factions in what had turned into Syria's civil war, alongside the Saudis. Turkey had its own favourites, and was particularly keen to contain Kurdish militias. The US and its European appendages detested Assad, but saw the Islamic State (IS) as a bigger threat. So did Russia, but unlike the US, it also considered Assad a useful idiot in the Middle East and helped to sustain his regime through force, including the air power that Damascus lacked. Iran proved to be another crucial ally, mainly through Hezbollah, which was keen to maintain the arms supply lines from Tehran via Iraq. That, in turn, gave Israel an excuse to pummel Syria.

There was barely any murmur of surprise when Bashar succeeded his dad in 2000 as the grand pooh-bah when Hafez al-Assad died after nearly 30 years in power. The West spotted a potential pawn in a UK-trained ophthalmologist who hinted at a reformist vision and released a few political prisoners. But soon enough, he reverted to the family playbook in repressing both secular/ democratic

and Islamist dissent, and eventually overtook even his father's nasty reputation for malicious excesses against perceived opponents and their families.

Many of the prisoners emerging from prison gates in the past few days hadn't seen their families for years, even decades. Some of them had survived the Arab world's most infamous torture chambers — facilities of which the US made full use during its 'war on terror'. At the same time, some of the neoconservatives in the Bush administration salivated at the prospect of carving a road to Damascus via Baghdad and Tehran. The disastrous occupation of Iraq pre-empted further large-scale misadventures in the Middle East, but the realisation that the region would be best off without Euro-US interference is yet to dawn.

Joe Biden has claimed credit for Assad's departure for Moscow, as has Benjamin Netanyahu, even as both the US and Israel have subsequently been pounding, respectively, IS strongholds and the Syrian army's weapons arsenals. Or so they say. Israel has also pounced on the opportunity to overrun the 50-year-old buffer zone between the occupied (and illegally annexed) Golan Heights and enter Syrian territory. This 'temporary' land grab might not be reversed.

The leader of Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS), ancestrally closely related



to both IS and Al Qaeda and a direct descendant of al-Nusra Front, hitherto known as Abu Mohammed al-Julani, with a \$10 million price on his head, has reinvented himself as Ahmed al-Sharaa, and is being paraded on Western media outlets as a 'pragmatist' who has overcome his allergies to Syria's Alawite, Christian and Druze denizens. The Kurds targeted by Turkey might be less enamoured of his uncertified credentials.

Whatever name he prefers, al-Julani is destined for a key role in Syria's purportedly 18-month transition, during which the ideologically

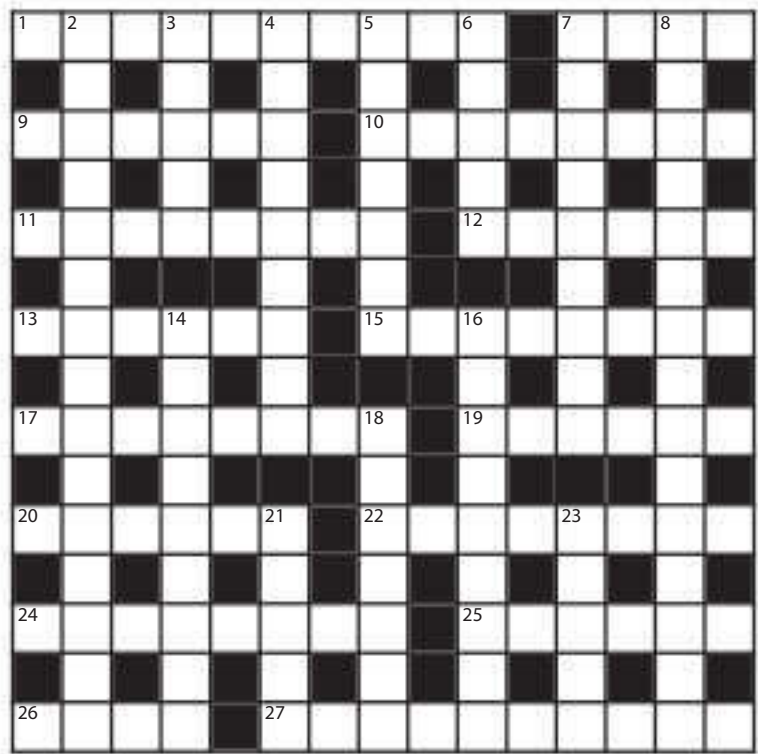
and ethnically diverse patchwork of Assad opponents is expected to morph into a coherent government.

HTS's terrorist designation might quickly disappear, but there are many other groups, backed by ill-intentioned neighbours or more distant contenders, jostling for prominence in whatever comes next. Syria's sordid past is open to investigation, but the future is unwritten, and an inclusive, pluralist democratic entity in the short term might require a second miracle.

Dawn/ANN.

## CROSSWORD

NO-292987



### YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

PERSPIRATION  
LOREHEMMA  
CANTONESE ENTER  
ADVLOGWD  
DROPIN ORGANISE  
ODDESETA  
RESTED IMMORTAL  
ONPSFE  
FULLTILT AFRAID  
OCEANES  
RANCHMAN SCARAB  
MGYSEURUB  
BLAND UPTHEANTE  
YSRRAEUR  
MAKEITSNAPPY

### ACROSS

- 1 Tight shirt restricting heaving bosom is a dangerous obstruction (10)
- 7 I'm surprised, eating hot curry ingredient (4)
- 9 Shell-shocked Ottoman commander's often seen in battle (6)
- 10 Quixotic traveller cut short horseplay (8)
- 11 Second biggest one in range, harder than the others (8)

- 12 Bird covered in urine? It's wee (6)
- 13 Not as entertaining bachelor with Love Island (6)
- 15 Mostly steamy number by pop singer is capital (8)
- 17 Barking runt dog is to run away (4,4)
- 19 It stimulates members of a government, with Republican breaking through (6)
- 20 Biblical divinity cut grass back (6)
- 22 The cereal I have picked up is a pain (8)

- 24 Stay extremely irresistible in such attire? (8)
- 25 Appropriate things I put in half of the venison (6)
- 26 Rule Conservative must leave promptly (4)
- 27 Vehicle doctor has to use again losing energy once (10)

### DOWN

- 2 Wasted on drug, drop round area where students are found (6,9)

- 3 Provide address given by old judge (5)
- 4 English invested in pounds with a part of their capital (9)
- 5 Time inside to practise yoga perhaps (7)
- 6 Outline problem ahead (3,2)
- 7 Officer from Europe wanting base for privates (9)
- 8 Maybe Pamela's awful personality destroyed love (10,5)

- 14 Musicians keep shaking transport that's jumped on (9)
- 16 Terrible chap lifted up reptile for the main explorer (9)
- 18 Brilliant strike, not straight (7)
- 21 Race on motorway for a group of mates (5)
- 23 Always welcoming German with cordiality (5)

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





# Israeli strikes on Gaza kill at least 29, Palestinian medics say

Around 100 Israeli hostages are still inside Gaza, at least a third of whom are believed to be dead

AGENCIES  
DEIR AL-BALAH, 11 DECEMBER

Israeli strikes pounded the Gaza Strip overnight and into Wednesday, hitting a home where displaced people were sheltering in the isolated north and a built-up refugee camp. At least 29 people were killed, according to Palestinian health officials.

The Israel-Hamas war has raged on with no end in sight, even after Israel reached a ceasefire with Lebanon's Hezbollah and attention shifted to the overthrow of Syrian President Bashar Assad. Both the outgoing and incoming U.S. administrations have said they hope to end the war before the inauguration but months of ceasefire talks have repeatedly stalled.

The strike on the home killed 19 people in the northern town of Beit Lahiya near the



border with Israel, according to the nearby Kamal Adwan Hospital, which received the bodies. Hospital records show that a family of eight was among those killed, including four children, their parents and two grandparents.

The Israeli military said it targeted a Hamas militant in

the vicinity of the hospital. It said reports about the number of casualties in the strike were inaccurate, without elaborating. The military says it tries to avoid harming civilians and accuses militants of hiding among them, putting their lives in danger.

The hospital said another

strike near its entrance on Wednesday killed a woman and her two children.

Dr. Hussam Abu Safiya, the hospital director, said Israeli drones struck nearby residential blocks overnight, causing explosions that sparked panic among the more than 120 sick and wounded patients inside the facility.

"We have received distress calls from neighbors and trapped people, but we're not able to leave the hospital because of the continued risk," he said. "We are witnessing a massive loss of life, with many martyrs in the targeted areas."

Another strike in the decades-old Nuseirat refugee camp in central Gaza killed at least seven people, according to the Awda Hospital. The dead included two children, their parents and three relatives, it said.

There was no immediate

comment from the Israeli military on the other two strikes.

Militants in central Gaza meanwhile fired four projectiles into Israel on Wednesday, two of which were intercepted, the military said. The other two fell in open areas, and there were no reports of casualties.

The military ordered the evacuation of a five-block area of the built-up Maghazi refugee camp in central Gaza, saying the rockets had been fired from there. The orders indicated that Israel would soon carry out strikes in the area. The war began when Hamas-led militants stormed into Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, killing some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and abducting around 250 people, including children and older adults. Around 100 hostages are still inside Gaza, at least a third of whom are believed to be dead.

## Ex-defense chief in South Korea tried to kill himself after being arrested over martial law

AGENCIES  
SEOUL, 11 DECEMBER

South Korea's previous defense minister was stopped from attempting suicide while in detention over last week's martial law declaration, officials said Wednesday, as President Yoon Suk Yeol's office resisted a police attempt to search the compound.

The main liberal opposition Democratic Party is pushing for a new motion to impeach Yoon for his 3 December decree that imposed martial law in South Korea for the first time in more than four decades. Its first impeachment attempt against Yoon last Saturday failed after ruling party lawmakers boycotted the vote. The party said it plans to submit the new motion on Thursday to set up a vote on Saturday.

Yoon's ill-conceived power grab has paralyzed South Korean politics, frozen its foreign policy and rattled financial markets. On Wednesday, rival North Korea's state media for



the first time reported about the turmoil across the border, but the country hasn't shown any suspicious activities.

Shin Yong Hae, commissioner general of the Korea Correctional Service, told lawmakers that former Defense Minister Kim Yong Hyun (photo) tried to kill himself the previous night at a detention centre in Seoul. He said correctional officers stopped him and that he was in stable condition.

Kim was arrested by prosecutors early Wednesday on allegations of playing a key

role in a rebellion and committing abuse of power. He became the first person formally arrested over the martial law decree.

Kim, one of Yoon's close associates, has been accused of recommending martial law to Yoon and sending troops to the National Assembly to block lawmakers from voting on it. Enough lawmakers eventually managed to enter a parliament chamber and they unanimously rejected Yoon's decree, forcing the Cabinet to lift it before daybreak on Dec. 4.

## 2 Ukrainian women are pulled alive from rubble hours after Russian missile strike

AGENCIES  
KYIV, 11 DECEMBER

Rescue crews working through the night pulled two women from rubble more than seven hours after a Russian missile struck a private medical clinic in a southern Ukraine city, killing eight people and wounding 22 others, authorities said Wednesday.

The women called rescue services on their cellphones to say they were buried under the rubble after the attack late Tuesday in Zaporizhzhia, Ukraine's Emergency Services said.

Deadly Russian strikes on civilian areas have been a feature of the almost three-



year war. Ukraine's Western allies are sending more aid to help it keep fighting Russia's invasion, but Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said the Zaporizhzhia strike showed that his country still needs more air defense systems.

He urged Western partners to send weaponry they are holding in their arsenals.

"We currently do not have enough systems to protect our country from Russian missiles. But partners have these systems," Zelenskyy said late Tuesday in his daily address to the nation.

Air defense systems that Ukraine's allies possess "should save lives, and not gather dust in storage bases," he said.

Meanwhile, Ukraine kept up its long-range attacks on areas behind Russian lines that are supporting its war effort.

A Ukrainian drone attack caused a blaze at an industrial facility in Russia's Bryansk region, Gov. Alexander Bogomaz said.

## Bangladesh court rejects bail plea of Chinmoy Krishna Das once again

AGENCIES  
DHAKA, 11 DECEMBER

A Bangladesh court on Wednesday rejected the bail plea of Chinmoy Krishna Das (photo), a Hindu priest and spokesperson of the Bangladesh Sammilan Sanatan Jagran Jote, also associated with the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON), who has been arrested and jailed by the local authorities on charges of sedition.

Local media reported that Chittagong Metropolitan Sessions Judge Md. Saiful Islam, passed the order on Wednesday citing that the plea was rejected



because Das did not have a lawyer's letter of attorney on his behalf. The bail plea, which will be heard on 2 January next year now, states that Das - a monk who is suffering from various diseases including diabetes and respiratory problems - has been arrested in a false and fabricated case. It also mentions that his lawyer Subhashish Sharma could not

attend the hearing on 3 December due to security reasons. "Chittagong Metropolitan Sessions Judge Court Public Prosecutor PP Mofizul Haque Bhuiyan said that the state party informed the court that lawyer Rabindra Ghosh, who had applied for Chinmoy's anticipatory bail hearing, had not given any power of attorney to fight the case on his behalf. Apart from this, Chinmoy's lawyer Subhashish Sharma was also not present. Subhashish did not give anything in writing to Rabindra Ghosh to fight the case. Later, the court rejected the application made by lawyer Rabindra

Ghosh," reported the country's leading Bengali daily Prothom Alo. It was revealed that the bail hearing of two other accused in the case was also scheduled for Wednesday but could not take place due to the lawyer's absence. India has been reiterating that it hopes that the trial will be "fair and transparent" as the arrested Hindus have legal rights that should be respected. New Delhi has also urged the interim government's authorities in Dhaka to ensure the safety and security of Hindus and all minorities, including their right of freedom of peaceful assembly and expression

while highlighting that the arrest of Das follows multiple attacks on Hindus and other minorities by extremist elements in Bangladesh. "The interim government must live up to its responsibility of protecting all minorities. We are concerned at the surge of extremist rhetoric, increasing incidents of violence and provocation. These developments cannot be dismissed only as media exaggerations. We once again call upon Bangladesh to take all steps for the protection of minorities," Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said last month.

## Syrian Scenarios: What may lie ahead for Arab heartland nation, West Asia, world

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, 11 DECEMBER

The quick fall -- and flight -- of Syrian President Bashar Al Assad has evoked triumph in certain quarters and disquiet in others, as it seems to have upended the political situation and strategic calculus of the Middle East. However, a look at the record of the key Arab country and others may suggest the last word on what follows remains to be said.

Both Israel and the US have rushed to take claim for the overthrow of the over six-decade rule of the Ba'ath Party. Turkey is quietly exulting, and the end of the Russian and Iranian influence in the Arab heartland state is being celebrated.



There are, however, reports that Assad, who had been moving family members out of the country quietly, had cut a deal with the rebels for a safe exit, given the problems in maintaining control over a fragmenting and impoverished country. Russia, involved in

Ukraine, and Iran, weakened by attacks on its regional proxies, are perceived as not extending themselves over much in preserving Assad's rule, like earlier. They are also seeking to build bridges with the new rulers -- Russia has obtained guarantees on its bases in the country, and both Moscow

and Tehran may be biding their time till the inherent contradictions in the situation bubble up.

The Al Qaeda-linked Hayat Tahrir al-Sham, the Turkish-backed Syrian National Army, the US-supported Syrian Democratic Forces, and other elements of what may become a toxic Syrian brew, may find ousting Assad was the easy part. Take the SDF, which is predominantly Kurdish -- a community which Turkey regards as its enemy incarnate -- what happens when they come close? While Syria is predominantly Sunni, the power was long held by the Alawite sub-sect of Shias, from which the Assad family and its key personnel hail, and

the country also has sizeable Kurd, Druze, Shia, and Arab Christian (divided into six major churches) segments of the populace. Described as a tribal and fractious country by then Saudi Crown Prince Faisal in the mid-1950s, Syria has witnessed at least eight military coups and a short-lived union with Egypt in the first quarter century as a free country following independence from France in 1946. It was only after Air Force chief Hafez Al Assad seized power in 1970, after being a key part of the 1961, 1963, and 1966 coups, that there was a semblance of stability, though with an authoritarian bent, save the abortive Islamist revolt of the early 1980s.

## Alex Jones keeps Infowars for now after judge rejects The Onion's winning auction bid

AGENCIES  
WASHINGTON, 11 DECEMBER

A federal judge in Texas rejected the auction sale of Alex Jones' Infowars to The Onion satirical news outlet, criticizing the bidding for the conspiracy theory platform as flawed as well as how much money families of the 2012 Sandy Hook Elementary shooting stood to receive.

The decision late Tuesday night is a victory for Jones, whose Infowars site was put up for sale as part of his bankruptcy case in the wake of the nearly \$1.5 billion that courts have ordered



him to pay over falsely calling one of the deadliest school shootings in U.S. history a hoax. Families of the Sandy Hook victims had backed The Onion's bid.

Following a two-day hearing in Houston, U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Christopher Lopez said he would not approve the sale, while citing

concerns about transparency in the auction. That clears the way for Jones to keep -- at least for now -- Infowars, which is headquartered in Austin, Texas. The Onion had planned to kick Jones out and relaunch Infowars in January as a parody. "We are deeply disappointed in today's decision, but The Onion will continue to seek a resolution that helps the Sandy Hook families receive a positive outcome for the horror they endured," Ben Collins, CEO of The Onion's parent company, Global Tetrahedron, posted on social media late Tuesday.

LEISURE

10 MINUTE CROSSWORD

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ACROSS

1 Ooze (4)

3 Period of time (4)

9 Traditional beer (4,3)

10 Frequently (5)

11 Musical drama (5)

12 Irritable (7)

13 Ill-fated (4-7)

17 Asian language (7)

19 Regional (5)

21 Rustic (5)

22 Fit of temper (7)

23 Healthy (4)

24 Sacred (4)

DOWN

1 Religious address (6)

2 Rub out (5)

4 Survive (7)

5 Stock farm (5)

6 Oriental market (6)

7 Sweets (11)

8 Manage (4)

14 Threadlike leaf (7)

15 Farewell (2,4)

16 Insubstantial (6)

17 Roost (5)

18 Skilled (4)

20 Freight (5)

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 Beech

4 Where

8 Beachwear

9 Tic

10 Warranted

11 Allotted

12 Dwell

13 Investigate

14 Ohms

15 Stitches

16 Sandicoot

17 Due

18 Tulle

19 Extract

20 Eldest

21 Orientation

22 Agitated

23 Nominal

24 Combat

25 As well

26 Weak

27 Hedge

28 Mice

By arrangement with The Independent

Figures in parentheses denote the number of letters in the words required

BEETLE BAILEY/Mort Walker

6-18

6-18

6-18

6-18

RED EYE/Bill Yates & Mel Casson

8-1

8-1

8-1

8-1

DADDY DAZE/John Kovalski

8-1

8-1

8-1

8-1

NEED TO KNOW

Ambulance

FD Block Association (Amb)

9830452536, 9830181286

Happy Calculators 24400160

City Point Nurses Centre

2567-4113, 9831142623

People's Relief Committee

2280-4943/9444

24 hrs Medical Oxygen Delivery

BOC India Ltd. 9831277777

Blood Banks

Ashek Laboratory 24720333

Central Blood Bank 23510619

Life Care 2284-6940

Peoples Blood Bank

2455-5164/5557

RK Mission Seva Pratisthan

2475-3636/39

Police/Fire

Lalibazar (Police Control Room) 22143230

S.P. (North 24-Pgns)

25423005

S.P. (South 24-Pgns) 2479-3333/1311

Bhawan Bhawan

24791761/9, 24791933

Fire Service Station Salt Lake: 2357-5293

Howrah 2666-8111; Behala 2497-6285

Civic Services

Kolkata Municipal Corporation: 2286-1000

Water: 2543-1602

Calcutta Telephones

Changed Number Announcement

1951,1952,1953

Taxi Refusal

SMS 575756: Complaint and registration

Police Toll Free No. 1073

Transport Deptt. No. 6451-6718

CESC Fault Reporting

1912 and 4403-1912

Trains

Howrah Station Old Complex

1331/1332 (Auto Telephone Numbers), 1310, 2638-7412/3542/2581 (manual), Sealdah: 2350-3535/3537

Shalimar Station: 2668-1121, Eastern Railway and South-Eastern Railway: 139.

SCRABBLE® (G R A M S)

PAR SCORE 190-200

BY JUDD

Life Care 2284-6940

Peoples Blood Bank

2455-5164/5557

RK Mission Seva Pratisthan

2475-3636/39

Police/Fire

Lalibazar (Police Control Room) 22143230

S.P. (North 24-Pgns)

25423005

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Shalimar Station: 2668-1121, Eastern Railway and South-Eastern Railway: 139.

SUDOKU

Concepts Sudoku

By Dave Green

5

1

2

6

9

5

3

4

7

3

9

2

6

1

3

8

6

4

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

answer to previous puzzle

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that no row, no column and no 3x3 box contains the same number. The difficulty level increases through the week.

epaper.thestatesman.com



# Taiwan demands that China end its military activity in nearby waters

Taiwan's military has detected Chinese ships since Monday, both off Taiwan and farther out along the first-island chain; Taiwanese media had said as many as 90 Chinese vessels are involved overall

## AGENCIES

TAIPEI, 11 DECEMBER

Taiwan demanded Wednesday that China end its ongoing military activity in nearby waters, which it said is unilaterally undermining peace and stability and disrupting international shipping and trade.

Taiwan's Foreign Ministry said in a statement on its website that it was responding in part to the activities of a "large number" of Chinese ships in the first-island chain, the Pacific archipelago off the Asian continental mainland that includes Japan, Taiwan and part of the Philippines.

"The Ministry of Foreign Affairs solemnly demands that the Beijing authorities immediately stop military intimidation and all irrational



activities that endanger regional peace and stability," the statement said.

Taiwan's military has detected Chinese ships since Monday, both off Taiwan and farther out along the first-island chain, Defense Ministry officials said this week. They described the

formations as two walls designed to demonstrate that the waters belong to China. Taiwanese media, citing an unnamed national security official, have said that 90 ships — 60 from the navy and 30 from the coast guard — are involved overall. An analyst said the par-

ticipation of the coast guard, which also took part in drills in May and October, is new this year and part of a blockade scenario in which the coast guard would block Taiwan's ports while the navy would form an outer barrier out at sea.

"They were practicing to seal off Taiwan," Kuo Yujen, an Asia-Pacific security expert at the National Sun Yat-Sen University in Taiwan, said in an interview with The Associated Press.

Taiwan's military had been expecting drills following stops by its president, Lai Ching-te, in Hawaii and the U.S. territory of Guam during an overseas trip last week. China claims self-governing Taiwan as its territory and opposes any official contact with America and other foreign governments.

China restricted airspace

off its southeast coast from Monday to Wednesday, an indication that it was planning to hold drills over those three days, but the country's People's Liberation Army has not confirmed whether it is doing so.

The low-key approach may be intended as a warning to both Lai and U.S. President-elect Donald Trump, Kuo said.

Lai, who took office in May, angered China by visiting Hawaii and Guam, but unlike other new leaders, he has so far refrained from going to the U.S. mainland, Kuo said. The analyst added that if China held a high-profile exercise around Taiwan, it wouldn't have a card to play if Lai visits the continental U.S. next year.

"China must reserve strategic maneuvering room for itself," he said.

# Philippine vice president skips hearing into threats she made against the president

## AGENCIES

MANILA, 11 DECEMBER

The Philippine vice president on Wednesday skipped the first hearing into threats she made against President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., saying she did not believe the investigation will be fair.

Vice President Sara Duterte was subpoenaed to appear before the National Bureau of Investigation but instead sent her lawyer, who submitted a letter saying their client vehemently "denies having made any threat constituting grave threat" under the law.

Duterte has tried to walk back her comments in a Nov. 23 online news conference where she publicly threatened Marcos, his wife and House Speaker Martin Romualdez with death. She later said it was rather an expression of concern for her own safety, claiming to have received death threats.

Marcos and Duterte have fallen out since winning the 2022 election. The two offices



are elected separately in the Philippines, which has resulted in rivals occupying the country's top political posts.

Duterte is the 46-year-old daughter former President Rodrigo Duterte, who is being investigated by the International Criminal Court over the killings of thousands of suspects during a crackdown on illegal drugs he had ordered.

NBI Director Jaime Santiago told reporters that the preliminary investigation

of Sara Duterte will proceed with or without her presence or counter-affidavit, and that his office will submit by early January its report to the Department of Justice. The investigation was supposed to start on Nov. 29 but was rescheduled on Duterte's request.

"I don't think this investigation will be fair," she told reporters Wednesday. "Even if they say there is an investigation, from the very beginning they already decided to file cases."

# Australian police launch a special operation to investigate increased antisemitic attacks



## AGENCIES

MELBOURNE, 11 DECEMBER

Australian federal police launched a special operation to investigate an increase in antisemitic threats and violence since the war between Israel and Hamas began last year.

Jewish leaders say prejudice against their community has reached unprecedented levels, with most incidents reported in Sydney and Melbourne, Australia's largest cities where 85% of the nation's Jewish population live.

Almost 117,000 Jewish people live in Australia, according to the last census in 2021, or 0.46% of the 25.4 million residents. The government says only Israel is home to more

Holocaust survivors than Australia on a per capita basis.

Police are looking for two male suspects, estimated to be aged between 15 and 20, seen running from Magney St. in Woolahra when a car fire was reported at 1 a.m.

Two cars including the one that burned had been graffitied. Two homes and the sidewalk had also been spray-painted with what police described as "antisemitic writing" that included an apparently misspelled "Kill Israel." Woolahra is a center of Jewish life in Sydney and one of the wealthiest suburbs in the nation. Not everyone who lives in Magney St. is Jewish and police say there is no evidence that Jewish residents were specifically targeted. The Dec. 6 attack has been declared a terrorist act after authorities concluded there was a political motive. Police are searching for three suspects. Two worshippers saw two men with their faces covered spreading a liquid accelerant around the building before it ignited.

# Biden approves national security memo ahead of Trump's return

## AGENCIES

WASHINGTON, 11 DECEMBER

President Joe Biden has approved a new national security memorandum ahead of Donald Trump's return to the White House that could serve as a road map for the incoming administration as it looks to counter growing cooperation among China, Iran, North Korea and Russia, the White House



said Wednesday.

Biden administration officials began developing the

guidance this summer. It was shaped to be a document that could help the next administration build its approach from Day 1 on how it deals with the tightening relationships involving America's most prominent adversaries and competitors according to two senior administration officials.

The officials, who spoke on the condition of anonymity under ground rules set by

the White House, said the classified memorandum would not be made public because of the sensitivity of some of its findings. The document includes four broad recommendations: improving U.S. government interagency cooperation, speeding up the sharing of information with allies about the four adversaries, calibrating the U.S. government's use of sanctions and other

economic tools for maximum effectiveness, and bolstering preparation to manage simultaneous crises involving the adversaries.

The U.S. for many years has been concerned about cooperation among the four countries. Coordination has accelerated between the countries in the aftermath of Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022.

The officials noted that as Russia has become more

isolated by much of the world, Moscow has turned to Iran for drones and missiles. From North Korea, the Russians have received artillery, missiles and even thousands of troops that have traveled to help the Russians try to repel Ukrainian forces from the Kursk region. China, meanwhile, has supported Russia with dual use components that help keep its military industrial base afloat.

# TENDER

## MORE TENDER ADS ON PAGE 13

**NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY**  
E-TENDER NOTICE  
E-TENDER NOTICE FOR MECHANICAL WORK YEAR 2024-25, dated : 10.12.2024. NIT No.: 34/2024-25 DEMU. Name of work, location & Period: Repair & Maintenance services of 1600 HP DEMU Engine at DEMU Shed MTD, Approx. cost of the work: ₹ 17,68,16,517.88. Earnest money to be deposited: ₹ 10,34,100/- . Date and time for submission of tender and opening of tender: On 30.12.2024 till 17:00 hrs through e-tendering online submission on IREPS. Tender will be opened soon after website particular and notice board location where complete details of tender can be seen etc. - www.ireps.gov.in. Sd/- Sr Section Engineer (CSW) NWR, Jodhpur's notice board. NOTE: The offer can only be accepted through e-Tendering on the website of www.ireps.gov.in. / Offer in any other form will not be accepted. The tender/bidders must have Class-III Digital Signature Certificate & must be registered on IREPS portal. Only registered tenderer/ bidders can participate on e-tendering. All relevant paper must be uploaded at the time of participating in e-Tendering.

**BIDHANNAGAR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION**  
POURA BHABAN, BIDHANNAGAR  
(i) NIT No. 622/PWD/ROAD/BMC(2nd Call), Dated - 11/12/2024. (ii) NIT No. 623/PWD/ROAD/BMC(2nd Call), Dated - 11/12/2024. (iii) NIT No. 624/PWD/ROAD/BMC(4th Call), Dated - 11/12/2024. (iv) NIT No. 625/PWD/ROAD/BMC(4th Call), Dated - 11/12/2024. (v) NIT No. 626/PWD/ROAD/BMC(4th Call), Dated - 11/12/2024. (vi) NIT No. 627/PWD/ROAD/BMC(2nd Call), Dated - 11/12/2024. (vii) NIT No. 968/PHE(C)/BMC(5th Call), Dated - 11/12/2024. e-Tender has been invited for (i) and (vi) Construction of concrete road drain with cover slab and Renovation and upgradation of bituminous road at different locations within ward no 3, 4, 10, 16, 17, 18, 20, 21, 30 (ii) Sinking of PVC (mark-II) tubewell at different locations within ward no 13 under BMC. For details, please follow Tender Id (i) 2024 MAD 78333.1 to 3 (ii) 2024 MAD 78336.1. (iii) 2024 MAD 78337.1, (iv) 2024 MAD 78338.1, (v) 2024 MAD 78340.1 and 2 (vi) 2024 MAD 78341.1 to 4 (vii) 2024 MAD 78342.1 in www.wbtenders.gov.in, Office Notice Board. Last date of Bid submission - (i) to (vi) 21/12/2024 up to 3.00 p.m. Sd/- Executive Engineer Bidhannagar Municipal Corporation

**NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY**  
E-TENDER NOTICE  
DRM / TRD, North Western Railway, Jodhpur for & on behalf of the president of India, invites E-tender for the following work. Tender No.: 16-TRD-JU-E-TENDER-24-25R2, Date: 11.12.2024. Name of Work: Electrical TRD work in c/w SMR-MBF STD III EI Work (15 stations). Approx. Cost of the work: ₹ 66415667.50. Complete details of tenders can be seen on Website www.ireps.gov.in Date & time of closing of e-tender: 06.01.2025 up to 15:00 hrs. Date & time of opening of e-tender: After 15:00 hrs. on 06.01.2025. For detailed information visit www.ireps.gov.in 1424-AR/24

**EASTERN RAILWAY**  
Tender No.: SDSTE-ROAD-WONG-24-25, dated 10.12.2024. Divisional Railway Manager, Eastern Railway, Howrah, DRM Building near Railway Station, Howrah-711001, invites Open e-Tenders against Tender No. SDSTE-ROAD-WONG-24-25 for the following work. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids upto closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Name of Work: Schedule A-Widening of Road at LC No. 2/A, 9/Spl, 15/E, 17/T, 26/T, 27/E, 26/A, 26B, 24A, 24/T & 20/Spl in Bandel-Azimganj section in the jurisdiction of DEN/3/Howrah. Schedule B-Widening of Road at LC No. 4 (Guskara), 17(Mallarpur), 18(Mallarpur), 19(Mallarpur-Taraphat Road), 21(Taraphat Road-Rampurhat), 23 (Rampurhat), 1B(Naihati), 30(Chatra), 33(Raigram), 39(Pakur), 42(Kotalpukur) & 43(Gumani) in Khana-Gumani section in the jurisdiction of Sr.DEN/4/Howrah. Schedule C- Widening of Road at LC No. 19,32,33,38 in Main line & 4, 11,12,16,25,29 in Tarakeswar in the jurisdiction of Sr.DEN/1/Howrah. Bidding System: Single Packet. Advertised Value: Rs. 2,99,300/- . Cost of Tender Document: Rs. 0.00. Period of Completion: 12 months. Validity of Offer: 60 Days. Date and Time of uploading Tender: 10.12.2024 at 17.00 hrs., Tender Closing Date: 19.12.2024. Bidding Closing Date & Time: 02.01.2025 at 15.00 hrs. The details are available at website www.ireps.gov.in HWH-477/2024-25 Tender Notices are also available at Website: www.er.indianrailways.gov.in/www.ireps.gov.in

Follow us at: @EasternRailway @easternrailwayheadquarter

**All India Institute of Medical Sciences**  
Ansari Nagar, New Delhi : 110029  
Examination Section  
Advertisement No. 157/2024  
No. F.AIIMS/Exam.Sec.4-11/(SR/SD-Jan-25)/2024 Dated: 29-11-2024  
Sub: Recruitment examination for the post of Senior Residents/ Senior Demonstrators for January 2025 session for AIIMS New Delhi.  
Online Applications are invited from Indian Citizens as per Govt. of India Residency Scheme, for the tenure posts of Senior Residents / Senior Demonstrators for a maximum period up to 3 years. These posts include existing vacant post, backlog vacancies and those posts which are likely to fall vacant (stage-I) between 01.01.2025 to 30.06.2025. Detailed of posts can be seen on the website www.aiimsexams.ac.in The Examination will be conducted in online (CBT) mode only followed/ interview (Stage-II) of eligible candidates.  
Date for online Registration of application  
Registration opens on 29-11-2024 ( Friday)  
Registration closes on 13-12-2024 ( Friday ) ( up to 5.00 PM )  
Date of CBT entrance examination  
28-12-2024 ( Saturday ) 10.00 AM to 11.30 AM  
Important : For prospectus, detailed information etc. Please visit the website www.aiimsexams.ac.in All applicants are required to visit the website regularly since all subsequent corrigendum/ addendum/ updates will be uploaded on the website only.  
Sd/- ASSISTANT CONTROLLER (EXAMS)  
CBC- 17112/12/0045/2425

**INFORMATION WANTED**  
This is the photograph of missing person Samir Mir, Son of Nafish Ahmed of Goriya Tola, Madanpur, Dist Decria, UP, who has been missing since 30.11.2024 from 43/30, C. N. Roy Road, Kolkata - 700039. Description of this missing person is: Age - 28 Years, Height - 5'8", Complexion - Fair, Built - Thin, Wearing - White Colour Shirt and Black Pant, Identification Mark - Cut mark left side lip. Peculiarity if any - Mental Disturbed, please inform whereabouts of the missing person, contact to the O.C., Missing Persons Squad, Detective Department, Kolkata Police, Lalbazar, Kolkata - 700001. (Telephone No. 033 - 2214 -1835, 9874902710). ICA-02141(3)/2024

**INFORMATION WANTED**  
This is the photograph of missing person Pranadeb Basu, Son of Debabrata Basu of 339/1/4, Kalipada Mukherjee Road, East Park, Kolkata - 700008, who has been missing since 18.11.2024 from his residence. Description of this missing person is: Age - 33 Years, Height - 5'8", Complexion - Shyama, Built - Medium, Wearing - Brown Colour Shirt and Blue Colour Pant. Peculiarity if any - Mental Disturbance, please inform whereabouts of the missing person, contact to the O.C., Missing Persons Squad, Detective Department, Kolkata Police, Lalbazar, Kolkata - 700001. (Telephone No. 033 - 2214 -1835, 9874902710). ICA-02141(3)/2024

**পিতা-মাতা/অভিভাবকের অনুসন্ধানের জন্য বিজ্ঞপ্তি**  
দুই ভাই-বোনের বিবরণ  
নাম: আবু বাকার, বয়স: ৬ বছর, লিঙ্গ: পুরুষ, জন্মের দিন: ২০.০৮.২০২৪, উচ্চতা: ১০৫ সে.মি, গায়ের রং: ফার্সি, পরনের পোশাক: সাদা ও ফার্সি পোশাক, বর্তমান অবস্থান: বিকটবত বয়স্ক হোম, হোম কলকাতা ৭০০০৯২, ০৮/১/১১/১, বর্তমান রোড, কলকাতা-৭০০০৯২  
খানা ও তারিখ সহ জি. ডি. ই. নম্বর: ২২৭৮ : তারিখ: ২০.০৮.২০২৪  
নাম: আঞ্জিলা মন্ডল, বয়স: ১০ বছর, লিঙ্গ: স্ত্রী, জন্মের দিন: ২০.০৮.২০২৪, উচ্চতা: ১০৮ সে.মি, গায়ের রং: বাদামী, পরনের পোশাক: বাদামী ট্রাউজ, বর্তমান অবস্থান: কলকাতা ৭০০০৮২, ১/২/১১/১, বর্তমান রোড, কলকাতা-৭০০০৮২  
খানা ও তারিখ সহ জি. ডি. ই. নম্বর: ২২৭৮ : তারিখ: ২০.০৮.২০২৪  
যোগাযোগের বিশদ বিবরণ:  
ডি.পি.ইউ. কলকাতা, ঠিকানা: শ্রুতান্তি (সপ্তম তল), ডি.এক.-৯, সেক্টর - ১, সন্টলেক সিটি, কলকাতা-৭০০০৬৪  
আইসিএ-ডি২১৪৪(৩)/২০২৪

**পিতা-মাতা/অভিভাবকের অনুসন্ধানের জন্য বিজ্ঞপ্তি**  
দুই ভাই-বোনের বিবরণ  
নাম: প্রকাশ দাস, জন্ম: ২০.০৮.২০২৪, লিঙ্গ: পুরুষ, জন্মের দিন: ২০.০৮.২০২৪, উচ্চতা: ১২৪ সে.মি, গায়ের রং: শ্যামল, পরনের পোশাক: সাদা ও ফার্সি পোশাক, বর্তমান অবস্থান: বিকটবত বয়স্ক হোম, হোম কলকাতা ৭০০০৯২, ০৮/১/১১/১, বর্তমান রোড, কলকাতা-৭০০০৯২  
খানা ও তারিখ সহ জি. ডি. ই. নম্বর: ২২৭৮ : তারিখ: ২০.০৮.২০২৪  
নাম: তিতলি দাস, জন্ম: ২০.০৮.২০২৪, লিঙ্গ: স্ত্রী, জন্মের দিন: ২০.০৮.২০২৪, উচ্চতা: ১০৮ সে.মি, গায়ের রং: বাদামী, পরনের পোশাক: বাদামী ট্রাউজ, বর্তমান অবস্থান: কলকাতা ৭০০০৮২, ১/২/১১/১, বর্তমান রোড, কলকাতা-৭০০০৮২  
খানা ও তারিখ সহ জি. ডি. ই. নম্বর: ২২৭৮ : তারিখ: ২০.০৮.২০২৪  
যোগাযোগের বিশদ বিবরণ:  
ডি.পি.ইউ. কলকাতা, ঠিকানা: শ্রুতান্তি (সপ্তম তল), ডি.এক.-৯, সেক্টর - ১, সন্টলেক সিটি, কলকাতা-৭০০০৬৪  
আইসিএ-ডি২১৪৪(৩)/২০২৪

**Regulation of trains for Non-Interlocking work over Howrah Division**  
In connection with construction of new SFA siding and reception of trains towards UTCL siding by alteration in existing Electronic Interlocking, Non-Interlocking work will be undertaken at Janai Road in Howrah Division from 14.12.2024 (Saturday) to 16.12.2024 (Monday) . Consequently, the following arrangements have been made in train running:—  
Division of Mail/Express trains (Up Direction)  
• Diverted via Naihati Link Cabin-Bandel-Bardhaman: On 14.12.2024 : 12363 Kolkata-Haldibari Superfast Express (Kolkata dep. 09.05 hrs.), 12357 Kolkata-Amritsar Durgiana Express (Kolkata dep. 12.10 hrs.), 19414 Kolkata-Ahmedabad Jn. Express (Kolkata dep. 13.10 hrs.), 12359 Kolkata-Patna Jn. Garib Rath Express (Kolkata dep. 20.05 hrs.) & 13165 Kolkata-Sitamari Jn. Express (Kolkata dep. 22.45 hrs.). On 15.12.2024 : 13161 Kolkata-Balughat Express (Kolkata dep. 12.55 hrs.) & 13121 Kolkata-Gazipur City Express (Kolkata dep. 20.05 hrs.). On 14 & 15.12.2024: 12377 Sealdah-New Alipurduar Padatik Express (Sealdah dep. 23.20 hrs.) & 12987 Sealdah-Ajmer Express (Sealdah dep. 22.55 hrs.).  
• Diverted via Bandel-Bardhaman : On 14.12.2024: 12331 Howrah-Jammu Tawi Himgiri Express (Howrah dep. 23.55 hrs.). On 14 & 15.12.2024: 12369 Howrah-Dehradun Kumbha Express (Howrah dep. 13.00 hrs.), 12339 Howrah-Dhanbad Coalfield Express (Howrah dep. 17.20 hrs.), 12341 Howrah-Asansol Agniweena Express (Howrah dep. 18.20 hrs.), 12333 Howrah-Prayagraj Rambag Vibhuti Express (Howrah dep. 20.00 hrs.), 11448 Howrah-Jabalpur Shaktipunj Express (Howrah dep. 13.10 hrs.), 12311 Howrah-Kalka Netaji Express (Howrah dep. 21.55 hrs.) & 12321 Howrah-Mumbai Mail (Howrah dep. 23.35 hrs.).  
Division of Mail/Express trains (Dn Direction)  
• Diverted via Bardhaman-Bandel-Naihati Link Cabin: On 14.12.2024 : 13162 Balughat-Kolkata Express (Bardhaman arr. 12.30 hrs.). On 15.12.2024 : 13168 Agra Cantt.-Kolkata Express (Bardhaman arr. 06.36 hrs.). On 14 & 15.12.2024: 12988 Ajmer-Sealdah Express (Bardhaman arr. 13.48 hrs.). On 16.12.2024 : 12360 Patna-Kolkata Garib Rath Express (Bardhaman arr. 03.28 hrs.). On 15 & 16.12.2024: 12378 New Alipurduar-Sealdah Padatik Express (Bardhaman arr. 04.20 hrs.). • Diverted via Bardhaman-Bandel: On 14.12.2024 : 12332 Jammu Tawi-Howrah Himgiri Express (Bardhaman arr. 09.52 hrs.). On 15.12.2024: 12370 Dehradun-Howrah Kumbha Express (Bardhaman arr. 01.25 hrs.), 12342 Asansol-Howrah Agniweena Express (Bardhaman arr. 07.11 hrs.), 12334 Prayagraj Rambag-Howrah Vibhuti Express (Bardhaman arr. 05.56 hrs.) & 12312 Kalka-Howrah Netaji Express (Bardhaman arr. 06.21 hrs.). On 14 & 15.12.2024 : 12322 Mumbai-Howrah Mail (Bardhaman arr. 10.11 hrs.), 12340 Dhanbad-Howrah Coalfield Express (Bardhaman arr. 08.54 hrs.) & 11447 Jabalpur-Howrah Shaktipunj Express (Bardhaman arr. 21.11 hrs.). On 16.12.2024 : 12328 Dehradun-Howrah Upasana Express (Bardhaman arr. 01.25 hrs.).  
• Rescheduling on 14 & 15.12.2024 : 13023 Howrah-Gaya Express will be rescheduled at 20.10 hrs. instead of 20.00 hrs. from Howrah.  
Cancellation of EMU locals  
Following few EMU local trains will remain cancelled on the days mentioned below : — • On 14 & 15.12.2024 : Up Chord line : Howrah-Bardhaman: 36811, 36817, 36827, 36855, 36823 & 36851. Howrah-Masagram : 36081, 36083 (SAO), 36085 & 36087. Howrah-Gurap : 36071. Howrah-Chandanpur : 36031, 36033, 36035 & 36037. Howrah-Baruipara : 36011. Sealdah-Baruipara : 32411 & 32413. Dn Chord line : Bardhaman-Howrah : 36812, 36814, 36818, 36838, 36852 & 36856. Chandanpur-Howrah : 36032, 36034, 36036 & 36038. Gurap-Howrah : 36072. Masagram-Howrah: 36082, 36084 (SAO), 36086 & 36088. Baruipara-Howrah : 36012. Baruipara-Sealdah : 32412 & 32414. Up Main Line : Howrah-Bandel : 37243, 37245 & 37283. Howrah-Memari: 37655. Howrah-Sheoraphuli : 37059. Dn Main Line : Bandel-Howrah : 37216, 37222 & 37240. Memari-Howrah: 37656. Sheoraphuli-Howrah : 37060.  
• On 16.12.2024 : Up Chord line : Howrah-Bardhaman: 36811. Howrah-Masagram : 36081. Howrah-Gurap : 36071. Dn Chord line: Bardhaman-Howrah : 36812. Masagram-Howrah: 36082. Gurap-Howrah : 36072.  
Note.: Special or late running trains during block period, if any, will be suitably diverted/controlled enroute. Passengers are requested to follow the public address system at stations. Inconvenience is regretted.  
Divisional Railway Manager, Howrah



THUMBNAILS

**Ransomware attacks to target large cos:** Ransomware attacks are not only going to continue, but hackers are likely to target larger organisations through supply chain vulnerabilities, a recent report by Moody's said. The aim of this would be to seek out large payouts and leveraging the vulnerabilities of third-party suppliers to access high-value organisations. This shift in turn is likely to increase the potential credit impact for a higher share of rated companies, Moody's said. The report suggests that this may lead to greater and larger adoption of cybersecurity, as well as, more police oversight into such cases. According to Coveware, a ransomware recovery firm, the share of victims willing to pay ransom to cyber criminals dropped to 28 per cent in the beginning of 2024, compared to 85 per cent in 2019 during the same period. Moody's in its report said, "In response to declining revenue per victim, cyberattackers are trying to wring greater profit from their attacks by demanding higher ransoms. We believe they are accomplishing this by shifting tactics and targeting larger businesses that can afford higher payouts."

# Policy continuity will be priority: RBI chief

Sanjay Malhotra also reaffirmed his commitment to financial inclusion

AGENCIES  
MUMBAI, 11 DECEMBER

After taking charge on Wednesday, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Sanjay Malhotra stated that policy continuity, inclusion and innovation will be priority under his governorship. Highlighting the legacy of the RBI, Malhotra stated that "It is a huge responsibility," recognising the commendable work carried out by the central bank. He stressed the importance of continuity in policies, saying, "stability in policy again, very, very important... even in my previous role we tried to give stability a continuity and policy whether it is taxation policy or fiscal policy or monetary policy, I think all businesses, all people, they do need this continuity and stability, rather than, you know, a day-to-day kind of a policies."

Highlighting the need to adapt to a constantly evolving world, he acknowledged the challenges posed by geopolitical tensions, climate change, and economic uncertainties. He added that while we maintain continuity and



stability, we cannot be stuck to it, recognising the challenges. He added, "We do maintain Continuity and stability. We cannot be stuck to it and we have to be alert and agile."

Malhotra reaffirmed his commitment to financial inclusion, noting progress made but emphasizing the need for further efforts. "There is still more to be done so we will collaborate with all with our stakeholders... so that the benefits of financial inclusion reaches everyone." He called for collaboration with regulators, governments, and other stakeholders to achieve this goal.

RBI Governor Malhotra pointed to India's success with the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) and its growing global recognition. "How we can further use technology to reduce costs and make financial inclusion more accessible and pervasive and innovation will be a key (priority)."

He also emphasized balancing innovation with necessary safeguards, stating, "Innovation will be key."

"We will, of course, have to be also conscious of the risks that it may entail and so putting in place, requisite, safe guards and guard rails without killing or without

stopping innovation."

Underscoring the value of consultation in policy-making, he pledged to continue the RBI's practice of engaging with stakeholders. He added that the knowledge and expertise are not the monopoly of any one institution and consultation will remain a key pillar of our policymaking process.

Malhotra concluded with a promise to uphold the trust and values of the RBI, stating that whatever decisions are made will be in public interest, ensuring the trust of the people is strengthened.

Malhotra, a senior bureaucrat with extensive experience in economic and financial matters, brings a wealth of knowledge to his new role.

He succeeds Shaktikanta Das, who served as the Governor of the RBI since December 2018 and was instrumental in steering the Indian economy through various challenges, including the COVID-19 pandemic.

As the head of the RBI, Malhotra is expected to focus on maintaining inflation targets, boosting economic growth, and ensuring the financial sector's resilience amidst global uncertainties.

## Stock market remains rangebound; IT, auto, and FMCG stocks gain



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, 11 DECEMBER

Stock market on Wednesday remained rangebound for the fourth consecutive session with IT, auto, and FMCG stocks gained, energy lagged behind.

Due to select heavyweights, including Infosys and Bajaj Finance, Nifty 50 snapped its three-day losing run to end in the green with mild gains.

At close, the Sensex was up 16 points or 0.02% at 81,526, and the Nifty was up 32 points or 0.1% at 24,642.

Sensex opened at 81,568.39 and touched intraday highs and lows of 81,742.37 and 81,383.42 while Nifty 50 opened at 24,620.50 and touched its intraday high and low of 24,691.75 and 24,583.85.

Mid and small-caps continued their outperformance

with BSE Midcap index rose 0.25%, while the Smallcap index climbed 0.35%.

On Nifty, the top gainers were Trent (2.69%), Bajaj Finance (2.58%), Britannia Industries (2.14%), Shriram Finance (1.94%), and Bajaj Finserv (1.39%). On the losing side were JSW Steel (1.26%), Adani Ports & Special Economic Zone (1.20%), NTPC (0.99%), State Bank of India (0.68%), and Axis Bank (0.55%).

IT, auto, and FMCG stocks led the gains on Nifty.

Nifty Bank fell in the red while the PSU Bank index declined almost 1%. The IT index gained 0.3%, Nifty Auto index rose 0.4%, Nifty FMCG index rose 0.4%.

Nifty Metal ended flat but had gained significant attention intraday by rising over 1%.

Nifty Media, Nifty Bank and Nifty Private Bank indices

also ended in the red, falling up to half a per cent.

Among the key individual performers, shares of Bajaj Finance gained over 2% a day after its investor meet.

Shares of Awfis Space Solutions surged close to 10% after a major block deal involving 85.3 lakh shares worth Rs 606 crore took place on the bourses.

Swiggy shares dropped over 4% in early trade, erasing all of its previous day losses.

Eyes are on the key inflation data from the US and India's CPI print on December 12. These data points are expected to offer guidance on future rate trajectories for both economies.

Further, the meeting of the US Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) is scheduled for December 17-18. Market participants expect a 25 bps rate cut on December 18.

## Attempts should be made to restore global calm: Nirmala Sitharaman



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, 11 DECEMBER

Outlining the priorities of the economy for the next decade, Nirmala Sitharaman on Wednesday said attempts should be made to restore global calm and normalcy and noted that war or any form of disruption should be avoided.

The Minister said the industry will have to realign its policies keeping in mind political and strategic decisions of the country.

While speaking at the CII

just in economic sense but also in a political and strategic sense," she said.

"Supply chains will have to be restored but you would have to reset it, realign it, you will have to make sure that it is spread so much that no geopolitical or strategic risks will threaten our well-being."

She also talked about the small enterprises and said India has always had the strength of small and medium sized enterprises.

For the decadal priority, industry should work with small and medium enterprises to explore how they can support large units while equally contributing to job creation, she said. The minister said that the lessons learnt in the last decade should tell us that the country will have to now realign, and industry will have to realign itself not just on economic principles.

## ADB lowers India's economic growth forecast to 6.5 pc for current fiscal

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, 11 DECEMBER

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) on Wednesday lowered India's economic growth forecast to 6.5% for the current financial year due to lower-than-expected growth in private investment and housing demand. Earlier it estimated the growth of 7%.

The multilateral development bank has also lowered India's growth forecast for 2025-26 financial year.

"India's outlook is adjusted downward from 7% to 6.5% for this year, and from 7.2% to 7% next year, due to lower-than-expected growth in private investment and housing demand," ADB said.

The report also said Asia and the Pacific's economies are projected to grow 4.9%



in 2024, slightly below ADB's September forecast of 5%.

Asia and the Pacific's economic growth will remain steady this year and next, but expected US policy

changes under the incoming administration of President-elect Donald Trump are likely to affect the region's long-term outlook.

ADB said India's growth

will remain robust, with the economy supported by higher agriculture output resulting from the summer (or kharif) crop season (which will also put downward pressure on

food prices); continued resilience of the services sector; and lower-than-expected Brent crude prices in 2024 and 2025.

It further said strong forward-looking and labour market indicators, such as PMI for industry and services, urban labour force participation and Reserve Bank of India's industrial outlook, suggest that economic momentum will recover in the coming quarters.

The said Southeast Asia's growth outlook has been raised to 4.7% this year from a previous forecast of 4.5%, driven by stronger manufacturing exports and public capital spending.

For the next year, ADB kept the forecast unchanged at 4.7%, and kept the growth forecast for China unchanged at 4.8% this year and 4.5% next year.

## Withdraw your PF directly from ATMs starting next year: Labour secretary

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, 11 DECEMBER

The Labour Ministry is upgrading its IT systems to provide enhanced services to the country's massive workforce.

Starting next year, EPFO subscribers will be able to withdraw their provident funds directly from ATMs, according to Labour Secretary Sumita Dawra.

"We are settling claims quickly and are working to make the process easier to improve the ease of living. A claimant, beneficiary, or insured person will be able to access their claims conveniently through ATMs, with minimal human interven-



tion," the Labour Secretary said.

"Systems are evolving, and every two to three months, you will notice significant improvements. I believe there will be a major enhancement by January 2025," she told ANI.

The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation has over

70 million active contributors.

The Labour Secretary also emphasised the government's efforts to improve EPFO services to enhance the ease of living.

Regarding plans to extend social security benefits to gig workers, Dawra said progress was at an advanced stage

but refrained from specifying a timeline.

"A lot of work has been done, and we have outlined a scheme that is now in the finalisation process," she said. These benefits could include medical health coverage, provident funds, and financial support in cases of disability.

A committee comprising representatives from various stakeholders has been established to propose a framework for providing social security and welfare benefits to gig and platform workers.

Gig and platform workers were defined for the first time in the Code on Social Security, 2020, which was enacted by

Parliament. Provisions related to their social security and welfare are included in the Code.

The Labour Secretary also addressed the unemployment issue, highlighting that the unemployment rate has declined.

"In 2017, the unemployment rate was six per cent. Today, it has decreased to 3.2 per cent," she said.

"Furthermore, our workforce is growing. The Labour Force Participation Rate is increasing, and the Worker Participation Ratio, which indicates how many people are actually employed, has reached 58 per cent and continues to rise," she added.

## Maruti Suzuki to hike car prices upto 4 per cent from January



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, 11 DECEMBER

Maruti Suzuki is set to increase the prices of its car from January. The company said the move is to offset the impact of rising input costs and operational expenses. Country's largest carmaker, Maruti Suzuki, said that it will hike prices of its model range by up to 4 per cent from January.

In a regulatory filing recent-

ly, Maruti Suzuki India said that in light of rising input costs and operational expenses, the company has planned to increase the prices of its cars from January 2025. The company is having multiple popular brands under its banner namely Swift, Baleno, Wagon R, Ertiga, Grand Vitara, Invicto, New Dzire that rule the Indian car market. The hike, which is set to vary depending on the model, will come into effect from

Jan. 1, 2025.

Also, on Wednesday, Maruti Suzuki India said it plans to increase its overall service network to 8,000 touchpoints by 2030-31, with an aim to reach closer to its customers. "Our aim is to consistently deliver convenience and superior car ownership experience to our customers. One way is by reaching closer to our customers so that they have assurance of finding a Maruti Suzuki service touchpoint nearby," Maruti Suzuki India MD & CEO, Hisashi Takeuchi, said in a statement. Currently Maruti Suzuki India has 5,240 touchpoints across NEXA as well as ARENA -- the mass market retail chain.

## Skill development initiatives pay off, employability among Indian grads rises 7 pc

RITWIK MUKHERJEE  
KOLKATA, 11 DECEMBER

Finally all skill development and vocational training initiatives seem to be paying off well. Employability among Indian graduates has seen a steady rise of 7 per cent this year, reaching 54.81 per cent in 2025, up from 51.25 per cent last year. With 65 per cent of the Indian workforce under 35 years old, India's youthful and dynamic talent pool is uniquely aligned to meet the demands of industries across the Gulf Nations, Southeast Asia, Europe, and

Africa. The report highlights that India's skilled professionals, particularly in technology, healthcare, renewable energy, and AI, are driving global innovation and economic growth. At least that's what the latest India Skills Report 2025, done by Wheebox ETS, in collaboration with CIL, Taggd, AICTE, and AIU, clearly indicates.

With the steady rise of 7 per cent employability this year, reaching 54.81 per cent in 2025, up from 51.25 per cent last year reflects the success of initiatives from Central and state govern-

ments, institutions like AICTE, UGC, AIU, and reforms like Skill India Mission and NEP 2020, and State Skilling and education bodies which emphasize vocational training and industry-aligned education. With 50 per cent of secondary and tertiary students expected to receive vocational training by 2025, India is setting the stage for a globally competitive workforce.

"This increase in employability is not just a statistic—it's a testament to India's ability to adapt, innovate, and thrive in an intercon-



nected world, Governments have to initiate a large scale internationally acceptable and certified skilling and employment initiative for the world," said Nirmal Singh, Chief Convener of India Skills Report and CEO of Wheebox,

an ETS group company.

The report clearly reveals an upward trend in hiring intent, with organizations across technology, manufacturing, healthcare, and e-commerce gearing up to onboard fresh talent. The

India Hiring Intent Survey for 2025 showcases optimism among over 1,000 corporations spanning 15 industries, particularly for entry-level roles. Key states like Maharashtra, Karnataka, and Delhi emerge as leaders, while cities such as Pune, Bengaluru, and Mumbai stand out as hubs for employable talent.

"This decade belongs to India as a leader in global talent mobility. This decade must be focused on quality of skills training that shall make a stark difference for international mobility. Long term and internally certified

skill programs with embedded language training will be the winning bet to provide early work opportunities. The skilled and certified talent from India provides a unique advantage and leverage to India. Our workforce is bridging skill gaps worldwide, creating transformative opportunities in a rapidly evolving global economy," said Singh.

The India Skills Report 2025 outlines a clear roadmap for aligning India's talent ecosystem with global market demands:

Vocational Training: Expanding access to indus-

try-specific training across states, focusing on high-demand skills like AI, cybersecurity, and green energy.

Cross-Border Collaboration: Strengthening partnerships with countries facing aging populations and skill shortages.

Technology Integration: Leveraging AI and automation in education and assessments to prepare graduates for future roles.

Diversity and Inclusion: Promoting a balanced workforce, with women now comprising 47.53 per cent of the employable talent pool.





# 'Solutions to cybercrime are crucial for India's future'

The Prime Minister highlighted the use of drones in various sectors of the country

NIKHIL VYAS  
NEW DELHI, 11 DECEMBER

Noting that India is one of the leading digital economies in the world and the nation is digitally connecting on different scales, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday said the threats of cybercrime are constantly on the rise.

"The solutions to cybercrime are crucial for India's future," the Prime Minister said while interacting with young innovators at the Grand Finale of Smart India Hackathon 2024, via video conferencing.

Modi recalled speaking about cyber fraud in his recent Mann Ki Baat address and said a large population is affected by such malice. He also expressed the need to constantly upgrade with the latest technology as cyber threats are constantly

evolving at a fast pace.

The Prime Minister highlighted the use of drones in various sectors of the country and gave the example of the Namu Drone Didi scheme. He also mentioned the use of drones for the transportation of medicines and essential supplies to remote areas in the country, whereas enemies use them for smuggling firearms and drugs across the border.

Modi expressed happiness that the young innovators are working with extreme seriousness to tackle such issues of national security. He said their innovation can give new dimensions to the export of defence technology.

Modi remarked that the world of the future is going to be driven by knowledge and innovation and youth were India's hope and aspiration in changing situations.

He added that their per-



spective, thinking and energy were different. Stressing that everyone's aim was the same, the Prime Minister underscored that India should become the most innovative, progressive and prosperous country in the world.

Modi said the world was acknowledging that India's strength was its youth power who are innovative and India's tech power. He further added that the strength of India was clearly visible in all of them at the Smart

India Hackathon.

The Prime Minister was pleased that Smart India Hackathon had become an excellent platform to make the youth of India globally the best. He noted that since the inception of Smart India Hackathon, about 14 lakh students had participated and had formed 2 lakh teams and worked on about 3 thousand problems.

He further added that more than 6400 institutions were associated with it while hundreds of new start-ups were born because of the hackathon.

The Prime Minister noted that more than 7 thousand ideas were submitted by students in 2017 while the number of these ideas had increased to more than 57 thousand this year. This, he said, showed how the youth of India had come forward to solve the challenges of its country.

## Jamiat Ulama-I-Hind seeks effective enforcement of Places of Worship Act



PARMOD KUMAR  
NEW DELHI, 11 DECEMBER

A day before a special bench of the Supreme Court is set to hear a batch of petitions challenging the Places of Worship Act, 1991, the Jamiat Ulama-I-Hind has moved the court seeking an "effective and proper" enforcement of the Act and the law laid down in the 2019 unanimous judgment by a five-judge constitution bench in Ayodhya's Ram Janmabhoomi mandir case.

The 1991 Places of Worship Act, prohibits the filing of a lawsuit to reclaim a place of worship or seek a change in its character from what prevailed on August 15, 1947.

Stating that "blatant violation" of the 1991 law, the

Muslim religious places are being made the subject matter of frivolous controversies and suits, which are patently barred under the 1991 Places of Worship Act, the Jamiat Ulama-I-Hind in its petition has said, "However, despite the existence of a statutory bar, such proceedings are being permitted to proceed, often with interim orders altering the status quo which has been maintained for ages in such Muslim places of worship."

The Jamiat Ulama-I-Hind has said that interference with the Muslim religious places is not only creating a "feeling of ill-will, hatred and enmity between the communities but is also violating the fundamental rights of the Muslim Community under

Articles 14, 21, 25, 26 and 29" of the constitution. The petition by the Jamiat Ulama-I-Hind further states that post 2019 Ayodhya judgment by the Supreme Court there has been a numerous suits that are being filed averring that "places of worship which are presently Muslim in character like mosques and tombs" since August 15, 1947, have been erected by "destroying Hindu Temples and/or places of worship" and a common averment is that Muslim Invaders such as Mughal emperors have built Muslim places of worship such as Masjids after destroying the Hindu places of worship such as Temples many years before August 15, 1947.

Referring to 2019 Ayodhya judgment, the petition says that even if all these allegations that Muslim invaders destroyed the Hindu places of worship and built mosques and tombs are assumed to be true, it is nothing but seeking retrogression, which, as held by the Supreme Court is against the essential feature of our secular values.

# TENDER

**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA**  
**OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER**  
**CENTRAL (R&B) CIRCLE, BHUBANESWAR**  
Mail Id.: secbbsr@gmail.com  
B-745

**E-procurement Tender Call Notice No. 12 of 2024-25**  
the 10th December, 2024

No. 4724 (Estg.) Bhubaneswar

The Chief Construction Engineer, Central (R&B) Circle Bhubaneswar on behalf of the Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate bids for one number composite building work to be received in online bidding, double cover system for construction work as detailed in: <https://tendersodisha.gov.in> The details of bid documents will be available in the above website from 5.00 P.M. of 17.12.2024 to 5.00 P.M. of 26.12.2024. The bidders must possess compatible Digital Signature Certificate of Class II or III. Bids received online shall be opened at 11.00 A.M. of 27.12.2024 in the Office of the Chief Construction Engineer, Central (R&B) Circle Bhubaneswar.

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal [www.tendersodisha.gov.in](http://www.tendersodisha.gov.in)

Addendum / Corrigendum, if required, will be available only in the Website.

Sd/- Er. M.R.Behera  
Chief Construction Engineer  
Central (R&B) Circle, Bhubaneswar

OIPR-34156/11/0011/2425

**e-TENDER NOTICE**

e-Tenders are invited by this office from the bonafied Contractor vide NleT No. 06 / BDO / KHB / ICDS / 2024-25. Other details can be seen from the Notice Board of the undersigned in any working days or in the website: [www.wbprd.nic.in](http://www.wbprd.nic.in) or [www.wbtenders.gov.in](http://www.wbtenders.gov.in)

Sd/-  
Block Development Officer  
Kharibari Development

**EMPLOYMENT NOTIFICATION**

Application in plain paper in sealed cover is hereby invited from super-annuated W.B.C.S. (Executive) Officers for the post of **Officer on Special Duty (OSD)** to provide Secretarial support to the Sabhadhipati. Alipurduar Zilla Parishad.

Last date of receipt of Application 13th January, 2025.

Detailed Employment Notification to be found in district website portal of Alipurduar.

Sd/- Additional Executive Officer  
Alipurduar Zilla Parishad

**NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY**  
**Corrigendum**

First corrigendum to Tender Notice no.- **SNT-PROJ-JU-07-2024-25**. **Dated: 10.12.2024. In the above cited tender notice following corrigendum is issued: Corrigendum Details: (i)** Correction in tender document to suit the requirement of S&T project unit Jodhpur. **Remarks: The others terms and conditions in the original tender will remain unchanged.**

**1422-AR/24 Dy. CSTE/Project/JU**

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**RAJASTHAN GOVERNMENT**  
**Superintending Engineer Cum Project Manager, WCDC, ZILA PARISHAD BARMER**

E-mail id: SEWDCS-BARMER@RAJASTHAN.GOV.IN Telephone No.: 02982-220733

No. 3506 Date: 05.12.2024  
**NOTICE INVITING BID**  
NIT No 21 Year 2024-25

Bids for Watershed Development Works are invited from interested bidders upto 15.12.2024 at 06:00 PM as per following details. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal <https://eproc.rajjasthan.gov.in> or <https://sppp.rajjasthan.gov.in> of the state departmental website.

Sr. No.	Block	NIB No.	Estimate (Rs in Lacs)	NIB Code	URN Code
1.	AADEL	31/2024-25	297.60	WSC2425A0372	WSC2425WNR00777

SE CUM PROJECT MANAGER, WCDC,  
WATERSHED DEVELOPMENT & SOIL CONSERVATION,  
BARMER

DIPR/C/12561/2024

**EASTERN RAILWAY**

**Tender Notice No.: SURPSP-24-25, Dated: 07.12.2024.** Dy. Chief Mechanical Engineer/C, Eastern Railway Workshop, Kanchrapara, Carriage / Loco Complex, North 24 Parganas, P.O. Kanchrapara, Pin. 743145 invites e-tender (Open Tender) for the following work. **Name of work and its location:** (A) External surface preparation of coach prior to paint, both during POH in 364 nos. of coaches and (B) Screen Printing of Markings on the exterior of both sides of End wall and Side wall on 480 nos. conventional, LHB and DEMU DPC & trailer coaches to be carried out at Carriage Complex, Kanchrapara for a duration of 01 (one) year. **Approx. cost of the work:** Rs. 46,17,362.44. **Bid Security to be deposited:** Rs. 92,400/- **Tender Document Cost (TDC):** Nil. **Completion period of the work:** 01 (one) year. **Website from where the tender documents will be available:** Complete set of tender document is available on the Indian Railways e-procurement website [www.irops.gov.in](http://www.irops.gov.in) from 07.12.2024 to 30.12.2024 till 14.00 hrs. **Advertisement Period:** 07.12.2024 to 30.12.2024 till 14:00 hrs. **Offer Submission Period:** 15 days prior to 30.12.2024 till 14.00 hrs. **Date & time of closing of tender:** 30.12.2024 till 14.00 hrs. **Validity of the tender:** 69 days. **Date & time for opening of Tender:** The tender will be opened on and after 15.00 hrs. on 30.12.2024.

MISC-274/2024-25

Tender notices are also available at Website [www.e.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.e.indianrailways.gov.in) or [www.irops.gov.in](http://www.irops.gov.in)

Follow us at: [@EasternRailway](https://twitter.com/EasternRailway)  
[@easternrailwayheadquarter](https://facebook.com/easternrailwayheadquarter)

**UNIVERSITY OF CALCUTTA**

University of Calcutta invites the e-tender vide Ref. No. (E-Tender No.: E-tender / Eng / CT-349 / 24-25 & Tender ID: 2024\_CU\_783341\_1), Dt. 11.12.2024. For details please visit [wbtenders.gov.in](http://wbtenders.gov.in)

**UNIVERSITY OF CALCUTTA**

University of Calcutta invites the e-tender vide Ref. No. (E-Tender No. CU / GENET BI-175 / 2024 & Tender ID: 2024\_CU\_783128\_1), Dt. 11.12.2024. For details please visit [wbtenders.gov.in](http://wbtenders.gov.in)

**Metro Railway, Kolkata**

**Tender Notice for e-tendering is invited by Principal Chief Engineer, Metro Railway for the following work :** Execution of Emergency pathway, thorough white washing of tunnel, through replacement of defective rolling shutter and supply, fitting & fixing of damaged RCC cover slab with RCPC slab in North section of Blue line (KCEA to KDSW) of Metro Railway, Kolkata. **Approx Cost of Work :** ₹ 2,90,86,215.77. **Earnest Money :** ₹ 2,95,400. **Completion Period :** Nine (09) Months. **Date and Time of Closing :** 06.01.2025 at 12:00 hrs. The Tender Document and other details can be obtained from the website: [www.irops.gov.in](http://www.irops.gov.in) Amendments / Corrigendum, if any, would be uploaded only on the website.

**Abridged e-Tender Notice No. : CIVIL-2501-2024 (Open).**

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[@metrorailkolkata](https://facebook.com/metrorailkolkata)

**NIT**

Applications are invited from eligible bonafied agencies vide **NIT No. 186/BASIRHAT-IPS/2024-25, dt 06.12.2024, 187/BASIRHAT-IPS/2024-25, dt 07.12.2024 & 188/BASIRHAR-IPS/2024-25, dt 10.12.2024 of EO, Basirhat - I PS for construction of different works under Basirhat - I PS. No. of work-34, Closing dt.14/12/24 & 17/12/24 at 5.30 pm. For Details visit Office notice Board & [www.wbtender.gov.in](http://www.wbtender.gov.in)** Sd/-  
EO, Basirhat - I PS

**e-Procurement Cell**  
**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,**  
**SPECIAL WORKS DIVISION, BUILDING CONSTRUCTION DEPARTMENT**  
**Ranchi**

**शुद्धि पत्र**  
e-Procurement Tender Reference No:- BCD/EE, Special Works Div, BCD, Ranchi-36/2024-25 Dated:- 03.12.24, PR No- 341129 (Building) 24-25\*D Construction of Jharkhand Bhawan at Sector-30A, Vashi, Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra कार्य से संबंधित है, के कुछ त्रुटियों में तकनीकी एवं अपरिचित कारणवश संशोधन किया जा रहा है जिसका विवरणी निम्नवत है:-

क्रमांक	मद	पूर्व की त्रुटि	संशोधित तिथि
1	वेबसाइट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि	11.12.2024	14.12.2024
2	बी सीज़ मिटिंग की तिथि	16.12.2024	19.12.2024
3	बिड प्रॉसि के लिए अंतिम तिथि / समय	23.12.2024	26.12.2024
4	निविदा खोलने की तिथि / समय	24.12.2024	27.12.2024

शेष सभी शर्तें यथावत रहेंगी।

**Nodal Officer,**  
**e-Procurement Cell, Office of the Executive Engineer,**  
**Special Works Division Building Construction Department,, Ranchi .**  
**PR 341782 (Building)24-25\*D**

**MP POORV KSHETRA VIDYUT VITARAN CO. LTD.**  
BLOCK NO. 7, SHAKTI BHAWAN, RAMPUR, JABALPUR (M.P.)  
Tel. No. : 0761 2702473, Fax No. : 0761-2660048  
CIN: U40109MP2002SG015120, e-mail : [cepurez@yahoo.in](mailto:cepurez@yahoo.in)

Jabalpur, did: 05.12.2024

**TENDER NOTICE**

No. CGM(S&P)/EZ/GM-II/III/2135

Online Tenders are invited for following items :-

Sr. No.	TS No. (For e-Tendering) Discum-EZ/Pur	NAME OF ITEMS	APPROX. VALUE (Rs. in Lakhs)	TENDER FEE (in Rs.)	Due date & time of opening of tender online from 14.00 Hrs.(*)
1.	TS-1521 (e-Tender No. 2024_PKVVC_386157_1)	AB Switches Three Phase	546	11800	27.12.2024

\* For updated / extended due dates for opening of tender (EMD in cover-I & Techno-commercial bid in cover-2) please refer to the online key dates. For other details visit Company's website :- [www.mpez.co.in](http://www.mpez.co.in) or [mptenders.gov.in](http://mptenders.gov.in)

C.G.M. (S&P)

**SAVE ENERGY FOR BETTER TOMORROW**

**OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL,**  
**RUHS COLLEGE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES,**  
Sector - 11, Kumbha Marg, Pratap Nagar, Jaipur - 302033  
Ph. : 0141-2795624, 634 Email : [principalruhs@ruhsraj.org](mailto:principalruhs@ruhsraj.org)

No. RUHS-CMS/Store/2024-25/7190 Date 07-12-2024

**NOTICE INVITING BID**

Sealed Single Stage Two-envelopes unconditional online bids are invited on behalf of the Governor of Rajasthan for the following PPP Project, from reputed firm/organization /company etc. having requisite experience for providing such services, as per the Bidding Schedule given below:- (UBN NoCMS2425SLOB00036 Date07-12-2024)

S. No.	Details of PPP Project	Estimated cost of CT-MRI Project (Rs in Crores)	Amount of Bid Security (Rs in Lakhs)	Price of Bidding Document (Rs)	RSL Processing Fee (Rs)
1.	PROJECT FOR SUPPLY, INSTALLATION, OPERATION, MAINTENANCE:- 128 - Slice CT - SCANNER MACHINE-(I) No.113 Tesla MRI Machine-(I) No.1) ALONG WITH PROVIDING INVESTIGATION RELATED SERVICES ON REVENUE SHARING BASIS ON PPP MODE FOR RAJHS, HOSPITAL, JAIPUR.	11.00	22.00	5000.00	2500.00

• Publishing Date & Time : 07-12-2024  
• Pre Bid Meeting Date & Time : 13-12-2024  
• Bid Submission Start Date & Time : 20-12-2024  
• Bid Submission End Date & Time : 10-01-2025  
• Technical Bid Opening Date & Time : 11-01-2025 02:00PM

Details may be seen in the Bidding Document at <https://eproc.rajjasthan.gov.in> or <https://sppp.rajjasthan.gov.in> or on RUHS CMS Jaipur. <https://sppp.rajjasthan.gov.in>

Raj.Samwad/C/24/8941 Principal

**The Director General (Bustee), KMC** invites e-tender online percentage rate two bid system for the following works :-

1. **NIT NO. : KMC/EEBS/ODF+III/34/24-25/83 (2nd Call)**  
**Name of work : Repairing & renovation work of public toilet at 20 Chauh Patty Road in Ward No.34, Borough-III (KMC) under ODF+Scheme. Estimated Amount (Incl. GST & LWC) : Rs.5,19,758.00. Earnest Money : Rs.12,000.00. Period of Completion : 180 Days. Last date and time of submission of bid : 27.12.2024 upto 11 a.m. Bid opening date and time for technical proposals : 30.12.2024 at 11.30 a.m. The bid forms and other details are available on and from : 18.12.2024 at 5 p.m. from the website <http://wbtenders.gov.in>**

2. **NIT NO. : KMC/EEBS/61/24-25/141**  
**Name of work : Development of bustee drainage system from 39 to 49 Elliot Road in Ward No.61. Estimated Amount (Incl. GST & LWC) : Rs.9,96,488.85. Earnest Money : Rs.20,000.00. Period of Completion : 120 Days. Last date and time of submission of bid : 24.12.2024 upto 11 a.m. Bid opening date and time for technical proposals : 26.12.2024 at 11 a.m. The bid forms and other details are available on and from 14.12.2024 at 11 a.m. from the website <http://wbtenders.gov.in> & <https://www.kmcgov.in>**

1029/24-25

e-Tenders are invited by Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/GKharagpur-721301, S.E. Railway for and on behalf of President of India for the following work before 12.00 hrs. on the date mentioned against items:

**Sl. No. & Tender Notice No. : Description of work ; Tender Value; Bid Security/ E.M.D. : (1) 114-ELC-G-KGP-24-25-34R1, dated 10.12.2024; Electrical work for Construction of Type III Quarters 5 Units in replacement at Jhargram; ₹ 14,04,053.26; ₹ 28,100/- (2) 114-ELC-G-KGP-24-25-35R1, Dated 10.12.2024; Electrical work for Construction of Type II Quarters 6 Units in replacement at Sardar; ₹ 15,94,437.16; ₹ 31,900/- Cost of Tender Document : Nil for both. Completion Period : 06 months from the date of issue of Letter of Acceptance for both. Date of Submission: Upto 12.00 hrs. of 26.12.2024 for both. Date of Opening: 26.12.2024 at both. Interested Tenderers may visit website [www.irops.gov.in](http://www.irops.gov.in) for full details, description and specification of the tender and submit their bids online. In no case manual tender for this work will be accepted. Note : Prospective bidders may regularly visit [www.irops.gov.in](http://www.irops.gov.in) to participate in all tenders. (PR-893)**





# Law must eliminate bias

**Proposed amendments to the Arbitration Act must clearly spell out the procedure for appointing arbitrators, says Dr. P. Madhava Rao**

Strengthening arbitration institutions enabling them to appoint the arbitrator as requested by the parties will not only address the issue of unilateral appointment of Arbitrators by some interested parties and institutions but also reduce the burden on courts, and support the Government's endeavours to popularise Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanisms in India.

The Supreme Court of India has recently held that unilateral appointment of an arbitrator by one party is unconstitutional, as it may violate the private party's right to a fair and impartial tribunal. On 8 November 2024, the Supreme Court issued a historic decision in Central Organisation for Railway Electrification vs. M/s ECI-SPIC-SMO-MCML (JV) regarding the unilateral appointment of arbitrators.

A five-judge bench considered whether an arbitration clause that allows one party to create a panel of arbitrators from which the other party selects them complies with the principle of impartiality under the Arbitration and Conciliation Act of 1996 (Arbitration Act). This decision has major consequences for party autonomy and equality in arbitration agreements, ultimately emphasising the idea that party autonomy in arbitration is contingent on fairness and impartiality.

Not only the public sector organisations, even some private financial institutions are found to have an arbitration clause in the agreements between them and parties, enabling them to appoint an arbitrator of their choice from among the panel maintained by them. The Arbitration Act does not explicitly permit this, but clearly states that the parties should appoint an arbitrator on their own which was being conveniently



used by these entities to appoint an arbitrator from among the panel maintained by them without the express consent of the other party.

Arbitration is a process by which parties settle their disputes through the intervention of third person, known as the Arbitrator governed by the Arbitration and Conciliation Act of 1996. The mounting pendency in courts and increasing demand for speedy disposal required faith in the Indian judiciary for fair and cost-effective dispute resolution systems demanded by international investors. This prompted the Central government to pay special attention to bringing in changes in arbitration approaches, institutionalisation of arbitration, establishment of the Indian International Arbitration Centre (IIAC), Delhi by the Government of India, and amending the Arbitration Act.

The government envisions an environment conducive to doing business in the country, as well as reducing the burden of civil and commercial disputes on courts, as the National Judicial Data Grid shows that 1.08 crore civil cases and 3.36 crore criminal cases are pending in Indian courts, with justice taking anywhere from one day to over thirty years.

The Expert Committee on Arbitration Law, led by Dr. T.K. Vishwanathan, a former law secretary, was established by the Government of India on 12 June 2023, to examine and recommend reforms to the Arbitration & Conciliation Act, 1996. The committee's report, submitted on 7 February 2024, recommends implementing systems for faster resolution of arbitration matters and amending the Act.

Earlier, on 17 July 2017, the High-

Level Committee on Arbitration, chaired by Justice B.N. Srikrishna Retired Judge, Supreme Court of India, submitted a report recommending the institutionalisation of arbitration in India and making India a hub for international arbitration. Both reports strongly recommended that judicial intervention in arbitration be kept to a minimum.

The Government of India is planning to bring in some more amendments to the Arbitration Act with a view to easing up the arbitration process in the country.

The Act and proposed amendments already recommend that arbitration institutions be recognised by the Arbitration Council of India (ACI). However, designation by courts following ACI recognition dilutes ACI's authority resulting in duplication of work, and invites unnecessary judicial intervention, all of which violate ADR principles.

The already functioning arbitration institutions like Amila Arbitration and Mediation Council, Hyderabad, Indian Institute of Arbitration and Mediation, Kerala, Indian International Arbitration Centre, New Delhi, Mumbai International Arbitration Centre, Mumbai, Camp Arbitration and Mediation Practice Bangalore are already extending their services to the satisfaction of many clients.

Therefore, the designation clause after recognition by the Arbitration Council of India requires a revisit and warrants removal from the Act. Every state has a high court, and each court has its own administrative system, no matter how efficient it is. The institutions must work tirelessly to become recognised and designated by the courts. As a result, a single statutory authority, such

as the ACI, is adequate to govern the formation and operation of arbitration institutions.

The proposed amendments must clarify the procedure of appointing arbitrators and classify it into three modalities. One is the process of appointing arbitrators by the parties themselves, rather than from a panel maintained by one interested party, followed by the appointment of arbitrators by neutral arbitration organisations, and ultimately by the courts if the other two fail.

Since 2016, successive committees appointed by the Government of India have repeatedly advised the government to institutionalise arbitration in the country, and as a result, several amendments to the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996, have been made in 2019 and 2021. Another amendment is on the way. However, notwithstanding these adjustments, the planned changes have not been notified.

The Arbitration Council of India, which was established through a gazette notification on 12 October 2023, is still inactive one year later and five years after the act was amended. The rapidity with which the Act was modified is not evident in giving effect to the changes made.

Allowing neutral arbitration institutions to appoint and administer arbitrators will help to address the challenges of unilateral arbitrator appointment by interested organisations, reduce the additional burden on courts to appoint arbitrators, and eliminate our arbitrators' bias in awards issued by arbitrators appointed by financial institutions.

(The writer is a former International Senior Adviser, UNDP.)

## Losing sight of a moral compass



**Majoritarian logic has no place in a plural society, argue Shivanshu K Srivastava and Nupur Chaurasiya**

The recent remarks by Justice Shekhar Kumar Yadav of the Allahabad High Court, made during a Vishwa Hindu Parishad event have ignited a significant controversy. While his support for the implementation of the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) is a constitutional aspiration, his accompanying statement, "India will run as per the wishes of its majority," raises alarming questions about the preservation of democratic and constitutional values in a diverse country.

The concept of the UCC is rooted in the vision of a just and equitable society. Enshrined in Article 44 of the Constitution, it calls for the state to strive towards uniformity in personal laws across all communities, irrespective of religion. It is an essential measure for ensuring equality, especially for those who often face systemic discrimination under existing religious personal laws. Implementing the UCC would establish a framework where individuals are governed by common legal principles in matters such as marriage, divorce, inheritance and adoption, creating a more egalitarian society.

However, Justice Yadav's remarks regarding majoritarianism undermine the spirit in which the UCC is envisioned. His statement is concerning on multiple levels, as it conveys an implicit endorsement of exclusionary governance. By this flawed logic, Muslim-majority countries or White-majority nations could justify actions disregarding minority rights. Is that the precedent we wish to set? India's constitutional identity is based on pluralism. The strength of a democracy lies in its ability to protect and empower minorities, not marginalise them under the pretext of majority will.

The implementation of the UCC, while constitutionally mandated, must be carried out in a manner that reinforces trust among all communities. The Constitution does not envision the UCC as a tool for coercion but as an instrument for social justice, achieved through consensus and dialogue. Framing it as a majoritarian demand undermines its true purpose and risks alienating sections of society who may view it as an encroachment on their cultural and religious autonomy. The language of imposition is incompatible with the constitutional principles of fraternity and secularism.

Justice Yadav's comments, made in a public forum associated with a religious organisation, also raise questions about the expected impartiality of the judiciary. Judges, as custodians of justice, are bound by the constitutional ethos of fairness and equality. Public statements that appear to favour one community over another, or advocate for governance by the majority will erode public confidence in judicial neutrality. The judiciary must rise above the socio-political fray and serve as a bulwark against divisive tendencies.

The historical context of India's secularism provides a poignant counterpoint to such remarks. The framers of the Constitution rejected theocracy and majoritarian rule, opting instead for a system that balances democracy with the protection of minority rights. Secularism in India is unique; it does not imply the exclusion of religion from

public life but mandates equal respect for all religions. The judiciary plays a vital role in upholding this delicate balance and any deviation from this principle is a step towards eroding the secular fabric of the country.

Majoritarianism, as implied in Justice Yadav's statement, is antithetical to the ethos of democracy. Democracy is not simply the rule of the majority; it is the rule of law, the protection of minority rights, and the pursuit of justice for all. India's diversity is not a challenge to be subdued but a strength to be celebrated. The argument that a nation should be governed by the majority's wishes overlooks the inherent risks of homogenisation in a pluralistic society.

The UCC, when implemented correctly, can be a unifying force rather than a divisive one. It can address the patriarchal elements embedded in many personal laws, thus advancing gender justice. For instance, discriminatory practices such as triple talaq, unequal inheritance rights, and restrictions on adoption can be remedied by a progressive UCC. However, this vision will only materialise if the process of implementation is inclusive, transparent and respectful of cultural sensibilities.

Justice Yadav's remarks also bring to light the critical importance of the judiciary's role in fostering social harmony. The judiciary is not only an adjudicator of disputes but also a moral compass that guides the nation through its most contentious issues. By making statements that could be construed as polarising, members of the judiciary risk undermining the public's trust in their ability to adjudicate fairly. In a society as diverse as India, judicial impartiality is not merely an ideal but a necessity for maintaining the rule of law.

It is also essential to address the broader implications of normalising majoritarian rhetoric. If India were to adopt the logic implied in Justice Yadav's statement, it would set a dangerous precedent internationally. Would we, as a country, condone similar majoritarian governance in other countries, even if it meant the persecution of Hindus, Christians or other minorities? The answer is unequivocally "No". India's moral authority on the global stage has always rested on its commitment to diversity, justice and human rights. Any deviation from these principles would undermine its standing and weaken its voice in advocating for the rights of oppressed communities worldwide.

India's path forward must be guided by the principles of its Constitution. The UCC, as envisioned by the framers, must be a step toward greater inclusivity and justice, not a tool for asserting majoritarian dominance. It should emerge as a consensual framework that accommodates India's diverse cultural fabric while upholding individual rights. Achieving this requires sensitivity, consultation and an unwavering commitment to the constitutional values of equality and fraternity.

The remarks by Justice Yadav, while perhaps made with the intent to support the UCC, risk undermining the principles they seek to uphold. They highlight the urgent need for public officials, particularly those in the judiciary, to exercise restraint and uphold the highest standards of constitutional propriety. In a time when the nation faces increasing polarisation, it is incumbent upon its institutions to act as beacons of unity and justice. India's strength lies in its ability to embrace diversity while fostering a sense of shared identity. The UCC can and should be a part of this journey, but its implementation must reflect the pluralistic ethos of the Constitution.

(The writers are legal professionals and hold Master's degrees in Law.)

# Legal tech has great potential for India

**The evolving landscape of the legal tech industry in India presents myriad opportunities for lawyers to expand their expertise, says Monica Mallela.**

As we all know, India leads the world in legal services outsourcing. Since it first began in the early 2000s, it has evolved considerably, to a level of sophistication previously unimagined. In recent years the advent of AI in legal processes - from e-discovery in litigation, to contractual risk assessment and management, and even the beginnings of AI-supported judicial decision-making - has catapulted legal outsourcing still further, into another realm of capability altogether.

Where once the Indian outsourcing market was limited to the management of back-office functions, evolving quickly to encompass true legal work with the level of complexity growing over time, today with human lawyers working alongside cutting edge technology, far more strategic and nuanced legal tasks can be outsourced. This shift is not only changing the day-to-day working of all lawyers, who are now learning to work seamlessly with alongside AI, but it is also creating newly imagined opportunities for lawyers, technology experts and change management specialists - and for business leaders and investors alike.

The legal outsourcing market today is drastically different from even a decade ago. For those seeking to advance their legal careers or explore business opportunities, the key is to distinguish between the truly innovative and those services lagging behind, positioning themselves to take advantage of this vibrant, evolving market.

**Let us examine the most pivotal, market-changing developments in legal tech in the region:**

- AI and Machine Learning have transformed legal research, e.g., rapid

access to case law, statutes, and legal commentary by the use of advanced algorithms, reducing research time. However, human oversight is essential to check results and avoid hallucinations. The best and most accurate results are achieved when humans and AI work together - which has forever changed how lawyers do their jobs.

- Accelerated by the pandemic, virtual courts have become the norm with e-filing of cases and video hearings now commonplace. The transition continues with the Government's on-going push toward fully digitizing the judiciary.

- Blockchain technology is increasingly being embraced by Indian law firms for creating secure, tamper-proof 'smart contracts' and for use in dispute resolution.

- India has seen the introduction of regulatory sandboxes by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), allowing legal tech start-ups to test innovative services under regulatory supervision, especially in the areas of fintech and legal compliance.

- As outlined above, the outsourcing market has seen significant shifts from its origins of Legal Process Outsourcing, limited to back-office functions and the very simplest of legal tasks (such as document review, legal research, and transcription services) and focused on low-cost-country savings. Today, particularly enabled by AI and other technology, the work capable of being outsourced has moved far up the value chain to Legal Services Outsourcing, encompassing far more strategic and sophisticated legal work - contract management, intellectual property services, M&A due diligence, and eDiscovery and other litigation support.

Advances in technology have only expanded this capability and made the

offering more attractive. Added to this is the impact of the pandemic which drove demand for outsourcing as firms and companies adapted to remote working.

In particular, the eDiscovery industry has seen a surge in demand for project management roles, owing to the complex nature of managing electronic data in legal proceedings.



eDiscovery project managers are responsible for the end-to-end process, including intake, processing, analytics, and production of data. This role encompasses many transferrable skills from law practice, including meticulous attention to detail and an intimate understanding of the legal standards for data handling and privacy.

A crucial aspect of eDiscovery project management is the ability to handle a diverse array of data types, from traditional emails and documents to emerging data forms such as social media content, instant messaging logs, and modern attachments. The challenge lies in the sheer volume and variety of data, neces-

sitating advanced analytical tools and data management strategies to ensure accuracy and compliance.

Client-facing roles in eDiscovery are particularly desirable because they offer increased responsibility and exposure. These positions allow project managers to engage directly with clients, understand their specific needs, and tailor solutions accordingly. This not only enhances project managers' professional growth but also builds stronger client relationships, positioning them as trusted advisors in legal technology and data management.

The evolving landscape of the legal tech industry in India presents myriad opportunities for lawyers to expand their expertise and take on more dynamic, client-centric roles, particularly in eDiscovery project management. By embracing these changes and leveraging advanced technologies, they can significantly enhance their career prospects and contribute to the innovative transformation of legal services.

Ambitious Indian lawyers can now expect to be part of a client-facing team, rather than working hidden away in the background. They shouldn't settle for less.

And businesses and investors eyeing up the opportunities in this sector should not underestimate the continuing transformative potential of legal tech in India. As the industry matures, those who strategically invest in innovative solutions, partner with forward-thinking firms, or even launch specialized services of their own could find themselves at the forefront of a market that shows no signs of slowing. In a field that marries traditional expertise with tomorrow's technology, the forward-looking will undoubtedly find not just growth, but the chance to redefine the future of legal services in India and beyond.

(The writer is Director of Client Services at Eplo, a global technology-enabled services leader to the legal industry and corporations.)



# Champions League: Liverpool stay perfect as Bayern hit five; Villa win

Already guaranteed a spot in the knockout rounds, Liverpool on the brink of a direct ticket to the last 16 stage

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, 11 DECEMBER

Liverpool rode Mohamed Salah's second-half penalty to maintain their perfect record in the Champions League this season by beating Girona 1-0 in an away fixture. The Egyptian international's 63rd-minute penalty at Estadi Montilivi made it six victories from six in the league phase for Arne Slot's side, who top the standings.

Already guaranteed a spot in the knockout rounds, the win puts the Reds on the brink of a definite top-eight finish, which would see them progress straight to the last 16 and bypass the play-offs. Meanwhile, an attacking masterclass from Jamal Musiala and Michael Olise's double led Bayern to a 5-1 win over Shakhtar Donetsk to mark their first away win of the league phase.

Shakhtar had led through Kevin in Gelsenkirchen, but the visitors did not look back after Konrad Laimer equalised with a powerful shot.

Elsewhere, Real Madrid returned to winning ways as they edged Atalanta 3-2 in an entertaining contest in Bergamo. Kylian Mbappe put the visitors ahead early on with his 50th goal of the competition, only for Atalanta to draw level via Charles De Ketelaere's emphatic penalty



on half-time.

Vinicius Junior pounced ten minutes after the interval, then turned provider for Jude Bellingham, but Ademola

Lookman squeezed a shot inside Thibaut Courtois' right post with 25 minutes left. La Dea pushed for an equaliser, and in added time substitute

Mateo Retegui scooped over from close range.

In another match, Nordi Mukiele's 90th-minute winner helped Leverkusen beat Inter

Milan 1-0 and extended their perfect home record. Inter were the only side yet to concede in the league phase, although Nathan Tella's shot

against the crossbar almost changed that after three minutes at the BayArena.

Florian Wirtz's angled drive tested Yann Sommer as Leverkusen had all three attempts on target before the break, but the reigning Italian champions' No. 1 was rarely troubled before Mukiele fired in from close range to secure victory.

The outstanding Musiala then combined with Thomas Muller, setting his captain up to put Bayern ahead just before half-time. Olise's penalty extended Bayern's lead, before Musiala pounced to score a late goal of his own. There was still time for Olise to weave through the Shakhtar defence to add a stunning fifth. Ross Barkley's late deflected drive earned Aston Villa their fourth win of the league phase. The visitors dominated the early stages and took the lead when John McGinn fired in Ollie Watkins' cushioned header, though Leipzig levelled when Loïs Openda capitalised on a mix-up in the Villa defence.

Jhon Duran, who replaced Watkins at half-time, restored the visitors' advantage with a looping, long-range drive. Christoph Baumgartner's volley restored parity for a second time, but Barkley struck late on to move Villa onto 13 points. With it, Leipzig's elimination has been confirmed.

## Ancelotti relieved after Real Madrid beat in-form Atalanta



AGENCIES  
BERGAMO, 11 DECEMBER

Real Madrid emerged victorious against Atalanta with a 3-2 win, to record their third win in the Champions League. After losing their last two games in the competition, Ancelotti claimed the win was a "breath of fresh air."

It was a thrilling game, with five goals and plenty of end-to-end action, but Madrid prevailed in what was a do-or-die encounter for Madrid. The visitors did so against a side, that was unbeaten in their last 14 games, which has seen them sit at number one in the Serie A table.

"This victory is a breath of fresh air because it allows

us to properly prepare for the Champions League matches in January. I hope we have more players and we feel more relaxed today than yesterday," said Ancelotti in the post-match conference.

Mbappe, who left the pitch with a slight niggle before the break, gave Ancelotti's side a lead with a wonderful goal, only for De Ketelaere to equalise from the penalty spot in first-half stoppage time.

In the second half, Vini Jr. and Jude Bellingham brought the score to 1-3, but Lookman put the home side back in the ascendency, but the Italians were unable to break down the Madrid defence again.

## East Bengal take on Odisha FC juggernaut

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
KOLKATA, 11 DECEMBER

Odisha FC will aim to register their third win on the trot

when they face an upbeat East Bengal in an Indian Super League clash at the Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan in Kolkata on

Thursday. The hosts are riding the momentum of their on-going three-game unbeaten run in the competition, which com-

prises two victories on the bounce. Interestingly, the last loss that the red and gold brigade faced in the ISL was against the Juggernauts.

### LIGHTING THE TORCH



Former Asian champion shooter Anjum Moudgil, Techno India Group Co-Chairperson Manoshi Roychowdhury and Techno India Group Sustainability Director Pauline Laravoire lighting the torch at the opening ceremony of Techno Olympia Nights

## TENDER

**GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL**  
**e-TENDER NOTICE**  
On behalf of the Governor of West Bengal, E-Tender is invited by the Chief Medical Officer of Health, Diamond Harbour Health District, South 24 Parganas, Pin-743331 for supply of "Canteen at Lot-8 for CSM-25 under H & FW Department" from resourceful, eligible agency having experience in Govt. Sectors, Technical & Financial Bid Submission Closing Date: For e-Tender 17/12/2024 at 12:00 P.M. For Detail, Please visit the website [www.wbtenders.gov.in](http://www.wbtenders.gov.in) or the Office of the Undersigned, Sd/- CMOH, DHHD, ICA- T22640(2)/2024

**GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL**  
**BIRBHUM ZILLA PARISHAD**  
**SURI, BIRBHUM,**  
**Abridged Notice Inviting e-Tender**  
**Tender Notice No. BHM-N-28-2024-25**  
Memo no-4910/3(1)/B2P, Dated-10/12/2024  
**Online Tender ID-2024\_ZPHD\_782362**  
Additional Executive Officer, Birbhum Zilla Parishad invites e-Tenders for 01 (One) no of work. Detailed information including downloading and uploading time are available from the website [www.wbtenders.gov.in](http://www.wbtenders.gov.in). Sd/- Additional Executive Officer, Birbhum Zilla Parishad, Dated-11/12/2024  
Memo No-152131/Infra&B/IC, Dated-11/12/2024

**GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL**  
**Tender Notice of H&FW Deptt**  
Memo No. of DHFW/ASL/24-25/1961 dt: 06-12-2024 and Tender ID 2024\_HFW\_780216.1  
e-Tender is hereby invited from intending bidders, for the "Procurement of Miscellaneous Items for NQAS Assessment".  
Bid submission closing date: 17-12-2024 at 9:00 am. Other details may be seen from the website: <https://wbtenders.gov.in> and office notice board.  
Sd/- CMOH, Paschim Bardhaman, Dept. of H&FW, Govt. of W.B. ICA- T22625(3)/2024

**GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL**  
**KMDA TENDER NOTICE**  
**e-NIT No: KMDA/HOUSING/EE/ DIV-V/Circle II/NIT-03/2024-2025**  
e-Tender is invited by the Executive Engineer, DIV-V, Circle II, Housing Sector, KMDA (Erstwhile KIT), 1st floor, Block-A, Umamayan Bhawan, DJ-11, Sector-II, Salt Lake, Kolkata-700091, from reliable, resourceful, bonafide and experienced firms / companies / individual / partnership firm contractors, for the work, Name of Work, Estimated Amount, Earnest Money, Time of Completion, Deployment of unskilled labour as Chowkidar for guarding at the offices of KIT Wing at Block A and G at First Floor of Umamayan Bhawan, Salt Lake, Kolkata-700 091 Housing Sector, KMDA from 01.01.2025 to 31.12.2025. Rs.11,65,423/- (including GST), Rs.23,310/-, 01 year, Last date & time of Online Bid submission: 27.12.2024, Time: 17:00 hrs., for details contact the above office or visit both websites. [www.kmda.wb.gov.in](http://www.kmda.wb.gov.in) [www.wbtenders.gov.in](http://www.wbtenders.gov.in) ICA- T22632(3)/2024

**GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL**  
**Abridged e-Tender Notice**  
No: WB/PW/STR/DFD/NIT/12 (e)/2024-25 for Supply and installation of Street Lights(97 Nos.) for JPMC area in Sundarban Tiger reserve. The last date of bid submission is 24.12.2024 for more details, Please visit [www.sundarbantigerreserve.org](http://www.sundarbantigerreserve.org), [www.westbengalforest.gov.in](http://www.westbengalforest.gov.in) & <https://wbtenders.gov.in> Sd/- Deputy Field Director, Sundarban Tiger Reserve ICA- T22675(2)/2024

**GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL**  
**Notice Inviting e-Tender**  
Executive Engineer, P.W.Dte., Kolkata North Health Division, online e-tender are follow / follow: NIT No. WB/PWD/EE-II/KHND/NIT-576/24-25, IC: 2024\_WBPWD\_780373.1, Last Dt. 24-12-2024 at 03:00 P.M. Place – Lady Dufferin Victoria Hospital, Detail information will be obtained from the website <http://etender.wb.nic.in> ID 5d/- Executive Engineer, P.W.Dte., Kolkata North Health Division. ICA- T22715(2)/2024

**GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL**  
**e-TENDER NOTICE**  
e-Tender is invited by the Assistant Engineer, Midnapore Sadar Sub-Division, P.H.E. Dte. on behalf of Governor of West Bengal vide Ref. No. PHE/AE/MSSD/eNIT\_12/2024-2025 (T: ID: 2024\_PHEID\_781819.1.4) for Repair and Renovation. Details will be available in the website: [www.wbtenders.gov.in](http://www.wbtenders.gov.in) The last date for submission of tender is 23.12.2024 upto 18:00 Hours. Sd/- Assistant Engineer, Midnapore Sadar Sub-Division. ICA- T22691(2)/2024

**GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL**  
**KMDA TENDER NOTICE**  
**e-NIT No: KMDA/EMEE/MD-III/ NIT-13 of 2024-25**  
Online Tender is invited by the Executive Engineer, Mechanical Division-III, E-M Sector, KMDA, I, R.N. Tagore Road, Kolkata-700076, from the eligible Agencies, for the work, Name of Works, Estimated Value of work, Earnest Money Deposit, Time of Completion, Replacement of 1 no. BFV (dia. 500 mm), repairing & servicing of actuators, air valves etc. at CWPS Ph-I under 30 MGD BKWTP; supply, delivery and laying of AI conductor armoured cable and allied works within the campus of BKWTP. Items rate (to be quoted by the Bidder), Rs.6,100/-, 10 days from the date of handing over the site, Last date & time of Online Bid submission: 26.12.2024 at 14:00 hrs., for details contact the above office or visit both websites. (KMDA-848) [www.kmda.wb.gov.in](http://www.kmda.wb.gov.in) [www.wbtenders.gov.in](http://www.wbtenders.gov.in) ICA- T22688(2)/2024

**GOVT. OF WEST BENGAL**  
**PROJECT DIRECTOR, DRDC, PASCHIM BARDHAMAN**  
**e-NIT : 01 of 2024-2025**  
**TENDER REF. NO.: E-NIT No.- 01 of 2024-25**  
e-tender (online) is invited from reputed and resourceful contractors for miscellaneous works within Paschim Bardhaman District. Closing date of bid submission is 25.12.2024. For further details, please log on website: <https://wbtender.gov.in>  
Sd/- Project Director, DRDC Paschim Bardhaman

**COIR BOARD**  
MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL & MEDIUM ENTERPRISES  
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
75 Years of Constitution

**APPLICATIONS INVITED FOR COIR TRAINING COURSE AT FOUR DIFFERENT CENTRES OF THE BOARD**

**Six Months Certificate Course of Artisan in Coir Technology: NSQF Level 3.**  
(6 months + 1 month internship) (January '25 to June '25)  
**Last date of receipt of Application 20.12.2024**  
**Eligibility:** Applicant should be able to read and write local language.

**One year Diploma Course in Advanced Coir Technology :NSQF Level 4.**  
(1 year + 3 months internship) (February '25 to January '26)  
**Last date of receipt of Application 10.01.2025**  
**Eligibility:** Pre-Degree / 12th standard or equivalent passed.

**Common requirements for above two courses**

- Age : between 18 to 50 years.
- Candidates sponsored by the Coir factory/ Coir Co-op. societies as per the R & L Rules 1958 are given preference.
- 20% seats are reserved for SC/ST candidates.

**Free Hostel facilities available in following Centres.**  
1.Bhubaneswar  
2.Thanjavur  
3.Alappuzha (only for ladies)

**Application form can be downloaded from the website of Coir Board [www.coirboard.gov.in](http://www.coirboard.gov.in)**

**NOTE: All communications will be made through email/phone only.**

**An amount of Rs.500/- per month will be reimbursed to the eligible candidates staying outside (male candidates at Alappuzha and all candidates at Rajahmundry)**

**Kochi 06.12.2024 S/d Secretary, Coir Board**



**Meropi for Gold Cup:** The 1,600m Shyam Ferro Calcutta Gold Cup is the feature in a eight event card framed for tomorrow. Meropi is expected to prevail over A Star Is Born in this 1,600m contest.

**Selections:**  
12.30 p.m: SPORTING TRAINER 1, Honey Cake 2.  
1.00 p.m.: WINTER AGENDA 1, Dali Swirl 2.  
1.30 p.m.: CHILILADY 1, Dance Along 2.  
2.00 p.m.: EAGLES FLIGHT 1, Fulcrum 2.  
2.30 p.m: CLIFFORD 1, Black Eagle 2.  
3.00 p.m.: MEROPi 1, A Star Is Born 2.  
3.30 p.m.: FONDNESS OF YOU 1, Pure For Sure 2.  
4.00 p.m: FIERY RED 1, Light The World 2.  
Day's best: Winter Agenda.

Gautam Banerjee

THUMBNAILS

**India should bat first even if there are challenging conditions, says Hayden:** Former Australia opener Matthew Hayden has advised India to bat first in the third Test of the Border-Gavaskar Trophy series against Australia, starting on 14 December, even if the conditions on offer at the Gabba in Brisbane are challenging. The current five-match Border-Gavaskar Trophy series is locked 1-1 after Australia beat India by 10 wickets at Adelaide Oval. The last time India played a Test in Brisbane, they outclassed Australia to win the 2020/21 series.

Pacy, bouncy Gabba challenge awaits Team India in third Test

After 10-wicket drubbing in Adelaide Test, Indians up against tough conditions in Brisbane

TRIDIB BAPARNASH  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 11

Doing away from the tradition of opening the five-Test series for the Border-Gavaskar trophy at the Gabba, India started their tour with a commanding victory in Perth before Australia bounced back strongly in Adelaide, but with the series currently locked 1-1 and with a place in the ICC World Test Championship final at stake, more critically for the tourists, a stiffer challenge awaits the Indians in Brisbane, where the pitch is expected to have more life and bounce during the pre-Christmas window.

Over the past couple of years, the Gabba, once the fortress of the Australians, hasn't yielded the desired outcome for the home side, especially when India broke the 32-year hegemony with a series-defining victory in 2021.

The hosts had been undefeated at the Gabba since 1988 prior to that match, and have also since been shocked by West Indies at the ground last summer.

However, on both occasions, the matches were played in the second half of January, as opposed to the upcoming third Test at the



start of the Australian summer. Players have often pushed for the Gabba to remain as the series opening venue as the bounce often exposes fragilities of touring sides still adjusting to Australian wickets.

In 2021, former Aussie skipper Tim Paine had quipped at one stage he would have to ask then skipper Virat Kohli for permission to play the opening Test in Brisbane.

Even in the lead-up to the 2024-25 Border-Gavaskar Trophy, Mitchell Starc had noted that the January timing of the 2021 Test against India was a factor for their 1-2

loss. Statistically, Australia have lost three of the five Tests played at the Gabba in the post-Christmas window, as opposed to only seven of 61 earlier in the summer.

Three days prior to the third Test of the ongoing Border-Gavaskar Trophy, Gabba curator David Sandurski admitted that the timing effectively impacts the nature of the wicket but asserted that the focus always remains on preparing a traditional Gabba pitch irrespective of the window.

"Different times of year definitely makes it different, it can be a slightly different

pitch," Sandurski said ahead of Saturday's third Test start.

"Pitches later in the season might have a bit more wear and tear while ones early in the season usually are a bit fresher and might have a bit more in them. Generally speaking, we still prepare the pitch the exact same way every time to try and get the same good carry, pace and bounce that the Gabba is known for.

"We are just trying to make a traditional Gabba wicket like we do each year," Sandurski added.

Rain prediction during the Test  
Things could even get

spicier for both sides as weather forecasts suggest there are chances of rain across all five days of the Test.

On Wednesday, the home side was forced to train elsewhere due to poor weather conditions in Brisbane, with a further chance of rain and storms late on Friday.

With the top order of both sides crumbling at different stages in the first two Tests in Perth and Adelaide, Sandurski insisted that the Gabba wicket would provide the right balance between the bat and ball.

During a recent Sheffield Shield played on the ground last month, 15 wickets fell on the opening day of the pink-ball game between Victoria and Queensland before the batters came back strongly after the wicket eased out.

"The aim is to be similar to that wicket where there was a good balance between bat and ball. Hopefully there is a bit in it for everyone," Sandurski asserted.

The third Test begins Saturday at the Gabba, and it will be followed by the Boxing Day Test in Melbourne from December 26-30, before the Border-Gavaskar Trophy culminates with the New Year's Test at the Sydney Cricket Ground from 3-7 January, 2025.

World Chess C'ship: Ding survives Gukesh attack, earns another draw




AGENCIES  
SINGAPORE, 11 DECEMBER


Playing with white pieces in a classical game for the last time in this match, India's D Gukesh came up with an attacking approach but reigning champion Ding Liren of China defended superbly, coming up with precise moves in a nerve-jangling time scramble, to draw the 13th and penultimate game of the World Chess Championship 2024 match here on Wednesday.

The two are tied 6.5-6.5 going into the final game on Thursday with Ding playing with white pieces. In case the final game ends in a draw, both players will clash in a tie-breaker of shorter games that would decide the eventual winner. If Ding wins, he will continue as the 17th Classical World Champion, but if Gukesh wins, he will be the 18th Champion and the youngest ever.


Ding lived by sword once

again, spending a lot of time making his calculation in the opening, as Gukesh applied the pressure, playing with positive intent to slowly create an opportunity. The 18-year-old Indian challenger had taken the upper hand in the middle game but Ding came up with precise answers to every question his opponent posted, defending resolutely to steer himself to safety. Ding had replied with the French Defence to Gukesh's King Pawn Opening, the same system he had used to win the first game. But this time, Gukesh was well prepared and created a lot of trouble for his opponent with some superb moves in the opening and middle game. Once again, both players landed in time trouble. Initially, it was Ding who was facing a race against the clock as he spent 17 minutes on move seven and 37 minutes on the next, trying to counter a bishop move by Gukesh.






सत्यमेव जयते  
Government Of India



Data for Development



Celebrating 75 years of NSS

Opportunity to Contribute towards Nation-building

Let us strengthen the National Statistical System

NSO, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation conducts **Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS)** to provide data on employment scenario in India




Key Outputs of PLFS

Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR)

Worker Population Ratio (WPR)






Unemployment Rate (UR)

All Citizens are requested to co-operate with the enumerators of National Statistics Office (NSO) and provide accurate data



Identity of the individuals participating in the survey is kept confidential in all Reports/microdata of MoSPI

For PLFS Report of NSO, MoSPI, please visit [www.mospi.gov.in](http://www.mospi.gov.in), microdata available at <https://microdata.gov.in/nada43/index.php/home>

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