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GERMAN DIVIDE~II



AMERICAN ROLE IN TARGETING INDIA

'INDIA NOW AMONG TOP 25 GLOBAL ARMS EXPORTERS'

REJUVENATED SINDHU, EYES COMEBACK AT **INDIA OPEN 2025**

P12

SENSEX 76,330.01 ▼1,048.90

23,085.95 345.55

₹ vs \$ 86.50

GOLD 80,600.00

P4

SILVER 1,02,000

BRENT CRUDE (IN \$) 80.68 ▲ 0.92

WEATHER

Generally clear. Cloudy in the evening. Maximum and minimum temperatures likely to be around 27°C and 16°C respectively.

SUN SETS

17:34 hrs

MOON SETS

RAINFALL: NIL **RELATIVE HUMIDITY** Min. 56 % Max. 79 % **TEMPERATURE** Max: 27.2°C Min: 16.3°C

06:29 hrs 17:37 hrs Full Moon on 14 January

THUMBNAILS

SUN RISES

MOON RISES

06:18hrs



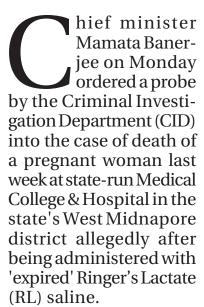
Artists dressed in traditional attire perform during the Sankranti and Pongal celebrations at Union Coal Minister G. Kishan Reddy's residence in New Delhi on Monday. ANI

Retail inflation rate for December cools down to 4-month low at 5.22 pc: India`s retail inflation rate for December eases at 5.22 pc from 5.48 pc in November, data from the Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MoSPI) said on Monday. The inflation has cooled slightly to a 4-month low. The retail inflation, measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI) in November, fell from a 14-month high of 6.21 pc in October. (Page 8)

Expired saline death case: CID probe ordered

In next three days the agency will have to submit their initial report

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE KOLKATA, 13 JANUARY



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It is learnt from sources from Nabanna that the chief minister, Mamata Banerjee held a meeting with state's top officials, including health officials.

Speaking to media persons at the state secretariat of Nabanna on Monday, chief secretary Manoj Pant said that from the sequence of events, it is evident that there was negligence on the part of the doctors attached to the hospital. The chief secretary also

made it clear that the probe by CID in the matter will go on parallelly with the ongoing probe by the state health department appointed

The 13-member expert committee formed earlier to look into it has hinted at negligence of the doctors.

probe committee.

"Strict action will be taken in the matter after the detailed report by the probe committee is available. I will not tolerate any kind of negligence in the matter," the chief secretary said.

"The alleged negli-

gence was from the presence of a PGT, while a senior doctor was conspicuous by his absence, during the time of administering of RL, whose production was stopped. It was a serious violation of the SOP as no senior doctor was present, which should not have been the case," Mr Pant added.

The Chief secretary's announcement to hand over the investigation to CID comes just hours after PILs were filed in Calcutta High Court in the matter.

Last week, five pregnant women were critically admitted at Medinipur Medical College and Hospital after allegedly being administered expired saline.

One of them, Mamoni Ruidas (25), died on Friday.

The remaining four were under treatment at the same hospital.

Three of them were shifted to state-run SSKM Medical College and Hospital in south Kolkata on Sunday night following sharp deterioration in their health conditions.

The West Bengal Health Department has formed a 13-member inquiry committee to investigate how expired saline was administered to these patients.

This incident has revived concerns over similar cases in the state's healthcare system.

India summons Bangladeshi diplomat amidst tensions over border issues

NIKHIL VYAS

NEW DELHI, 13 JANUARY

PEOPLE'S PARLIAMENT, ALWAYS IN SESSION

India on Monday summoned Bangladesh Acting High Commissioner Md. Nural Islam and formally rejected Dhaka's charge that India was attempting to construct barbed wire fencing at five specific locations along the over 4000-KM long Indo-Bangladeshi border.

The Bangladesh Acting High Commissioner was summoned by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) to the South Block here. After the meeting, it was conveyed that with regard to security measures at the border, including fencing, India observed all protocols and agreements between the two governments and between the Border Security Force Guard and Border

Bangladesh. "India reiterated its commitment to ensuring a crimefree border by effectively addressing the challenges of cross-border criminal activities, smuggling, movement of criminals and trafficking. Barbed wire fencing, border lighting, installation of technical devices and cattle fences are measures for securing the border," the MEA said in a statement.

India conveyed its expectation that all earlier understandings will be implemented by Bangladesh and that there

will be a cooperative approach to combating cross-border crimes, it added. The Bangladesh Acting High Commissioner was summoned by the MEA, a day

after Dhaka summoned Indian envoy Pranay Verma to express concern and raise 'objections' over fencing at the border. Amid deepening strain in ties between the two nations, the Indian diplomat was summoned by the foreign

office in Dhaka on Sunday following allegations in the Bangladeshi media that India was attempting to construct barbed wire fencing at five specific locations along the over 4000-KM long Indo-Bangladeshi border. In a statement, the

Bangladesh Foreign Ministry said Indian diplomat Verma was called to Ambassador Md Jashim Uddin's office

over the "recent activities of of the Border Security Force (BSF)" along the Indo-Bangladesh border and told that New Delhi should avoid any "provocative actions that could escalate tensions along the shared border."

It said, "Bangladesh Foreign Secretary Ambassador Md Jashim Uddin on Sunday expressed the deep concern of the Government of Bangladesh to the High Commissioner of India Pranay Verma at his office at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs over the recent activities of the Border Security Force (BSF) of India along the Bangladesh-India Border."

During the meeting with the Indian diplomat, the Bangladesh foreign secretary called the fencing at the India-Bangladesh border "unauthorised" and stressed that such activities "have caused tensions and disturbances along the border."

PM in augurates J&K's Sonamarg tunnel, dedicates it to nation

SP SHARMA

NEW DELHI, 13 JANUARY

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People of India reaffirmed their trust in PM Modi: Ashwini Vaishnaw slams Zuckerberg

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, 13 JANUARY

Union IT and Railways Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Monday expressed "disappointment" over a recent claim made by Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg regarding the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. Speaking on Joe Rogan's

podcast, Zuckerberg sug-

gested that "incumbents

basically lost every single election in 2024", making an indirect reference to India. Zuckerberg's comments on the podcast reflected his

belief that there was a global decline in trust in governments following the Covid-19 pandemic.

He attributed this decline in public trust to factors such as inflation, economic policies related to the pandemic, and the general handling of Covid-19 by governments worldwide.

In his view, this dissatisfaction contributed to the was "decisive" and demon-including India in 2024 elec-



loss of incumbents in elections around the world.

In response to Zuckerberg's remarks, Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw took to the social media platform X to set the record straight, particularly with regard to India's 2024 elections.

He strongly contested Zuckerberg's claim, highlighting that the BJP-led NDA coalition's victory in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections



strated strong governance and public trust.

Ashwini Vaishnaw wrote in his post: "As the world's largest democracy, India conducted the 2024 elections with over 640 million voters. People of India reaffirmed their trust in NDA led by PM @narendramodi Ji's leadership."

He further asserted: "Mr. Zuckerberg's claim that most incumbent governments,

tions, lost post-COVID is factually incorrect."

Ashwini Vaishnaw also highlighted several key achievements under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, including free food distribution to 800 million people, the administration of 2.2 billion free vaccines, and India's role in providing aid to other nations during the Covid-19 pan-

"From free food for 800 million, 2.2 billion free vaccines, and aid to nations worldwide during COVID, to leading India as the fastestgrowing major economy, PM Modi's decisive 3rd-term victory is a testament to good governance and public trust," the Union Minister wrote.

Ashwini Vaishnaw concluded his remarks with a call to uphold facts and credibility, stating: "It's disappointing to see misinformation from Mr. Zuckerberg himself. Let's uphold facts

hearing, the Delhi Assembly

16 million take dip in Sangamon Paush Purnima

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE MAHAKUMBH NAGAR.

13 JANUARY

On Paush Purnima, the first bathing festival Mahakumbh, about 16 million devotees have taken a dip in the confluence of Ganga,

If the claims of the fair administration are to be believed, by late evening the figure may cross 20 million. A government official here

Yamuna and Saraswati by 4

pm on Monday.

has claimed that 16 million devotees have taken a dip in the Sangam till 4 PM. Still a vast sea of devotees including students, youth as

well as elders including women

are reaching the Sangam

bank for bathing. Extensive

security arrangements have been made by the government.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath have



hailed the Mahakumbh in Prayagraj as the "Mahakumbh of Unity," a message that resonated widely on social media, with #Ekta_Ka_Mahakumbh trending during Paush Purnima Snan Parv on Monday, the opening day of Mahakumbh.

Users started sharing posts with #Ekta_Ka_Mahakumbh, celebrating the event's spiritual and cultural significance on social media platforms X and Instagram actively right since morning. By afternoon, the hashtag topped trending charts, showcasing widespread public participation and the collective spirit of unity symbolised by this historic gathering. Thousands of users actively shared photos, videos,

and information related to

the event, sparking widespread engagement. Several hashtags emerged in these discussions, with #Ekta_Ka_Mahakumbh standing out as the most prominent one. By 3:30 pm, nearly 70,000 users had used the hashtag, sharing their experiences of the massive crowd, the Sangam Snan, and the deep spiritual significance of Sanatan faith.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath also joined the conversation, and his use of the hashtag triggered a surge of responses, quickly propelling

#Ekta_Ka_Mahakumbh to the top of the trending charts.

The hashtag was further amplified by influential figures and institutions, including former Amethi MP and BJP leader Smriti Irani, the Government of India's MyGovIndia handle, Namami Gange, Gorakhpur MP Ravi Kishan, UP Agriculture Minister Surya Pratap Shahi, and Minister Sandeep Singh. The overwhelming social media response aligns with the message of unity emphasised by Prime Minister Modi and CM Adityanath, who described the Mahakumbh as a "Mahakumbh of Unity." CM Adityanath recently reaffirmed in a press conference that those who question Sanatan faith should witness the Mahakumbh, emphasising that it transcends distinctions of caste, creed, and sect, bringing all together in the spirit of Sanatan harmony. Alongside

#Ekta_Ka_Mahakumbh, several other hashtags trended throughout the day, capturing the spiritual fervor of the Mahakumbh. Hashtags such as #MahaKumbh2025, #PaushPurnima, #Pavit-

raSangam, #PrathamAmrit, and #Sangam saw widespread engagement as social media users expressed their reverence for the sacred event.

Dragging your feet: Delhi HC slams govt over auditor's report

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, 13 JANUARY

The Delhi High Court on Monday criticised the Delhi Government for its delay in addressing the CAG reports, stating, "The way you have dragged your feet raises doubts about your bona fides."

The court further empha-

sized, "You should have promptly forwarded the reports to the Speaker and initiated a discussion in the House." The bench of Justice

Sachin Datta questioned the Delhi Government's handling of the CAG reports. "The timeline is clear; you've dragged your feet to prevent the session from

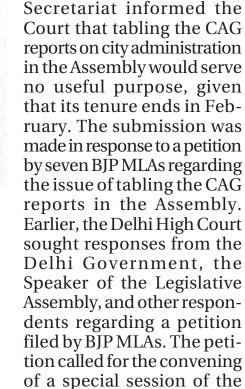
ther remarked. "The delay in sending the reports to the LG and

happening." The court fur-



your handling of the matter raises doubts about your bona fides," it added. The court pointed out that the Delhi Government should have acted promptly in forwarding the reports to the Speaker. In response, the Delhi Government questioned how sessions could be held with elections approaching.

The High Court will hear the matter in detail today itself after lunch. In the matter on the last date of



reports. The Delhi Government informed the Court that all 14 reports had been sent to the Speaker.

Assembly to present 14 CAG

epaper.thestatesman.com

Pilgrim from Rajasthan gets urgent medical attention

The initiative began on 2 January with the Diamond Harbour constituency

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE KOLKATA, 13 JANUARY

ebaashray, a unique initiative to provide free healthcare assistance to the residents living in the areas under Diamond Harbour Lok Sabha seat has evoked overwhelming response from the people with more than two lakh people visiting the camps.

The initiative, which is the first of its kind in the country, has been taken up by Abhishek Banerjee, the local MP and Trinamul Congress national general secretary. The initiative began on 2 January with the Diamond Harbour constituency. The camps will be held in each constituency for 10

A Trinamul Congress communique stated that so far 2,87, 681 people have registered themselves in the camps till date.

The camps in Falta started yesterday. On the inaugural day, the footfall was 11,452



people.

Today, a medical emergency was averted when a cardiac patient who was brought in an unconscious state, received urgent medical intervention through Abhishek's Sebaashray ini-

Expressing gratitude for the timely assistance, the aunt of the youth, who was rushed into the camp in a wheelchair, said, "My sister's son, despite having a pacemaker, loses consciousness

regularly. Today again, after going to the shop, he fainted. After bringing him to this camp, he got immediate medical attention and is now able to breathe. He is doing well now."

At another camp in Falta, Asha, a 58-year-old female pilgrim from Rajasthan, suddenly fell ill at Fatehpur Buffer Zone area while she was on her way to the Gangasagar

The lady was immediately shifted to a camp in Fatehpur



Panchayat Math (ground) where the doctors provided necessary primary treatment to her including oxygen sup-

Asha, who also has a pacemaker installed already, thanked Abhishek and volunteers & doctors of the camp for immediately attending her. She along with her family members is on her way for a holy dip at Gangasagar.

PNSUP rallies in Malda demand recognition

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE SILIGURI, 13 JANUARY

After Cooch Behar, Malda today became the epicenter of another rally by leaders and members of the Paschimbanga Nasya Sheikh Unnayan Parishad (PNSUP), who reiterated their demand for recognition as 'sons of the soil' to protect their community from the potential implications of the National Register of Citizens (NRC).

On 6 January, hundreds of PNSUP members assembled at the Raas Mela Ground in Cooch Behar before marching in a procession to submit a memorandum to the state government through the district administration. Following suit, hundreds of Nasya Sheikh community members gathered in Malda today to press for the same demand.

The protesters also called for the scrapping of the Waqf Bill and an increase in allowances for clerics.

"Our primary demand is for the state government to recognize us as 'Bhumi Putra' (sons of the soil), similar to the Assam model," said Nasiruddin Ahmed, a promi-

The protesters also called for the scrapping of the Waqf Bill and an increase in allowances for clerics.

nent PNSUP leader. "In Assam, indigenous groups enjoy this recognition, shielding them from the uncertainties of the NRC. If we are granted this status, approximately 45 lakh people in North Bengal will be safeguarded from similar threats." The memorandum pre-

sented by the PNSUP outlined a six-point charter of demands, with the primary focus on recognition as 'sons of the soil.' Leaders of the organization argue that the Central government's potential nationwide implementation of the NRC could disproportionately affect the Nasya Sheikh community in North Bengal.

Mr Ahmed further highlighted additional demands, including resolving pending issues around OBC certification and addressing concerns related to Waqf estates.

IIT engineering topper found dead at hostel

BISWABRATA GOSWAMI MIDNAPORE, 13 JANUARY

In a heart-wrenching incident that has left the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kharagpur community in shock, a third-year electrical engineering student, Shaon Malik, was found dead in his hostel room on Sunday. The discovery, made by his parents during a visit to the campus, has sparked an outpouring of grief and raised questions about mental health and support systems at one of India's premier institutions.

According to an institute official, a 21-year-old Malik had spoken to his parents over the phone at 11 pm on Saturday, and there were no indications of distress during the conversation. When there was no response to their calls or knocks on his door, his parents, with the assistance of institute personnel, forcibly opened the door to find him hang-

Shaon's parents, who usually visit their son's hostel almost every Sunday with home-cooked food, drove down to their son's hostel from South Kolkata yesterday too. But, Shaon did not pick up their calls. Around 11.30 a.m., they signed their names at the Azad Hall hostel visitor's register and went up to their son's room, to find it locked from inside.

Expressing grief, IIT-Kharagpur director Amit Patra described Malik as a "topper" and "academically gifted student". "He was also interested in Bengali drama and that he was loved by his professors. He had a bright future ahead. His professors also offered him a good project. We are deeply saddened by this incident and are extending all possible support to the police in their investigation," Patra

State schools attend national education conference on best practices her inaugural speech at the

HEMANT JACOB

HOOGHLY, 13 JANUARY

As a part of its acclaimed series on celebrating school leadership in 2024-25, a three-days conference was organised by the National Centre for School Leadership and National Institute for Educational Planning and Administration in Delhi and was attended by 57 school heads from across different states and Union Territories of India from 8-10th January at India Habitat Centre, New Delhi.

From West Bengal, Dr Ivy Sarkar, the headmistress of Srirampur Girls' High School,

said, "The NCSL conference provided a valuable platform for states to share their experiences in the educational sector, deliberate their best practices, learn from each other and evolve a collective vision for transforming India's educational landscape.

Dr Ivy Sarkar said, as an headmistress from West Bengal, I have tried to project West Bengal's flagship educational initiatives, the best practices of our school focusing on community-school partnership for transformation of schools. We are committed to provide quality education to all our students regardless of their socio eco-



nomic backgrounds. Our initiatives have shown promising results and we are happy to share our experiences with other states. I am thankful to our state government, education department and school

managing committee for providing me with all the support and cooperation all the time. My presentation also focused on the school's initiatives in promoting holistic education, throwing light on the devel-

opment of students' emotional, social and cognitive skills. We have already implemented the holistic progress report cards in our school."

Sonali Mullick, the SMC member of Serampore Girls' High School, said, "We are very proud of the school's participation at this prestigious national conference and we applaud our HM's tireless efforts to provide the best to our students and her participation has brought laurels to our institution and reinforced our commitment to excellence in education.'

Dr Charu Smita Malik, assistant professor, NCSL, during national conference remarked that there were a total of 350 entries from school heads from different parts of the country and they had shortlisted a total of 57 case studies and video documentaries depicting exemplary leadership practices by adopting a rigorous and systematic process of selec-

Dr Sarkar said, "The conference has helped disseminate effective teaching methods, curriculum designs, innovative approaches and institutional strategies. It has provided a platform to stay abreast with the latest developments in

education. I have already decided to implement the concept of ATE (any time education) in myschool. We have recently inaugurated a common room for our Class XI-XII students to spend time during their off periods. The classroom will have XI-XII tutorial videos from Bangla Shiksha classroom (an initiative of the education department), which will be retained in downloaded video forms so that the students can access them any time and make best and effective use of their free periods. This will help us leverage the resources and capacities to improve educational outcomes.'

Maipith tiger caged, treated before release



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE KOLKATA, 13 JANUARY

The Royal Bengal Tiger of Maipith in South 24-Parganas playing hide and seek, has finally been captured and caged and released in forest.

On Monday, the tiger underwent a health checkup, and the process to release it into the deep forest has begun. A team of veterinarians examined the tiger today. Even at midnight, a significant crowd gathered to catch a glimpse. Forest officials transported the caged tiger, covered with tarpaulin, via boat during the night. On Sunday morning, reports of a tiger entering the Kishorimohanpur area in Kultali, South 24-Parganas, prompted forest officials to begin monitoring. The forest area was surrounded with nets, restricting the tiger's movements within a specific zone. A cage was set up in the enclosed area, using a goat as bait. Attracted by the bait, the tiger entered the cage on Sunday night. According to forest department sources, the tiger underwent health examinations on Monday and will soon be released into a deep forest. The South 24-Parganas divisional forest officer (DFO), Nisha Goswami, confirmed that the adult

male tiger is currently healthy. On Sunday morning, res-

idents of Maipith spotted pugmarks near the Ganga riverbank and informed the forest department. Upon arrival, forest officials examined the paw prints. Locals claimed the tiger had crossed the Thakuran river and roamed the forest adjacent to the locality. That part of the forest was subsequently enclosed with nylon nets. Tiger sightings in Maipith are not new. Over the past week, tigers have entered the Maipith coastal police station area from the Azmalmari forest in the Sundarbans three

In Jangalmahal too the fear of tigers has emerged anew. Now, locals claim to have spotted Zeenat's mate in the area. The forest department is working to capture the tiger, but they have yet to trap it in the Belpahari-Purulia

region. In Jhargram another tiger was spotted. "Many teams are now deployed for search operations and for safe capture or rescue of the tiger. All available resources are put at strategic locations to monitor the tiger movement," said Dr S Kulandaivel, Chief Conservator of Forests (Central), late this evening.

JADAVPUR UNIVERSITY

e-Tender are invited from the eligible contractors for the following work e-Tender ID 2025_JU_798827_1 "Supply Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Main Electrical Panel at the Department of Chemical Engineering in JU Main Campus. INR 8,23,469/- (Excluding GST) EMD: INR 16,500/-. Please contact office of the University Engineer, Jadavpur University for physical verification of the work site. For details visit https://wbtenders.gov.in Last date of e-submission is 18.01.2025.

BENFISH G.N. 31, Block, Sector-V, alt Lake City, Kolkata - 700091

Ref. No. BID No.: GEM/2025/B/5787093 Memo No.: 52/VI-43/24 Date: 13.01.2025

BENFISH invites the bid for "Purchase of 9nos. of customized food on wheels built on TATA ACE, EV, Commercial electrical vehicle* from the reliable reputed companies. Start Date 11.01.2025. End Date: 01.02.2025 (Upto 4 PM). For details please visit: https://gem.gov.in

THE DURGAPUR PROJECTS LIMITED (A Govt. of West Bengal Enterprise) CIN NO. U40102WB19615GC025250 NOTICE INVITING TENDER

NIT No. (1) WBDPL/DPPS/PUR/NIT(E)-106 SP/415/2024-25, Tender ID 2024_DPL_797482_1 for Procurement Equivalent) for U#7, DPPS, Bid submission end date: 18.01.2025, Bid Opening date: 22.01.2025. (2) WBDPL/ DPPS/PUR/NIT(E)-107 SP/336/2024-25, Tender ID: 2024_DPL_797485_1 for Procurement of Coal Compartment Assembly of U#8, DPPS. Bid submission end date: 25.01.2025, Bid Opening date: 29.01.2025. Cancellation NIT No. (3) WBDPL/DPP5/PUR/NIT(E)-020 DJ/335/2024-25, Tender ID 2024_DPL_784531_1. (4) WBDPL/ DPPS/PUR/NIT(E)-021 DJ/340/2024-25, Tender ID: 2024 DPL 784488 1 (5) WBDPL/DPPS/PUR/NIT(E)-027 DJ/361/2024-25, Tender ID 2024 DPL 784767_1 are hereby treated as cancelled. Please visit https://wbtenders.gov.in/ ICA- T902(2)/2025

e Tender Notice e-Tender are being invited by the undersigned from bonafied contractors for Construction of Diff. dia. Sluice valve chambers

for water supply scheme under

AMRUT within Bankura Vide Municipality. Reference No. WBMAD/BM/23/ AMRUT/2024-25, Tender ID: 2025 MAD 799864 1 submission closing 28/01/2025 up to 18.00 Hrs. (IST). The details of above tenders may be seen at

http://wbtenders.gov.in

Chairperson

Bankura Municipality

Executive Engineer-II, City Division

PWD, for 1(One) No. Pump operation credential for similar nature of work. Bio on 24.01.2025 at 15.00 hrs. for Tender ID: 2025_PWD_797023_1 Other details may be seen from the web site: http://etender.wb.nic.in & http://wbpwd.in Sd/-Executive Engineer-II, City Division, P.W.D. ICA- T928(2)/2025

ABRIDGED QUOTATION NOTICE Quotation Ref. No. WBPHED/EE/ MAAD/NIeQ_2 of 2024-2025 Tender ID-2025_PHED_79880_1

ast date for submission of Technical and inancial Bid (online): - 22.01.2025 upto 02:00 P.M. Tender invited by the undersigned for one no. work under Malda Arsenic Area W/S Division, P.H.E.Dte. All details available in website: http://wbtenders.gov.in & www.wbphed.gov.in Sd/- Executive Engineer, Malda Arsenic Area W/S Division, P.H.E. Dte. ICA- T911(2)/2025

O/O the Executive Engineer, P.W.Dte. Tamluk, Pin-721636

NOTICE INVITING QUOTATION 2024_WBPWD_766950_3. Bid ission Last date :- 01.02.2025 up to 1:00 PM Opening Date 01:00 P.M. of 04.02.2025. Name Of Work SITC of AC Machine in replacement of old AC machine (approx 10 years old) at different places of, Tmralipta Govt Medical college and Hospital, Purba details can be seen in the above mentioned affice during working hours or in Official Website www.pwdwb.gov.in Sd/-EE, PMED, ICA- T925/31/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

WRI&DD, e-NIQ Executive Engineer (A-M) Midnapore (A-M) Division invites e-quotation for supply and delivery of different materials under Non-Plan 2024-25 under Midnapore (A-M) Division vide Tender reference no-WBWRDD/EE(AM)MID /eNIQ-32 / 2024-25. Tender ID:- 2025_WRDD_798918_1. Last date of dropping: 21.01.2025 (02.00 pm) Intending bidders are requested to visit the website http://wbtenders.gov.in for details.

> Executive Engineer (Agri-Mech) Midnapore (Agri-Mech) Division, Midnapore ICA-T905(2)/2025

Officer-in-Charge, GGDC at Kaliganj, Debagram, Nadia, invites e-Tender for providing Security Services at the College premises against NIT No. WB / DHE / GGDCK SECY / NIT-1 / 2025-26. For http://wbtenders.gov.in and

College website: www.kaliganj govtcollege.ac.in Officer-in-Charge Govt. General Degree College at Kaliganj

Debagram Nadia

CORRIGENDUM NOTICE

Engineer, Nadia Arsenic Division-I, P.H.E. Dte on behalf of Governor of West Bengal vide Ref. No. WBPHE/12/NAD of 24-25 ID 2024_PHED_783085_1 to 9 & Ref No. WBPHE/13/N AD -1 of 24-25 ID 2024 PHED 791494 1 to 9 Nadia Arsenic Division-I, P.H.E. Dte Kalyani, Nadia. Details will be available in the website: wbtenders.gov.in in the revised last date for online submission of tenders is 17.01.2025 at 12:00 P.M. Sd/-Executive Engineer Nadia Arsenic Division-I, P.H.E. Dte. ICA-T912(2)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL Executive Engineer, Salt Lake

Construction Division invites e-tender vide Tender ID No 2025_UDD_795407_1, vide NIQ No. WBUDMAD/SE/SLRDC/NieQ-7/2024-2025 OF EXECUTIVE ENGINEER/SALT LAKE CONSTRUCTION DIVISION dated 07/01/2025 Value of work is not 14/01/2025 at 11:00 hrs. Last date of submission of bid online only is 28/01/2025 up to 13:00 hrs. All the website: https://wbtenders.gov.in Detailed information can also be seen in

website https://www.wburbanservices.gov.in Engineer, Salt Lake Construction

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL KMDA TENDER NOTICE

Superintending Engineer, FAWS-II Circle, W&S Sector, KMDA, 1st Floor, Block-C, Innavan Bhayan, Salt Lake City, Kolkata from eligible and resourceful contactors, for the work, Name of Work, Estimated Amount, Earnest Money, Time of completion, Supplying and delivery of Alumino Ferric Alum Cake IS marked naterials as per IS: 299-2012 (Fifth Revision) of Grade-IV solid Alum 1000.00MT within KMA area., Rate to be quoted, NIL, 01 (one) year From the date of insuance of Letter of Acceptance /Purchase Order, End date & time of online Bid submission; 06.02.2025, Time 18.50 hrs., for details contact the above office (KMDA-1025)

ICA-T940/31/2025 GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

KMDA TENDER NOTICE e-NIT No : 30/EE/D-III/W&S/KMDA o 2024-2025 (2nd Call)

www.kmda,wb.gov.in

www.wbtenders.gov.in

e-Tender is invited by the Executive Engineer, DIV-III, GRWW, W&S Sector, KMDA. Bidhangarh. Kolkata-700066. from eligible reliable, resourceful, bonafied and experienced Firms / Companies Individual contractors, for the work, Name of Work, Estimated Amount, Earnest Money, Time of Completion, Supply and Dosing of high strength Calcium Hypochlorite Granular Chlorine through mechanical stirring system for making solution of water and calcium based granules directly charged on line injection by mechanical regulated dosing pumps during supply hours to achieve the chlorine doxing at doxing point upto 0.50 P.P.M. & 0.70 PPM during non-monsoon & monsoon period respectively, throughout the supply from 0.25 MG UGR of Budge Budge Municipality for a period from 09:01:2025 to 31:12:2027, Rs:22:92:074/-, Rs.45,841/-, 1087 Days (35 Months 23 Days), End date & time for online Bid submission: 05.02.2025 at 18:30Hrs., for details contact the above office or visit both (KMDA-1036) www.kmda.wb.gov.in

www.wbtenders.govin ICA-T943(3)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL WRI&DD, e-NIT

The Executive Engineer(A-M), Raiganj (A-M) Division, WRDD invites e-tender of Repairing and Rewinding of 22 (Twenty and Repairing, Overhauling and Renovation Of Eicher and Ruston 2yda Air Cooled Diesel Engine for different RLI schemes under Raiganj (A-M) Division , vide e-NIT No.12 of 2025_WRDD_799107_1 to 3 and amount put to tender is Rs.599080.00, last dropping date Intending Bidders are requested to visit the website https://wbtenders.gov.in for details.

Executive Engineer.(A-M), Raigani (A-M) Division, Karnajora, Raiganj, Uttar Dinajpur ICA-T917(2)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

QUOTATION NOTICE e-Quotations are invited by the Sericulture, Govt. of West Bengal, 45 Ganesh Chandra Avenue, Kolkata-13 from Bonafide and resourcefu contractors for annual maintenance of walk-in Cold rooms through e-tendering portal- www.wbtenders.gov.in for the Quotation ID nos III) 2025_DOT_795830. 2025_DOT_795865 vi) 2025_DOT_795984 vii) 2025_DOT_796014 viii) 2025_DOT_796109_ ix) 2025_DOT_796158_1. Last date of submission of online bids- 22.01.2025 upto 15:00 hrs. Details can be obtained from www.seriwbgov.org and Notice

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL KMDA TENDER NOTICE e-NIT No. EE (O&M-HB)/3T-01/2019/

Executive Engineer, Directorate of

ICA-T907(3)/2025

ICA-T893(3)/2025

Online Tender is invited by The Executive Engineer, Division-O&M-IIB, W&S Sector, KMDA, 83/1A, Vivekananda Road, 3rd Floor, Kolkata-700006, from reliable resourceful, bonafide and experienced firms / companies / individuals /partnership firm contractors, for the work, SL no. Name of Work, Estimated Amount, Earnest Money, Time of Completion, (1) Repairing/Replacement of 1 no 100 mm dia Air Release Valve and Sluice Valve near Dangapara Pump House, 2 nos. 100 mm dia Air Release Valve and sluice valve near Hati Park and I no 100 mm dia Air Release Valve and Sluice Valve near Salt Lake Goli under ward No 02, 1 no 100 mm dia Air Release Valve and Sluice Valve near Bakultala under ward no :-08, 1 no 100 mm dia Air Release Valve and sluice valve near 4 no Suryasen Nagar Culvert under ward no ;-13, 1 no 150 mm dia Air Release Valve and Sluice Valve at Adarsha Pally near Rail Line under ward no :-20 and 1 no 100 mm dia Air Release Valve and Sluice Valve near Post office under ward No :-22 within Khardah Municipal Area., Rs.4,60,633/-, Rs.9,500/-, 181 days, (2) Diversion of existing DI pipe line by MS pipe line hump for crossing high drain including installation of Air release valve at Shantosree Pally culvert near Vivekananda Stadium, Ward no. 2 and near Anti-Maleria Khal, Hindustani Para, Ward No. 1 within Khardah Municipal area., Rs.3,36,079/-, Rs.7,000/-, 181 days, Last date & time of online Bid submission: 22.01.2025 Time: 17.00 hrs., for details contact the above office or visit (KMDA-1022) www.kmdn.wb.gov.in www.wbtenders.gov.in ICA-TB39(2)(2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

West Bengal Medical Services Corporation Ltd. is inviting electronic bids for supply and commissioning of POC cartridge based diagnostic system analysis of Cardiac Markers, Infection Markers, Flexibility of using C-Tip method & in-built printer for the Department of Trauma Care Centre at IPGME&R-SSKM Hospital as per details

Equipment Name : POC cartridge based diagnostic system analysis of Cardia Markers, Infection Markers, Flexibility of using C-Tip method & in-built printer (01). Bid Ref. No.: WBMSCL/NIT-038/2025, Dated - 10.01.2025. Last date of submission of online bid: 21.01.2025 up to 05:00 P.M. Interested Bidders may download the tender document and submit their bids online at the website

www.wbtenders.gov.in The tender document may also be downloaded from the websites www.wbhealth.gov.in and www.wbmsc.gov.in 5d/- General Manager, WBMSCL & Joint Secretary, H&FW Dept

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL MIDNAPORE KHARAGPUR DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

(A Statutory Authority of the Government of West Bengal) Sahid Kshudiram Zilla Parikalpana Bhavan (2nd Floor) Zilla Parishad Complex, Paschim Medinipur - 721101 Phone No. 03222 - 261739, e-Mail ID : mkdamidnapore@gmail.com

Expression of Interest

EOI No. 2/MKDA/2024-25 -tendering for Expression of Interest (EOI) is invited from reputed/experienced Consultancy Firms/ Companies/ Organizations for Preparation of Land Use Map & Register (LUMR) as per the provision of West Bengal Town and Country (Planning and Development) Act 1979, as amended up to till date for an area of 147972.03 acres or 598.82 Sq.Km. for planning area of Midnapore Kharagpur Development Authority (MKDA). NIT & Tender Documents may be Viewing on and from 14-01-2025 at 18:00 Hours and Tender Documents downloaded and submitted on & from 15-01-2025 at 12:00 Hours. Closing of Downloading & Submission of the Bidding Documents on 29-01-2025 at 12:00 Hours. Details of NIT & Tender Documents may be downloaded and submitted from www.wbtenders.gov.in Sd/- Executive Officer, MKDA & ADM, Paschim Medinipur.

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

Notice Inviting E-Tender Online bids are invited by the Director of Animal Husbandry & Veterinary

Services, West Bengal, Prani Sampad Bhavan, LB-2, Sector-III, Salt Lake City, Kolkata-700106 for the following: Bid submission Bid submission

Supply of Vitamins, Feed Supplements, 14.01.2025 04.02.2025 Herbal Medicine across the state of West Bengal - 8 items (3rd call) Supply of Spirit, Tinctures, Laboratory chemicals, Kits & others across the state 04.02.2025 14.01.2025 of West Bengal - 29 Items (3rd call)

The detailed N.I.T. may be obtained from e-tender portal http:// www.wbtenders.gov.in. The N.I.T may be viewed from the website http:/

Director of Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Services, West Bengal

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

West Bengal Medical Services Corporation Ltd. is inviting electronic bids for

procurement of different type of medical equipments for health facilities of Govt. of West Bengal as per details indicated in the table below: A. Procurement of Different Medical Equipment for Calcutta National Medical College & Hospital: Last date of submission of poline bid

Si No.	Equipment Name	Bid Ref. No.	Lest date of submission of online bid	Remarks	
1	Electro Surgical Unit (APC Enabled) (01)	WBMSCL/NIT-032/2025; Dated = 10.01.2025	03:02:2025 up to 05:00 PM	2"5 call of Bid Ref. No. WBMSCL /NiT-370/2024 dated -21.06.2024	
	ocurement of Neonata ata:	Ventilator with HFO for Pe	dietric Medicine in A	Medical College & Hospital	
SI No.	Equipment Name	Bid Ref. No.	Last date of submission of online bid	Remarks	

Neonatal Ventilator WBMSCL/NIT-033/2025: 03.02.2025 up to Dated - 10.01.2025 nterested Bidders may download the tender document and submit their bids online at the website www.wbtenders.gov.in The tender document may also be downloaded from the websites www.wbhealth.gov.in and www.wbmsc.gov.in Sd/- General Manager, WBMSCL & Joint Secretary, H&FW Dept. ICA-T900(3)/2025

THUMBNAILS

Paralympic athlete Navdeep Singh inaugurates marathon: FTS Yuva, the youth wing of Friends of Tribals Society organised its annual flagship event **Ekal Run on Sunday where** participants ran for their chosen category of timed run - 21km, 10km, 5km and non-timed /fun run of 3km at the marathon. The Ekal Run was inaugurated by Navdeep Singh, paralympic athlete and javelin thrower. The event was also attended by actor Rahul Dev Bose, Brig. N Romeo Singh. deputy director general, NCC Directorate West Bengal & Sikkim and many others. Speaking to the media, Gaurav Bagla, president FTS Yuva, Kolkata Chapter said, "We are truly elated to have witnessed the tremendous participation and enthusiasm at the 6th Edition of Ekal Run. The funds raised will go a long way in supporting the education of tribal children across rural India through Ekal Vidyalayas." sns

5 Bangladeshi infiltrators arrested in Sonarpur

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE KOLKATA, 13 JANUARY

Five alleged Bangladeshis infiltrators were arrested on Monday from Sonarpur area in South 24-Parganas dis-

According to police sources, hiding their identities they were working in a cloth mill in Sonarpur. All the accused are male and have been staying in a rented house at Baikunthapur under the Sonarpur police station for the past one year. The owner of the house has been absconding soon after their arrests.

They had allegedly entered India illegally and arranged their jobs at the mill showing fake documents.

Nowadays, their movements in the area became suspicious at the backdrop against the ongoing violence mainly atrocities on minorities in Bangladesh. Sensing something suspicious in their gestures local police were informed seeking to keep watch on their movements.

Acting on a tip-off, officers from Sonarpur police station started keeping a close watch on the group, who never interacted with their neighbours, before arresting them, sources added.

"These five persons illegally entered India about a year ago. They concealed their identities and were working at a cloth mill. We are talking with their neighbours to find out more about their activities They will be produced in a local court this afternoon," the police sources requesting anonymity said.

Recently, one Bangladeshi infiltrator was arrested from at Marquez Street in the Park Street area. He had been staying in the Khidderpore area for the last one and a half years using fake documents like passports etc.

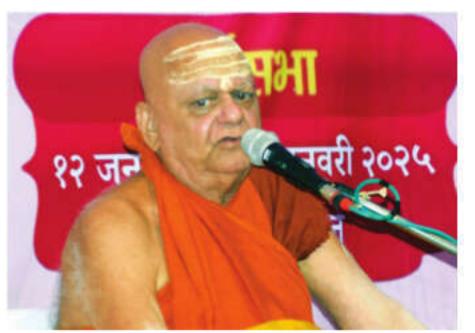
'I declare Gangasagar Mela a national fair'

'BJP's hidden agenda is to first capture West Bengal

RAJIB CHAKRABORTY GANGASAGAR, 13 JANUARY

ıri's Shankaracharya Swami Nischalananda Saraswati criticized Prime Minister Narendra Modi over Centre's apathy regarding the issues of erosion in Gangasagar and the construction of a bridge over the Muriganga river during a Press conference at Gangasagar, 1,533 kilometres away from the capital city of Delhi.

He suggested that Modi should adopt a softer approach toward West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee, as people not only from Bengal but also from other states visit Gangasagar. He stated, "Whether the government announces it or not, I declare Gangasagar Mela a national fair. I come here every time because of its national significance. BJP's hidden agenda is to first capture West Bengal and then declare Gangasagar as a national fair. However, Gangasagar is a sacred place for Hindus. If political gains



are pursued, the sanctity of such an important place will be lost."

Shankaracharya's comments are expected to bolster the ruling party ahead of the 2026 Assembly elections. While speaking from Gangasagar, the Shankaracharya appeared to praise Mamata Banerjee. He lauded the state government for constructing a bridge over the Muriganga without any central assistance. He also remarked that the importance of Gangasagaris no less

than the Mahakumbh, which costs Rs 30,000 crore.

However, he opposed the modernisation projects that might harm the environment of Gangasagar. Over the years, this once-remote pilgrimage site has seen the expansion of connectivity, along with the construction of hotels, lodges, and picnic spots. Without naming anyone, the Shankaracharya criticised the state government, stating that such activities are not appropriate for a sacred place like

Gangasagar. The Shankaracharya also sharply criticised the central government and the BJP. He said, "Today, Modi inaugurated the Ram Mandir for electoral purposes. Tomorrow, they might inaugurate the Jagannath temple, followed by other temples. This is sheer madness of the ruling party. Religious events are being blatantly used for political purposes.'

He also criticized state BJP and certain sadhus associated with declaring Ayodhya-like Ram Mandir construction in West Bengal. Regarding the construction of a temple in Digha modelled after Puri's Jagannath temple, the Shankaracharya of Puri stated he has no objections. However, on the topic of Joshimath, he remarked that development cannot come at the cost of destroying forests, hills, and rivers. A harmonious balance between politics, development, and the environment is essential for creating a prosperous society and ensuring the welfare of people.

Holy dip begins amid enhanced facilities, security

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE GANGASAGAR, 13 JANUARY

The holy dip for Makar Sankranti will begin on Tuesday at 6.58 a.m. and continue until Wednesday morning. However, pilgrims have already started gathering at Gangasagar. People from various parts of the country are attending the fair, and many have already taken a dip in the Ganga to avoid the rush on the main day of the Sankranti.

According to the administration, three pilgrims have died so far due to heart attacks. NDRF personnel reportedly recovered a body from the waters of the Sagar this morning near ghat 3 and informed the police. It is believed that the deceased passed away due to illness. Among the deceased are Dev (59) from Haryana and Rajeshwar from Uttar Pradesh. Another pilgrim

from Uttar Pradesh passed away yesterday. Youth affairs and sports minister Aroop Biswas stated that a total of 55 lakh pilgrims have arrived. Guides, known as Sagar Bandhus, have been assigned to every bus for the pilgrims' assistance. To ensure the availability of safe drinking water, sufficient water pouches and 14 mobile treatment units have been arranged. Additionally, QR-coded wristbands are being distributed to elderly and child pilgrims to help locate them if they go missing. Through a digital system, pilgrims can now access all fair-related infor-

mation via QR codes. This

includes details about drinking

water, toilets, ATMs, healthcare

centres, information centres,

buses, launch schedules,

parking details, and route

directions. To preserve mem-

ories of the holy dip at the

Sagar Sangam, pilgrims are

receiving free personalized certificates with their photos from "Bandhan" photo booths.

For precise information about the location of buses, launches, and vessels, the district administration is utilising ISRO-developed NavIC technology at the Gangasagar Mela 2025. This system helps guide lost passenger vessels from the mega control room. All vehicles are being monitored using GPS tracking, and the pilgrim transport management system (PTMS) is overseeing transportation around the clock. Passenger buses and launches have been brought under the GPS tracking system to ensure smooth management. Additionally, 853 pilgrims who were reported missing at the fair have been reunited with their families with the help of the administration and volunteers.

Youngmother's death: PILs in Cal HC

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE KOLKATA, 13 JANUARY

The incident of a young mother's death and four other mothers' severe illness after they were allegedly administered with intravenous (IV) fluids of particular brand on Monday reached the Calcutta High Court.

Two public interest litigations (PILs) were filed today separately in the HC by lawyer Phiroze Edulji and lawyer Kaustav Bagchi.

The HC will hear the case filed by the petitioner Mr Edulji on Thursday seeking a CBI probe into the death of the young mother and illness of the four other pregnant women.

Mentioning the matter before a division Bench presided by Chief Justice T S Sivagnanam, the petitioner prayed for the constitution of a special investigation team to probe the alleged use of contaminated or expired intravenous fluid

Mr Edulji informed the court that the company supplying the intravenous fluid had been red-flagged in March 2024 by the Karnataka government and banned the firm from supplying the product for three years.

in the MMCH.

Mr Edulji prayed that the investigation be transferred to the CBI to ensure impartiality and transparency. The division Bench, also

Kolkata-Patna Garibrath,

comprising Justice Hiranmay Bhattacharyya, said the matter would be taken up for hearing on Thursday.

The court directed the petitioner's lawyer to notify the state Advocate General's office to ensure representation by the government during the hearing.

Finally, the state department decided to stop the existing stock of the RL saline supplied by the Paschim Banga Pharmaceuticals Pvt Ltd in all hospitals. In an urgent notice issued by the Central Medical Stores has directed superintendents of all hospitals in districts saying, "The existing stock, if any, should be withdrawn from wards/hospitals."

Makeoverfor **Namkhana** and Kakdwipstations

KOLKATA, 13 JANUARY

With the country's second largest congregation kicking off, two transit points leading to the Gangasagar venue, including Namkhana and Kakdwip have got a make over by Sealdah division.

Kakdwip and Namkhana

stations serve as part of the elaborate arrangements made by the division, a total of 102 additional train services have been announced between Sealdah and Namkhana for the mela days. Designated mela officers are also to camp at Kakdwip from 12-17 January and ensure proper arrangements at nominated stations and co-ordinate with authorities. To cater to the enormous crowd, the division has given a makeover with vibrant decor and equipped with modern amenities to the two crucial stations enroute the Mela. According to the Eastern Railway, both stations have been adorned with the walls embellished with captivating paintings showcasing the breathtaking beauty of the Sundarbans, a UNESCO World Heritage site, renowned for its diverse ecosystem and the majestic Royal Bengal Tiger. These artistic representations serve as a visual feast for the pilgrims and highlight the region's natural wonders. To ensure asafe and hygienic pilgrimage, Sealdah division has constructed a substantial number of modern toilets and bathrooms, equipped with stateof-the-art facilities for both male and female passengers. According to the divisional railway manager of Sealdah, Deepak Nigam, the amenities have been strategically placed throughout the stations. sns

Sealdah division to suspend train run in Dum Dum-Dankuni route from 23 January

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE KOLKATA, 13 JANUARY

Commuters availing local trains in Dum Dum-Dankuni route, might have to tweak their transport options next week. The Sealdah division of the Eastern Railway has decided to suspend trains movements in Dum Dum-Dankuni stretch from early hours of 23-26 January to enable replacement of old steel girders in rail over bridge between Bally Ghat and Bally halt.

According to the divisional railway manager of Sealdah, Deepak Nigam, a 100-hour block is to be taken from 12 a.m. of 23 January to 4 a.m. of 27 January during which the British-era rail over bridge called Bridge 15 CCR would be repaired. The crucial rail bridge was constructed in 1931 and is highly corroded mainly due to ageing. "The steel girders have been corroded beyond



repair and need urgent replacement," informed the DRM, Mr Nigam at a Press meet today. "The work would be done in a stretch of about 220 metres involving providing RCC boxes and laying of ballast tracks among other works," he added.

During the mega block period, the divisional railway authorities have decided to suspend train movements between Dum Dum-Dankuni resulting in the cancellation of 22 local EMUs and six pairs of mail/express trains. The list of mail express trains cancelled during the block period includes

Tebhaga Express, Sealdah-Siuri Express, Dibrugarh-Kolkata Express, Sealdah-Jangipur Road Express and Sealdah-Asansol Intercity Express. Also, Uttarbanga and Sealdah Puri Duronto Express would originate from/terminate at Howrah instead of Sealdah on the block days. "For the cancelled mail express trains, the ticket amount would be refunded to the passengers," informed the DRM. "Following the running of Mail/Express trains via diverted route, the frequency of train operation of Sealdah main and North section would also slightly increase by 1/1.5 minutes during the period," he pointed out.

To handle the train movements strategically during the mega block, the divisional authorities have also announced diversion of 17 pairs of mail/express trains via Dumdum-Naihati.

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL WEST BENGAL VALUATION BOARD Notice relating to Dum Dum Municipality

Public Notice No: 74/WBVB Dated: 14.01.2025 Under provisions of Sub-section (1) of Section 9 of the West Bengal Valuation Board Act, 1978 (West Bengal Act LVII of 1978) the Govt. of West Bengal by Notification No. 185/ UDMA-11014(47)/5/2022-ESTT-MA Dated, Kolkata, the 20th July, 2022 has specified that the General Valuation of land and buildings within the Dum Dum Municipality area in the district of North 24 Parganas shall be taken up by West Bengal Valuation Board. In accordance with the Section 16 of the West Bengal Valuation Board Act, 1978 and the Rules made there under, every owner or occupier of land and building(s) in Dum Dum Municipality area is mandatorily required to file a statement (Schedule III) within 90 days from the date of this public notice regarding the particulars of his / her holding for the purpose of determination of annual valuation. The statement is required to be furnished in the Form as specified in Schedule III of the West Bengal Valuation Board (Valuation of Land and Buildings) Rules 1984, which is available free of cost in the Board's office or in the Camp Office of the Board at Dum Dum Municipality on any working day (except Saturday and holidays) between 11:00 am and 4:00 pm. All concerned of Dum Dum Municipality area are accordingly requested to submit such statement within 90 days of publication of this Notice at the aforementioned camp office of the Board or in this Board's office as a statutory obligation on their part. Failure to provide the information or filling false information regarding the municipal holding (land or building) may lead to penal action as per section 25 of the West Bengal Valuation Board Act, 1978.

Dated: 14/01/2025 West Bengal Valuation Board Member Secretary Poura Prashasan Bhavan, Bidhannagar, Kolkata - 700064 West Bengal Valuation Board ICA- N 17(2)/2025

Pratap Singh Shami, SDG RDSO visits Braithwaite and Co

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

KOLKATA, 13 JANUARY

Pratap Singh Shami, special director general (vendor development) of the Research Designs and Standards Organisation (RDSO) along with Sanjay Kumar, CMM (G)/ER, Dr Sunil Kumar Sharma, executive director, QA (mechanical), Kolkata and RDSO team, visited Braithwaite & Co. Limited (BCL), a Miniratna-I CPSE. under the ministry of railways in the first week of January.



During his visit, Shami conducted a comprehensive inspection of the facility and observed various stages of wagon manufacturing. He expressed keen interest in the production processes, quality control measures, and innovative practices being

implemented in the workshop. Mr Shami interacted with the workforce and management, gaining insights into the organization's efforts to enhance efficiency and meet the growing demand for high-quality rail wagons.

Dr Sunil Kumar Sharma, executive director, OA (mechanical), also impressed upon the importance of expanding and strengthening the vendor base to make the railway supply chain more resilient and efficient.



Exit from Prayagraj Chheoki Station - from GEC Road side only Entry to Prayagraj Chheoki Station - from COD Road side only

Passenger enclosures made for different directions at Prayagraj Chheoki station

Exit from Subedarganj Station - from GT Road side only

Entry to Subedarganj Station - from Jhalwa side only

Passenger enclosures made for different directions at Subedarganj Station

Direction

Towards Mirzapur, Pt. Deen Dayal

Upadhyaya Jn. (Mughalsarai)

Towards Manikpur, Virangana

Lakshmibai Jhansi, Satna, Jabalpur

For Reserved Ticket Passengers

Platform No.

From Announced

Platform No.

Entry

Gate No.

1B

1A

Enclosure

No. & Colour

Green

Colour

Red

Z Colour



'Indianow among top 25 global arms exporters'

Sitharaman said India needs to build tech-savvy forces to protect its digital world



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, 13 JANUARY

nion Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday said India needs to build tech-savvy forces to protect its digital world, which is a catalyst for economic growth, at a time when technology, if misused by vested interests, can threaten the country's financial services and national security.

now stands among the top 25 global arms exporters.

'From being the second largest arms importer in 2015

to 2019, as I said, India is now among the top 25 arms exporters with over 100 companies exporting products like BrahMos missiles, Pinaka rocket systems, and Dornier aircrafts," she said.

During her address at the 4th Convocation Ceremony of Rashtriya Raksha University in Gandhinagar, Gujarat, the finance minister, "At this juncture, it is important for us to recognize new challenges which are facing the country's security, and not just at the She further said that India borders. Today, technology doesn't wait to recognize borders. Technology, as much as it's available for us to increase productivity, is also

being misused by some vested interests or dark forces."

Country's Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI), which has become an enabler in the lives of people, is also facing threats, including banks, stock markets, payment institutions, or platforms running online marketing or cab services, she said.

Sitharaman also emphasised that India has achieved unprecedented growth in indigenous defence production. In the financial year 2023-24, the country reached a record-high defence production value of Rs 1.27 lakh crore, marking a 2.7-fold increase compared to 2014-

Defence exports also hit an all-time high of Rs 21,083 crore in 2023-24, a remarkable leap from just Rs 686 crore in 2013-14, representing a 30-fold increase over a decade.

She stated, "Now, India has achieved the highest ever growth in indigenous defence production, and this is where I'd like to share the number. In value terms, today we've reached a record high of Rs 1.27 lakh crores in 2023-24."

Sitharaman highlighted the importance of coastal security and maritime trade in national security, and lauded the Rashtriya Raksha University for training Indian coastal security forces and noted that over 80 per cent of global goods trade is carried by ships. She further emphasized the government's focus on improving port infrastructure, stating that India's port capacity has doubled in the last decade.

"Over the last decade, we have doubled the capacity of our ports. And I want you to be sure that the policy of Prime Minister Narendra Modi is to ensure that our borders are given that much attention with policy and

Keralite, who sought rescue from Russian mercenary force, dies in warzone in Ukraine

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM. 13 JANUARY

Binil TB, a native of Kerala's Thrissur, who was trapped in a Russian mercenary force since last June and suffered critical gunshot wounds in Ukraine, passed away on Monday The Indian Embassy has officially informed the family of Binil (32), who hailed from

Kuttanellurin Thrissur, about He suffered injuries during a his death. He succumbed to gunshot wounds sustained in a war zone in Ukraine. The death occurred amid ongoing efforts to rescue and repatriate victims of human trafficking.

Meanwhile, another Keralite, Jain, a native of Kuranchery in Thrissur who was also part of the Russian mercenary force, reached Moscow after being injured in the Ukraine conflict.

shelling attack in Ukraine and was hospitalised for treatment. He was shifted to a Moscow hospital two days ago. He informed his family of his arrival in Moscow via a WhatsApp call

Binil, Jain, and a few others had travelled to Russia through an agent based in Chalakudy. They were told they would be given a job as electricians, but it later became clear that they were trapped in a dire situation. A Keralite agent in Russia had deceived them, leading to their forced involvement with a mercenary group.

They later recorded a video appealing for assistance to return home.

Their companion, Sandeep, a native of Thrikkur, was also killed in the conflict, it has been reported.

Keel-laying ceremony for new training ship for Indian Coast Guard held

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, 13 JANUARY

The keel-laying ceremony for a new training ship (Yard 16101) for the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) was conducted at Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd (MDL), Mumbai on Monday. Designed to enhance training capabilities, the ship will have a range of 7,500



nautical miles and be equipped with specialized facilities, including a training bridge for cadets, a chart house, and dedicated classrooms, ensuring a high-quality learning experience at sea.

Once commissioned, the ship will serve as a vital resource for the training of 70 under-trainee officers, including women officers, following their basic training

According to a statement from the Ministry of Defence,

the ship will measure 107 meters in length and is capable of achieving speeds up to 20 knots. The vessel will incorporate cutting-edge technology, including AI-based predictive maintenance systems, a multipurpose drone, and advanced systems such as the Integrated Bridge System and Integrated Platform Man-

agement System.

Classified

CHANGE OF PUBLIC NOTICE

ক্লায়েন্ট শ্রীমতি গুরুলী মত্মদার, স্বামী শ্রী

পার্ক (হাঁসপুরুর), কলিকাতা- ৭০০১০৪

বিশস্ত ইংরাজী ০৮/১০/২০২১, তারিশে

alb. an, चार, (राशना (तकिश्री) चकिए

রেজিন্টীকৃত ১২৫৩১ নং বিক্রম কোবাল

পদিদম্পে আমার বায়া শ্রীমতি আরতি

খাহ, স্বামী দীপক কুমার খোহ, (কিগত

ইংরাজী ১০/০২/২০১৪ তারিখে ভি. এস

আর.- ১, আলিপুর, দক্ষিল ২৪ পরগদ

বেজিন্মী অফিসে বেজিন্মীকৃত ০১১১ ন

धामप्राक्षवनामा मनिन वल) नियुक्तिय

আমনোকার শ্রী অবিন্দম মির, পিডা

बामणुक्त, (क्ष. अन. सर ३२०, चकियाम

4t- 540V, HT 4t- 802, 66/5.

হাসপুকুর গ্রীনপাক রোডস্থিত, কলিকাতা-

৭০০১০৪, কমরেশী ০২ (দুই) করে ভদিতার খরিদ করিয়া বিএল এন্ড

এলামার ও কলিকাতা ব্রকের নিকট নিজ

नाम शकानत सन्दर चाट्रवरून कविधाटकन

প্রকাশ থাকে যে, উক্ত মিউটোশান কেলে

বাহারও যদি কোনপ্রকার আপত্তি থাকে

উক্ত বিএল, এন্ড এল খাব ৫, কলিকাচা

द्वतकर निकंधे आर्यभन भारकर जानाईयार हाना अवगढ वहिलाम। Santanu Sanyal

Advocate Alipore Police Court Regd. No.- WB/143/1986

অসীম মিত্র, মহাশয়দ্বরা মৌলা

VIDE Affidavit Number-13214. 31-12-2024 before 1st Class Judicial Magistrate Serampore, I, Mousumi Chakraborty and Mrs. Mousumi (wife) are same person (W/o. Late Subhabrata Chakraborty). My name is wrongly recorded as Mrs. Mousumi (wife) in PPO Book Number-08 / 14 / B / 10132 / 2006, but my correct and actual name is Mousumi Chakraborty, W/o. Late Subhabrata Chakraborty, resident of 21, Rabindranath Road, P.O.: Nabagram, P.S.: Uttarpara, Dist.: Hooghly-712246.

NAME

I, (OLD name) Kuwnain Ahsan, son of Late Mir Akhatar Hussain, residing at B-63, Irin Gate Road, Kolkata-24 henceforth be known as (new name) Syed Kawnain Ahsan Rizvi as my Aadhaar card, vide affidavit First Class Magistrate, Alipore No. 79810 Dt. 16-12-2024.

The Statesman

Readers are requested to make appropriate enquiries and seek appropriate advice before sending money, incurring any expenses, acting on medical recommendations or entering into any commitment in relation to any advertisement published in this publication. The Statesman Group doesn't vouch any claim made by the advertisers of products and services. The printer, publisher, Editor and owners of The Statesman Group publications shall not be held liable for any consequences, in the event such claims are not honoured by the advertisers. For any loss incurred, the onus lies entirely with advertisers and not with the publication.

PUBLIC NOTICE

SUBJECT- POWER OF ATTORNEY NOTIFICATION It is being informed that ONE MR. Kazi Raja son of Delwar Hossain Kazi has been appointed Attorney by Raju Chakraborty son of Mrityunjoy Chakraborty owner of the RS Plot No - 2013, corresponding to LR Plot No. - 2159 under LR khatian - 1285 Total Area - 57 Decimal in Mallickbagan Mouza vide registered General Power of attorney Being Number 4234 dated 16th November, 2021 registered at office the ADSR Ranihati, Panchla, Howrah.

Now My Client New Era Warehousing & Logistics LLP has purchased the said property vide deed no 5000/2021 and 5001/2021 registered at the ADSR Ranihati, Panchla, Howrah which is under mutation before the office of BL & LRO Panchla, Howrah.

If anyone has any kind of objection kindly contact

Thanking You M.L. SHARMA (ADVOCATE)

PROPERTY

PROPERTY SELL ADVERTISEMENT

Sale for 2-storied Holiday Home and land at Digha, Plot No. 8, 31.088 Kathas under Digha Development Scheme, Owner Authority of Steel India Employees Co.Op. Credit Society Ltd. Contact No. 9674737959.

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE NOTICE IS HEREBY

GIVEN TO THE GENERAL MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC that on 8th January, 2025 my client Nilmoni Dey of no. 10, Shahnagar Road Kolkata- 700026,lost from his residence two several original title deeds both registered before the Alipore Registration Office in Book No. I Volume No. 59 Page 473 to 480 Deed No. 3273 for the year 1986 and Book No. I Volume No. 17 Page 337 to 344 Deed No. 1080 for the year 1986. If the said title deeds are discovered by any person, he is requested to return the same to my aforesaid client at the aforesaid address. If any person is having any claim, charge or lien over the property as described in the said two title deeds, he is requested to lodge his claim with regard thereto with relevant papers and documents before the undersigned within 7 working days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which it shall be presumed that the samd lands ae free from

SABYASACHI SEN, Solicitor & Advocate 6A, Kiran Shankar Roy Road, 2nd Floor, Kolkata- 700001 inrolment No. F/997/998/1976

all encumbrances.

GUEST LECTURER & DRW STAFF REQUIRED

Applications are invited from eligible candidates for a) Guest Lecturer as per NCTE norms on purely constructional basis @ Rs. 400 per class for the subjects: English-01 Mathematics-01, Social Science-01, Education-01 and b) one Graduate DRW Staff as Hostel Warden (Female) knowledge of basic hostel management skill is preferable and one DRW Sweeper, honorarium as per DRW staff of Govt. of WB. Application with all credentials should be reached at DIET, Jalpaiguri P.O.: Prasannanagar, Belakoba-733135 before 31-01-2025, 4-00

INFORMATION WANTED



This is the photograph of Piyali Mukherjee, Father's / Husband's Name-Lt. Suniti Kumar Mukherjee, of 32 Sukchar Park, Club Road, Sodepur, Khardah, North 24 Parganas, who has been missing since 02.11.2024 from Residence under Khardah PS Description of this missing person is Age-47 Years, Complexion-Sallow Height-5 Feet 0 Inch, Wearing-Salwar Language-Bengali. Please Contact Officer in Charge, Missing Persons Bureau, C.I.D., West Bengal, Bhabani Bhaban, Kolkata-700027, Ph. No.-033-2450-6120 ICA-D78(3)/2025

INFORMATION WANTED



Female Dead Body, found on 17.12.2024 at about 07:55 hrs. in between bankapasi R/S and Srikhanda R/S under Katwa PS, Description of this Deadbody is Age-45 Years approx , Sex: Female, Height-5 Feet 1 Inch , Build-Medium, Hair-Black, Wearing-Red Jacket Please Contact Officer in Charge, Missing Persons Bureau, C.I.D., West Bengal, Bhabani Bhaban, Kolkata-700027, Ph. No.-033-2450-6120. ICA-D82(3)/2025

INFORMATION WANTED



Saumya Kanti Das, Son of Ganesh since 19.12.2024 from his residence Description of this missing person is: - 33 Years, Height Complexion - Fair, Built Wearing - Blue & White Check T-Shirt and Khaki Coloured Quarter Pant, Peculiarity if any - Psychiatric Patient. inform whereabouts of the missing person, contact to the O.C., Persons Squad, Detective Department, Kolkata Police, Lalbazar, Kolkata - 700001. (Telephone No. 033 -2214 -1835, 9874902710). ICA-D92(3)/2025

পিতা-মাতা/অভিভাবকের यन्त्रशारनत जना निछाखि



मामःताबुल भर्गात, **नग्नभः ১১** तवत, लिष्ण আশীর্বাদ বয়েজ হোম, ৫৩, উনয়শক্তর সরণি, টালিগঞ্জ, কলকাতা-৭০০০৩৩, উচ্চতা: ১৪৫ সে.মি. : গায়ের রং: বাদামী, थाना ७ जातिथ সহ क्रि.डि.हे, मध्तः थानाः সাঁকরাইল: জি.ডি.ই, মম্বর: ৬৭৩: তারিখ: ২৭.১২.২০২৪। যোগাযোগের বিশদ বিবরণ: ভিস্টিক্ট চাইল্ড প্লোটেকশান ইউনিট কলকাতা, ঠিকানা: শুডাল বিভিঃ (সপ্তম তল), সন্টলেক সিটি, ২য় এভিনিউ, ডি.এফ.-৯, সেক্টর-১, কলকাতা-৭০০০৬৪

আইসিএ-ডি ৬০ (৩)/২০২৫

পিতা-মাতা/অভিভাবকের



নাম: সুস্মিতা মণ্ডল, বয়স: ৯ বছর, লিজা: খ্রী, প্রাপ্তির দিন: ৩০,০৮,২০২৪, বর্তমান অবস্থান: প্রেরনা প্রটেকশান হোম ফর গার্লস্ ১৪৬ডি, হরিষ মুখার্জি রোড, কলকাতা-৭০০০২৫, উচ্চতা: ৪ ফুট ৩ ইণ্টি : গায়ের রং: ফর্সা, **পরনের পোশাক**: গাড় বাদামী রঙের ফ্রক: থানা ও তারিখ সহ জি.ডি.ই. मञ्चतः थानाः यानन्त्रशृतः क्षि.छि.इ. मञ्चतः ৩৩ : তারিখ: ০১,০৮,২০২৩। যোগাযোগের বিশদ বিবরণ: ডিস্টির্ট চাইল্ড প্রোটেকশান ইউনিট কলকাতা, ঠিকানা: শুভান্ন বিভিঃ (সপ্তম তল), ডি.এফ.-৯, সেইর-১, সকলেক সিটি, কলকাতা-৭০০০৬৪

আইসিএ-ডি ৬১ (৩)/২০২৫

This is the photograph of Sayani Hazra,

Father's Name-Madhab Hazra, o

Hotor, PS-Magrahat, Dist.-South 24

Parganas, State-West Bengal, who has

been missing since 13.12.2024 from

her Residential area, Description of this

missing person is : Age-24 Years Complexion-Fair, Height-5 Feet 2 Inch. Wearing-Not Noted, Language-Bengali.

Please Contact Officer in Charge

Missing Persons Bureau, C.I.D., Wes

Bengal, Bhabani Bhaban, Kolkata-

ICA-D75(3)/2025

700027, Ph. No.-033-2450-6120.



Singha Deb, of Vill-Bagalbandh, PS Barabazar, Purulia, who has been Residence under Barabazar PS Description of this missing person is



ICA-D76(3)/2025



This is the photograph of Dilip Roy, This is the photograph of Supriya Father's /Husband's Name-Lt. Tulsi Baran Halder, Father's /Husband's Name-Iswar Roy, of Sen Bagan, Gol Bari Agarpara Halder, of Bhajanghat Halderpara, PS-Khardah, North 24 Parganas, who has Krishnaganj, Nadia, who has been been missing since 05.10.2024 from missing since 01.10.2024 from Residence under Khardah PS, Residence under Kkrishnagani PS, Description of this missing person is : Description of this missing person is Age-65 Years, Complexion-Fair, Height-Age-30 Years, Complexion-Sallow, 5 Feet 0 Inch, Wearing-Ganjee & Lungi, Height-5 Feet 1 Inch, Language-Language-Bengali. Please Contact Officer Bengali, Please Contact Officer in in Charge, Missing Persons Bureau, C.I.D., West Bengal, Bhabani Bhaban, Kolkata-700027, Ph. No.-033-2450-6120. Charge, Missing Persons Bureau, C.I.D.

ICA-D79(3)/2025



Daughter of Md Sabir of 32/3, Kustia Road, Kolkata - 700039, PS - Tiljala was Descriptive Rolls of the missing minor (Victim) person is: Age - 16 Years Complexion - Fair, Face - Oval, Built Medium, Wearing - Black Salwar Suit Mother Language - Hindi, inform whereabouts of the abducted contact to the O.C., Missing Persons Squad, Detective Department Kolkata Police, Lalbazar, Kolkata 700001. (Telephone No. 033 - 2214 1835, 9874902710). ICA-D95 (3)/2025



This is the photograph of missing person Anirban Choudhury, Son of Late Baghajatin Colony, PO - Regent Estate, Kolkata - 700092, who has been missing since 29.10.2024 from his residence Description of this missing person is: - 48 Years, Height - 5'5" Complexion - Medium, Built - Thin, Wearing - White Half T-Shirt and Black Half Pant, Peculiarity if any Schizophrenia (Last 24 Years), please nform whereabouts of the missing contact to the O.C., Missing Persons Squad, Detective Department Kolkata Police, Lalbazar, Kolkata 700001. (Telephone No. 033 - 2214 1835, 9874902710). ICA-D91 (3)/2025



from Guwahati. Description of this Disease in hand both palm, please Kolkata Police, Lalbazar, Kolkata 700001. (Telephone No. 033 - 2214 1835, 9874902710). ICA-D88 (3)/2025

পিতা-মাতা/অভিভাবকের



শিশ্টির বিবরণ

নাম:তিতাস ভৌমিক, বয়স: ১১ বছর লিখ্য: ত্রী, প্রাপ্তির দিন: ১০.০৫,২০২৩, বর্তমান অবস্থান:প্রেরনা প্রটেকশান হোম ফর গার্লস, ১৪৬ডি, হরিষ মুখার্জি রোড, কলকাতা-৭০০০২৫, উচ্চতা: ৪ ফুট ১০ ইন্টি: গায়ের রং: ফর্সা, পরনের পোশাক: লাল কলারওয়ালা সানা জামা ও লাল স্কার্ট থানা ও তারিখ সহ জি.ডি.ই, নম্বর: থানা: সরশনা : জি.ডি.ই. নম্বর: ১৬০২ : তারিখ: ২৮,০১,২০২৩। যোগাযোগের বিশদ বিবরণ ভিম্ৰিট্ট চাইল্ড প্ৰোটেকশান ইউনিট কলকাতা, ঠিকানা: শুভাল বিশ্তিং (সপ্তম তল), ভি.এফ. ৯, সেইর-১, সদ্টালেক সিটি, কলকাডা-৭০০০৬৪

আইসির-ডি ৬২ (৩)/২০২৫



This is the photograph of Kalyani Singha Deb, Father's/Husband's Name-Goutam missing since 17.12.2024 from Age-18 Years, Complexion-Sallow, Height-4 Feet 8 Inch, Wearing-Light Pink Colour Churidar and Leggings, Language-Bengali. Please Contact Officer in Charge, Missing Persons Bureau, C.I.D., West Bengal, Bhabani Bhaban, Kolkata-700027, Ph. No.-033-2450-6120.

This is the photograph of Nousad Khan Father's Name-Munna Khan, o Ballavpur Raghunath Chawk, PS Raniganj, Paschim Bardhaman, who has been missing since 14.12.2024 from Residence under Raniganj PS Description of this missing person is Age-20 Years, Complexion-Fair Height-5 Feet 4 Inch, Wearing-White Half Shirt and Blue Jeans Pant, Language-Bengali. Please Contact Officer in Charge, Missing Persons Bureau, C.I.D., West Bengal, Bhabani Bhaban, Kolkata-700027, Ph. No.-033-2450-6120.

INFORMATION WANTED

ICA-D77(3)/2025

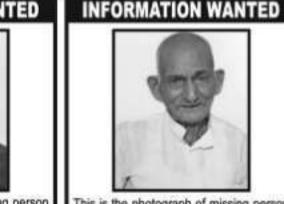
INFORMATION WANTED

This is the photograph of Unknown Female Dead Body, found or 22.12.2024 under Matia PS area Description of this Deadbody is Age-35 Years approx , Sex: Female, Height-5 Feet 0 Inch Build-Medium, Hair-Black Wearing-Maroon Colour Blouse, Red Sweater and Green Petticoat. Please Contact Officer in Charge, Missing Persons Bureau, C.I.D., West Bengal, Bhabani Bhaban, Kolkata-

West Bengal, Bhabani Bhaban, Kolkata-700027, Ph. No.-033-2450-6120. 700027, Ph. No.-033-2450-6120. ICA-D81(3)/2025 ICA-D80(3)/2025



This is the photograph of missing person Abisek Chakraborty, Son of Pranab Chakraborty of 37C, S.N.Roy Road Kolkata - 700038, who has been missing since 11.12.2024 from his residence Description of this missing person is: Age - 30 Years, Sex - Male, Height Complexion - Fair, Built - Thin Wearing - Blue & White Striped T-Shirt and Light Brown Pant, please inform contact to the O.C., Missing Persons Squad, Detective Department, Kolkata Lalbazar, Kolkata - 700001 (Telephone No. 033 - 2214 -1835) 9874902710). ICA-D94 (3)/2025



Bideswar Pathak, Son of Late Joy Chandra Pathak of 520, Naskarha Swarup Kalika Place, Kolkata - 700039 who has been missing since 15.12.2024 Near Garden High School Description of this missing person is Age - 86 Years, Height - 5'6" Wearing - Cream Punjabi & White Dhoti Missing Persons Squad, Department, Kolkata Police, Lalbazar Kolkata - 700001, (Telephone No. 033

2214 -1835, 9874902710). ICA-093 (3)/2025



This is the photograph of missing person Mridula Ghosh Daughter of Lt Sushanta Ghosh of 47J, Sridhar Roy Road, Kolkata - 700039, who has been missing since 18.11.2024 from her residence. Description of this missing person is: Age - 50 Years, Height 5'2', Complexion - Fair, Built Medium, Peculiarity if any - Mentally Unstable, please inform whereabouts o the missing person, contact to the O.C. Missing Persons Squad, Detective Department, Kolkata Police, Lalbazar Kolkata - 700001. (Telephone No. 033

INFORMATION WANTED



296/1/H/4, APC Road, PS - Amhers Descriptive Rolls of the Victim person is: Age - 26 Years (Approx), Sex Male, Height - 5'4", Complexion - Fair Built - Fatty, Face - Oval, Wearing Pink Check Shirt, Black Pant, Religion Muslim, Mother Language abducted person, contact to the O.C. Missing Persons Squad, Department, Kolkata Police, Lalbazar Kolkata - 700001. (Telephone No. 033 -

2214 -1835, 9874902710). ICA-D90(3)/2025



This is the photograph of missing person Madhusudan Prasad Son of Late Rambilash Prasad of Bansdroni, Pa Para, 2nd Auto Stand, Kolkata - 700070. who has been missing since 21.09.2024 missing person is: Age - 55 Years, Height - 5'11", Complexion - Fair, Built - Normal, Peculiarity if any - Skin inform whereabouts of the missing person, contact to the O.C., Missing Persons Squad, Detective Department



This is the photograph of missing person

Sakal Das, Son of Late Kishan Das of 83/A, Bagmari Road, Kakurgachi, PO Kakurgachi. Kolkata - 700054, who has been missing since 04.07.2020 from his residence. Description of this missing person is: Age - 26 Years, Height 5'5", Complexion - Fair, Built - Thin Wearing - Black Half T-Shirt and Black Jeans Pant, Identification Mark - Tatoo of his mother's name (Kunti) on his right arm, 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-D87(3)/2025

2214 -1835, 9874902710). ICA-D89 (3)/2025



Md Saheb, Son of Sk Md Salim of Y 2/101/98, Satghara Lane PS - Nadial Kolkata - 700044, who has been missing since 24.09.2024 from his residence Description of this missing person is 27 Years, Complexion - Fair, Built - Thin, Wearing - Green Colour T-Shirt, Peculiarity if any - Mentally Disable. 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-D86(3)/2025

পিতা-মাতা/অভিভাবকের অনুসন্ধানের জন্য বিজ্ঞপ্তি দুই ভাইয়ের বিবরণ



নাম:অভিনৰ পাড়া, স্কন্ম: ৩০.১০.২০০৮, নাম:অভিবৃত্ত পাড়া, ক্ষম: ০৬.১১.২০১১, लाशि ६ एम शान्त



लिकाः भूत्रा, क्षश्चित मिनः २৯.०৪.२०२७, উक्क्सः | लिक्बाः भूत्रा, क्षाश्चित मिनः २৯.०৪.२०२७, ১৬৪ সে.মি., शासन तर: कर्जा, अतानत लामाक: फिक्का: ১৫২ সে.মি., शासन तर: कर्जा, अतानत পোশাক: গেঞ্জি ও ফুল প্যান্ট

বৰ্তমান অৰুপান বিকাইত বয়েজ হোম, হোপ কলকাতা ফাউতেশন, ৩৮/সি, গীতাঞ্জলি পার্ক, কলকাতা-৭০০০১৯

থানা ও তারিখ সহ জি. ডি. ই. নম্বা:

থানা: গব্দ গ্রীন : জি.ডি.ই. নম্বা: ১৬৭২ ও ১৬৬৮ : তারিখ:২৮,০৪.২০২৩ যোগাযোগের বিশদ বিবরণ:

ডি.সি.পি.ইউ, কলকাতা, ঠিকানা: শৃতাল্ল বিভিং (সপ্তম তল), ডি.এফ.-৯. সেক্টর - ১. সন্টলেক সিটি, কলকাতা-৭০০০৬৪ আইসিএ-ডি ৬৪ (৩)/২০২৫

THUMBNAILS

MP govt mulling liquor ban in religious cities: Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Dr Mohan Yadav said on Monday that the BJP state government is seriously contemplating to ban the sale and consumption of liquor in all the religious cities of the state. He told some media persons that the state government is planning to amend its excise policy for religious cities and move towards complete prohibition in such sacred towns. He added that the aim is to maintain the purity and sanctity of such religiously important places. The CM pointed out that several seers, religious heads and also many people have urged the government to take such a step. He said there have been complaints about the religious environment of such cities being spoiled due to the presence of alcohol shops there. The CM said the current budget year is going to end soon and the state government is thinking of amending the excise policy for religious towns from the coming fiscal year. "We are serious and we will take a decision in this regard very soon," he asserted. Dr Yadav's statement came on the day the 'Maha Kumbh` began at Prayagraj in Uttar Pradesh

PM Modito dedicate three naval ships to the nation in Mumbai

The commissioning of three major naval combatants marks a significant leap



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, 13 JANUARY

rime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Maharashtra on Wednesday to dedicate three frontline naval combatants INS Surat, INS Nilgiri and INS Vaghsheer to the nation on their commissioning at the Naval Dockyard in Mumbai. Thereafter, he will inaugurate ISKCON Temple at Kharghar, Navi Mumbai.

The commissioning of three major naval combatants marks a significant leap forward in realizing India's vision of becoming a global leader in defence manufacturing and maritime security. INS Surat, the fourth and final ship of the P15B Guided Missile Destroyer Project, ranks among the largest and most sophisticated destroyers in the world. It has an indigenous content of 75% and is equipped with state-of-theart weapon-sensor packages

and advanced network-centric capabilities. INS Nilgiri, the first ship of the P17A Stealth Frigate Project, has been designed by the Indian Navy's Warship Design Bureau and incorporates advanced features for enhanced survivability, seakeeping, and stealth, reflecting the next generation of indigenous frigates. INS Vaghsheer, the sixth and final submarine of the P75 Scorpene Project, represents India's growing expertise in submarine con-

struction and has been constructed in collaboration with the Naval Group of France.

In line with his commitment to boost India's cultural heritage, the PM will inaugurate the Sri Sri Radha Madanmohanji Temple, an ISKCON project in Kharghar, Navi Mumbai. The project, spread over nine acres, includes a temple with several deities, a Vedic education centre, proposed museums and auditorium, healing cen-

ter, among others. It aims to promote universal brotherhood, peace, and harmony through Vedic teachings.

On Tuesday, the PM will participate in celebrations of 150th Foundation Day of India Meteorological Department at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi. He will also address the gathering on the occasion. He will launch 'Mission

Mausam' with the goal of making our country a 'Weather-ready and Climate-smart' nation. The Mission aims to achieve this by developing cutting-edge weather surveillance technologies and systems, implementing highresolution atmospheric observations, next-generation radars and satellites, and high-performance computers. It will also focus on improving the understanding of weather and climate processes, provide air quality data that will help strategize weather management and intervention in the long run.

The PM will also release the IMD Vision-2047 document for weather resilience and climate change adaptation. It includes plans for weather forecasting, weather management, and climate change mitigation.

No troop reduction along LAC during winters: Gen Dwivedi

PARWINDER SANDHU NEW DELHI. 13 JANUARY

Army Chief Gen Upendra Dwivedi today firmly stated that India will not reduce its troop deployment along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) during the winter months. Traditionally, troop numbers would decrease due to harsh climatic conditions, but he emphasized that India is not considering any such reduction this winter.

"During winter deployment, the number of troops came down. At least in the winter strategy, we are not looking forward to any reduction of troops. When it comes to the summer strategy, we'll take a review based on that time, how many negotiations and meetings have taken place," the Army chief said," he said.

Speaking at his first press conference since taking over as Army Chief from General Manoj Pande, Gen Dwivedi described the situation along the LAC as sensitive but stable. Despite ongoing standoffs, he assured that India's deployment is balanced, robust, and capable of managing any challenges. "We are focusing on strengthening border infrastructure and enhancing our capabilities," he added, while also authorizing his commanders to resolve smaller issues such as patrolling and grazing at the ground

level.

On the rise of terrorist activities in Jammu and Kashmir, the General reported that 60 per cent of the terrorists eliminated last year were of Pakistani origin. "In the last year, 60 per cent of terrorists eliminated were of Pakistan origin. Eighty per cent of the terrorists active in Jammu and Kashmir are Pakistanis at a time when we are moving towards tourism from terrorism," he said.

Stating that the situation in J&K is under control, the chief said the ceasefire, which has been effective since February 2021, remains intact on the Line of Control. "However, terror infrastructure remains intact. The infiltration attempts are also continuing, including from the International Border (IB) sector, along with drone attempts to smuggle warlike stores and narcotics," he added.

Acknowledging a rise in terrorist activities in North Kashmir and the Doda-Kishtwar region in recent months, Gen Dwivedi assured that the overall security situation remains "under control."

"We witnessed more than five lakh pilgrims during Amarnath Yatra this time and the peaceful conduct of elections (Lok Sabha and Assembly) are indicators of a positive change. The theme of terrorism to tourism is gradually taking shape," Gen Dwivedi stated.

Budgam: Kashmir's first upcoming rail city undergoing massive expansions

NISHAT NIZAMI

today.

SRINAGAR, 10 JANUARY

As the Kashmir Valley is set for rail connectivity with the rest parts of the country through the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link project and several new trains, including the New Delhi-Srinagar Vande Bharat, Budgam is being developed by the

railways as a rail city with massive expansions in infrastructure.

The mega expansion of Budgam has been started with the extension of the Budgam Car Shed which is spread over an area of 2000 kanals in local parlance or 250 acres. The shed presently has 12 train sets including two MEMU and the rest DEMU

that are maintained at the depot presently. As learnt during a recent Press tour to the car shed, the shed has been extended to accommodate 12-coach rakes as compared to its eight-coach length.

"With plans on Vande Bharat trains in the region, the car shed is now being revamped towards Baramulla with further extension to



accommodate 16 coach rakes," informed a Railway official. "The proposal is under tendering and work is expected to be completed in one and a half years," he added.

Among the other works being carried out, setting up bio toilets in coaches and making water available in them is one of the crucial tasks going at present. The DEMU coaches at Budgam coach depot lack bio toilets and are said to have very few toilets but that are yet to be lines are being constructed operational.

"Once the section gets operational till Karta, the necessity of a toilet among passengers will arise. Considering the fact, the works on a quick watering system at Budgam and Srinagar Station and bio toilets are being provided in coaches. Apart from this, three coach washing

for cleaning more and more coaches. An inspection line for goods is being developed

at the car shed. As elaborated by the official, apart from the ongoing works, there are few additional developmental plans that are in the proposal stage at present. The first one being the automatic coach washing plant for particularly catering to the DEMU car shed.

A tender of the project has been done and a visit of the senior officials has also been done. The project would enable additional cleaning facilities paving way for more electric coaches to be brought from outside the region and kept at the upcoming satellite shed, informed the official.











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Fraught Aspirations

he H-1B visa programme has long symbolised opportunity for skilled professionals worldwide, particularly Indians, who form the majority of its recipients. Yet, this much-coveted gateway to professional advancement in the United States is increasingly mired in uncertainty and political scrutiny, raising questions about its sustainability and the aspirations tied to it. At its core, the H-1B visa programme offers a mutually beneficial exchange: the United States attracts global talent essential for its industries, while foreign professionals, many from India, gain access to higher wages and career growth. For Indian applicants, the appeal is clear. The programme promises not just financial betterment but also the prestige of contributing to cutting-edge industries, particularly in technology. However, the realities of the programme often fall short of its promise, leaving many in a state of flux. One major criticism of the H-1B programme is its vulnerability to misuse. Allegations of fraud and abuse have persisted, with claims that some employers exploit the system to hire cheaper labour, thereby displacing local workers. This has fuelled resentment in America and made the programme a recurring target in the broader immigration debate. The political volatility surrounding H-1B visas, particularly under administrations favouring stricter immigration policies, has further complicated the pathway for aspirants. Higher rejection rates, delays in processing, and an uncertain future under shifting policy landscapes have left many potential applicants apprehensive. Another glaring issue is the limited pathway to permanent residency. While the H-1B is a temporary work visa, it is often seen as a stepping stone to a green card. Yet, the process is riddled with bottlenecks, especially for Indian nationals, who face wait times stretching into decades due to country-based quotas. This prolonged uncertainty forces many skilled professionals into a precarious dependence on their employers, with limited job mobility and heightened vulnerability during economic downturns. Despite these challenges, the demand for H-1B visas remains steadfast. The stark wage disparity between India and the United States, coupled with the aspiration to achieve professional excellence, continues to drive Indian professionals toward this uncertain yet lucrative path. Moreover, the contributions of these professionals to the US economy are undeniable, from bolstering innovation in technology to filling critical skill gaps across sectors. The situation calls for a more pragmatic and collaborative approach. US policymakers must recognise the value skilled immigrants bring while addressing legitimate concerns of misuse. India, on the other hand, should push for a more equitable and transparent system, emphasising the mutual benefits of a fairer, more balanced and secure framework. Simultaneously, prospective applicants must approach their aspirations with pragmatism, diversifying their options and preparing for potential roadblocks. The H-1B visa, while a remarkable opportunity, is far from a guarantee of stability or success. For Indian dreamers, it remains both a beacon of hope and a cautionary tale ~ a complex interplay of ambition, policy, and resilience in a rapidly changing global landscape. Of course, the challenge for the Indian ecosystem is to ensure skilled individuals stay back, instead of flocking to the US.

LA fires

he devastating wildfires ravaging parts of Los Angeles and surrounding areas serve as an alarming reminder of the vulnerabilities faced by urban and rural communities. These infernos, fuelled by relentless winds and dry conditions, have scorched vast tracts of land, destroyed countless homes, and tragically claimed lives. The fires highlight not just the destructive power of nature but also the systemic shortcomings in disaster preparedness and response that need urgent redress. Climate change has undeniably played a role in exacerbating wildfire intensity and frequency. Rising temperatures, prolonged droughts, and erratic weather patterns have created the perfect conditions for such catastrophes. However, the extent of destruction we are witnessing is also a result of human factors. Inadequate infrastructure maintenance, delayed resource allocation, and strained emergency services have all compounded the impact. Reports of fire hydrants running dry and critical fire-fighting equipment lying idle due to budget cuts are particularly damning. These lapses reflect a broader issue of underfunding essential services, leaving communities ill-equipped to combat crises of this scale. Beyond the immediate response, there are deeper questions about urban planning and land management. The fires have encroached upon exclusive neighbourhoods and cultural landmarks, underscoring how unchecked expansion into fire-prone areas can amplify risks. While affluent communities like Hollywood may attract greater media attention and resources, it is often the less privileged who bear the brunt of such disasters, with fewer means to rebuild their lives. Policymakers must prioritise equitable and sustainable land-use strategies that consider the long-term safety of all residents. The political ramifications of these wildfires are also impossible to ignore. Leaders at various levels of government have faced criticism for their handling of the crisis, from resource shortages to perceived indifference. This highlights the critical need for accountability and transparent governance during emergencies. It is not enough to address the symptoms of the problem; the root causes must be tackled head-on, including systemic inefficiencies and mismanagement. At the same time, communities have demonstrated remarkable resilience in the face of adversity. Stories of neighbours banding together, fire-fighters risking their lives, and international assistance pouring in serve as poignant reminders of humanity's ability to unite in times of need. But heroism alone cannot be a substitute for proactive measures. Looking ahead, these wildfires must be a turning point in how we address environmental and disaster-related challenges. Governments, at all levels, need to invest in robust infrastructure, strengthen emergency services, and implement policies that prioritise climate resilience. Public awareness and preparedness must also be elevated to ensure communities are not caught off guard. Ultimately, the on-going fires are a stark warning that the cost of inaction ~ whether on climate change, infrastructure, or governance ~ is far greater than the investments required to mitigate future

disasters. The time to act decisively is now.

German divide~II

When Merkel stepped down in 2021, she was hailed for saving the European Union but many hold her responsible for having destabilized Germany and the politics of the continent. Gavin Mortimer points out that Merkel primarily is responsible for the resurgence of right wing and nationalist parties across Europe. 'The AfD – as well as Marine Le Pen, Geert Wilders and Giorgia Meloni – all owe a debt of gratitude to Angela Merkel'



he AfD when founded in 2013 had the reputation of being an old man's club dissatisfied with Angela Merkel's fiscal and foreign policies. Its founding members were those who advocated disengagement from the European Union (EU) in stark contrast to Merkel championing the cause of greater European integration. The AfD protested at the Euro as the EU's sole currency and rejected the bailouts of EU member countries in the aftermath of the euro-zone debt crisis. Sixty0 fellow conservatives of Merkel voted against her proposal to support a bailout for Greece in 2015.

In the elections held that year, the AfD received a little over two million votes and no seats in the Bundestag. Merkel's declaration on 31 August 2015 that 'Germany is a strong country. ...We have achieved so much ~ we can do it" and throwing open Europe's doors to an unknown number of refugees and migrants was at odds with her admission in 2010 of the failure of multiculturalism.

The priorities of AfD shifted with these new initiatives. With a record number of migrants, more than one million entering Germany from Syria and Afghanistan which Merkel described as a humanitarian emergency, the AfD viewed it as invasion of foreigners. It became explicitly anti-Muslim as most of the migrants from Syria were Muslims.

When Merkel stepped down in 2021, she was hailed for saving the European Union but many hold her responsible for having destabilized Germany and the politics of the continent. Gavin Mortimer points out that Merkel primarily is responsible for the resurgence of right wing and nationalist parties across Europe. "The AfD ~ as well as Marine Le Pen, Geert Wilders and Giorgia Meloni ~ all owe a debt of gratitude to Angela Merkel".

In 2016, the AfD demanded a ban on "Islamic symbols of power" in Germany which included full body veils, public call for worship and minarets. It was criticised as racist and Islamophobic

as racist and Islamophobic.

In the 2017 federal elections it secured the backing of six million Germans and 94 seats in the Bundestag and emerged as the third largest party, with the strongest support in the east and the south. The conservative alliance between the CDU and CSU lost 65 seats from 2013, the worst showing

in seven decades.

By 2024 the AfD began to rival the

mainstream CDU and CSU and SPD with regard to popular support but its power is circumscribed as a result of the refusal of the national parties to form coalitions with it. But the AfD have won their first state election.

The scepticism of a united Europe, Brexit and the rise of Donald Trump have led to serious questioning about Germany's integrative policy that was followed since



SUSHILA RAMASWAMY

The writers are respectively retired Professors of Political Science, University of Delhi and Jesus and Mary College

the Second World War. The AfD fears that Germany is losing its sovereignty and capacity for independent decision making and wants Germany to seek its rightful place in Europe and in the world. The quest is to carve out a policy pursued exclusively on national interest.

The rise of AfD in Germany and similar ones in other nations of Europe indicate that the broadeners and Euro-sceptics are increasing their presence at the cost of Deepeners. The EU as an economic powerhouse would continue but a United States of Europe is a distant dream.

Prof. Klaus Hurrelmann, a renowned researcher on youth in Germany points out that the young feel the Social Democrats, Greens and Free Democrats have failed and voted for the AfD in Saxony and Thuringia. The young want a government that tackles and solves problems.

Many teenagers and young adults are pessimistic about the future. They are worried about social decline, war, not being able to buy a home, climate, energy, education, unemployment, immigration, prosperity and peace. The decision to do away with nuclear energy is being questioned.

Other than realistic use of coal, the young want rapprochement with Russia for cheaper gas supply. They also want to check

reallocation of industries like Volkswagen not only to streamline infrastructure costs but to reduce soaring energy costs. Hurrelmann also notes the rise of right-wing extremist, nationalist and authoritarian positions among the young.

A noted historian, Christina Morina, stresses the roots to the four decades of the communist rule which provided a counter narrative to national socialism. The communist variant proclaimed an order "to be truer and more representative of real people than democracy in the west. Western democracies are a sham perpetuating class rule protecting primarily the interests of the capitalists".

To counter this imperfect democracy, participatory democracy in the Swiss model is advocated to bring back the people to the centre of political decision making. This is rediscovering an illusory golden past as during Communist rule the entire system was over-centralized practicing a subject participatory culture in which local activities were under total control of a highly centralized and bureaucratised order.

This was one important reason that when Gorbachev simultaneously initiated perestroika and glasnost, the system collapsed like a pack of cards.

What has made this situation more complex is the economic slowdown created by overconfidence and refusal to change its course in a situation when Europe is facing an identity crisis and insecurity with Trump's return in the US and consolidation of right-wing forces in many Western democracies.

It is ironic that the Anglosphere countries have proved to be more adaptable than Germany in moving towards accepting inevitable challenges coming from factors like AI. In this background of an economic crisis leading to stagnation the political cleavage between western and eastern Germany is likely to widen rather than leading

However, Musk is exaggerating the importance of this phenomenon as it is still in the fringe and likely to remain confined to a small area of Germany and with a fear of a setback to the traditional stability of the country it is likely to be purely transitory rather than changing the entire political course. But the two cultures of Germany will continue to be a problem and in need of being addressed by accommodating its

(Concluded)

A MEMBE



ASIAN VOICES

Treading on dangerous waters

he words of the late President Ramon Magsaysay might well apply to the fisherfolk adversely affected by a Supreme Court ruling that affirmed a lower court's decision to grant commercial fishing companies access to municipal waters that, under the Fisheries Code, is restricted to small-scale fishers.

The preferential access was questioned as "unconstitutional" by the Mercidar Fishing Corp. before a Malabon Regional Trial Court (RTC) on Oct. 25, 2023. Two months later, on Dec. 11, the court ruled in its favor.

Meanwhile, the Supreme Court First Division in a resolution dated Aug. 19, upheld the lower court's ruling, saying that pleadings by the Office of the Solicitor General in the case had been filed "out of time" and without any "legal basis." The Department of Agriculture and the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (DA-BFAR) also failed to file a timely appeal against the RTC ruling, for which they were deservedly slammed by the Federation of Free Farmers and the Magsasaka party list for "sleeping on the job."

The DA-BFAR has now filed a petition seeking a reversal of the high court ruling, pointing out that allowing commercial fishing within the 15-kilometer municipal water zone would have "farreaching consequences for sustainable resource management, environmental protection, and the welfare of affected communities." In a similar petition,

NQUIRER

several fishers' groups, a local government, civil society representatives, and environmental nongovernment organizations led by international marine protection group Oceana noted that "coupled with climate change impacts, pressures (from commercial fishing fleets) threaten to destabilize an already fragile ecosystem (amid) dire consequences to the population and food security."

Aside from questioning the "breakneck speed" of the judicial proceedings at the lower court, the petitioners accused the court of "haphazard constitutional interpretation that sought to kill the established legislative policy of protecting municipal fisherfolk and empowering (local government units)." The RTC ruling struck down the outright ban on commercial fishing in waters with a depth of less than seven fathoms, or 12.8 meters. It also invalidated Section 16 of the Fisheries Code giving municipal governments the jurisdiction to regulate commercial fishing in municipal waters of

up to 15 km from the shoreline.

The ruling would pit small fisherfolk using crude fishing methods against commercial fishers with their bigger vessels and advanced fishing equipment in an unfair competition for limited resources. "Their catch for one day is equivalent to the catch of 300 small boats that spent 14 hours at sea," one fisherman from La Union said of commercial fishing companies.

Such overfishing could impact food security, the petitioners noted, with scientist Dr. Wilfredo Campos of OceanBio Lab at the University of the Philippines citing investigations from the 1980s. "Most of our traditional coastal fishing grounds are overfished," he said. Just as impacted are the fisherfolk in Zambales already marginalized by China's aggression in the West Philippine Sea. Harassed by the China Coast Guard who bar them from Scarborough Shoal, they now rely on municipal waters for a living.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Meta's new approach

SIR, Meta Platforms, the tech behemoth behind Facebook and Instagram, has announced a groundbreaking shift in its content moderation policies within the United States. Central to this overhaul is the termination of its third-party fact-checking program, a move that has long underpinned its fight against misinformation. In its place, Meta is embracing a "Community Notes" model, mirroring the approach pioneered by X (formerly Twitter). This initiative seeks to empower users with a participatory framework for addressing misinformation while ostensibly championing free expression. By decentralising content regulation, Meta aims to strike a delicate balance between curbing harmful content and addressing critiques of over-censorship.

The reimagined strategy introduces a nuanced two-tiered moderation approach. Automated systems will continue to govern content violating major com-

munity standards, ensuring swift action against egregious violations. However, less critical issues, which previously fell under the purview of professional factcheckers, will now be subjected to community reporting. Complementing this policy is a reinvigoration of political discourse on Meta's platforms, with plans to reintroduce politically charged content into users' feeds. Restrictions on polarising topics, such as immigration and gender identity, are also set to be relaxed, signaling Meta's commitment to fostering unfiltered conversations ~ albeit a contentious undertaking. Unsurprisingly, this tectonic shift has elicited a cacophony of reactions. Critics have expressed fears that Meta's more permissive policies may inadvertently fuel the dissemination of misinformation and hate speech. Advocacy groups worry about the diminished role of experts in countering false narratives, while fact-checking organisations have voiced dismay over the abrupt discontinuation of their collaborations. Conversely, proponents argue that the move could mitigate accusations of ideological bias, fostering a more inclusive and representative digital public square. Yet, this debate underscores the enduring challenge of moderating content without stifling free expression - a dilemma Meta is determined to navigate.

Adding to the intrigue, Meta is relocating its trust and safety teams to Texas ~ a decision that has sparked speculation about its motives. Some view this move as a calculated effort to address allegations of political bias, particularly in the context of a politically charged environment.

The proximity of these changes to Donald Trump's potential return to the presidency has only heightened scrutiny. Observers are left questioning whether the timing of Meta's policy overhaul is coincidental or a strategic recalibration in anticipation of a shifting political landscape. While these changes are currently confined to the United States, their

SLUGGISH INDIA

SIR, This refers to the edit 'Reigniting growth'. The slowdown in the economy is visible everywhere and even the numbers projected by the government appear to be highly exaggerated. The audited results of the listed companies have shown no growth at all since the past couple of years and this trend in FMCG companies indicates the sluggishness in the economy.

The taxation of the middle class has left them with no money to buy. As a result there is a breakdown in demand. This needs to be addressed. This lack of consumption can be linked with lack of well paying jobs. This cycle of jobs, demand and consumption has to be kick-started by putting money in the hands of the consumers. All the money to fund the 5 kg free rations and the various schemes and doles of the government comes from the pockets of the salaried middle class. The government on its part is only concerned about winning elections and is doing little that would help in restoring consumption and demand.

onsumption and demand. Yours, etc., Anthony Henriques, Mumbai, 10 January.

implications are global. Meta's policy revisions will inevitably be scrutinised through the lens of international regulatory frameworks, particularly the European Union's stringent Digital Services Act (DSA). The DSA imposes rigorous requirements on platforms to combat disinformation and harmful content, raising questions about whether Meta's new

approach can align with such standards. As the world watches this audacious experiment unfold, Meta's gamble on community-driven moderation could redefine the boundaries of digital governance, with far-reaching ramifications for the future of social media.

Yours, etc., Amarjeet Kumar, Hazaribagh, 10 January.





American role in targeting India

HARSHA KAKAR

wo recent reports emerging in the American media are intended to lower India's image at a time when there is a government change in the US. The first was an article stating that India was scheming with politicians of Maldives to have the current pro-China President, Mohamad Muizzu, removed from power. The intent was to hit India's standing in the region by highlighting its Big Brother reputation of interfering in internal affairs of neighbouring countries where current governments are not to its liking.

The report was denied by the foreign minister of Maldives, Dr Abdulla Khaleel, during his India visit as also by the MEA. In an interview to an Indian channel, Khaleel mentioned, "The claims are totally untrue, I'm not sure from where they got the evidence to base it on. But it's totally untrue." The MEA spokesperson commented, "Both the newspaper and the reporter in question appear to nurse a compulsive hostility towards India. You can see a pattern in their activities.

Soon after the publication of the report, the Maldivian defence minister also visited India to revive defence ties, frozen after the withdrawal of India's military personnel manning helicopters and aircraft gifted to the Maldives. The meeting was positive.

In its independent analysis, an Indian newspaper, quoting senior Indian intelligence officials, wrote "Rogue, but influential officials in the US State Department, closely associated with those pressure and lobbying groups identified as 'anti-India', were behind the recent report." It added that these officials are unhappy with India's growing assertiveness.

The second was an article published on 31 December, accusing India of conducting targeted assassinations in Pakistan since 2021. The article mentions that India's RAW utilizes services of local criminals in Pakistan or Afghan contractors, and payments are made through Dubaibased intermediaries or through informal banking networks. It claims to have examined six specific incidents. It again had no substantial backing to justify its claims. Pakistani media had a field day in joining the anti-India bandwagon. It gave the Pakistani government another opportunity to blame India.

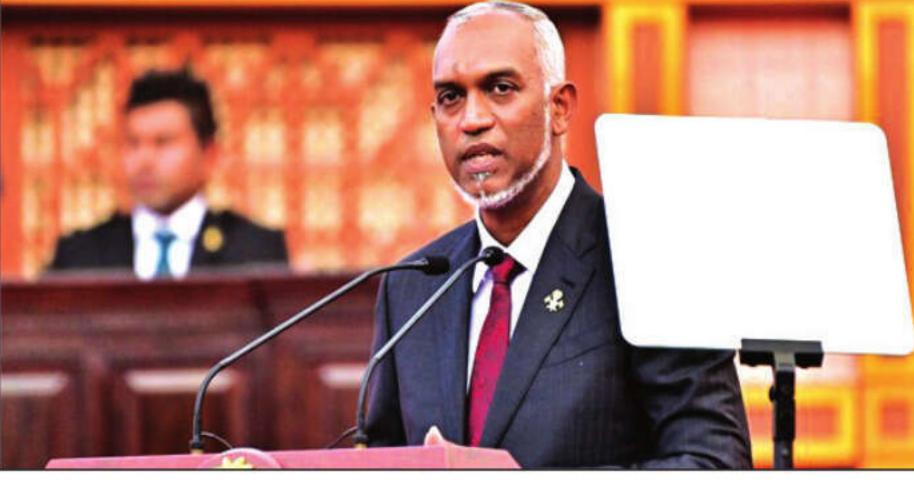
The articles were possibly also aimed at countering the narrative being pushed by Indian media that the US was behind the regime change in Bangladesh, aiming to impact India's ties with Dhaka.

Both the articles were coauthored by a known Indian critic. The timing of both reports, just prior to Donald Trump assuming the presidency, seems calculated to damage India's global standing. This is not the first time US media has been critical of India. Despite India handling Covid 19 better than the US, it came under intense criticism.

Throughout India's elections last year, reputed American media houses, published pieces mentioning that these elections are anti-Muslim and the reelection of PM Modi would mean more violence against minorities.

Some of these anti-India articles were also authored by Indians who despise the BJP. Evidently, the intent was to lower the image of the current ruling dispensation in Delhi as also influence India's election process. However, it failed as Indians were uninfluenced.

Western media networks happily jumped on fake accusations being



thrown towards India by Canada as also the Pannun case in the US. But not a single US media house mentioned the role of the deep state in the change of leadership in Bangladesh, while the world was aware of it.

The US deep state wants to keep India under check while exploiting its growing distance from China as also its economic and military power in the Asia-Pacific. While US and India launch iCet to open doors for technology sharing and the US encourages companies to shift from China to India, it simultaneously, does not want India to be the sole beneficiary of the China Plus 1 policy.

Washington cannot permit New Delhi to become a challenge in the years ahead as China is, while needing India to be more than just an ally. For the US, an India with an independent foreign policy, many times at loggerheads with the views of Washington is unacceptable. In the long term it would prefer a government which it can manipulate at will.

In December, the BJP leadership, displaying independence from the

government, began targeting the US deep state directly. It claimed that opposition parties were basing their accusations on articles funded by the Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project, an organization which is partially funded by the US state department. This led to the US spokesperson commenting negatively on the accusations. This was possibly the first time that the ruling party has targeted the US in this manner.

Anger was building against actions of the US government over a period of time. It was evident when the State Department invited members of Sikhs for Justice, a pro-Khalistan group, to the White House for discussions, coinciding with the visit of PM Modi to the US for the Quad summit. It is also known that the deep state was involved in supporting protests in India, which could have had a damaging impact on the nation's economy and internal security.

The link between the current US leadership and the anti-India lobby in the US gained impetus when George Soros, known to be anti-Modi, was

awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Biden. Many Trump backers also criticized the award, with Elon Musk mentioning, "A travesty that Biden is giving Soros the Medal of Freedom."

The US-based Media Research Centre in a report mentions that Soros funds more than 180 media outlets with ties to dozens more through secondary sources, boards and the like. It adds, "Every month, reporters, writers and bloggers at the many outlets he funds easily reach more than 330 million people around the globe."

Trump has on multiple occasions mentioned his intent to dismantle the deep state. This is easier said than done as the organization is deeply embedded within the US government. While he may not achieve his aim, he would be able to curb its actions to some extent. This implies that the deep state would not function as openly as before. However, the tirade against India would continue.

(The writer is a retired Major-General of the

100 YEARS AGO

OCCASIONAL NOTES

IT is interesting to note what is being done in Great Britain to deal with the railway situation. The route mileage of the railways of Great Britain is about 20,000, a little more than one half of the route mileage of the railways of India. The London Midland and Scottish Railway has decided to build 225 new locomotives, 2,591 new passenger coaches, and no less than 30,000 new wagons, of which a large number are mineral trucks designed principally for the conveyance of coal. The Great Western has ordered 1,000 wagons to facilitate shipment of coal, and is arranging standing accommodation at Newport for 11,000 wagons. The London and North-Eastern Railway has ordered 12,000 new vehicles, of which 500 are for passenger traffic and the remainder for goods. These figures may well startle an Indian authority accustomed to deal in hundreds where at Home they think in thousands. The intensive traffic to be found at Home does not exist in India, but the persistent nature of the demands made in this country for more wagons indicates that, so far at least, sufficient provision has not been made for the natural growth of trade.

NEWS ITEMS

TYPE OF OXBRIDGE SHOULD BE GOVERNED BY COST

No special reference is made, says the Committee, in the body of the Bill as regards the type of bridge to be constructed. But it would appear from clause 4 of the Bill, read with clauses 6 and 19, that the Government is empowered to construct a bridge of any description, irrespective of cost. It would further appear from the statement of objects and reasons that the total cost of the scheme is estimated at Rs. 6,34,00,000. It can therefore be safely presumed that it is the in-tention of the Government to decide in favour of a can-

It is exceedingly important that the type of bridge should be mentioned in the Bill, so that when the Bill becomes an Act it will not be open to the Government to construct a bridge of any description.

"There is no denying the fact that there exists among eminent engineers a marked divergence of opinion as to the type of bridge best suited to the conditions of the banks of the Hooghly and the nature of the subsoil. There is the cantilever bridge proposed by the Committee of Engineers in 1922, the twin-floating bridge proposed by Sir Bradford Leslie in 1918, and an improved bridge of the type of the ex¬isting bridge recommended by the Committee of Engineers in 1912. As regards the capital sum which Calcutta can afford to spend, and the extent to which its people and its trade can be taxed to meet the maintenance charges, there is not much difference of opinion among the general public. The Committee find that the opinion of the general public is decidedly in favour of a less expensive bridge than the can-tilever type, and they (the Committee) generally agree with the public in general that the type of bridge should be governed by its cost.

Pakistan's institutions are crumbling growth, low-investment cycle, facing isation, with several junior officials

SAEED AHMED

The importance of institutions for economic development and growth has long been recognised — for example, in the writings of Adam Smith and, more recently, exemplified by Douglass North's 1993 Nobel Prize. Governance quality and percep-

tions of the political, economic, and policy climate are critical in shaping overall conditions for investment and growth. Given the mobility of international capital, strong institutions play a major role in attracting and retaining investment inflows.

Pakistan's declining growth and investment trends are largely attributable to the continuous decline of its institutions. This is reflected in poor governance assessments in the World Bank's 'Worldwide Governance Indicators'.

When benchmarked against regional counterparts, Pakistan's performance is subpar. For instance, in 'government effectiveness', India's percentile rank was 67.9, while Pakistan lagged at 30.6 in 2023. In 'political stability and absence of violence/terrorism', Pakistan's rank was a mere 6.6. Similarly, in 'regulatory quality', Pakistan's score of 19.8 was well below India's 47.2.

Governance in Pakistan's public institutions has reached a critical point. The political leadership remains oblivious to the fact that their actions, motivated by political ambitions and vested interests, are eroding key state institutions — parliament, judiciary, and executive. Consequently, Pakistan is trapped in a low-

insurmountable development challenges. To illustrate, the economy grew by just 0.98 per cent in the first quarter, well below the projected 3 per cent for this year.

The current self-styled democratic government, often called a 'hybrid regime', continues to undermine civilian institutions. Parliament, a key state organ, is in a precarious position.

The speedy passage of the 26th Constitutional Amendment and six subsequent bills — such as expanding the Supreme Court bench from 17 to 34 judges and extending the tenure of military chiefs from three to five years — shows blatant disregard for the institution. These bills were rushed through both houses, quickly assented to by the president, and published in the gazette — all within a few hours. This questionable process reflects a complete disrespect for parliament, where members were apparently instructed to vote 'yes' without debate, often unaware of the bills' content or implications.

Like the judiciary, the executive is also crumbling. Key positions are filled by civil servants loyal to the ruling parties, without regard for seniority or relevant expertise. Moreover, serving military officials have been appointed heads of civil institutions.

Pakistan's tax authority faces acute organisational problems. The current FBR chairman, from the administrative service, was appointed after the prime minister picked him for the lucrative slot, superseding over two dozen senior officers of the Customs and Inland Revenue Service. This led to a cascading effect within the organ-

appointed to higher posts, potentially impacting institutional performance.

Since the early 2000s, successive foreign-funded tax reforms and government-appointed commissions aimed at improving the tax-to-GDP ratio have all failed, weakening the FBR's capacity to collect taxes. Furthermore, the government removed 25 senior tax officials, based on intelligence reports, draining morale among tax officials.

The State Bank of Pakistan's institutional capacity is similarly being eroded. For two years, it has operated without a deputy governor for critical monetary policy and economic research functions despite the legal requirement to fill such positions within 30 days of a vacancy. Another deputy governor position for banking has been vacant for two months. Amidst a severe economic crisis, the failure to appoint qualified leadership is inexcusable.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has empowered the security agencies to clear all appointments to public service requiring federal cabinet approval. This effectively allows junior security officials to overrule ministerial and secretarial recommendations, circumventing the authority of the cabinet to approve appointments of seasoned professionals with inter nationally recognised expertise.

The establishment's interference in political affairs is an old issue, but it has recently taken active charge of the country's economic management, formalised by the creation of the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) in June 2023. Initially premised on creating a one-stop facility to

attract foreign investment from Gulf countries, the SIFC has virtually become a supra-cabinet, with the military leadership now overseeing eco-

nomic matters. The army chief's meetings with businessmen to discuss economic issues, coupled with assurances of \$100 billion in foreign investment, illustrate the SIFC's growing influence. Coordinated by a military officer and granted the status of a division, the SIFC has created a parallel structure within the government.

Investment is not secured through government MoUs or by mantras. It is the private sector that creates opportunities and negotiates with foreign investors. Investment depends on political and economic stability, policy consistency, investment security, and global competitiveness of businesses. Despite the SIFC's efforts, investment fell to a record low of 13 per cent of GDP in FY24, below the long-term average of

around 15 per cent. Pakistan attracted just \$1.9 billion in FDI, a mere \$275 million increase from FY23, and below the \$1.936bn in FY22.

The above instances show that the state is being run in a bizarre fashion. As if globally recognised economic principles and governance standards do not apply to Pakistan, the country has created its own set of governance methods where one institution or group bulldozes the mandate of others.

Without strong institutions, no government plans — such as the recent Uraan Pakistan — will fare any better than previous failed initiatives like "Qarz utaro mulk sanwaro", or the misguided crowd-funding for mega dams. The country cannot progress through political hymns. We need statesmen, not self-serving politicians, to steer the country out of this mess.

Dawn/ANN.

SIR S. BRANCKER'S ARRIVAL IDEAL FLIGHT TO CALCUTTA

AIR Vice-Marshal Sir Sefton Brancker, Director of Civil Aviation, who is surveying the proposed airship route from England to India, piloted by the well-known airman, Mr. Alan. J. Cobham, arrived in Calcutta last evening.

Leaving Allahabad at 10-15 A.M., Sir Sefton was expected to land on the Ellenborough Course on the Maidan about three o'clock where, indeed, his arrival was awaited by His Excellency the Governor, the Countess of Lytton and a party from Government House, including Sir Edwin Lutyens.

When the aeroplane was over an hour overdue and shadows lengthened on the Maidan, there was a certain amount of anxiety among the comparatively few people who had gathered early expecting to witness the landing. At five o'clock, however, when hopes of Sir Sefton's arrival before to-day were almost abandoned, the outline of an aeroplane was picked out in the clear

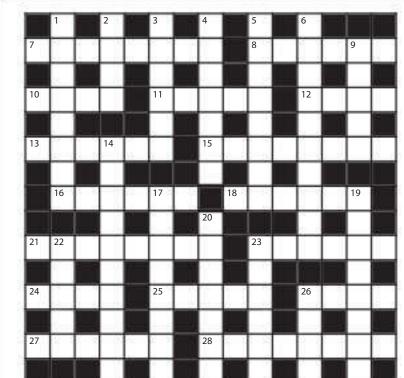
atmosphere. Crossing the river from the direction of Howrah, the machine came over the Ellenborough Course where police were keeping the landing ground clear. By this time a considerable crowd had assembled and the evolutions of the aeroplane over the Maidan were watched with the greatest

MUSSOLINI SAFE UNFOUNDED RUMOUR OF ASSASSINATION

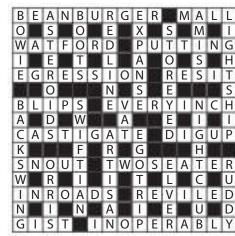
interest.

IT was rumoured here this morning that Signor Mussolini had been assassinated, but it was ascertained that he telephoned personally to one of the Italian representatives at the Allied Finance Conference in the afternoon.

CROSSWORD



YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION



- 1 Immediately taking on economy, without any fancy trimmings (8-3)
- Style regarding publication clear: it`s always attractive
- Trouble? It`s brought in a crowd (7) 10 Stop limiting church in extra large religious region
- Still activity at sea when the nights are drawing in (9)
- 14 Sorcerer retreated. having kidnapped husband in Surrey
- town (5) 15 Laundry accessory increasingly just not
- 16 Yielded, returning personnel before important meeting for major part of body
- 17 Requested change to divine right, ultimately (7) 19 Scoundrel's attorney

receiving a rap

(3-1-3)

- 21 Conservative unfortunately meddled with learning
- 22 Regret introducing stupid new article in trial – not fully thought through

(6,9)

- DOWN 1 Host for d.org?
 - www.churchofenglan 2 A sailor getting upset about one stock

controller

(5)

- 3 Popular composer presented in edition? There's a surprise
- Was very much against a horrible Cooked each short
- 6 The trendy dealer works with great care Sign of gratitude
- after aircraft takes one into curious the sky

(11)

8 Doctor satisfied in there, getting right item used in diagnosis

NO-293020

- 12 Strangled the Duke, suppressing corruption before heartless trial
- 13 Exotic fish goes and swims around right area (3,6) 18 Imagine 500 sheets of paper (500)
- 20 Revolutionary skill taking care of excellent item of jewellery

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

Omarheaps praise on PM Modi, seeks J&K statehood's restoration

Omar Abdullah said the PM has fulfilled two of the three promises he made during his visit to Srinagar

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE JAMMU, 13 JANUARY

iving much ammunition to his rivals in Kashmir, Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday heaped praises on Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and while crediting him for free and fair Assembly polls, pitched for restoration of J&K's statehood. he said. The PM was seen smiling as the CM praised him for initiating

development projects in J&K. Omar, whose National Conference is part of the INDIA bloc, was speaking after inauguration of the tunnel at Sonamarg. He said the PM has fulfilled two of the three promises he made during his visit to Srinagar on the International Yoga Day. "Two promises—bridging the 'Delhi ki Doori' and holding Assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir—have been fulfilled. But the third promise, restoring statehood, remains unful-

He said that people participated in the elections enthusiastically, and there were no complaints of any rigging or misuse of power anywhere. The CM added that people often question him about this, expressing confidence that PM Modi will fulfil the promise soon. "My heart believes that you will make this happen",

(Modi in his speech later responded by saying that he is known for fulfilling his promises and these will be met at an appropriate time).

Omar said that holding elections has strengthened peoples' trust in Modi. A new government was elected, and the result is, as Chief Minister, I am talking to you here.

He said that the PM inaugurating the strategic tunnel has sent a strong message to detractors of peace and progress in the region. "This is a clear signal to those who oppose the development, peace, and



democracy of J&K—they will not succeed and will face defeat," Omar said.

He also paid tributes to the seven workers, including a doctor, who lost their lives during an attack in Gagangeer last October while working on the tunnel project. "They sacrificed their lives for this project and for the nation's progress. For the past 35 years, the people of J&K have made sacrifices for the nation's development. My party has also

borne many sacrifices for this cause," he said.

Mentioning that PM Modi has put in efforts to erase the distance between Delhi and UT, Omar said that it is evident from the work the Centre has undertaken in the region. Kashmir has been linked with the rest of the country with a rail network and roads and tunnels are also being con-

"Today, on this occasion, I want to thank you from the

bottom of my heart for coming here in this cold. You have a very old relationship with Jammu and Kashmir, we hope that you come here again and again, stay among us and join our happiness", Omar added.

Union Minister Nitin Gad-

kari said, "To make India developed, we have to improve the infrastructure of our country. Unless these four things water, energy, transport and communication - are developed, industry, tourism and trade cannot be promoted. Therefore, the Prime Minister has given us the responsibility of this infrastructural development with the resolve to make Jammu and Kashmir happy, prosperous, rich and developed along with developed India. The mission set by the Prime Minister is that industries and businesses should come here to make Jammu and Kashmir happy, prosperous and rich. With this feeling, we are trying to develop this infrastructure".

Assam coal mine tragedy: Hopes fade for trapped miners



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE GUWAHATI, 13 JANUARY

Rescue operations for the five miners trapped in a waterlogged abandoned coal quarry in Umrangso, located in Assam's Dima Hasao district, have entered their eighth day, with hopes of their survival fading rapidly.

The tragedy unfolded on January 6, when nine workers became trapped in the mine, about 250 km from Guwa-

Despite extensive efforts, only four bodies have, so far, been recovered. The rescue mission has mobilised a combined force of the navy, army, Assam Rifles, National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), State

Disaster Response Force (SDRF), and the district administration. Specialised dewatering pumps from Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) and Coal India are being used to remove water from the quarry, but progress

Although the water level has significantly dropped, complete dewatering is still days away.

remains slow.

Kaushik Rai, Assam's minister for mines and minerals, stated that the process might conclude by Tuesday, allowing the next phase of rescue efforts to proceed. Underwater Remote Operating Vehicles (ROVs) are being deployed intermittently to capture images and locate the trapped

An on-site official confirmed the grim outlook: "The chances of survival for the remaining miners are diminishing after eight days of being trapped, but rescue operations will continue."

The mine, abandoned 12 years ago, was previously under the Assam Mineral **Development Corporation** until it was relinquished three years ago. Illegal mining activities had reportedly resumed at the site, leading to the current tragedy. Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma revealed that the leader of the workers involved has been arrested, and a police investigation is underway.

The incident has drawn sharp criticism from Opposition leaders. Congress MP Gaurav Gogoi has demanded a special investigation team (SIT) probe into the tragedy, citing systemic failures in preventing illegal mining operations. "Weak law enforcement and local complicity have allowed illegal mining to continue unchecked," Gogoi stated.

BSF foils smuggling bid in Tripura; 3 Bangladeshis apprehended

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE AGARTALA. 13 JANUARY

The Border Security Force has successfully thwarted smuggling attempts and apprehended three Bangladeshi nationals in Tripura. The BSF's Mahila Praharis (women personnel) at the Border Out Post (BOP) Ashabari in the Sepahijala district intercepted a group of armed smugglers attempting to smuggle contraband across the international border on Sunday. The smugglers, equipped with sharp-edged weapons, posed a significant threat, prompting BSF personnel to fire two rounds from their service

weapons under compelling circumstances. Their swift action not only neutralized the smuggling attempt but also led to the recovery of a substantial quantity of sugar and other contraband items. In a separate incident on January 11, BSF personnel from BOP Gaurnagar in the Khowai district detained three Bangladeshi nationals trying to cross into Bangladesh. The detainees, originating from Brahmanbaria district in Bangladesh, provided critical information during questioning, revealing the involvement of Indian and Bangladeshi touts in facilitating illegal border crossings.

Security forces recover arms and ammunition and war-like stores in Manipur

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

IMPHAL, 13 JANUARY

In a series of intelligencebased joint operations, security forces in Manipur recovered 19 weapons, ammunition, and other war-like stores from areas affected by ethnic strife. The operations, carried out by the Assam Rifles in coordination with the Manipur Police, targeted several districts, including Thoubal, Kangpokpi, Churachandpur, and Kakching.

Operations in Irong village (Thoubal district) and Sek-



maijin (Kakching district) led to the recovery of a Self-Loading Rifle, a Single Barrel Rifle, an improvised mortar, three 9mm pistols, grenades, ammunition, and other warlike stores.

Security forces seized a 7.62 mm rifle, a 5.56 mm rifle, a .32 mm pistol, a single barrel rifle, two tube launchers, and ammunition during an operation near Saheibung peak, Kangpokpi district. An operation in Jakurador,

Jiribam district, resulted in the recovery of explosives and other war-like materials. In Old Gelmol village,

Churachandpur district, authorities confiscated a 7.62 mm AK-56 rifle, a .303 rifle, a 9mm pistol, multiple single-barrel rifles, and grenades.

Manipur has been embroiled in ethnic violence since May 2023, primarily between the Meitei and

Kuki communities. The conflict has led to widespread displacement, loss of lives, and the proliferation of illegal arms in the region. Security forces have been intensifying operations to restore peace and order, often relying on actionable intelligence to dismantle armed groups and confiscate

weapons. The recoveries highlight the ongoing challenges faced by authorities in mitigating violence and addressing the security concerns arising from the availability of arms and ammunition.

BPSC protest: 'Go back' slogans greet Nitish Kumar

IMRAN MOJIB

PATNA. 13 JANUARY

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's ongoing Pragati Yatra was disrupted on Monday as a group of students protesting over alleged paper leak and irregularities in the 70th Combined Competitive Exams (Preliminary) conducted by the BPSC tried to stop the chief minister's cavalcade in Samastipur.

As Nitish Kumar reached Samastipur Collectorate as part of his state-wide journey, several BPSC candidates and students associated with various student organisations started raising slogans of 'Nitish Kumar Go Back'.

The students repeated their demands for cancellation of the preliminary examination conducted by the BPSC on 13 December. They also demanded action against Patna DM who slapped the students. The protest and sloganeering continued till the police used force to disperse the protesters and detained some of the leaders.

The students' protest got momentum as Bihar Governor Arif Mohammed Khan met a delegation of BPSC aspirants who apprised him about their demands.

TENDER

WEST BENGAL AGRO INDUSTRIES CORPORATION LTD.

(A Govt. Undertaking) Registered Office: 23B, Netaji Subhas Road, 3rd Floor Kolkata-700001

NIeT-242 to 245 / 2024-2025, Dated: 13-01-2025

e-Tenders are invited by the Executive Engineer, on behalf of West Bengal Agro Industries Corpn. Ltd., 23B, Netaji Subhas Road, 3rd Floor, Kolkata-700001 from bona fide and resourceful Agencies for completion of Civil & Electrical works at Bankura, Howrah and Murshidabad District. Tender document may be downloaded from http://wbtenders.gov.in Bid submission start date: 14-01-2025 after 9-00 A.M. Bid submission end date: 21-01-2025 and 27-01-2025 up to 3-00 P.M.

Date: 13-01-2025

Sd/- Executive Engineer

कार्यालय नगर विकास न्यास, अलवर कमाक:-/लेखा/2025/9592-601

NOTICE INVITING NIT – 25/2024-25

नाली निर्माण कार्य, इन्द्रा गांधी खेल स्टेडियन में तीरदाजी हेत् सामान खरीद का कार्य वेज्ञान संकाय में लेब का निर्माण कार्य, रिमेल्टिंग एवं कारपेटिंग का कार्य, धर्मोप्लास्टिक पेंट क कार्य, बी.टी. सडक निर्माण कार्य, पेवर फिनिशर द्वारा डामरीकरण का कार्य, पेवरीकरण का कार्य हन्टरलोकिंग टाइल्स का कार्य हेतु invited from interest bidders from 14-01-25 to 05-02-25 2.00 PM and Technical bid open 05-02-25 4.00 PM. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in http://sppp.raj.nic.in) of the state and www.uitalwar.in the approximate Value of the

	Company of the Company		Consisting Continues 1997 About
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JBN NO.	UAL2425WSOB00318	UBN NO.	UAL2425WSOB00326
JBN NO.	UAL2425WSOB00317	UBN NO.	UAL2425WSOB00325
JBN NO.	UAL2425WSOB00316	UBN NO.	UAL2425WSOB00324
JBN NO:	UAL2425WSOB00315	UBN NO.	UAL2425WSOB00323

Details

Email-eemdd8.chandil@gmail.com Expression of Interest (EoI)

		Sweeping, Sanitation work (Cleaning of Main Long Drain, Small Drains, inspection Chamber), Plumbing work including pipe line and Water Tank, Repair of Electrical appliances and Electrical wire and Servicing and Refilling work of Transformer at Officers Colony C.H. Area, Jamshedpur for 1 (one) year under Executive Engineer, Minor Distribution Division No08, JAMSHEDPUR Under Water Resources Department, Jharkhand.
2	Cost of bid document (Rs)	10,000.00/-(Ten thousand only) Non refundable Online mode
3.	Earnest Money Deposit (Rs)	1,00,000.00/- (Rupees one lakhs only) Online mode
4.	Tender Category	Services
5.	Mode of Submission of Tender	Online through http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in
6.	Pre-Bid meeting	Date- 24/01/25 - 03:00 PM Office of the Chief Engineer , Chandil Complex ,Aditypur Water Resources Department,
7.	Date of publication of tender on website	Date- 16/01/25 Time- 02:00 PM
8.	Last date/time for Submission of tender on Website	Date- 27/01/25 Time- 03:00 PM
9.	Technical Bid Opening Date	Date- 28/01/25 Time- 04:00PM
10.	Officer Inviting Bids	Office of the EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, MINOR DISTRIBUTION DIVISION NO-08, JAMSHEDPUR, Minor Distribution Division Number -08, Jamshedpur.

 The bidder should be fully acquainted with site before the tender. 2. Authority reserves the right to reject any or all the tender(s) received or to allot the work to one or more contractor(s) without assigning any reason

Governance Dept. Jharkhand Letter no-120 dated-03.10.2023 Sd/- Executive Engineer Resource (24-25) D Minor Distribution Division Number -08, Jsr.

PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LIMITED (Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala - 147001) Corporate identity No. U40109PB2010SGC033813 Website: www.pspcl.in Contact No. 9646122296 E-Tender Enquiry No. 14/RE/MHP/2024-25 Dated 09/01/2025

Resident Engineer, MHP Division, PSPCL, Talwara, invites open press/ Etender for Supply of Steel Wire Ropes of different sizes for Power Houses and bypass gates at Mukerian Hydel Project Talwara. For detail NIT, please refer to www.pspcl.in or https://eproc.punjab.gov.in

Note: corrigendum & addendum, if any may be seen on official PSPCL

website, www.pspcl.in Or https://eproc.punjab.gov.in

e-AUCTION NOTICE FOR LEASING OF SLR/LVPH

e-Auction Notice No. LEASE-KGP-25-01 Date: 13.01.2025

For and on behalf of the President, Union of India, the Senior

Divisional Commercial Manager, Kharagpur Division, South

Eastern Railway invites e-Auction for leasing of SLR/LVPHs for

a period of 02 (two) years for transportation of parcels in the

trains which are notified in the https://www.ireps.gov.in/ website

SI. No. 1, Category : Parcel, Catalogue No. : LEASE-KGP

25-01, Date of e-Auction: 18.01.2025, Auction Start Time

12:00 hrs. Auction Closing Time: 12:50 hrs. Interested parties

and contractors to take note of this and go through the website

as mentioned above for details of the trains and related information

about the e-Auction notice. For enquiries/clarifications, if any

South Eastern Railway

MORE TENDER ADS ON PAGE 9 & PAGE 2

Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager, Kharagpur

please contact the office of the undersigned.

C-27/25

KOLKATA MUNICIPAL CORPORATION e-TENDERS

ABRIDGED NIT

The Director General (Mech.)/Roads, KMC invites e-tender online in two bid system for the following work:-NIT No.: KMC/DG(M)/ASP/GG/M-47/2024-25

Name of the Work: Urgent Repairing of Exhaust Chimney of Batch Mix Plant and Allied Works at Asphaltum Goragacha. Estimated Amount: Quotation. Earnest Money: ₹ 12,000.00. Period of Completion: 3 Days. Last date and time of submission of Bid: 22.01.2025, 1.00 p.m. Bid opening date for Technical Proposal: 24.01.2025, 1.00 p.m. The bid forms and other details are available on and from 14.01.2025, 6.00 p.m. from the website https://wbtenders.gov.in

The Director General (S&D), KMC invites e-tender online percentage rate two bid system for the following work:-NITNo.: S_D/S-I/XV/27/R/139/24-25

Name of the Work: Repairing of Damaged Manhole's, Gullypits along Santoshpur Mazarpara, Talbagan, Bidhangarh, Kalinagar and Kalinagar Road Adjacent to Br.-XV. Estimated Cost (Incl. GST & CESS): ₹ 8,76,503.77. Earnest Money: ₹ 18,000.00. Period of Completion: 60 Days. Last date and time of submission of Bid (Online): 22.01.2025 up to 2.00 p.m. Bid submission start (online): 14.01.2025 at 2.00 p.m. The bid documents and other details will be available on and from 14.01.2025 at 2.00 p.m. from the website https://etender.wb.nic.in

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

1. NIT No.: KMC/DG(BS)/Br-VII/064/036/2024-25/BUSTEE Name of the Work: Improvement of Bustee Passage at 100/H/3, Dilkusha Str. to 31/1, Tiljala Road in Ward No. 64. Estimated Cost (Incl. GST & CESS): ₹ 7,70,050.06. Earnest

Money: ₹ 15,500.00. Period of Completion: 45 Days. 2. NIT No.: KMC/DG(BS)/Br-VII/058/075/2024-2025/BUSTEE Name of the Work: Improvement of Bustee Sewer Line at 7, Miajan Lane and its Surrounding areas in Ward No. 58. Estimated Cost (Incl. GST & CESS): ₹ 5,22,195.49. Earnest Money: ₹ 10,500.00. Period of Completion: 45 Days. Last date and time of submission of Bid: 25.01.2025 - 2.30 p.m. (for SI, No. 1 & 2). Tender will be opened on: 28.01.2025 – 2.30 p.m. (for SI. No. 1 & 2). The bid forms and other details are available on and from 15.01.2025 (2.30 p.m.) (for Sl. No. 1 & 2). The website https://etender.wb.nic.in (for Sl. No. 1 & 2). 1218/24-25

Office of Civil Surgeon, Pakur

Tender Ref. No. 13/DMFT Date: 12.01.2025 VERY URGENT PROCUREMENT NOTICE

Civil Surgeon, Pakur Jharkhand invites tender from eligible bidders under two bid system for entering into rate contract for Supply of Long Lasting Insecticidal Nets (LLINs Mosquito). Blank tender paper with detailed terms and conditions can be obtained through website www.pakur.nic.in and hard Copies of Technical and Financial Bid should be submitted to the department on or before declared due date

Particulars

No.		(190,800,000)
1	Name of Work	Rate Contract for the Supply of Long Lasting Insecticidal Nets (LLINs Mosquito)
3	Time of Completion	21 Days
3	Date of Publication of Tender on website	13,01,2025
4	Last Date / time for submission of bids	22.01.2025 upto 3.00 p.m.
5	Date of Technical Bid opening	22.01.2025 at 4.00 p.m.
6	Application fee (Non- refundable)	1,000
7	EMD	50,000
8	Contact Details	cs.pakur@gmail.com
9	Bid Submission Place	Civil Surgeons Office, Sonajori, Pakur.
10	Bid Opening Place	Civil Surgeons Office, Sonajori, Pakur.
iny hro		Civil Surgeon

PR 344192 Health Med Edu and Family Welfare(24-25)#D Pakur

GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA

Public Works Department, P.W. Division, Panvel Telephone No.: 022-27452778

E-Tender Notice No. 81 (Open ONLINE) Year-2024-25 (4th Call) E-mail address: panvel.ee@mahapwd.gov.in Fax Number: 022-27467440

Executive Engineer, P.W. Division Panyel, invite B-1 Tender from registered contractor with Govt. of Maharashtra. Detail Tender Notice available on www.mahapwd.gov.in and www.mahatenders.gov.in portal.

Note: Total 2 work include in Tender Notice.

Online Tender Download & Bid Preparation Period Date: 13-01-2025 at 10-00 A.M. to 27-01-2025, 18-00 hrs.

Online tender bid preparation last date: 27-01-2025 at 18-00 hrs. E-Tender/O.No./P.W./PNL **Executive Engineer**

Office of the Executive Engineer Public Work Division, Panvel

Dist.: Raigad Date:

DGIPR/ROC-5610/24-25

GOVERNMENT OF JHARKHAND WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MINOR DISTRIBUTION DIVISION NUMBER-08, JAMSHEDPUR

Very short e-Tender inviting Notice no. - WRD/MDD8/JSR - 04/2024-25 Date- 11/01/25 Name of Work Annual Maintenance Work for Cleaning,

		Sweeping, Sanitation work (Cleaning of Main Long Drain, Small Drains, inspection Chamber), Plumbing work including pipe line and Water Tank, Repair of Electrical appliances and Electrical wire and Servicing and Refilling work of Transformer at Officers Colony C.H. Area, Jamshedpur for 1 (one) year under Executive Engineer, Minor Distribution Division No08, JAMSHEDPUR Under Water Resources Department, Jharkhand,
2	Cost of bid document (Rs)	10,000.00'-(Ten thousand only) Non refundable Online mode
3.	Earnest Money Deposit (Rs)	1,00,000.00/- (Rupees one lakhs only) Online mode
4.	Tender Category	Services
5.	Mode of Submission of Tender	Online through http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in
6.	Pre-Bid meeting	Date- 24/01/25 - 03:00 PM Office of the Chief Engineer , Chandil Complex ,Aditypur.Water Resources Department,
7.	Date of publication of tender on website	Date- 16/01/25 Time- 02:00 PM
8.	Last date/time for Submission of tender on Website	Date- 27/01/25 Time- 03:00 PM
9.	Technical Bid Opening Date	Dute- 28/01/25 Time- 04:00PM
10.	Officer Inviting Bids	Office of the EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, MINOR DISTRIBUTION DIVISION NO-08, JAMSHEDPUR, Minor Distribution Division Number -08, Jamshedpur.
11.	Contact No. of Procurement Officer	7903042327, 9431366084

Tender Fee and Earnest Money should be deposited through online mode only as per WRD, Jharkhand letter no-907 dated-04.10.2023 and I.T. & e-

झारखण्ड सरकार



ई- अल्पकालीन पूर्निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

ई0-अल्पकालीन पूर्निविदा संख्या-07 / 2024-2025 / EE/RWD/SAHIBGANJ दिनांक:-11.01.2025

कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमण्डल साहेबगंज द्वारा निम्न विवरण के अनुसार e-procurement पद्धति से निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। कार्य समाप्ति टेन्डर क्र0 आईडेन्टिफिकेशन प्राक्कलित राशि (रू० में) कार्य का नाम की अवधि कॉल सं0 प्रसापत ₹ĺO संख्या अक्षर में दाहटोला आर०ई०ओ० RWD/SAHIB तीन करोड ग्यारह रोड से बालुग्राम तक बिलीय लाख तिरसठ हजार GANJ/ राजमहल 311.632 15 **मा**ह पथ निर्माण कार्य। (लं०-दो सौ 19/2024-25 2.70 कि0मी0)

311.632 2. वेबसाईट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि :- 17.01.2025

7. . ई-निविदा प्रकोश्ट का मोबाइल न0- 8292371115

PR.NO.344156 Rural Work Department(24-25):D

3. ई-निविदा प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय ·- 29.01.2025 अपराहन 05.00 बजे तक I 4. निविदा शुल्क एवं अग्रधन की राशि Jharkhandtenders.gov.in के माध्यम से ऑनलाईन मोड में स्वीकार की जाएगी।

 निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय - 30.01.2025 अपराहन 11.00 बजे।

 निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले पदाधिकारी का नाम एवं पता :--कार्यपालक अभियन्ता, ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्यप्रमंडल. साहेबगंज, पिन-816109

8. विस्तृत जानकारी के लिए वेबसाईट-https://www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in में देखा जा सकता है। कार्यपालक अभियंता

ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमंडल, साहेबगंज।

तीन करोड ग्यारह

लाख तिरसठ हजार

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER E-NIT NO:- 09/SBILL/24-25 Memo & Date:03/SBILL/2024; Dated- 08/01/2025 Sealed tender are hereby invited by the Undersigned from bonafide and experienced contractors. Details T&C are available at office, office notice board & wbtenders.gov.in Sd/-The Prodhan Sandelerbill Gram Panchayat Hingalganj; North 24 Pgs

ABRIDGED E-TENDER NOTICE

Tender are hereby Invited vide Tender Reference e-NIT- No. DHUPGURI/EO/NIT-005/2024-25 & DHUPGURI/EO/NIT-006/2024-25 from the undersigned. Details of works and tender conditions are available in the office of the undersigned in any working day during office hours.

visit www.wbetendres.gov.in & www.wbprd.nic.in and Office Notice Board for further details.

Executive Officer Dhupguri Panchayat Samiti



P.W. Division

Panvel

LA wildfire death toll surges to 24 as weather calms a bit

Firefighters battling the wildfire brace for more rough weather in the days to come

ASSOCIATED PRESS LOS ANGELES, 13 JANUARY

fter a weekend spent blocking the explosive growth of fires **L**that destroyed thousands of homes and killed at least 24 people in the Los Angeles area, firefighters got a slight break with calmer weather but cast a wary eye on a forecast for vet more wind.

Should that happen, already burned homes and valleys could flare anew, sending embers to unburned territory miles downwind. New fires could add to the complication.

The death toll surged late Sunday with an update from the Los Angeles County medical examiner. At least 16 people were missing, a number authorities said was also likely to rise.

The relative calm Sunday allowed some people to return to previously evacuated areas, however.

The National Weather Service issued red flag warnings for severe fire conditions through Wednesday, with sustained winds of 50 mph (80 kph) and gusts in the mountains reaching 70 mph (113 kph). The most dangerous day will be Tuesday, warned fire behavior analyst Dennis Burns at a community meeting Sunday night.

"It will kind of ebb and flow over the next couple days," Burns said. "Tomorrow night, it will really ramp up."

Spotting ~ new fires caused by blowing embers ~ could happen as much as 2 miles (3.2 kilometers) or more downwind of areas that have already burned,



Burns said.

Despite their recent losses, stress, and uncertainty, the crowd in a Pasadena City College gym was mostly respectful, in contrast with harsh criticism elsewhere for Los Angeles and California leaders. Applause followed each of the experts, police, firefighters and community leaders who spoke.

Los Angeles County Fire

Chief Anthony C. Marrone said 70 additional water trucks arrived to help firefighters fend off flames spread by renewed gusts. "We are prepared for the upcoming wind event," Marrone said.

Fire retardant dropped by aircraft will act as a barrier along hillsides, officials said.

Fierce Santa Ana winds have been largely blamed for turning the wildfires

sparked last week into infernos that leveled entire neighborhoods around the city where there has been no

than eight months. Twelve people were missing within the Eaton Fire zone and four were missing from the Palisades Fire, Los Angeles County Sheriff Robert Luna said. Investigators were reconciling whether some of the missing might be among the dead but so far no children were among those reported missing, he said.

Rules, 2002.

SAXENA and PREETI SAXENA.

WHICH IS BOUNDED AS FOLLOWS:-

bidding, log on to www.auctionfocus.in.

WESTBY: BUILDING COMMON PASSAGE

EAST BY : COMMON SPACE

Date: 09.01.2025

Place: HOWRAH

significant rainfall in more

Progress made in talks over Israel-Hamas ceasefire and hostage release, officials say

AGENCIES

CAIRO. 13 JANUARY

U.S. and Arab mediators made significant progress overnight toward brokering a ceasefire in the Israel-Hamas war and the release of scores of hostages held in the Gaza Strip, but a deal hasn't been reached yet, officials said Monday.

Three officials acknowledged that progress has been made and said the coming days would be critical for ending more than 15 months of fighting that has destabilized the Middle East. They spoke on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to discuss the talks.

NORTH BY : FLAT NO. B - 2

AUTHORISED OFFICER

SAMMAAN CAPITAL LIMITED

(Formerly known as INDIABULLS HOUSING FINANCE LTD.)

SOUTHBY : FLAT NO. 2A

E-Auction Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and

Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002

read with proviso to Rule 8(6) and Rule 9(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement)

Guarantor(s) that the below described Immovable Property mortgaged to Sammaar

Capital Limited (formerly known as Indiabulls Housing Finance Ltd.) [CIN L65922DL2005PLC136029] ("Secured Creditor"), the physical possession of

which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Secured Creditor, will be sold or "as is where is", "as is what is" and "whatever there is" basis on 31.01.2025 from

04.00 P.M. to 05.00 P.M., for recovery of Rs. 72,96,260/- (Rupees Seventy Two Lakh Ninety Six Thousand Two Hundred Sixty only) pending towards Loan Account

No. HHLKOK00388055, by way of outstanding principal, arrears (including accrued

late charges) and interest till 09.01.2025 with applicable future interest in terms of the Loan Agreement and other related loan document(s) w.e.f. 10.01.2025 along with

legal expenses and other charges due to the Secured Creditor from ANOOF

The Reserve Price of the Immovable Property will be Rs. 37,00,000/- (Rupees Thirty

Seven Lakh only) and the Earnest Money Deposit ("EMD") will be Rs. 3,79,000/ (Rupees Three Lakh Seventy Thousand only) i.e. equivalent to 10% of the Reserve

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

ALL THAT FLAT BEARING NO. 28 - 1, MEASURING ABOUT 1108 SQUARE FEET ON SECOND FLOOR OF THE COMPLEX KNOWN AS "SHREE SHYAM KUNJ"

BLOCK - A, PREMISES NO. 34/35/2, SRI AUROBINDO ROAD, SALKIA, WARD

NO. 05, P. S. MALIPANCHGHORA, HOWRAH - 711106, WEST BENGAL AND

For detailed terms and conditions of sale, please refer to the link provided on the

website of the Secured Creditor i.e. www.sammaancapital.com; Contact No : 0124-

6910910, +91 7065451024; E-mail id : auctionhelpline@sammaancapital.com. For

वरीय पुलिस अधीक्षक का कार्यालय, राँची

सर्वसाधारण के लिए सूचना

नाम-मंजू देवी उम्र-20 वर्ष, रंग-सॉवला, ऊँचाई-4 फीट 3 ईच

पहनावा-लाल रंग का साडी पहनी हुई है।

सा0-जराठीह टोला, हजारी टॉड, थाना-अनगढ़ा, जिला-रॉघी जो दिनांक-09.11.2024

को अपने घर से बगैर बताए कहीं चली गई जो आजतक अपने घर वापस नहीं आई है।

जिसके संबंध में अनगढ़ा थाना सन्हा संख्या-11/2024, दिनांक-21.12.2024 दर्ज कर

मिलती/दिखती है तो इसके संबंध में वरीय पुलिस अधीक्षक के कार्यालय में या

खोजबीन की जा रही है। उपरोक्त सूचना को सार्वजनिक किया जाना आवश्यक है।

निम्नांकित फोन नम्बर पर संपर्क कर इसकी सुचना दें।

Email ID (mc-dcb@ihpolice.gov.in)

PR 344248 Police (24-25) D

पुलिस उपाधीक्षक, सिल्ली, राँची।

थाना प्रभारी अनगढा, रॉची।

I'VE GOT TO STOP

ANSWER HER

TAKING SO LONG TO

THEY NEVER SEEM TO

GET ME ANY RESPECT

उपरोक्त लापता महिला मंजू देवी उस-20 वर्ष, पति-चैतन्य बेदिया,

अतः सभी जनसाधारण से अनुरोध है कि यदि उपरोक्त लापता महिला कहीं

-9431770066

- 9431706180

and a Hamas official said that there were still a number of hurdles to clear. On several occasions over the past year, U.S. officials have said that they were on the verge of reaching a deal, only to have the talks stall.

One person familiar with the talks said there had been a breakthrough overnight and that there was a proposed deal on the table. Israeli and Hamas negotiators will now take it back to their leaders for final approval, the person said.

The person said that

mediators from the Gulf country of Qatar had put renewed pressure on Hamas to accept the agreement, while U.S. President-elect One of the three officials Donald Trump's envoy, Steve

Witkoff, was pressing the Israelis. Witkoff recently joined the negotiations and has been in the region in

recent days. The person said that the mediators had handed off the draft deal to each side and that the next 24 hours

would be pivotal.

guration.

An Egyptian official said that there had been good progress overnight, but that it would likely take a few more days, and that the sides were aiming for a deal before Trump's inauguration on Jan. 20. A third official said that the talks were in a good place, but hadn't been wrapped up. That official also assessed that a deal was possible before the inau-

Croatia's President Milanović wins another term after defeating ruling party candidate in runoff

AGENCIES

ZAGREB, 13 JANUARY

Croatia's opposition-backed President Zoran Milanovi, a critic of the European Union and NATO, overwhelmingly won reelection for another five-year term on Sunday, defeating a candidate from the ruling conservative party in a runoff vote, official results showed.

Milanovi won more than 74% of the vote compared to his challenger Dragan Primorac, who received nearly 26%, according to the results released by Croatia's state election authorities after more than 99% of the ballots were counted.

The result presents a major boost for Milanovi, who is a critic of Western military support for Ukraine in its war against Russia. Milanovi is



also a fierce opponent of Croatia's conservative Prime Minister Andrej Plenkovi

and his government. In a speech after the results were released, Milanovi said his victory was a sign of approval and trust from the voters but also presented a message "about the state of affairs in the country for those

who need to hear it." "I am asking them (the government) to hear it," said Milanovic. "That is what the citizens

of communication with political opponents. His triumph sets the stage for a continued political confrontation with PM Plenković, with whom he sparred during his first

Milanović also won comfortably in the first round of voting on Dec. 29, leaving Primorac, a forensic scientist who had unsuccessfully run for president previously, and six other candidates far behind.

The runoff between the top two contenders was necessary because Milanović fell short of securing 50% of the vote by just 5,000 votes, while Primorac trailed far behind with 19%.

The election was held as Croatia, which has a population of 3.8 million, struggles with biting inflation, corruption scandals and a labor shortage.

APPENDIX IV-A Office of the Municipal Councillors of Bankura

Memo No - 4208/BM/24-25 Date - 13.01.2025 Applications are invited from the eligible woman candidates for filling up vacant posts(No.02) of the HHWs under Bankura Municipality. Interested candidates can apply within 28th January, 2025. For details visit www.bankuramunicipality.org/ Office Notice Board.

> Sd/ Chairperson Bankura Municipality



PATNA Recruitment Notice for the Post of Registrar

browse the website details. please https://iitp.ac.in (Opening Date: 06-01-2025, Closing Date: 27-01-2025).

Advt. No.: IITP/ADMIN/RECT/NT/2025/001

CBC 21366/12/0004/2425 Dean Administration

DR. HARISINGH GOUR VISHWAVIDYALAYA SAGAR (M.P.), INDIA

(A Central University)

Website: www.dhsgsu.edu.in Tele: + 91-7582-265228 Advt. No.: R/NT/2025/01 Dated: 11-01-2025

RECRUITMENT NOTICE

Doctor Harisingh Gour Vishwavidyalaya invites online applications in the prescribed format from Indian nationals for appointment by Direct / Deputation on following posts:

SI. No.	Posts	Pay Level	No. of post & Category (UR)
01.	Registrar* (Direct / Deputation)	14	01
02.	Internal Audit Officer** (On Deputation)	12	01
03.	Curator (On Contract)	On Fixed Remuneration of Rs. 30,000	01

On five years tenure.

Initially for a period of three years.

For recruitment rules and other terms and conditions and updates please visit the Vishwavidyalaya website: www.dhsgsu.edu.in

- Link for submission of online application form https://dhsgsunt.samarth.edu.in will be available from 14-01-2025.
- Last date of online submission of application form 12-02-2025
- Last date of submission of self-attested hard copy of the

online application form 20-02-2025.

CBC 21273/12/0008/2425

REGISTRAR (Offg.)

TENDER

Government of West Bengal OFFICE OF THE

ABRIDGED NOTICE INVITING TENDER Notice Inviting Tender is hereby called from resourceful and eligible Contractors for above NIT(s). Intending bidders may download tender documents of NIT- PMD/N-264, 265/2024-25, 161, 166, 168, 194, 215, 217, 218/2024-25 (2nd from e-procurement portal from 14.01.2025 at 10-00 Hours to 27.01.2025 upto 18.00 Hours & NIT- PMD/N- N-219, 220, 221, 211, 159/2024-25 (2nd call) from eprocurement portal from 14.01.2025 at 10-00 Hours to 20.01,2025 upto 18.00 Hours. For details visit e-procurement portal of Govt.

Sd/-Executive Engineer Paschim Medinipur Zilla Purishad

सरकार

लघ् सिंचाई प्रमंडल, बांका

wanted to say. This is not

popular politician in Croatia,

and is sometimes compared

to U.S. President-elect Donald

Trump for his combative style

Milanović, 58, is the most

just support for me."

(संत जोसेफ स्कूल के निकट, जगतपुर, बांका-813102)

शुद्धि पत्र

द्वारा आमंत्रित निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या-07/2024-25 जिसका P.R. No 016218 (MWRD) 2024-25 एवं पत्रांक-22 दिनांक-08.01.2025 है, के निविदा ग्रुप संख्या-17 को

शेष सभी ग्रुप तथा नियम एवं शर्त यथावत् रहेगा।

PR. No.16861 (MWRD) 2024-25

BEETLE BAILEY/Mort Walker

RED EYE/Bill Yates & Mel Casson

REDEYE! I WAS WALKING

THE DOG AND A PALE-

FACE STARTED SHOOT-

DADDY DAZE/John Kovaleski

RUMBLE

RUMBLE

RUMBLE

ING AT US!

I NEVER GOT

THE MEDALS I

DESERVE

WHAT ABOUT THE

RIBBONS YOU GOT

GRADE SCHOOL?

ON FIELD DAY IN

OH NO!

DID THE

DOG GET

HURT?

RUMBLE

RUMBLE

E-Mail ID-ee.mi.ban-bih@gov.in, Mob No-7782917633

अपरिहार्य कारणवश रद्द किया जाता है।

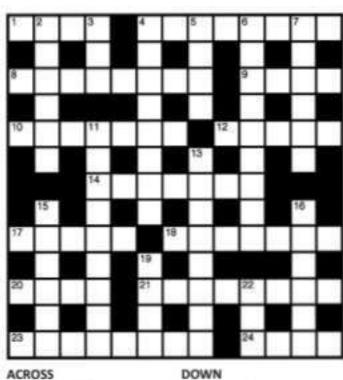
लघु सिंचाई प्रमंडल, बांका

नशे से बचने का है एक ही उपचार, दृढ़ संकल्प और परिवार से प्यार।

LEISURE

website www.wbtenders.gov.in

10 MINUTE CROSSWORD



ACROSS 1 Haystack (4)

4 Billboard (8) 8 Marsupial (8) 9 Nimble (4) 10 Educator (7) 12 Deadly (5) 14 Dependent (7)

17 Sorcery (5) 18 Widespread (7) 20 Prima donna (4) 21 Angelic (8) 23 Famished (8)

2. Pictures (6) 3 Small barrel (3)

19 Resound (4)

Figures in parentheses denote

the number of letters in the words required

4 Large insect (8) 5 Solemnly affirm (4) 6 Take apart (9) 7 Usual (6) 11 Bodily tissue (9) 13 Negligent (8) 15 Spittle (6) 16 Forearm bone (6)

24 Prying (4) 22 Vase (3) SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

DOWN ACROSS 11 Seen. 12 Energised, 13 Fountain 1 Folk, 1 Fission, 14 Noisome. 2 Strenuous, 5 Ships 15 Asks, 16 Sheen, (Fish and 17 Twinge 18 Apex, 4 Nationa chips), 20 Parvenu 19 Stye, Trust, 8 Larva, 22 Onset, 21 Run. 5 Spuds, 9 Trucker, 23 Xenon 10 Indigo, 24 Treadle By arrangement with The Independent

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय,

कार्यपालक अभियंता, लघु सिंचाई प्रमंडल, बांका के पत्रांक-2569 दिनांक-30.12.2024

कार्यपालक अभियंता

WHO ARE YOU MORE

WORRIED ABOUT?

STUPID DOG ?!

ME OR THAT

NEED TO KNOW

FD Block Association (Amb) 9830452536, 9830181286 Happy Calcuttans 24400160 City Point Nurses Centre 2567-4113, 9831142623 People's Relief Committee 2280-4943/9444

24 hrs Medical Oxygen Delivery BOC India Ltd. 9831277777 Ashok Laboratory 24720333 Fire Service Stat Central Blood Bank 23510619 Lake: 2357-5293;

Life Care 2284-6940 Peoples Blood Bank 2455-5164/5557 RK Mission Seva Pratisthan 2475-3636/39

Lalbazar (Police Control Room) 22143230 25423005

Police/Fire

वरीय पुलिस अधीक्षक,

S. P. (North 24-Pgns) S.P. (South 24-Pgns) 2479 3333/1311 Bhawani Bhawan 24791761/9, 24791933

Fire Service Station Salt

Howrah 2666-8111; Behala 2497-6285

Corporation: 2286-1000 Water: 2543-1602 **Calcutta Telephones** Changed Number

Kolkata Municipal

Civic Services

registration

1951,1952,1953 Taxi Refusal SMS 575756: Complaint and

Police Toll Free No. 1073 Transport Deptt. No. 6451-6718

CESC Fault Reporting 1912 and 4403-1912

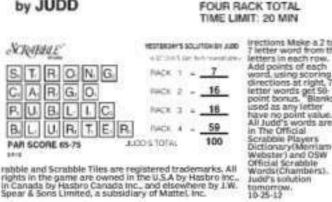
Howrah Station Old Complex 1331/1332 (Auto Telephone Numbers), 1310, 2638-7412/3542/2581 (manual). Sealdah: 2350-3535/3537 Shalimar Station: 2668-1121,

Eastern Railway and South-

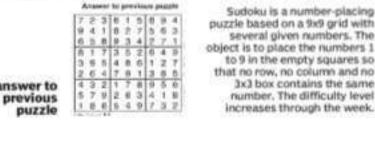
Eastern Railway: 139.



by JUDD



Conceptis SudoKu By Dave Green 8 3 9 6 2 6 3 9 8 5 8 3 5 8 Difficulty Level ***



THUMBNAILS

Indian corporates headed for better credit metrics in 2025-26: The credit metrics of rated Indian corporates are expected to improve in the next financial year (April 2025-March 2026) driven by wider EBIT-DA (Earnings Before Interest, Taxes, Depreciation, and Amortization) margins, despite high capex intensity, according to the latest Fitch report. Fitch in its report 'India Corporates **Credit Trends: January** 2025` said improving leverage will help most corporates maintain adequate rating headroom. "We expect India's steady GDP growth outlook, the banking sector's improved financial health and likely interest-rate cuts in 2025 to support overall credit access for corporates in FY26," the report states. There is a widespread expectation that the Reserve Bank of India would cut interest rates in 2025 after it eased liquidity by lowering the cash reserve ratio (CRR) by 50 basis points in its policy review meeting last month. Fitch also expects India's GDP growth of 6.5 per cent and robust infrastructure spending "to underpin healthy demand for cement, electricity, petroleum products, steel, and engineering and construction (E&C) companies during

FY26.

Marketextendsfallfor fourthstraightsession

At close, the Sensex was down 1,048.90 points & Nifty was down 345.55 points



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI, 13JANUARY**

Indian stock market on Monday extended the fall for the fourth straight session amid selling across the sectors.

At close, the Sensex was down 1,048.90 points or 1.36 per cent at 76,330.01, and the Nifty was down 345.55 points or 1.47 per cent at

23,085.95. The market performance came with a background of crude oil prices hitting over a 3-month high and weak global markets as investors cut down the US rate cut

expectations in 2025.

BSE Midcap index lost

4.17 per cent, while the Smallcap index dropped 4.14 per cent. The overall market capitalisation of BSE-listed firms plunged to nearly Rs 417 lakh crore from nearly Rs 430 lakh crore in the previous session. The top gainers on Nifty index included Axis Bank (0.83 per cent), Tata Consultancy Services (0.60 per cent), Indusind Bank (0.44 per cent), and Hindustan Unilever (0.37 per cent).

While on the losing side were Adani Enterprises (6.29 per cent), Trent (5.46 per cent), Bharat Petroleum Cor-

Among the sectors, almost all indices ended in the red with realty index down 6.7 per cent and oil & gas, power, PSU, metal, media down 3-4 per cent. Real estate stocks emerged

as the biggest laggards, as all 10 constituents of the Nifty Realty index tumbled between 5 per cent and 10 per cent. The index collectively lost 6.50 per cent marking its biggest intraday drop in the last seven months. Among the key individual performances, IndusInd Bank surged after its foreign headroom increased in its December shareholding pattern following a foreign institutional investor (FII) sell-off.

Shares of Biocon soared

over 4 per cent after the US Food and Drug Administration cleared arm Biocon Biologics' insulin facility in Malaysia. AB Capital rose after Morgan Stanley upgraded the stock to "overweight" from "equal-weight" and set a target price of Rs 247 per share. TCS shares extended gains following its positive Q3 earnings while the shares of One97 Communications, Paytm, continued to fall for the fourth consecutive ses-

Retail inflation rate for December cools down to 4-month low at 5.22 pc



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI. 13 JANUARY

India's retail inflation rate for December eases at 5.22% from 5.48% in November, data from the Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MoSPI) said on Monday. The inflation has cooled slightly to a 4month low.

The retail inflation, measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI) in November, fell from a 14-month high of 6.21% in October.

For December, the corresponding inflation rates for rural and urban areas are 5.76% and 4.58%, respectively.

Year-on-year inflation Consumer Food Price Index (CFPI) for the month of December 2024 over December, 2023 is 8.39%.

Further, the year-on-year housing inflation rate for the month of December is 2.71%, as compared to 2.87% in November.

The data highlighted that during December, a significant decline in inflation is observed in Vegetables, Pulses & Products, Sugar and Confectionary, Personal care & effects, and Cereals and Products, etc.

Among the food items, peas led the surge with a staggering year-on-year inflation rate of 89.12%, followed by potatoes at 68.23%, garlic at 58.17%, coconut oil at 45.41%, and cauliflower at 39.42%.

The top five items showing highest year-on-year Inflation at the all-India level in December are Peas (89.12%), Potato (68.23%), Garlic (58.17%),

coconut oil (45.41%) and Cauliflower (39.42%).

Further, the key items having lowest year on year inflation in December are jeera (-34.69%), ginger (-22.93%), dry chillies (-10.32%), LPG (excl. conveyance) (-9.29%).

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) aims to keep inflation within a range of 2–6%, with a medium-term target of 4%.

Recently, the MoSPI has released the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) which has reached a six-month high of 5.2% in November. The factory output during the same month in 2023 saw a growth of 2.5%.

The growth rates of the three sectors, Mining, Manufacturing and Electricity for the month of November 2024 are 1.9%, 5.8% and 4.4% respectively.

India's renewable energy installed capacity spikes nearly 16 per cent



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, 13 JANUARY

India's total renewable energy installed capacity has reached 209.44 GW as of December 2024, the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) said on Monday. This marks an impressive 15.84% increase compared to 180.80 GW in December 2023.

Further, the total capacity

added during 2024 amounted to 28.64 GW, representing a significant year-on-year

2023. "This growth reflects India's steadfast commitment to achieving its clean energy targets and its broader vision under the 'Panchamrit' goals announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi," MNRE said

increase of 119.46% compared

to the 13.05 GW added in

while releasing the numbers. Importantly, in 2024, solar power spearheaded this growth with the addition of 24.54 GW, reflecting a 33.47% rise in its cumulative installed capacity from 73.32 GW in 2023 to 97.86 GW in 2024.

Wind energy also contributed to this expansion, with an additional 3.42 GW installed in 2024, increasing the total wind capacity to 48.16 GW, a growth of 7.64% from 2023.

Further, the MNRE data said that Bioenergy has shown remarkable growth, with its installed capacity rising from 10.84 GW in December 2023 to 11.35 GW in December 2024, reflecting a 4.70%

Small hydro power projects saw incremental growth, with installed capacity increasing from 4.99 GW in 2023 to 5.10 GW in 2024, representing a 2.20% rise, it added.

GJEPC plans global export hub for fashion & costume jewellery at Singur **STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE**

poration (4.45 per cent),

Bharat Electronics (4.21 per

cent), and Adani Ports & Spe-

cial Economic Zone (4.10

per cent). Bank Nifty con-

cluded at 48,734.15, with an

intraday high of 48,606.35

hit 52-week low including

Adani Wilmar, Shree Renuka

Sugars, Tube Investment,

SJVN, GMR Airports, IOC,

L&T Finance, Engineers India,

Hindustan Copper, Central

Bank of India, Mishra Dhatu,

Astral, BHEL, SAIL, UCO

Bank, Rajesh Exports, Laxmi

Organic, NMDC Steel, among

On BSE, around 490 stocks

and a low of 47,898.35.

KOLKATA, 13 JANUARY Tatas' Nano dream for Singur may have eluded Bengal, but now, the Gem & Jewellery **Export Promotion Council** (GJEPC) has come up with vet another golden opportunity for the place and the state. It is planning to make

Singur (West Bengal) as a global export hub for fashion and costume jewellery, much to the pleasure of localites and the Bengal government. Singur, incidentally, has a skilled workforce of around 1 lakh Bengali kaarigars, who are working in manufacturing units located in and around Singur, Hooghly. In fact, 20 per cent of the workforce are women and the development of Singur as an export hub will give a boost to the local cottage industry too. Vendors who import raw materials are located in Singur. Imported quality Gypsum manufac-

turing also started in Singur

recently. Singur in Hooghly



district is ideally located centrally and close to 5 railway stations, close to NH-2 which is connected to Kolkata International Airport, said Vipul Shah, Chairman, GJEPC. India's apex trade body sponsored by the Union Ministry of Commerce & Industry, is celebrating the silver jubilee of its eastern regional chap-

Singur has artisanal heritage as Kolkata's renowned craftsmanship serves as a foundation, offering a rich legacy of artistic skills that can be leveraged by Singur's

jewellery manufacturers. Shifting global trade dynamics, with the US directing procurement away from China, present a strategic opportunity for Singur's manufacturers to meet this demand and elevate their global presence.

Significantly, the Indian gem and jewellery market, currently valued at \$85 billion, is poised for rapid growth, projected to reach \$130 billion by 2030. GJEPC is gearing up for growth with slew of initiatives.

Interestingly, India's gem & jewellery business has two

is quality in design & aesthetics and smart-tech for jewellery manufacturing as well as knowledge. The knowledge has to penetrate deeper so that India can become knowledge and skill hub of the global gem & jewellery trade. With unparalleled capacity, advanced technology, skilled artisans, and talented designers, India is well prepared to excel on the global stage. The sector can also contribute significantly to the Prime Minister's vision of a Viksit Bharat, said Shah.

strengths: the first of which

GJEPC has already invested Rs 150 crores in the global generic promotion of diamonds till date. To strengthen this effort, GJEPC has teamed up with De Beers, the world's leading diamond company, for promotion of diamonds through Retail Alliance in India with a formal MoU signed on January 7.

De Beers Group and GJEPC are working on to strengthen the natural diamond narrative

within the Indian gem and jewellery trade. The collaboration titled, INDRA - Indian Natural Diamond Retailer Alliance, will focus on supporting independent retailers in India with tools that go beyond the conventional, for example, leveraging Artificial Intelligence to create customized retailer campaigns. From multi-lingual marketing assets to immersive storytelling and superior customer experiences, as well as indepth natural diamond jewellery training in local languages, it will support India's jewellery retailers with the tools they need to make sure that natural diamonds resonate deeply with every consumer.

Besides, in a move to boost gem and jewellery exports via e-commerce, GJEPC has joined hands with DHL Express, the global leader in international express services, to facilitate the efficient shipping of India-crafted jewellery worldwide, said Shah.

Our Aluminum-Ion Graphene battery is a testament to our mission to drive society's shift towards sustainable energy: Sabyasachi Das

RITWIK MUKHERJEE KOLKATA, 13 JANUARY

Bangalore-based Nordische Energy Systems Pvt Ltd is a new age innovative startup in energy storage technology that was founded in 2022. A core group of Scientists equipped with advanced PhD degrees are at the forefront of R&D activities of the company. Nordische has collaborated with Government of India institutes like CIPET Bangalore and CSIR-AMPRI Bhopal to carry out extensive research and testing. It has also developed a network of international affiliates in Germany, Spain and the US to promote the technology. One of its key affiliates Albufera Energy Storage S.I. of Spain has

already used Nordische's

technology to produce the

world's first commercial

grade Aluminum Graphene

Pouch Cell. Speaking to The Statesman, Sabyasachi Das, Founder and CEO of Nordische Energy Systems Pvt Ltd, a leading innovator in advanced energy storage solutions, explains how this ground-breaking technology is tailored to transform several sectors including three key sectors: EV, Consumer Portable Electronics, Gridscale Energy Storage, and also delves at length about the energy storage solutions market.

Q: You have recently rolled out your commercial grade pouch cells using your pathbreaking Aluminum-Ion Graphene battery technology. Please tell us about this.

A: This revolutionary innovation is designed to support society's transition to sustainable energy solutions, providing a high-performance and eco-friendly alternative to lithium-ion batteries.

Nordische Energy's Aluminum-Ion Graphene battery offers unparalleled features that make it a game-changer in energy storage: • High Energy Density:

Delivers 220 Wh/kg, enabling powerful and compact energy storage solutions. • Ultra-Fast Charging: Achieves an impressive 10C

charging rate, dramatically reducing downtime for users. • Extended Lifespan: Provides over 3,000 charge-discharge cycles, exceeding the

durability of lithium-ion coun-

terparts. • Sustainability: Utilizes aluminum, an abundant, cost-effective, and recyclable material, reducing reliance on scarce and hazardous resources like lithium and cobalt.

• Completely non-flammable with no thermal run-

Our Aluminum-Ion Graphene battery is a testament to Nordische Energy



Systems' mission to drive society's shift towards sustainable energy. We are proud to deliver technology that supports a more sustainable and inclusive energy ecosystem. This new battery chemistry is based on Aluminium metal and Engineered Graphene material, which is unique in the world and brings innovation to the energy storage market.

Q: How large is the energy storage solutions market in India and at what rate is it growing?

A: The Energy Storage Solutions market in India is valued at around \$4 billion. It is expected to grow at a CAGR of 11.41 per cent between 2024 and 2032.

Q: What is the global scenario with regard to energy storage solutions?

A: The Global Energy Storage Solutions market is estimated to be \$ 266.82 billion in 2024 and is expected to reach \$ 535.53 billion by 2033 at a CAGR of 8.05 per cent. The key drivers of this growth will be rapidly increasing Electrical Vehicles adoption, increasing Renewable Energy integration and significant Government Incentives.

Q: You do not make batteries yourself and you only provide the technology to the battery makers. Right?

A: Yes, Nordische Energy System only provides energy storage technology to battery

manufacturers along with some key active materials.

Q: What are the advantages? How does one stand to gain by use of alumunium ion solutions developed by you?

A: Aluminium ion energy storage solutions offer several advantages over traditional

lithium-ion batteries: Fast charging up to 50 times faster than the existing Lithium Ion batteries, nonflammable with no thermal runway and greatly reduced risk of fire and explosion, abundantly available raw materials, high recyclable rate, high energy density, non-toxic, and reduced weight.

Potential gains from using Aluminium ion solution: Reduced charging time, enhanced safety, lower environmental impact, lower cost potential and positive Geopolitical implications.

It is ideal for critical systems like medical devices, aerospace, and consumer elec-

tronics. Aluminium-ion batteries offer over 3,000 charge/discharge cycles. They significantly outlast lithium-ion batteries (500–1,500 cycles). They reduce replacement costs and environmental impact.

Q: Is it an indigenously developed technology? Is it a patented technology?

A: Aluminium ion energy storage solution is not exclusively an indigenous development. It has been researched and developed globally by various academic

institutions, research labo-

ratories, and companies.

NES has, however, developed a unique process and technology to harness the maximum performance ever achieved globally using the Aluminium Graphene technology. Thus making this technology extremely suitable for EV and other consumer as

well as industrial applications. Yes, there are numerous patents related to aluminium-ion battery technology. These patents cover various aspects of the technology, including: electrode materials, electrolytes, cell design and

manufacturing processes. Nordische Energy System Company is in the process of filing the patent on one of the key active materials which enhances the performance of aluminium ion batteries.

Q: Are you looking at the **Indian market or overseas** markets, or both?

A: Both India and the over-

seas markets. Q: Would the market for your solution be primarily

driven by the growth of EV segment in India or by something else? A: Yes, primarily driven by the EV segment but the

technology can also be effec-

tively used for Consumer

Electronics batteries as well as Grid Storage solutions.

I would say that target Industries for Aluminum-Ion Batteries are: 1. Renewable Energy Stor-

age (e.g., solar and wind systems). 2. Consumer Electronics (e.g., smartphones, wear-

3. Electric Vehicles (e.g., urban e-scooters, delivery vehicles).

4. Medical Devices (e.g., portable monitors, backup power).

5. Industrial Applications (e.g., power tools, robotics). 6. Defense and Aerospace (e.g., drones, satellites).

Q: How do you see India's renewable energy sector growing in India? Is India on the right track to reach its Net Zero target?

A: India's renewable energy sector is experiencing rapid growth, substantial increase in renewable energy capacity, particularly in solar and wind power, and government ini-

tiatives. India has committed to achieving net-zero emissions by 2070. While significant progress has been made in the renewable energy sector, achieving this ambitious goal will require continued efforts and overcoming several challenges like grid integration, energy storage, technological innovation, and policy

Sublime Barcelona crush arch-rivals Real Madrid to win Spanish Supercup

Catalans outclass reigning European champions 5-2 in battle of Spanish giants to earn domestic bragging rights

AGENCIES

JEDDAH, 13 JANUARY

C Barcelona produced a stunning first-half display to beat Real Madrid 5-2 in the final of the Spanish Supercup.

Hansi Flick's side led 4-1 at the break and despite seeing goalkeeper Wojciech Szczesny sent off for bringing down Kylian Mbappe early in the second half, they were able to hold on with relative ease against the Madrid attack on Monday (Indian time).

Things looked to be going Madrid's way when goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois pulled off two stunning saves in the opening minutes from Lamine Yamal and Raphinha before Mbappe put Madrid ahead in the fifth minute.

A Barca attack broke down with Vinicius feeding the ball to the Frenchman, who produced a powerful run from deep, held off the defender and scored with his right

Barca continued to create chances, with Raphinha shooting across the face of the goal before Yamal equalized in the 22nd minute.

Robert Lewandowski dropped deep and pulled Antonio Rudiger out of position to create space for the young winger to run onto his pass. Yamal then turned inside and wrong-footed



Courtois with an angled shot. Barca suffered an injury setback when Inigo Martinez had to be replaced by Ronald Araujo, but they took the lead after 36 minutes when Eduardo Camavinga's rash challenge on Gavi gifted Barca a penalty, which Lewandowski dispatched into the corner.

Three minutes later, it was 3-1 as Real Madrid's defense gave Jules Kounde space to angle a cross for Raphinha to head home after the Brazil-

ian stole in completely unmarked past Lucas Vazquez.

There were nine minutes of injury time and in the last

action of the first half, Madrid made a horrible mess of a short corner, allowing Yamal to steal possession. He slid the ball to the onrushing Raphinha, who in turn passed to Alejandro Balde to beat Courtois with a low shot.

With his side 4-1 down. Real Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti brought on midfielder Dani Ceballos for Camavinga.

Real Madrid went close in the 47th minute when Rodrygo saw his volley hit the post.

But it was Barcelona's night and that was clear one minute later when Raphinha made it 5-1 with a calm fin-

With a four-goal lead, Barca lost some concentration as Mbappe ran onto a through ball only to be brought down by Szczesny outside his penalty area.

After a VAR check, referee Gil Manzano had no option but to send the goalkeeper off and leave Barca with half an hour to play with 10 men.

When Rodrygo smashed the resulting freekick into the back of the net to make it 5-2, some may have been thinking of another epic Real Madrid fightback, but Barca dropped deeper, defended narrowly and was able to take the sting out of the game with far more ease than expected.

Amorim hails Man United after dramatic triumph in FA Cup

AGENCIES

LONDON, 13 JANUARY

Manchester United manager Ruben Amorim believes his team is beginning to turn a corner after their nerve-wrackingFACup third-round penalty shootout victory over Arsenal on Sunday. Following a challenging start to his tenure at Old Trafford, Amorim sees the win as evidence of steady progress and a brighter future for the Red Devils.

United fans have endured years of frustration and unfulfilled promises, with previous managers Erik ten Hag and Ole Gunnar Solskjaer failing to deliver sustained success despite glimpses of improvement. When Amorim took over, the challenge of revitalsing the squad seemed daunting, especially after his promising three-game unbeaten start was followed by a series of disappointing results.

A surprise victory against Manchester City provided a glimmer of hope, but inconsistency remained an issue. However, back-to-back performances—an impressive display against Liverpool and Sunday's victory over Arsenal—suggest that Amorim's philosophy is beginning to resonate with the players.

Reflecting on the win, Amorim highlighted his team's progress since their 2-0 league defeat to Arsenal last month, agamewhere United struggled defensively, particularly against set pieces.

"Ithinkwe played, especially in the first half, better than in

the first game," Amorim told reporters. "We were better in set pieces today, more aggressive. We showed a different spirit, even with 10 men, we

are improving on that aspect." The Portuguese manager praised the team's resilience, particularly after they were reduced to 10 men during the match. Despite the numerical disadvantage, United showed

to take the game to penalties. Two players who had faced recent criticism, goalkeeper Altay Bayindir and forward Joshua Zirkzee, emerged as the heroes of the night.

determination and organization

Bayindir, who was blamed for United's League Cup exit against Tottenham Hotspur, delivered a standout performance, making crucial saves throughout the game and during the penalty shootout. His display silenced critics and reminded fans of his capabil-Meanwhile, Zirkzee, who

a loss to Newcastle United just weeks earlier, proved his worth by stepping up to take the decisive penalty, securing United's place in the next round. Amorim used their stories

was booed off the pitch during

as examples of football's unpredictability and the importance of perseverance.

"Your life as a footballer has cycles and moments, and sometimes in one week, your life can change," Amorim said. "Altay – against Tottenham, everybody was pointing the finger at him, and today he was our hero.

Aus Open: Jannik Sinner survives early scare to begin title defence

AGENCIES

MELBOURNE, 13 JANUARY

World No. 1 Jannik Sinner emerged victorious 7-6(2), 7-6(5), 6-1 against Chile's Nicolas Jarry at Rod Laver Arena to book his place in the second round of the Australian Open on Monday.

The Italian, back at the site of his maiden Grand Slam triumph, admitted the match could have gone either way in the early stages. "I think today was a very close one because the first sets, they can go both ways," Sinner said. "In the third set, when I broke him the first time, that gave me a little bit of room to breathe. He is an incredible player, huge potential, so I'm happy how I handled the very tough situation in the first couple of sets and happy to be in the next round." Jarry, ranked No. 36 in

the ATP Rankings, was a formidable first-round opponent. Buoyed by a lively contingent of Chilean supporters, he pressed Sinner early, generating two break points in the opening set.

However, Sinner's composure in high-pressure moments defined the match. He dominated the first-set tie-break 7-2 with precise and controlled play, quelling Jarry's aggressive shot-mak-

a similar script. Jarry remained a threat, dictating play with 40 winners throughout the match, but Sinner's consistency and mental fortitude shone. Despite missing two set points on serve in the second-set tie-break, Sinner held his nerve to claim the set, baiting an error from Jarry with a steady return game to clinch the tie-break

With the momentum firmly on his side, Sinner elevated his game in the third set. A break in the opening game set the tone, and he quickly raced to a 2-0 lead. From there, he was untouchable, converting his fourth break point of the match to leave Jarry with no route back. Sinner closed out the match in style, completing the set 6-1 and advancing to the second

Reflecting on his return to Melbourne Park, Sinner expressed gratitude for the home-like atmosphere provided by the crowd. "The crowd and the fans, they give me so much support, and it's very nice to be back here,"



he said. "Obviously, I also like the hard courts here. But let's see, every year is different, every day is different... We'll try to improve obviously, I have a couple of things that I can surely do better, but first official match of the year for me, so I'm very happy."

Despite the high stakes of defending 2,000 ATP Rankings points as the reigning champion, Sinner's position at No. 1 is secure for now. He maintains a 2,995-point lead over No. 2 Alexander Zverev, who also advanced to the second round.

Sinner will face either Japan's Taro Daniel or Australian wild card Tristan Schoolkate in the second round.

Meanwhile, record 10time champion Novak Djokovic rallied past American wildcard Nishesh Basavareddy 4-6, 6-3, 6-4, 6-2 to seal his second-round spot at the Australian Open for the 18th consecutive year.

This was Djokovic's first win under the watchful eye of newly appointed coach Andy Murray. At times, the Serb frequently glanced at the lively Murray in his coaching box, seeking an additional boost of energy.

In November last year, the Serbian, who was previously guided by Grand Slam champions Boris Becker and Goran Ivanisevic, announced three-time Grand Slam winner and long-time rival and friend

Murray as his coach. "It's all business now for

us, I'm thrilled to have him

in my corner. It was a little bit of a strange experience to have him courtside in my box... We played against each other for over 20 years, and it's great to have him on the same side of the net," Djokovic said of Murray.

"He gave me some great advice mid-match. It's really good we have the opportunity to exchange some feedback and get our coaches to tell us what they see. It's been a great experience (with Murray), hopefully we don't stop here," he added.

Basavareddy moved freely on the court to outlast the former World No. 1 in many of the longer exchanges.

"He was the better player for a set and a half; he deserved every bit of applause that he got. It was a great performance. These kinds of matchups are always tricky [and] dangerous. He has nothing to lose in his first match at a Grand Slam. He pleasantly surprised me with all of his shots until the very end, so I wish him all the best for the future," Djokovic said of

Basavareddy. Djokovic, who is seeking his 11th title in Melbourne, will next continue his quest for a record-extending 25th Grand Slam title against qualifier Jaime Faria, who earlier breezed past Pavel Kotov 6-1, 6-1, 7-5.

A triumph in Melbourne would also secure Djokovic's status as the third man to reach 100 tour-level titles after Jimmy Connors (109) and Swiss legend Roger Federer (103).

Also on Monday, Alex Michelsen delivered a standout performance on the opening day of the 2025 Australian Open, producing the tournament's first major upset by toppling former finalist Stefanos Tsitsipas 7-5, 3-6, 6-2, 6-4.

The 20-year-old American played with poise and precision to secure his first Top 20 win at a Grand Slam, signaling his arrival on the sport's biggest stage.

Michelsen showcased an aggressive and imaginative style of play, forcing the Greek star onto the back foot throughout the match. His blistering groundstrokes from both wings, coupled with his willingness to take risks on Tsitsipas' first serves, left the 26-year-old struggling to find rhythm.

Michelsen's down-theline backhands and ferocious forehand winners punctuated the contest, earning him 46 winners, including eight aces.

"I tried to stay super composed; I knew it would be a battle, and I'm super happy to get through," Michelsen said after the match. "It's all about the mindset. I came in with the proper mindset and executed the game plan.

While Michelsen controlled much of the match, the fourth set brought its share of drama. Leading 4-2, Michelsen stumbled with three consecutive double faults, surrendering two service breaks and allowing Tsitsipas to level the set at 5-5.

ISL: FC Goa face NEUFC, target second spot against the Gaurs. NorthEast fourth in the table with 26 former champions Bengaluru

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE GUWAHATI, 13 JANUARY

The second spot on the Indian Super League (ISL) points table beckons FC Goa as they prepare to lock horns with NorthEast United FC at the Indira Gandhi Athletic Stadium in Guwahati on Tuesday. Currently, the Gaurs are

securing seven victories and five draws. The Highlanders follow them in fifth place, having clinched 23 points from 15 encounters, securing six wins and five draws. If they manage to win on

points from 14 matches.

Tuesday evening, Goa will jump two places to replace

FC at the second spot, behind defeing champions and league leaders Mohun Bagan Super Giant. Bengaluru are currently on 27 points from 15 matches. FC Goa will aim to extend their unbeaten away record in the league, while NorthEast United FC will look to main-

tain their strong home form

United FC have been in fine run, going unbeaten in their last four league games, scoring nine goals while conceding just three during this stretch. Meanwhile, FC Goa are on a seven-game unbeaten run away from home, matching their longest such streak in the competition's history.

TENDER

/ESTERN RAILWAY

Design, Supply, Installation, **Testing and Commissioning** of TMS (Train Management System) and CTC (Centralized

Train Control System) Divisional Signal & Telecom Enginee Works), Mumbai Division, Western invites Tender No: EPC MMCT SnT 05 Dated 09.01.2025 Vork and location: Design, supply nstallation, testing and commissioning of TMS (train management system) and CTC (Centralized train contro system) system in Churchgate- Virarconnection with work of provision of Centralized Traffic Control/TMS,CCG to Surat (267 km) of Mumbai Division of Western Railway. Approx. Cost of Work: ₹1,75,95,94,627.07/- Earnest Money Deposit: ₹87,98,000/- Particular office where E-tender open: Dy. CSTE Works (S&T), 2nd Floor, Divisiona Manager's Office, Mumbai Mumbai-400 008 Closing Date Time: till 03.03.2025 15.00 hrs. For further details please visit our website www.ireps.gov.in. 0958

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DANGSI V DI RANG RANG ANYANY

Tender No.: SDSTE-ETN-eDAS-HQ-24-25, dated: 09.01.2025. Divisional Railway Manager, Eastern Railway, Howrah, DRM Building near Railway Station, Howrah 711101 invites open E-Tender in single packet system for the following work. Name of the work: Provision of e-Drawing Approval System and Up gradation of S&T Drawing Office at Eastern Railway

HQ. Advertised Value: ₹ 75,56,736.11. Earnest Money/Bid Security: ₹ 1,51,100. Tender Document Cost: ₹ 0. Tender Closing Date and time: 31.01.2025 at 15.00 hrs. Bidding Start Date : 17.01.2025. Date and time of uploading tender: 09.01.2025 at 19.43 hrs. Validity of Offer: 60 Days. Period of Completion: 04 months. Website particulars from where tender paper can be downloaded: www.ireps.gov.in. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids upto closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender

Tender Notices are also available at website: ww.er.indianrailways.gov.in/www.ireps.gov.ir Follow us at: 🖾@EasternRailway easternrailwayheadquarter

and any such manual offer received

shall be ignored. (HWH-542/2024-25)

EASTERN RAILWAY E-Tender Notice No.: W LLH 05

2024-25_R1, date: 08.01.2025. e-Tender (Open tender) is invited online by the Dy. Chief Mechanical Engineer/Elect, C&W Workshop Eastern Railway, Liluah, Howrah, Pin-711204 from tenderers having technical capabilities for the following work. Name of the work Improvement of illumination at the railway quarter's entrance gate and staircase at Liluah Railway Colony Approx cost of the work: ₹ 4,98,550. Earnest money: ₹ 10,000. Tender Closing Date & time: 30.01.2025 at 14.00 hrs. Website where complete details of tender is available:

(MISC-302/2024-25) Tender Notices are also available at website: ww.er.indianrailways.gov.in/www.ireps.gov.ir Follow us at: 💹@EasternRailway @ easternrailwayheadquarter

www.ireps.gov.in.

EASTERN RAILWAY Abridged Tender Notice No.: KPA ERS-OT-35-24-25, Dated: 10.01.2025. E-Tender is invited by the Dy. Chief Elect. Engineer, Kanchrapara Workshop, Eastern Railway, Kanchrapara, Pin-743145, 24-North Parganas, West Bengal for the following work: Tender No.: KPA-ERS-OT-35-24-25 Description: Rehabilitation of CAB AC of 3-Phase EMU coaches and MEMU coaches, Qty. 30 nos Tender Value: ₹ 4,95,423 only inclusive of GST & all other charges. Date & Time of opening of tender: 31.01.2025 at 15.00 hrs. Period of Completion: 24 months. The tender document and other details can be obtained from the website www.ireps.gov.in. The bidding for the tender is to be submitted through e-tendering on above website Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any manual offer if received shall not be accepted and will be summarily rejected (MISC-301/2024-25) Tender Notices are also available at website:

www.er.indianrailways.gov.in/www.ireps.gov.in Follow us at: 🖾 @EasternRailway easternrailwayheadquarter

MORE TENDER ADS ON PAGE 2 & 8

HIGH COURT OF SIKKIM GANGTOK

Memo No. 477/COMP/HCS

Date: 13-01-2025 **EXPRESSION OF INTEREST**

The High Court of Sikkim invites sealed quotations from authorized and experienced Distributors / Dealers / Suppliers of reputed brand for Supply, Installation Testing, Commissioning and Maintenance of high-performance Servers and

other networking items to be installed at High Court of Sikkim. The last date of receipt of quotation is 3rd February, 2025 by 4-00 p.m. For details visit the home page of the official website of the High Court of Sikkim at www.hcs.gov.in

Benoy Sharma (SSJS) CENTRAL PROJECT COORDINATOR Ref. No. 173/HCS/COMP/477 dated 13-01-2025 e-Courts Project

S. E. RAILWAY - TENDER Divisional Railway Manager/Engg.

Tidiness of Track Ballast Profiling under

the jurisdiction of ADEN/WEST.

Chakradharpur, Tender Value: 3

2,71,79,124.82. EMD : ₹ 2,85,900/-. 3.

KP-CENTRAL-24-25-46. Cleanness ar

lidiness of Track in the jurisdiction of

ADEN/SETT/Chakradharpur, Tender

2,32,100/-. 4. CKP-CENTRAL-24-25-47

Cleanness and Tidiness of Track in the

jurisdiction of ADEN/Bondamunda. Tender

Value : ₹ 2,38,90,829.20. EMD : ₹

2,69,500/-. Cost of Tender form : ₹ 0 for

each. Date of opening: 29.01.2025 for

SI. No. 1 & 2 each and 04.02.2025 for SI.

No. 3 & 4 each. The tender can be viewed

at Website http://www.ireps.gov.in The

tenderer/bidders must have Class-III Digital

Signature Certificate & must be registered

under on IREPS Portal. Only registered

tenderer/bidder can participate on

e-tendering. All relevant paper must be

uploaded at the time of participating in

e-tendering. Note: e-Tender Forms shall

be issued free of cost to all tenderers.

(Authority-Rly, Bd.'s letter No. 2020/CE-

CT/3E/GCC/Policy dtd. 16.07.2020).

Value: ₹ 1,64,20,273.69. EMD :

S. E. RAILWAY – TENDER CANCELLATION OF E-TENDER NOTICE Chakradharpur acting For & On behalf o The President of India invites E-Tenders e-Tender No. ST-CKP-OT-24against Open Tender. Manual offers are 25-109, Dtd. 03.01.2025 which not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be was published earlier in this ignored. Sl. No., Tender Notice No. & newspaper by Sr. Divisiona Name of work are as follows: 1. CKP-CENTRAL-24-25-42. Hiring of 1 Ton Truck Signal & Telecom Engineer, S.E. Road Vehicle (Four Wheelers) Non-AC for Railway, Chakradharpur may be the use of SSE/Works/DMF, JE/Works/BXF treated as cancelled. SSE/P.WAY/BUF and SSE/P.WAY/DMF three years each. Tender Value: 66,24,000. EMD : ₹ 1,32,500/-. 2. CKP S. E. RAILWAY – TENDER CENTRAL-24-25-45. Cleanness and

Tender Notice No. ST-OT-ARC-VHF

2024-25, Date 11.01.2025. For and or behalf of President of India, the Sr. (Co)/Kharagpur-721 301 invites e-tender for the following works before 12:00 hrs on the date mentioned against items and will be opened at 12:30 hrs. Description of works : Annual Repairing and condemnation Contract of hand held 5W VHF (Walkie-Talkie) sets, 25 watt Base Station VHF Sets including PTT for a period of 02 years in Kharagpur Division of South Eastern Railway. Tender Value ₹ 22,50,619/-. EMD : ₹ 45,000/-. Cost of tender document : Nil. Date of Opening 06.02.2025. Completion Period: 730 days. Date of Submission: up to 12:00 hrs. of 06.02.2025. Interested Tenderers may visit website www.ireps.gov.in for full details description specification of the tender and submit their bids online. In no case manual tenders for these works will (PR-1007)

VARIOUS MATERIALS SUPPLY E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE No. S/03/2025 Date 10.01.2025			
21	Surface Traverser 80 Ton (2 Track) on replacement account including Civil/Engg. and Electrical work	2 Nos	03-Feb-25
22	Set of Suspension springs.	30 Set	08-Feb-2
23	Horizontal Boring & Milling Machine	2 Nos	10-Feb-2
24	Set of protective relays	80 Set	10-Feb-2
25	Coupler body with shank wears plate.	250 Nos	21-Feb-2

admitting that 2024 was a bit tough for him but the "fire inside him is still burning" to bounce back stronger in this new Olympic cycle. At the Paris 2024 Olympics, Laskhya made history by becoming the first Indian to make the men's singles semifinals at the Summer Games. En route, he upset some big-name

opponents, including Jonatan Christie in the group stage

For more updates

www.thestatesman.com

THUMBNAILS

Inaara shines as Team India win Dressage World Challenges for SE Asia: Inaara Luthria from the Amateur Riders` Club (ARC) of Mumbai delivered a stellar performance to help India emerge as the top-ranked team in Zone 9 (South-East Asia) of the prestigious Dressage World Challenges 2024, the results of which were announced on Monday. The Federation Equestre Internationale (FEI) has announced the final results of the Dressage World Challenges 2024 and Team India emerged as the top-ranked team ahead of Singapore and Indonesia, the ARC informed in a release on Monday. The team achieved an impressive aggregate score of 228.319%, surpassing Singapore and Indonesia to claim the top spot. The **Dressage World Challenges** 2024 was conducted in several countries throughout the year by the FEI last year. Inaara Luthria, the trailblazing athlete representing Mumbai, delivered a stellar performance while riding on Dasha Deluxe. Inaara, alongside teammates Gaurav Pundir (31), Yug Shokeen (14) and Vatsala Mehta (15), demonstrated exceptional skill and determination to secure India`s dominance in the region. Team India thus finished with a final aggregate score of 228.319 per cent, finished ahead of Singapore at 207.884 per cent and Indonesia at 207.912 per cent. Inaara also achieved a remarkable 6th place in the

Sindhu, Satwik-Chirageye goodshow at India Open

Top Indian stars to make comeback after recovering from injuries

TRIDIB BAPARNASH NEW DELHI. 13 JANUARY

helikes of PV Sindhu, Lakshya Sen and even the double combination of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty needed a break to recuperate from injuries and niggles and rejuvenate themselves after the arduous Paris Olympic campaign.

Having taken their time by spending time away from the circuit, the top stars of Indian badminton are set to unleash their best on home turf as the India Open 2025 kicks off at the KD Jadhav Indoor Hall at the Indira Gandhi Arena here from Tuesday. The event, which is part of the BWF World Tour Super 750 series, has attracted the world's best badminton players including the likes of Olympic champions Viktor Axelsen and An Se-Young among others. Sindhu, the 2017 champion, took a long break after the Paris Olympics before returning to the circuit at the end of the year. She also got married in December and is looking forward to making a strong statement with her performance here. "This will be my first tournament after marriage and also in the new year. So everything is new and I want to give my best in the competition in front of the home fans...After the Paris Olympics, Iwanted some time to recover physically and emotionally



and the break has helped me get back rejuvenated," said Sindhu at the launch press conference of the India Open

2025 on Monday. Sindhuwill open her campaign against compatriot Anupama Upadhyaya with upcoming Japanese sixth seed Tomoka Miyazaki likely to be her opponent in the second round. More than 200 players from powerhouse badminton nations such as India, China, Japan, Denmark, South Korea and Indonesia will be in action in the India Open this week with as many as 36 Indian players set to participate in the tournament. Apart from Sindhu, Indian badminton fans will be hoping that Asian Games gold medallists and last edition runners-up, Satwik and Chirag, add another India

Open trophy to their cabinet. Satwik and Chirag were out of action for a major part of 2024 after the Paris Games.

They made a strong come back in the Malaysia Open Super 1000 last week, reaching the semi-finals and are determined to repeat their 2022 India Open title winning perform-

"The shoulder injury has been on and off. But I also had a back injury after the Paris Olympics which took time to recover from. But now I am fine and have no problems," said Satwik and Chirag.

"The last time we came here was after playing the final of the Malaysia Open and reached the final here. This time also we have started (the year) with a semi-final in Malaysia and want to improve on last year's results."

Star men's singles player Lakshya Sen is also keen on winning the crown in the presence of fans as his title winning performance in 2022 was behind closed doors due to the Covid-19 pandemic.



TUESDAY, 14 JANUARY 2025

The States man

AMUL DOODH PEETA HAI INDIA

Litton responds to Champions Trophy snubwith BPL century

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, 13 JANUARY

Veteran Bangladesh wicketkeeper-batter Litton Das, who was dropped from the 15member ICC Champions Trophy squad has responded with a century in the Bangladesh Premier League on the same day of his snub from the national side.

The 30-year-old was candid about his non-selection and acknowledged that his exclusion was due to his poor run of

The selectors took the call. They decide whom to play. "The Champions Trophy



been able to do that," said selection wasn't in my control. Litton after his explosive innings of 125 off just 55 balls against My job is to perform. I haven't Durbar Rajshahi in the BPL.

"I think I was a bit upset about it. I have the same mindset before and after the game today. The day has already passed. I have played a good knock but it's in the past. I start from zero again. I will keep working hard, let's see what happens next."

Litton has been battling a prolonged lean patch while playing for the national team, failing to score more than single digits in his last seven ODI innings. His most recent 50+score dates back to October 2023, against India in the 2023 World Cup.

looking forward to working

again with coach Ponting. The team looks strong, with

a great mix of potential and

proven performers. I hope

to repay the faith shown by

the management to deliver

with former Australia captain

Ricky Ponting, who was

appointed the team's head

coach for four years. The pair

had a successful partnership

as coach-captain for DC,

which Ponting said was a

key factor behind PBKS bid-

At PBKS, Iyer will reunite

our maiden title," he said.

Gujarat Titans kickstart preparations for IPL 2025

AGENCIES

SURAT, 13 JANUARY

Individual Rankings for

Under-16 in South-East Asia.

Gujarat Titans have commenced their preparations for the upcoming Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025 with a training camp in Surat on Monday, getting together some key players for early preparations.

Players Anuj Rawat, Ishant Sharma, Jayant Yadav, Kumar Kushagra, Mahipal Lomror and Arshad Khan have joined the campalong with the coaches and support staff.

Gujarat Titans built a strong 25-member squad in the mega auction, held in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia last year, with the acquisition of top players including South African pacer Kagiso Rabada, England's Jos Buttler, one of India's leading fast bowlers Mohammed Siraj and

all-rounderWashingtonSundar. India opener Shubman Gill, Rashid Khan of Afghanistan, Sai Sudharsan of Tamil Nadu, Rahul Tewatia of Harvana. and Shahrukh Khan of Tamil Naduwere the retained players

The Gujarat Titans had finished eighth among 10 teams in the last edition of the IPL after losing Hardik Pandya, their captain of the first two seasons, to Mumbai Indians. Mumbai Indians incidentally ended at the bottom of the

Coached by Ashish Nehra and captained by Shubman Gill, the franchise owned by CVC Capital Partners, finished with 12 points from 14 matches, winning five matches and losing seven losses with two no results.

Gujrat Titans squad: Shubman Gill (c), Jos Buttler, B. Sai Sudharshan, Shahrukh Khan, Kagiso Rabada, Mohammed Siraj, Prasidh Krishna, Rahul Tewatia, Rashid Khan, Nishant Sindhu, Mahipal Lomror, Kumar Kushagra, Anuj Rawat, Manav Suthar, Washington Sundar, Gerald Coetzee, Mohmmad Arshad Khan, Gurnoor Singh Brar, Sherfane Rutherford, R. Sai Kishore, Ishant Sharma, Jayant Yadav, Glenn Phillips, Kareem Janat, Kulwant

points table.

Khejroliya.

Team India star Shreyas Iyer becomes first Indian player to captain three IPL teams

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, 13 JANUARY

Shreyas Iyer, who led the Kolkata Knight Riders to their second Indian Premier League (IPL) title in 2024, has been named as the new Punjab Kings skipper ahead of the upcoming season of the cashrich league. This makes the Mumbai right-hander, the first Indian player to lead three different IPL franchises, including his previous captaincy stint at the Delhi Capitals.

Iyer, who became the second-most expensive buy after being bought by the Punjab Kings for a whopping Rs 26.75 crore at the IPL mega auction in November, also remains the only captain in IPL history to lead two different franchises to the tournament's final. Besides leading KKR, he also led the Delhi Capitals to the

IPL final in the 2020 edition. Ever since the inception of the IPL in 2008, only two players have captained three different franchises in the tournament. Sri Lankan batting great Mahela Jayawardene and Australian run-machine



Steve Smith remain the only players to have led three different IPL teams in the past. While Mahela began his IPL captaincy stint with Kings XI Punjab (now Punjab Kings), followed by stints at now-

defunct Kochi Tuskers Kerala and Delhi Capitals, Smith has been at the helm of the now-defunct Pune Warriors India, Rising Pune Super Giants, and Rajasthan Royals. Iyer's association with the Punjab franchise also entrusts him with the responsibility of breaking the title jinx for the franchise. The Punjab Kings franchise has been led by 16 captains so far since 2008, and the best they have reposed its faith in me. I am

so far achieved is reaching the IPL final in 2014, and Iyer would have his task cut out when he takes charge from 21 March. "I am honoured that the team has

ding so fiercely for Iyer at the auction. Ponting also dropped strong hints about appointing Iyer as captain after the mega auction. "I wanted to work with Shreyas," Ponting told Star Sports after the auction. "I've worked with him before and he is a great guy and a great player. He'll be a great leader for our team if we decide to go that way, which I'm pretty sure we probably will. And obviously, he was the championship-winning

captain last year. So there

are lots of great things about

bringing him to Punjab."

Champions Trophy: Nortje, Ngidi return as Proteas name squad

AGENCIES

of Gujarat Titans.

JOHANNESBURG, 13 JANUARY

South Africa announced a 15-member squad for the ICC Champions Trophy, starting from February 19, with the pace duo of Anrich Nortje and Lungi Ngidi returning to the Temba Bavuma-led squad.

Runners-up in last year's Men's T20 World Cup and finalists in the upcoming World Test Championship, the team is bolstered by the return of two pace spearheads. The tournament marks Nortje's return to ODI cricket, his first appearance in the 50-over format since September 2023.

The star pacer had been sidelined with a stress fracture in his back, forcing him to miss the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023 and South Africa's home summer.

Ngidi also makes his comeback, having been out of international cricket since



October 2024 due to a groin

injury, as per ICC. South Africa has largely stuck with the core group that powered them to the semi-finals of the 2023 Men's

Cricket World Cup, retaining

10 of the 15 players for the

Champions Trophy. The squad sees fresh additions in Tony de Zorzi, Ryan Rickelton, Tristan Stubbs and Wiaan Mulder, all set to make their debut at a 50over ICC event. Nortje, who missed the 2023 World Cup, is the other notable inclu-

sion. Speaking on the squad announcement, South Africa Head coach Rob Walter said

as quoted by ICC: "This squad boasts a wealth of experience, with many players having consistently performed in high-pressure situations. That kind of experience is invaluable in a tournament like this.

"We have managed to maintain the core group of our 2023 World Cup squad, whilst adding fresh talent."

"Our recent performances at ICC events show that we're capable of reaching the latter stages of global tournaments. We're eager to take the next step and go even further in pursuit of the coveted silverware.

South Africa squad for ICC Champions Trophy: Temba Bavuma (c), Tony de Zorzi, Marco Jansen, Heinrich Klaasen, Keshav Maharaj, Aiden Markram, David Miller, Wiaan Mulder, Lungi Ngidi, Anrich Nortje, Kagiso Rabada, Ryan Rickelton, Tabraiz Shamsi, Tristan Stubbs, Rassie van der Dussen.

Services pugilists dominate finals lineup at 8th men's national boxing championships

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, 13 JANUARY

Abhinash Jamwal's sensational run at the 8th Elite Men's National Boxing Championship reached new heights as he defeated reigning Welterweight champion and seasoned boxer Shiva Thapa in a thrilling semifinal clash in Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh.

Jamwal, representing Himachal Pradesh, has been one of the standout performers of the tournament, building momentum with victories over formidable opponents, including 2022 Youth World Champion Vanshaj Kumar earlier

in the competition. The finals will be graced by a distinguished lineup of chief guests, including Ajay Singh, president of the Boxing Federation of India (BFI), who will preside over the event alongside Neeraj Singh, chairman of the Uttar Pradesh

Boxing Association. Special guests include Olympian Vijender Kumar, World champion and Arjuna awardee Sweety Boora, and Bareilly's mayor, Umesh Gautam.

Meanwhile, team Services Sports Control Board (SSCB) extended their dominance with a stellar performance, securing representation in eight of the ten weight categories for the finals.

Highlighting SSCB's individual achievements, former World Youth Champion Sachin Siwach delivered a decisive win over Haryana's Gorish Pujani in the Lightweight (55-60kg) category. Lakshya Chahar, another performer in the spotlight, beat Mizoram's Malsawmtluanga in the Light Heavyweight (75-80kg) division

to book his spot in the final. Further strengthening SSCB's presence in the finals, Jadumani Singh Mandengbram (Flyweight), Hitesh (Light Middleweight), Deepak (Welterweight), Jugnoo (Cruiserweight), and Vishal (Heavyweight) all secured semi-final wins, ensuring SSCB representation across nearly all weight divisions.

In the Super Heavyweight (90-90+kg) category, Narender of Uttarakhand outclassed SSCB's Gaurav Chauhan in their semifinal bout, setting up a final showdown with Haryana's Anshul Gill. Gill advanced to the final after overcoming Raghav Sharma in another high-stakes clash.

Approximately 300 boxers competed across various weight categories in this week-long tournament, until 20 were left to contest the final. The championship follows the World Boxing Technical & Competition Rules, featuring three threeminute rounds with one-minute rest intervals. The event uses ascoring system of ten points, allowing each state unit to field up to 10 boxers.

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